

raid with 50 men. I met, engaged, and repulsed a force of 150 rebels-captured quite a number of horses and recruited 34 men and returned to Fort Myers on the 13th day after my departure. Capt. Crane advised me to go to Head Qtrs., Key West and report in person to General Woodbury, which I did; whereupon, the Genl. recommended that a captain's commission be issued, which was complied with. About that time 3 companies of the 2nd U. S. Col. Inf. was ordered to Fort Myers with officers that ranked Capt. Crane, with that change was the commencement of the grossest abuses toward the refugee soldiers and families, whom by that time had become quite numerous.

After the death of General Woodbury, the officers at Fort Myers seemed to lose sight of principle. The refugees brought in their horses and wagons for protection according to the terms of your proclamation. The commanding officer of the post and Qr. master would order out parties to drive in cattle. They would mount the parties on the horses belonging to the refugees. They would drive in cattle belonging to the refugees and ship them to Nassau, refusing to receipt for either horses or cattle. Neither were they ever taken up on the Qr. master's books. The horses were deprived of forage and upward of fifty perished, thus leaving the owners without a showing for their property.

Indignant at the conduct besides a map of the corruptest immoralities, I made charges against the comdg. officer of the post for which I was put in arrest and kept in confinement 50 days. During that time Capt. Doyle of the 110 New York Vol. was ordered to Fort Myers to relieve the comdg. officer of the post in consequence of the charges preferred with instructions from Genl. Newton to get the matter settled between myself and adversary, if possible. But being informed that I would submit to nothing but an official investigation, and that I had only a provisional commission, and that I had never been mustered, he forwarded a request that my commission should be revoked, which was done. After that he (the General) had forwarded the request, he decided that he would take no further notice of the charges preferred by me upon the grounds that I was not an officer.

What makes the matter more serious on my part I have never had an opportunity of mustering into the service when I was prepared to do so, and I am now turned out of the service without receiving any pay after losing my property to the rebels, then serving the government faithfully over one year, having a wife and 7 children in a state of actual desititution.

I do not ask to be replaced. I simply ask that my case may be investigated to enable me to get my just dues.