

Levinington N.Y. Jan 31st 1865

Wm E. B. Washburn,

Dear Sir,

I wish to enjoin your assistance in a matter about which I have no personal interest; but I feel satisfied that it should be attended to, & I know no surer way than to ask your assistance - The case is this.

There is a widow lady here respectable but quite poor. At the breaking out of the rebellion she had four children - the second a boy 17 or 18 was an apprentice in the Blacksmith department of a carriage making establishment in this city. The Boss Maj. Hager turned rebel & raised a Co - some what privately & went with it to the reb army. The Maj persuaded the boy to go with him, which he did without his Mother's consent, or knowledge. The Co was captured at Ft Donaldson, & after eight months was exchanged - On the 28th of May it was again captured in one of Gen Sherman's battles on his way to Atlanta. Since that they have been kept at Rock Island - this summer the

Mother of the young man James M. Summers got a
Lawyer to draw up an application late in the fall
to the Sec of War for his parole. I wrote a note
which accompanied the application. To that note
I got an answer from Gen Merritt, that the papers
were presented to the Sec of War by whom they are
held for future reference &c. I am fully satisfied
that the young man is not now, & never was a rebel.
but at the first out break of the rebellion, & when
excitement ran high, & when he was too young to
exercise a judgment of his own, he was persuaded
away by the Rebel Mages. He wishes now to
be paroled, & will take the oath of allegiance to
the Union, & if needed & it is consistent to do so
will go into the Union service. Mr Summers had
but one other son. As soon as he was 17 his
Mother willingly gave him up to the Union cause
where he says he intends to remain until the
rebellion is crushed out. This is a case that I
think not only justifies, but really calls for
Executive intervention. I wish you would have
the kindness to present this to the Pres & get
him to parole the Prisoner. And if he dares let
the parole be sent to the proper office at Rock Island

J. R. Grant