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The 4th Maryland Regt was authorized by the War Dept on the 5th of November. But its organization was not commenced till about the 1st of December. It contains six companies, and has recruits at various points in the state equal to another company. This Regiment is composed wholly of Germans, and promises to be a very fine one.

It will be necessary therefore, that the order which I desire from your Excellency should give me latitude to transfer companies from the Second and Third to the Fourth, as well as from Hayson's fragment of a Regiment to the Third. This order may either be in the form of a letter authorizing me to organize the several Regts by transfer from one to another, or by a direct order to the same effect. Of the latter, I would suggest that the order be substantially as follows:

— "It is hereby ordered, that Gen. Cooper, commanding the Maryland Vols. in the service of the U. States, shall have authority to organize the Third and Fourth Regiments of Maryland Volunteers, recruited in pursuance of the commission given him by the President of the U. States, by consolidating with said Regiments, such independent companies and fragments of regiments as may have been recruited for the general Volunteer service. And under this authority, he shall have power to transfer companies from one of said regiments to another, provided such transfer be made by the consent of the Colonels or other officers commanding said Regiments or Battalions." This authority will enable me to complete the organization of four full regiments of Infantry. — The state will then have in the general Volunteer Service of the United States, four full regiments of Infantry; one full regiment of Cavalry; and two Battalions of Artillery, of four guns each.

In asking your Excellency for the authority indicated in the order which I have taken the liberty to suggest, I am aware that you are called upon to confide a good deal to my discretion. I will assure you, however, that the necessities of the service demand the consolidation of the fragmentary corps embraced in said order. I also desire your Excellency to be assured that I will do nothing, which under any circumstances, could be deemed improper or unjust to any of the parties to be affected by the authority conferred upon me.

Since the former part of my letter was written I have seen Col. Hayson, the only party that could possibly object to the proposed consolidation; and so far from being opposed to it, he is most anxious that it should be speedily effected. Of course, the officers of the other Regiments embraced in the order will be satisfied, as it contemplates the immediate organization of their respective commands. I have, however, made the exception