

Now as to what I will do - I shall stand by the Union as long as I can do so with honor and the Union answers the purposes for which it was instituted. When I can no longer serve her with the approval of my own conscience I shall return my commission to the President - Return home and be a Rebel. Should there be a separation I go with my state - when my state wants my services I shall be on hand - as to disunion - we have to be governed by them - what these circumstances may happen to be I cannot foresee - events in these troubled times come upon us unawares - I believe I can safely say that I do not..... (Rest was missing)

All my blood are South - My home is South - My interests and inclinations are South - I believe that slavery is a blessing to the Negro yet I should be sorry to see a separate Republic established upon the soil of Negro slavery. Tennessee is my home and never would I draw my sword against her - when she is defending her rights - sooner would I return my commission to the President and settle to my Southern home and labor for my daily bread - Neither would I feel justified in my own eyes should I for office sake allow myself to be used against my neighbor in an unjust cause - yet I feel it a duty to shrink from no duty that the honor or interest of the Union demands - I should never willingly see Northern troops sent to coerce the South -