

THE
WAR OF THE REBELLION:

A COMPILATION OF THE
OFFICIAL RECORDS
OF THE
UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
The Hon. DANIEL S. LAMONT, Secretary of War,

BY

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Cases of Richard H. Stanton and others.

Richard H. Stanton, of Maysville, Ky., was arrested on the 2d day of October, 1861, by order of General Nelson, together with six others whom the general styles "active secessionists," viz: William Hunt, William T. Casto, Isaac Nelson, George Forrester, B. F. Thomas and James H. Hall. In communicating the fact of this arrest to the War Department General Nelson says:†

In pursuance of the said request of General Nelson, Stanton, as well as the persons arrested with him, was soon afterward transferred to Fort Lafayette for safe custody. Stanton by his own representations and through many other persons who interested themselves in his behalf claimed to be loyal and to be guiltless of any act which should have caused his arrest. It has generally happened in the history of arrests made for disloyalty and for precautionary purposes during the present rebellion that persons against whom there has been the most explicit proof or for whose detention the most emphatic reasons existed have made the loudest and most continuous asseverations of loyalty and have marshalled their hosts of personal friends to sustain such asseverations with unexampled unanimity. Although General Nelson did not send forward proofs of the charges which he made against Stanton it was not therefore deemed that the professions of the prisoner and the *ex parte* testimony of his friends ought to be taken as conclusive of his innocence, especially as in his very appeals for discharge he made and reiterated statements quite inconsistent with such loyal regard for the duties of citizenship as can inspire undoubting confidence in cases like this. On the 4th of November, 1861, Stanton addressed a letter to the Secretary of State in behalf of himself and the others above named arrested with him in which speaking for the whole party he alleges that they had never "engaged in the rebellion or intended to do so, never contributed

* No record of Aymar's subsequent arrest.

† Extract omitted here. See full text of Nelson's letter, p. 916.

money, never advised men to go in the Southern army nor in any other manner committed any act of disloyalty to the Government," and then says:

It is proper, however, to say to you that we were in favor of Kentucky's maintaining a neutral position in the contest and equally opposed to the invasion of the State by the Federal forces as by the Confederates, and advocated that policy.

It is unnecessary to remark that the expression of these sentiments is as conclusive proof of a disloyal heart as the commission of any of the acts mentioned by General Nelson.

On the 17th of December, 1861, Stanton addressed a letter to the President of the United States in his own behalf in which he repeats his offensive parallel between the national forces and the rebels, and has the effrontery to use this language:

I was, however, most earnestly opposed to the sending of arms into Kentucky and believed that the arming of one political party against the other could result in no good and was only calculated to engender trouble. I was opposed also to the invasion of the State by either the Federal troops or the Confederates and advocated in good faith the perfect neutrality of Kentucky.

On the 26th day of December, 1861, the said Stanton was released from custody on taking the oath of allegiance with stipulations against future misconduct.

William T. Casto was arrested at Maysville, Ky., his residence, on the 2d day of October, 1861, by order of General Nelson as being one of a clique of rebels there who were fomenting treason and disturbance in Eastern Kentucky. He was sent to Camp Chase in Ohio and subsequently to Fort Lafayette at General Nelson's request. On the 29th of November, 1861, General Nelson wrote to the Department of State requesting Casto's release on taking the oath of allegiance. On the 4th of December, 1861, in compliance with General Nelson's request Casto was ordered to be released on his taking the oath of allegiance but he declined to receive his discharge from confinement on such terms. On the 17th of January, 1862, another order of like import was made for his enlargement but he again refused to comply with the conditions. The said Casto remained in custody at Fort Lafayette February 15, 1862, when he was transferred to the charge of the War Department.

Isaac Nelson was arrested by order of General Nelson in Kentucky in October, 1861, and sent to Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, and from thence transferred to Fort Lafayette. General Nelson writing to the Secretary of State under date of 29th of November, 1861, says:

In October last for reasons that met the approval of the War Department I arrested and sent to Columbus, Ohio, the following active secessionists, viz, R. H. Stanton, William Hunt, William T. Casto, Isaac Nelson, George Forrester, B. F. Thomas and James H. Hall, and I beg to request that these men with the exception of R. H. Stanton may be released on their taking the oath of allegiance.

An order was issued from the Department of State dated December 4, 1861, directing Colonel Burke, commanding at Fort Lafayette, to release Nelson on his taking the oath of allegiance. He was released December 7, 1861.

George Forrester was arrested October 2, 1861, in Kentucky, by order of Brigadier-General Nelson and sent to Columbus, Ohio, and from thence he was at the request of General Nelson transferred to Fort Lafayette by order of the Secretary of State. He was charged with disloyalty and with being an active secessionist. On the recommendation of General Nelson an order was issued from the Department

of State dated December 4, 1861, directing Lieutenant-Colonel Burke, commanding at Fort Lafayette, to release Forrester on his taking the oath of allegiance, &c. He was accordingly released December 7, 1861.

B. F. Thomas was arrested by order of General Nelson at Maysville, Ky., and committed to Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, October 2, 1861, and from thence transferred to Fort Lafayette. He was charged with fitting out men and raising money for the rebel government. An order was issued from the Department of State dated December 4, 1861, directing Colonel Burke, commanding at Fort Lafayette, to release Thomas on his taking the oath of allegiance stipulating that he will neither enter any of the States in insurrection against the United States nor hold correspondence with persons residing in those States nor do any act hostile to the United States. He was accordingly released December 7, 1861.

William Hunt was arrested in Kentucky by General Nelson about October 1, 1861, taken to Camp Chase in Ohio, and afterward transferred to Fort Lafayette. He was charged with being a violent secessionist and attempting to aid the rebels with money and with recruiting men for the Confederate Army. He was released by order of the Secretary of State December 7, 1861, on taking the oath of allegiance.

James H. Hall was arrested October 2, 1861, at Maysville, Ky., by General Nelson, committed to Camp Chase and afterward transferred to Fort Lafayette by order of the Secretary of State. Hall was charged with having strong secession sympathies and with assisting the rebels with money and men. He was released December 7, 1861, by order of the Secretary of State on taking the oath of allegiance.

The first information the Department of State had concerning this man [William B. Tolle] was a letter from General W. Nelson dated October 5, 1861, directed to Hon. S. P. Chase and referred to this Department, in which General Nelson says he arrested Tolle and others on the 2d instant on a charge of fitting out men for the Southern army, subscribing moneys, &c., and asking his release at the request of his Union relatives; that he will be kept under surveillance, &c. An order was issued from the Department of State dated October 5, 1861, directing A. C. Sands, U. S. marshal of Ohio, to release Tolle on his taking the oath of allegiance, engaging not to enter or hold correspondence with any insurrectionary State during the present insurrection. He was accordingly released October 17, 1861.—*From Record Book, State Department, "Arrests for Disloyalty."*

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CAMP KENTON, Maysville, Ky., October 5, 1861.

Hon. S. P. CHASE, Washington City.

DEAR SIR: On the 2d instant I arrested several traitorous scoundrels who were engaged in fitting out men for the Southern army, subscribing moneys, getting up nightly drills and doing the manner of things usual among the secessionists. These men with the Hon. R. H. Stanton at their head I sent to Cincinnati to the care of the U. S. marshal there, and I trust they will be cared for effectually. Their arrest has relieved the community here of an incubus the most depressing.

Amongst them is a man named W. B. Tolle. His wife is a good Union woman of a good Union family. Hon. W. H. Wadsworth, the

Member of Congress from this district, offers to be responsible for his future conduct if I will ask his release and provided Tolle will take the oath of allegiance of which there even seems to be some doubt. I promised his father-in-law to ask his release this morning, and I request that you will do me the favor to cause him to be discharged if he takes the oath of allegiance. My object is to show these rascals that we believe ourselves strong enough to afford to be generous. I will have him kept under surveillance and if he shows the slightest restiveness I will bag him afresh. His public arrest attracting attention to him will take away his power to do harm and make him afraid to attempt it. The rascal subscribed \$200 to fit out a secession company, but at the earnest request of his Union relatives I am willing he should be let off—till next time.

Begging your favorable attention to this, I remain, yours, truly,
W. NELSON.

[Indorsement.]

Hon. W. H. SEWARD:

Though averse in general to the release of parties arrested yet if the case is in your jurisdiction I hope you will give the order Nelson desires. The prisoners I believe are at Camp Chase, near Columbus.

S. P. CHASE.

CAMP KENTON, *Near Maysville, Ky., October 7, 1861.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

SIR: On the 2d instant I ordered the arrest of Hon. R. H. Stanton, formerly Member of Congress from this district, and with him six other active secessionists and sent them down to Cincinnati, Ohio, to the care of General Mitchel. This man Stanton is the head of secession in Northeast Kentucky. He is the depositary of money for fitting out men from this and adjoining counties for the Southern army. He was actively engaged at the time of his arrest in establishing and maintaining nightly drills of armed traitors. He is in regular correspondence with Richmond, Va.

He received and announced to his traitor friends a message from Breckinridge but the day before his arrest to this effect: That he (Breckinridge) would be back at Prestonburg on or about the 10th of October and would assume command as general, and that all the companies willing to serve under him would meet at that spot; and further that the main body of Beauregard's army would winter in Kentucky and that they (the secessionists) need not be afraid; they would be supported. As many as eight mounted messengers have left Stanton's house in one night. He has harbored in his house an officer of the Confederate Army. Two hundred and fifty-nine armed men of this neighborhood have gone to Prestonburg under his advice and aid. He is the soul of the rebellion in this part of Kentucky. After becoming satisfied of his doings I arrested him and sent him to General Mitchel and he is now at Camp Chase.

My object in writing is to request that he may be removed farther from the scene of his villainies. He is too close to us still. He is a man of wonderful intellectual energy, personally truculent and cowardly but morally a very Catiline. His arrest has struck secession dumb here.

Very respectfully,

W. NELSON,
Brigadier-General,

[Indorsement.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, *October 14, 1861.*

Respectfully referred to the Secretary of State with request to have prisoners removed and cared for as indicated by General Nelson.

THOMAS A. SCOTT,
Acting Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, *Washington October 14, 1861.*

Brig. Gen. W. NELSON, *Camp Kenton, near Maysville, Ky.*

GENERAL: Your letter of the 7th instant relative to the arrest of R. H. Stanton and six other active secessionists has been received from the War Department. You will please send them to Fort Lafayette, New York Harbor, and report to this Department.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

CAMP CHASE PRISON, [*Columbus,*] *Ohio, October 14, 1861.*

HARRISON TAYLOR, Esq.,
F. T. HOOD, Esq.

GENTLEMEN: We appeal to you as fellow-townsmen and personal friends to lay before the proper authorities this communication and if possible procure our release or return to Kentucky. We assure you that it is not our intention and never has been in any manner to violate any law of the Federal or State government or to resist the authorities of either. The constituted authorities of the State having declared by legal enactments the policy of the Government and the duty of its citizens the only course for us and all other persons in the State is to give cheerful obedience to the laws. This we have always intended to and we pledge ourselves we will in good faith do if permitted to return home.

We authorize you for each and all of us to pledge us to the proper authorities that as good citizens we will give implicit obedience to the laws of the Federal and State governments and in no manner knowingly resist or violate either. We are citizens of Kentucky; our fate and our fortunes are identified with her and she having decided the controversy between the parties we deem it our duty cheerfully to acquiesce in the decision of the constituted authorities and to give to the laws of Kentucky and of the United States our cordial obedience. We trust you know us well enough to believe that this pledge will be kept in good faith.

With much respect, we are, your friends,

R. H. STANTON.
B. F. THOMAS.
WM. HUNT.
ISAAC NELSON.
JAMES H. HALL.
GEO. FORRESTER.

OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY,
Cincinnati, October 26, 1861.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

DEAR SIR: In pursuance of your telegram to the marshal of this district directing the release of W. B. Tolle, of Mason County, Ky., a

prisoner at Camp Chase, Ohio, I have the honor to inform you that the prisoner has been released on taking and subscribing the oath of allegiance to the Government, which oath subscribed by him is herewith inclosed.*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. BALL,
U. S. Attorney.

—
NEW YORK CITY, November 4, 1861.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State*.

SIR: Myself and six other citizens from Maysville, Ky., were arrested at that place on the 2d day of October, 1861, by order of General Nelson, then in command of the camp at that place, under a general charge of treason against the United States. At the time we were taken we were engaged in our usual and ordinary occupations, never having been in any manner engaged in the rebellion or intended to do so. We never contributed money, never advised men to go in the Southern army, nor in any other manner committed any act of disloyalty to the Government. We have never been informed of any specific charge against us and are utterly unconscious of having done anything to justify our arrest.

It is proper, however, to say to you that we were in favor of Kentucky maintaining a neutral position in the contest and equally opposed to the invasion of the State by the Federal forces or by the Confederates and advocated that policy, hoping that the State would be in a position to maintain peace within her borders and mediate between the two sections so as to restore peace and safety to the Union. But Kentucky by her legally constituted authorities decided not to remain neutral and passed laws in pursuance of that policy. As good citizens we felt it our duty to obey the laws of the State and at the time of our arrest as we had always done were giving cheerful obedience to the laws of both the State and Federal governments.

When arrested at Maysville one circuit judge issued a writ of habeas corpus in our behalf which was not allowed by the general to be executed and we were hurried away from the State. In Ohio a similar writ was issued by the judge of the U. S. court and that forbidden to be executed by General Mitchel who sent us to Camp Chase where we have been kept for a month and are now on our way to Fort Lafayette where we have been ordered.

Thus you see that we have made every effort in our power to have a legal investigation of our case and to meet any charges which may exist against us if any but with no effect. We are citizens of the State of Kentucky, disposed to obey all the laws of it and the Federal Government, and have been thus as we most humbly conceive most unjustly dealt with. We have never been disloyal to the Government nor intended to be, and are willing in good faith to take the oath of allegiance and keep it with scrupulous fidelity. We appeal to you to permit our release on the condition that we take the oath of allegiance; or if you prefer it direct that we be returned to Kentucky and delivered to some U. S. commissioner to inquire into our cases and if there be any charges against us that we may be tried by the loyal tribunals of this country.

The following are the names of the prisoners: R. H. Stanton, Benjamin F. Thomas, William Hunt, William T. Casto, George Forrester, Isaac Nelson and James H. Hall.

* Omitted.

We understand we are ordered by you to Fort Lafayette. The prisoners from that fort have been ordered to Fort Warren. We beg you not to permit us to be taken to Fort Warren but return us to Cincinnati or to Kentucky by the guard now with us, that our cases may be legally examined if you will not order our release upon the terms above proposed.

Very respectfully,

R. H. STANTON.

—
MAYSVILLE, KY., *November 11, 1861.*

The undersigned citizens of Maysville would state that they are well acquainted with their fellow-citizens R. H. Stanton, James H. Hall, Benjamin F. Thomas, Isaac Nelson, William T. Casto, William Hunt and George Forrester who have lately been arrested in our city and sent out of our State for either past political offenses or from apprehension that such offenses might be committed by them. We are informed by those in whom we have confidence that all these prisoners (with the exception of Mr. Casto, who protests his innocence of any offense and demands a trial) have over their own signatures pledged themselves to abide by and perform all the laws of the State and Federal governments and yield a cheerful acquiescence to all such authority; that as Kentucky has taken her position in the controversy now dividing the country, and that as good citizens whose interests are identified with her they will do nothing to militate against that position. We are also informed that all of these prisoners without exception have signified their entire willingness to take the oath of allegiance to the State and Federal governments, and this they propose to do cheerfully and willingly. They are also willing to be tried by any of the courts of Kentucky for any and every charge that may be preferred against them or to give any bonds with security of undoubted character for their future good behavior. From our personal knowledge of these gentlemen and their standing, position and character in our community if they should now under all the circumstances take the oath of allegiance or otherwise promise fidelity and loyalty to the general and State governments we believe that full confidence may be placed in their complying with that obligation.

C. B. COONS.
J. BARBOUR.
LEWIS COLLINS.
A. M. JANNARY.
H. T. PEARCEY.
JAS. A. JOHNSON.
M. P. MARSHALL,

Senator of Marion and Lewis Counties, Ky.

—
MAYSVILLE, KY., *November 18, 1861.*

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

SIR: The undersigned Union men of Kentucky take the liberty of laying before Your Excellency the copy of a communication* addressed to F. T. Hood and H. Taylor by R. H. Stanton, Isaac Nelson, Benjamin F. Thomas, James H. Hall, William Hunt and George Forrester, dated

* Omitted here. This letter will be found in its proper chronological order at p. 917.

October 14, 1861. These men were arrested in this city, sent to Camp Chase and from there to Fort Lafayette where they are now confined. We understand that they are political prisoners. We are not, however, fully informed of the exact nature of the charges preferred against them or upon which they were arrested.

The original communication from them is in the possession of Brigadier-General Nelson but we transmit herewith a true copy of it. Without intending to be understood as indorsing the protestations of innocence contained in the document we respectfully ask that they may be discharged from imprisonment and returned to their families upon condition that they will come under such obligations as will satisfy the Government and the community to which they desire to return of their intention hereafter to conduct themselves as loyal, obedient citizens to the constituted authorities of both the Federal and State governments. We also take the liberty of laying before you a copy of the proclamation of Brigadier-General Sherman, lately in command of the Military Department of Kentucky, concerning arrests of this character.

We are, respectfully, your obedient servants,

FRANCIS T. HOOD.
H. TAYLOR.

[Inclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF CUMBERLAND,
Louisville, Ky., October 31, 1861.

The removal of prisoners (except spies and prisoners of war) from the State without giving them an opportunity for trial by the loyal tribunals of the country does not meet the approval of the commanding-general. It is ordered that all such prisoners now under arrest or who may hereafter be arrested shall be taken before a judge or commissioner of the United States most convenient to the place of arrest, to be examined and dealt with according to law.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

—
LOUISVILLE, KY., *November 22, 1861.*

MR. WILLIAM NELSON NEWELL, *Maysville, Ky.*

DEAR SIR: I have received your letter of November 8 asking my interposition in behalf of Isaac Nelson and six others who are under arrest and have been conveyed beyond the bounds of the State. I have no jurisdiction over the case in any way as the parties are no longer in this department, but any communication their friends may address to the Secretary of War regarding them I will favorably indorse.

Respectfully,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

[Indorsement.]

NOVEMBER 22, 1861.

HON. SECRETARY OF WAR:

I have read the letter on the other side of this sheet from General Sherman to William Nelson Newell. I have no hesitation in advising the release of Isaac Nelson upon his agreeing to be a loyal citizen of

the State of Kentucky and United States. I have the honor to represent this district in the senate of Kentucky, and am of an opinion that the release of Mr. Nelson upon his oath will be acceptable to the people and for the benefit of the United States.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

M. P. MARSHALL.

CAMP NEAR LOUISVILLE, KY., *November 29, 1861.*

Hon. W. H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State, Washington.*

SIR: In October last for reasons that met the approval of the War Department I arrested and sent to Columbus, Ohio, the following active secessionists, viz, R. H. Stanton, William Hunt, William T. Casto, Isaac Nelson, George Forrester, B. F. Thomas and James H. Hall. At my request these persons were afterward transferred to Fort Lafayette. The campaign on the Big Sandy has completely quieted the eastern portion of Kentucky for the present at least,* and I beg to request that these men with the exception of R. H. Stanton may be released on their taking the oath of allegiance which they are willing and anxious to do. I am satisfied that this course in regard to them would be of service to the cause in that portion of the State. Their power to do harm is at an end even if they were so inclined, and they are too small game to hold longer.

Not so, however, with Stanton. He served several terms in Congress and is an astute, truculent fellow and the head of the secession movement in Northeastern Kentucky. This man's industry and being wholly unscrupulous renders him too dangerous to be turned loose.

Trusting that it may suit your views of policy to grant my request, I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. NELSON,
Brigadier-General.

LOUISVILLE, *November 30, 1861.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State:*

It is advisable to release all except Stanton. On no account release him.

NELSON,
Brigadier-General.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, *Washington, December 1, 1861.*

Lieut. Col. MARTIN BURKE, *Fort Lafayette, N. Y.*

SIR: Let William T. Casto, a prisoner confined in Fort Lafayette, be released on taking the oath of allegiance* to the Government of the United States stipulating that he will neither enter any of the States in insurrection against the authority of the United States Government nor hold any correspondence whatever with persons residing in those States without permission from the Secretary of State; and also that he will not do anything hostile to the United States during the present insurrection. I transmit this order to Robert Murray, esq., U. S. marshal, who has been instructed by this Department to cause a police examina-

* Casto declined to take the oath and was not released until February 22, 1862.

tion to be made in some cases of the persons and baggage of prisoners discharged from custody to the end that no correspondence or other improper papers be conveyed by them to persons outside the fort.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

[NOTE.—This order was also made same day in the cases of Isaac Nelson, William Hunt, George Forrester, James H. Hall and B. F. Thomas.]

—
 FORT LAFAYETTE, *December 6, 1861.*

Hon. W. H. SEWARD.

MY DEAR SIR: I have been informed that General Nelson remonstrates with the Department against my release, and it may be that my release may not be granted on that account. I have now been in custody for two months, one-half of which was spent in a most comfortless and exposed condition at Camp Chase, the consequence of which is that my health has been greatly impaired and part of the time I have remained here I have been quite sick. If it is not your intention to grant me an immediate release I respectfully ask that you will grant me a parole for one month to remain in New York City and Brooklyn. I have a sister living at Brooklyn at whose house I would stay but would like to have the privilege of going to the city. If it please you to grant me this favor I shall be ever grateful.

With the greatest respect, your obedient servant,
R. H. STANTON.

[Inclosure.]

FORT HAMILTON, *New York Harbor, December 6, 1861.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State, &c.*

SIR: From what I know of the prisoner, Mr. Stanton, I would respectfully recommend that his request be granted provided the Hon. Frederick P. Stanton, of Kansas, would be a guarantee of the parole of his brother.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
MARTIN BURKE,
Lieutenant-Colonel Third Artillery, Commanding.

—
 FORT HAMILTON, *New York Harbor, December 7, 1861.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State, Washington.*

SIR: Please receive oaths of allegiance and stipulations of George Forrester, James H. Hall, Isaac Nelson, William Hunt and Benjamin F. Thomas. This by authority of yours of the 4th instant.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
MARTIN BURKE,
Lieutenant-Colonel Third Artillery, Commanding.

[Inclosure.]

I, George Forrester, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States against all enemies whether domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, allegiance and loyalty to the same any ordinance, resolution or law of any State convention or legislature to the contrary not-

withstanding; and further that I do this with a full determination, pledge and purpose without any mental reservation or evasion whatsoever; and further that I will well and faithfully perform all the duties which may be required of me by law, and that I will neither enter any of the States in insurrection against the authority of the United States Government nor hold any correspondence whatever with persons residing in those States without permission from the Secretary of State, and also that I will not do anything hostile to the United States during the present insurrection. So help me God.

GEORGE FORRESTER.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of December, 1861.

ROBT. MURRAY,

U. S. Marshal.

[NOTE.—The oath and stipulation signed by Messrs. Hall, Hunt, Nelson and Thomas was identical with the above.]

—
WASHINGTON, *December 7, 1861.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

SIR: Having called to pay my respects to you without succeeding in obtaining an interview I trouble you with this letter. A number of my constituents and townsmen were arrested by Brigadier-General Nelson in Maysville, Ky., sent to Camp Chase, Ohio, and thence to Fort Lafayette, New York Harbor. I remember the following, viz, R. H. Stanton, esq., W. T. Casto, James H. Hall, Benjamin F. Thomas, William Hunt, Isaac Nelson and George Forrester. These persons were arrested without warrant and instantly hurried from their homes and State and a trial by habeas corpus denied. The public safety may require the arrest and detention in this manner of dangerous and important persons; nevertheless I do not entertain a doubt but that a number of these citizens should at once be discharged and sent home to their families and friends. I will name such as I place in this class: William Hunt, Benjamin F. Thomas, Isaac Nelson, George Forrester and James H. Hall. The four first named are unimportant persons—very much out of place in Fort Lafayette. I do not believe anything can be established against them but secession talk and sentiments. * * *

General Nelson after their arrest freely consulted with me and I with him and I assert that no facts came to our knowledge compromising them. General Nelson promised me before we left for Prestonburg to interfere in their behalf, and expressed the opinion that they should be allowed to come home. Their families (my neighbors) are in great distress. They promise obedience to the laws. They are slight, unimportant people. I strongly recommend their immediate release and to this end I am a respectful petitioner. I protest against their further imprisonment without a trial at least in the loyal and peaceful place of their arrest.

It would be gratifying to the Kentucky Members of Congress as well as to myself to know that Mr. Stanton and Charles S. Morehead and other Kentuckians held as prisoners are made as comfortable as their former standing and habits require and the public interest permits. I trust you will excuse this remark since I have heard through a colleague that Mr. Morehead was not comfortably lodged.

With sentiments of great respect, I have the honor to be, very truly, your obedient servant, &c.,

W. H. WADSWORTH.

U. S. MARSHAL'S OFFICE, *New York, December 11, 1861.*

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State, Washington.*

SIR: The inclosed letter was received by me this day from R. H. Stanton now confined in Fort Lafayette. I know nothing of the merits of his case beyond the fact that the five Kentuckians discharged by me on Saturday in pursuance to your order vouched for his loyalty and his willingness to take the oath of allegiance. I accordingly promised to forward any communication that he might send me in relation to his arrest to the Department of State, and await your instructions.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

ROBERT MURRAY,
U. S. Marshal.

[Inclosure.]

FORT LAFAYETTE, N. Y., *December 7, 1861.*

ROBERT MURRAY, Esq., *U. S. Marshal.*

MY DEAR SIR: I understand you were at the fort to-day, and I regret that I could not have had an interview with you. The Kentucky prisoners who were arrested with me you are aware were released to-day. Our cases are precisely alike. None of us had committed any offense and there existed in the Department at Washington no charges against either of us. I am detained I have not the least doubt through the instrumentality of one or two malignant men who have abused the confidence of General Nelson. I have never taken any part in the rebellion, never designed to do so, nor have I contributed in any way to aid it. I have always given cheerful obedience to the laws, never advocated the secession of Kentucky, and have always been willing to take and keep in good faith the oath of allegiance. I have been informed by Mr. Forrester that you kindly propose to intercede for my release upon a statement from me of what I am willing to do. I do not know anything else I can do more than take the oath of allegiance. The rebellion does not rage in my region nor do I know of any intention there upon the part of anybody to engage in it. If I had the disposition to do wrong I could do no harm there and no possible injury could result from my release. If you can aid me in effecting it I shall be under everlasting obligations to you.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

R. H. STANTON.

P. S.—My health has been very much impaired since my confinement and I feel sure I cannot improve in that respect while here.

FORT LAFAYETTE, N. Y., *December 17, 1861.*

His Excellency ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
President of the United States.

SIR: Near three months ago while giving cheerful obedience to the laws and in the peaceful pursuit of my usual and ordinary occupations I with several other citizens of Maysville, Ky., was arrested by order of General William Nelson and sent to Ohio, where I was imprisoned at Camp Chase for a month and from thence transferred to this fort where I have been kept confined ever since.

At the time of my arrest there was no insurrection in my neighborhood and none intended or contemplated. I had never engaged in the rebellion or thought for a single moment of doing so. I never encour-

aged others to do so, but on the contrary exerted myself to restrain the young men of my county from going off to the rebel army, and practical proof of this fact I am informed is on record in the State Department.

I was, however, most earnestly opposed to the sending of arms into Kentucky, and believed that the arming of one political party against the other could result in no good and was only calculated to engender trouble. I was opposed also to the invasion of the State by either the Federal troops or the Confederates and advocated in good faith the perfect neutrality of Kentucky, believing if the war could be kept from within her borders it would not only save her from a terrible calamity but place her in such a position as would enable her to mediate between the parties and bring about a restoration of peace and re-establishment of the Union. I sincerely believed if when in your letter to Governor Magoffin you left the matter of the withdrawal of the Federal troops from the State to the Union Representatives of Kentucky they had agreed to a withdrawal both armies would have been withdrawn and the State not only saved from the horrors of war, but in a position by her wise counsels to have brought about a peaceful settlement of the national troubles. In accordance with these views I voted. My views in this respect may have been unwise and erroneous but they were at least sincere. Because I entertained and advocated them I was I suppose considered a secessionist.

I never did advocate the secession of Kentucky and no man lives who can truthfully say I did. I know that I have been misrepresented and maligned to the Government. It can only have been done by men who are my personal foes. I declare to you upon the honor of a gentleman that I never had a thought of disobeying any law of either the State or General Government or taking part in any rebellion either against the State or Federal Government. When the legislature of Kentucky after Governor Magoffin's receipt of your letter refused to request the withdrawal of the Federal troops and established a different policy, I considered the questions which before that had divided the people as finally settled and as a good citizen I deemed it my duty to submit to and obey the laws which the constituted authorities of the State had enacted in pursuance of that policy. I did obey the laws and never had a thought of doing otherwise.

General Nelson when he caused my arrest knew nothing personally of my disposition or sentiments. I feel satisfied if he had known my real views, conduct and intentions I would not have been arrested. He doubtless acted from the representations of others who misled him. It was natural to suppose that because I was earnestly opposed to arming one party in the State against the other, opposed to making Kentucky a bloody battlefield and in favor of neutrality that I was therefore a secessionist and rebel. I was neither, and at the time of my arrest was giving cheerful obedience to the laws, quietly pursuing my ordinary business and with no thought or intention of disloyalty either to the Federal or State government.

I have signified my perfect willingness to take the oath of allegiance and have never doubted that my public and private character were a sufficient guarantee that I would keep it in good faith. It seems, however, that I cannot be released and am kept a prisoner here. Those arrested with me have all been released upon taking the oath of allegiance and I cannot comprehend the reason why I am made the solitary exception to a rule which it seems has been applied to all others against whom no charges of crime are alleged, which I understand is true as to myself. I appeal to your justice and humanity to cause me to be

released. I declare before high Heaven that I have done nothing or ever intended to do anything which if done would merit this punishment. If I am charged with any act of disloyalty or intention to commit any act of disloyalty it is a monstrous falsehood come from whom it may.

I have a very large, helpless and dependent family, perhaps as large if not the very largest in my neighborhood, upon whom my exile from home and imprisonment falls most heavily. They need my care and protection, and I beg you to interpose your authority and spare them further suffering by ordering my release. With great confidence in your sense of justice and humanity, I am, with the highest respect, your obedient servant,

R. H. STANTON.

—
FORT LAFAYETTE, N. Y., *December 18, 1861.*

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

SIR: I have the honor herewith to inclose you an article taken from *The Maysville (Ky.) Eagle* of the 12th instant containing a refutation of a vile and infamous calumny which it seems has been used to fasten upon me the guilt of disloyalty, and I respectfully ask that the article may have your attention. I have been imprisoned now near three months and though having made every exertion in my power to ascertain what charges were made against me this is the only specific and definite one of which I have yet heard. I suppose it forms the basis of General Nelson's request of the Department that I may be detained as a prisoner. It turns out to be a base and slanderous falsehood and shows with what facility in these times bad men may engender mischief.

If there are any other charges against me directly imputing disloyal acts or intentions or even insinuating them against me I declare before high Heaven they are false no matter by whom made, and I pledge my life that they are as susceptible of as clear and satisfactory a refutation as the one referred to in *The Eagle*. General Nelson when he caused my arrest knew nothing nor could he have known anything personally of either my conduct, disposition or sentiments in regard to the then existing troubles. He has no doubt therefore been imposed upon and misled by bad men who are too ready in these times to invent slanders upon those whom they dislike and to magnify mere suspicions into veritable facts.

With the highest respect, your obedient servant,

R. H. STANTON.

[Inclosure.]

The gentlemen who were arrested in this city by order of General Nelson last fall have been released and have returned to this city, with the exception of Messrs. Stanton and Casto who were detained in custody. The citizens of Maysville are pleased with the release of these gentlemen from confinement, receiving it as an indication that the Government has satisfactory assurances that their being at liberty will not be productive of evil to the cause or disturb the peace of this community. We are informed that Mr. Casto refused to take the oath and the Government officials did not feel justified in releasing him until he had entered into obligations of fealty to the Government.

We have not been informed of the special reasons which induced the longer confinement of Mr. Stanton but we are told it was done by the order of General Nelson who may have evidence against him sufficient to warrant a civil prosecution. We feel that it is due to Mr. Stanton

to correct a misstatement concerning him made by this paper on what any one would take as good authority. In speaking of the skirmish at Grayson we said that one of the prisoners had made a confession which implicated Mr. Stanton in a conspiracy to invade Kentucky and seize upon this city. We are informed that the man, whose name is Martin, has made oath that he never made such a confession and that he knows nothing of any connection of Mr. Stanton with the raids upon this State.

FRANKFORT, KY., *December 19, 1861.*

Hon. W. H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SIR: The undersigned Union members of the General Assembly of Kentucky earnestly request that Richard H. Stanton, of Kentucky, now a prisoner in Fort Lafayette, may be returned to Kentucky for trial before the proper tribunal within this Commonwealth. We are satisfied that the detention longer of Mr. Stanton will subserve no public interest. His return for trial will gratify many true friends of the Government, satisfied as they are that if Mr. S. has been guilty of an offense against the Government he will be punished; if innocent an opportunity will be afforded him to vindicate himself.

Very respectfully,

George P. Webster, Cyrus Campbell, Jno. W. Finnell, L. W. Andrews, Geo. H. Yeaman, Joseph Ricketts, J. R. Thomas, W. L. Conklin, Rich'd J. Browne, F. L. Cleveland, Rich'd A. Buckner, Geo. M. Thomas, Wm. J. Heady, H. Griffith, J. H. Harney, V. B. Young, J. W. Anderson, B. J. Clay, James Calvert, J. B. Cochran, R. Cochran, A. A. Curtis, Alf. Allen.

We would be satisfied with the release of Mr. Stanton upon his taking the oath of allegiance and voluntarily coming under obligations to the Government and to the community to which he desires to return to conduct himself as a loyal citizen to the State and Federal governments.

George Poindexter, H. Taylor, W. C. Ireland, P. L. Maxey, V. B. Young, D. P. Mears, L. W. Andrews, Alex. Lusk, Otho Miller, Joseph Ricketts, James Calvert, J. B. Cochran, R. Cochran, C. F. Bruneaux, A. A. Curtis, J. R. Underwood, B. R. Young, N. A. Rapier, R. Gibson, Alf. Allen, Zeb. Ward, D. W. Johns, John W. Campbell, J. R. Thomas, W. L. Conklin, R. J. Browne, F. L. Cleveland, H. Griffith, Wm. J. Heady, J. H. Harney, J. Tevis, Nat Wolfe, J. W. Anderson, J. P. Sparks, S. G. England, W. S. Rankin.

The undersigned Union senators concur in the request that R. H. Stanton be restored to his liberty on taking required oath.

M. P. Marshall, John F. Fisk, R. H. Field, Jas. H. G. Bush, W. B. Read, M. P. Buster, James Speed, Henry D. McHenry, S. E. De Haven, Nathan McClure, C. T. Worthington, I. A. Prall, R. T. Baker, John B. Bruner, T. T. Alexander.

FORT LAFAYETTE, *December 22, 1861.*

His Excellency ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
President of the United States.

SIR: I had the honor a few days since to address you on the subject of my imprisonment at this place. You will pardon me if I again tres-

pass upon your attention. I have never been allowed to know the exact charges upon which I have been now three months confined, but General Leslie Coombs, of Kentucky, informed my brother a few days ago that he had heard in Kentucky that General Nelson's charges against me were of having had meetings and consultations at my house in aid and encouragement of the rebellion, and also that I had some agency in procuring arms for the intended resistance to the Government in that quarter. If it be true that such charges are made against me I can only say that they are in every particular false and untrue without even the shadow of a foundation in truth. No such meetings or consultations were ever held at my house at any time by anybody nor would I have for a moment permitted it. No arms to my knowledge were ever procured or sought to be procured by me or any one else of whom I knew nor was any resistance to the Government ever intended or contemplated that I know of. The whole story is a fabrication. Fortunately for me two gentlemen of the highest standing and respectability, Mr. Hiram Bassett, teller in the Maysville Bank of Kentucky and now grand master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, and his father, James Bassett, esq., lived at my house at the time and have actual personal knowledge that these charges of General Nelson are false. They were present at home all the time I was myself and no such meetings could possibly have occurred without their knowledge. General Leslie Coombs, now in Washington, knows both these gentlemen and can bear testimony to their high character and integrity. I refer to them as well as to all my neighbors in vindication of myself against these foul calumnies. You are too just to permit a citizen to be unjustly oppressed if you can prevent it and I appeal to you again to interfere and either direct my absolute release or grant me a parole that I may have an opportunity of vindicating myself in some satisfactory way against what I again assure you are utterly false and groundless charges.

With the highest respect, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

R. H. STANTON.

—
FORT LAFAYETTE, *December 22, 1861.*

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

SIR: General Leslie Coombs, of Kentucky, informed my brother a few days ago that he had heard in Kentucky that the charges made by General William Nelson against me were of having held meetings and consultations at my house in aid and encouragement of the rebellion; also that I had some agency in procuring arms for the intended resistance to the Government in that quarter. My word against that of General Nelson may not be of much weight in my present situation, but I beg nevertheless to say that if such are the charges upon which I am held a prisoner there is not one word of truth in them nor the shadow of foundation in truth for even a suspicion of the kind. There never was a meeting or consultation for such a purpose at my house or any other place that ever I attended. I never invited any living soul there for that purpose nor did even any person come nor would I have permitted it.

It is equally false that I had any agency in procuring arms for the "intended resistance to the Government in that quarter." No arms so far as I know ever were procured for such a purpose or sought to be procured,

nor was there to my knowledge any design to resist the Government or take up arms or otherwise engage in the rebellion in that quarter

I am perfectly amazed that such charges have been made by General Nelson, and am utterly at a loss to imagine how even a suspicion of such conduct on my part could have been indulged. Fortunately for me two gentlemen of the highest standing and respectability in Maysville lived at my house at the time—Hiram Bassett, esq., teller in the Bank of Kentucky, and his father—both of whom know these charges against me to be false. They were there at my house all the time when I myself was there and I refer to them and all my neighbors in vindication of myself against these foul calumnies. General Leslie Coombs is now in Washington; has known Mr. Hiram Bassett (who is now grand master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky) for many years and can assure you of his integrity and high character. He also knows Mr. James Bassett, his father. I beg further to say that I never wrote a line to any living man in the seceded States on the subject of the rebellion nor to any one elsewhere in promotion of the rebellion; nor did I ever write or talk to any man with a view of procuring arms to resist the Government and never entertained the idea for a single moment of encouraging or aiding such resistance.

Having thus recorded my denial of General Nelson's charges against me as far as I have learned them, and referred you to persons by whom they can be actually disproved, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

R. H. STANTON.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, *Washington, December 24, 1861.*

Lient. Col. MARTIN BURKE, *Fort Lafayette, N. Y.*

SIR: Let Richard H. Stanton, a prisoner confined in Fort Lafayette, be released on taking the oath of allegiance to the Government of the United States. I transmit this order to Robert Murray, esq., U. S. marshal, who has been instructed by this Department to cause a police examination to be made in some cases of the persons and baggage of prisoners discharged from custody to the end that no correspondence or other improper papers be conveyed by them to persons outside the fort.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

I, Richard H. Stanton, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States against all enemies whether domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, allegiance and loyalty to the same any ordinance, resolution or law of any State convention or legislature to the contrary notwithstanding; and further that I do this with a full determination, pledge and purpose without any mental reservation or evasion whatsoever; and further that I will well and faithfully perform all the duties which may be required of me by law. So help me God.

R. H. STANTON.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of December, 1861.

HARRY B. NOBLE,

First Lieut., Eighth Infantry, Judge-Advocate of Court-Martial.

FORT LAFAYETTE, *January 10, 1862.*Hon. WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON, *Washington, D. C.*

SIR: I take the liberty of addressing you, presuming upon an acquaintance made some years ago on Lake Superior, when you were traveling with Mr. Hanscom, of Michigan, from Sault Ste. Marie to Superior City. If you should fail to recollect me you may remember a little excursion up the Bay of Superior to some aborigine lodges on the 4th of July, 1855, and a certain passage at arms "a la skiff oar" with one of the party on our return.

It is hardly necessary to say to you that I am prisoner here or to detail to you the particulars of my arrest and imprisonment. I will merely state that on the 2d day of October ultimo I was arrested in the town of Maysville, Ky., by the order of General William Nelson and hurried off to Camp Chase in the State of Ohio where I remained one month and was removed thence to this place. Both at Maysville and Cincinnati I endeavored faithfully to ascertain the cause of my arrest and only learned a short time since that no charges have been preferred against me. At the time of my arrest there was no excitement whatever in the part of the State where I lived, and General Nelson established his military camp near our town among citizens who were quietly pursuing their ordinary avocations.

I should not complain of the treatment I have received at the hands of my enemies if I had done anything to deserve it, and one would think that more than three months' imprisonment utterly without cause would be sufficient to gratify the malice of a fiend. My views in regard to the proper position for Kentucky to take in the rebellion could have been the only possible pretext for my arrest, for otherwise I had taken no part in politics whatever. I favored the neutrality of Kentucky which was advocated as you know at one time or another by every party in the State, and have been always anxious for the restoration of peace, as I have property interests both in the North and South.

I have been informed by authority that no charges have been sent against me to the office of the Secretary of State, and I think surely I ought to be allowed my parole. I do not know how to proceed unless it be to request some friends to call upon the Secretary of State and make my statement. I have property in Kentucky which I am willing to pledge for my parole if it cannot be obtained otherwise. Three persons, Messrs. Gwin, Benham and Brent, have been thus released, and I see by this morning's papers that Governor Morehead of Kentucky has been released on his parole. I have no claims upon you except the common claim of humanity, but I shall be ever grateful to you if you will make my cause known to the proper authorities and secure my release from this long confinement. Will you be kind enough to reply to my letter?

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. CASTO.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, *Washington, January 16, 1862.*

Lieut. Col. MARTIN BURKE, *Fort Lafayette, N. Y.*

SIR: Let W. T. Casto, a prisoner confined in Fort Lafayette, be released on taking the oath of allegiance to the Government of the United States stipulating that he will neither enter any of the States in insurrection against the authority of the Government of the United States nor hold any correspondence whatever with persons residing in

those States without permission from the Secretary of State; and also that he will not do anything hostile to the United States during the present insurrection. You will please make the stipulations a part of the oath. I transmit this order to Robert Murray, esq., U. S. marshal, who has been instructed by this Department to cause a police examination to be made in some cases of the persons and baggage of prisoners discharged from custody to the end that no correspondence or other improper papers be conveyed by them to persons outside the fort.

I am, sir, very respectfully, yours, &c.,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

—
FORT LAFAYETTE, *January 17, 1862.*

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State, Washington.*

SIR: Learning that all communications from prisoners in regard to their cases must be directed to you and not to any one in the character of attorney or agent, I take this opportunity of respectfully presenting mine. I was arrested in Maysville in the State of Kentucky on the 2d day of October last, by order of General William Nelson and was immediately sent to the State of Ohio, where at Camp Chase near Columbus I was kept for one month and was thence removed to this place where I have since been detained.

I have endeavored assiduously to learn the cause of my arrest but have not heard up to this time that any charges whatever have been alleged against me either in Kentucky or in Washington, and indeed I am confident that none to my prejudice can be sustained. At the time of my arrest there was no excitement in regard to the rebellion in the part of the State where I lived, but on the contrary all was peaceful and quiet, and so far as I know there was no one aiding the rebellion by speech or act. If my arrest was made to gratify the private malice of enemies at home I think that an imprisonment of nearly four months far away from my business and friends would be sufficient to gratify even them, but if they should desire that I be sent to Kentucky to answer charges of treason or any other charges I would gladly accept the opportunity it would give me to disprove any and all allegations that have been made to injure me in the estimation of the community in which I reside. If, however, you should not think it advisable to send me home for trial I would be glad to receive a parole that will enable me to visit my home at least for a short time that I may settle my business which I left in a deranged condition with nobody in my stead to take charge of it. At the beginning of the year the debts that have accrued in my favor and against me cannot be arranged by an agent without great detriment to my interests; but I desire a parole chiefly that I may visit a near female relative residing at Aberdeen in the State of Ohio who is at the point of death and whom it would be a great gratification to see once more if only for a short time. Inclosed you will find a letter* which I received concerning her a few days ago.

I have no friend in Washington to whom I can refer you except perhaps Col. W. A. Richardson, of Illinois, whom I met some years ago on Lake Superior. I am not certain that he will remember me, but I can refer you to Col. W. H. Lytle, U. S. Army, of Cincinnati, who is my friend and who I feel confident would cheerfully serve me at this time.

* Omitted.

I may further state that I have some property in Kentucky and would be able to give bond and security for the faithful observance of my parole.

Very respectfully, yours,

W. T. CASTO.

P. S.—Will you be kind enough to return the inclosed letter?

W. T. C.

FORT LAFAYETTE, *January 20, 1862.*

Hon. W. H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State, Washington.*

SIR: Having written to you a few days ago in regard to a parole and receiving yesterday a proffer of a release conditioned on my taking the oath of allegiance, to prevent any misapprehension on your part on account of my failure to take the oath I avail myself of the delay of my former letter which has not yet reached you to address you a few lines that will explain it.

The order states that I was arrested on the 5th of November, whereas I was arrested on the 2d of October and have been in prison now nearly four months. My former letter will explain to you the circumstances of my arrest and other facts not necessary to be repeated here. I am confident as are all my friends at home that my arrest was made to gratify the private malice of secret enemies and not on account of any disloyal acts or intentions, which acts or intentions they have been unable or fear to allege against me. If any charges could have been even plausibly preferred against me it is reasonable to suppose that nearly four months during my imprisonment would have given ample opportunity. I have never during this long time requested my release and have awaited patiently the returning sense of justice of those who were instrumental in bringing me to this trouble.

A few weeks ago I addressed letters to Hons. J. J. Crittenden and L. W. Powell to interest themselves to procure me a parole, but they have not replied thinking I suppose it was not the policy of the Government to grant them. But finding that paroles were subsequently permitted to some who were in this and other places for valid reasons I have since addressed one letter to yourself and another to Colonel Richardson, of Illinois, the only gentleman in Washington with whom I can claim an acquaintance. The oath in my case it seems to me would imply that I have at least given some cause to justify my long imprisonment and thus far gratify the malice of enemies who have traduced my character during my absence and otherwise seriously injured me. As I stated in my former letter my business has suffered and at the beginning of the year must suffer greatly more without my personal attention. A short visit home would enable me to arrange my matters which I left in a very confused condition. I have a near, dying relative concerning whom I sent you a letter inclosed in my former whom a parole would enable me to see likely for the last time. These, sir, are the only reasons I have to offer you for a brief parole. I hope you may deem them sufficient.

Very respectfully,

W. T. CASTO.

P. S.—Inclosed you will find the letter* referred to in my former letter but which was omitted by mistake.

W. T. C.

* Omitted.

U. S. MARSHAL'S OFFICE, *New York, January 21, 1862.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State, Washington.*

SIR: Agreeably with instructions communicated in your letter of the 17th [16th?] instant I proceeded to Fort Lafayette to administer the oath of allegiance and release W. T. Casto. * * * [He] refused to take the oath and consequently remains in custody. * * *

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

ROBT. MURRAY,
U. S. Marshal.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *Washington, February 21, 1862.*

Lieut. Col. MARTIN BURKE, *Fort Lafayette, New York Harbor.*

COLONEL: You may release on the 22d of February instant the following prisoners confined in Fort Lafayette upon their engaging upon their honor that they will render no aid or comfort to the enemies in hostility to the Government of the United States: W. T. Casto. * * *

By order of the Secretary of War:

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant-General.

FORT LAFAYETTE, *New York Harbor, February 22, 1862.*

We the undersigned do solemnly promise upon our word of honor that we will render no aid or comfort to the enemies in hostility to the Government of the United States.

W. T. CASTO.
[AND 35 OTHERS.]