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MMN #65096

Date: October 12, 1864

Description: Daniel Smith regarding the release or exchange of prisoners of war.

Litchfield Cor. Oct 12 1864.
B.H. Hinds Esq.

My Dear Sir:

I write to you to see whether something cannot be done of effect the exchange of Capt M. A. Cochran, now a prisoner of war at Charleston S.C., He was taken a little more than a year ago and has been in Libby Prison Richmond Va. in Macon Ga. and now in Charleston. While being sent, either from Richmond to Macon or from Macon to Charleston he came near making his escape from the rebels by leaping from the cars while under full headway and getting away some 25 or 80 miles and would have cleared them entirely had he not been hunted down with bloodhounds and captured again. Now can we not find some rebel prisoner of the same rank and get him to write to some of his friends in the South to use their influence in getting him exchanged for Melville? Or could not a rebel prisoner of same rank be sent South on furlough to effect an exchange with Melville? Or could not Melville be sent North on furlough to effect and exchange with some rebel prisoner? Now if any thing of the kind can be done he would like your assistance in doing it. His father (the Doctor) is not well enough to do much about it.

though he feels very anxious to have Melville exchanged. It may be you know the history of his Military life. He volunteered three years ago last spring in a Gardner's Co. was elected Lieut. and it being disbanded, he received a Commission of Capt. in the 16th Infantry of the Regular Army and he has not been at home since he left three years ago the first of September. Melvilles friends, and he has not often, feel very anxious to have him exchanged. We think he has gained a great deal of credit since he entered the Army. he has been a prisoner for more than a year and I presume has not fared very well.

He thinks there will not be a general exchange of prisoners until the close of the war, and unless he can be exchanged by some such means as I have alluded to, he will have to remain a prisoner for some time yet. If you will do what you may be able to do to help us in the matter you shall be amply rewarded for your trouble. His address is,

Capt. M. A. Cochran, Prisoner of War
Charleston, S.C.

Via Hilton Head.

I presume you remember some of your old acquaintances in Litchfield. Things are somewhat changed here now. I am now teaching the Academy. This is my fourth term here. I took the school when it was down pretty low. My first term numbered only about 25 students. Now we have 75. My

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