

Camp 1st Regt. Me. Hvy. Art.
Near Petersburg, Va.
Aug 26, 1864.

His Excellency, Hon. Saml. Cony:
Governor of Maine.
Sir:

I have
the honor herewith to transmit to you
a petition of the line officers of this
Regiment relative to the appointment
of Maj. Russell B. Shepherd to the
Colonelcy of the Regiment in place
of our lamented Col. Chaplin.

This petition is signed by every
commissioned Officer present on
duty with the Regiment— The
Statements made respecting Lt. Col.
Tillot are not the results of prejudice

personal animosity or party spirit, which too often hatches up so much difficulty in regiments; but rather the results of candid consideration and reflection. They have weighed him in a just balance, and, in that balance, he is found wanting.

We entertain for Lt. Col. Fallot as a man of integrity and honor the highest opinion; but Sir, a man can be a man of ability and a gentleman without possessing the qualities requisite for a soldier.

From about fifty officers, I doubt if there could be found, who would sign a petition in favor of Lt. Col. Fallot, while, on the other hand, I very much doubt if one could be found who would not cheerfully append his name to the accompanying petition.

In Maj. Shephard, we have a man in whom we are all united.

We have tried him. He has done more to promote the welfare of the Regiment than any other man.

He is an excellent disciplinarian, combining prudence, coolness and accuracy of judgement, with firmness.

You are aware, Sir, that our Regiment will require a Commanding Officer, who can enlist the confidence of the officers and men. We need a man of strong and firm purpose - Our Regt. has been so terribly cut up that we require a head to manage and control, who can do so with an unflinching hand.

We can conceive of no other than Maj. Shepherd.

We trust, that His Excellency, whom we have learned to respect for his sense of justice, will not pass our petition by as the complaints of grumbling soldiers, but rather regard it as the protest of patriotic and true men intent on the welfare of

their Regiment and the honor of their
state.

Sir, if Maj. Shephard be appointed
to the Colonelcy whatever of glory our
Regt. has gained for our state, will
never be tarnished - otherwise, such is
the condition of affairs, I dare not
prophecy of the result -

I am, Sir,

Very Respectfully,

Your Obedt. Servt.

J. A. Smith,

Capt. Comd. Co. C.

P. S.

We have no Field Officers present except the
Lt Col & Maj. S.