

From Ben Loan to Hamilton R. Gamble

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Head Quarters, Central Division of Missouri,
Jefferson City
Sept[.] 28th 1862.

His Excellency
H[.]R[.] Gamble

Yours of date 25th was received per last mail[.] I have ordered Col. Spedden of the enrolled militia to take command at Warrensburg and have ordered Capt[.] Houts Company to Sedalia where they can be profitably employed[.]

That the condition of our citizens on the western border is most deplorable no one can doubt[.] That the enrolled militia have suffered a degree of persecution and outrage at the hands of the guerrillas that can find no parallel is a conceded fact[.] that their families have been robbed[,] insulted[,] outraged and driven from their homes by these same demons is matter so public that courts will almost take judicial notice of it[.] That the enrolled militia have shot some of these fiends [*text stricken through*] I think is probable but were you present and could

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know all the facts I doubt not but that you would denounce the militia for their moderation. That they have committed any serious outrages upon the property of Union men I think is not very probable[.]

I am satisfied that none has been committed upon the persons of Union men--I shall be active and diligent in the protection of our Union citizens and shall to the utmost of my ability guard against the demoralization that is engendered by permitting men in the name of law and order to plunder[,] rob and steal from their fellow citizens[.]

Very Respectfully
Your obdt[.] servt[.]
Ben Loan
Brig[.] Gen[.] [Missouri?]