

Danville Ky. Dec 8. 1864

Judge W. C. Goodloe, at Washington City

My dear Sir - I learn to day, that you
are gone to Washington - I have written by the
same mail that will carry this, to Mr Speed Atty
General, - inclosing to him a letter from Col Fair-
leigh of Louisville, ^{to me} about Maj Stule's case, - ^{asking} and
his good offices in it; also informing him of my
previous application to you - ~~the~~ - Col Fairleigh's
letter, as you will see (Mr Speed has it) - settles two
points, apparently: 1 That Stule will be tried; 2 That
^{will} it be exclusively for enlisting troops in our lines - ^{pretended}
the Spy, & Guerrilla pretenses seem to be abandoned. The
one now resorted to - will answer all their objects, if
they hang him, by ^{its} means; which, of course, they will
do, if they are not prevented. To prevent the trial
- through the Louisville authorities themselves, was
my ^{full} endeavor; which having, as I apprehend,
failed - what is left is to get it prevented from
Washington, directly - or get from them an order
to remove the man out of the power of the Louis-
ville authorities. If this cannot be done - why I
must accept the desperate chance, of saving a man's

life, before a military tribunal, met under a
concentrated clamor for his blood, under a purpose
purpose to make him ^{an} example, or they
call it, - The whole affair seems to me, an utterly
disreputable - and in its consequences, if it can
succeed, most cruel and dangerous attempt - for
which there is no excuse - - If it were only
the men who want to do such an act, under
such circumstances, that would afterwards be
executed, by way of retaliation; one could think
of the thing, with some little compassion.

I need say nothing about our
condition, wants, and dangers - or about the
way to manage them. You ^{know} all, better than I do.
And Mr Speed's presence in the Cabinet - ought to
be security, that they will be safe there, than ever
before.

As to myself, if I wanted
any thing - it would be hard to tell what it
would be; and pretty certain I would ~~not~~ not
get it if asked for it; - and very sure I would not
ask for it, if I ^{could} ~~was~~ to get it for asking.

Very truly your friend

R. J. Bucknidge

[1864 Dec. 8]

Dr. Breckinridge

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