East Tennessee. July 1863.

To His Excellency. Abraham Lincoln.
President of the United States.

The loyalty, patriotism, and devotion of the people of East Tennessee to the Government of our Fathers, are known and read of all men And while in other states of the South and even in other portions of our own State the Federal arms have prevailed and protection has been given to loyal citizens and opportunity afforded them to show by deeds their devotion to the Union and Constitution of our sires and thus to win renown upon the battle-field. the portion of the loyal people of East Tennessee has been that of a suffering, down-trodden, despised, and subjugated people. Of the sufferings endured by us in the past it is needless to speak, for of these you are doubtless well-informed. but while we have suffered much in days past, and the agonizing wail of despair has been wrung from suffering men and women, we very much fear, unless God, in his mercy, shall so over-rule the affairs of men as to send us speedy assistance that the past may be called days of brightest sunshine compared with the mid-night darkness that will soon enshroud us; and that you may have some feeble idea of the terrible future that awaits us, and to show you the urgent and imperative necessity of affording us protection and relief without delay, and thus arouse you to action in our behalf. we will recite a few facts, to show you, in some degree, what is in store for us;-

First- The most unjust, iniquitous and onerous direct tax ever levied upon an already over-burdened

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people will soon be put in operation. That clause which requires the products of the farm in kind, will to a great extent deprive us of the necessary food to sustain life, for while the "Government" claims and receives its tithes, the Quartermasters and Commissaries will claim and receive, by virtue of impressment laws, the residue. thus forcing us, our women and children, to the dread alternative of starving or fleeing to more hospitable regions, leaving behind us our all to the mercy of a merciless foe.

Second - Isham G. Harris, the despot who claims to be Governor of our state, has issued a proclamation calling for six thousand Volunteers for "home defense", and if by the 1st of August next the complement has not been made up they will be raised by draft from the militia between the ages of forty-five and fifty-five and all others who are not subject to conscription, and if they do not volunteer they will not be permitted to form themselves into companies and regiments, but will be placed in old regiments and be handed over to the service of the "Confederacy" to be sent wherever ordered by "Jeff. Davis." Under this call there are no exemptions, but men of all vocations, between the ages specified, are forced to choose between fighting for a cause they hate, and against a Government they have ever loved and adored with almost Eastern idolatry, or to flee from their homes, like felons, leaving behind everything of worldly goods, the result in many cases, of many years of toil, to be destroyed and seized upon by unrelenting vandals.

In view of these facts we may safely say, that unless relief is afforded the Union men of East Tennessee previous to the 1st of August, our condition will be more intolerable than

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ever before: men will be hunted down and shot like wolves women and children driven from their homes to wander through the mountains without shelter, by bands of heartless, ruthless, blood-thirsty soldiers: and for no crime but that they loved their country too well to raise against it the sacrilegious hand of treason. Such and if possible, worse will be our lot in a few short weeks, if those to whom alone we can look for relief and protection still turn a deaf ear to our cries and entreaties. If it is not intended to extend this relief to us, far better for us would it have been had the said of Col. Saunder's never been made into East Tennessee. Already the loyal men and their families begin to taste of its bitter fruit: but a few days since an estimable and worthy citizen (Wm Magill) was taken from his plough by soldiers and in cold blood murdered, for showing, as he believed, kindness to Federal soldiers, but they were rebels in disguise.

In conclusion we would urge upon you that great necessity of sending at once into our section a force sufficient to take and hold possession. We would that we could find language to depict in all its horror our present and prospective condition: your army is composed of in part of many of our relatives and friends: have pity on them and their families, if you have not on us, who are still at home. We appeal to you by every consideration, by your love of country, and by your love for those who love their country with a devotion as unwavering and as deeply rooted as the foundations of the everlasting hills: we beseech you by the wrongs and oppressions we have borne and are still bearing: we entreat you, in the name of thousands of widows and orphans, whose cries daily go to up to Heaven for

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vengeance on the foul fiends who bereft them of husbands and fathers; we appeal to you in the name of and in the behalf of the gallant East Tennesseans who to-day form part of the grand army of the Union, who rather than fight beneath a hated banner in the ranks of accursed traitors, have gladly welcomed exile, that they might thus be enabled to strike for the memory of their ~~sainted~~ sires; by all these considerations and by the memories of our sires who fell at King's Mountain, New Orleans, and a hundred other battle-fields, to bring us a speedy and sure relief.

But if you cannot aid us at as early a day as above mentioned, ~~cannot~~ a heavy force be moved as far ~~into~~ East Tennessee as Montgomery or still further if possible so as to succor and aid such of our citizens as may be forced to flee to your lines

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[This Petition is signed by thousands of the loyal men and women of East Tennessee, who have risked imprisonment and death by the signature.]

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