

2/6  
Private & Unofficial  
Portland Maine  
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 impressed with the necessity of sending 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. In 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

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society

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.

when I return  
they will give you two Brigadier  
Generals 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 could  
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 29<sup>th</sup> 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

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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 has 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

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him how invariably you had  
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every possible facility.  
When I return to Washington I will  
find out what new lies Porter  
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and will endeavor to set history  
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