

Quebec March 12<sup>th</sup> 1865-

Capt Hines

Dear Sir,

It is in sorrow that I pen these lines - because it is on a subject that is most painful to me. Col. G. Thompson also Mr. Thos. Stone (both of whom I requested to see you when you came to Toronto, ) inform me that it is your opinion that Shanks the Chicago Detective - received his information in regard one organization at Chicago - for the purpose of liberating our friends imprisoned at Camp Douglas - and the abode of all those thus engaged, that you do not believe me capable of betraying my Comrades designedly - but that you believe I did - while under the influence of spirits - but what will my friends in Kentucky - and those in the field think of me? everything <sup>seems</sup> to be against me. you know too how difficult it is to destroy - or change an opinion once formed. I cannot enter into a defence here. Death would be far preferable than have my honor impeached. how can I tell what my former friends are saying of me - (for if they have heard, and believe me, so degraded, as to commit a crime so gross? they are no longer friends - I would not censure them for it - for I should do the same if it were any of them. I thought my heart was - before this report took wings - imbrued in sorrows cup, until it could bear no more, but reason yet remains. I would to God! I could forget! My whole heart & soul, was engaged in that undertaking - (although while in Chicago I was not employed much of the time in arrangements, for their release) I was awaiting with pleasing anticipations, the hour to strike the blow, for I felt sure