

of the State to aid me in the organization of the City Militia.

With the most earnest wish to expedite by all means in my power such an organization, these are practical difficulties in the way of issuing commissions at present to any Militia officers, obvious on a mere mention of them — To say nothing of the absence of all law regulating the subject, and the necessity of providing in the first instance by general rules and orders adapted to the whole State a complete and uniform system, which shall discriminate between the different classes of Militia, divide the State into Military or Regimental districts, and provide for the Regimental and Company organizations in each — there is in our State Constitution a provision making it imperatively necessary, that "the company, battalion and regimental officers (staff officers excepted) shall be elected by the persons composing their several Companies, battalions and regiments."

Before therefore I can constitutionally appoint any Regimental officers they must be elected by the men composing the Regiment and certified to me — A rule prescribing the time and manner of such an election is among those required for the uniform organization of the State Militia —

The Gentlemen named on the Voster enclosed, I have no doubt are very proper men for the offices for which they are respectively proposed — Certainly I have no personal objection to any one of them — but you will understand from what I have said why I cannot now commission them — My advice to them would be as it has been to others similarly situated, if they have men enough even to approximate the minimum number required for such an organization to proceed with their drill and discipline as though they were regularly commissioned; certainly there will be nothing in the way of their being commissioned hereafter, unless the men should elect others — and that is hardly probable.

It will be in my power I trust, in the course of some three weeks to prepare and publish a complete Militia System — I have appointed five gentlemen of ability, one from each Congressional district, as a Commission to aid me in the completion of such a system — they will probably meet and commence their labors next week, and by the time they have finished them, I shall probably have a complete new Enrollment of the Militia of the State, and be then prepared to organize them.

Very Respectfully  
Your obt. servt.  
A. W. Bradford