

1885  
March 23

Dear Commodore:

After thinking over the proposition you made this morning that I should accept the Professorship of "Military Service & History" at the Naval War College

I do not feel that I could do the subject justice - Exceedingly interesting as it would be I am not now prepared to undertake the task nor do I think my old head would stand the concentrated study that would be necessary to prepare me -

Since I was at the Lipido Station my head has always troubled me when ever I attempted any hard study.

I feel however that the best interests of the

service will be furthered by having a Naval Officer in charge of the Department.

I feel so strongly on that point that if found necessary I think the Department should take the Bull by the horns and select an officer and order him - a certain amount of Modesty (or its equivalent) would forbid many persons from undertaking such a thing but I think the officer of whom we spoke yesterday would really feel complimented if he were ordered -

Yours truly  
D. Matthews

Respect R. S.  
Mar. 23<sup>d</sup> 1885.