

W. H. Johnson, June 4, 1861.

Col J. W. Phelps,

Dear Sir,

I have paid no attention until now to the scandalous reports which have been circulated throughout the State, relative to the habits of certain officers of the regiment under your command; nor do I now give any credit to them. But this anonymous letter, received this day, renders it proper that I should communicate with you sir, and request information in relation to the charges so positively made.

I beg you sir to write me freely at your earliest convenience, and to indicate how far I may be allowed to publish the information given. If the charges are unfounded, as I have good reason to believe, it is due not only to the gentlemen implicated, but to the Executive making the appointment, that publicity sh<sup>d</sup> be given to the contradiction. But if, contrary to my expectations, the charges are true, I desire you to adopt efficient and prompt measures for displacing the incumbents, in which case I will send other & more worthy men.

I am sir respectfully yours

W. H. Johnson