Sir:

Your note of yesterday was received.

In reply I have only to say that your loyalty to the United States Government is strongly suspected not only by the troops in the immediate vicinity but also at Head Quarters. And unless I shall not permit my troops to destroy your property unless necessary for government purposes or to disturb your family.

Still I cannot make arrangements for the comfort of yourself and family with the same coolness that I could if I felt that you stood by the flag which has so long protected you.

My advice to you is, that in the place of the non-committed emblem which keeps over your dwelling you may put the stars and stripes, and if you have not already done so that you take the oath of allegiance to our Government at once.

If you will do this and show yourself at least a Union man, I