

From John A. Bushnell to Eugenia Bronaugh

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Calhoun Mo[.] Sept[.] 25 1862

Dear Eugenia[.]

I perused your letter, not without many reflections, but still with earnest solicitude for your welfare and that of those of whom you speak as becomes a Daughter and a Sister[.] Since you were in town I have had to vacate my store House to be used as a hospital for the sick and wounded. Knowing that there were several houses that would have suited equally as well, I could not regard it as friendly, especially when no one would have been put to inconvenience or subject to loss. Yet I have done and am doing the best I can to bear with it. These times we do not know what is to come next; [MS. illegible] what will come I expect to be consistant and a Christian still[.]

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The golden rule of "doing unto others as we would have others [*text stricken through*] do unto us", is and has been a ruling principle of my life: Retaliation amounts to extermination if followed up by antagonistic parties, and in many instances is wrong. In peace we have a bad percept by it. In war a demoralization that cannot be overcome except in defeat. Man is placed here for a purpose. Gods finger is at work. I am willing by acting what my concience tells me is right, (as far as I can) to [MS. illegible] the balance with Him. These times we cannot claim for ourselves that freedom [*text stricken through*] which we ever want to exercise and enjoy; and while we have our thoughts and preferences[.] however humiliating, we have to conceal much that we hold dear and as a right sacred: --

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but dare not speak. As a class some are treated as conquered, while others are permitted to outrage every principle of our government and of individual rights.

From the papers I am led to believe that the present organization of the Democratic party at the north, will create a change favorable, to more healthful expansions, to the conduct of the war, if not to peaceful settlement.

Sept 27

I have in haste commenced this when I heard Carrie was in town, but did not feel much like writing + quit without finishing what I had commenced. To day I feel more like myself[.] Hoping all will end well and that you may be blessed with health and patience till a glorious peace may brighten our future path as God will it, I am

Yours truly,

John A[.] Bushnell