12-4-1863

1863-12-04 Walter Nichols writes Governor Coburn urging the promotion of Captain Gray

Walter Nichols

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North Searsport, Me.
Dec. 4, 1863

To His Excellency,
Avery Coburn, Gov. of Maine,

Dear Sir

I have received a letter from an officer of the 4th Regt. of Me. Vol. in relation to the appointment of Major in said Regt.

By this letter I learn that Capt. Robert H. Gray of Com. I has been recommended 1st by all the line officers of the Regt. present.
2nd He has been recommended by the Colonel.
3rd He has also been recommended by Brig. Gen. Ward for the Office of Major; yet in the face of all this evidence from the field, who are most interested and better qualified to judge of the ability necessary for the Office Capt. Gray is likely to be defeated by a mischievous political influence, not connected with the army.

Having taken an active interest in the efficiency of our Maine Regiment.
and in the support of our present administration in the prosecution of the war take the liberty of saying that I hope Your Honor will not regard any political influence or that it will in any way cause you to treat the expressed choice of those brave patriots in the field with contempt.

I learn there is much feeling in the Regt. in relation to this matter. Capt. Gray has earned his popularity in his Regiment by his own merit and I do humbly beseech Your Honor not to make any appointment against the expressed wishes of the Regt. as all such appointments are well calculated to injure the efficiency of our arms.

Very Respectfully,

[Signature: Walter Nichols]