

From H.D. Palmer to Isaac Feback

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Independence MO
Dec[.] 20, 1862

Mr. Isaac Feback
Dear Sir[.]

I feel under obligation to you for your kindness toward my wife, when she was out after our pork. I am glad to know that there are a few of my old friends who are capable of rising above political prejudice & can still be friends, but I am sorry to say there are but very few of them. There are those who I have befriended in a time of adversity; when their lives & prayer [*text stricken through*] were in danger I protected them all that was in my power; & fed them & their stock nearly all last winter, & took care of some of them when sick for months. what I did for them, I done through kindness[.] notwithstanding all this, in return for my kindness toward them; they have had the audacity to go to my house & rob me & abuse me, behind my back. So to speak, I warmed the viper that is now ready & eager to sting me to death.

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Some who I once regarded as my friends say that I am a rebel & declare that they will not defraud the people by protecting me as a loyal citizen. I should like to know how they would defraud the people in protecting me; the government has offered protection to those who would comply with its requisitions. I have done my part[.] I have complied with every requirement of government. Now, in the name of God & my country, is there no protection for a man who takes the oath of allegiance & demeans himself accordingly. if there is no protection why require the oath. I have kept my oath strictly & according to the proclamation of President Lincoln, & of the Govenor of MO I am entitled to protection. I never have taken up arms against the government, nor aided nor assisted materially the rebels[.] I entertained my honest opinions as you did yours, & as every man has a right to do; I never made publick speeches or endeavored to influence the masses. I did all in my power to keep down jayhawking & protect my Union friends[.]

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I expect to live in the county of Cass if peace is ever made, & my life is spared untill that time. I have never done a deed since the war began that I am ashamed of; as it regards Jayhawking or robbing it matters not who is guilty of it, it is all wrong & unauthorised by law[.] it is the duty of officers to receipt for any thing that they take for the use of the army, & it matters not who it is taken from, & the matter can then be properly adjudicated by competent men appointed for that purpose. but the way the matter is generally carried on every ignorant upstart of an officer down to [MS. illegible] a [MS. illegible] lieutenant, or even a Sargent or corporal, will go out in command of a scout, & bring in what he deems contraband property. this is all wrong, & Government will have millions of dollars to pay to indemnify its citizens who have have lost their property unjustly[.] but enough of this[.]

My wife tells me that I am taxed ten dollars[.] I have a little corn there perhaps enough to pay the tax but I want you to enquire of Mr. Ivens the amount the Militia took from my

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my farm a short time since; they killed two of my fatning hogs for one thing; I do now know what else if any thing that they got, but what ever it may be I think it should go in part pay of my tax. I have no [*text stricken through*] idea that Col[.] Thompson knew any thing of their going to my house[.] I am told that

Henry Parrish is the man who got the hogs. You perhaps know something of what I done for his family last [*text stricken through*] fall & winter & now they Jayhawk me for my kindness.

Give my respects to enquiring friends & Mr. Burks Family in particular[.] Please write to me & tell me how things are going on; & whether you think I would be safe in coming out there to attend to some business[.]

I remain Your Friend & Humble Servant
H.D. Palmer