

Private

At Home's Creek, Miss.
March 18th 1865

To His Excellency -

A. G. Magrath,

My Dear Sir -

I see

by the District Paper that you were expected to arrive at Ft. Boyer on the day before yesterday, and I should have done myself the honor of calling on you in person, but am & have been confined to the bedside of an extremely sick wife for the last 11 or 12 days. -

I see also a paragraph in the Paper, stating that Congress has repealed the Conscription Law, leaving to each State to supply its quota of troops by such means & machinery as they choose to put in operation. If this be so, I presume it will vacate the Commission of all those who like myself, have been commissioned as Enrolling Officers, and will put the whole system very much, if not entirely

in the hands of the Executive.
It is on this subject & for the pur-
pose of asking a situation of
your Excellency that I drop you
a line. My health has, & still
empits me for any position but in
dece, or in other words, "Bread and
labor, & neither the Surgeons or
myself hope for a restoration of it
that will enable me to go to the
front, I wish it were otherwise,
as I should much prefer the latter.
I might also mention to your Excellen-
cy that I am one out of only some
four or five of the Corps in the whole
State who is beyond 40 years of
age, & though order upon order
from Richmond has been issued that
all those under that age should
be sent forward, yet it has been by
some dexterous management and
political jiggery evaded, & I un-
dertake to say that at least three
fourths of those employed in the
Conscript Service in this State ought

to have been long since sent to the
front, yet not a man, a solitary
man, so far as I am aware has
as yet been firiwinded.

I do not intend to annoy by begging
your Excellency for Office. I desire,
earnestly desirous to do sound service

& you will excuse the vanity of
my remark when I say that I know
I have done my duty, & tried to

suppress some of the tricks and
puzzles with which men have man-
aged to avoid the performance
of their duty, & I will use my best
efforts to aid & assist the Govern-

ment, if you will appoint me
to one, where I can be useful &
where diligent labor & faithful effort
as far as I am physically
able to perform it, will enable
me to do so. I therefore ask your
Excellency to appoint me to some
place where I may, & am capable
of doing service, if as I suppose
the whole Conscript Service will

now fall into your hands.—
If your Excellency can make any
services available in this field I
will perform them with whatever of
ability I may possess, & with the zeal
& fidelity required. If not, I can only
sit idly by & be "a looker on indeed"

I am with the highest respect

Very truly & sincerely
Your obedient servant
Geo. W. Ashmun

Commenced at
from. L. S. Johnson
to Mr. Buchanan
asking a petition
as he has been dropped
as our rolling Officer