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MMN # 73718

Date: August 2, 1862

Description: A letter, probably from George F. Shepley, notes that the writer met with President Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton and Secretary of State Seward about the need for additional troops in Louisiana.

## Portland Maine Private & Unofficial August 2, 1862 General

Immediately upon my arrival I proceeded to Washington and there had an interview with the President and Secretary of War and Secretary of State. I stated to them fully the condition and wants of Louisiana. They were im pressed with the necessity of landing more troops and promised to send the fifteen thousand I asked for when they could be in condition to send them, But said that more troops were called for now in every Department and that it was impossible to send them at present

I relation to the Negro question they frankly stated the difficulties that surrounded them and gave me unlimited discretion to act as I thought best which will be to continue the policy pursued by you up to this time, I will explain this more fully to you

They will give you two Prigadeer Tuesals of your Lelection I lufer Laurably and I inferred that if you made a formal requel The Lecretary of War bug gested that I had better return home and weit a few days dad he loveld Lend despatcher and a mepeuper to one when his despolcher were wady, I renched home Luciday Ifthe and nothaving heard from Washington Shall leave Monday Monine, Producing tou direct and Muchu There one day and Then leave Albrobalion and appreciation your course in Me orleans

when I return
They will give you the Brigadier
General of your selection I infer
from what they said
I suggested Meitzel, and Stanton
received it favorably and I inferred
that if you made a formal request
for Meitzel's appointment it would
be made

The Secretary of War sug gested that I had better return home and wait a few days and he would send despatches and a message to me when his despatches were ready. I reached home Tuesday 29th and not having heard from Washington shall leave Monday morning for Washington direct and remain there one day and then leave as soon as possible for New Orleans

You can have no conception how strong and universal with the people is the feeling of approbation and appreciation of your course in New Orleans him Postert councies They all contrast what has been Hore in New orleans with the insufficient force and Scantes medies of transportation, with The failures bu Virjunia and with such a bast army do magnificeably forvioled with all the appliances of modern The contrast is do Thiking en your favor that the much is almost miversal that it Butter had been in common he would have got lute Richmand before this time Some how had been done before he arrived and I presume as he had been in Washington Lince, he had repeated his attacks, employing tilg boats for forwate Speculations and neflecting to Lupply with means to tow his webels. I told the Lecretary It was falu - that Porter los a humber

They all contrast what has been done in New Orleans with the insufficient force and scanty means of transportation, with the failures in Virginia and with such a vast army so magnificently provided with all the appliances of modern warfare. The contrast is so striking in your favor that the remark is almost universal that if Butler had been in command he would have got into Richmond before this time somehow

Mortar-fleet-Porter has been attacking you in Washington – I found this had been done before he arrived and I presume, as he has been in Washington since, he had probably repeated his attacks.

He has been charging you with employing tug boats and steamers for private speculations and neglecting to supply him with means to tow his vessels.

I told the Secretary it was false – that Porter was a humbug

explained to him Posters covardice about the Louisiana, and Told him how mounistly you had rendered to Porter and the Mary when I gettern to markeyfun I will find out what new lies Porter has told on his arrival There, and will endean to let history right with the Besident and Lecutary of Fram. I believe Porter and his motives are appace ated now I suggested bushing for Pripadeer General Feet found that It has hopeless to attempt anything

explained to him Porters cowardice about the Louisiana, and told in

him how ^variably you had rendered to Porter and the Navy every possible facility.

When I return to Washington I will find out what new lies Porter has told on his arrival there; and will endeavor to set history right with the President and Secretary of War. I believe Porter and his motives are appreci ated now.

I [crossed out] suggested Cushing for Brigadier General but found that it was hopeless to attempt anything in that quarter