

Fort Sumner Md. Jan. 30th / 1864.

Sir:—

I have written to you before on the important subject of promotion, and I now write again to explain more fully my claims for a commission as major in this regiment. When the regiment was mustered into the service it was understood that the Captains took rank according to the letter of their companies. When Capt. Clark of Co. A. resigned, my position was changed from the left, to the right of the regiment, Col. Chaplin thereby acknowledging my rank as senior Capt. — Col. Chaplin has several times ^{left the regiment} under my command, telling me that the "field officers" would all be away during the day, this has been done when I was not "Officer of the Day." It was understood at Brigade H.Q. that I was the senior Capt. in the regiment, and I have been put on field duty as "Brigade Officer of the Day" for the past eight or nine months. A short time ago a "Post Council of Administration" was convened by order of Col. Chaplin who

referred to the Army Regulations and said that it should consist of the three regimental or company officers next in rank to himself viz.: - Lt. Col. Talbot, Major Shepard and myself.

It was generally understood throughout the regiment that I was the senior Capt. and every one thought that Col. Chaplin would recommend me, as he has always spoken very highly of me.

When the regiment was nearly filled Col. Chaplin told me that he would not acknowledge any other person as candidates, except Capt. Cropman & myself and he thought he should let the line officers decide between us by voting. About this time I learned that Col. Chaplin had received a petition signed by several men in Maine, requesting him to recommend Capt. Cropman for Major.

(It is generally understood here that Col. Chaplin expects soon to be promoted to Brig. General) a politic man would be very likely to grant such a request.

I have had some conversation with Col. Chaplin since he recommended Capt. Cropman, and he told me (in the presence of Lt. Col. Talbot) that he had no objection to my receiving a commission as Major and acknowledged that I was well qualified for

promotion, but he said that as he had already recommended Capt. Croppman he could do nothing for me unless you should request that a sense of the line officers be taken, and if it was understood that Capt. Croppman and myself were the only candidates he would be perfectly willing that the one which the majority of the line officers preferred should be commissioned. I have been assured that if it is to be decided by voting, nearly all the officers in the regiment will vote against Capt. Croppman, as he is universally disliked in the regiment; Now in regard to my military qualifications or my character as an "Officer and a Gentleman", I will refer you to Col. Chaplin, or any other officer, or private in the regiment, and if the answer is good; is it right to put a man over me that is disliked throughout the regiment, because he has a few friends in Maine who want to see him promoted.

I am sir,

Respectfully your obedient servant,

To
Hon. Samuel Cony,
Governor of Maine.

Samuel W. Daggett,
Capt. 1st Me. Artillery,
Command Co. "B."

Capt. Daggett
Jan'y 30, '64

about Majority 1st class,