

**Prince William County, October 6<sup>th</sup> 1862**  
**Box #23, Folder 6, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Dear Montague,

I am lying here wounded near home & am harassed daily by hearing of raids made by squads of Yankees picking up our sick & wounded men through this County. They took one of our sick Lieutenants out of a bed at my house some 2 weeks ago & forced him off on horseback & he dropped from his horse & died before they had gotten 20 miles. If I could get a proper man to make up a party in these mountains I could put a stop to it completely.

If Governor Letcher will release William Sinclair who has nearly completed his term of imprisonment in the Penitentiary he could now render his Country efficient service. He is a very determined man, a splendid rifle shot & could raise a party of efficient men to follow him. He was sentenced for five years to the Penitentiary for killing a man in a drunken quarrel & will be out in May next. If you can get him released please do so as you may rest assured you will be serving our cause greatly by putting a man against the enemy who will be worth 10 common men. If you succeed in having him released tell him it was at my intercession & get him to report to me at once as I have a long range rifle for him. I am getting on pretty well with my wound, which is not dangerous but will lame me for some time.

Truly your friend  
Edmund Berkeley  
Maj. 8<sup>th</sup> Va. Regt.