

colored pretext."

You seem to consider Mr Middleton's appointment  
contrary to your wish, manifesting on the part of the Executive a want  
of respect for your recommendations. & for such inference can be justly  
drawn, under all the circumstances of the case, nor was any thing of the  
kind intended. Your recommendations had always heretofore been  
and will by the present Executive continue to be received and treated  
with all due respect, but cannot be admitted to preclude the exercise  
of the unquestionable right of departing from them for sufficient cause.

You had made no specific allegations against Mr Middleton  
but merely stated that you were not satisfied of his fitness. The  
recommendation to which I have referred furnished the Executive with  
that satisfaction in addition to the seniority of his rank and I believed  
fully to have justified his appointment. His commission will be sent  
directly to himself.

Very respectfully  
Yours Ob. Serv.  
Wm. Gilbreth, Lt. Col.

P.S. Allow me to add to the  
above official answer my sincere  
wish that there may be no interruption  
of the harmony of your Regiment or of your  
communications with this Department. This  
I know also to be the desire of the Executive  
J.C.

Col. John Matthews  
Fort Taber.

Civil Chamber (Smyrna) July 26 1825.

Sir,  
I am instructed to inform you that upon full consideration of  
the representations and evidence submitted to the Executive in relation  
to your alleged removal from the City and County of Baltimore it is  
their opinion that your residence has not been changed.

Very respectfully  
I remain Your Ob. Serv.  
Wm. Gilbreth, Lt. Col.

John Matthews (McLaughlin)  
Baltimore

Military Affairs