

Volunteer (absolute) Regiments as are represented at the Rendezvous and ready to take charge of a detachment of men.

I would suggest that as one method of making known to the men the exact situation of affairs, you at once publish an order to all now in Camp that one week be allowed to them to volunteer for three years, and that on Monday next all them in Camp who have not so volunteered and have been so notified, will be immediately assigned to some Regiment and delivered to the agents of such Regiments as are on the ground.

Yours very Respectfully  
A. W. Bradford

Similar circular sent to Genl. Goldborough Commandant at Eastern Rendezvous

State of Maryland  
Executive Department  
Annapolis Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> 1863

Major Genl. Schenck  
Commanding Middle Dept.  
General -

I have the honor to enclose a letter received from the Hon. Alexander Randall of this City and to solicit your early and earnest attention to the subject to which it refers. I am well aware of the burdensome character of your present duties and am, I assure you, reluctant to make the least addition to them; but the complaints upon the subject to which Mr. Randall refers have become so universal and outspoken, that the interest of the Government not less than of this immediate Community requires something to be promptly done in placing the Paroled Prisoners in this neighborhood under some proper restraint. The complaints are not, as is sometimes the case, the mere peevish pretences of Political Malcontents, but come from some of our best and most loyal citizens, and some of the outrages complained of are of the most shameful character. In one case a Dwelling House and out Houses were openly pulled down and carried away in the presence of the owner - in another a party of five or six of the Paroled Prisoners entered a farm House whilst the family were at Dinner seized and confined the inmates, carried off what they could, dressing themselves in the family clothes and leaving their own in their place -

Bynumerable instances of similar character are susceptible I am told of proof, and unless a mode can be devised to check such outrages, the Government must necessarily partake of the odium they are calculated to excite -

The mode suggested by Mr. Randall of instituting a Commission to enquire into the facts is perhaps the best means of ascertaining the character and extent of these transactions and initiating some reform - There is a manifest want of some such decisive executive power as is required to