Their motives I deeply appreciate and approve of, but in what way they intend to relate these to the realities of life I frankly cannot be quite sure.

The whole situation is very difficult for me. As you know, General, I am endeavouring to fulfill my duties as far as health permits by ~~the~~ retaining command of the Regiment in Victoria, writing ~~the~~ the 16th Sketch in my spare time when energy permits and carrying on the routine assigned to me in this office, which latter I acknowledge is pretty useless stuff. All of that I know may lead nowhere and therefore I would fail in initiative and drag if I did not accept such further responsibility as I am asked to assume provided I can be of service to the men who asked me and to the State in so doing. But in this instance, General, Can I?