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Camp near Alexandria on Sept. 17, 1864
Hon. J. Washburn, Jr.
Gov. of Mass.

Dear Sir: I wrote
you yesterday about the three months
arrest. Now half the Regt. refused
to do duty yesterday. The work has
now returned. Gen. Sedgwick will
take the ring leaders in hand this
morning & they will be severely dealt
with. Perhaps a dozen will suffer.
There is much complaint among
the men that they have not been paid;
that rifles were procured &c. &c. The
3rd has been paid twice & the 4th has
received nothing. Col. Berry is blamed
for all this. The men attach all
the blame to him. He bears all this
& blames it, but is unable to
remedy it. This is what prompted
him to write you of his intention
to resign. He has now however made
up his mind to stay with the Regt. but
needs all the assistance he can get. Would it not be

would for you to write him a brief letter
that he might read in their parade
to disabuse the men's mind of the
import idea that he has not been
at fault in the matter of pay or
arms.

The Regt is in most excellent
condition, aside from this. The drill
is excellent. They will give up the
three months idea & stick to the pay.
The paymaster told me we should be paid
yesterday. Why it has not been done, I
know not. The men have all sorts of ideas
in consequence - that they have not been mentioned in
properly - that are not to be paid -
that if wounded they will receive the
provision &c. &c. They will not believe
what we say, because they say
the truth has not been told them before.

I do not wish to breathe you with
the affairs of the 4th; but the Col. wishes
you to know the facts & I think it
proper you should. I would
send some few of these deserters from
the 4th. if captured the way here
They should be taken if possible.
Wm. F. S. Nickerson

Mr. B. B. B.
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Handwritten Japanese calligraphy in cursive style (sōsho), likely a signature or name.

May. Nickerson
Camp Knox
Sept. 17

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