Memphis, May 6, 1863

My dear General:

Commanding 16th Army Corps

Genl.

The undersigned are true and loyal men to the Government of the United States, and respectfully and earnestly ask such protection to our persons and property as you may be able to give.

We have, months ago, of our own choice taken the oath of allegiance, which we have and intend to observe.

We have all planted crops and wish to cultivate them by being protected in the use of such stock and supplies as we get here on hand.

We live about seven miles south of Collierville.

We apply to you for
protection because being in command of this corps your orders would be respected by all officers and soldiers, whilst protection from subordinate officers can only be observed by their particular command.

Respectfully submit

John A. Gurney
A. W. Taft
J. C. H. Babb
H. M. Stricklin

Gentlemen,

I know all the above parties and believe them to be true
and loyal to the government of the United States and merit your protection.

Respectfully,

your old comrade

B. D. Holcomb