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Refers to Gayfield

Department of State
Washington

July 29, 1881.

My dear Mr. Willis -

Please accept my sincere thanks for your pleasant words of congratulation. I have the honor of receiving from the President almost the last commission which he signed before the death of July, and

(Gayfield shot on July 2)
John W. Willis, Esq.,

Saint Paul,

Minnesota.

as the appointment was
made voluntarily it was
most grateful. The po-
sition and the work
coincide with my
tastes and I think
myself a fair subject
for congratulation.

The news from
the White House is
of the most encouraging
character and we are
all

all very hopeful that
the President will recover.

I have some thought of
making a visit to Saint
Paul during the early
Autumn when I look
forward to the pleasure
of seeing you. Until then
and always, believe me,

My dear Mr. Willis,

Yours very sincerely,

Walker Plaine

Garfield died Sep 19 1881