

H. C. Leonard

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Br. Washburn:

Since I
told you my suspicions of
young Richmond I have been
talking with him ^{learned} that he is morally
up right, I feel bound to take back
what I said in part. He is well
enough off though as a Captain.
Without hinting to him that I
had written about him, I talked
with him as a minister should
with a young man, telling him
my fears. He broke the ice himself
by asking me to say a word
for him. Seeing him thick with rust
day after day my apprehensions grew.
I rejoice from what he told me
himself & from the testimony others
who know him that he is a very
temperate & honest boy. I wish

I could say the same of others of whom I have spoken, but I can't.

Col. Staples has come up to the Watch grandly in working out reforms in our Camp. I begin to think that he will be all but as straight & efficient as Gen. Howard in discipline. Whatever may be the business of some of the officers, he will, if he continue as he has begun in the line of temperance & good order, be very popular with the Regiment. The Maine Third as a body cannot in this line be excelled by any other Regiment.

Understand me. I only tell you now & then what I think you ought to

know. I shall not find fault with the appointments you make. I know that you feel your responsibility, which is very great, & that you make them upon the best evidence of the candidates' fitness from all quarters.

I think you must be plagued some by the importuning of many of the young men in the Army. You will see you have seen doubtless that certain very intelligent & fine young gentlemen have asked for places in other regiments because men inferior to themselves have come from outside into their regiments.

The most of the names I have given you heretofore as of young

men to be considered when
vacancies occur, are not aware
that I am specially interested
in their behalf. I spoke for Sergeant
Major Plaisted according to his
request because I am very intimate
with him & know him well, he being
my companion in my tent.

Hamden Brown, Amasa
Pipelow & his cousin of the same
surname, & Penben Foster's
brother in law, whose name now
strips from me (Penben Foster is a
young lawyer in Waterville) are
among our best young men.
None of these, except the latter,
ask me to say anything, & this
one does so modestly because told
to do so by Foster.

The Quarter Master Tallman,
the Quarter Master Pro-tem, Elliot & the
Adjutant, Hale are now all under arrest
and to be Court-Martialed. Well done, Col. Staples!
I don't believe you would do it! Bravo! Yours truly J. C. L.