

Carbondale, Ill.

Aug^d. 1864

[1864]

Gov. Bates

[Enc. 1]

Most. Honorable, Sir

This afternoon I have seated myself to address you upon a subject truly delicate; The circumstances are these. My husband is in the army and has been ever since last Oct., the last pay he received was last April, better than four months ago; and, then only a part of arrear was due; The case farther is this, I am here among strangers with four little boys to support, I was the only child of a poor widow, so I have no father or brother to apply to for help, and away from all my early friends, as we had just come in from Ohio a short time before this inglorious

monster - Treason to our Government
began to develop. There has ~~thus~~
~~for~~ been but little sympathy
thus far shown to soldiers fami-
-lies in this vicinity. It is true
we have some true and loyal heart-
-ed men, here but there is much
for such to do; and must all such
have answered to the call of our
country; The majority of the country
inhabitants here were favorable
to the south a year ago, I can
but believe it is only the fear
of military law that now holds
them at peace with the Union
The old adage is "By straw you
may see which way the wind blows"
so we can tell their true prin-
-ciples by the self satisfied expressions
when they hear of any disastrous
engagement in which our noble
hearted troops are the sufferers.
Now it is like this, although

I have toiled early and late
to support ourselves I am unable
the price goods are at the present
time, and groceries, to supply
ourselves with what we need to
be ordinarily comfortable, I as
well as my children are very
needy for clothing, and there
is not a store or grocery in our
village but you see posted up in
large letters, "No Trust" or "Terms
cash" &c. I feel the need of some
pecuniary assistance. I know if
my husband should receive what
is due to him all would be right
but that never seems to come.
Last account of him was Augst
11th sick in the hospital at
Hickman, Ken., stating, paymaster
not yet come. he belongs to
Capt. W. D. Hutchens cavalry.
I am out of health and out
of money and out of money

of the necessary comforts of life and
feel discouraged, I see there are large
donations raised for the benefit of the
families of soldiers going out in the
late call, and, I say God be praised
for it. for I know how to sympathize
but. I also feel that we whose hus-
bands have borne the heat and
burthen of the day should not be
neglected or forgotten, I do not ask
for more than that which is justly
due. but I do feel for the sake of
soldiers families pay day ought to
come at least every four months.

This. Honorable Sir, has looked to me
like a delicate subject to address you upon
yet I preferred coming to you for advice
council or help, rather than to be
thrown upon the hands of strangers.

Most respectfully yours..

Harriet T. Elliott

P.S.

Our cause is noble and just
God speed it until we utterly
crush the Hydra headed monster