

Little Rock Jan. 8. 1864

Ladies:

The fate of young Dood of the  
 condemned spy, was sealed before your  
 note came to hand. He has had a spiritual  
 advice and consolation since the <sup>first</sup> promulgation  
 of his sentence, and was attended in his  
 last moments by a minister of the Gospel.  
 I am told that he met his ~~death~~ with  
 perfect composure. My ~~sympathies~~  
~~have been so excited in behalf of this young~~  
~~man, that I would not see a delegation of~~  
~~Ladies, but I might be induced, to shift~~  
~~a responsibility which properly belonged~~  
~~to me.~~ When you recollect the story of  
 Major Andre, surely you will not blame  
 me for acting as Washington did on that  
 occasion, and as many other Commanders  
 possessed of kind feelings have done from  
 sense of duty <sup>without reference to sympathy.</sup> The evidence against young

Dodd was Conclusive, and he confessed that he was acting under instructions from Genl. Tagan. His youth and inexperience plead strongly in his favor, as an individual, but as the object of punishment is not revenge, but to deter others from committing similar acts, it was necessary to make an example of ~~him~~ ~~whom~~ ~~our~~ ~~sympathies~~ ~~tell~~ ~~us~~, ~~was~~ ~~always~~ ~~guiltless~~. I appreciate the sentiments which dictated your Petition, and I ~~trust~~ ~~that~~ ~~you~~ ~~will~~ ~~not~~ ~~judge~~ ~~me~~ ~~as~~ ~~a~~ ~~man~~ ~~not~~ ~~incapable~~ ~~of~~ ~~kind~~ ~~impulses~~, I submit the matter to your reason rather than to your feelings.

Very Respectfully, Ladies,  
Your Friend

And C. Steer  
Major Genl.

P.S. You speak of Dodd as a Confederate soldier. The ~~proof~~ ~~before~~ ~~evidence~~ ~~before~~ the military commission shows that he was not a soldier.