

Louisville , May 17, 1863.

His Excellency A. Lincoln:

Samuel B. Churchill, of Saint Louis, was arrested in this city by order of General Curtis and taken to Saint Louis. We understand that he with his family, a wife and seven children, are ordered to leave for the South on Wednesday. We know Churchill well, being an old schoolmate and intimate friend to both of us. His father was a prominent citizen here and a warm Union man. He died a few months ago leaving a large estate and the prisoner one of his executors, with important and indispensable duties to discharge in which many of our and your friends are deeply interested, none of which can be discharged without his discretion. In view of all the circumstances we ask a revocation of the order, and we will hold ourselves bound for the faithful performance of any obligation which may be imposed on him. In justice to ourselves and to you we must say that we approve of the order sending active rebel sympathizers South, but we do not believe that Mr. Churchill is one who should be embraced in the order. From our intimate acquaintance with him we fear that some private enemy is abusing the power of the Government to wreak personal vengeance which we desire avoided on your account and on account of the cause. The duties alluded to in connection with his father's estate are here. If his presence is hurtful in St. Louis can he be allowed to remain here? If this is granted we will hold ourselves in honor bound to inform on him and arrest him should he do anything wrong. If this cannot be done can a respite be granted till one of us can see you or the Secretary of War?

Joshua F. Speed.
James Speed.