

State of North-Carolina--Executive Department,

Raleigh, Feb 21st 1863.

His Excellency
President Davis,

Sir,

I was both surprised and grieved to learn to day that it was your intention to remove Maj. Gen. G. H. Smith from the command of this Dept.

It is rumored here that he is to be sent to Texas at the request of the representatives of that State. I know not of course how that is, but hope that the wishes of the people of this State will meet with as much consideration from your Excellency as any of our sister States. The unanimous sentiment here, so far as it can be ascertained, is adverse to the removal of Gen. Smith.

His great zeal in acquainting himself with the localities of our

A coast; his thorough efforts
to organize both our forces and
transportation, together with
his evident knowledge of and
input for our people had inspired
universal confidence and esteem.
Between himself and the State
authorities there existed the most
cordial and thorough accord in
all respects, giving promise of the
most beneficent results in the
expected invasion of the enemy.
A stranger would have to learn
all these things over again, and
might probably, though it is hardly
possible, inspire the same confi-
dence and give promise of the
same results.

Permit^{me} to indulge the hope that
you may find it not incongru-
ous with the public service
to retain Gen. Smith in command
of this Department. Should it be
determined however to remove
him, I beg we may not be dis-
appointed in his successor. This
Department is certainly entitled
to a general of approved talents

and expense.

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's obt. servt.

J. B. Vanu

Feb. 2. 1863

V

Governor Vance.

N. Car.

Has heard that it was
intended to remove Genl.
G. W. Smith from Command
of Dept. N. Car. & hopes that
the Sect. will retain Genl. S.
in the command, as he
has the entire confidence
of the people of N. Car.

Ans. It is not in person
contemplation to remove
Genl. Smith from his present
position, his return to his
Wd. Res. from the field was
for considerations not con-
nected with any dissatisfaction
am. happy to receive the within
expressions - Genl. D. H. Hill it is
hoped will be able to assume his
command in N. Car. — J. H.
Recd Feb. 6. 1863