

commenced; but harvest coming on immediately, recruiting was slow and it was not until the 21st of September that the Field officers were appointed and the regiment mustered into service.

In the early part of July, the 3rd Maryland Regiment was commenced by John W. McCounsell, who had pledged himself to raise it in twenty days. After several extensions of the time in which the regiment was to be raised, and order to suspend further recruiting was issued by the Adjutant General. This was on the 5th of December ult. At the date of this order there had been less than three companies recruited; and these were principally from other States. I presume it was about this time he sought for, and obtained the commission of Colonel from Governor Hicks.

McCounsell is very illiterate and possesses no military knowledge whatever.

In November I received authority to recruit a fourth regiment. I found it necessary to procure this authority because of the allegations of certain of the "Home Guard" officers which met the recruiting officer, Captain Sidsburg, at every turn, that no authority existed for the organization of the fourth Maryland Regiment.

Recruiting for this regiment has progressed very well—considering the drawbacks which it has experienced in consequence of the want of tents, clothing, arms &c. These wants, within the last few days, have been supplied. This regiment has now five full companies.

There was also recruited as part of the force which I was authorized to raise, six companies of Cavalry. They are encamped here; and are under the command of Lt. Colonel N. C. Miller, late of the regular army, and Major Deems, both recently commissioned by the President.

The fragments which it is proposed to consolidate with the skeleton of the 3rd Maryland Regiment are composed of four companies of infantry now at Williamsport or in that vicinity, raised in Maryland, by Genl. Samon, but as part of his Brigade of "Loyal Virginians"; together with one at Hagerstown, and one at Ellicotts Mills. Genl. Samon's Brigade is a myth—the only substance about it being these four companies of infantry, and some Cavalry raised in Maryland.

Samon's four or five companies, with those belonging to McCounsell, and the two at Hagerstown and Ellicotts Mills respectively, will constitute the 3rd Maryland Regiment.

There are also four Cavalry companies in the vicinity of Williamsport, two of them raised in Maryland, which it is proposed to consolidate with the battalion commanded by Miller, thus making a regiment of Maryland Cavalry, besides the three regiments of Infantry already referred to, and the fourth which is now in the course of organization.

I would beg leave to suggest to your Excellency that in pursuance of the original stipulation of the President and the understanding with the company officers of the 3rd and 4th Regiments, as well as to relieve you from any embarrassment, the officers of these