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Officers of the 60th U.S. Colored Infantry

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Col Eakin:

Will you pardon me, for soliciting space in your paper, for the discussion of a question of some importance to the people of our whole country.

It is the repetition of "a thrice told tale", to say that we are in the midst of a great struggle for freedom and independence - The terrible sufferings and privations of our people for nearly four years, has convinced all of this simple truth - Every energy and resource of our country has been brought to bear, and nothing left undone which would tend toward off the yoke which is threatened to be forced upon us - All concede that, it is the duty of every man and woman, to do all in his or her power to further on the cause of liberty - It is paramount to every other duty, and every interest of a personal character should be sacrificed to it - But at the same time that, it is our duty to make these sacrifices and concessions, there are certain great and inalienable rights which should be sacredly protected - Certain great fundamental principles which should not be violated - They should be held as sacred as the fire upon the vestal altar.

These observations are induced as introductory to a question of much importance, I think to the citizen.

By force of a military order emanating from some source, (I have not taken the trouble to find out as the effect is the same) the houses of our citizens have been to day, and are now being subjected to search - Bands of armed men may be seen traversing the streets and lanes, and entering the dwellings of citizens, subjecting them to the mortification and humiliation of exposing the inner chambers and apartments of their houses - prying under their beds - into their closets, kitchens and negro houses, in search of arms - Arms belonging to the government - That all arms and munitions of war belonging to the government, should be in the possession of its officers and men, is