

Camp Howard, Va.
January 1st, 1862.

To His Excellency,
Israel Washburn Jr.
Gov of the State of Maine.
Gov.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's communication of the 17th ult. making certain promotions and appointments in the 6th Maine Regt. Vol.

I beg leave to call your Excellency's attention to the act of Congress, entitled an act, "Authorizing the employment of Volunteers" &c, which act provides for the organization into Volunteer regiments, and a subsequent act which provides for the filling vacancies of commissioned officers, resulting from casualties. There is no law or regulation recognizing a commission as adjutant. This is an appointment made by the Colonel from the Subalterns of the Regiment (see paragraph 73 Army Regulations, Revised edition) which regulation has the same force as law except when they conflict. I herewith enclose a copy of article III of General Order No. 50 from the War Department which recognizes the right of a commanding

Officer of a Regiment, (although he may not
be the Colonel) to remove and appoint his
Adjutant, I cannot object to the promotion
of Sergeant Major Plaisted to a Lieutenant
in the Regiment, but I do protest against
his appointment as Adjutant, and I cannot
recognize him as such. This being an ap-
pointment which belongs exclusively to
the Commanding Officer of the Regiment.

I have the honor to remain,

Your Obedt Servant,

Henry G. Staples.

Col. Braintree Regt. 1st Bull.

Col. H. G. Staples
3^d Regt.
Jan. 1.

Apt. of Adjutant

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]