

George Fearing Hollis Papers

1852 - 1903

MSS.471

Collins, Napoleon



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Beverly New Jersey
March 22^d 1869

Geo. F. Hollis Esq.
20 Custom House St
Boston Mass.

Dear Sir.

Your letter of the 15th was duly received, but I have been so pressed with private and other correspondence that I have not had before now leisure to answer.

I have this day written to Mr. Fish, stating that you are an applicant for the Consulship at Havana and that you served with me on the Octoara during the war that you performed your duties to my satisfaction and that you were energetic

intelligent and capable.

But now my dear fellow,
you seem to have forgotten that
of many officers, unless like
Faragut & Porter have not a par-
ticle of political influence, each
and every Member of the Legis-
lature of Massachusetts has much
more weight in the matter of
your appointment than I have,
I do not know a single Member
of either House of Congress sufficient
by well to ask of one the smallest
favor. I have never seen any
one of the members of the present
Cabinet.

The first to influence
have the influence of, is the President
Secondly, the members of the
Cabinet. 3^d. The U.S. Senators
who have to approve of the removal
to make the vacancy, or rather

remove the incumbent themselves, and then confirm the nomination, 4th the members of the House of Reps. who are supposed to have the nominations from their respective districts, and soon down to the corner grocery politicians who manipulate primary caucuses, and every one of the political grades before either an old Army or Navy officer.

I am bold to believe that President Grant will not make any more nominations of importance, where no previous vacancies exist, unless the "Term of Office law" is repealed.

But the office at War may be vacant now for aught I know.
If you know where or

old shipmate Jno. a Johnstone
is. I will be obliged if you
will advise me of his address.

Set me in conclusion
suggest that you do not make
any great pecuniary outlay
in the political lottery.

I am very truly yours
W. Collins.

The cases of the Rising Dawn
and Jno Williams are
still unsettled.