

Camp 5th Mass,

Hard Landing, James River, Va.

July 6, 1862

His Excellency, Gov. Washburn,

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 24th ult. in reply to mine of a prior date. Permit me to thank you for so promptly attending to this matter, just now so important to me. After a six days fight, weary in mind and body, the assurance that justice was to be done me, came most opportunely. I trust I shall experience no more trouble in getting my dues.

Although, thinned in ranks, and without a single staff or field officer, our regiment is under good discipline, and the spirit du corps is unchanged. There is fight in us yet.

While asking nothing for myself, I cannot resist the temptation to avail myself of this occasion to represent to your Excellency the superior claims of Capt Lauson J. Daggett <sup>of Co. E. of this Regt.</sup> to your consideration for promotion. Capt. D. is a man of fine military acquirements, of irreproachable moral character, a strict teetotaler, a thorough disciplinarian, and in every way worthy and competent to fill a high position in the volunteer service. For the good of the service, I trust your Excellency will not pass

him by his selecting officers to command the new regiment  
or fill vacancies in the old.

For myself, intending to make the profession  
of arms my study and occupation, when the time  
comes, I desire an appointment in the regular service,  
but am willing in the meantime to earn a right there  
by good conduct on the field.

Very respectfully

Your obt. Servant

W. E. Stevens

2d Lieut. Co. E. 5th Maine Regt.

His Excellency, Gov. Washburn