

# TO THE PEOPLE OF THE TRANS-MISS. DEPARTMENT.

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Office Chief Quartermaster, Trans-Miss. Department.  
Shreveport, La., September 15th, 1863.

In this struggle for all that makes life desirable; as a band of brothers we must stand shoulder to shoulder, be true to ourselves, sacrifice freely, and never give up.

Do this, and we are, and will remain freemen; decline to do it, and we will be subjugated, our property wrested from us, and our country lost. Nothing can be gained by submission. By Lincoln's law you are told your property is confiscated, yourselves are rebels, and that "rebels have no rights."

Your country needs labor, as well as men to fight. The negro men our enemies would arm against us, can be well employed as teamsters, cooks, mechanics and laborers; better then, far better to let the Government have them than the enemy. They will be well cared for, and a fair compensation paid for their services. You cheerfully yield your children to your country, how can you refuse to hire your servants?

We appeal to the slave holders of the Trans-Mississippi Department generally, and particularly to that portion of the Department likely to be visited by the enemy in any raid he may make, to let the Government have their able-bodied men, thereby saving them from falling into the hands of our enemies, and enabling the Lieut. Gen'l Commanding, to place in the ranks thousands of men now employed as teamsters, laborers, etc., for want of other labor for that service.

The Government requires from two to three thousand laborers. and the Chief Quartermasters of the Districts of Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas will receive them; any one person or neighborhood furnishing twenty able-bodied men, can designate a person to take charge of them, who will be employed by the Government for that purpose.

The Government will pay for any servants that may be killed by the enemy, but will not be responsible for those that die from disease, or run away. Any person wishing to furnish hands under this call, will please address the Chief Quartermasters of the Districts of Arkansas, Louisiana or Texas, or the undersigned, setting forth the number he will furnish, and steps will be taken at once to receive them. None but able-bodied men received.

**J. F. MINTER,**

Major and Chief Quartermaster, Trans-Miss. Dept.