

Head Quarters 20th Maine Volunteers
May 25th 1863.

To His Excellency Gov. Coburn,

Governor,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 20th instant, addressed to Col. Ames, and sent to me as the present commanding officer of this Regt. Col. Ames having been appointed Brigadier General, has taken his oath of office & been assigned a Brigade in Gen. Howard's corps, where he is now on duty.

In reply to your favor I am very happy to say that Dr. Monroe by the efforts of his friends in the Regt. & elsewhere, has been reinstated & honorably discharged.

We were sorry to lose him, but he felt it his duty to go.

It is very important to the welfare

of the men, that we have a good Surgeon, & it is a matter about which I feel a great deal of anxiety.

We should all welcome Dr. Herson.

I shall act upon your suggestion, & see Col. Roberts of the 17th. I am aware of the difficulty with which transfers between different Corps are made, but it is possible the arrangement you suggest can be carried out. We should all greatly prefer that, to the other course by which Dr. Herson would be exchanged for Dr. Prescott & neither Regt. perhaps so well satisfied.

There is another matter, Governor, about which I wish to have a word with you. The transfer of the "three years men" of the 2^d Maine has been so clumsily done, that the men were allowed to grow quite mutinous - left uncared for in their old camp after the 2^d had gone for several days, & having time & provocation to work themselves up to such a pitch of venting that Gen. Barnes had to send them to me as pris-

oners, liable to severe penalties for disobedience of his orders. You are aware, Governor, that promises were made to induce these men to enlist, which are not now kept, & I must say that I sympathize with them in their view of the case. Assured as they were that they should be mustered out with the 2^d, they cannot but feel that they are falsely dealt with in being retained & sent to duty in other Regts. They need to be managed with great care & skill; but I fear that some of them will get into trouble for disobedience of orders or mutiny. My orders are to take them & put them on duty - which they have already refused to Gen. Barnes & others. I shall carry out my orders whatever may be the consequence; but I sincerely wish these men were fairly dealt with by those who made them their promises. All their papers say they are enlisted for three years - just as the men of this Regt. are, & for us in the field there is no other way but to hold them to it. What you may be able to do for them I do not know.

I think with pleasure of your short visit

to us, & am only sorry I could not do more
to make your stay agreeable.

The Regiment was enabled to do good
& important service ^{during the fight.} although we were not
allowed to mingle with the rest of the Army.
I had a midnight order from Gen Butterfield
to take possession of the signal wire from the
Battle field to Head Qrs. of the Army. This you
are enough to do, as the wire was tampered with
& broken many times a night, & communication
was of the utmost importance. I was in my saddle
all the nights inspecting every inch of the
line. The Regt. is in good health - never so free
from sickness - small pox entirely disappeared.

I have said nothing about promotions of
Field Officers in this Regt. I have not supposed
that you needed any testimonials; if you wish
them they can easily be furnished. But you
have seen & known us, & we are willing to
leave the matter to your own best judgment.

I am Governor

Very respectfully
your obed^t servt.

J. S. Chamberlain
Lt. Col. 20th Maine Vols.