

New York Hotel
March 12. 1861.

His Excellency
Gov^r. John Letcher
Richmond Va.

Dear Sir:

I received yesterday a letter from Maj. Gilham of the Va. Mil. Institute dated the 9th Inst. in reference to the position of Chief of Ordnance of the state, in which he informs me that you had requested him "to ask me if I would resign from the service, and if so whether that post would be acceptable to me". As he requested me to make my reply to you direct, I have the honor to state, after expressing my most sincere thanks for your very kind offer, that it is not my wish to leave the service of the United States, as long as it is honorable for me to remain in it, and therefore as long as my native State Va. remains in the Union it is my purpose to remain in the Army, unless required to perform duties alike repul-

give to honor and humanity.
I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Yr. obt. serb.
Geo. H. Thomas
Maj. U. S. Army

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