Letters of General Walker.

We were very glad to have submitted to us for publication two letters which have recently been accidentally discovered among the old records in the State House. As stated in the letter, they were written by General Walker in 1861; one to Governor Andrews, at that time Governor of Massachusetts, and the other to the Honorable William Schouler, Adjutant General Mass. Volunteer Militia. The letters are in the form of an application for a commission in the military service in the Civil War. At the time these letters were written General Walker was twenty-one years of age, had been graduated from Amherst College but a year, and was employed in the law office of Devens and Hoar in Worcester. Mr. Devens was President Walker’s superior officer for a short time during the war, and the other partner was none other than the Honorable George F. Hoar, who has so long and so ably represented Massachusetts in the Senate.

The letter to Governor Andrews is as follows:

WORCESTER, May 31, 1861.
To His Excellency Hon. John A. Andrews,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.
Sir: — I should be much gratified to receive a Commission in one of the companies to be organized for the war, if it might consist with your duty to the service. I cannot assure myself that I am peculiarly qualified for military rank, to which I have had but little inclination; yet I am confident of a mind willing to perform my office through the length and breadth of it. I have had some instruction in company movements under well-appointed soldiers, and my general education will, I trust, be found sufficient to any probable demand in such position. I beg you, however, not to believe that I make a Commission the condition of my service for I hold myself ready for the humblest and hardest work in the sacred cause. I have the honor to be

Your Excellency’s Obdt. Servt.,
FRANCIS AMASA WALKER.

The other following letter to Adjt. Genl. Schouler was forwarded by the recipient to Governor Andrews with the postscript, “This is a good young man;” signed Wm. Schouler, Adjt. Genl.


Dear Sir: — I have written to His Excellency requesting a Commission in the service, as I prefer the position of officer to the alternative of private. I should be greatly obliged for your good opinion in this application, if you can afford it without disparaging the cause which we all wish to advance.

I hardly know whether I have a right to address you in this matter, on so short an acquaintance as that I had the honor to form at Amherst, but I do so in the hope that even this may make your mind favorable to my application by some chance. I believe I should make a reasonably good Lieutenant; at any rate I should like to try it, south of Mason and Dixon’s line.

Very respectfully,
FRANCIS AMASA WALKER.

Hon. Wm. Schouler,
Adjt. Genl. Mass. V. M.

General Walker received his commission and it is extremely interesting to note the military record which he subsequently made, and which briefly is as follows: Born July 2, 1840; Private and Sergeant-Major, 15th Mass. Infantry, August 1, 1861; Captain, Asst. Adjutant General U. S. Vols., September 14, 1861; staff duty under Genl. Couch, Major August 11, 1862; Brevet Col. U. S. V. August 1, 1864; Brevet Brig. Genl. U. S. V. March 13, 1865; retired January 9, 1866.

The Walker Club Play.

According to the custom of former years the Walker Club this year presented, as the fifth of its series of plays, “A Night Off,” by the late Augustin Daly. The production was staged at Copley Hall on the evening of Monday, April 22d, and as the opening event of Junior Week, was a decided success. The hall was not as well filled as it should have been but the audience was select and appreciative to the end. The principals in the cast were mainly present members of the Walker Club, and were aided by Messrs. E. H. Davis, ’oo, and J. T. Scully, Jr., ’oo. Those who saw the play of last year, “The Miser,”