

Under the present system so feeble and inadequate, all who have attended to the subject must be sensible of the delays and difficulties which the officers have to encounter. To your activity and zeal and to that of the officers under your command, and the well disposed temper of our fellow citizens which compose your Division of Militia are we to attribute the discipline and promptitude that has been manifested on this occasion.

While the great majority are so deserving of confidence and the grateful sense of their country it is to be lamented that any exception should exist. The laxity of the militia law necessarily increases the duty and obligations of the officer: it claims from him the most respectful obedience, and in general an exemplary conduct in the line of his duty.

The delay and disobedience of the Colonel of the 29th Regiment call for attention. You do not state his name or his conduct but in general terms. I have now to request and to require that you state as specially as circumstances will admit the disobedience which he has shown to your orders to the end that further notice may be taken of it.

The zeal and promptitude manifested by Captain Nolan and Captain Beal and their companies and the whole corps of volunteer officers and men of your Division claim the acknowledgment of their country.

It is a noble and manly example of that ardour and spirit which once carried our countrymen honourably and triumphantly through a long doubtful and sanguinary war.

A crisis seems now hastening fast upon us, in which it will be as necessary to display in the preservation of our independence, the