

To John Pickens Esq.

Executive Department
May 21st 1846

Sir

You will notice that I have issued upon the requisition of the President for two Regiments of Infantry a proclamation calling upon the Citizens of the States to enroll themselves as Volunteers to supply this force & Entertaining a high opinion of your Military experience & fully aware of the importance of having in command efficient officers I now offer you the Commission of Major of the 2^d Regiment of Maryland Volunteers & I shall be pleased if your engagements will permit you to accept of this Commission & shall expect to hear from you by return Mail & With great Respt & esteem

Thos. G. Pratt

To William W. Clarke Esq.

Executive Department
May 21st 1846

Sir

I have this day upon the requisition of the President of the United States for two Regiments of Infantry issued a proclamation calling upon the Citizens of the States to enroll themselves as Volunteers to supply this force & I am induced by the high esteem in which I have always held you & my conviction of your qualification for the station to offer you the Commission of Major of the 1st Regiment of Maryland Volunteers & I have proffered the command of the Regiment to Col. C. M. Johnston of Allegheny County & I shall be gratified if your engagements will permit you to accept of this Commission & shall expect a reply by return Mail & Your friend & obt. Servant

Thos. G. Pratt

William H. Watson
Lieut. Col. 2^d Regt. Md. Volunteers

Executive Department
May 29th 1846

Sir

Upon the receipt of this order, you will proceed to the City of Washington & report yourself to the Secretary of War and receive his instructions for mustering into the service of the United States, the four Companies of Maryland Volunteers & the District Volunteers, who may be placed under your command by him & You are aware of the difficulty which exists to the appointment of Jas. H. Smyth, as the Lieut of one of the Companies; you will therefore recommend to me some suitable person to be commissioned in his stead & It is of high importance in view of the climate to which your command is ordered that the Surgeon should be practically acquainted with the treatment of diseases incident to that climate, as well as surgery & you are therefore ordered to ascertain & report to me the professional character of the Gentlemen who has been recommended for that situation by the Volunteers under your command, and report to me for commission the name of that or some other person who is fully qualified &

Thos. G. Pratt