To. Honourable
Jas. J. Speed
Attorney General of Va.

SIR,

I trust I shall not be deemed intrusive or immodest in submitting the following statement, somewhat personal to myself.

I was a Member of the Virginia Convention, which passed the Ordinance of Secession, was one of the 55 who opposed the passing of the same, and among the first to assemble in Convention at Richmond and urge the restoration of the government of my native State, supported the formation of the State of West Virginia, for all of which Acts I was denounced and driven from my home at midnight in the beginning of the year by a dash of sixty of the Confederate cavalry, narrowly escaping with my life. The Editor of the Richmond Examiner in reference to which occurrences remarked, "The incorruptible and indispensable Bennett escaped..."
Our Cavalry by a brace or three, had they caught him, they could have spent two days searching him.

Some of which I was sent.

Washington endorsed by nearly every member of the body of Delegates that thought about the destruction of the Government, together with letters from Governor Winfield, No. 3, Eastern and others, all earnestly desiring my appointment as Marshall for the third Western District of Va.

To the impress of my own and 1780th of the force of tech, Yerexen the Office was confided on the present incumbent, to which disappointment I prudently submitted, and accepted an appointment in the U.S. Army, having first cleared a number of service of field duty for engagements of three years with the Army of the Potomac as a Commissary of Subsistence with the rank of Captain, being the only member of the U.S. Navy, being against the Senate Ordinance that endeavor to save the country in the Military line, which service may I not...
...
Dutifully legated, — The Compliments of Y, regarding this Kindred of pacification, I only leave from others, but his Compliments as to Leisure of today is some authorized, Now I have this to say, and most respectfully
That in the Compliment of a Change in the
Office, by pacification or otherwise, That my
Claims in party Concerned, &c. Should
I can be fortunate as to prevent the appointed
And, very, Estate of a hope, (most of the
Public men and the popular Voice of West)
As well Virginia, appears, I would feel
My duty to at once resign the office.
In the truth of what I have stated, allows
me to refer you to Hon. B. F. Bingham, Judge
J. F. Jackson, Hon. R. Blair, and others, of West
Va.
My application to a form that
must be on file as you request.

Very Respectfully,
Geo. T. Russell.
Application for a
lieu. West Virginia
Sanee accomonon now

July 19, 1865

Capt. Bennett

Have known Captain
Bennett for some years, to
be a man of integrity and
honesty, and am now
preparing to enter on the
service of the United States
in the capacity of captain of
the navy, and feel that I can
confidently recommend him for
commission.