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## Civil War Resources

**Title:** Broadside of "Citizens of Cumberland Valley!" Call to Arms

**Date:** July 3, 1863

**Location:** I-Original-1863-2

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# CITIZENS OF THE CUMBERLAND VALLEY!

The hour has come to arm! To every man now that can carry a musket, the line of duty is plain. Not satisfied with *revolt, rebellion* and *treason* at home, the misguided men that have sought to tear down our government and destroy our democratic institutions, have turned *ruthless invaders*. They have broken open our stores and our warehouses; they have seized whatever they could use or carry; they have ravaged private houses and insulted ladies of the highest respectability; they have plundered peaceable farmers of their horses and cattle, and have wantonly shot such as they could not take away; they have devastated the valley to the extent of their power.

They have done all this, but they are disappointed. They openly declared that they expected to find a *majority of the people in their favor!* Burn every heart at the indignity of such an imputation! Flash vengeance every eye on the vile defamers! *The citizens of this valley are loyal to the heart's core.* Let us show it by deeds. The hour is come. The foe is turned back. He is surrounded.—He is in the net. If he is strong enough, he will break through. If *we* are strong enough we shall crush him. Every right arm that can wield a sword has a duty. Country calls. The deepest interest of humanity demand.

Stay not to discuss the unmeasured degradation of the few in our midst who have been so lost to honor, lost to patriotism, lost to shame, as to "aid and abet the enemy" and find joy in it! Leave them now. The hour of their reckoning waits. First crush out the invader, then let the *unrelenting justice* due to such miscreants have its course.

## Fellow-Citizens! Rise! Arm!

Bring your guns. From every neighborhood, gather to the principal towns on the main lines of communication. You will find men to perfect your organization and lead you; or if not, appoint your own officers. It is the work of an hour. You have men qualified for the duty. Report to the General commanding the army of the valley, and do it promptly. Every hour counts. And now, in the name of country and sacred home, in the name of all that is dear to us and our children, and in the strength of the God of our Fathers march, and "quit you like men."

The printing of the few lines above was intercepted on Wednesday evening by the sudden and unexpected boom of the invaders cannon before Carlisle. The first notice of their presence, to most of the inhabitants, was the swift messenger of death whizzing over their heads. The next came tearing through the tree-tops, by our sides; the next, crashing into our houses. No moment for women or children to escape, except through the hail storm of shell and grape.

This is the barbarism of civilization! This the humanity of the modern *chivalry*, self-styled!—Such, the conduct of men whose prating in our midst was incessant of the brutality of our officers and of the scrupulous religiousness of *theirs*. Canting hypocrites!

CITIZENS AROUSE! It is not a war of politics. Former party names have gone to the winds. Patriots and traitors—these are the parties now. There are no others. Men, choose your line; take your stand. If your arms are not needed in the valley now, report to Harrisburg and enlist for the war. No more child's play of three months—FOR THE WAR! FOR THE WAR!!

CARLISLE, July 3, 1863.

[Circulate through the county.]