



State of Maine.

Executive Department,

Augusta, May 9, 1862.

Maj. D. P. Howell

Dear Sir,

I did not receive your letter until to-day, & before it was rec^d. The Commission to Maj. Dooly ~~at~~ as Lt. Colonel, had been sent to him. I shall regret ^{it} keenly if any injustice has been done to you.

The facts are these: for some weeks I have been receiving ~~letters~~ information to the effect that your appointment as Lt. Colonel would be very objectionable.

I made no mention of this fact to any
one - But as I could not personally
know the facts & reasons, & might
do wrong if I acted in assurance
with my own ^{unassisted} judgment or feeling, &
as I had great confidence in the
prudence, wisdom & sense of justice
of the line officers, as a body, it
occurred to me that the true &
safe way, was to ask them to
designate who ought to be
appointed - Having asked this advice
for the purpose of ^{learning} knowing what my
duty was, & the expression having
been so strong & clear for days,
Doubt, there was no way left
out for me to send him the Com.

misquoting. This is a plain & unvarnished relation of the facts & circumstances.

It would have gratified me personally to have appointed you, for I have entertained, & now entertain, for you none but the kindest feelings, and if I have erred in this matter, & done you wrong, it will be a source of pain to me so long as the wrong remains, however unintentional ~~the~~ I know it was, to do you any injustice -

Let me hope that your relations with the Regiment may be pleasant in the future, & that all will be well in the end -

In haste,
Yours truly,

J. Washington,

Augusta, Me.
May 8, 1862.

Copy of Letter from S. Westburn

To, Maj' D. P. Howell,

To
Maj. D. P. Howell
May 9.