

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis August 24th 1863

Hon. E. M. Stanton
Secretary of War
Sir:

Some months since Major Genl. Schenck was under your order authorized to raise an additional Cavalry Regiment in this State and subsequently at his instance and on my assurance that on the completion of the Regiment I would commission Lt. Col. C. C. Tevis late of the 4th Delaware Volunteers as its Colonel, that Genl. Schenck was also under your authority detached from his command and authorized to assist Major Genl. Schenck in the organization of the new Regiment — He was on 15th July last assigned to that duty by Genl. Schenck, and has been ever since assiduously and successfully engaged in recruiting the Regiment — Several companies have been raised by him in this State and on 2nd August Inst. a telegram from your Department, signed by the Commissary General of Prisoners, having apprised Genl. Schenck that Rebel Prisoners in our possession desirous of enlisting in the Federal Service might be received whenever it can be reliably shown that the Applicant is an enlisted man in the service of the enemy and was impressed into that service, and wishes in good faith to join ours — he immediately thereafter as I understand, despatched Col. Tevis to Fort Delaware, with a view to recruit for the above mentioned Regiment from among the Rebel Prisoners there confined —

By an order of Brig. Genl. Schoepf in command of that Post dated 11th August Inst. that officer expressly recognizing the authority of Col. Tevis thus to recruit authorized his admission to the Rebel Barracks for that purpose —

Col. Tevis informs me that after a vigorous examination of the Rebel Prisoners so as to satisfy the conditions of the order authorizing their enlistment, he enrolled some 700 of the Prisoners there confined, about 400 of whom were afterwards uniformed, drilled and paraded, and their Muster rolls made out as members of the 3rd Maryland Cavalry — Col. Tevis also informs me that since he left Fort Delaware and after having recruited these men as above stated, they have been transferred to the charge of another officer, their Enrollment lists changed, and effort is being made to hand them over to another Regiment to be organized in the State of Delaware —

Such a proceeding, as I would most respectfully suggest, would be unjust as well towards Col. Tevis and the Regt. he is engaged in recruiting, as to this State — Relying upon the authority of the War Department to permit recruiting among such prisoners, and particularly charged by the Commanding General of this Military Department with the exercise of this authority among the Prisoners of Fort Delaware, Col. Tevis, whilst thus engaged has of course been compelled to neglect recruiting for his Regiment within this State, and as the period for the