

Rushford Oct 5th 1863

Henry Van Beman

Dear Sir,

I learned yesterday that there was a current report at Franklinville that I was implicated in assisting a Deserter. I wish to say to you that it is false and I am very sorry that such a story should get in circulation. I mean that Dibler was the man favored by me, I have not seen him since the 19th --- and as for being seen in Buffalo with him, I never was in Buffalo in my life. I wish you would contradict any such report and think better of me than to take such measures against our Government.

Truly yours in Haste

H. J. Merrill

PS - I start for Washington tomorrow morning. I have ~~not~~ heard nothing from Manly (?) since I saw you.