



Surg. Genl's Office
May 9. 1861

Sir,

Your communication of the 7th inst: informing me that you had as the Surgeon in the Chief of the Medical Staff of the State of Maine, provided the Volunteers of the State with Medicines & instruments for two or three months and also established a Military Hospital at Portland, has been received.

It affords satisfaction to the Department to know that the Volunteers of your State have been so well provided for, in the outset of their service, a matter that is so important for their efficiency & comfort.

In reference to the inquiry whether your services will be longer required, I have to reply that the grade of Surgeon is the highest that the law recognizes in the Volunteer service, and the allowance for a full Regiment, is one Surgeon & one Surgeon's Mate. After being mustered into the Service of the United States, the Medical

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Date: May 9, 1861

Description: Letter of the U.S. Surgeon General to Alonzo Garcelon regarding Garcelon's duties once in the field.

Officers come under the supervision & control of this Department, governed in their routine duties by the Regulations for the Medical Department of the Army. A copy of these regulations will be sent to you by mail. — It will be seen that the articles, & quantities of Medicines &c. required for commands of varying numbers and in the different circumstances of the field or garrison, are all specified, as well as the mode of procedure for obtaining them.

When troops are serving in independent positions, if it will be proper for the Senior Medical Officer to make out a requisition for his medical supplies, according to Regulations & transmit it to this Office & thereupon, if found correct, the Medical Purveyor will be directed to issue. When, however, a command is attached to a Division where there is a Medical Director at the Head Quarters, then all requisitions & reports are to be sent to him, as he has the authority & control over all Medical Officers and the Hospital arrangements in that Division. It will be thus observed that the administration of the Med'

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of Hosp^t. Department of the troops, devolves upon this Bureau in all its general directions & operations, while the special & detailed operations of each Division in the field or a Military Department are supervised by the Medical Director of that Division or Department.

Your services, therefore, as Surgeon-in-Chief are very advantageous & beneficial to the troops of the State in their process of organization & for all purposes of immediate care preparatory to their departure for the field or previous to their being mustered into the service. Your duties are, therefore, necessarily limited to the service of the State.

Any other information you desire, the Department will afford you with pleasure.

Very respectfully
Your Obd^t Serv^t
A. C. Wood
Actg. Surg. Gn^l

Dr. Alonzo Garcelon,
Chief of Med^t Dept. Maine Vol^{ts}
Portland,
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