From David M. Fox to Robert M. Stewart

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Fredericktown Mo[.]
Nov. 27th 1860

Hon sir,

The Election of Old "Abe" Lincoln to the Presidency of this nation by a fanatical section of the Country, has thrown a gloom over people which will require many days of sunshine to remove; but were it standing alone, as the only cause of despair, there would be some hopes of our country recovering from its present situation. On the heels of the Election of the the Sectional Candidate to the Presidency comes Montgomery with his murderous Gang to lay the country to ashes; and deluge the land with the blood of its best citizens and carry off as indemnity for the past their slaves, the property of the murdered men, and property too recognized by the highest law in the land.

This outrage is unparalleled [unparalleled] in the history of any people who have any pretension to self government and gallantry or Chivalry. Why Sir the meanest insect in the world when trodden upon makes a show of resistance, and repels the injury with all the power at its command, and if not successful in over coming its assailant, it is not for the want of the spirit of resistance, but for the want of sufficient power. I like to see those little insects fight with might and main. How unlike some other beings bearing and wearing the name of men who when they are attacked, and their property taken from them yield at once, give up the ghost and say we will wait until we see what Lincoln does, There is yet no cause for us to move--he is going to do justice to all sections of the country, Bah!! The Justice which he is about to deal out will be such as was portrayed by him in his speeches two years ago. "A house divided &c must fall[,] All must be free or all must be slave &c[.]["] What better or more warranty do we require? none.

But what are we to do? Montgomery is not the only man playing the Abolition game and if he is not how are we prepared to meet this horde of midnight assassins? Down here we have no organized militia, no guns, revolvers[,] no sharp-rifles[,] nothing[,] neither General, nor Col[,] nor Capt. nor Orderly, and if invaded now by one of the followers of John Brown, the consequence would be dreadful. I would like very well for your Excellency would appoint some person in this district to organize the militia, that we may be ready to meet such men as Montgomery in case of an attack. There is Sparta in Illinois not far from us, and there are at that place worse men than Montgomery.

I would not hesitate for a moment to go from here to the borders to take one pop at the great nigger thief Montgomery. If you need any more men to fight the assassin, I will go to your assistance with one hundred men as brave and as loyal as ever shouldered a musket[.] We are my dear Governor in an awful condition here with respect to our defenses. We have men & soldiers but no organization[,] I hope that ere you leave the Gubernatorial chair you will appoint some person to organize our District. The times look warlike and in peace we should prepare for war.

I have already extended this hasty note to far. I must therefore close, not for material to stuff a note with, but because of the fact of your having too many communications to examine[.]

I am my dear Governor
Your most Obt[,] Servant &c
David M[.] Fox