

Head Quarters 5th Maine Reg^t
April 16th 1863

Brig Gen^l John L. Hodsdon
Adj^t Gen^l State of Maine
Sir:

I received by mail last evening Commission for Capt. Aaron S. Daggett as Major of this Regiment. I must say that I felt not a little surprised at the appointment. According to all precedents, recommendations for Field Officers, have been made by the Commanders of Brigades; and their opinions have been consulted in all cases of such appointment. I cannot understand why this rule has been set aside in this case, for all must admit, that the commanding officer is the best judge of the merits and qualifications of the Officers in his Command.

One case of this kind in this Regiment proves the truth of this assertion. I refer to the Appointment of W^m S. Noyes as Asst Surgeon, which appointment was made without the recommendation of the Medical men, or either the Commanding officer of the Regiment or Brigade. He was manifestly incompetent for the position and was therefore compelled to resign.

over.

I can make no more recommendations for promotion or appointment until I understand whether they are to be made on recommendation of persons outside this Command, on personal application or otherwise.

I do not wish it to be understood that I have any personal feeling against the appointment of Capt. Daggett. The case was referred by me to General Bartlett Commanding the Brigade, and the interests of the service only were taken in consideration.

The fact that Capt. Daggett was absent from his Regiment sixteen days without leave when the troops were under marching orders cannot be overlooked, and his promotion immediately thereafter, tends to countenance the act.

One reason why Captain Stevens was recommended for the position, was that he was unable to do duty as a foot officer on account of wounds received in actions and would be compelled to leave the service unless promoted to the position of a mounted officer.

Will you please inform me by return mail what course will be pursued in relation to the recommendations which have been forwarded, as the appointment of Capt. Daggett as Major will necessarily require some changes to be

made

I am General
Very Respectfully
Yours W. S. Durant

R. S. Edwards
Colonel Comdg 5th M. E. Co.

[Faint handwritten notes in the left margin, including the word "made" and other illegible text.]

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Col Edwards 5th

of Apr 16. 1863.

Complaining of appointments —

"Gov^r appoint^d Daggett on account from the
Reg^t alone, before rec^d for Stevens came —
Noyes whom rec^d of Doct Boston.

Discusses principles of appointments by
Gov^r. takes best man, & finds out as well
as he can about it. "
