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true reasons, why they have no
Commands. Congress assumes
- it is asked to assume that the
mere fact that an officer is unemployed
for three months, is conclusive evidence of
his inability, unless during that period
or some part of it, he has been disabled
by wounds. This might be as unjust as it is,
illogical - I thank you for occupying
so much of your attention with a matter
so largely personal - I hope indeed to
be soon put out of this unfortunate situa-
tion by an assignment to appropriate
duty - Again thanking you, my dear
Sir, I remain very truly yours
D. Pickens

Hon. Francis H. Pickens

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Pharm. House
New York Dec. 20 1866

Dear Senator, I had the pleasure yesterday
to receive your kind letter and beg you
to accept my thanks for your friendly
interposition as well as the encouraging
assurance I derive from your in-
terviewing with the Secretary of War and the
Chair of the Military Committee. As the Joint

Resolution passed the House it will
be matter of Construction - that is to
say, ~~in~~ at discretion, in the Depart-
ment to decide whether it has not
employed an officer on account of his
Wound. In my Case, I could not
say with truth that I had been for
the past three or more months unable
to perform duty, although it may be
that the Dept has refrained from em-
ploying me for that reason that it
supposed I was not fit for the performance

of ordinary duty in consequence of my
wound. You will see at once, that
is very slippery ground for a
Soldier with one leg to stand upon;
and if the Joint-Resolution be passed
it should be amending. It seems to
me, however, a mere shifting of liability
responsibility to the shadows of Congress.
The President proposes & exercises the
power to muster-out useless officers - he
can order Courts of Enquiry upon their
conduct or Capacity - He is in possession
of their record and alone knows the