

**Document from Library of Virginia, Richmond
Governors Executive Papers – Francis Pierpont
RC3, Box 6, Folder 5**

Columbus, Ohio
June 17th 1862

His Excellency Francis H. Pierpont
Governor of Virginia, Wheeling

Dear Sir,

Trusting that your knowledge of my having cheerfully and patiently borne a confinement of thirty three days in a close military prison and some four weeks of paroled confinement as a prisoner of war and I cannot yet define or conceive any just cause for confining me in Ohio, when if permitted to remain at home I should in good faith exercise loyalty towards the United States and also cast in my lot for loyalty with Western Virginia.

But Dear Sir, I know that I have your sympathy & good wishes, and have the honor to transmit herewith a letter from the War Department, which was mailed to me by the Hon. Senator of Virginia John S. Carlile and received by me on the 7th inst by which letter you will find my letter to Hon. Mr. Carlile, submitted by him to the Secretary of War, referred to your Excellency. While I thank you very cordially for your telegram to the President of the 10th in my favors, although it was then denied by the Secretary of War, I am very sure that your Excellency will now recommend my speedy release on my making such formal & public appearances as you may require.

On Monday the 9th June, Governor Todd of Ohio transmitted to you at Wheeling a petition from a number of my fellow citizens of Raleigh County, residing within a circuit of ten or more miles around my home, and all of them Strong Union Men, who know whereof they affirm, as to my strong defence and advocacy of our time Honored Union, while I could withstand the great pressure upon me personally.

Nineteen days having transpired without my receiving any advice of your action in my case since the date of the aforesaid Secretary of War's letter referring it to your Excellency. I hope you will pardon my troubling you again, and that your Excellency will apply the golden rule to me.

With very great respect & gratitude for your past exertion, and hoping in your prompt & decisive actions in effecting my long desired and prayed for liberation, and return to my duties to my Nation, my State, my County, & my Family.

Your most obedient servant
Alfred Beckley
Citizen of Virginia
Prisoner on Parole Columbus O.