

Care J. L. Sheffield

Summers 25th April

File in Private Box

Tallegega April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1864

Good Faith.  
Sir

I have written you twice recently in reference to things in Ala. and especially in my County (Marshall) Mr. Hayes visits so Ala for the purpose of trying to make arrangements to get Corn for the suffering families of Soldiers if there was ever a time that something ought to be done it has arrived, the Women and children (hundreds of them) are actually suffering for Bread, it seems as no one feels an interest in this matter in my County, I am willing if the Corn can be procured & shipped to the terminus of the G. & Ala R Road to spend all of my time in getting it to the destitute families, I have been forced to quit the service, for a short time only I hope, in consequence of my health, whilst at home I am perfectly willing to do every thing in my power to advance our cause; most of the slave owners have removed their slaves South leaving hundreds of acres of the best land in the County to lie idle this year, if the late

Conscript act is Enforced in the Border Counties  
it will be destructive to the people, there are but  
few in my County liable yet if they are put in  
the Service hundreds of acres of Corn will be lost  
that is now planted, would it not be to the interest  
of the Government to Exempt these Counties say Blount,  
Marshall, Morgan, DeKalb, & St Clair - till Crops is made  
at least God, Knows I have no Motive in view  
save the good of our Cause; I have known a great  
many men to leave I am in the Enemy lines - I have  
heard numbers say they would also go if they were  
put in the Service before they made their Crops -  
they see the Wants & Suffering of those whose  
Husbands are already in the Service, they wish to make  
bread for them before going in themselves, Now Sir  
you have no idea of the Suffering among the  
poor families in St. Albans - I have visited them in  
person, I know it to be fact - I know no one  
in my County, who take the least interest in their  
behalf, I hope something can & will be done to  
furnish them bread,

I am Sir

very Respectfully  
Yours

E. P. Sheffield

