

**Document from  
Library of Virginia, Richmond**

Camp Chase, near Columbus, Ohio  
May 1<sup>st</sup> 1862

To His Excellency Francis H. Pierpont  
Governor of Virginia  
Wheeling, Va.

Dear Sir,

Being now held here as a Prisoner of War, notwithstanding the friendly appeals in my behalf of yourself, Judge J. J. Jackson, U. S. Attorney B. H. Smith Esq., and Adjutant Gen. Samuels, for which my unfeigned gratitude is due to yourself and those gentlemen, owing as I presume rather the stringency of the general instructions of the War Department, than to any adverse personal opinion on the part of Major General Fremont, as in the two interviews, with which I was honored, the General gave cadence of kind and lenient feelings toward me personally. My submission therefore to the General's mandate has been a cheerful one, while my hopes of an early release and restoration to my home, are based upon your Excellency's expression of opinion that in your judgment I ought to be restored to my county and that it would be acceptable to my fellow citizens of Raleigh County. I trust therefore that your Excellency during your present visit to Washington City will obtain discretionary authority to release any prisoner that may seem deserving of it to Maj. Gen. Fremont and yourself. Permit me therefore now to solemnly renew the assurances I have hitherto made, that in my return to my home and my personal surrender to the U. S. Officer on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, my intention was and now is good faith to resume my allegiance to the United States, and to West Virginia, and to this interest I am ready to give such public assurance as the Military and Civil authorities may reasonably require of me upon my release from arrest and imprisonment; and this I can do without violence to my original unbiased judgment respecting the suicidal policy of Virginia's secession publicly proclaimed, till the ordinance was passed by the Richmond Convention. I have written to Raleigh for the within petition of my fellow countrymen, to be furnished to your Excellency with the expression of my grateful sense of your personal courtesy in our past brief intercourse.

I am Dear Sir, your obedient humble servant  
Alfred Berkley