

of the order dependent on the consent of the Colonels or other Commanders of the respective regiments

As it is likely, the services of the Maryland Brigade will soon be required in the field, I trust I may soon have your commands on the subject.

With great respect I am
 Your Excellency's obt. Servt.
 James Cooper
 Brig. Gen. Comd. Md. Vols.

State of Maryland
 Executive Chamber
 Annapolis March 1st 1862

Brig. Genl. James Cooper
 Sir

I have received yours of the 25th ulto in which you say that having called upon Adjt. Genl. Thomas for orders authorising the organizing and consolidation of several incomplete regiments in your command, you were referred to me for the proper authority upon the ground that the whole subject of such organization had been referred to the Governors of the respective States—

If such authority has been conferred exclusively upon me in reference to the organization and disposition of the Maryland Volunteer forces, the order has failed to reach me, and I have certainly hitherto acted under the impression that such authority was being exclusively exercised by the War Department—

I received from Adjt. Genl. Thomas some time since a communication dated 15th Jan^y last in which he announced it as the purpose of the department to effect the very consolidation of those several fragments of regiments which you now propose, saying that if such consolidation met my approval an order would at once be given to effect the same— To that communication I replied without delay acquiescing readily in the propriety of the suggestion and supposed that the proposed consolidation had been already accomplished;— If however any thing further is necessary on my part you will find it I hope in the order which I hereto annex which I lose no time in transmitting as I am anxious that all the troops raised in Maryland should at once be brought into a more systematic and effective organization and the consolidation which you propose I am sure will help to accomplish this end; I would at the same time suggest that the different titles adopted by several of the Maryland regiments such as the Baltimore Light Infantry which is I believe the present cognomen of Colonel