

Copy

Sir:

Your note of yesterday was received.

In reply I have only to say that your loyalty to the United States Government is strongly respected not only by the troops in this immediate vicinity but also at Head Quarters. And altho' I shall not permit my troops to destroy your property unless necessary for government purposes or to disturb your family, still I cannot make arrangements for the comfort of yourself + family with the same cordiality that I could if I got ^{what I seek} that you stand by the flag, which has so long protected you -

My advice to you is, that in the place of the noncommittal emblem which ^{now} hangs over your dwelling you replace the stars and stripes, and if you have not already done so that you take the oath of allegiance to our Government at once.

If you will do this and show yourself at least a Union man I