

Head Quarters Smiths Brigade
Camp Advance. Virginia. Sep: 7th 1861.
Brig Gen. J. W. Phelps.

Sir -

I write at this time to enquire if you have appointed your "Aides de Camp"? if not to tender you my services in that capacity.

I have since the 23rd ult. acted as "aide" to Gen Smith, and am now acting in that capacity: and I will explain how I came to be thus situated. Upon my return home, after our Regt. was mustered out & paid at Brattleboro. Vt. in accordance with your advice, I went to St. Johnsbury & tendered my services to Gov. Fairbanks. While "en route" I rec'd a Telegram from Mr. Poctor (a brother-in-law) who is Gen. Smiths Brigade Q. Master, asking me to come immediately to Camp Lyon, D.C. as by so doing I could have the appointment of Adjutant of the 3rd Vt. Reg. then in camp, as Mr. Blunt the former Adjt. was acting Brigade Commissary & daily execute his commission & appointment: which rec'd, I would be installed in his place. I proceeded to St. Johnsbury & showed the Telegram to the Gov. who gave me