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Title: Letters from William Meredith to Eli Slifer

Date: 1861-1863

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717-245-1399

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(private) Philadelphia June 1861

My dear Sir

I enclose my
Official oath & Bond. Pray get
the Governor to endorse in the
latter his approval of the Society.

I also enclose the Dedication
Protestation which was made
and which I told Mr. Thomas
I would return. Mr. McCall
of course retains the one under
which he administered the
oath to me. — I think I shall
be in Harrisburgh on Thursday
Evening.

With great regard
Very truly
Yrs

Harrisburgh
His Office
h h h

Wm. S. Mendell

(Private/

Phill, June 1861

My dear Sir/

I enclose my official oath & Bond. Pray get the Governor to endorse in the letter his approval of the Parties.

I also enclose the [Didian] [viz] [Protestation] which was sent and which I told J.W. Thomas I would return. J.W [McCall] of course retains the one under which he administered the oath to me. I think I shall be in Harrisburgh on Thursday evening

Hon Eli Slifer

With great regard

Very truly

Yrs

W.M. Meredith

Ph: 3 July 1862

My dear Sir/

I have examined the papers
accompanying the Requisition from
Massachusetts for the surrender of
Caleb B. Miller & John Stone, & think
the Requisition ought to be complied
with, unless there be an inflexible
usage of your Office requiring a
Bill of Indictment to be first found
in such Cases.

W. B. Boyney is
the Counsel
in the case

I hope

Always faithfully

Yrs

Wm. H. Miller

A. M. Sweetser

Ph. 3 July 1862

My dear sir/

I have examined the papers accompanying the requisition from Massachusetts for the Surrender of Caleb B. [Worth] & John Hour, & think the Requisition ought to be complied with, [unless] them be an inflexible way of your office requiring a Bill of Indictment the first found in such cases.

Dr. Romney is
the counsel
in the case

Hon Eli Slifer

Go [forth]
Always faithfully
Yrs

W.M Meredith

Harv.

24 July 1862

My dear Sir,

I tried to see you this afternoon, but think you had gone. I wanted to say that probably Mr. Russell's telegram means that the U. S. will not pay bounty to the 9 & 12 mos. men. If so it is very far from being all right, & wishes the necessity of immediately issuing a General Order to announce that change, or leaving on the Governor the responsibility of setting authority to exhaust the Treasury & ultimately in paying the bounty. Pray think of this, so that something may be done as soon as Russell returns. He can let us know exactly how the matter stands.

Yrs faithfully

W. A. Seward

Hon: Eli Hesper

Harrg
24 July 1862

My dear sir/

I tried to see you this afternoon, but think you had gone. I wanted to say that probably W. Rupells' telegram means that the U.S will not pay bounty to the 9 & 12 mes. man. If so it is very far from being all right, & infers the necessity of immediately giving a General order to announce that change, or bearing on the Governor the responsibility of getting authority to exhaust the Treasury near winter in paying the bounty. Pray think of this, so that something may be done as soon as Rupell returns. He can let us know smartly how the matter stands.

Yrs faithfully

W.M. Meredith

Hon Eli Slifer



My dear Sir

I should be glad to see
you for a few moments as soon
after you reach here as you can
make it convenient.

Yours faithfully

Jr

W. M. Meredith

2 April 1863

Hon. Eli Hufn

My dear Sir/

I should be glad to see you for a few moments as soon after you reach here as you can make it convenient.

Always faithfully
Yrs
W.M. Meredith
2 April 1863

Hon Eli Slifer

Ph: 7 April 1863

My dear Sir

All Government-funded loans, stipulate that they shall not be paid before a certain time. This is done to add to the value of the loan. After the expiration of the time specified, they are reimbursable at the option of the Govt. In the new Bill for consolidating our loans it is provided that the new loan shall be reimbursable on a particular day. This is an indignity to the State. None of our existing loans are thus payable, nor are any of them therefore over due. This new device is evidently slipped in to give countenance to those Genl. Men who are unjustly complaining that our loans are over due. If the Bill is to pass, pray have this set right - A reformer to any of our loan laws from 1826-7 on

1827 - 8 documents with you
a count-plea as apology. Pray do
not let these people degrade the State
when any Government that ever
made a loan.

In haste
Always respectfully

Yrs
W. S. Steadman

Am: Eli Hefu

I write you on Saturday.

Phi 7 April 1863

My dear Sir/

All government funded loans stipulate that they shall not be paid before a certain time. This is done to add to the value of the loan. After the expiration of the time specific they are reimbursable at the officers of the Govt. In the new Bill for consolidating our loan it is provided that the new loan shall be reimbursable on a particular day. This is an indignity to the state. None of our existing loans are then payable nor are any of them therefore over due. This new device is evidently shipped into give [countenance] to those [illegible] [House] who are unjustly complaining that our loans are over due. If the Bill is to pass, pray have this set right a reference to any of our loan laws from 1826-7 or

[page break]

1827-8 downwards will give a correct -[illegible]. Pray do not let their profit degrade the State when any Government that ever made a loan.

Hon Eli Slifer

In health
Always in faith
Yrs
W. M. Meredith

I visit you on Saturday

Ph: 4 June 1863

My dear Sir

I would defer the Consideration
of the Maryland Requisition till the
return of the Governor. I expect to be
up on Wednesday or Thursday, when
I can examine the Document - I can
will confer on the subject. The parties
need not wait. They have Counsel
in Housatonic who can communicate
the result to them.

In haste
Yours faithfully
Jes

Wm. M. Meredith

Hon. Eli Hager

When will the Governor return?

Phi 4 June 1863

My dear Sir/

I would defer the Consideration of the Maryland Requisition till the return of the Governor. I expect to be up on Wednesday or Thursday, when I can [illegible] this I [distrust] & in [will] confer on this subject. The parties need not [mind]. They have counsel in Harrisburgh who can communicate the result to them.

In health
Always, faithfully Yrs
W. M. Meredith

Hon Eli Slifer

When will the Governor return?

PH 4 11 July 1863

My dear Sir/

I have to thank you
for your letter which I received the
other day. You may be assured
that the feelings of regard which
you so kindly express, are fully
reciprocated. My health continues
much as when you left me.

We are waiting anxiously for news
of the decisive battle which may
be now in actual progress. Our
latest private advices are of the
9th when Meade's Army was in
high spirits moving rapidly
on Lee's left wing - Kelly being
on his right & Hunt on the center.
I hope Meade will give a good
account of him.

My daughters send their regards
I hope you will soon pay us
another visit. The weather is
apparently hot & damp & more
like the dog-days than July.

Remember me kindly to
the Governor.

In haste

Always truly
Yrs

W. S. Meredith

Hon. Eli H. H. H.

Phi, 11 July 1863

My dear Sir/

I have to thank you your letter which I received the other day. You may be assured that the feelings of regard which you so kindly confess, are fondly reciprocated. My health continues much as when you left me.

We are waiting anxiously for news of the decisive battle which may be now in [rational] progress. Our latest private [actions] are of the 9th. when Meade's Army was in high spirits & moving rapidly on Lee's left wing – Kelly bearing on his right Hand on the Confederates. I hope Meade will give a good account of him.

[page break]

My daughters send their agenda & hope you write soon pray us another visit. The weather is oppressingly hot & draught & more like the dog-days than July.

Remember me kindly to the Governor

In health
Always truly Yrs
W. M. Meredith

Hon. Eli Slifer

Ph: 31 July 1863

My dear Sir

I send you two slips
from the Inquirer of this morning.

I do not understand the one headed
"Enormous frauds." As I suppose, none
of the State officers, had anything
to do with furnishing supplies, and
the parties who did furnish them
were without exception unfaithful
to the Governor. - The truth on this
subject ought to be authoritatively
stated without delay -

You saw no doubt the Editorial
in to-day's Press. The Applications
of these two papers, render it
reasonably clear that the Adm:
at Washington means to hold the
Governor to his pledge, and will
defeat him if he seizes. - When

I call it a "pledge"; I refer to
what you told me the other day,
of which I had not before been
aware. — It seems to me that
the Governor ought to make up
his mind definitely, and if
he decides not to be a Candidate,
should announce the fact at
the earliest moment.

In haste
Very truly
Yrs
Wm. S. McDowell

Hon. Eli Hays

Phi 31 July 1863

My dear Sir/

I enclose you two [briefs] from the Inquirer of this morning.

I do not understand the one headed "Governors frauds". As I suppose some of these late offices had anything to do with transmitting supplies or houses and the parties who did furnish to them were without [suspicion] unfriendly to the Governor.- The truth on this subject- aught to be authoratively stated without delay.-

You saw no doubt the Editorial in to day's Paper. The affiliations of their two papers, under it normally claim that the Admin. at Washington means to hold the Governor to his pledge, and will defeat him if he wins. When

[page break]

I call it a "pledge", I refer to what you told me the this day, of which I had not before been aware.-It seems to me that the Governor ought to make up his mind definitely, and if he decides not to be a Candidate should announce the fact at the earliest moment.

In health

Always, [illegible]

Yrs

W.M. Meredith

Hon Eli Slifer

Ph: 31 Aug. 1863

My dear Sir

Mr. D. McCaughy
of Gettysburg has written a letter
to Mr. Binney & myself proposing to
raise a fund by private subscription
to purchase the Battle Ground at
Gettysburg to be held by a Corpora-
tion to be formed by the Legislature,
as a memorial of the Victory -
Will you by return of mail, let
me know what part of man Mr.
McCaughy is, & whether his
plan does not interfere with
that which the Governor has proposed
to the State interested?

Very truly
Yrs

Wm. Eli Slope

Wm. H. Meredith

Phi 31 Aug 1863

My dear Sir/

Mr. D. McConoughy of Gettysburgh has written a letter to J.M. [Birney?] & myself proposing to raise a fund by private participation to purchase the Battle Ground at Gettysburgh to be held by a Corporation to be formed by the Legislation, as a memorial of the Victory.- Will you by return of mail, let me know what part of man Mr. McConoughy is, & whether his plan does not interfere with that which the Governor has prepared to the States interested?

Always faithfully

Yrs

W. M. Meredith

Hon. Eli Slifer

Ph: 18 Sept. 1863

My dear Sir/

I have very much regret
of being able to travel to. Monday
I expect to come up accordingly.
Will you do me the favour
to have all my letters to be sent
down to Mr. Esq. for me?

Very faithfully
Yrs

W. R. Meredith

Hon. Eli Hise

Phi 18 Sept 1863

My dear Sir/

I have every prospect of being able to travel to morrow & expect to come up accordingly.
Will you do me the favour to have all my letters & c sent down to J.W. [Espy] for me?

Always faithfully

Yrs

W.M. Meredith

Hon. Eli Slifer

Phy 18 Oct. 1863

My dear Sir/

I shall be up tomorrow
Evening.

You have a right to boast
the superior accuracy of your
Calculations, & you do it very
Moderately. We have a triumph
at any rate, & I congratulate
the Governor most heartily upon
it, both on his own Account &
for the sake of the Country.

All here send you their regards.

Always very truly

Yrs
Eli Shefer

M. M. Shadwell

Phi 18 Oct 1863

My dear Sir/

I shall be up tomorrow Evening.

You have a right to boast the Superior accuracy of your Calculations, & you do it very moderately. We have a triumph at any rate, & I congratulate the governor most heartily upon it, both on his own account & for the sake of the Country.

All here Send you their regards.

Always very truly

Yrs

W.M. Meredith

Hon Eli Slifer

Phi 27. Oct 1863

My dear Sir / I rec^d you dispatched
just now I have my hostility & created
a proclamation - let it be copied
into Paragraphs at every clause -
I have but a - & a Capital letter
at each of them - I have no copy
of the President's Proclamation, but
believe I have given the date correctly.
There is a flip copy in one of the
drawers of my table to which you
can refer to verify the date.

I think it would be well
to be in a hurry with the Proclamation
for instructions.

I did not see the Gov.
in town, but - drawn by the news -
papers that he went up yesterday.
Give him my regards - I am glad
to hear he was well enough to stand
Cary's Horse - Eli. H. W. M. M. M.
W. M. M. M.

Phi 27. Oct 1863

My dear Sir/

I received your dispatch just now than my hastily scratched a proclamation. Let it be copied with Paragraph at every clause.

I have but a [] & a Capital letter at each of [illegible]. I have no copy of the Presidents Proclamation, but wish I have given the data correctly. There is a flip copy of one of the drawers of my talk to which you can refer to verify the data.

I think it would be well not to be in a hurry with this Proclamation for Volunteers.

I did not for the Gov. in town, but drawn by the [illegible], papers [that] [be] [illegible] of yesterday. Give him my regards- I am glad to hear he was well enough to [tend] toward Carry's [Herb]

Very truly Yrs
W.M Meredith

Hon Eli Slifer

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D. BROOKS, Superintendent,
105 S. Third Street, Philadelphia.

J. H. BERRYHILL, President,
Harrisburg, Pa.

PHILADELPHIA BROTHERS PRS.

Dated at Philadelphia, Oct 25, 1863.

To Hon Eli Slices

I write and send proclama^{tion}
for volunteers by mail

A. M. Meredith

9.25/03

Phila Oct 28 1863

Hon Eli Slifer

I write and send proclamation for volunteers by mail.

W. M. Meredith

will be issued thro' the Adjutant-General of
the Commonwealth.

Ph: 28. Oct. 1863

My dear Sir/

I find a draft of Proclamation
for Volunteers. The Advance pay to the Pres.
refer to Special letter from the Pres. March 2nd
to the Governor - If they have made any
regulations at Washington touching the manner
of enlistment, of course you will substitute
them for what I have said on that subject.
The State has no means of officers for Enlisting
men for old Regiments. - If recruits will be
received for particular Regiments, that fact
ought to be stated. - My reason for thinking
there was no hurry about the Proclamation
was that it would take time to get infor-
mation from Washington on these heads,
& I supposed the action would be more
expedient if they could be fully explained
at first. I have added the clause

about future Em. Adm., to learn the
opinion for future explanation of them.

I am sorry that I cannot come up
to-night, but I am under a positive promise
to remain here thro' this week for consultation
in a case involving some millions of dollars,
I in which most of my clients reside in other
States & may be here at any hour, relying on
my promise - I should not have made
it, if I had foreseen that I could be gone
at Haverhill.

I sent the Thanksgiving Proclamation
yesterday, which I suppose you received.

Always faithfully

Yrs

W. S. Ward

Hon. Eli Slater

Whereas the President of the United States by Proclamation bearing date on the 16th day of October instant has called for 300,000 Volunteers to recruit the Regiments now in the field from the respective States, and whereas by ^{the} Quota of the State of Penn-
sylvania under said call is declared to be ^{men}, and whereas the President in his said Proclamation requests the Governors of the respective States to assist in raising the force thus required Now therefore I, A. G. C. do earnestly call on the good & loyal freemen of this Commonwealth to enlist in the service of the United States under the Proclamation aforesaid, so ^{that} ~~as to make up~~ ^{they may make up} the required Quota before the 5th day of January next, on which day the President announces that a draft will commence for any deficiency that may then exist in the same.

The Freemen of Pennsylvania existing under this Call will be attached to Regiments from their State. All who are willing to enlist are requested to present themselves at once for that purpose to the U. S. Provost-Marshal, recruiting and Mustering Officers in their respective Cities, Towns & Counties.

They will receive the following sums as advance
pay, premium & bounty viz:

In making this Appeal to the good & loyal
freemen of Pennsylvania, I feel entire
confidence that it will be ^{effectually} responded to.
The approaching expiration of the term of
Enlistment of the Men now in the field
renders it necessary to replenish our Regiments.
Let us ~~then~~ maintain the glory which their
valour & numbers have reflected on the
Commonwealth, and let our people show
by their promptness & alacrity on this occasion,
that they have not abated in Courage,
or love of Country, or in the determination
that the Unholy Rebellion, already stemmed
& staggering, shall be utterly crushed &
entirely quashed.

~~The Adjutant General of the Commonwealth~~
Her General orders with further details
as may from time to time be found necessary

[illegible] to [illegible] there the Assistant General of the Commonwealth.

Phi 28 Oct 1863

My dear Sir/

I send a draft of Proclamation for Volunteers. The advance pay to the Proct refers to special letter from the Prov. Master Genl to the Governor. If they have made any regulation at Washington touching the [mandates] of Enlistment, of course you will substitute them for what I have [said] on that subject. The state has no means or officers for enlisting men for old Regiments. If recruits will be received for particular Regiments that fact ought to be stated. Their reason for thinking was no hurry about the Proclamation was that it would take time to get information from Washington on their hands & I supposed the action would be more efficient if they could be fully [enflamed] at first. I have added the clause

[page break]

about future Gnl Aders to learn the opening for future [sublamation] of them.

I am sorry that I cannot come up to-night, but I am under a position precarious to remain here thro' this week for consulting in a case involving some millions of dollars, & in which most of my clients minds in [those] [states] & [illegible] be here at any time, relying on my [provision]. I should not [have] made it, if I had provision there I could be [proven] at Harrisburgh.

I sent this Thanksgiving proclamation yesterday, which I suppose you received.

Always faithfully

Yrs

W.M Meredith

Hon Eli Slifer

[page break]

Whereas the President of the United States by proclamation becoming [data?] on the 16: day of October instant has called for 300,000 volunteers to recruit the Regiments now in the [field?] [from?] the [separation?] States, and whereas by dated the [illegible] of the State of Pennsylvania under [illegible] call is distant to the man and whereas the President in his said Proclamation requests the Governor of the [separation?] States to assist in raising the [form?] thus required [illegible] [illegible] I, A.G.C. do earnestly call on the good & loyal freemen of this Commonwealth to enlist in the service of the United States under the Proclamation [illegible] aid. So that the [required?] way to make up [quarter?] before the 5: day of January next on which day the President announces that a draft will commence for any deficiency that may there enlist in the [same?].

The freemen of Pennsylvania enlisting under this call will be attached to Regiments from this State. All who are willing to enlist are requested to present themselves at [areas?] for that [purpose?] to the U.S. [illegible] [Marshals?] recruiting and may [bring?] [offices?] in their respecting cities, towns & counties.

[page break]

They will receive the following [illegible] as advance pay previously thought [illegible].

In making this appeal to the good & loyal freemen of Pennsylvania. I [illegible] [section?] confidence that it will be effectively responded to. The approaching expiration of the [form?] of Enlistment of the men now in the field under it necessary to replenish our regiments. Let us maintain the glory which their valour & [illegible] have affected on the Commonwealth, and let our people shown by their [illegible] [illegible] on this occasion, that they have [illegible] [abated?] in [illegible] a love of Country, or in the determination that the unholy Rebellion, already stunned and staggering, shall be utterly crushed & extinguished.

Such General orders with further details as may from time to time be found necessary.

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D. BROOKS, Superintendent,
105 S. Third Street, Philadelphia.

J. H. BERRYHILL, President,
Harrisburg, Pa.

W. LAUGHLIN BROTHERS PRS.

Dated at Philadelphia Nov 3, 1863.

To Hon Eli Slifer

Do as the ninth section provides if possible get the governors presence if not go on without him

A. M. Meredith

18-H1 coll
3

Phila Nov 3 1863

Hon Eli Slifer

Do as the ninth section provides if possible get the governors presence if not go on without him.

W.M. Meredith

Ph: 15 Nov. 1863

My dear Sir /

I thank your letter of yesterday I am glad to hear you are getting on well. As for me, I have been suffering greatly for the last two weeks, - in fact - have been wholly unable to travel, & I should have been up. I hope to be able to come in a week or ten days. I am truly sorry that my absence should have caused you any inconvenience.

I relied on your telegraphing if you desired to consult about any thing - which however I thought not probable as there could be no questions of any great difficulty that might not be laid over. Gen. Meade is at Warburg & I hope is arranging some active movements. His late Sutter's purchase will please &

will executed tonight - to lead to further
purposes. -

In haste
Always faithfully

Yrs

W. S. Newell

Hon. Eli Shepley

Phi 15 Nov 1863

My dear Sir/

I have your letter of yesterday I am glad to hear you are getting on well. As for me, I have been suffering greatly for the last two weeks, in fact have been wholly unable to travel, I should have been up. I hope to be able to come in a week a few days. I am truly sorry that my [absence] should have caused you any inconvenience.

I wish on your telegraphing if you desire to consult about anything – which however I thought not probable or than could be no questions of any great difficulty- that might not be laid me. Gnl. Meade is at Washington & I hope is an [illegible] some active movements. His late enterprise was well planned &

[page break]

well executed & aught to lead to further successes.

In health
Always faithfully
Yrs
W.M. Meredith

Hon. Eli Slifer