

Camp Chase, Ohio  
Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> 1861

Honorable F. Pierpont Governor of the new Western Virginia State – We the undersigned beg leave to address your honor and ask you to pardon our manner of addressing your Lordship as neither of us has ever been accustomed to address Gentlemen occupying your high position – now permit us to say to your honor that on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of Sept/61 we were arrested at our home in Braxton County, Va. By a company of Federal Troops who told us to go with them to Sutton that we need take no clothes with us that we could go home the same evening which is the last time we have had the pleasure to see one of the family and has never heard but twice from them since Lieut. Col. Jones sent us to Cross Lains to see Gen. Rosecrans and he was gone from there and we were sent here without any trial. Our union friends in Braxton say we are clear of the charges made against us and from the reading of a letter received from Mr. C. Mollohan of Gallipolis Ohio who was a prisoner in the Rebel Army under Wise for more than three months has taken upon himself to aid us all he could knowing our sentiments having spent the latter part of last winter all the spring and for part of the Summer with us he knows that we were union feeling men and advocates of the new state, he has wrote several letters to the officers at this city stating in candor all these things, also has wrote to Gen. Rosecrans also states to us that he went to Braxton to get position for our release and found when he got there the union men had sent one signed by all the Mr. Morrison, Hires Squires and Justice Sutton praying our release – also signed by Lieut. Vol. Thompson at Camp Flatwood – but we still are here – also the provost marshal was here about the first of this month he told us that he was in possession of papers to our benefit and asked us if we did not want to be at home – we said we did, he told us our case should be the first looked after – we entertain a high opinion of him as a gentleman but suppose the multitude of business has overlooked our case – we will send to you a letter from Mr. Mollohan we have been told that our very worthy friend the Hon G. J. Arnold of Lewis County is at Wheeling if so I am certain we would find in him a warm influential friend – we have had the honor to see your honors message to the citizens of the new state under which we claim protection and has already been loyal to the cause and ever will so remain but humbly ask that your honor will restore us to our home and family. One of your humble servants his head is whitened with the winters of fifty three years and has left a large family of children dependent on the small amount of labor that I am able to perform together with that done by my son the other writer for aught we know is suffering for many of the necessities of life and as we claim to be your honors subjects we humbly pray that your honor will have us discharged and sent to our bereaved and suffering family for which we will ever pray Yours Respectfully

N. D. Barrett

John D. Barrett