

Head. Quarters, N. W. Va. Brigade  
Shen, Mountain Feb 3, 1863

Capt-Jacq. F. Harding  
& other officers 31st Va. Regt.

Gentlemen, I have received your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> ult., and feel much obliged to you for it, as it may be of considerable advantage to me in securing the speedy transfer of your Regt. to this Brigade. The Sec. of War was willing to have transferred your Regt. & 25<sup>th</sup> to me last week, but did not wish to withdraw any troops from Gen. Lee's command. He had previously given his views on the subject, and at the suggestion of the Sec., I laid his views before Gen. Lee, who replied in writing that he "could not spare these Regiments at this time" but consented, at once, to my having the four companies of the 25<sup>th</sup> at the Wason Springs, which have been ordered here, and directed me to recruit for both Regiments as fast as I could and attach the recruits to my command for the time being. I have no doubt from this that it is Gen. Lee's intention to give me these Regts. as soon as the pressure is off of him at Fredericksburg. I understand in Richmond that the friends of your former Col. Gen. Jackson, in the Legislature from the North West, were desirous of securing his promotion, and giving him command of the troops in the field from the North West. I know Col. Jackson well and he deserves the popularity he enjoys amongst his friends, and it is natural they should desire



his promotion and so far from opposing it - I should  
most cheerfully, were it in my power, assist in  
securing it. At the same time, as I have raised a  
respectable force I naturally desire to increase it  
to a degree that will insure a certain amount of  
success in the coming campaign in N. West,  
and having reorganized my command & gone into the  
regular service, I should regret any action of the war  
Department that would deprive me of two as distinguished  
Regts as yours and the 25<sup>th</sup>. The impression certainly  
prevailed to some extent in Richmond when I  
was there that those two Regts. had been coming  
under Col. Jackson, in the event of his promotion -  
to being transferred to my command, and with  
that belief I should not have felt at liberty to  
argue the transfer - because I should not like to  
have men ordered to me against their will.  
But with the assurance that your letter gives  
that it will be agreeable to you to share our fortunes  
in the North West, in the coming campaign, I  
shall place your letter on file in the war Depar-  
-tment as better evidence of your wishes than  
the representations of the members of the Legislature  
and when the season is farther advanced and  
Genl. Lee in a condition to spare you, I will  
use every effort to secure your transfer.  
I am sufficiently advised of the intentions of  
the Government to express the belief that there will  
be work enough for all of us in our native mountains



During the approaching spring & summer - and  
that it - will be the policy of the war Dept.  
to let - The Mountain troops defend The Mountain  
Country -

The only obstacle I can see to your being sent  
here would be the formation of a new Brigade  
in the army of Northern Va<sup>n</sup> embracing your  
Regt; and the 33<sup>rd</sup> as a part of it;  
Whether that will be done or not - I have no  
better means of knowing than yourself  
 Hoping that we shall see - no distant day  
I am  
 Ever  
 Dear Sir,  
 I am  
 Ever  
 Dear Sir,  
 I am

J. D. Emboden & Brig,  
Genl. Comd. N. Va. Brigade

A copy, teste,



The Captain of the Boston Co. 4. Boston 9th  
Company of the 1st Regt.

Army of the Virginia

Early's Brigade

3rd Regt. of Light

Captain W. R. ... of the 1st Regt. of Light

of the 1st Regt. of Light

of the 1st Regt. of Light  
of the 1st Regt. of Light

of the 1st Regt. of Light