

Executive Office

Omaha, Nebraska, April 13th 1863

Maj Genl H. M. Halluk,
Genl in chief,
Washington D.C.

Genl:

On the 11th Inst. Mr E. C. Craghton, ^{sup} of the Pacific Telegraph line, joined me in a dispatch to you, asking you to retain the Nebraska Cavalry on the West side of the Missouri river. We were not so particular as to what Troops were placed here as we were to be certain to have some; And the Second Cavalry being already on the West side or Nebraska side, we thought it would suit better to have them remain than to call others from a broad. If these Troops are sent on to the East side, and if the regular Troops at Ft. Kearney & Laramie are called away (and I am told that such is the fact) then, as I understand it, there will be less than four hundred Troops left to protect not only our northern

frontier (for which this ^{2nd} Cavalry as we
were informed by the officer who authorized
the raising of it was especially intended)
but also the telegraph & stage lines,
and the overland emigrants east of
the mountains. I know it may
be said by some that the emigrants
are to have an overland escort of
one company, but this company
will not be ready to march before the
middle of June, at least they have
not done so in former years, and
by that time there will be a line
of emigrants at least five hundred
miles in length, so it will be a
matter of impossibility for this company
to fully protect even the ~~xxx~~ in emigrants
to say nothing about the telegraph line
& stage passengers.

When I was in Washington,
a few weeks ago, I learned from
the Secy. of War & his assistant that
it was in contemplation to send a
force this spring up the Missouri
river. I wanted to have a talk with
you on the same subject, and
want to your Head Quarters two or three

times for that purpose, but each time
I found you so busily engaged with
other that I gave it up.

If our troops
are all sent across the river (and I
am informed that there is now an
order here from you to that effect) I
greatly fear that our Northern settlers
will be greatly disturbed, if not indeed
entirely broken up. Our frontier
settlers are much more nervous &
more easily excited now than they were
before they heard of the contemplated
movement against the Indians.

I hope, Genl., that you will so
arrange this expedition as to allow
at least a part of the army to
march on the west side of the
river. Brigadier Genl. Craig is now
calling the Nebraska Cavalry together
preparatory to complying with the order
to cross the river & have the troops report
to Genl. Cook at Sioux City, and if you
determine to leave these troops or any
part of them on the west side of the
Missouri, an order to that effect
should be sent by you, at once, by telegraph

to Genl Curtis, otherwise the expense
& trouble of crossing and recrossing
will have to be met, all of which can
be saved & eradicated soon

Hoping to have a favorable
response from you on this subject

I am, Truly & Respectfully
Yours

Alvin Saunders,
Gen. Nebraska.

To
Gen H. M. Halleck

Alvin Saunders
Gen. of Neb.