Very Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 4th was duly received. Your kindness and interest in me has won my regards for you as a man and officer and is met by my sense of obligation and hearty thanks which I beg you will accept.

It is not for a living that I wish to go into the Army. The prospect of accomplishing much by the year's effort on my charge under present circumstances is small. And my convictions and feelings are that I can do more for good in the Army than else where. The promptings of my heart are to do something for my Government and my Country in this emergency through
which they are called to pay.
I would hand down my name,
humble though it be, with the defenders
of Constitutional Liberty and have
my life inspire the feelings of
Patriotism in the hearts of my children.
I have no wife to leave. I can two years
since the loved of earth sustaining that
relation to me was taken from us. My
Children (two only) will be well provided and
looked for.

But to your suggestion. If I could
be certain of success I should readily make
the decision. But the uncertainty of the
enterprise, and the influence of such
movements on the charge compell me
to decline. I will however obtain some
additional testimonial and send them
off to you. You may personally present
them or put them in to the hands
of a suitable person for the canvass.
If a successful effort is made I
will make liberal returns for the time.
and effort expended. My circum-
cumstances compel me to fix
the compensation on the condition of
success.

My good wishes attending —

Sincerely Yours

Luther P. French

Adjt Gen Hodson