

U. S. Torpedo Station,
NEWPORT, R. I.

Feb 26, 1885

My dear Commodore,

Your letter of the 24th is recd. I see no reason to change the views which I held at the time we drew up the report. I think no one, who will look carefully into what is required, can question that an army officer is better prepared for the work than a navy officer. To employ an army man would be entirely to our advantage; possibly, at the end of three years some graduate of the College might develop a mastery of the work and be capable of giving the necessary instruction, so that afterwards he might fill the place.

To start, however, I think we should lay aside any professional pride we may have in the matter. We require the Army officer to instruct in matters pertaining to his profession not our own. I think there would be no difficulty in "getting rid" of him whenever it was considered best to do so.

I am confident that the efficiency of both services would be greatly increased if the officers could be brought to discuss professional matters together. Each service might learn much from the other, and when they came to act together in defense of our common country, might do so with an intelligence and mutual understanding that we do not now possess. Let us be the first to recognize these facts and

avail ourselves of them!

These are my views; but when we come to consider the policy of the step, I agree with you that, it is proper to give the other side a chance to produce a navy man for the place. I confess it would be a bit ridiculous to set a naval officer to carry out the proposed programme; yet if any one will come forward and undertake it, accept him for the sake of peace, until the College is started, then insist upon the original plan. If such a man is not forthcoming I doubt ^{see} how the alternative of appointing an Army officer is to be avoided, or even objected to.

Yours Very Sincerely
W. T. Sampson

W. T. Sampson

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