

two regiments, like those which have preceded them, should be commissioned by the President. If other regiments should be raised in Maryland, as I trust there will, they may be designated by the consecutive numbers, fifth, sixth, seventh and so on, and receive their commissions from your Excellency, as the volunteer regiments of other loyal States. The officers of these first four regiments understood that they were to be appointed by the President of the U. States. It might therefore be best to carry out the understanding upon which they entered the service. To me, of course, it is quite immaterial; but I have thought it right to make the suggestion to your Excellency. I will at any time you may require it, wait upon you and explain fully the condition of the Maryland troops raised under the authority conferred upon me by the President. I will also, hereafter, cause monthly returns of the strength and condition of the troops to be made to your Adjutant General.

I am with the highest regard
 Your obedient servant
 James Cooper
 Brig. Genl. Comg. Md. Vols.

State of Maryland
 Executive Chamber
 Annapolis January 24th 1862
 Brig. Genl. Cooper
 Sir

Your communication of the 18th Inst. was received a few days ago but a constant pressure of official business has prevented an earlier reply to it. I had already received from the Adjutant Genl. at Washington a proposition for the consolidation with McConnells Command of various companies now stationed at different points of the State and had promptly replied and concurred cordially in the proposed arrangement. And I readily consent also to the proposition suggested in your letter of suffering the War Department to commission the officers of the Regiments when thus completed. Indeed from some circumstances which have lately occurred I should be much pleased at the Departments taking that course. — McCConnell about a week or ten days since called upon me and urgently solicited the commissioning as Lieut. Col. of his regiment of a Mr. Solow Fisher for whom he also presented the recommendation of the Company officers of his command, and after referring the matter to our Adjutant Genl. and receiving a favorable report from him I acceded to the request and issued the Commission — A day or two afterwards I discovered that my predecessor had on the 30th Dec. Commissioned another person (a Mr. Cooper) for the same office and that