

Executive Department,
Annapolis, August 13th, 1852.

Capt. Chas. Calvert Egerton,

you to
Capt. Egerton,
informing him
that he can
not obtain
a supply
of arms for
his company
until the
question in
relation to
the Adj. Genl.
now pending
has been
determined

Dear Sir:

I would have written to you by yesterday's mail, according to promise, had it not been for a difficulty which has arisen, under the Act of the last Session, Chapter 365, and the State of affairs in regard to the Adjutant General, which I explained to you when here. In the first place, it gives me pleasure to be able to inform you, that the late Adjutant General has received no call for the hundred muskets which you examined in the Armory; and that, therefore, they are at your service. But, here comes the difficulty - under the Act referred to, it is made the duty of the Adjutant General to distribute the arms, and to receive, approve of, and file in his office the bonds given for the same. The late Adjutant General, as I informed you when here, has refused to deliver up the records of his Department, and the keys of his office, to his recently appointed successor, claiming to hold his office by virtue of the construction placed upon Article IX, Section 2 of the Constitution, by the Senate at their last Session, in their refusal to act upon the nomination for Adjutant General, which I, at that time, made. As the arms cannot be delivered to you without an official act on the part of the Adjutant General, and as I cannot recognize the right of the present incumbent to act officially, without stultifying my own position assumed in regard to his claims to the office, it will manifestly appear to you that the inconvenience must be borne with, until the Courts of Law shall have decided the question between the late and the present Adjutant Generals.

I very much regret the inconvenience to which you are unavoidably subjected, as well as the cause of it. The arms, however, shall be reserved for you, and I will have them delivered to you so soon as the difficulty spoken of shall have been removed. In the meantime, make to me an official report of the arms which you now have, and their condition.

I am, very respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant

E. Louis Lowe