

Head Qrs. 3rd Brig. Hancock's Division  
Bolivar Heights Va. Oct. 14/62

Brig. Genl. C. A. Arthur

Genl:

Yours of 4th. inst. sent to Washington only reached me today. I proceed first to answer your questions.

1st. I am not going back to N. York for the excellent reason, I can't get leave.

2nd. Capt. Gott's resignation was accepted on the 14th. of June, and Bell must rank from that date. I can assign no reason for Gott's resignation not being made known to the adjt. Genl's office at Albany, except carelessness in the adjt. Genl's dept. at Washington.

Whoever informed you that Throop is "senior Captain" misled you - whether intentionally or not, you can judge. McKay and La Vallée both rank him. Of this there has never been a question. His being ranked, however, would have been no obstacle to my nominating him as a personal gratification to you, if you had expressed your wishes earlier.

As it is, I have nominated La Valle & he knows it. I would, therefore, rather have my nomination disregarded at Albany in this case than make another. You must manage without it, so I can truthfully say I did not change my nomination for the place, and can attribute the action in this case to personal influence, (which it certainly is); for any other course, would damage me with the regt.

I require you to regard this letter as strictly and literally confidential, except, in so much, as you may require to disclose to Genl. Hillhouse, whom you will enjoin to regard it in the same light.

Throop and his brother must know nothing of it - not even by intimation, must they become aware of its existence.

I care nothing whatever about their feeling towards me. I have done nothing whatever to merit any ill feeling from either, except, perhaps, not coinciding in Throop's opinion that he is the best Captain in the Army - a course in which

I am sustained by every officer in the regt, but Bell; & by every man in his company, from which there have been more desertions than any other.

You will readily understand that it is more important for me to stand well with the regt. than with the whole family of Throops - hence my reiterated injunction of secrecy in regard to this letter, as far as it appertains to the nomination for Major.

Please don't fail to see the Govr. about my promotion. Get a letter asking the Secty. of War to appoint me Brigadier; or if that's impossible the strongest you can. Lose no time, you can avoid. I have military testimonials enough from Generals, &c I want Yours & the Governor's - they will be from home & have a semi political influence aside from the military.

I regret I did not get your letter some days earlier. Reply!

Yours, body & soul,  
S. K. Zook

Head Tro 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade  
Hancock's Division  
OCT 14<sup>th</sup> 62

Col. S. K. Fook