

Communication
from C. P. Frey
concerning 2nd class
Military

Stony April 18th 1868

Gov A. G. Magrath.

I hope your Excellency will pardon the liberty I am taking in addressing you this note. The women are poor, nervous creatures & easily frightened — and your Excellency is a widower. You have called on the old men of the country to buckle on their armour and hasten to the field. The urgent "public necessity" is the plea for this call. Take the boys, but spare the "old men". Or if you will call them, let their wives go with them, to nurse & take care of them & protect them. You cannot make even good militia out of them without this. But, why does your Excellency disband the state troops, right on the heels of this "necessity" which you say exists? They have arms & some experience in service, and, altogether, are the best body of troops in the state. Your scheme of educating the boys will do well enough in ordinary times, but, with all deference to your superior wisdom, I must say, it is entirely impracticable now, as your Excellency will find, upon testing it. Gen Foster begins the invasion of the state from the direction of Charleston; and you respond to his play by disbanding the only body of troops that you can safely rely on, and call for the 2nd class of militia (!) the greatest humbug of the day!! Your Excellency must be hard indeed to convince, if your experience on this subject, does not satisfy you of its utter fallacy. Perhaps your

Excellency, has overlooked the fact that it is planting time
in the up country; and also the still more important fact,
that since the fall of Charleston, the up Country has
become an integral part of South Carolina. I humbly
beg your Excellency to keep these facts in view and counter-
mand your order to disband the only troops that we
can safely depend on, in this emergency, to defend this
portion of the State. I fear however, that I am gaining ground
one thing more and I write my love to your Excellency.

You have allowed the Confederate law to be too rigidly enforced in
your sovereignty, and too many "good men & true" to be carried
off to the Confederate shambles, and their services lost to the State
at the very time when they were needed most. Your first duty is
to the State; but you know this, as well as any man, and I only
hope that you will do it firmly & in time.

I am, your Excellency's

Obdient Servant

Cassius M. W. Fry