day at a time, and to crown the whole, my feet and ankles became so swollen, that until yesterday I have not had a shoe on for 3 weeks.

When I sent the sick Mexicans to the island, I informed Col Morgan and Major Laurance, that if I could be furnished with 10 American soldiers, good axemen, I could furnish ~~more~~ lumber faster than all the workmen could work up on the island; he informed that he had no authority to do so, and then the whole matter has ended.

A few days since I read your Excellency's order in the newspaper requiring all officers of the Army to report for duty: which I now have the honor to make to you. The recent death of my wife has devolved upon me family duties of the greatest responsibility, and which require my particular care and attention at this age. It would be extremely inconvenient for me, as well as, prejudicial to their welfare were I to be ordered on any remote or distant duty. My experience in military matters have qualified me for a situation in the Staff or bureau, while my legal knowledge and service in the judiciary from together with my age & large family seem to point out that I could be more serviceable to my Country on the Bench. I was a Judge in Florida for 7 years of a Court whose jurisdiction was concurrent with the Supreme Court, except in criminal cases. I refer you to General Thos. S. Green for my