State of Georgia
Executive Department
Milledgeville, May 20th 1863.

To the
President -
Richmond,
Va.

Sir,

The recent raid of the Enemy upon Rome, Georgia, and the State Road, so gallantly defeated by General Forrest, with the serious aspect of affairs in Mississippi, impel me to apply to you for military aid in protecting the Stores at Rome, the State Road, the iron works at Etowah, and the Depot at Atlanta, from predatory invansions to which they are now liable.

Of the value of these points, and of the Military necessity of our State Road to the Army in Tennessee it is needless for me to inform you. They are as well known to you as to myself. But you are not perhaps aware of the number of Bridges, Sixteen, over which the Road passes; any one of which if destroyed, would seriously affect, if not disastrously act upon the Operations of our Army in Tennessee and Western Virginia. Besides cutting off the supplies

of Coals and iron for the Workshops and Foundries in this State, now occupied, many of them, with important Contracts for the Confederate Government and for the State.

I have two Regiments of State Troops, Infantry, Stationed on the Line of the Road, one at "Etowah", the other at "Kingston" (the junction of the Rome with the State Road) held in readiness to move either up or down the Road as circumstances may require, and to support Rome and other points on the flank of the Road as may be necessary. But Infantry can do but little if the raid be sudden, and as I have no authority by State Law to organize Cavalry I request you to Station a Regiment of Mounted men at convenient positions on the Western and North Western borders of this State, who by the celerity of their movement may not only concentrate rapidly at any threatened points, but also acting as Couriers may alarm the country in time to enable us to march such forces as we have and may gather together to resist the incursion. A Mounted Regiment well distributed along our exposed line of frontier would, I think, be effective in preventing damage not only to the State Road, but also to the E. T. & Geo: R. Road, both of vital moment to our Security and Strength in Tennessee.

I would not trouble you with this request, but for the impression derived, from several sources and from the bold and insolent threats of the

Captured "Raiders", that the destruction of Rome, Atlanta, and the Bridges on the State Road are prominent objects in the Mind of the Enemy, and that others and persistent attempts will be made again to destroy them, emboldened as the Enemy must be by the daring expeditions of Grierson, Stoneman, and Straith. The last only defeated by the fortunate proximity and determined tenacity of General Forest. This is my apology for suggesting and urging the disposition of a Regiment of Mounted Men, and I hope that My request may meet with a favorable response.

I shall be ready at all times to co-operate with the State Troops, and to support the Cavalry. And by a judicious arrangement and understanding between the Commanders of the several Regiments, Confederate and State, I anticipate that we may guard safely the Public Stores, the Workshops, and the Communications with the Army in this State.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Joseph E. Brown
Governor of Georgia