

1-5-1863

Letter from Titian J. Coffey to Thomas White, January 5, 1863 [1864]

Titian J. Coffey

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Attorney General's Office, ^{W.W.S.}
[1864]

Washington, 5 July 1863

Dear Sir,

I have just had another interview with Stanton about Harry. I asked him if he still had hopes of his plans succeeding. He said his way was still in Richmond & he got no word of him and he admitted that he had no hopes of success in that way. Said the man was enjoying his liberty there, without getting Harry out or returning himself. He also said he had hoped to have them all out through Butler but that had also gone up as they would not treat with him.

I then asked him to give, War
field a pass to City Point to
get him exchanged for Trimble.
He refused to give it and ~~again~~
refuses ^{to} ~~to~~ exchange
Trimble for Harry on the ground
that he will not exchange a
Brig. Gen^l for a Major - I argued
the question with him in all
its aspects and his mind is
made up not to do it. I am
convinced that this subject
has been under consideration
in the War Department & they
have settled against it.
After doing what I could to shake
his determination, in vain, I
asked him what hope there
was of a general exchange. He
said he believed it must be

expected before long, and urged
that there was yet time enough
to get Harry out for all neces-
sary legislation. He says he is
going to put the rebel officers
on the same allowance as
now receive, and he believes
he can force an exchange.
I think it was unfortunate that
the pass was asked for Warfield
if not some other Patterson, as
it seemed to me Stanton was
especially prejudiced against
him. He is brother of the War-
field who married Mrs. Stan-
ton's daughter. He said nothing
against him, but I fancied
he did not like the idea of
sending a commissioner of his
as the rebel agent.

I now see but one thing
to do - If Warfield or some
other Secessionist will go for
Trimble's benefit, let Goo-
burtin come here, and by
personal appeal get the
President to overrule Stan-
ton and give the pass with
the agreement to exchange
Trimble. I do not believe
any other human being can
do it and he can do it because
he is favored. He will ask
it in behalf of the State Govern-
ment. It will be hard to get
the Pres. to overrule the Sec.
if War in this and if it can be
done at all, Gurtin is the man
to do it. As I wrote you before
I have always believed that
Gurtin was the man to get him
out and I am more convinced
of it now than ever.