

Head Qrs. 4<sup>th</sup> Maine Pobs.  
Near Culpepper Va. Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 1863

Sir,

I have the honor to call your attention to some facts in relation to my promotion to Majority of 4<sup>th</sup> Reg. Maine Pobs. 1<sup>st</sup>. You have, I think, received from Gen. Ward, a letter in my favor, 2<sup>nd</sup>. A recommendation from Col. Walker in that direction. Allow me to say that no one can procure a letter from that severe disciplinarian, and old Officer, Gen. Ward, who does not deserve it. 3<sup>rd</sup>. I forwarded a petition signed by all the Field Staff, and Line Officers <sup>present</sup> (except one Lieut.) to you, by J. M. Thompson, of Stockton, with a letter from Hitchborn of Stockton. If you have received this paper it is well, if not, then it is unjustly withheld from your perusal. I am told that there is much political influence bearing upon you, in favor of Capt. Davis. I did not think it necessary to procure such influence, believing that reports and recommendations from the field would weigh more with you than the wishes of politicians. There are reasons why I am preferred to Capt. Davis, in the Regiment. I rank third on the list of Captains. (Davis 1<sup>st</sup>, Litchfield 2<sup>nd</sup>,



Davis or Littlefield can get no recommendations from the Regiment. There are reasons why,

Seniority is not considered of any weight, in cases for promotion, in other Regiments, or in ours, except when all other things are favorable,

I can bring much influence to bear if needed, You will see by Gen. Ward's letter that I have been tried and not found wanting.

Your Excellency, if our positions were reversed and you had forwarded, from the field, recommendations so unanimous, from line and superior Officers, as I have sent, what decision would you expect in the case?

I rely upon your personal justice, and judgement-

I am Sir with respect

Your Obedt. Servant

His Excellency Abner Coburn }  
Gov. Maine }

Robert H. Gray  
Capt. 4<sup>th</sup> Maine Inf.

P.S. In the assertion that I am 3<sup>rd</sup> ranking Captain in 4<sup>th</sup> Reg. I mean some rank in U. S. service, many have lost date in rank, by neglecting to be mustered at proper time, or by defects in muster. R. H. Gray