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Head Quarters 3<sup>d</sup> Maine Regiment  
Camp Fessenden Sept 2<sup>d</sup> 1861

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Hon Isaac Washburn

Sir

I went to the Adjutant  
General's Department and found that all the  
names of Officers who had resigned had been  
reported except Sient. W<sup>m</sup> Elders who resigned the  
20<sup>th</sup> Ult. and Sient W. D. Haley (Quartermaster)  
whose resignation took effect the 3<sup>d</sup> <sup>3<sup>d</sup></sup> inst.

These two latter I think had not been reported  
to you. I appointed <sup>Sient</sup> J. H. Tallman Quartermaster  
of the regiment & wish his <sup>Quartermaster's</sup> Commission to be  
dated the 3<sup>d</sup> of September. I earnestly recommend  
him to that position. We got the knives & forks  
today. I got from the Government enough rifles to  
arm the flank companies. Then with the rifles you  
sent us have enabled us to give thirty two rifles to  
a Company. The men were contented now. The



grounds are cleanly & kept in order. The arms are kept bright & the food gives very general satisfaction. I never have felt that you have done me any injustice. I received some communications from Maine of an unpleasant nature. That made me fear for a time that a wrong impression was prevailing. I still think your recommendation was the best for our Maine troops. Though I doubt like Maj Paine's demand, to have his corruption antedated. Now, however, I hope I shall do credit to my State & my Country in the honorable position, which I have done so little to merit. We feel grateful for the hospital stores sent us by the ladies from different towns. The poor sick ones appreciate these luxuries & comforts & not less so that they come from kind hearted ladies, who are thinking of us at home. Col Tucker has been giving valuable assistance in the building of a railroad in our advance. For the last ten days he

has superintended a large detail of men from ours & the neighboring brigade, with much satisfaction to those in charge of its construction. The officers gave him a  viva voce  election to the colonelcy. He declined & then they chose Major Staples. Colonel & Capt. Bust Major to fill his <sup>(Staples)</sup> place. We have now a very complete line of forts extending from the chain bridge to the high ground south of Alexandria and there have a great moral effect - with the men. It gives them something reliable to fall back upon. I don't think it will be easy to whip us now. I would much rather lead this regiment now even with its diminished numbers than before the late battle.

The Quartermaster asks for 4 dozen frying pans  
& 3 dozen map kettles

We find our Chaplain a genial, whole soul'd gentleman. I believe he contributes not a little with his cheerful face to the contentment that now prevails.



I got Genl McCallan's consent to remain  
with the regiment till Major Steptoe is  
near at hand, when I will have to  
report for orders. Capt Savage will be  
discharged very soon. Our tents have not  
been exchanged yet, but the canvas is rather  
poor in many instances & will have to be  
condemned before winter weather. The Government  
has given us a poor article <sup>for</sup> of blankets. I have  
had them condemned & applied for more.  
I hope we shall get them soon.

Today is election in Maine. It ~~will~~  
afford me great pleasure to congratulate  
you, as I doubtless can tonight, on a  
re-election.

Very respectfully  
Yours truly

O. T. Howard  
Brig. Genl  
Commanding

Gen. Howard  
Camp Hancock  
Sept. 9