

Attorney General's Office,

Sept 17 / 61.

To the President of the U.S.

Sir,

As you kindly permitted me, I send, enclosed, a letter from Capt Plummer's wife to me, also her letter to the Sec of War, in regard to the promotion of her husband.

I lately travelled with the lady, then husband, who were going north, as part of the escort of Genl Lyon's body, & was most favorably impressed.

Beside Plummer, there are two other old army Captains, who did excellent service in the bloody battle of Wilson's Creek - Gilbert & Totten. Totten is of the artillery, & Plummer & Gilbert of the infantry.

I do think, my dear Sir, that such men as these

as there, ought to be cared for & encouraged.

Plummer was a classmate of Lyon - so, not now young.

And both Plummer & Gilbert were wounded in that battle. Totten, I hear, is an accomplished artillery officer, & is now depressed with the belief that he is overlooked & forgotten.

If there be no vacancies for the regular promotion of these gentlemen, may they not be advanced to higher commands in the Volunteers, preserving their rank in the line - as, I believe, is warranted by a late act of Congress?

All three of these officers are, personally, strangers to me. Totten & Gilbert I have never seen, & Plummer only in a car-ride together from Phil^a to N. York.

Therefore, my desire for their promotion, is less for them personally, than for the good of the public service.

Most respectfully

Edw. Bates

EDWARD BATES
ATTORNEY GEN

To: PRESIDENT LINCOLN