Cincinnati, Feb. 9th - 1862.

Dear Barrett,

Your esteem and favor of the 7th is at hand. I beg to remind you I have forgotten one. Your views of the conduct of the war are my views exactly, and they are the views of all the intelligent homes of the North. I only had much confidence in M. D. Scott. His campaign in Western Va. was a failure as far as he was concerned and Rosecrans and Lincoln were really entitled to the credit of the seeing. Besides, I do not believe M. D. Stetson's heart is in the right place. Down to the 4th of March I knew, he was entirely pro-slavery; believed the South was right, and sympathized with that side. This was even more intense than.
he was and both united in declaring to one of our first citizens whom I may authorize that the Country must be ruled by the Southern Democracy. Can the other man change his skin or the leopard his spots? We have had too much of elephants hour congress. I have not lost confidence in Mr. Lincoln’s honesty, but I do not believe he has the Grade. If he knows his duty and fails to perform it, what can he expect? He has shut himself out from his real friends and shut himself in half and half Union men. The Country has lost confidence in him and this cannot be regained. This holding, refusing or want of trust has brought the Country to the verge of ruin, until the Southern people, and especially those, who elected him President, are seriously talking about a revolution. Are you aware of this? It is a fact. I hope it is true.
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that the President or Secretary Stanton
has assumed the functions of chief
general, relieving me fully from
all command and responsibility with
the men connected with the Army of the
Potomac. This may serve us. It will
serve us if the generals of other divisions
are ordered to adopt a vigorous
policy. Let our Western corps go
ahead, and the rebellion will soon
be crushed up. The rebels are discovered
— frightened. Have stricken and
our soldiers as soon as the road dry
up can move forward, scattering their
forces as chief before the wind.
We are now having fine weather and
the roads will be dry in a few
days. Then, if the President will
say to Buell and Halleck, "Go ahead..."
Confine your attention to the Army of the Potomac; all will be well. But is it true that Meade has been thrown of his responsibilities? What do you think of Stanton? I see it stated that he has appointed four key Assistant Secretaries of War if he knows that demagogue, and has appointed him to that office. I shall tremble for Stanton.

You ask me about Ben Wade. You know what I have thought of him. It is only necessary to say I think no less of him. I prefer him to any other man in Ohio for Senator, and the Gazette will do everything possible to secure his election. But I can have no sold, by the Union Democrat, the Cleveland Plain Dealer has a shrewd attack on Wade, and...
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the paper containing the communication was widely circulated at Columbus. We have heard nothing in Ward's favor editorially because I thought the right time had not come. We have an article in hand however showing the value of strong decisions made in this emergency, and what the country has lost by weak time serving principle-compromising politicians. This, though Ward is not mentioned is intended to even his case. We shall fight his battle purposely. This you may rely upon. And this brings me to a point upon which I was about to write to Mr. Burke when I received your letter. I will
mention it to you distinctly.
We have read frequently
complimentary portraits of Wade
under Bud Johnston’s pen. How
what does this mean? Is Johnston
a warm friend of Wade’s? Can’t
be he be induced to write a letter
in favor of Wade? A decided
expression from him at this time
would win my opinion because
Wade’s election. He has a better
influence with Conservatives
and Union Democrats than
any other man living. How
can this be managed? The
letter should be published here
first. If this can be done it should
be done at once.

The command has tried to
hurting Mr. Collellan because gently
pitched into him. What a contemptible
act.

Sincerely yours,
Richard Smith