

226.

Confidential.

Camp Demas Va.

Sept. 14th 1861

Hon. J. Wadhams,

Gov. of State of Va.,

Dear Sir,

As I have already addressed you once, I shall make no apologies for writing you again.

Col. Jackson has assumed command of the Fifth - to my great joy - He has all the elements of the Soldier & the Man to leave his mark on this Regiment, where one of his influence was so much needed. His situation, at first, was a trying one - as the first three officers threw all their influence against him. I informed you, that they had

tended their negotiations - but
they still remained in camp,
& on the first evening, (after Ed.
Jackson had reported himself at camp,
& had returned to Washington) speeches
were made in front of the New Exchan-
ges, which were calculated to inflame
the men, & which if carried out were
mutinies & rebellions. I am sorry
to say this - but duty to you - as the
Gov. of Maine - & duty to Ed. Jackson,
compels me to say this -

The only apology which can be made
for them is one, which shows that
they were misled for their official
partisan - it is this - that they
were most manifestly misled in favor of
"the Maine Law".

The first night, that Ed. Jackson
spoke in camp - Major Hamilton

raised like a mad man in his tent -
He exposed himself to arrest, & would
have been in irons, had it not been
for the clemency of Lt. Jackson -
That same night, Capt. Thompson was
brought into camp, with a brother of
his, under arrest from Alexandria,
for drunkenness -

That same evening - Halsey was
refused at Head Quarters to be excused
from Drap Parade, the Surgeon say-
ing that he "was too sick in a pe-
culiar way, to appear" &c -

These are facts, & you ought to
know them for several reasons

1. In the first place, their course
is unmilitary -

2. It is due to Lt. Jackson

that these facts should be known
to you -

3. These facts should be known

to you, to commit anything,⁴
which these same men may right -
do, upon their return to Maine.

I am persuaded that the resignation of
these officers will contribute to the more
health of the Regiment - whereas I
am equally persuaded, that the appoint-
ment of Lt. Jackson will contribute to
the discipline of the Regt - in every
particular.

The mutinous spirit, engendered by
the officers, just resigned, is dead - Some
of the men, whose names were with
Haley, Hamilton & Thompson, my sons, the
"such speeches as they made had wrought a
cure - that their speakers killed themselves"

One other officer has left - Adjutant Whitman
he belonged to the liague - but as you will hear
of him from another source I shall say nothing
My friend Capt. Edward A. Hammond, will be a
faithful officer of the new order.

I could say more, but my hints forbid -
With much respect, I am
Very truly, Yours
John R. Adams

P. S. A friend to whom I have
submitted this for his perusal says,
that I ought to explain my allusion
to Whitman.

The night before Mosley received notice
that his resignation was accepted - he,
being in command that night, gave
Whitman papers authorizing him to
go to Marine to submit for the Regt
& this too, after he had refused to give
such a commission to Capt. Kan-
man -

Whitman left the camp - without
adjusting his account with the
Quartermaster - this including
a horse, which belongs to Govt -
This, of course, exposes him to
military rule - & will be brought
to the notice of the proper au-
thorities, in due form -

I took the liberty to suggest the
name of my friend, Capt. Kearney
for promotion. My opinion of the
man - & of his deserved promotion, is
still unchanged - If any one in the
Regt. is to have a preference in the
Staff, he is the man; in my opinion
but we submit this & other matters, which
involve the reputation & the efficiency
of the Regt. to your decision & that of
Ed. Jackson.

Many changes will have to be made,
without doubt, in the different companies,
but these will depend on the Recommendations
time of the commanding officer of the
Regt. upon a closer knowledge of the
Officers, than a stranger can now have.

Very respectfully,
Yours -

J. R. A.

J. R. A.
Camp Vernon
Sept. 14.