

Cincinnati March 21<sup>st</sup> 1862

Dear Barrett.

Your last favor was duly received. In view of the developments regarding McClellan I think the President erred in not removing him when he relieved him of the Chief Command of the Army; but I suppose he had good reasons for stopping short of that measure. As for public opinion the people now have so much confidence in the head of the War Department that the measure would have been fully sustained. Most of the N. York papers try to keep up the appearance of a public sentiment in favor of McClellan, and around this all the quasi-secessionists, with a scattering of well meaning people, rally; but the great masses are with the Government, and would soon silence the howlings of the hypocritical supporters of the War. If McClellan leads his army to victory, it may then be difficult to remove him. In fact I think it would be unwise to take a hand from the head of his army in the field; as was done in the case of Fremont; but still the masses of the people, as I have said, have lost confidence in McClellan, and the country would be satisfied with any measure Mr Lincoln might adopt. In a letter some time ago I gave it as my opinion that the President had fallen in public



extinction, beyond the hope of recovery. It seemed so then; but his course lately has re-awakened confidence and he is now getting to be very popular. His message though nothing practical may grow out of it at present, was wise and timely. It was well done. It seems to suit both Radicals and Conservatives, among the people.

What do you think about the government of the seceded States? This, to my mind is the question now, and it is the most perplexing one. Ashley's bill went entirely too far, for a beginning, though even that extreme measure may become necessary. I am beginning to doubt very much whether an early development of strong Union sentiment will be achieved. Scine and the utter defeat of the Rebels may bring it about; but at present we may not expect much in that line. Nashville has disappointed us in this respect; but with continued successes on our part, the Southern people will gradually come around. The Confiscation schemes I see have all been disposed of, leaving that matter with the President, who can deal with it under the war power. But Congress ought to provide for the punishment of the leading traitors. If this is not done they may get the control of the government again,

There is one thing in the text bill that I wrote to Mr. Gurley about; that I wish you would direct the attention of some of your

friends in Congress to. A tax of 3 c per pound is laid on express packages. We send out 1000 pkgs. a day for which the express Co's. charge now, a mere nominal price; but if this law should pass it would cost the Gazette alone \$10,000 a year. I think in view of the heavy tax on paper, and advertisements, that newspapers ought to be exempt from the taxes laid upon express Co's. It might be construed in our favor even if the law should pass in its present shape, but we would be at the mercy of officials; and we ought to have it settled clearly in the bill. This tax would come up to Mr Colfax's idea; but it would ruin our agency business; and cut down our circulation; for the P. O. could not do the business to the satisfaction of subscribers. Will you be good enough to speak about this matter to some of the members?

Do you ever think of going back to the newspaper business? I often wish you were with us. Reed is a good writer; but he is so prone to scowling, and pulling down, while he can do nothing in the way of building up, that he requires constant watching - and I am afraid to leave the City a single day. I am about tired of him you can appreciate the situation. This, of course is strictly confidential. How would you like to come back?

And now one thing more, and I shall close this tiresome letter. Have you heard Dr Gurley preach. We talk of calling him to our church and I want to know your opinion of him. as a

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preacher, If you haven't heard him perhaps you can  
make it convenient to go to his church and give me your opinion.  
I understand he could be moved from Washington to Cin.  
He is a good Union man, I presume.

Could we in any way get an advance copy  
of the Report of the Conduct of the War Com. on Mr. Schellam?  
— We would pay for having it copied and forwarded so as  
to publish here simultaneously with its delivery to  
Congress?

Wade may be nominated next week, though I  
do not regard the prospect as encouraging. There are  
tremendous influences at work to defeat him. We are  
doing all we can, through the paper, and privately, for him.  
His most dangerous opponents are those who want the  
election postponed to next winter.

Truly yours  
Richard Smith

Have our folks sent you the \$20. I enquired to-day, but  
could not ascertain, without more trouble than very  
asking you involves. Can't you write us a letter or  
two a week?

Richard Smith

March 21, 1862

My dear friend  
I have just received your letter  
of the 19th and am glad to hear  
that you are well and hope  
to see you soon.

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