

Head Quarters District W. A. C.,  
Asheville, N. C. April 12<sup>th</sup> 1865.

Governor:

Your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> from Spartanburg was received this evening, forwarded by Colonel Pennington on the 11<sup>th</sup> from Knoxville.

If you are able to collect a force of two thousand near the State line let it be given out that there were three or four thousand. You might give short leaves to one half of them, so as to diminish as much as possible the injury to crops & give them all an opportunity of planting. One thousand men who were in earnest & in tolerable order, located within striking distance of this place would probably secure it against any probable attempt of the enemy. I think it almost certain that Stoneman has gone into Virginia towards the lead mines.

Governor I am sorry to tell you that in my opinion the greatest danger here is the demoralization of the people and the large increase of desertions & trials. This demoralization among the people is affecting the soldiers.

I have very little to add to the information Capt. Allan gave you of the movements of the enemy. They have gone back to "Seem" for the present. It is reported here & believed among "Seem" men that Genl. E. R. S. is only 100 miles into East "Seem" with five or six thousand men. It is also reported that Genl. Vaughn has had a fight with the enemy, beaten him & taken a whole Yankee "Seem" Regt. prisoners. I do not feel qualified to express an opinion on these rumors.