Dear E. Cowan,

The rebel force has been driven out of Penna. Pennsylvania with great loss. We have reason to hope that Fort Hudson will soon be captured and that the army of Lee will be defeated, either in driven back into Virginia. While these forces have been, has already driven the army of Bragg far into the South. Forte has met with some additional success in North Carolina, in this early time of things, is it not further for us to consider whether there is anything which could be done by those who administer the government to return here to our beloved Country? I see TEMPEST
in the newspaper of what is going on in the Cabinet things, I cannot believe that they are true, for it is said that some has some provisions which involves the entire abolition of slavery, and an amendment of the Constitution, both of which conditions I regard as impossible, because, they involve an incredible amount upon state rights, which is the idea of government, which the smaller states can hardly be expected to agree to, and then, with the aid they would receive from those who are opposed to any amendment of the Constitution, such as is involved, would defeat the scheme, when the abolition comes their coming, and send up their representatives and Congress the war is at an end. No man who has not had his history to any purpose, and who has a knowledge of the political facts.

in any district where any of the leading insurgents, which I believe that it will not be possible to control, with any of them for treason. The confiscation bill is in my opinion, as you well know, unconstitutional because it forfeits a person property, not involved in the guilt of the war, for crimes of which he was not have been convicted. The insecure punitive scheme is equally futile, for upon the return of peace the statesmen who have obtained in the absence of a treaty, here we cannot treat, because we do not recognize that the whole have to states which entitles them to treat with us, we know that they are a part of our sober, bound to us by the Constitution of that we are bound to them by the same constitution that the only mode by which we can change, the terms of an union is by the alteration of the Constitution a thing which it is impossible to do.
This is the case. By the operation of the local law all slaves, when the return of peace will be restored to their former liberation. Now the slaves that have submitted the Union cause have the faith of the government pledged to them. That thing shall be made firm. To carry out this faith to these slaves, when the return of peace must be taken out of the operation of the local law. If I am right in these conclusions, and your better judgment will correct me if I am not, what is the duty of the President to do, when the success of our army over the army of Lee, when the capture of Port Hudson, I have by both wish that he should issue a Proclamation setting forth that the owner of slaves which have aided the enemy cause, should be not only be made free, and that all who should return to their

wilderness ancestry (having gained rights in captives) should be granted to all rebels who should return to their
allegiance within a given period. If you approve of this course, as you are in place and have influence, why will you not write to forward and to the President, and keep this subject before their attention. If the interest of the Country is what the gentlemen at Washington desire to promote, I think that this plan will commend itself to the administration. If they will only to promote the interest of a party, I think that this plan will induce them the election in Ohio and Kentucky.

Why will one not take hold of this matter? Get Ewing, Browning, Holt, and any friend after the President to visit your district Clarks.

I should be glad to see you in mid-

Post. I cannot afford to leave you again.
tance. You must come and see me in my own home, bring some of you family with you. Tell Uncle Lizzie to come. I think I should be glad to see any or all of you. I am out of Coop for some time, I would not enter into a political scramble for place in the present condition of the country. I had a nomination and could hardly have been elected upon a second trial, but I have no taste and for these contests, I am at work in my old calling to find myself quite at home there.

Believe me very sincerely,

The always yours,

[Signature]