

Valen Oregon Jan 13th 1865-

Hon. Joel Palmer

Dear General

I have an urgent & somewhat delicate request to make of my esteemed friend. I have now been over four years in the Service of my Country having entered when the first gun was fired on the glorious, old flag, the last two as Provost Marshal of Oregon & you are aware that a Captains' pay of less than \$150- per month in Govt. Currency is less than a comfortable subsistence even in this State & I have an honorable desire (I believe) to obtain a position which will at least restore my pecuniary equilibrium. You have known me General for some years & can well judge of my fitness for the position I desire. I am (to come modestly to the point) making an application for the Appointment of Minister Resident to the Sandwich Islands (in case Mr. McBride is not continued) or to Chili I can have the Influence

of men in high position in my native State
(New York) & at Washington to bring my name
favorably before the President for nomination
but I desire very much to secure the more
natural influence of our own recently elected
Senator & Member. And I know of no one
who could write to Senator Williams, on the
subject who could afford me greater aid than
yourself as you turned the Scale in his favor
& whatever you might write him would have
weight. The Surveyor Generalship of Oregon is
to be soon vacant I understand by the resignation
of the present incumbent & if the first positions
named or equal ones are not feasible that
might possibly be obtained though I presume
there will be many Applicants, though in a practical
& patriotic point of view. Should not a Soldiers title
in these times other things being equal come in a trifle
ahead? I have claimed citizenship in Oregon
since 1851 I went into the Service under that claim
I do not wish to be considered an Office Seeker
in the common use of that phrase, but I believe it
an honest & good policy that those who have been

-serving their Gov^{ts} in these times, at a sacrifice
should be preferred in the distribution of its benefits
though they claim no more than simply to have done
their duty as true loyal Citizens,

The main point I would have urged
is simply - that should a feasible position
be found - if my claims & commendations
are adequate my name may be suitably
presented. Col Moore of Salem will give
me his influence as well as many other
influential Citizens of the State

And earnestly believing General you
will add your potent influence I
will close my too lengthy letter

And whether I meet with success
or defeat

You will believe me
with sentiments of high regard

Yours Most Obedt

J. M. Stekler

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Gen Jack Palmer
Oregon City

W. B. I trust I am not too late in my application

