Washington, Oct. 12, 1864

To His Excellency

The President of the U. States:

Dear Sir:

The enclosed letter
respecting the case of the Rev. Mr. Handy has
just been forwarded to me by the Rev. W. W. Hill,
D. D., formerly editor of "The Presbyterian Herald",
who resides near Louisville, Ky. He is one of
the most worthy and able ministers in the Old
School Presbyterian Church. In his letter to
me enclosed with Mr. McCown's letter he says,
"Handy you know to be a most worthy man
and minister of Christ, and so far as I have
been able to learn the facts of the case he has
been guilty of no breach of law human or
divine. At least he claims that such is the
case, and he ought either to be punished more
severely if guilty, or acquitted if innocent. The
case of his daughter is a very sad one indeed,
and calls for the deepest sympathy and most
earnest efforts of his friends for its alleviation.

A friend informs me that she sits and weeps day and night, and calls upon him to return, and goes to the door a thousand times a day to look for his return."

I have no acquaintance with the Rev. Mr. Handy, and I know nothing about his guilt or innocence. But the Rev. Mr. McCown's letter and these statements of the Rev. Dr. Hill having been put into my hands, I simply comply with their wishes, & with my own sense of duty, in putting you in possession of them.

Hoping that that God who giveth wisdom to them that ask Him, may guide you aright in this matter and in all the important matters which are constantly claiming your attention,

I am truly your friend,
P. D. Gurley.

Rev. P. D. Gurley DD
encloses a letter from
Rev Dr Hill relative
to the long confinement
of Rev Dr Handy
at Fort Delaware
without a trial.

Respectfully referred by the
President to the Judge Advocate
General for an early report

John Hay
Oct 25. 1864.
A A G

Retd. by request as Handy
has been discharged
Oct 27. 64