

in Baltimore, where you had been for some days and that you would probably visit Annapolis before your return, I learn to day however to my regret that you have returned to Easton, and that I shall not therefore have the opportunity I desired of a personal interview with you touching the condition of the Camp at Easton.

For some time past officers representing the Government have urged the propriety of transferring the men at that encampment to the Rendezvous at Baltimore. Captain Dodge the Disbursing officer and Superintendent of recruiting service in Baltimore, had an interview with me on the subject some two months ago in which he strongly urged me to this course. He afterwards addressed me a written communication on the subject dated 5<sup>th</sup> January last in which again urging such a transfer he assigns among other reasons that

"the officers of Md. Regts. in Balto. on recruiting service would not be obliged to make the journey to Easton but would have greater facilities for obtaining the men from Camp Bradford - that the men have all to be brought to Camp Bradford any how for Muster into service, and by bringing all together there would be less chance of their escape than when in small squads; And that the draft having already taken place in all the Counties of the Eastern Shore, no more men are expected in Camp Hicks and its longer occupancy as a Depot not therefore necessary"

There would seem to be some force in these suggestions, but the conduct of some of the temporary officers in your Camp in discouraging the enlistment of the men there in the old Regiments and which I called to your attention in a former letter was well calculated to support the propriety of the course suggested by Captain Dodge, and to furnish still stronger reasons therefor. The conduct of the officers referred to is more particularly set forth in certain affidavits which were forwarded to me after the date of my last letter to you, and copies of which you will find enclosed.

In addition to the considerations above noted I have to day received from General Schenck a letter, a copy of which I herewith enclose and containing suggestions, which besides being in themselves reasonable, I consider in some respects as controlling the subject - expressing as they do the views of the Government in the premises, to whose direction I consider the whole proceedings in the matter of the Draft as properly pertaining -

I have therefore replied to Genl. Schenck saying that I feel constrained to concur in the view he has taken of the subject, and have furnished him with an order to you, to transfer by such means of transportation as he may furnish, all the drafted men and substitutes at present at Camp Hicks, together with all the supplies, camp equipage &c at present there, to Camp Bradford, the Rendezvous for drafted men at Baltimore -

In ordering this transfer for the reasons above suggested, I desire to make to you my acknowledgements for the services you have rendered in connection with the Rendezvous at Easton, and to assure you that whilst the conduct of some of the subordinate officers at that Camp as detailed in the accompanying affidavits would seem to deserve serious censure, I have at all times felt entirely