

8-15-1861

**1861-08-15 A.B. Farwell writes to Governor Washburn regarding open rebellion of the 2nd Regiment troops and urges more attention be paid to their wants**

A. B. Farwell

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Private

Washington Aug. 15. 1861.

Gov. Washburne.

My Dear Sir,

The condition of Maine troops has been growing worse and worse, until open rebellion is manifested. Last evening, about 11 o'clock 62 members of the 3<sup>d</sup> Regiment, were marched into the City, on their way to jail, surrounded by about 200 mounted men. Now, my dear Sir, this Regiment, alone, saved Maine from utter disgrace at the Battle of "Ball's Bluff," and it seems very hard that such men, whom Gen. Key says, is a "Nate to Col. Jameson, surpassed for bravery anything he had ever seen in the service," should be almost driven to this condition <sup>for want</sup> of a little prompt attention. The immediate cause of this attack, was the want of shoes and pants, suitable to appear on dress parade in. Most of these Soldiers are new recruits, and quite inexperienced at home, and hence, without shoes, (many of them were without an apology for shoes) and with shirts protruding from many holes in their pants, these men refused to exhibit themselves

To a gaping Crowd of idlers, on dress parade,  
and for it, they are to be transported to the burning  
sands of Portugal, to suffer for three Years. Now  
my dear Sir, I must say that I think a little  
attention on the part of our State would have  
prevented this, and a little prompt attention,  
as it must be prompt, will prevent its repetition.

Mass. keeps two good business men here all the time,  
to look after her troops, She has now stored here more  
than three thousand uniforms to meet any demand  
that may be made by any of her troops. Beside she  
has now less than fifty thousand dollars worth Stores  
constantly on hand, to use, in case of sickness, or  
in case of any deficiency on the part of the General  
Government.

I noticed Potted Meats of all kinds, Crushed  
Sugars, Tea, Pickles, Vinegar, Cheese, Hard Bread, &c  
in almost fabulous quantities. Showing how well  
she takes care of her men, who have come to take  
care of and fight the battles of the Country. Now  
I do not expect Maria to do any such thing, but  
then promising I think it would be well to do.

First she should have a prompt, energetic, business  
man here, whose sole business should be to look after  
our troops and see that all reasonable Complaints are  
promptly attended to. All our Officers are young,

And quite unacquainted with business, &  
when they get into the crowd that demand  
the attention of the Government, are easily jostled  
aside. What I have said of du P. may be  
said of most of our M<sup>rs</sup> Regiments, except the rebellion,  
and that is not regarded as improbable. The result  
of all this is to create great feeling against our  
party, and many of the men who now come  
here from Rep. are now loud in their curses  
against us, and we may be sure they will  
call us to account, or the gods, for we are  
not guiltless. You will excuse my earnestness,  
when you remember I see all this, and as a citizen of  
Maine, feel deeply

Respectfully

Yours etc. &c.

A. B. Towell

Washington, D. C.

Aug. 15, 1861.

Farwell, A. B.

urges the necessity of more  
attention to the ~~services~~  
of Maine Troops

A. B. Farness  
Newburyport  
Aug. 15