

Washington, Feb. 17. 1863.

To His Excellency,

The President;



Dear Sir:

My esteemed friend and neighbor Mr. King, the life of whose son you have recently saved, will call to-morrow with Senator Pomeroy to see you further about the case. I would gladly have accompanied them, but am prevented from doing so by sickness. I deeply and fully sympathize with them in their desire that he should be released from his imprisonment as well as saved from death. The reasons which lead me to desire his release are mainly these: 1. His age: he is now only in his eighteenth year. 2. The

uncertain character of the proof against him, and the probability, that, if guilty as charged, his guilt was the result of a sudden impulse, and not of a premeditated purpose.

3. The fact that he has already been severely punished, by physical suffering from a painful wound, and by six months imprisonment. 4. The reason I have to believe, from testimony upon which I can rely, that these recent trials have been a blessing to him, - have brought a marked change in his character, which makes it more sure, than any other pledge could, that no evil will come from his release.

5. Finally - The well known character and thorough loyalty of his father, whose sympathies have been with the Government from the very commencement of our national troubles. - These,

Mr. President, are the reasons which lead
me to desire and to hope that you will
set the young man at liberty.

Yours truly,

Phineas D. Gurley.