

From Alex M. Bedford to Joseph L. Bennett

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Fort Delaware Del[.]
Division 54
Apr[.] 13th 1865

Mr[.] Joseph L. Bennett
My Dear Brother

I wrote a few days ago to my Wife to Send me a box[.] we were then permitted to secure them[.] now the order is countermanded & I don't want her to send it as it will be confiscated. inform her as soon as you can of the fact[.]

I suppose you have heard of the Surrender of Genl[.] Lee & his army[.] they have gone up & our confederacy has played out & I will return home if permitted by taking the oath or any other way[.] when I tried it before I was under retaliation until order came for our exchange. I then preferred being exchanged feeling it was my duty or be called a coward but we did not go through & never will[.] I cannot tell whether we will be allowed the oath or not as I have never inquired[.]

I would like for you to see Bohart & he will tell you what steps he took to get his son out & you can have the arrangements made for me. I think they will require Bond & Security before they will let me go[.] I perhaps might get out & stay in the [MS. illegible] here but I will not go there[.] my desire is to return home & remain[.] with my family the remainder of my days[.]

you could see Maj[.] Bruce of St[.] Joseph & he could write to the war department in my behalf & be of great help to me & show you how to arrange the papers[.] I want you to let me know if I would now be safe in St[.] [MS. illegible][.] I want my family to remain where they are & I could see them often[.] if not I will stop where you advised me[.] do what you can for me[.] I will be under many obligations to you[.] I do not feel so well to day[,] have taken a violent cold & feel very [stupid?] & my eyes very bad as cold affects them[.]

write to me immediately & let me know what you have done[.] I close[.] remember me to all my friends & relations & especially to my family & yours[.]

from your Brother
A.M. Bedford