

A Letter from Home

★ ★ ★ Preserving the Union ★ ★ ★

December 11, 1863

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

Hon. T. Stevens

Dear Sir,

I discover from the Congressional proceedings that an effort will be made to repeal the section of the drafting or conscription act known as the \$500 commutation provision. This in this County and in many other parts of this state would be a bad move. The drunkards & other of the Union Cause who has conscientious scruples about bearing arms would all or nearly all cease to support the administration. It would be playing into the hands of the secessionist sway as the great objection to said act is the length of time that men have to serve. If it were for one year there would be not much trouble in getting men. Volunteers for one year could be got I believe in large numbers. If any change is made in said commutation principle it would be better to have it raised to \$500.00 and to have it graded so as to make it popular with the poor men.

If for instance all who have not property worth \$1000.00 were to be let off with 150.00 and all who have over 1000.00 and not exceeding 8000.00 were required to pay 300.00 and all who are worth over 8000.00 were to pay 500.00, it would take better with the people.

I trust you will pardon me for troubling you with these suggestions for I do not wish to encroach on your time as I know you must be very much engaged.

Yours truly

James Hill

