

26.

20th Maine
Camp near Falmouth Va.
March 10th 1863

His Excellency
Gov. Coburn
Sir.

In reply to a communication from you I have the honor to submit the appended list of officers and men whom I recommend for promotion.

There are now some sixteen vacancies, including those to be caused by officers designated to join Col. Appleton's 29th Regiment. With reference to promotions by companies — I have always permitted my Captains to appoint their non-commissioned officers without interference, believing the good of their companies would be their principal object. Only

in few instances have I been compelled to reduce to the ranks serjeants and corporals thus made.

In some instances Captains have found it necessary to go to companies other than their own to find men fit for first serjeants — men from the ranks — privates — have been promoted to the position of 1st Serje in cases where the serjeants were unworthy.

This difficulty would not exist in old regiments but it does in new ones when merit was not considered in the original appointments.

To promote wholly by companies in this Regiment would not give the best men commissions nor would it have the advantage of promotion by Seniority, the second of the two rules usually followed in Military Organizations.

Notwithstanding I think

it preferable to promote to different
companies. I recommend so far
as is possible by companies, in
accordance with your wishes.

I prefer that a few
vacancies be left as they can
not be filled in a satisfactory
manner. To fill them as they
should be, it would be necessary
to take those who are now
recommended for commissions
for the first time.

The vacancies referred to
are the Captaincies of Cos "A", "B" & "K".

Lieut Lewis of Co "A" lacks
the energy and self reliance of a
company commander. At one time
I put him in charge of a company
but he failed to perform his duties
in a satisfactory manner.

Lieut Merrill of Co "B" has shown
a want of energy and interest in
his company. Lieut Nichols

of "A. K." does not deserve the Captaincy
of his company - for reasons which
might be given - if necessary.

The vacancies thus existing
through necessity will have a
most beneficial effect in the Regt.
Because, it is understood in my
command that the most deserving
will be rewarded - at least,
so far as I can judge.

Col Ames. 20th Mar 10. 63
making rec^d for promotion.

The 1st Lieutenants of Cos A, B.
consider the most prominent candidates
by far ^{for} the Captaincies of said companies
Their want of success in this
instance will I hope cause them
to make some efforts to win the
promotion.

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
A. Ames.
Col. 20th Maine.