

Glohal Jan'y 30 1860

Gov Ramsey

Dear Sir,

I have been prompted to write you in view of the present condition of our beloved nation. While every exertion should be used to maintain peace, the clouds may gather to a tempest, by powers not within the control of our infant state. Peace being the time to prepare for war, I take the liberty for the first time in my life to ask a position at the head of a Brigade of our militia. I found myself, qualified by nature (But not educated in a military school) and feeling that I have no ultra abolition views. I have always been a Whig, and devoted to the best interest of the whole country. I lay aside modesty and assure you that I am that I am age 53 Poor and unlettered by the world. But naturally brave for such seem when perseverance, decision and energy are required. always subject to law, should you have some responsible vacancy you may refer to Dr A. C. Adams of Minneapolis or G. W. Thompson, if not please burn this and let the matter be forgot, they know me as a man and time a long can prove the wisdom of a judicious commander your humble servant  
J. Gilbert Prentiss

Wm. Mil;

J. Gilbert Peabody,

H. K. R.

Feb. 18th 1860

App.<sup>m</sup> Mil. Office

Matthew Donohue

per James C. Pratt.

Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 1860

45  
St Paul, Feb 6, 1860  
Gov Ramsey:— A few weeks  
since, I rec'd a note from Mr  
Gilfillan, asking me if I  
desired a military appoint-  
ment, and also stating that  
he would speak to you upon  
the subject, if the idea met  
with my approbation. I do not  
desire, and can not accept  
such an appointment. But,  
you would confer a favor  
upon me by giving to my  
friend, Matthew Donohue,  
sq., of Tibley county (now a  
member of the legislature)  
the title of Colonel. It is true  
that Mr D is a democrat, but  
he is a noble fellow, and well  
posted in military tactics.  
you will probably remem-

ber that Gov Sibley was con-  
sidered jesuitical because  
republicans were not ad-  
mitted into his sanctum  
sanctum of military  
humbug. I think you will  
agree with me when I say  
that a Governor can, occasion-  
ally, afford to be generous  
to political opponents, espe-  
cially in small matters

Very respectfully,

James C Pratt

1860, Feb. 14

46

To his excellency Alex Ramsey Gov  
of the State of Minnesota

The undersigned would beg  
leave to recommend Gudson P. Legg  
of the town of Winnetago, Houston Co as a  
person well qualified to discharge the  
duties of Lieut Colonel. He having had  
four years service in New York as first  
Lieut in an Independent Company. I would  
therefore request his appointment to said  
office

St Paul Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 1860

Yours Truly  
Charles A. Love

App<sup>n</sup> Military

Judson H. Legg

per Char. A. Coe.

Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> 1860

42<sup>2</sup>  
Washington, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1860

Dear Sir:

I am directed by the Synod of Baltimore to forward to you the following resolutions unanimously adopted by the Synod at its meeting in Alexandria, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> 1859, and request you that you will make such use of them as you may think proper.

Yours respectfully,

P. D. Gurley,

Stated clerk of the Synod of Baltimore.

### Resolutions.

1. Resolved, That Synod do hereby call the attention of all concerned to the fact, by them believed to be incontrovertible, that a virtual and real establishment of one denomination of Christians in the chaplaincy of our Government Military Academy at West Point, and of our Naval Academy at Annapolis, has somehow grown up, in the clearest contravention of that religious freedom which is the equal right of all.
2. Resolved, That the extreme inequality now existing in the chaplain service of the Army, viz, sixteen Episcopalian chaplains, two Methodist chaplains, and one Presbyterian chaplain; and also the extreme inequality now existing in the chaplain service of the Navy, viz, ten Episcopalian chaplains, four Methodist chaplains, four Presbyterian chaplains, and one Baptist chaplain, giving to a single denomination of Christians, in each case, more chaplains than all the rest put

together, clearly grows out of the religious establishment in the above named public schools for the training of the officers.

3. Resolved, That it is an erroneous idea, wherever it exists in the public service, that the officers and their families are the sole spiritual charge of the chaplains; but such spiritual charge embraces also equally the privates of the service.

4. Resolved, That the rule established in the University of the State of Virginia, that the chaplaincy shall be in the hands of no one denomination of Christians longer than a given term of years in succession, is the obvious and proper remedy for the present great grievance in the public schools.

5. Resolved, That it is the indubitable right of this Synod, and of all the Christian people of this confederacy to demand the preservation of religious liberty and equality in the administration of the government; that such demand implies no improper interference, on the part of ecclesiastics, with civil and political affairs, but is, on the contrary, a necessary and rightful part of that vigilance on which the continuance of the freedom and the purity of religion does depend.

6. Resolved, That none of the pleas or palliations by which those who obtain the exclusive benefit of such religious establishments attempt to justify and maintain them, are entitled to the slightest weight, as experience has shown that an established religion is generally, if not indeed universally, an infraction of the rights of a majority for the benefit of a minority, and is no advantage, but

an injury to religion itself.

7. Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded by our Stated Clerk to the Stated Clerk of each of the Synods in our connection, with the request that they be laid before his Synod at its next meeting; that they be published in all such newspapers as are willing to insert them; that a copy be sent to the Governor of each of the States, a copy to the President of the United States, a copy to the President of the Senate of the United States and to the Heads of the Departments of the General Government, and a copy to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, with respectful requests to them that they will make such use of them respectively as they may think proper.

P. L. Gurley

Stated Clerk Synod of Baltimore

Wash<sup>g</sup>ton March 21/

60

In reference to Chaplains in  
Army & Navy.

this matter into consideration  
And if you do not find me  
"worthy & well qualified" after  
the explanation of what I have  
done for the Army then I will  
be content. May know how  
I have been used thus far  
and will all give their candid  
opinion for me for the place  
I ask. I will not further  
trespass on your valuable time  
but will remain most respectfully  
Sir your most Obedt Servt  
A. J. Wells

P.S. Have the kindness to  
direct one word to me at  
Mankato Minn

Spencer J. Wells

John Smith  
Mankato Dec 18<sup>th</sup>  
J. J. Wells

1860, Dec

Mankato Dec 7<sup>th</sup>  
Hon Alex Ramsey  
Gov. of Minnesota

So your Excellency Sir  
I would like to have you take  
into consideration my claim to  
some position in the Army and  
to prove that I have some claim  
I will state with references  
that there was not a person that  
did more in the same length  
of time than did I for raising  
recruits for the Army under the  
last call for troops making  
two trips to St Paul and enlisting  
63 men in Waseca Co inside of  
two weeks and was elected 2nd  
Lieut by receiving every vote of the  
63 for 2nd Lieut but owing to the  
Union disturbances it compelled  
me to forego raising more men

we bring in the numerous persons  
since to the Wumbago Kenyon  
and in daily expectation of an  
outbreak amongst them. The  
consequence was that my Com-  
mand to Consolidate with Lewis  
Kenyon and through accepting  
and fulfiling of the compact  
I was defeated in the election  
After the Consolidation it is un-  
necessary for me to go into a  
detail of the cause found  
to place me where I am at  
present. My time and energy for  
the Campaign I would like  
most. Now Sir to receive the  
appointment as one of the  
Deputies of the Mounted  
Rangers and as reference to  
prove to you that I am not  
a hypocrite for what I am unfit  
for and that I am worthy  
of ~~reimbursement~~. I will give

you the names of Maj. Byrce  
of Pembault - Maj. Locke of  
the same place. I Mr. Greene,  
Erasmus Egerton Bonner St Paul  
Also of Worcester (which has  
not been represented by any  
field experiment) I refer  
you to Hon. P. L. Bailey  
Capt. A. J. White the person  
sent of whom as I enlisted  
by my own personal experience  
Hon. Phil. Woodruff Member  
Elect from our dist. Sec. of  
Senator and a host of others  
of our most prominent  
men. I would refer you to  
W. A. Whiting of State Auction  
Office J. S. Burr of State Tax  
Office and to Hon. Chas. H. Smith  
Auditor of State. I will give  
no more names with you  
wish and I will be most  
thankful if you will take

To the Honorable Alexander Ramsey  
Governor State of Minnesota

The undersigned of the  
Legislature of the State:

Whereas  
of the companies  
Regiment are desirous  
officers of their Regiment  
are fully convinced that persons to make  
such designations would contribute largely  
to the efficiency of their service:

We therefore most earnestly recommend  
that your Excellency will be pleased to  
appoint such persons to be Field officers of  
the Regiment into which said companies  
shall be incorporated, as the Line officers  
thereof shall designate any have  
already designated.

Chas. N.

G. B. Cleveland

Luke Miller

Dan M. R. 17

Nathan Dane

W. H. Perlsburg

Chas. D. A. " " Auditor of State

Chas. Schaff Treasurer of State

From members of  
Legis.

Gen Greer (U.S.)  
May 7 1861

GENERAL ORDERS, }  
No. 17. }

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, May 7, 1861.

I..Brevet Brigadier General *Lorenzo Thomas*, Adjutant General of the Army, is assigned to duty according to his Brevet, with the pay and emoluments thereof.

II..Captain *Franklin Gardner*, 10th Infantry, having abandoned the command of, and left his Post,—Fort Bridger,—the President directs that he cease to be an officer of the Army from this date.

BY ORDER :

L. THOMAS,  
*Adjutant General.*

OFFICIAL :

*James B. Fry*

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

1a  
Saint Cloud, Minn.  
June 15<sup>th</sup> 1861.

Hon Alex. Ramsey  
Gov. of State of Minnesota

Sir.

I am willing to serve my country in aiding to put down rebellion and to punish treason.

I have been advised to make application for a Lieutenant Commissary in the regular army. which is, at this time, to be largely increased by the addition of the thirty new regiments.

I am, by profession, a Civil Engineer, and as such, have had several years experience, both on rail roads and elsewhere. I am twenty-six years of age:- I think I can furnish you satisfactory testimonials as to my character and ability. I have the support of Col. Stephen Miller and others of your friends here.

Can you aid me in obtaining the appointment?

I have the honor to be with great respect  
Yours Obedt. Servt.

Theodore H. Barnett

Thos. M. Barrett  
St. Cloud, June 15/61

For Lieutenant and Commissioner  
in Regular Army

June 15/61  
Lieut. Col. Barrett

2500.

General H. B. Pratt

Brig. Gen. Pratt

Brig. Gen. Pratt

At a regular meeting of the Saint  
 Peter Guards held pursuant to notice June  
 20th 1861, Capt. A. K. Skaro presiding and  
 Edward Paces acting Clerk it was unanimous-  
 ly ordered that Capt. A. K. Skaro be continued  
 as Capt. of said Company, and that C. St.  
Julien Cox be first Lieut. and J. C. Dona-  
homer second Lieut. as heretofore elected,  
 Ordered that his Excellency the Governor of the  
 State be respectfully requested to commission the  
 aforesaid Officers as soon as his convenience  
 will admit. Ordered that the meeting ad-  
 journ.

A. K. Skaro

Capt. S. P. Guard.

Edward Paces, Clerk " " "

The following members were present and voting

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Frank G. Hoffstedt | J. G. Scott     |
| A. Patch           | Alc. Olson      |
| A. Black           | Jos. Smith      |
| A. P. Clark        | Alex. Bradburn  |
| E. Paces           | Alanson Whipple |
| B. F. Sylvester    | E. Haggins      |
| Edw. Schuyder      | A. Jensen       |

A Grudleschaffar  
Lewis Sonson  
Grove Anderson  
J. Grudlund  
Bay Marrant  
Jos Diehl  
Ayro A Stone  
P A Shortzink  
Steen Thompson  
C P Romney  
Thomas Downs  
John Linder  
P M Brewster  
Ole Olson  
Erick Larsen  
A Saas Morgan  
Ewin Knutson  
Benj Roundsville  
Ole Andrickson  
R O Chase  
J C Donahower  
Geo Naylor  
E St John Cox  
M Schliinke  
Carl Ruppert  
Solon Chauder

R H Rhoads  
Thos D Noble  
Jas Flora  
Jas Spencer  
A E Alden  
A Bonn  
O K Bonn  
D R Pettys  
J R Sickett

(copy as)

Red Cross  
Dec 22/68

Capt. Skarr  
to Sir

I am in receipt of yours of  
yesterday by the hands of Lieut Donahoe  
giving a ~~list~~<sup>list</sup> of your company & of the  
officers elect; if the U.S. officer detailed  
for that service is prepared to muster your  
company into service at once I will  
defer the commissions until then; but if  
that is not likely to take place shortly I  
will then give your commissions temporarily.

I will call at the Fort as I return  
to St Paul probably on the morrow.

Very truly

Wm. R. Barry  
Gov. St.

Electin Proceedings of  
St Peter's Ward

June 20/6, as to  
Company Officers

Gov. Ramsey Answer  
June 22/6,



From the Minnesota State Archives: Records of Governor Alexander Ramsey.

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society, and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.

[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)