

Chaplain at h
Old Fairfax Road, Va.
December 12, 1861.

Dear Governor:

Your letter has just -
come into my hand - that is, at an early
hour of the evening. I am glad I get your
approbation. I would not for any sort of
reward do any thing that would seem
to damage the Regiment or you.
If you can from others attain information
of the condition of things at this Camp,
or as to the suitability of the
young men whom I name for
the vacancies which ^{it} will please
you better to be guided by when
you write out the Commissions.
I shall not be sore or complain.
I know that you mean to do
as your deepest judgment will
direct. -

My mind as to what must
be done for Col. Hester is in full assent.

dance with yours. He comes home
from his interview with you subdued,
& resolving to carry himself in a
manner becoming a Commander.
He now feels that he is put
to his troops. In a most steady
~~the~~ ^{but} bland way I shall try
to keep him in this state of mind.
I am not obliged to intrude.
He constantly opens the door
& welcomes me to consultation.
I shall look out not to make
too big a show of my being thick
with him. I shall present just
enough of it to let the
Regiment see that the Colonel
& the Chaplain are in sympathy.
The effort of that is good
in any Regiment. Where it
is known these two are not
in sympathy, the Chaplain
is but a cipher, & the
soldiers & officers are
guided by no moral hand. <sup>if we suppose the Colonel not
to be so</sup> ^{forward.}

Thus you observe that I stick
for the dignity & credit of
the Christian Minister here, as
I would in any village or town.
So much as an Introduction.

Now for the vacancies, & the names
of the men best fitted, all things
considered, to fill them.

For 2d. Lieut. of Co. H: Wm. H. Briggs, of Reedfield,
— now 2d Sergeant of Co. B.

For 1st Lieut. Co. F. Jefferson Leavage, —
now 2d Lieut. of this company.

For 2d Lieut. of Co. F. Samuel Hamblen,
now 2d Sergeant of Co. G.

For 1st Lieut. of Co. F. George B.
Erskine, now 1st Sergeant of this
company.

For Capt. of Co. D. in place
of Sampson, Lieut. William
H. Watson, now 1st Lieut. of
this Company.

For 1st Lieut. of Co. D. — Merrill,
now 2d Lieut. of this company.

For 2d Lieut. of Company D. J. H. Plaisted,
— now Sergeant Major of the Regiment.

For Capt. of Company C. — Andreas-
now 1st. Lieut. of this company.
For 1st. Lieut. of Co. C. John S. Moore,
now 2d Lieut. of this company.
For 2d Lieut. of Co. C. Thomas I
Woyes, — now 1st. Sergeant
of this company.

As to the persons above named,
I don't say that they all suit me
up to ~~the~~ the chalk. Some of them
are slightly at fault in some regards,
but on the whole I think this
is the best list that can now be
made out. All these men are
soldiers understandingly —
know the tactics, & the short
of them ^{as} likely young every way.
Several of them are greater
than any of the field officers in
presence & strength of mind; & in
intellectual culture, they are
beyond these in contrast altogether.
By & by, when field officers come
in demand again Capt. Hanson & Capt.
Heath will be the only ones of suitable
power & fitness.