Gentlemen:

I have delayed, for a week ~~until this~~ time to write you that I have concluded not to attempt the publication of the National Citizen, at this time, lest I should be overcome by my intense desire and confidence in the venture to recant my refusal.

The circumstances are these:

1 — I still believe even more firmly than ever before, in its success.

Every recent happening serves

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to convince me that the public mind is in a most highly excitiged condition, on all the subjects it is expected es = pecially to devote the Citizen to the consideration of, and I know that my position in regard to the same is one that attends nearly all classes. ~~without~~ Religiously, politically and industrially we are on the threshold of great movements — perhaps not so much

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change as flowering — the culmination of the forest.

This trend, I think, I am better able to cater and hold than almost any one else. My judgment of it, therefore, as a business enterprise, is wholly unchanged except that ~~the latter~~ it is greatly strengthened.

2 — ~~I am encouraged that~~

On the other hand, my family, all of whom have

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been most willing helpers in my work, and share my confidence in its results most fully, are excessively fearful of added responsibility as well as added labor on my part. They insist that the need of economic administration would impell me to assume an amount of labor and

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assuming Mr. Pierce

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~~[illegible]~~ a specific income in the mean-time. I cannot say to him, ~~[illegible]~~ that he can have a certain sum each week and do not feel that you ought to be asked to do so.

I can put in my name, my lists and means of circulation, with two or three days works a week, the rest of the time, I must have to tend the mill, that is, the bread-mill.

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I believe it will pay al=
most from the start, but
one has to calculate as
if it would drag for
a good while.

I did think ~~that I~~ would
propose ~~to~~ you to let Mr
Peirce come here attend to
the letter and subscription
mail, ~~and~~ keep the ~~books~~
subscription ~~box~~ books ~~and cash=~~
~~book~~ ~~and~~ cash received,
~~and~~ do the prize corres=
pondence, &c, and his
salary, or however

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you might choose to
arrange it, come out
before making an alter-
nate division of interest.

I should have sent
for you to come up as
~~soon~~ ~~told~~ was proposed,
but our house has been
a hospital almost
ever since I saw
you; Miss Kilborne and
my daughter alternating
in keeping us very busy
and amusing their

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health.

Both are greatly improved.

You see it is against my judgment as a matter of business but in accord with my conviction as a matter of duty, that I yield to the importunity of the family to avoid added care and responsibility.

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and Cumberland rivers, to some strategic line. At the outset of the struggle, the Confederates seized and held the southern portion of Kentucky, the center of the army of occupation being at Mumfordsvill and Bowling Green; its right at Cumberland Ford and Burnsville, under Gen. Zollicoffer, covering the road to Cumberland Gap, and its left at Fort Donelson, and the Cumberland river, which with Fort Henry twelve miles away on the Tennessee were intended to hold those rivers against both the Union land and naval forces. These positions were admirable for defense and equally admirable for an attack by the center. It was natural therefore, that the Federal commander, Gen. Robert Anderson, and his successor, Gen. W. T. Sherman, should be apprehensive of such attack and desirous of strengthening his own center at Louisville. This policy was continued by Gen. Buell, who was as-

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their behalf and I will

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