

Worcester ^{Pa} Jan'y 25. 1863.

General.

I had the honor to address to you a request on the 10th inst. to be relieved of my command, and to be given an independent one, or to be sent to General Roscrans, who had asked you for me and whom you have refused. The motives of my request given generally in my first letter, are particularly detailed in the official correspondence between General Milroy and myself, and which has been transmitted hierarchically by me to General Schenck, who, I hope, will transmit it to you.

The command of the Shenandoah Valley is vacant - In my opinion it is one of the most important and one of the most difficult. From the Revolution to General Fremont, no one, including General Banks, has succeeded in it, and I do not think that any volunteer officer can ever succeed.

I know the Country thoroughly. I planned by my aids, all the ground gone over by the commands of Fremont and Sigel. I know what can be done here and what is to be avoided. and although the country is laid waste. I ask this Command of you, with two Brigades of Infantry, two batteries, and two regiments of Cavalry and Winchester as a base of operations.

The two Brigades of Infantry might be composed as follows:

1^o My own brigade, which with the exception of a few superior Officers who are dissatisfied because I obliged them to live in camp with their soldiers, is devoted to me. One regiment, which I will designate, could be exchanged for the 106th N. Y. now at Martinsburg.

2^o The Mulligan Brigade, now at New Creek.

As to the Cavalry, the 1st N. Y. is already here. It would be easy to find another regiment.

I could guarantee, moreover, Harpers Ferry and the railroad between Martinsburg and that place, forming connection by

that point with General Kelley and Genl Schenck, but remaining perfectly independent in my movements and in the maintenance of discipline.

It is not with large numbers of troops that one obtains the best results, but by mobility and discipline. I know the American Soldier. I know what he can do when properly commanded. I know what I did with him and what I can yet do. How many had Bonaparte and Massena in Italy? Only a handful of men, and they rendered themselves immortal. Let me do at Warrenton and Charlottsville what Jackson did at Winchester and Gout-Royal.

You had sufficient confidence in me to give me the grade of General; allow me to exercise the functions seriously.

I will add, General, that it is myself alone who petrob the portion of the valley we now occupy, and it would only be just to allow me to finish my task. Having seen fourteen years of war out of twenty two of service, as an Officer, and

with sufficient experience to inspire some confidence, you will readily understand that I can be with ~~diffident~~ difficulty commanded by officers whom I respect very much, but who certainly yield to me in experience.

I am General Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servt

May. Genl Halleck
Commander in Chief
Washington

Brig^d Genl
G. K. Clausen
G. K. Clausen

To
Gen. Halleck

FROM
GUSTAVE B. CLAUSEN
BRIG. GEN. USA.