

Confidential

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W. L. Lunt of H. M.
Camp Knox, Oct. 3, 1861.

Hon. J. Washburn Jr.

Dear Sir,

I have been made acquainted with your kind intention toward me, now & heretofore. You will not, therefore, consider me intrusive in thus addressing you upon the subject suggested to Col. Barry, which he was kind enough to show me. I am rather assured from the fact, as I have learnt from others, that I have heretofore been the subject of your kind regards, without my present or, to my knowledge, any friend of mine. As my view of some know how any other man would feel under like circumstances, I shall not attempt to conceal my own for you. While I have no complaint to make, I have felt that my friends, others who were best acquainted with all the facts, might not well understand why one who had failed to prove for his services, either on the field or in camp, and honorable mention, should first be offered promotion. A mutual friend has explained to me how it was. From the above suggestions, you will judge of my gratification at the last evidence of your kindness; and as

I propose to speak plainly myself (not soliciting
any outside influence at all) I hope that the
interest of others in behalf of friends will have no
influence in the matter.

I say this because I learn to day, that Major
Vanny, (a very worthy man) is urged upon you.
I do not care for the place, but I do for
the offer of it; not from any dishonorable
motives, but just from that weakness which,
if we had enough of it, would
make us good soldiers.

I have ~~no~~ ^{doubts} as to the
propriety of thus addressing you; but I know you
and I know your feelings. If ~~you~~ ^I had
not known your feelings
~~but~~ I would not dare to do it. I also remember
that Bump is quite a tower, & that if influence
is proportioned to the grade or rank, the 1st Maine
will overshadow me.

Believe me, I do not care to accept ^{a place} ~~of~~ but
for delicate considerations, I would take the offer.
& will take care that you shall never have
cause to regret the favor.

I think I have contributed something to make good
feeling in the 4th Col. B. feels kindly to you.
Our Regt. is in most excellent condition now. I go to
Washington to see about the slaves &c. Our
Major (Fuller) is a good officer & with the appoint-
ment of Capt. Walker (if there should be a vacancy)

Col. B. would be entirely satisfied.

I have no friends whose judgment should weigh in this matter, save those who were strangers to me when I entered the service. In whatever they may say of me, therefore, friendship will not outweigh the judgment. I shall not ask the assistance but to them I shall be most willing to refer you.

I know how dangerous it is to place oneself under the voluntary obligation, which I have assumed in this letter. If it betrays a weakness I will at once it in the language of Alcibiades, which you doubtless recollect. When rebuked for some weakness he replied, that he "consolated himself with belief, that if the Gods ~~substantly~~ intended him for a soldier, ^{he was still} ~~but~~ a man."

With great respect,

I am,

Truly &c.,

F. S. Nickerson