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Head Quarters 10th Military Department
Monterey Calif.a March 10th 1848.

Sir,

I have the honor herewith to enclose to you certain papers relative to the present organization of Col. Stevenson's Regt of New York Volunteers.

The Regiment is at present, & must continue widely scattered, & it is a matter of much importance that each Company should have a full Complement of Commissioned officers.

There is no power in California, to appoint officers, or in fact to transfer them from one Company to another according to the wants of the Service, & therefore I must rely upon your Excellency the adoption of such measures as will lead in future, to the appointment of officers to fill vacancies as soon after their occurrence as possible.

You will see that on the 23d day of December last I ordered an election in Capt.n Mackey's Company, to fill the 4 vacancies of one first & two second Lieutenants & the return of the Election I send you, that you may confer Commissions or not, at your pleasure. The Election was held in good faith & all forms required by the Laws of New York were adhered to.

At the time I ordered this Election, I was not aware that the Legislature of New York had passed a Special Act, empowering the Governor to commission certain officers without a previous election on the part of the Companies, but by the late arrival here of the ships Isabella & Sweden we have three officers commissioned

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in compliance with the special act referred to.

By the Register of officers which I enclose, you will see that there are still now five vacancies which the public interests require should be filled as early as possible. A leave of absence for the benefit of his health has been given to Lieut Hinckley for the purpose of returning home, where he will resign, thus creating a sixth vacancy.

If you can appoint Sergt Conway, Corporals Norris, & Richardson of "C," to three of these vacancies, it will it is believed give General Satisfaction. When Capt Blaisdell at Sonoma received the letter written by my order of the 28 of January, 1848 - a copy of which is enclosed, he permitted Sergt Conway to come to Monterey to see me. Conway was desirous of being placed on duty at once as Lieutenant, without the pay of that grade until he should receive his commission from yourself, but as I had been informed that officers were on their way here to join that Company with proper commissions, I would not accede to his proposition, but told him he must continue on duty as Sergeant until your decision on his election should be received. He said distinctly that the members of "C" regarded the appointment of officers without their consent or election, as a breach of their contract of enlistment, for the right to elect their own officers was guaranteed to them at the time of their enrolment. This is a matter for the consideration of your Excellency, but not for me -

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I have the honor to be
Your most Obt Servant
R. B. Mason
Col. 1st Dragoons, Cmdg

To His Excellency,
The Governor of the State
of New York.

1797–1850

1st Lieut & Com Sub Cadet

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Head Quarters 10
Mily Department
Monterey California
March 10. 1848.

R. B. Mason
Colonel Comdg.

Transmitting Return
of Election in Company
C. 1st Dragoon Regiment
(N. D. Stevenson)

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Arrived San Francisco Feb 12 1847
Received Feb 8 1848 Monterey.
Term expired Feb 1848 Ret
Gen Bennet Mily. to Feb 1848