

but I do not hesitate to say it is my purpose to do so as soon as he is able to resume his duties, which I expect every day to hear that he is able to do — Were permit me to remark that I am somewhat surprised at the purport of your letter, the whole tone of which seems to be one of complaint at the supposed promotion of Major Blumenberg, and at my not receiving as conclusive your recommendation of another party — I have always paid quite as much respect to your suggestions in the matter of promotion as to any other Regimental Commander and make it a general rule to be guided always by their recommendations unless there be some very good and manifest reasons to the contrary — Precisely such reasons in fact exist in the case of Major Blumenberg — At the battle of Antietam one of the fiercest of the War — the one of all others in which Maryland was most directly interested, in the absence of both Colonel and Lieut. Colonel, he took his Regt. into action, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry, received a wound painful and dangerous, for some time supposed to be mortal, from the effects of which, he is now I am happy to know recovering and most anxious to rejoin his Command; if under these circumstances there is any officer or man attached to the 5<sup>th</sup> Regt. disposed to complain of Major Blumenberg's absence or to object to his promotion, I can only say that I have mistaken the materials of which it is composed.

The appointment under such circumstances is no disparagement whatever of Captain Holtz's claims, who may be and I have no doubt is a very meritorious officer — and I can understand too that the temporary want of a Lieut. Colonel or Major may produce some inconvenience for the time being, or devolve upon other officers some additional duties, but these I supposed under the circumstances, would be cheerfully borne, especially when we bear in mind the fact that the inconvenience thus occasioned can by no means be compared with the pain and suffering endured for the last five months by the two gallant officers who had the Regt. in charge at the Antietam fight, and whose absence has been only occasioned by the wounds there received in their Country's service —

I at least am not disposed to overlook such services or sufferings either on their part or any others who may thus serve and suffer in Maryland Regiments — I shall promote Major Blumenberg to Lieut. Colonel, and agreeing with you entirely that Captain Bamberger ought to be similarly remembered, shall if he is fit for service in some reasonable time, commission him as Major — and shall feel no doubt whatever in the propriety of these proceedings or that the Regiment will recognize their justice.

Yours Respectfully  
A. W. Bradford