

Copy

Fort Warren Mass.

Nov. 19th 1861.

Hon Simon Cameron.

Secretary of War

Sir.

I see it announced in the Northern papers that thirteen Confederate prisoners of rank have been selected by lot to be held as hostages to answer for the safety of the Citizens of the South taken at sea & to be dealt with as our men may be by the Federal authorities. My idea is that the foreigners will not be convicted - those not more than six charged with piracy will be executed. The point I desire to make is this - looking to the most probable result, five colonels on our side will be changed - Your government may order a similar number of the same rank to be changed - and perhaps Major Vodges of Mo. will be changed by Pres. Davis order. If he is the only Major changed on our side I earnestly ask that Major W. L. G. Andrews Major of Artillery Ordnance & Engineers may be set off to be dealt with as Major Vodges may be for the reason that Andrews has often declared that he should endeavor to have Vodges held as his alternate for exchange. Let him be shot if Vodges is, if indeed a Major is to be sacrificed for him. I am entirely willing to be dealt with as Major Previer shall be.

Respectfully

W. A. Gilliam

(signed)

This is a true copy. J. S. Sparrow.

Letter addressed as follows.

Free
Official business

Hon Simon Cameron

Secy of War &c
Washington
D.C.

Major William
to

Cameron Sec. War

Apr 19-67

Just copy this in
with at my leisure
J.S.