

Washington
May 18. 1864.

My dear Est.

You will be as much surprised to learn we are still here, as you doubtless are, in not earlier hearing from me. The fault, is wholly unexpected to Anna Eliza & myself, but is the result, chiefly, of my business engagements; while the latter is owing to my hope of learning something of interest to communicate before writing, in which, after all my delay, I have really failed.

Est. Brother I did not see Anna soon after our arrival as to prevent your letter. He left this day of our arrival, unexpectedly to me, and very much to my annoyance and regret. I was quite unwell this day we reached here.

SKPR

I called Stanton's attention to you, and told him of so much of our conversation as seemed to me proper. He

of the very kind of you, depend to your in-
formation to take the command under Butler,
which I explained as fully as I thought nec-
essary, and said he feared assigning you to
a post for which the Pres^t proposed another
officer. I replied, that with his permission,
I would mention the subject to the Pres^t, to
which he assented, but did not name the
"post". Accordingly in connection with my
presentation of your name to the Pres^t, I
referred to my conversation with the Lieut.
at first, he seemed to have forgotten the Lieut's
request, but soon recalled ~~and said~~ ^{and said} ~~that~~
the "post" was the Niagara Dept., where he
desired to send Hancock, whom, with the
Chapⁿ, I had recommended for the place
some time since. Under the circum-
stances I could not urge your assignment
to that Dept., but could do only what I
did, request your being otherwise properly
provided for. No place is only known re-
ferred to the Pres^t. He however spoke of you,
as he always does to me, in the kindest
terms.

I called Mr Chapⁿ's attention to
you also, which he did with friendly as-
surance, as you would expect.

ances, as you would expect.

I should have said in connection with
my interview with the Pres^t, he seemed to
Gen. Pick's command as in some way referring
to Butler, for him to give you a command
in his Dept., or it may be, the particular
command he desired. As the Pres^t did
not explain more fully I did not feel
at liberty to question him for further in-
formation. You are probably advised of the
arrangements of his attendance.

Now, my dear Genl, this is a very
broad & misapprehension of my ar-
rangements in respect to you, & yet I have not
been able to devise any means for its im-
provement. Were you here to consult with
me might have been accomplished, but
as that you, I have had no alternative
but to pause.

One thing however, I am satisfied, is
true. You have the most friendly regard of
the Pres^t & Stanton. This may & probably
will prove valuable to you in some way.

We hope to be at home tomorrow morning,
and would have left this evening, but for a con-
fusing illness of Anne Eliza, who visit-
her has been very pleasant & to her and
our friends some most agreeable friendships.

We all remember affectionately our
visit to you and your excellent wife, and
only regret it could not have been longer
continued. Take our kindest regards to
the Madam, the children, and believe us,

Sincerely yours

W. D. Bennett

Ever truly W. D. Bennett

No 54 9th Street

New York.

Wm Bennett
Postmaster General

May 1864
Bennett W.

THE WM.DENNISON LETTER.

To gain a just concept of the importance of this letter, several things must be remembered. The most important is that it is to Gen. Irvin Mc.Dowell! Mc.Dowell was bitterly assailed by the public for the terrible Union defeat at the Battle of Bull Run. That he was guiltless is now an accepted fact. Writing in 1927, Lieut. Genl. Hunter Liggett states that Mc.Dowell's plan for the Battle was perfect, and that his only MISTAKE was, that he forgot that his troops were green, and not veteran soldiers. To this sole fact can be attributed the defeat. The blow, however, at the time, meant disaster to Genl. Mc.Dowell. Regardless of other victories later, he was, late in August, 1862, deprived of his command by President Lincoln.

This letter adduces definite proof that LINCOLN knew that Mc.Dowell was more or less a victim of circumstances; but it also shows that Lincoln did not DARE to give Mc.Dowell another command. Reading between the lines, and taking actual quotations from the letter, we have the REAL story of WHY Mc.Dowell never again commanded the Union armies. Lincoln held him guiltless and, as Dennison writes, "YOU HAVE THE MOST FRIENDLY REGARD OF THE PRESIDENT & STANTON".

While Lincoln did not dare to give Mc.Dowell a command in active service, Dennison's influence (he being a member of the Cabinet) did help a great deal. About 6 weeks later Mc.Dowell was placed, by Lincoln, in command of the Dept. of the Pacific, with headquarters at San Francisco. Apropos: in later years Mc.Dowell laid out all the drives and the magnificent landscaping that adorns the Golden Gate harbor of San Francisco.

A.L.S. of Dennison have always been rare; the most ordinary kind of letters of introduction, etc. fetching around \$10. very readily. A letter of Dennison of this length and importance is practically unknown. I have never before seen one 1/10th. as good. A letter such as this is so rare as to be almost unique!

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