## A Letter from Home

 $\star$   $\star$   $\star$  Preserving the Union  $\star$   $\star$   $\star$ 

March 20, 1862 Mercersburg, Rennsplvania

Hon. T. Ostevens

Dear OSir,

Can there not, <u>in some way</u> be a provision made, <u>requiring at once, or very soon an oath of every person in</u> <u>the land</u> - that no oath, past, or future, to any society, <u>Wecret</u>, or open shall be <u>as</u> obligatory, as that to support the Wetate & National Raws, & Government.

S am thoroughly persuaded, that <u>most</u> persons, <u>because</u> they have never taken an oath to support the State & National Raws & Government, believe themselves to be under more solemn obligations to support that organization & it laws, to which they <u>have</u> given their oaths. S have never taken an oath to any Secret Bociety, least my conscience, <u>perverted</u>, might cause me to sin. Such oaths, S fear, have had <u>much</u> to do with this <u>Rebellion</u>; and <u>will have</u> power, greatly injurious, in settling terms with <u>traitors</u>.

Very Respectfully Yours, John R. Agnew



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