

12-19-1861

1861-12-19 Dr. Augustus Hamlin threatens to offer his services to other states if not promoted

Augustus Choate Hamlin

Halls Hill

Thursday Dec 19th

Dear Sir

I visited the seventh Regt last Sunday and was told by Dr Barker that he had resigned and as some of the officers, Capts. Freese, Gilmore &c. desired me to make an application for the position. I presented myself this morning to the Medical Director of this Division for examination. The result I enclose to you with this letter. Dr Lyman has had charge of this Brigade and Division since August and accordingly knows something of my professional attainments.

It has been my determination for a long time past to remain in my present position without complaint until the Regt. had passed through the impending battle and therefore have refused better positions in other Regts which have been open to me or offered. But now it is my purpose to offer my

services to other States if my own
does not consider me worthy of a higher
or more responsible position

In doing so I am aware of the arduous
duties, the decision and courage req-
-uired, and I know that few prove capable
on the field of battle, but I have been
in several skirmishes and in two
battles with this and other Regts
and defy anyone to prove that I did not
then do my duty as well as it could be
done under the circumstances

Further more I will show to you a
certificate from Prof Beraud of Paris
which will prove to you, that few in
Maine have performed more operations
on the human body than myself.

You had the kindness to mention
in your letter to me at Ft Corcoran
that I had been charged with want of
energy, etc - in reply, I will only state
that few men who have been so needlessly
abused as I have been, will show

either energy or pride in the success
of a plan in which they hold a
subordinate position. No one can say
that I did not make a sacrifice when
I joined the Regt. at Bangor or that
I ever rec- one cent for the expense
and trouble of forming or recruiting
Co H. of this Regt.

All I have to add is, that if the position
is confided to my care, every effort will
be made to promote the health and increase
the "esprit du corps" of the 7th, if energy
and familiarity with many of the best
of European Military Surgical works,
can avail

Very respectfully
Yours
Aug C Hamlin