

Transcription

The best policy for the cadets?

U S M A
West Point NY
Nov 3rd 1860

Dear Sir,

In consequence of the excitement both, in the North and South in regard to the election of Mr Lincoln to the Presidency, I have the honor to solicit from you, the Governor of my native State, a commission in the army of Virginia, should she secede from the Union with other Southern States, What Sir, do you deem the best policy for the Cadets appointed from Virginia, to adopt in case of Mr Lincoln's election? Ought we to resign or not?

Trusting that my request for a commission may not be deemed ill advised by one who has Virginia's dearest interests at heart,

I remain honored Sir
Your Obt Servant,
Cadet J. L. S. KIRBY

Citation: Joseph Lee Smith Kirby to Governor John Letcher, November 3, 1860, Executive Papers of Governor John Letcher, Acc. 36787, State Government Records Collection, Record Group 3, Library of Virginia.