

12-23-1863

Letter from Titian J. Coffey to Thomas White, December 23, 1863

Titian J. Coffey

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Recommended Citation

Coffey, Titian J., "Letter from Titian J. Coffey to Thomas White, December 23, 1863" (1863). *Indiana, Pennsylvania in the Civil War*. 80. https://knowledge.library.iup.edu/civil_war/80

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Dec 23, 1863

When my services were not asked. And I believe too that all efforts made in that way would not amount to much. You may have inferred my want of interest because I told you I did not concur in your idea of getting a pass for a man to go down and bribe the prison guards. I did not then think now do I know, that it would have been proper to make the Government a party to that scheme, by giving the man a pass and I know that your best friends here then thought so too. In truth as Stanton says, if this business had in the proper way been interested to the War Department without the intervention of so many cooks and without so many outside operations, it would have been better.

I have said these things plainly because I have always treated you with becoming respect and the relations that so long existed between us have I have felt entitled me to expect of you, at least justice. And I believe now that when you look at these things fairly you will feel that in speaking of me in that way to others, you have done me wrong.

Next to my own brother I have
more affection for Harry than for
any man living and would gladly
do anything in my power to serve
him and therefore I am sensitive
under an imputation of this kind from
you, bad enough if made to me, but
worse, when made to others -

I fully appreciate your parental
anxiety and distress at his prolonged
imprisonment and sympathize
with it. But your own heart
will tell you that no anxiety or
impatience at the long delay in
his case, can give you reason to
blame others for not adopting all
your views as to the best means of
getting him out. That very anxiety per-
haps affects your usually calm judgment.

I have written this, Judge, with no
feeling of anger but with a firm con-
viction that it would convince you
that you have, without due thought,
done me a great wrong. And I look
to your own sense of justice for
its correction.

Don. M. White -

Yours truly
T. S. Coffey