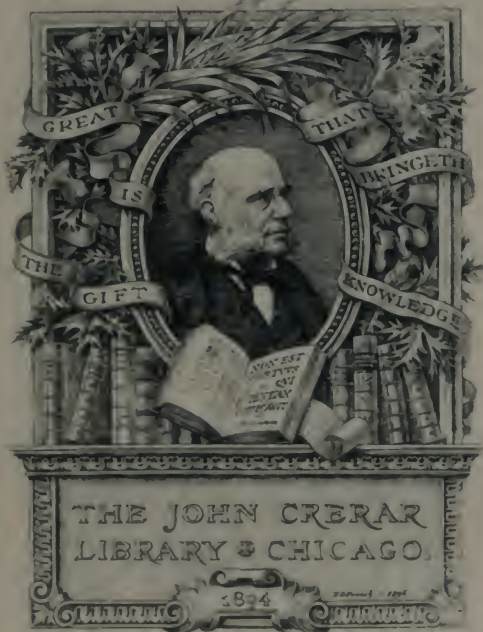


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NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL COMMISSION.



THE  
PAPERS OF THOMAS RUFFIN

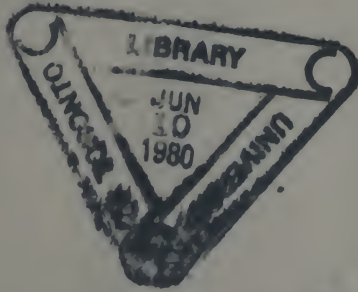
COLLECTED AND EDITED  
BY  
J. G. DE ROULHAC HAMILTON, PH.D.  
ALUMNI PROFESSOR OF HISTORY IN THE  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

VOLUME II

RALEIGH  
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1918

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THE NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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R. D. W. CONNOR, *Secretary*, Raleigh, N. C.

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# CALENDAR OF LETTERS

LETTERS WRITTEN BY THOMAS RUFFIN HERE PRINTED

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written to</i>
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Jan. 21, 1831.....	Catharine Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C. ....	July 16, 1831.....	Montfort Stokes
Raleigh, N. C. ....	July 19, 1831.....	Catharine Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Feb. 12, 1832.....	Catharine Ruffin
Alamance, N. C. ....	Aug. 21, 1832.....	Sterling Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Jan. 13, 1833.....	Catharine Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Feb. 27, 1833.....	Catharine Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C. ....	July 14, 1833.....	Sterling Ruffin
Haw River, N. C. ....	July 31, 1833.....	Leonard Henderson
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Aug. 21, 1833.....	John L. Henderson
Alamance, N. C. ....	Oct. 28, 1833.....	
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Mar. 15, 1834.....	Catharine Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Jan. 22, 1835.....	Catharine Ruffin
Dinwiddie C. H., Va. ....	Sept. 9, 1835.....	Anne M. Ruffin
Philadelphia, Pa. ....	Sept. 21, 1835.....	Anne M. Ruffin
Haw River, N. C. ....	Oct. 31, 1835.....	David W. Stone
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Jan. 14, 1836.....	Catharine Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Mar. 5, 1836.....	Catharine Ruffin
Alamance, N. C. ....	May 13, 1837.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Mar. 2, 1840.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Feb. 3, 1846.....	Robert Donaldson
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Mar. 2, 1846.....	Catharine Ruffin Roulhac
Haw River, N. C. ....	Oct. 3, 1846.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Haw River, N. C. ....	Sept. 23, 1847.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Oct. 5, 1847.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Mar. 8, 1848.....	James H. Ruffin
Haw River, N. C. ....	Dec. 2, 1848.....	William H. Battle
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Jan. 1, 1849.....	William H. Battle
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Jan. 18, 1849.....	Calvin Graves
Morganton, N. C. ....	Sept. 2, 1849.....	Anne M. Ruffin
Morganton, N. C. ....	Sept. 6, 1849.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Mar. 30, 1850.....	Catharine Ruffin Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Apr. 22, 1850.....	Frances Gray Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Sept. 14, 1850.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Nov. 11, 1850.....	Catharine Ruffin Roulhac
Graham, N. C. ....	Dec. 15, 1850.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	May 29, 1851.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Sept. 6, 1851.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Oct. 4, 1851.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Mar. 22, 1852.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Raleigh, N. C. ....	June 24, 1852.....	Joseph Pollock
Raleigh, N. C. ....	June 24, 1852.....	James Renfro
Raleigh, N. C. ....	June 25, 1852.....	Postmaster, London, Ky.
Alamance, N. C. ....	Sept. 18, 1852.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Nov. 3, 1852.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 10, 1852.....	B. F. Moore
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 10, 1852.....	General Assembly of N. C.

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<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written to</i>
Alamance, N. C. ....	Dec. 22, 1852.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Jan. 3, 1853.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Jan. 14, 1853.....	Catharine Ruffin Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Jan. 17, 1853.....	Frederick Nash
Alamance, N. C. ....	Feb. 7, 1853.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	June 26, 1853.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Raleigh, N. C. ....	July 11, 1853.....	David S. Reid
Alamance, N. C. ....	Sept. 22, 1853.....	Jostiah Collins
Alamance, N. C. ....	Dec. 10, 1853.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Feb. 6, 1854.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
	Mar. 4, 1854.....	John Holt
Alamance, N. C. ....	Apr. 24, 1854.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	June 16, 1854.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Sept. 26, 1854.....	Allen Gunn and others
Alamance, N. C. ....	Nov. 27, 1854.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Nov. 29, 1854.....	Samuel P. Hill
Alamance, N. C. ....	Dec. 9, 1854.....	David L. Swain
Alamance, N. C. ....	Dec. 9, 1854.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Caswell County, N. C. ....	Dec. 12, 1854.....	David L. Swain
Caswell County, N. C. ....	Dec. 12, 1854.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Caswell County, N. C. ....	Dec. 15, 1854.....	David L. Swain
Alamance, N. C. ....	Dec. 19, 1854.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Feb. 6, 1855.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Mar., 1855.....	W. D. Cooke
Alamance, N. C. ....	Mar. 22, 1855.....	Robert A. Hamilton and others
Alamance, N. C. ....	June 18, 1855.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	June 21, 1855.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Sept. 10, 1855.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Sept., 1855.....	John K. Ruffin
Alamance, N. C. ....	Nov. 1, 1855.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Alamance, N. C. ....	Dec. 7, 1857.....	David L. Swain
Alamance, N. C. ....	Dec. 9, 1857.....	David L. Swain
Alamance, N. C. ....	May 24, 1858.....	John Trolinger and others
Alamance, N. C. ....	May 31, 1858.....	David L. Swain
Alamance, N. C. ....	July 22, 1858.....	David L. Swain
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 15, 1858.....	W. J. Houston and others

## LETTERS WRITTEN TO THOMAS RUFFIN HERE PRINTED

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Washington, D. C. ....	Jan. 6, 1830.....	John Branch
Washington, D. C. ....	Jan. 6, 1830.....	Bedford Brown
Wilmington, N. C. ....	Jan. 15, 1830.....	Robert W. Brown
Caswell C. H., N. C. ....	Jan. 22, 1830.....	Thomas Graves
New Bern, N. C. ....	Feb. 6, 1830.....	John M. Roberts
Red Mountain, N. C. ....	Feb. 13, 1830.....	John J. Carrington
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Mar. 7, 1830.....	H. M. Miller
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Mar. 15, 1830.....	George W. Freeman
Edenton, N. C. ....	Mar. 17, 1830.....	Joseph B. Skinner
Tarboro, N. C. ....	Apr. 27, 1830.....	Kenneth Rayner
	May, 1830.....	Colonel James Grant
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	June 12, 1830.....	William K. Ruffin
Abbeville C. H., S. C. ....	June 29, 1830.....	James Alston
New Bern, N. C. ....	July 7, 1830.....	Wright C. Stanly

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Mason Hall, N. C. ....	July 26, 1830.....	James Mebane
Warren County, N. C. ....	Sept. 27, 1830....	George E. Spruill
Greensboro, N. C. ....	Oct. 9, 1830.....	John M. Dick
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 16, 1830.....	John Owen
Caswell C. H., N. C. ....	Jan. 12, 1831....	James T. Morehead
Haw River, N. C. ....	Jan. 13, 1831.....	William K. Ruffin
Haw River, N. C. ....	Feb. 5, 1831.....	William K. Ruffin
Richmond, Va. ....	Feb. 7, 1831.....	William Brockenbrough
Oakland, N. C. ....	Feb. 19, 1831....	James H. Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Apr. 4, 1831.....	Henry Stith
Petersburg, Va. ....	Apr. 7, 1831.....	Henry Stith
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	May 4, 1831.....	William M. Green
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	June 16, 1831.....	John Berry
Haw River, N. C. ....	June 27, 1831....	William K. Ruffin
Salisbury, N. C. ....	July 6, 1831....	James Martin, Jr.
Haw River, N. C. ....	July 8, 1831.....	William K. Ruffin
Haw River, N. C. ....	July 11, 1831....	William K. Ruffin
Lincolnton, N. C. ....	July 28, 1831....	Lawson Henderson
Windsor, N. C. ....	Aug. 10, 1831....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Aug. 28, 1831....	E. P. Guion
Edenton, N. C. ....	Sept. 2, 1831.....	Thomas Hoskins
Haw River, N. C. ....	Oct. 3, 1831.....	Henry Stith
Wilmington, N. C. ....	Oct. 14, 1831....	Anthony Meilan
Pittsborough, N. C. ....	Oct. 14, 1831....	Frederick J. Hill
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 22, 1831....	John M. Dick
Wilkesboro, N. C. ....	Dec. 4, 1831.....	James R. Dodge
New Bern, N. C. ....	Dec. 22, 1831....	J. R. Goodman
Salisbury, N. C. ....	Dec. 26, 1831....	John Giles
Huntsville, N. C. ....	Jan. 14, 1832....	H. P. Poindexter
Clarkton, Va. ....	Mar. 18, 1832....	Hugh Campbell
Louisburg, N. C. ....	Mar. 22, 1832....	B. R. Alexander
Holt's Store, N. C. ....	May 10, 1832....	Michael Holt
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	May 19, 1832....	Giles Mebane
	July 3, 1832....	H. P. Poindexter
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	July 16, 1832....	Weldon N. Edwards
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	July 18, 1832....	Frederick Nash
New Bern, N. C. ....	July 28, 1832....	Wright C. Stanly
Asheville, N. C. ....	July, 1832....	Robert H. Chapman
Elizabeth City, N. C. ....	Aug. 16, 1832....	John C. Ehringhaus
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Sept. 2, 1832....	Weldon N. Edwards
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Sept. 9, 1832....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Sept. 30, 1832....	William J. Mhoon
Edenton, N. C. ....	Oct., 1832....	David W. Stone
Haw River, N. C. ....	Jan. 4, 1833....	William K. Ruffin
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	Jan. 14, 1833....	Victor M. Murphey
Greensboro, N. C. ....	Feb. 17, 1833....	Thomas Settle
Tuscaloosa, Ala. ....	Apr. 30, 1833....	James H. Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C. ....	May 21, 1833....	Romulus M. Saunders
Haw River, N. C. ....	July 7, 1833....	William K. Ruffin
Fairtosh, N. C. ....	July 21, 1833....	Paul C. Cameron
Williamsborough, N. C. ....	July 29, 1833....	John L. Henderson
Campbelltown, Scotland ....	Aug. 5, 1833....	Neil Morrison
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Aug. 6, 1833....	Romulus M. Saunders
Williamsborough, N. C. ....	Aug. 8, 1833....	John L. Henderson
Jonesboro, N. C. ....	Aug. 10, 1833....	Richard Sneed

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Aug. 10, 1833.....	Horace L. Robards
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	Aug. 10, 1833.....	John U. Kirkland
Jonesboro, N. C. ....	Aug. 13, 1833.....	Richard Sneed
New Bern, N. C. ....	Aug. 25, 1833.....	William Gaston
Tarborough, N. C. ....	Sept. 9, 1833.....	William Gaston
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Sept. 21, 1833.....	Thomas P. Devereux
Warrenton, N. C. ....	Oct. 15, 1833.....	Romulus M. Saunders
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Oct. 30, 1833.....	George W. Freeman
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 1, 1833.....	David W. Stone
Washington, D. C. ....	Nov. 4, 1833.....	Romulus M. Saunders
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 14, 1833.....	Thomas P. Devereux
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 28, 1833.....	Duncan Cameron
Stagville, N. C. ....	Jan. 1, 1834.....	Paul C. Cameron
Alamance, N. C. ....	Jan. 26, 1834.....	Thomas S. Ashe
Randolph-Macon College, Va.	Feb. 1, 1834.....	P. L. Brown and others
	Feb. 15, 1834.....	James H. Ruffin
Wadesboro, N. C. ....	Feb. 24, 1834.....	William W. Hall
Greensboro, N. C. ....	Mar. 19, 1834.....	James M. Williamson
Elizabeth City, N. C. ....	Apr. 1, 1834.....	John C. Ehringhaus
Shellbanks, Va. ....	Apr. 14, 1834.....	Edmund Ruffin
Shellbanks, Va. ....	May 5, 1834.....	Edmund Ruffin
New Bern, N. C. ....	June 1, 1834.....	William Gaston
Tarboro, N. C. ....	June 7, 1834.....	William Norfleet
Haw River, N. C. ....	July 14, 1834.....	William K. Ruffin
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	July 22, 1834.....	Hugh Waddell
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	July 27, 1834.....	Hugh Waddell
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	Aug. 25, 1834.....	William M. Green
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Aug. 28, 1834.....	William P. Webb
Petersburg, Va. ....	Sept. 8, 1834.....	William Gaston
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Oct. 2, 1834.....	William P. Webb
Richmond, Va. ....	Jan. 4, 1835.....	William Brockenbrough
Richmond, Va. ....	Jan. 21, 1835.....	William Brockenbrough
Charlotte, N. C. ....	Apr. 3, 1835.....	William Davidson and others
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	May 17, 1835.....	John Kirkland
Wake Forest, N. C. ....	May 19, 1835.....	James C. Dockery and others
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	June 27, 1835.....	James E. Hamlett and others
Wake Forest, N. C. ....	July 1835.....	J. H. Brooks and others
Shellbanks, Va. ....	July 21, 1835.....	Edmund Ruffin
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	Dec. 1, 1835.....	Paul C. Cameron
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	Dec. 4, 1835.....	A. J. Davis
Fayetteville, N. C. ....	Jan. 11, 1836.....	Robert Strange
Haw River, N. C. ....	Jan. 28, 1836.....	Thomas Scott
University of Virginia ....	Feb. 9, 1836.....	George Tucker
Washington, D. C. ....	Mar. 25, 1836.....	William Montgomery
Washington, D. C. ....	Apr. 20, 1836.....	Bedford Brown
Petersburg, Va. ....	July 19, 1836.....	Edmund Ruffin
Blythewood, N. J. ....	Aug. 15, 1836.....	William Gaston
Norfolk, Va. ....	Nov. 21, 1836.....	William Garnett
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 1, 1836.....	James T. Morehead
Columbia, S. C. ....	Dec. 22, 1836.....	A. W. Thomson
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 31, 1836.....	T. G. Stone
Greensboro, N. C. ....	Jan. 21, 1837.....	T. H. Scott and others
Columbus, Ohio ....	July, 1837.....	George C. Mendenhall
Chatham County, N. C. ....	Aug. 29, 1837.....	George Luther

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Beatty's Ford, N. C. ....	Oct. 4, 1837.....	William Gaston
New York, N. Y. ....	Oct. 17, 1838.....	William Gaston
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 29, 1838.....	David W. Stone
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 5, 1838.....	Kenneth Rayner
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 17, 1838.....	Edward B. Freeman
Charlotte, N. C. ....	May 1, 1839.....	W. J. Alexander and others
Raleigh, N. C. ....	June 10, 1839.....	Thomas P. Devereux
Milton, N. C. ....	Aug. 12, 1839.....	Nathaniel H. McCain
Loyd's, Va. ....	Dec. 4, 1839.....	Richard Ronzie
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Jan. 9, 1840.....	Tod R. Caldwell
St. Augustine, Fla. ....	Jan. 21, 1840.....	Duncan Cameron
Windsor, N. C. ....	Mar. 13, 1840.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Mar. 26, 1840.....	Paul C. Cameron
Windsor, N. C. ....	Apr. 18, 1840.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Aug. 29, 1840.....	William H. Battle
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Sept. 26, 1840.....	James A. Long and others
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	Oct. 10, 1840.....	John W. Norwood
Fairtosh, N. C. ....	Nov. 15, 1840.....	Paul C. Cameron
Fayetteville, N. C. ....	Nov. 28, 1840.....	Warren Winslow
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	Dec. 14, 1840.....	Nathaniel J. Palmer
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 30, 1840.....	Calvin H. Wiley
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Jan. 31, 1841.....	J. Hoke and others
	Feb. 3, 1841.....	William W. Holden
Washington, D. C. ....	Feb. 19, 1841.....	William A. Graham
Wadesboro, N. C. ....	July 10, 1841.....	Thomas S. Ashe
Fayetteville, N. C. ....	July 28, 1841.....	Duncan K. MacRae
Washington, D. C. ....	Aug. 11, 1841.....	Cadwallader Jones
	Aug., 1841.....	Cadwallader Jones
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Jan. 20, 1842.....	Maurice Q. Waddell
Danville, Va. ....	Feb. 3, 1842.....	George W. Dame
Rutherfordton, N. C. ....	Feb. 4, 1842.....	John Gray Bynum
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Feb., 1842.....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Philadelphia, Pa. ....	Mar. 28, 1842.....	Sandy Harris
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Apr. 22, 1842.....	William H. Owen
Raleigh, N. C. ....	May 3, 1842.....	David W. Stone
Greensboro, N. C. ....	June 6, 1842.....	Samuel P. Hill and others
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	June 23, 1842.....	Joseph C. Norwood
Caswell County, N. C. ....	July 25, 1842.....	Bedford Brown
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Aug. 8, 1842.....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Forestville, N. C. ....	Aug. 15, 1842.....	John B. White
Diamond of the Desert.....	Dec. 10, 1842.....	Thomas S. W. Mott
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 17, 1842.....	John M. Morehead
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Jan. 11, 1843.....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
New Bern, N. C. ....	June 8, 1843.....	William Gaston
New Bern, N. C. ....	June 13, 1843.....	William Gaston
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Aug. 9, 1843.....	Elisha Mitchell
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Sept. 6, 1843.....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Jan. 28, 1844.....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Washington, D. C. ....	Jan. 29, 1844.....	Kenneth Rayner
Fairtosh, N. C. ....	Feb. 2, 1844.....	Paul C. Cameron
Blythewood, N. J. ....	Feb. 6, 1844.....	Robert Donaldson
New Bern, N. C. ....	Feb. 8, 1844.....	Matthias E. Manly
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Feb. 14, 1844.....	Robert H. Cowan, Jr.
Hanover, Va. ....	Apr. 7, 1844.....	Edmund Ruffin
	Apr. 8, 1844.....	Robert Brodnax

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Oct. 1, 1844.....	Paul C. Cameron
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Mar. 9, 1845.....	David L. Swain
Haw River, N. C. ....	Aug. 11, 1845.....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Baltimore, Md. ....	Oct. 2, 1845.....	Lyman C. Draper
Roxburg, Va. ....	Dec. 16, 1845.....	Richard Ronzie
Red Hook, N. J. ....	Jan. 24, 1846.....	Robert Donaldson
Wake Forest, N. C. ....	Feb. 14, 1846.....	J. W. Merriam
Haw River, N. C. ....	Feb. 17, 1846.....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Philadelphia, Pa. ....	Apr. 27, 1846.....	L. Roper
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	May 14, 1846.....	Frederick Nash
Elizabeth City, N. C. ....	June 4, 1846.....	John C. B. Ehringhaus
Philadelphia, Pa. ....	Nov. 2, 1846.....	Francis Wharton
Memphis, Tenn. ....	Nov. 16, 1846.....	Rufus K. Turnage
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 20, 1846.....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 3, 1846.....	James R. Dodge
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 10, 1846.....	James R. Dodge
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 15, 1846.....	Tod R. Caldwell
Morganton, N. C. ....	Jan. 30, 1847.....	Tod R. Caldwell
Rockford, N. C. ....	Feb. 6, 1847.....	James R. Dodge
Panther Creek, N. C. ....	Feb. 8, 1847.....	Nicholas L. Williams
Morganton, N. C. ....	Feb. 10, 1847.....	Tod R. Caldwell
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Apr. 29, 1847.....	Edward B. Freeman
Raleigh, N. C. ....	May 14, 1847.....	Edward B. Freeman
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Feb. 9, 1848.....	William M. Green
Haw River, N. C. ....	Feb. 18, 1848.....	William K. Ruffin
Panther Creek, N. C. ....	Mar. 26, 1848.....	Nicholas L. Williams
New York, N. Y. ....	Apr. 25, 1848.....	David Graham
Raleigh, N. C. ....	May 20, 1848.....	William A. Graham
Morganton, N. C. ....	July 27, 1848.....	James R. Dodge
Asheville, N. C. ....	Sept. 3, 1848.....	Nicholas W. Woodfin
Clinton, Ga. ....	Sept. 3, 1848.....	Wiley Franks
Panther Creek, N. C. ....	Sept. 25, 1848.....	Nicholas L. Williams
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Oct. 11, 1848.....	William M. Green
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Dec. 15, 1848.....	William H. Battle
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Dec. 20, 1848.....	William H. Battle
Morganton, N. C. ....	Jan. 11, 1849.....	Burton Craige
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Jan. 25, 1849.....	James F. Cain
Richmond, Va. ....	Feb. 27, 1849.....	William Maxwell
Panther Creek, N. C. ....	Apr. 23, 1849.....	Nicholas L. Williams
Columbia, S. C. ....	1850 ( <i>circa</i> ) .....	Francis Lieber
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Feb. 22, 1850.....	William H. Battle
Windsor, N. C. ....	May 15, 1850.....	William H. Rhodes
Princeton, N. J. ....	May 27, 1850.....	Benjamin F. Shreve
Greensboro, N. C. ....	May 28, 1850.....	Calvin H. Wiley
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	July 15, 1850.....	John Kirkland
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Aug. 30, 1850.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 24, 1850.....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Wadesborough, N. C. ....	Dec. 12, 1850.....	Patrick Henry Winston
	Jan. 1, 1851.....	John D. Eccles
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Feb. 9, 1851.....	John K. Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Feb. 26, 1851.....	John H. Wheeler
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	May 11, 1851.....	Cadwallader Jones
Raleigh, N. C. ....	July 11, 1851.....	James Iredell
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Aug. 17, 1851.....	Paul C. Cameron
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Oct. 26, 1851.....	William White

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Morganton, N. C. ....	Nov. 14, 1851....	R. C. Pearson
New York, N. Y. ....	Jan. 19, 1852....	John Livingston
Washington, D. C. ....	Feb. 8, 1852....	George E. Badger
Mobile, Ala. ....	Feb. 9, 1852....	James H. Ruffin
Richmond, Va. ....	Feb. 9, 1852....	Charles F. M. Garnett
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	Feb. 15, 1852....	Theodore S. Garnett
Rutherfordton, N. C. ....	Feb. 25, 1852....	John Gray Bynum
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	May 25, 1852....	William H. Battle
Salisbury, N. C. ....	June 20, 1852....	David F. Caldwell
Washington, D. C. ....	June 24, 1852....	James T. Morehead
Washington, D. C. ....	June 26, 1852....	James T. Morehead
Greenup C. H., Ky. ....	July 5, 1852....	Joseph Pollock
Morganton, N. C. ....	July 19, 1852....	Tod R. Caldwell
Coal Grove, Ohio ....	July 20, 1852....	Beals Davis, Sr., and John Davis, Jr.
Salisbury, N. C. ....	July 22, 1852....	David F. Caldwell
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Aug. 7, 1852....	Paul C. Cameron
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Sept. 21, 1852....	William H. Battle
Wadesborough, N. C. ....	Sept. 25, 1852....	Patrick Henry Winston
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Oct. 5, 1852....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Oct. 12, 1852....	Romulus M. Saunders
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 17, 1852....	James R. Dodge
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 18, 1852....	Richmond M. Pearson
Williamston, N. C. ....	Nov. 22, 1852....	Asa Biggs
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 22, 1852....	Weldon N. Edwards and John Baxter
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 23, 1852....	Edward B. Freeman
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 26, 1852....	B. F. Moore
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 4, 1852....	Paul C. Cameron
Williamston, N. C. ....	Dec. 11, 1852....	Asa Biggs
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Dec. 13, 1852....	William H. Battle
Fayetteville, N. C. ....	Dec. 14, 1852....	George McNeill
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 16, 1852....	B. F. Moore
Williamston, N. C. ....	Dec. 17, 1852....	Asa Biggs
Memphis, Tenn. ....	Dec. 17, 1852....	James H. Otey
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	Dec. 27, 1852....	Frederick Nash
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 27, 1852....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Panther Creek, N. C. ....	Jan. 3, 1853....	Nicholas L. Williams
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Jan. 10, 1853....	Robert Strange
Edenton, N. C. ....	Jan. 19, 1853....	T. L. Skinner
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Jan. 30, 1853....	Frederick Nash
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Jan. 31, 1853....	B. F. Moore
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Feb. 2, 1853....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Wake County, N. C. ....	Feb. 14, 1853....	William A. Allen
New York, N. Y. ....	Mar. 8, 1853....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Mar. 12, 1853....	Edward B. Freeman
St. Lawrence, N. C. ....	Mar. 13, 1853....	Thomas B. Long
Cooleemee Hill, N. C. ....	Mar. 24, 1853....	Peter W. Hairston
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Apr. 11, 1853....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Apr. 18, 1853....	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Cooleemee Hill, N. C. ....	Apr. 28, 1853....	Peter W. Hairston
New York, N. Y. ....	May 10, 1853....	John Livingston
Edenton, N. C. ....	May 19, 1853....	T. L. Skinner
Milledgeville, Ga. ....	May 21, 1853....	Boswell deGraffenried
Raleigh, N. C. ....	May 26, 1853....	Richard H. Smith and others

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Raleigh, N. C. ....	July 12, 1853.....	R. S. Mason
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Aug. 20, 1853.....	John H. Bryan
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Aug. 29, 1853.....	R. H. Smith and others
Bath, N. C. ....	Aug. 29, 1853.....	G. F. Tompkins
Edenton, N. C. ....	Sept. 16, 1853.....	Josiah Collins
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	Sept. 21, 1853.....	Frederick Nash
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	Sept. 23, 1853.....	James B. Donnelly
Pittsboro, N. C. ....	Sept. 30, 1853.....	Frederick N. Hill
New York, N. Y. ....	Oct. 1, 1853.....	John Livingston
	Oct. 10, 1853.....	James H. Ruffin
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Oct. 21, 1853.....	John K. Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Oct. 25, 1853.....	Romulus M. Saunders
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 10, 1853.....	B. F. Moore
Davidson College, N. C. ....	Dec. 14, 1853.....	D. C. Ramsour and others
Madison, N. C. ....	Dec. 16, 1853.....	Alfred M. Scales, Jr.
Madison, N. C. ....	Jan. 9, 1854.....	Alfred M. Scales, Jr.
Hanover C. H., Va. ....	Jan. 23, 1854.....	William F. Wickham
Newton, N. C. ....	Jan. 27, 1854.....	James P. Graham
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Feb. 14, 1854.....	John K. Ruffin
Graham, N. C. ....	Mar. 4, 1854.....	John Holt
Germanton, N. C. ....	Apr. 3, 1854.....	Marshall H. Pinnix
Locust Hill, N. C. ....	July 20, 1854.....	Calvin Graves
Fayetteville, N. C. ....	Aug. 7, 1854.....	W. L. McKay
Marlbourne, Va. ....	Aug. 27, 1854.....	Edmund Ruffin
Oaks, N. C. ....	Aug. 29, 1854.....	William J. Bingham
Yanceyville, N. C. ....	Sept. 4, 1854.....	E. Graves and others
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 27, 1854.....	Samuel P. Hill
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 30, 1854.....	Edward A. Crudup
Franklinton, N. C. ....	Dec. 2, 1854.....	Edward A. Crudup
Franklinton, N. C. ....	Dec. 14, 1854.....	Edward A. Crudup
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 19, 1854.....	David L. Swain
Franklinton, N. C. ....	Dec. 26, 1854.....	Edward A. Crudup
Philadelphia, Pa. ....	Jan. 1, 1855.....	John K. Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Jan. 8, 1855.....	Asa Biggs
White Oak Grove, N. C. ....	Jan. 13, 1855.....	N. Price
Tarboro, N. C. ....	Feb. 16, 1855.....	Robert R. Bridgers and others
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Mar. 8, 1855.....	W. D. Cooke
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Mar. 9, 1855.....	Charles Manly
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Mar. 10, 1855.....	W. D. Cooke
Franklinton, N. C. ....	Mar. 13, 1855.....	Edward A. Crudup
Franklinton, N. C. ....	Mar. 16, 1855.....	Edward A. Crudup
	Mar. 22, 1855.....	Robert A. Hamilton and others
Williamsborough, N. C. ....	Mar. 22, 1855.....	Robert A. Hamilton
Locust Hill, N. C. ....	Apr. 13, 1855.....	John K. Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Apr. 14, 1855.....	Edward A. Crudup
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Apr. 20, 1855.....	W. H. Jones
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Apr. 20, 1855.....	W. D. Cooke
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Apr. 28, 1855.....	Kenneth Rayner
Raleigh, N. C. ....	May 4, 1855.....	W. H. Jones
	May 7, 1855.....	Cadwallader Jones
Washington, D. C. ....	May 31, 1855.....	George C. Patterson
	June 1, 1855.....	Elisha Mitchell
Warrenton, N. C. ....	June 9, 1855.....	Joseph B. Batchelor



<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Little Rock, Ark. ....	July 7, 1855.....	George W. Freeman
Tarboro, N. C. ....	July 9, 1855.....	Robert R. Bridgers
Montgomery, Ala. ....	July 16, 1855.....	Wade Keyes
Raleigh, N. C. ....	July 16, 1855.....	Moses A. Bledsoe
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Aug. 28, 1855.....	Edward A. Crudup
	Sept., 1855.....	Thomas P. Devereux
Caswell County, N. C. ....	Sept. 6, 1855.....	J. T. Williamson
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Sept. 10, 1855.....	Edward A. Crudup
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Sept. 22, 1855.....	Edward A. Crudup
Williamsborough, N. C. ....	Oct. 2, 1855.....	Robert A. Hamilton
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Oct. 3, 1855.....	Edward A. Crudup
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	Oct. 9, 1855.....	John W. Norwood
Petersburg, Va. ....	Oct. 12, 1855.....	T. S. Pleasants
Morganton, N. C. ....	Nov. 10, 1855.....	James C. Smyth
Morganton, N. C. ....	Nov. 11, 1855.....	William W. Avery
North Carolina Railroad.....	Nov. 15, 1855.....	William S. Long
Goldsboro, N. C. ....	Dec. 8, 1855.....	Frederick Fitz Gerald
Ingle Side, N. C. ....	Feb. 7, 1856.....	Junius I. Scales
Fairntosh, N. C. ....	Feb. 8, 1856.....	Paul C. Cameron
Philadelphia, Pa. ....	Mar. 7, 1856.....	John K. Ruffin
Fairntosh, N. C. ....	Mar. 15, 1856.....	Paul C. Cameron
New Bern, N. C. ....	Mar. 24, 1856.....	W. S. Long
Richmond Hill, N. C. ....	Apr. 6, 1856.....	Junius I. Scales
Richmond, Va. ....	Apr. 18, 1856.....	Edmund Ruffin
Washington, D. C. ....	Apr. 26, 1856.....	John Y. Bryant
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	May 8, 1856.....	James Webb
New York, N. Y. ....	May 24, 1856.....	A. N. Gibbon
Leaksville, N. C. ....	May 30, 1856.....	John R. Lee
Murfreesboro, N. C. ....	June 4, 1856.....	William Hooper
West River, Md. ....	June 30, 1856.....	William A. Kirkland
Raleigh, N. C. ....	July 2, 1856.....	J. S. Perry
Washington, D. C. ....	Aug. 28, 1856.....	Thomas Ruffin
Asheville, N. C. ....	Aug. 30, 1856.....	Jarvis Buxton
Lexington, Va. ....	Sept. 2, 1856.....	William J. Bingham
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Sept. 4, 1856.....	William Hooper
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Sept. 10, 1856.....	Robert A. Hamilton
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Sept. 16, 1856.....	Robert A. Hamilton
Wilmington, N. C. ....	Sept. 19, 1856.....	Thomas H. Wright
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Sept. 20, 1856.....	Robert A. Hamilton
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Sept. 25, 1856.....	Elisha Mitchell
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Sept. 27, 1856.....	Elisha Mitchell
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Sept. 27, 1856.....	Robert A. Hamilton
Philadelphia, Pa. ....	Oct. 24, 1856.....	John K. Ruffin
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Nov. 1, 1856.....	Ashbel G. Brown
Norfolk, Va. ....	Nov. 1, 1856.....	W. E. Taylor
LaGrange, Ga. ....	Nov. 15, 1856.....	William L. Scott
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 4, 1856.....	Kenneth Rayner
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 5, 1856.....	Robert A. Hamilton
Fayetteville, N. C. ....	Dec. 8, 1856.....	Edward J. Hale
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 9, 1856.....	Edward Cantwell
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 22, 1856.....	Paul C. Cameron
Fayetteville, N. C. ....	Dec. 27, 1856.....	George McNeill, Jr.
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 27, 1856.....	Charles Manly
Philadelphia, Pa. ....	Jan. 3, 1857.....	John K. Ruffin
Washington, D. C. ....	Jan. 8, 1857.....	Asa Biggs

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	Jan. 10, 1857.....	Stephen Nichols
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Jan. 13, 1857.....	Paul C. Cameron
Washington, D. C. ....	Jan. 19, 1857.....	James C. Dobbin
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Jan. 20, 1857.....	David L. Swain
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Jan. 28, 1857.....	David L. Swain
Philadelphia, Pa. ....	Jan. 31, 1857.....	John K. Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Feb. 2, 1857.....	Quentin Busbee
Williamsborough, N. C. ....	Feb. 12, 1857.....	Robert A. Hamilton
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Feb. 16, 1857.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Feb. 22, 1857.....	Thomas Atkinson
Tunica County, Miss. ....	Mar. 21, 1857.....	Paul C. Cameron
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Mar. 25, 1857.....	Walter Gwynn
Charlotte, N. C. ....	Apr. 4, 1857.....	James W. Osborne and others
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Apr. 8, 1857.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Wake Forest, N. C. ....	Apr. 14, 1857.....	C. S. Ellis
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Apr. 25, 1857.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Salisbury, N. C. ....	May 30, 1857.....	Edward L. Winslow
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	June 6, 1857.....	Thomas S. Ashe
Raleigh, N. C. ....	June 13, 1857.....	Matthew P. Taylor
Wadesboro, N. C. ....	June 15, 1857.....	W. P. Leak
Raleigh, N. C. ....	June 24, 1857.....	Thomas Bragg
Salisbury, N. C. ....	June 27, 1857.....	Charles F. Fisher
Raleigh, N. C. ....	July 1, 1857.....	Thomas Bragg
Raleigh, N. C. ....	July 6, 1857.....	Thomas Bragg
Raleigh, N. C. ....	July 9, 1857.....	William R. Pool
Morgantown, N. C. ....	July 10, 1857.....	R. C. Pearson
Fayetteville, N. C. ....	July 14, 1857.....	George McNeill, Jr.
Wentworth, N. C. ....	July 17, 1857.....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	July 21, 1857.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Aug. 15, 1857.....	Upton Bruce Gwynn
Long's Mills, N. C. ....	Aug. 15, 1857.....	W. J. Long
Salisbury, N. C. ....	Aug. 22, 1857.....	David F. Caldwell
Nahant, Mass. ....	Aug. 28, 1857.....	Paul C. Cameron
Ashwood, Tenn. ....	Sept. 21, 1857.....	Leonidas Polk
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Oct. 9, 1857.....	Kenneth Rayner
Norfolk, Va. ....	Oct. 27, 1857.....	Rowland and Brothers
Scotland Neck, N. C. ....	Nov. 28, 1857.....	Richard H. Smith
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Nov. 30, 1857.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 10, 1857.....	John H. Bryan, Jr.
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 21, 1857.....	A. M. Gorman
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Dec. 28, 1857.....	Richard J. Ashe
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Dec. 28, 1857.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Jan. 18, 1858.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Garysburg, N. C. ....	Jan. 18, 1858.....	Henry K. Burgwyn
Panther Creek, N. C. ....	Jan. 22, 1858.....	Nicholas L. Williams
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Jan. 29, 1858.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Tunica County, Miss. ....	Feb. 1, 1858.....	Paul C. Cameron
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	Feb. 2, 1858.....	Cadwallader Jones
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Feb. 2, 1858.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Feb. 23, 1858.....	Richard J. Ashe
Chuckatuck P. O., Va. ....	Mar. 21, 1858.....	Upton Bruce Gwynn
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Apr. 1, 1858.....	A. M. Gorman
Hickory Springs, Tenn. ....	Apr. 7, 1858.....	H. B. S. Williams
Brownsville, Tenn. ....	Apr. 13, 1858.....	James A. Rogers

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Lincolnton, N. C. ....	Apr. 17, 1858.....	Haywood W. Guion
Graham, N. C. ....	May 5, 1858.....	John Trolinger and others
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	May 7, 1858.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Hayes, Edenton, N. C. ....	May 15, 1858.....	James C. Johnston
New Bern, N. C. ....	May 26, 1858.....	W. O. Whitford
Williamston, N. C. ....	May 31, 1858.....	J. J. Martin
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	June 7, 1858.....	David L. Swain
Richmond, Va. ....	June 10, 1858.....	Charles B. Williams
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	June 14, 1858.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C. ....	June 22, 1858.....	Pulaski Cowper
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	June 28, 1858.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Richmond, Va. ....	July 8, 1858.....	Charles B. Williams
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	July 8, 1858.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	July 12, 1858.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Pittsboro, N. C. ....	July 12, 1858.....	N. A. Ramsey
Asheville, N. C. ....	July 13, 1858.....	Thomas L. Clingman
Raleigh, N. C. ....	July 23, 1858.....	Wilson W. Whitaker
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	July 26, 1858.....	James H. Ruffin
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Aug. 8, 1858.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Aug. 17, 1858.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Aug. 21, 1858.....	John H. Bryan, Jr.
Hillsboro, N. C. ....	Aug. 30, 1858.....	Frederick Nash
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Sept. 4, 1858.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Sept. 27, 1858.....	Murdock J. McSween
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Oct. 8, 1858.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Petersburg, Va. ....	Oct. 23, 1858.....	Thomas S. Gholson and others
Wilmington, N. C. ....	Oct. 24, 1858.....	Thomas S. Ashe
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Nov. 16, 1858.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 23, 1858.....	B. F. Roney
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 23, 1858.....	John S. Dancy
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Nov. 24, 1858.....	Francis Fries
Poplar Mount, N. C. ....	Nov. 25, 1858.....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 10, 1858.....	W. J. Houston and others
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 11, 1858.....	Henry W. Miller
Washington, D. C. ....	Dec. 13, 1858.....	John A. Gilmer and others
Panther Creek, N. C. ....	Dec. 15, 1858.....	Nicholas L. Williams
Chapel Hill, N. C. ....	Dec. 15, 1858.....	William H. Battle
Danville, Va. ....	Dec. 16, 1858.....	John W. Brodnax
Fayetteville, N. C. ....	Dec. 22, 1858.....	George McNeill, Jr.
Raleigh, N. C. ....	Dec. 24, 1858.....	Junius I. Scales
Coolemees Hill, N. C. ....	Dec. 27, 1858.....	Peter W. Hairston

## MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS HERE PRINTED

<i>Written by</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written to</i>
John Williams . . . . .	Knoxville, Tenn. . . . .	Nov. 27, 1831 . . . . .	Judges of Supreme Court
Lewis Williams . . . . .	Washington, D. C. . . . .	Dec. 7, 1831 . . . . .	Judges of Supreme Court
A. M. Holt . . . . .	Independence, Ky. . . . .	Jan. 20, 1833 . . . . .	William Kirkland
Peter U. Murphey . . . . .	U. S. S. Delaware . . . . .	Sept., 1834 . . . . .	Thomas Scott
Paul C. Cameron . . . . .	Hillsboro, N. C. . . . .	Jan. 20, 1837 . . . . .	Catharine Ruffin Roulhac
William H. Battle . . . . .	Louisburg, N. C. . . . .	June 12, 1839 . . . . .	Judges of Supreme Court
William H. Battle . . . . .	Raleigh, N. C. . . . .	Dec. 28, 1840 . . . . .	Judges of Supreme Court
David F. Caldwell and others . . . . .	Morganton, N. C. . . . .	May 22, 1841 . . . . .	Judges of Supreme Court
Robert B. Gilliam . . . . .	Oxford, N. C. . . . .	Dec. 27, 1841 . . . . .	Judges of Supreme Court
Horace L. Robards . . . . .	Oxford, N. C. . . . .	Dec. 28, 1841 . . . . .	Judges of Supreme Court
James Iredell . . . . .	Raleigh, N. C. . . . .	Dec. 30, 1841 . . . . .	Judges of Supreme Court
Allen C. Jones . . . . .	Hillsboro, N. C. . . . .	Aug. 7, 1842 . . . . .	James H. Ruffin
Richard Peters . . . . .	Philadelphia, Pa. . . . .	Nov. 26, 1843 . . . . .	William Washington
Charles F. M. Gar- nett . . . . .	Marietta, Ga. . . . .	Dec. 25, 1844 . . . . .	George W. Mordecai
Elisha Mitchell . . . . .	Chapel Hill, N. C. . . . .	Mar., 1845 . . . . .	David L. Swain
Elisha Mitchell . . . . .	Chapel Hill, N. C. . . . .	Mar. 8, 1845 . . . . .	David L. Swain
James C. Dobbins . . . . .	June 7, 1845 . . . . .	June 7, 1845 . . . . .	J. J. Daniel
William J. Alexander . . . . .	Charlotte, N. C. . . . .	Jan. 4, 1846 . . . . .	Frederick Nash
Nicholas L. Williams . . . . .	Panther Cr'k, N. C. . . . .	Feb. 2, 1846 . . . . .	William K. Ruffin
William B. Shepherd . . . . .	Elizabeth City, N. C. . . . .	May 25, 1846 . . . . .	Judges of Supreme Court
Edward Stanly . . . . .	Washington, D. C. . . . .	Nov. 13, 1846 . . . . .	Judges of Supreme Court
Edward J. Erwin . . . . .	Morganton, N. C. . . . .	Dec. 23, 1846 . . . . .	Frederick Nash
Robert B. Gilliam and others . . . . .	Jan. 12, 1847 . . . . .	Jan. 12, 1847 . . . . .	Judges of Supreme Court
James R. Dodge . . . . .	Jan. 26, 1847 . . . . .	Jan. 26, 1847 . . . . .	Edward B. Freeman
William Eaton . . . . .	Warrenton, N. C. . . . .	June 9, 1848 . . . . .	Judges of Supreme Court
W. N. H. Smith . . . . .	Murfreesboro, N. C. . . . .	Dec. 28, 1849 . . . . .	Judges of Supreme Court
Paul C. Cameron . . . . .	Fairintosh, N. C. . . . .	Aug. 8, 1850 . . . . .	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Hugh Waddell . . . . .	Orange Co., N. C. . . . .	Oct. 30, 1850 . . . . .	Peter Browne Ruffin
William H. Battle . . . . .	Chapel Hill, N. C. . . . .	June 7, 1851 . . . . .	Judges of Supreme Court
Walker Anderson . . . . .	Marianna, Fla. . . . .	Mar. 27, 1852 . . . . .	Paul C. Cameron
James H. Ruffin . . . . .	Haw River, N. C. . . . .	Sept. 8, 1852 . . . . .	George S. Ruffin
Joseph B. G. Roulhac . . . . .	Raleigh, N. C. . . . .	Sept. 9, 1852 . . . . .	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
B. F. Moore . . . . .	Raleigh, N. C. . . . .	Nov. 23, 1852 . . . . .	Seaton Gales
Edward Stanly . . . . .	Washington, D. C. . . . .	Jan. 26, 1853 . . . . .	David Outlaw
Abram W. Venable . . . . .	Washington, D. C. . . . .	Feb. 15, 1853 . . . . .	Joseph B. G. Roulhac
Edward Stanly . . . . .	Washington, D. C. . . . .	Feb. 28, 1853 . . . . .	B. F. Moore
R. S. Mason . . . . .	Raleigh, N. C. . . . .	Feb. 16, 1854 . . . . .	John B. Donnelly
Frank G. Ruffin . . . . .	Shadwell, Va. . . . .	Apr. 15, 1854 . . . . .	Sterling Ruffin
William M. Green . . . . .	Jackson, Miss. . . . .	Aug. 18, 1854 . . . . .	Joseph B. Huske
George W. Freeman . . . . .	Little Rock, Ark. . . . .	Oct. 12, 1854 . . . . .	T. N. Stanford
Thomas Ruffin, Jr. . . . .	Asheboro, N. C. . . . .	Sept. 26, 1855 . . . . .	Anne M. Ruffin
David L. Swain . . . . .	Chapel Hill, N. C. . . . .	Nov. 23, 1855 . . . . .	Peter Force
Joseph S. Egan . . . . .	Richmond, Va. . . . .	Apr. 19, 1856 . . . . .	Frank G. Ruffin
Andrew Mickle . . . . .	Chapel Hill, N. C. . . . .	Aug. 1, 1856 . . . . .	Sterling Ruffin
Josiah Collins . . . . .	L. Scuppernong, N. C. . . . .	Aug. 30, 1856 . . . . .	Robert A. Hamilton
Weldon N. Edwards . . . . .	Poplar Mount, N. C. . . . .	Sept. 10, 1856 . . . . .	Robert A. Hamilton and Edward A. Crudup
William Eaton, Jr. . . . .	Warrenton, N. C. . . . .	Sept. 14, 1856 . . . . .	Edward A. Crudup and others
Elisha Mitchell . . . . .	Sept. 25, 1856 . . . . .	Sept. 25, 1856 . . . . .	Edward A. Crudup and others
A. A. Hoke . . . . .	Nov., 1856 . . . . .	Nov., 1856 . . . . .	Sterling Ruffin
Nicholas L. Williams . . . . .	Panther Cr'k, N. C. . . . .	June 21, 1857 . . . . .	Sterling Ruffin
John Trolinger and others . . . . .	Graham, N. C. . . . .	May 30, 1858 . . . . .	Editors of the <i>Standard</i>

## MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS HERE PRINTED

Thomas Ruffin's Commission from Governor Owen as Judge of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, dated January 9, 1830.

A list of the taxable property of Thomas Ruffin in Orange County for the year 1843.

Circular on the death of Judge Gaston, New Bern, January 29, 1844.

Circular from a committee of the Episcopal Church in Chapel Hill, dated February 9, 1848.

Circular from the fishermen of Albemarle Sound, dated Gatesville, N. C., February 16, 1852.

Editorial in the *Raleigh Register*, November 20, 1852, on Judge Ruffin's resignation from the Supreme bench.

Proceedings in the State Senate on the occasion of Judge Ruffin's resignation from the Supreme bench.

Resolutions of the Bench and Bar on the occasion of Judge Ruffin's retirement from the bench.

An essay on Agriculture in Edgecombe County. Enclosure in letter of Robert R. Bridgers, dated July 9, 1855.

Petition to Alamance County Court, dated March, 1856, praying refusal of license to retail liquor.

A bill concerning free persons of color, 1858.

Proceedings in the House of Commons, December 11, 1858; election of Judge Ruffin to the Supreme Court.

Editorial from the *Raleigh Register*, December 15, 1858, on the reëlection of Judge Ruffin to the Supreme Court.



# THE RUFFIN PAPERS

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*From John Branch.*

WASHINGTON CITY Jany. 6th, 1830.

I am compensated for the mistake made by my messenger in forwarding to you a package intended for the Mediteranean squadron; since it has been the means of eliciting a few kind sentiments from an old acquaintance and friend, with whom in *by gone days* I was wont to be associated, in the *assertion* of the same principles which we are now endeavouring to maintain.

You are well aware that under our form of government no administration can ever be expected to reconcile all the various conflicting interests of our country, resulting from deversity of soil, climate, and what is much worse, the selfishness of men, who may happen to be clothed with a little brief authority. Everything therefore convinces us of the absolute necessity of mutual forbearance and toleration. Reviewing thus much, I am well assured, that the liberal views which you have taken of the President's late message and the course of the present administration in reference to fundamental principles of vital importance to the perpetuity of this republic, well merit the approbation of the southern States and defies all the sophistry of *Eastern cupidity* combined with Western profligacy and ambition.<sup>1</sup> We have certainly gained much in the *Veto* and may ultimately undermine the American system or so modify its exceptionable features as to make it comparatively harmless.

Let us at all events cling to the union and bear untill forbearance ceases to be a virtue. Our old friend Judge Smith<sup>2</sup> has been sacrificed in a good cause. He deserves immortal honor. You do not obviate him, he will rise the stronger for the knocking down.

Congress makes slow progress in Legislation. We have so many aspirants to the Presidency that they *nullify* each other, and retard, or I might say, almost stop the wheels of government. If this happy form of civil polity should ever be destroyed, '(which may God forbid) it will be mainly attributable to the cunning and unprincipled devices of men who are aiming *for place* and who are regardless of the means which they employ. Our counsels are likely to be distracted in a very

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<sup>1</sup>Jackson's first message had contained a very careful straddle on the tariff question coupled with a suggestion that harmony between the sections ought to prevail.

<sup>2</sup>William Smith, 1762-1840, a native of North Carolina, who was for a considerable time senator from South Carolina. He disagreed with Calhoun on South Carolina politics and left the State. Jackson afterwards offered him a seat on the Supreme bench.

short time, by these means and what will be the result it is difficult to divine. I wish I had leisure to say more, but my time is so incessantly occupied with official matters that I am constrained to neglect my private correspondents.

I pray you however to write me often and freely and accept my cordial assurances of

Esteem of

JNO. BRANCH.

Judge Ruffin

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*From Bedford Brown.<sup>1</sup>*

WASHINGTON CITY 6th Jan. 1830.

*Dr. Sir.*

Supposing you would feel some interest in knowing who will probably, be the Successor, of the late Judge Washington,<sup>2</sup> on the Bench of the Supreme Court, of the U. S., I avail myself of a few moments, before the hour for closing the S. mail arrives, to inform you that on yesterday Henry Baldwin<sup>3</sup> of P. was nominated by the President, to the Senate, to fill that appointment. The nomination has not yet been acted on, by the Senate, but there is little doubt of its being confirmed. The administration is getting on very well, and as yet, but few symptoms of opposition have appeared in Congress. It is however, now pretty certain, that one of the principal Grounds which will be selected, to assail the administration on, is the power which the P. of the U. S. has exercised, in removals from office. The popularity of the Administration is so well established, and the confidence generally entertained here, as to the honesty of Genl. Jackson's principles is so great that I am inclined to think the partizans of Mr. Clay will be somewhat discouraged from making anything like a systematic opposition. I should be happy to hear from you at some leisure moment, and will write you more at large on some future occasion.

[Address: Raleigh, N. C.]

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<sup>1</sup>Bedford Brown of Caswell. at this time a member of the United States Senate.

<sup>2</sup>Bushrod Washington. 1762-1829, a nephew of George Washington and an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1798 to 1829.

<sup>3</sup>Henry Baldwin, 1779-1844, had served already as a member of Congress. He was on the Supreme bench from this time until his death.



*Commission from Governor John Owen as Judge of the Supreme Court.*

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

*To the Honourable Thomas Ruffin, Greeting*

We reposing special trust and confidence in your prudence, integrity, abilities and learning in the law, do commission you Judge of the Supreme Court of this State: You having been thereunto elected by the General Assembly of this State, in joint ballot; and authorize you after taking such oath or oaths, as are necessary for your qualification, to enter upon said office, exercise and perform its authorities and duties, and to receive and enjoy the salary thereunto annexed during your good behaviour.

In testimony whereof I John Owen, Governor, Captain General and Commander in Chief, have caused the great seal of the State to be hereunto annexed, and have signed the same at the city of Raleigh, this 9th day of January A. D. 1830 and of the independence of the United States the 54th.

JNO. OWEN.

By the Governor  
Jno. B. Muse.

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*From Robert W. Brown.*

WILMINGTON, No. CA. 15th Jany. 1830.

Give me leave to congratulate you upon your appointment as Judge of the Supreme Court. It will be a relief no doubt from the toil and labour experienced as President of the Bank. I am again in the scrape, but hope with the aid of Judge Cameron that we may measurably weather the storm.

My boy John goes off pr. steam boat<sup>1</sup> for Chapel Hill and will intrude once more on you on his way thro'. He may be inclined to idle his time away—we cannot be with him to urge *application* and *industry*. One word from you, my Dear Sir, of strong advice to him will have much greater weight. Please do not spare him in any directions you may think proper to give or measures proper for him to pursue in all respects, he will be in good quarters of course, at Doct. Caldwell's and if he does not apply himself to the full extent the fault must be his own. I wish him too to observe economy. No use with

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<sup>1</sup>By way of Fayetteville. In this connection it is of interest to note that in 1816 a meeting was held at Patterson's Mill, in Orange County, under the inspiration of President Joseph Caldwell, to organize a stock company to make New Hope Creek navigable from that point to the Haw River.

such folks at this time to be extravagant—they are apt to be led astray. I think he had better remain studiously and industriously employed up country until next Decembr.

[Address: Raleigh, N. C.]

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*From Thomas Graves.*

CASWELL COURT HOUSE NO. [CAROLINA]  
23rd Jany '30.

*Dear Sir:*

It is the wish of the friends and relations of my son George Washington that he should get a Situation in the Military Academy at West Point as cadet, and in order to do so it becomes necessary to give him the proper recommendations, and I have thought proper to apply to such of my friends and acquaintances as I thought would have its influence in Washington City. By reference to the "Banner of the Constitution" a paper published in Washington of the 2nd January 1830, you can see what is necessary for the admission of cadets.

I have ascertained the hight of Washington which is Six feet, Two inches (6-2), his age is 18 years the 19th March last, and I have not known him to be the least indisposed for several years—in fact with the exception of one attact he has never been indisposed. As to his moral character, you are as capable of Certifying as any person, having seen him Six Time a year nearly all his life, his studies has been chiefly confined to a common english education, he has however read the Latin classics as far as the Aeneid of Virgil

If you can feel a willingness to give him such a recommendation as will assist him in procuring the appointment, your kindness will confer a favour on the young man and his many friends and acquaintances

Very respectfully

Your friend

THO. GRAVES.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

P. S. I would be glad to receive an answer immediately. Your letter of recommendation inclosed to me.

[Address: Raleigh, N. C.]

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<sup>1</sup>Thomas Graves was one of the large and influential Graves connection in Caswell County. He was a warm friend of Ruffin's.

*From John M. Roberts.*

NEWBERN 6 Feby 1830.

I yesterday had the pleasure of receiving a few lines from your Daughter Miss Catherine requesting a few slips of the non descript or white running rose which was delivered in a small Bag filled with dirt to a waggoner passing through Raleigh on his return home; which I trust will be safely delivered, take Root and flourish in your Garden as luxuriantly as in ours. I will have some Cuttings placed in the Garden this Season and if they succeed should yours fail will send you some Roots at a subsequent period which will ensure the propagation. I added a few of the apples Containing Seed which will probably produce the same plant, although I have no experience, never making the experiment. I regret that the meagerness of our Flower Garden prevented an addition to the non descript, a very cold winter destroyed all the Exotics, Since which having a very small Garden have not replenished. The Waggoner left this earlier than I anticipated which prevented my writing by him. Be pleased to make my respects Acceptable to Miss Catherine and say to her that I fear the promised visit to *Hermitage* is far distant, from the accumulations of duties, shall be compelled to remain altogether at home it would afford me Sincere gratification to be thus favoured.

I cannot close this Letter without expressing to yourself my most grateful thanks and acknowledgements for your kindness to me when travelling together and during your Continuance in the discharge of official duties as President of the State Bank, and I pray God that you may enjoy perfect happiness in your present elevated situation, and that many years may be added to you for the advancement of the Bench and to see your worthy family all well settled in life.

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[Address: Raleigh.]

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*From John J. Carrington.*

RED MOUNTAIN 13th Feb. 1830.

I have wrote to Genl. Daniel soliciting the appointment of assistant to take the census of Orange County.

Sir I should be glad if you cou'd feel a willingness to assist me in getting the appointment. I have referred Genl. Daniel to yourself and Judge Cameron for my qualifications etc.

You are apprized of my pecuniary situation. And Sir I have never asked ere this for any lucrative appointment. You are well aware that I have performed a full share of duty both civil and military.

I will assure you provided I succeed, I will perform the duties with fidelity and despatch.

[Address: Raleigh, N. C.]

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*From E. M. Miller.*

RALEIGH March 7th 1830.

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I should like much to have it in my power to tell you any news from the gold region. The Major and myself will set out our hands or rather four of them in the course of the present week, upon an exploring tour, the Major will follow on in a day or two, and will turn over many a rock before he will give up the hope of a gold mine. If our purchase should prove to be unproductive, he will explore elsewhere and so on until he shall have found a rich spot or have spent a month or six weeks in his search. Surely such resolution as this will meet with a rich reward. You will observe that we are not going to give up everything at home for the prospect above. For myself I fear too many will have cause to sorrow for entering too hastily in search of gold.

Col. Robards is still in high hopes, they are carrying on their operations on the large scale and I hope will reap gold in great abundance. Cousin Nathl will be here tomorrow on his way to Burke.

On tomorrow I go to Franklin County Ct. I leave home with reluctance, My children both being very sick, and my wife not well. I hope that your family reached home in safety and are well. Present my respects to Mrs. Ruffin and family. I shall always take great pleasure in serving you and I hope you will not hesitate to call on me.

P. S. It is rumoured here that Mr. Devereux<sup>1</sup> will be removed by the President. Mr. Haywood<sup>2</sup> is spoken of as his successor. The removal of Mr. Devereux I know is not called for by the public voice in this place or in the range of his acquaintance nor can I believe that the public weal requires it. His friends so far as they can with propriety say anything to prevent it have done so, by writing to members of Congress at Washington. The sensation is very great in consequence of the rumor and I regret it the more, since Mr. Devereux appears to dislike it much more than I had supposed.

[Address: Haw River, Orango.]

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<sup>1</sup>Thomas P. Devereux was at this time United States district attorney.

<sup>2</sup>William H. Haywood, Jr., of Wake.

*From George W. Freeman.*<sup>1</sup>

*My dear Sir,*

RALEIGH 15, March 1830.

Your letter of the 7th inst. was received on tuesday last—but as there was reason to believe that the melancholy intelligence of our beloved Bishop's decease had already reached you, and my engagements at that time were more than ordinarily pressing, I have delayed acknowledging the receipt of it till now.

The departure of our venerated Diocesan<sup>2</sup> was somewhat earlier than was anticipated when you left us. On Monday, the day after you set out I believe, he told me was desirous of receiving the holy Eucharist again, and enquired when it would be most convenient for me to administer. I left it entirely to him to fix upon the time, and asked him if he was sensible of any indications that his dissolution was nigh at hand, he replied that he was not, except that he was considerably weaker. He at length, appointed the following Wednesday to receive the communion. On this occasion he conversed a great deal with me, more than he had ever done before at one time since his confinement to his bed, and appeared that day and the following so comfortable, that we all were not a little encouraged. But on wednesday, overcome by the exertions made in putting on clean linen and in other preparations for the appointed solemnity, when I arrived at 12 o'clock, the hour agreed on, he told me he was too far gone to partake "discerningly" and was constrained to decline it. "Tell the brethren (who had assembled to commune with him and were in the next room) "tell the brethren (said he) that I am too much exhausted to communicate with them or to see them. I would gladly once more have united with them in shouting the praises of Redeeming love, but this is denied me, but I will commune with them in spirit." He seemed sensible that evening, that his end was near, and observed to Dr. Beckwith, that some one must stay in the house that night "not here (says he) in the room with me, but in the house", accordingly the Dr. and myself sat up that night in the adjoining room, going in occasionally to see the Bishop. The next day towards evening I went into his room, and he beckoned to me and asked if I could spare an hour to waste it upon him. "I wish you to sit and watch me" he said. I accordingly sat till called to tea, and then went down home to prepare for the weekly lecture. I had not been gone half an hour, when, on my way to Miss Betsey's where the lecture was to be held, I met the servant sent to inform me that the Bishop was dying. I hastened to him and found him sinking very fast, but perfectly in his senses. I asked him if I should pray, he replied, "I cannot follow you". I therefore contented myself with silent devotion, towards midnight he became very restless, and continued in

<sup>1</sup>Rector of Christ Church, Raleigh, later Bishop of Arkansas.

<sup>2</sup>John Stark Ravenscroft, Bishop of North Carolina.

what I suppose maybe called the agony of death, probably an hour or two, and expired at one o'clock on Friday morning, the 5th inst. Just before his departure the Doctor, Johnson and myself, kneeled down, and I read the commendatory prayer. His exit was a merciful one, there was not the least appearance of that contortion of the muscles of the face, so common at the moment when the breath leaves the body, none of that difficulty of breathing and rattling of the throat usually so distressing to the bystanders, and the expression of his countenance after death was natural and pleasing.

His funeral, which took place on Saturday evening, was attended by nearly all the population of the City, all denominations united in paying that last testimony of respect to his memory, a procession was formed at Mr. Hogg's and moved thence to the church, where the burial service was performed exactly according to his own directions, in presence of as numerous a congregation as I have ever seen assembled there. We have since had the church hung in black and the members of the congregation wear crepe on the arm, this to continue to Easter.

I did not design, when I sat down, to fill out my sheet with these details, but I have insensibly slid into them, and, as I am sure that every thing relating to our lamented Bishop's last hours will be regarded by you with interest, such as my letter is, I send it. . . .

[Address: Haw River  
Orange County No. Carolina.]

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*From Joseph B. Skinner.*

EDENTON 17th March 1830.

*My Dear Sir.*

Your kind letter by my Nephew should have been answered sooner, but I could hear of no opportunity to Raleigh, and now trouble Mr. Reed with this and its accompaniment to the care of Mr. Kirkland should you not be in Hillsboro. Mr. Reed is on a visit to the Gold Mine region and I have referred him to you for information on the subject, which I am sure you will freely communicate. My notice is so short that I can only take time to answer your inquiries and express my sincere regret for the misfortunes of our friend Murphy. His talents and patriotism merit a better fate. If by such a fate alone you are compelled to become a *practical* Farmer, he will have the satisfaction to know that by his instrumentality he has yet benefitted his country in calling forth your energy of mind and talent in a science yet largely to be explored.

I send you herewith a white clover comb, with a part of the handle in it that you may know the pitch. It is one presented by my Brother Charles as it was more convenient to see him at the time than my

Brother Benjamin. They feel grateful to you for your kind remembrances of them. I regret the clover seed cannot be procured for you, enquiry has been made throughout the clover District, but owing to the heavy and incessant rains while in bloom it was so blasted none was saved. I have been obliged this winter to substitute red clover for the want of white. But I shall bear in mind your request and if there is enough saved in the country you shall have it in time for the next Winter. It is sown with us generally in February upon a freeze or Snow, but some sow one half the quantity in the Autumn and again in February to be more certain of the crop. As much seed as can be contained between the thumb and two fingers dashed upon a plate and with a quick step (as they sew turnip seed) will give you about three or four pounds to the acre which is the greatest abundance. The modus operandi in saving the seed is simple and expeditious. The handle of the comb is to be of a convenient length. The stroke is to be made with a weeding hoe just below the heads of clover drawing the comb to the operation. This stroke throws the heads firm into the back of the comb, but the stems are projecting forward and will prevent a second stroke. To clean your comb at every stroke would be a tedious operation, to remedy this the operator, in making his motion for the second stroke must press the bottom of the comb on the ground sufficiently to reverse the stems, so that the teeth upon the second stroke will take the heads close up to those already in the comb, and so every stroke until your comb is filled; when filled the clover is pulled out by the stems and thrown down in mounds as is most convenient, with us each hand takes a row 5 or 6 feet wide and three rows thrown into one in these cocks or mounds so near that they shall be within pitch of each hand without his walking back to relieve his comb. The clover remains in these cocks or bunches until it is sufficiently rotted for the seed to be easily extracted, it is then put into the barn dry and cleaned at your leisure either by treading it out with Horses or the flail. There will always be seed enough in the chaff, to sow the chaff to advantage and the clover more sure to come up and resist the first summer drought. I have thus endeavored to explain the modus operandi and if I have not been sufficiently explicit, so you should be at a loss be assured nothing will give me more pleasure than to answer any further inquiries upon this or any other subject within my sphere. There has been in this part of the country so much juggling, in deeds of Trust, Schedules, attachments replevins, and "swearing out" that I have laid out \$20,000 in lands 600 acres of which I have now in cultivation in addition to my Farm here. This was done for safety, and be assured I have now amusement and employment enough.

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[P. S.] In looking over my letter I find I have omitted to mention that the clover is saved only when the dew or mist is on it to prevent its shattering out too much.

[Address: Hillsboro.]

*From Kenneth Rayner.*<sup>1</sup>

*Hon. Thos. Ruffin, Sir.*

TARBORO, N. C., April 27th, 1830.

You will recollect that during the session of the Legislature, my friend Louis D. Wilson spoke to you relative to your intentions with regard to taking law-students, and proposed to you my name as one wishing to pursue the study of law under your observation. He informed me that your reply was you were willing to take a few Law students, and I now repeat to you my wish to become your student. I have been reading with Mr. Lloyd about six months, and have nearly completed Blackstone and Cruise, and wishing to finish my studies with you, I request that you will immediately inform me by mail what may be your present intentions as to taking students, and whether or not you accede to my proposal of becoming one. You will also please inform me upon what terms I can read with you, that I may make my arrangements for paying you in due time.

Should you conclude to receive me, I expect to go up and commence some time in June. You will please inform me immediately what may be your conclusion with regard to my proposition, that I may take my measures accordingly.

Please direct to Kenneth Rayner, Tarboro, N. Carolina.

Very respectfully your humble servant

KENNETH RAYNER.

[Address:

Near Hillsboro, N. Carolina.]

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*From Colonel James Grant.*

*Judge Ruffin*

*My Dear Sir,*

[May, 1830]

I had fully designed calling upon you, on my return, but whether I had or not, on my approaching your avenue, a dark cloud and shower of rain left me no choice: I somewhat regretted your absence, because a trip of two or three weeks to (at this time) a very interesting portion of our State, had supplied to a man of my taciturn habits, and unconquerable aversion to talk about nothing, food at least for some conversation; and if aught could make amends for this regret, it was found in the kind, and endearing attention showed me by Miss Catherine.

My object, as I believe I informed you, in making this trip, was two fold; my own health, and to satisfy myself and some enquiring

<sup>1</sup>Kenneth Rayner of Bertie, 1810-1884, here commenced an acquaintance with Ruffin which, ripening into close friendship, lasted in spite of serious party differences until the death of Ruffin.



Friends by actual observation, of the rising prospects of the gold region of No. Carolina. The opinions of persons who have visited the interesting portion of our State, are almost as various and contradictory as the grades of their intellects, or the features of their faces; and I trust, and hope, that my views such as they are will not be considered ill-timed, nor entirely uninteresting to you. My inquiries were directed principally to miners having kept entirely aloof from speculators, of course much will depend upon the accuracy of their statements for the influences and deductions made therefrom. I shall confine my observations principally to the veins, having visited only one branch mine, that of Messrs Bryan, Robards and Co., which I understood was as well or better worked than any in Burke, they are making about 2,000 a month, and of the 6 or 8 hundred hands employed in this county only about 200 are making wages. I think it a precarious business, of limited duration; to purchase a good mine will cost much, and the money paid therefor, after the mine is worked out, a clear loss; the land being of no value; a few will make large profits, many will lose by them. I made it my business to explore the pits, examine the veins and quality of the ore, that by comparison, I might learn the relative value of the different mines, commencing at Gibsons and Davies in Guilford, thence to Cabarrus and Mecklenburg to Capps's, the last one I visited. The ore of these mines varies in value from a dollar a Bushel to \$50 the hundred weight. The Cabarrus and Mecklenburg ores are decidedly the richest, and I was informed by Mr. Bissell are much richer than those of Mexico and Peru in So. America. The only mine worked by steam is Gibsons, of thirty horse power, which unfortunately the day after my arrival in the neighborhood, and before I had seen it in operation, by an accident, one of the pounders of course ores, coming loose, was thrown in contact with one of the cast iron wheels, which bursted it in twain. This was a serious accident, which could not be remedied short of New York, and one which will always operate, combined with other objections against the use of steam power: The immense cost in the beginning the great expense of Fuel, together with the machinery being too complicated, for common Labourers. It has one advantage, that of being much healthier than water Power. Mr. Bissell informed me which opinion was confirmed by the agents of the London Company, that it was cheaper to haul ore ten or twelve miles to water Power, than use Horse power on the spot; better to haul 8 miles than use steam Power on the spot. The advantages then are certainly great, in favour of water Power, which like in most gold Countries is scarce in Cabarrus and Mecklenburg: should mines be discovered extensively in Lincoln, Iredell and Rutherford, and from general indications I think it by no means improbable, and I am confirmed in that opinion by that of Mr. Bissell, the Catawba River and its tributary streams, will afford an immense body of Water. and elegant sites for the erection of Machinery of any extent: it will have an additional advantage, in the salubrity of the

air, excellence of its drinking water, and consequently better health. The water in Cabarrus and Mecklenburg is not good, and the erection of Machinery wherever it is practicable, I think in time will make it very sickly. There can be no question but the mines will be worked extensively that they are inexhaustible and very rich; and I think the time will come when the natives who are unable to erect Mills, will dig the ore from their own lands, in the Fall, of rainy days, and at such times as they can spare the labour from their Farms, carry it to those who have mills, and it will be ground on shares like grist; invaluable benefits will result to the State, from the solid capital created by individual enterprize, what may be the result to the individuals themselves I cannot venture to predict. The western part of the State particularly, will be greatly benefitted by the great and increased demand for their supplies produced, and great amount of money left among them by Capitalists, and Travellers, and it might be an additional benefit, to many paupers and idlers, if they would work but they will not. Natives possessing water Power and sufficient force, and Capital to erect machinery, who act cautiously by superintending the whole themselves, by digging the ore now, and waiting untill these foreigners put up their improved machinery, and profiting by their improved manner of working them, may do a good business upon a small scale. Those who live at a distance will work to a great disadvantage. They must buy their water Power, which will be very dear, they must employ several responsible agents, whose services cannot be procured for a trifle. These agents must be men, possessing great activity, quick discernment, and the rare faculty of governing and directing the most extensive works, and Complicated machinery, with the utmost decision, regularity and dispatch. There should be in addition to all these an experienced miner. These expenses cannot be justified on a small scale; they can only be incurred on a large one. It is the business of Capitalists, who can, if they chose, lie out of their capital for years. In this way, I think it will be very profitable stock, and in time will yield an immense profit.

It was my good fortune to fall in at Lexington with the agents of the London Company; They certainly are very sensible, communicative, intelligent men; The Count, a practical miner, engaged since 1816 in superintending the mines of So. America, having had the control and direction of 7,000 hands, a Chymist, a Draftsman, and I believe two servants or baggage men. They were very minutely and correctly informed of the extent and richness of our mines by Mr. Stokes the London Banker. They came over prepared for active operations, they say they dont intend to purchase a foot of soil; they will risk their fortunes and share their profits with the natives by leases; if they were to purchase, they would be taxed beyond their ability to pay, and persecuted out of the country; in this they are not mistaken, for already has it commenced: (The natives remind me of the dog in the Manger). They

say we are ruining the mines by an injudicious and improper manner of working them; the country in a short time by our Method, will present nothing but dark caverns, and sunken or fallen in pits. The mines in So. America, formerly worked to a loss, by improvements in the manner of working of late, have yielded an immense profit. As soon as a shaft is sunk, and the vein struck, three assayers prepare and calculate the value of a bushel or 100 lbs of ore; if they cant agree they call in a fourth and work it until they do agree on its value. This ore is dug, weighed, and put in bags of 100 lbs each, and given to persons who receipt for it at the pits, they carry it on mules to the machinery, where it is delivered and receipted for to them, with these receipts they return, and take up their own, and the person who last receipted for it, is bound for the amount calculated by the assayers. If they complain it does not make the amount it is again tested in various ways, until they come at the correct amount. The advantages in favour of mining in this Country agreeably to their statements are great: 1st The abundance and excellence of our ore, far surpassing that So. America: 2nd. The cheapness and excellent quality of our native Iron, of which they make great use: 3rd. The cheapness of labour, a laborer in So. America costing \$15 per month, here only 5 or six: 4th. The abundance of wood made use of to secure the pits, costing nothing here, it being furnished by the lessor; there they have to pay for every stick: 6th. The cheapness of mechanical labour here, compared with the price paid for the same kind of work there: a shaft and wheel costing 50 or \$60 here, costing 500 or \$600 there. If the difference is as great as here represented, No. Carolina will furnish an extensive field for enterprize and the investment of Capital. Will the natives permit Foreigners to reap all the benefits? Cannot a mining company be formed either by the State, or by an association of wealthy Gentlemen, upon a scale sufficiently large to keep at least a part of the precious metal at home? I fear much of the individual Capital, now embarked in the business from their inability to lie out of the use of their money, want of experience, and its being upon a scale too small to Justify the necessary expenses, must fail; my plan would be to secure the mines and water power, and then lie idle until these Foreigners get under way.

Mr. Bissell's works I visited. I had a letter of introduction from Mr. C. Fisher to Mr. John Bissell, who being absent at the Pits, which I did not visit, I did not then see: his brother politely shewed me all the works, kindly answered all my inquiries, and even unasked afforded me much information connected with the business; he is an extraordinary man, and just such an one as is required in such a business: On my return home, I met with Mr. John Bissell at Lexington, who had come on there to meet the agents of the London company. I observed to him as soon as I found out who he was, that I had visited his works a week or two before, he replied that his brother had informed him that the Comptroller had been there, bringing a letter from his Friend Mr.

Fisher and he regretted extremely his absence. I told him that I was that person, and that no inconvenience had resulted from his absence, except my having lost the pleasure of his acquaintance: That his brother had paid me every attention, afforded me every information desired etc. I never have seen a stranger with whom I was more pleased. I almost loved him; he is quite a young man, was raised a Lawyer, and certainly has studied to much effect; he is so modest and unassuming and yet so intelligent and communicative, with eyes beaming with all the sweetness and benignity of our nature, indicative of a heart overflowing with the milk of human kindness, and as much virtue as belongeth to the natural man; I understand he was very sick, and like to have died last Fall, but the Lord I hope has spared him for a long and useful life. As regards myself and Friends, I made no attempt to lease, believing that I had neither part nor lot in the business: I had not Capital, and as an agent I knew I was not qualified; To live an alien from my Family is what I would not stand, and to carry them there, would be to deprive them of the means of acquiring knowledge and improvement: Though I believe I have a mechanics eye, and in some respects perhaps am qualified; yet the fires of genius have abated by age, and the abortion of some projects at the time conceived in wisdom and executed in Judgment; the want of activity produced by sickness and disease, and spirits ever on the wing; indispensably necessary to impart life and healthful action to extensive enterprizes, totally disqualified me for the business, and withal, a total and radical change I hope has taken place in the whole man; my views, and affections have entirely changed; long have I been bowed down, and goaded by the stings of Conscience, and remorse of Sin; long have I bewailed my forlorn and hopeless condition; my disease was partly mental, operating together with my sedentary habits upon the organs of the digestion, and by sympathy diffusing itself over the whole system; but I trust I have found a physician who can cure all diseases, I have found a pearl of great price; If it be a delusion it is a precious delusion, affording Joy and tranquility of mind in this life; and the comfortable assurance of a bless'd immortality in that which is to come. I return home to the bosom of my Family with my health much improved, and in spirits quite cheerful and happy. But alas! I fear the excessive labour before me, with a Constitution much impaired by disease and having taken too much medicine, I shall "soon travel to that bourne whence no traveller returns": and but for my Dear Wife and children I can truly say Lord thy servant cheerfully awaits thy pleasure; but come life, come death, or come what may; I will try and spend the little remnant of life, in his service, and hope sweetly to expire in cheerful devotedness to his will, believing in his dear son Jesus, through whom the righteousness of the Law is fulfilled in us. Accept dear Sir the assurances of my personal regard, and believe me as ever your Obt. humb. Serv.

From William K. Ruffin.

CHAPEL HILL June 12th 1830-

\* \* \* \* \*

The examination commenced this morning—and will end on thursday week, which is the day of commencement—perhaps the last that will ever grace the annals of this college—“May Heaven forbid it”—There seems to be a good deal of excitement prevailing here on the prospects of the institution. I hope something may be done speedily;—it deserves the patronage of the people and we ought to have state pride enough to keep it up. I wish it may recover from its difficulties and continue to flourish for a long time to come—What ought we to do with our libraries? It has been recommended by some gentlemen (I know not whom) to have them incorporated at the next session of the Legislature.

I shall go home as soon after the commencement as possible. You will direct me by what means to go. And my Father permit me to give you my promise (which must be doubly binding because uncalled for) that I will endeavour to improve myself in knowledge morality and love to you and my mother. How sincerely I wish that the time I spend with you may be agreeable to you and useful to me. Do not yet despair of me. Give me your advice. I will try to follow it.

I gave you a wrong statement of the report when I was at home—There were some intermediates but I was not *fortunate* enough to get one.

\* \* \* \* \*

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

The Dialectic Society .....	\$ 20.00
Dr. Caldwell—for diploma .....	4.00
Professor Mitchell—for a Tacitus.....	1.25
Mr. Chalmers—Postage—paper etc.....	4.30
Pr Shoes and mending.....	3.25
Badge .....	1.00
Subscription to ball .....	5.00
Do—Music .....	1.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 39.80

N B You will perceive that my account with society is very large—It got embarrassed by some means and needed money and the members of my class subscribed \$10—I had also to subscribe to the [torn] as I had not been here twice before—I owe something to Dr. Taney, he visited me a good many times, but he is out of the village and I could not ascertain what was the amount of the debt.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

*From James Alston.*

ABBEVILLE COURT-HOUSE [S. C.] June 29, 1830

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We have an Excitement in Abbeville heretofore unknown. Violent antitariff and moderate antitariff men, Mr. Calhoun is of the violent party who are for nullification the Excitement has been much higher since Mr. Calhoun has been with us than before, the moderate party have at this time a Decided Majority. Mr. Calhoun's most popular days have past I think. Great Exertions are made by both parties; please tender my respect to my relations accept my best wishes for the health and happiness of yourself and family.

Honble. Thos. Ruffin.

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*From Wright C. Stanly.*

[NEWBERN N. C. July 7, 1830]

*My Dear Sir*

I have for some time been desirous of attending your court but have as yet been deterred from so doing by the length of your sessions and by the present uncertainty which prevails as to the time when particular causes will be called up for argument. This matter could be advantageously altered and I am informed by Mr. Bryan that you have promised to bring the subject before your brother Judges. Should any arrangement be made allotting to each Judicial dist. a certain number of days, I would beg you to remember that both Mr. Bryan and myself are engaged the 2nd monday of June and Dec. at Jones C. Court and the 3rd monday of the same months I attend Carteret. Any other time during your session would suit me.

Make such or some such arrangement and you will receive the attendance of the profession generally and thereby encrease the popularity and I should believe the stability of the Court. This matter would have been brought before the legislature last session, by bill proposing to make it the duty of the Supreme Court to make some such arrangement of the business of the Court, but Mr. Hill of Wilmington, who had promised his attention to the matter received an assurance that the Court would without any intimation from the Assembly adopt some plan which should meet his views.

The Bearer of this letter Mr. Hamilton Graham, the son of your acquaintance and my friend Edw<sup>d</sup>. Graham Esqr. of this place and who is about applying for his Sup. Ct. license, needs no commendatory letter from my pen. Yet I cannot forego the pleasure of saying to you that I have known Hamilton intimately from his infancy (I read law in Mr.

Graham's office) I know him to be a gentleman of high moral rectitude and of very considerable literary attainments. He has had his County C. License for some time and I bestow but his just and proper meed when I say that he ranks among the very first of the young gentlemen of the profession, and that he has effectually secured the attachment of every member of the bar in attendance on the courts in which he practices. An honorable ambition will in due time place him at the head of his profession.

To you I further say (I know it will have its weight) he is a son of Nassau Hall and a member of the Whig Society.

I know your duties are arduous, but if you can spare time to extend civilities and attentions to Hamilton they will be acknowledged by your friend

W. C. STANLY

July 7th 1830  
Newbn No. Ca.

The Hon. Mr. Ruffin, Raleigh

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*From James Mebane.*

MASON HALL July the 26th, 1830.

\* \* \* \* \*

On last night I got home from attending the tax gatherings as we call them in this county. I have, as anticipated, had a laborious and disagreeable time of it and altho the issue is doubtful yet I have reason to hope that I shall succeed. Our young friend Holt has conducted himself with a great deal of propriety, throughout the whole of our circuit and altho I fear he will not be elected, he will be well supported and that too by the most respectable part of the citizens of our county. I regret that you can not be at the election, but have still hoped that you would find it convenient to ride to the election at Major Herndon's. I have little doubt that your presence there would be worth more than one vote to the candidates you may prefer. I think with you that we never needed ability and integrity in our councils more than at this time, and as Judge Nash has declined a reelection, I fear that Orange will not appear very well in our next general assembly.

[Address: Raleigh, N. Carolina.]

*From George E. Spruill.*

WARREN COUNTY Sep. 27, 1830.

I thank you much for your very kind letter of the 28th ult. Soon after writing you, I found an opportunity of purchasing a very valuable tract of land in this County—formerly the property of Genl. Williams—lying near Shoccoe Spring. I was unwilling to give up the cultivation of the staple article of the River, cotton—tho' compelled by ill health to relinquish the farm I owned on Roanoke. Even with the aid of a cotton crop, we can but little more than make both ends meet. Without it, I at least, felt assured I should not do so well. I am still interested in Scotlandneck, but design selling out in the course of the ensuing year, and pitching my tent permanently in this County, where I need not say I shall be at all times pleased to see you. The settling a new farm has compelled me to relinquish the trip I had promised myself to the West. I suppose you have not felt the *Goldmine* fever, which is raging with considerable violence in this county and which like most other fevers will no doubt abate by the depleting system to which many of those infected, will be subjected. As some compensation for the bad crops in the low country, we have enjoyed health beyond any example, with every prospect of its continuance.

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[Address: Haw River P. Office  
Orange County N. C.]

*From John M. Dick.*

GREENSBORO, Octr. the 9th 1830.

The many evidences which you have been pleased to give me of your friendship, induces me respectfully to ask you for some information on the subject of Banking. It is highly probable a Bill will pass the next session of the General Assembly to establish a Bank belonging wholly to the State. As a citizen of the State I feel interested that this Bank should be so Organized as to be useful to the people of the State if possible.

I am aware that you entertain doubts as to the utility of such an institution, and there are many and strong arguments against it I admit. But I believe it is, or will be necessary to establish a Bank in this State on some principle or other. And I for one am willing to try a State Bank provided I can be satisfied with the details of the Bill. My object in writing to you is to get the favour of you to point out such things as ought to be guarded against and to suggest such provisions as ought to be incorporated in the Bill. I frankly confess I know but



little if anything on this subject, any suggestions you may have leisure to make to me will be thankfully had.

My present opinion is that Mr. Martins plan as proposed to the last Legislature will not do. I think if we establish a State Bank, it ought to do a business paper only and that in the present state of things no other plan can succeed. I also think the fewer Branches and the fewer directors the Bank has the better. I wish to give the Bank the best possible chance for success and to guard against every defect in our power. But being so profoundly ignorant of the whole matter I may do wrong with the purest intention to do right. I must therefore repeat that I shall feel under lasting obligations to you for any information you may be pleased to give me. I trust I ask nothing improper in making this request. You are a citizen of the State as well as myself and as such interested in its prosperity.

You have heretofore turned your attention to the subject of Banking and can no doubt give me much and useful information on the subject: if you have leisure to do so.

The Honble. Thomas Ruffin.

[Address: Haw River Orange Cty N. C.]

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*From John Owen.*

RALEIGH, Nov. 16th 1830.

*Dear Sir.*

I am requested by several Trustees of the University to enquire if the memorial<sup>1</sup> which is expected from the Committee appointed for that purpose (of which you are a member) will be in readiness to lay before the Board at their meeting next Monday. It is understood here that the labouring oar has been thrown upon you, and is desirable that the paper refered to above, should be before the Legislature at an early period.

It may perhaps afford you some interest to know who are the officers of the Legislature as far as the appointments have been made. Mr. Caldwell was elected over Mr. R. D. Speight by one vote at the third balloting, and Fisher beat Alexander on the second.

Manly is elected Prinl. Clerk, and Stone, the former Engrossing Clk, is appointed Clk Assistant—beating Davis.

Very respectfully

Yr. obdt, Servt.

Hon: Th: Ruffin.

JNO. OWEN.

[Address: Haw River Post Office  
Orange County.]

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<sup>1</sup>This memorial appears with the other writings of Judge Ruffin in the last volume of this collection.

*From James T. Morehead.<sup>1</sup>*

CASWELL CO. Ho. January 12th 1831.

*Dear Sir*

I take the liberty of introducing to your acquaintance Mr. Joseph C. Meggison, the bearer of the letter. Mr. Meggison visits Raleigh with a view of procuring a license to practice law in this State, Colonel George Tomas (with whom you are acquainted I expect) has given Mr. Meggison a letter of introduction to me, in which he states that he is a gentleman worthy of the confidence of the Judges of the Supreme Court. He would have written to the Judges himself, but felt a delicacy as he is unknown to all of you as a lawyer in our county. I have heard Mr. Meggison spoken of in highly respectable terms from other sources.

I am just from Washington—left all well. Dan river has been very full, but did no injury, all our crops of small grain are much injured by the cold wet weather. I have not heard from old Mr. Winston since Patrick left us. I fear his case is desperate. Your brother is here quite well—we have an unpleasant week for court and but little money: present me respectfully if you please to Judges Henderson and Hall and for yourself accept of my best wishes.

Honble Thomas Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh]

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*From William K. Ruffin.*

HAW RIVER Jany 13, 1831.

*My Dear Father—*

I had the pleasure of receiving your long and very interesting letter by last Wednesday's mail. I need not, I hope, assure you that all your letters even when they convey severe, but just censure, upon my conduct, afford me pleasure; because they, although it may be grating to my feelings to know and to reflect that the course of conduct which I have pursued should merit your disapprobation, always manifest such warm and ardent affection for me and such devoted zeal to my interests and welfare, that the reflection that I have so good and so affectionate a Parent is I assure you far the most agreeable that I have ever felt. For the admonition and councils contained in your last letter, accept if you please my sincere thanks. I have lived long enough to be able to appreciate their correctness and value, and I do hope that they have made a deep impression on my mind. I have read it again and again—and I have read it with increased pleasure each time. But how long does that agreeable feeling last? Only for one short, bright moment, and all is

<sup>1</sup>James Turner Morehead of Guilford, was one of the most noted lawyers of his day in North Carolina. He served in the legislature and in Congress, but never sought a political career.

dark and gloomy again. The reflection that I shall disappoint the expectations of a fond Parent, that I should have given him just cause to despair of my ever filling that station in Society, which the money that he has so lavishly expended upon my education—the councils which he has so kindly given me to seek what is good and to eschew what is evil and above all the exemplary life which he has so distinctly set before me for my imitation should give him a right to expect me to fill—humbles me in my own estimation and drives me to despair of myself. But, my Dear Father, the consolation that you so kindly offer me in your letter—viz: that it is not yet too late, that the errors of my past life may yet be retrieved and that I may yet become an honorable and an useful man revives my spirits and determines me at least, to make an attempt and to submit myself entirely to your guidance and direction as my Father and best Friend. I cannot yet fix upon the profession, by which I shall expect to gain my livelihood and hope to prove useful to my country and myself. I am not, I must confess a sufficient judge of my own powers. I am disposed to believe that I have not the capacity to render me an eminent Lawyer and I recoil at the idea of being one. Without being distinguished from the common mass that surfeits and degrades the Profession, I should like above all things, though, to be eminent as a Lawyer, and if I were certain that my capacity were sufficient to enable me to arrive at distinction I should be willing and *would* exert my utmost efforts to become so—both because I could then enjoy the benefits of your instructions and your company and conversation would be doubly interesting, and because I deem it something noble to move in a sphere in which the faculties of the mind alone are exercised. I say nothing of the Superior enjoyments and comforts of the Lawyer compared with those of the Phycisian—for they do not weigh with me at all. I shall, with your consent, defer my ultimate determination until some future period. I hope to enjoy more of your society and conversation when you return than I have for many years. You can then assist me in my selection. I am anxious however to come to a conclusion at an early day, so I do not wish to hang upon your hands longer than I must. The expence you have already incurred on my account has been great and I wish to relieve you of my burden as soon as possible and if necessary to be able to assist you in the education of my younger brothers.

I shall endeavor to read Sallust and Virgil together with the history of Greece by the time you reach home. I find in reading Sallust that I am deprived of half the pleasure the work would otherwise afford, by a want of maps. I should like also to read Caesar again and to become well acquainted with the geography of the country of which he treats. The vast difference that exists between the names of the Departments and Towns of Modern France and those of Ancient Gaul—the destruction of old towns and the building of new ones, and above all the recent division of France into Departments prevents my using a map of

France. I would therefore be much obliged to you (if the expence be not too great) if you would purchase an Ancient Atlas. You have one here but it is almost useless being so small. I think too that your library would be considerably benefitted by a map of Europe. History loses half its interest unless one accompanies his reading by a reference to a map. The truth is that my object in reading history is as much to learn Geography as to know what have been the actions of man; because the knowledge of it constitutes a part and a very important part too of a Gentleman's education and it's a part which I have shamefully neglected.

The preceding part of this letter was written last thursday in order to be sent by Saturday's mail, but the arrival of Mrs. Anderson, Miss Maria Spear and Messrs. Syme and Norwood prevented me from finishing it in time to send you that day. They left here on Saturday although the ground was covered with snow.

Your affairs here are not in a very desirable posture. The almost incessant rains have rendered the ground unfit for ploughing. The Season altogether has been very severe upon your stock and unfavorable for Farmers. The women and Manual have been entirely engaged in clearing the quarter field and are now grubbing on the knoll to the north of the Spring. Alfred and Buck have ploughed when the weather permitted and when the ground was too moist they cut wood and split rails with the other Hands. In justice to your overseer I must say that he seemed zealously engaged in your affairs and I know you would be perfectly satisfied with his conduct. He is at the barn before day, each morning and every night, and of course the horses look much better than they did under Mr. Moore's administration. He has fixed the sheds at the barn for the calves and steers according to your direction. He is now putting door and locks on the cribs; he would have done so before this, but has been waiting for the Blacksmith to make staples. He wishes to know what he is to do? Crutchfield wont come or has not come according to his promise and a good many of the tools want repairing—shall he carry them to Mr. Glass's shop or wait until it suits C's convenience to come? Must his horse be fed when he does come? he brought it when he came last and I am at a loss what to do.

The overseer will go to Hillsboro tomorrow. Some of the Negroes have worn out their shoes and Jesse can not mend them as they were *pegged*. They must have new ones and you have not sole-leather sufficient to make them. I have therefore written to G. Pa' for the half of a side. I would not get these from the store because the shoes there are also *pegged* and cannot be mended. Adeock and the negroes agree pretty well, he has had recourse to the rod on three or four occasions, but they have peaceably submitted to it and appear to respect and fear him.

I have not been at the Store but once since you left home and but seldom see Mr. Stith. He seems to be as well satisfied as usual. Mr.

Anderson came up with his family last week and is now in the mill. Mr. Holmes bought one of his hogs a few days after Christmas. They were large and fat, but were not butchered well—they weighed 1040 lbs. the largest 210 and the smallest 158. Our own, with the exception of one, were killed last monday week—the nine weighed 13.66. As you desired it I give the weight of each hog,—167—173—118—125—159—194—169—131—130—13.66.

Mr. Adcock feeds your sheep night and morning and I give them salt occasionally as you directed. One of them died last week from the cold, I suppose, as it was in pretty good order. . . .

We think and talk about you whenever we assemble round our fireside and indulge in vain wishes for your presence. We are all contented now and there is nothing wanting to render us completely happy but your company. We feel greatly obliged to you for keeping us so constantly in your mind and for giving such frequent proof of it—Write to *me* soon if you please. I am, My Dear Father, Your affec. Son

[Address: Raleigh No. Carolina.]

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*To Catherine Ruffin.*

RALEIGH, January 21st. 1831.

*Dearest Catherine!*

Our friend, Miss Ellenor, has been kind enough to send a boy down to let me know that she sets off tomorrow with Govr. Stokes and will spend a night at our house. I have persuaded her to make it a day and two nights. I believe she is well inclined; but her Uncle may not be so easily prevailed with. But I expect the solicitations of your Mother and yourself will be more efficient than mine. As he is on his return to his family, my conscience would smite me for the effort to detain him on the road, were he not an Old Politician. That is a character that is seldom in a hurry to *get home*; or indeed, that exhibits any anxiety but for popular favor. And when at home, they are of little use and do little else than be served by their families. So that I do not feel that I am either doing one or the other member of the family much harm in prolonging their separation one day, for the sake of giving you all and our good young friend that day together. . . . Another kindness Ellenor designs for you: She wants you to accompany her to Wilkes, where you would see mountains and snow and ice enough! . . . She conceived, that between you and her, her *Uncle Stokes* would not suffer much! I presume, she meant, in the carriage! As for going, in earnest;

I have only to mention, that in this weather and with such roads, the journey would be intolerable. With all there would be no way of getting you back; for the little vehicle in which they travel is designed to transport other parts of the Governor's family to their royal abode.

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This dismal spell makes one think often and often of home. I know, I am so much wanting there. But besides that, a warm fireside, a family circle with its cordial and unaffected chat, with its reciprocation of affection more glowing than the flaming charcoal itself—all spiced with a reasonable romping of the small fry—is proportionally dearer and more cherished, as out-doors is more chilled and dreary. I wish I was with you!

I have had no tidings as yet of the return of "your children." Had they been out of harness long enough to require breaking again? That is the case with young mules: Hence, when we begin, we must keep working them. There are more points of resemblance than one, between one species and that compound just named. But this similitude is enough for our present purpose—which is, to have well impressed on our minds the necessity of regular habitual discipline over the young.

Tell Grand-mama, that I got the kiss she sent me by Miss Ellenor in Wm's. last letter. If you had cared for me, I might have had another. As for the one William himself sent through the same channel, be so good as to inform him—graceless dog—that I accept of no such favors at *his* hands or lips, even from a pretty substitute: And as to giving one, in that quarter, *for him*—which, I take to be his modest and covert meaning—that I shall be sponsor for him no farther than I have already engaged, until he better redeems the engagements I now lie under for him. I carry tender compliments for him—forsooth! No such thing—take my word for it.

\* \* \* \* \*

William writes me something of the Overseer's proceedings with the negroes and the business of the farm. But he says not a word, how far forth your Mother's comforts are attended to by the servants either with or without the supervision of my man of authority. You take more notice of such things and I hope will let me know. I want to make a crop, it is true; but I am more anxious to have my family well served and the domestics kept in due order. Is Mrs. Scott duly supplied with wood—cut and carried in her porch? I really did not think of asking whether she wished to put up her own pork. Do put your Mama in mind of it; and if she so wishes, it is not too late yet, because when ours is taken out of the tubs to be hung up, what she needs can be sent down. Give my hearty and dutiful love to her. How much I cherish for your dear, dear Mother I cannot say even to herself—much less to another. That however does not diminish but greatly extends all the tender feelings of the heart towards our children. I love you all, my Children!

May God enlarge our mutual deserts and affections. Say so, for me, to each one. Let *Miss Jenny* point at my frowning, scowling, tormented picture and call "Pa."

With great affection, dear daughter,

Your friend and father,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

[Address: Alleman Orange County]

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*From William K. Ruffin.*

HAW RIVER Feb.y 5th 1831.

I did not write you by last mail in my turn according to the order fixed by the members of the family, because I flattered myself with the hope of hearing from you in answer to my last letter. Disappointed in that hope I now write without having any thing of interest to communicate, unless it be gratifying to you to learn that all of us at the Hermitage enjoy health and happiness thro' your kindness and the mercy of Providence, whilst others houseless and needy are, here and elsewhere, sinking under the sufferings brought on by this unusually cold weather and a want of provisions. How great cause have *we* to rest contented with *our* share of earthly goods, and to offer up our most hearty thanks to Him, who has in his mercy so lavishly given them to us, and to love you who have been the instrument by which He has provided them! On Wednesday night and during the whole of Thursday we had a very hard rain, but the weather has changed and is now extremely cold. I am seated almost in the Chimney Corner, but my fingers are so numbed by the cold that it is with difficulty I hold my pen. How do you stand it, sitting as you do, in that open passage? I hope you receive some comfort from your cloak.

Your affairs here are *in statu quo*. Your overseer manifests the same attention to them and the same zeal in your service that he did when I wrote you before. The best Painter could not depict, nor the most skillful Statuary carve, a face more indicative of grief and despair than is his, when one engages in conversation with him upon the weather and the state of the farm. With all his industry and attention he has been able to do but little. He has split enough rails to fence the Quarter-field, and is now putting them up. Two weeks since he carried the Small Waggon to Mr. Tate's, but has not yet gone for it. He has also been for the Blacksmith, who promised to come the day after he (Mr. A.) went, but he has not done so, and I presume will not until it suits his convenience. Jesse has put your carriage horses into the Waggon. They work quite well and are very gentle. As you will have to travel during the night, if you come up in the Stage, and the trip would be a good one

for the horses, provided the roads be not too bad, suppose you let him carry the carriage down for you. I suggest this measure, because I consider them perfectly safe and Ma will feel some apprehensions about them unless you first test their tractableness and you will moreover avoid the risks incident to traveling in the stage, especially at night.

We have been favoured with several visits from our friends since my last letter. When not called from my studies by having to pay them attentions, I have read quite closely. I have finished Sallust. I like his style as a Historian and the regard to veracity which he displays in recording facts and the remarks he makes as a speculator and moralizer upon the characters, and manners of men. The true and striking delineation and comparison of the characters of *Cato* and *Cæsar*, and the proof which they afford of the superiority of unaffected virtue "esse quam videri bonus," over intrigue and the show of virtue without its possession, I especially admire. I am now reading *Virgil*. No one can but be enraptured by his glowing descriptions, of Gods and Goddesses and be fascinated with the simplicity and accuracy with which he delineates the manners and customs of those early times when the true characters of men had not been disguised by artificial restraints, and the manners dictated by nature had not been corrupted by false polish and luxurious refinement. I have not in the mean time neglected to read the History of Greece. One is delighted with the accounts of the valiant and patriotic achievements of the little Grecian States, their love of Liberty and their taste for the fine arts but his Soul sickens over the relations of their intestine wars, their murders and their barbarous and inhuman cruelties. He dislikes to see those who commenced their careers with professions of devotion to the weal of their individual States, and with actions which would lead him to believe that their bosoms glowed with true patriotism Without an eye to their interests and aggrandizement, end them with betraying the liberties of their country and endeavouring to erect upon their ruins their own power. It makes an American too distrust the permanency of the institutions under which he lives and the purity of those who are his rulers, when he considers the causes that lead to the downfall of the Grecian Republics and knows that the germ of Democracy and Party-spirit is already developing itself in this country. According to my view (short and weak as it is) our government resembles in more than one point the Athenian Republick, the same loose is given in each to the spirit of Democracy with hardly any ballancing power, and what can not, what will not that spirit, when excited and spurred on by ambitious designing Demagogues, attempt and execute? The Athenians destroyed the Court of Areopagus—the only ballance in their Constitution to Democracy. And what was the consequence? Its destruction gave rise to that spirit of plunder and rapine, of extortion and tyranny which brought on the Peloponesian War. It caused in Athens all the evils incident to a government, the management of which is entrusted entirely to the People without dis-



tion of Property or Intelligence, who are so easily worked upon by ambitious men. It produced, that sleepless and unsparing jealousy of their rulers which made them regardless of the Public Service and attentive to their Popularity alone. It caused in fine the downfall of Athens, the Great Athens that defyed and successfully combatted the arms of the Persian Hordes. We are now endeavouring to pull down or circumscribe within narrower limits the powers of the supreme Court. The functions of this court and of the Areopagus are in some respects the same. Will its destruction produce the same effects that the destruction of the other produced? I have tired you down, I know. I hope however you will excuse me. I had nothing else to write about.

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The fears you express about the mill-dam have not been realized—it yet stands, tho' it seems to totter, and I am apprehensive that the next hard rain may carry it off. Mr. Stith was with us last night. He was well. Nothing has been done at the Mill the past week the waters have been so high—covering the lower floor to the depth of two feet. I stand in need of some shirts. Will you be kind enough to get me a role of linen either at Ral. or Hillsboro'. I shall be obliged to you for it.

All unite with me in the expression of my love and gratitude. Write to me if you please by the next mail.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh No. Carolina.]

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*From William Brockenbrough.<sup>1</sup>*

RICHMOND 7th February 1831.

*Dear Sir,*

Your letter of the 17th ulto,<sup>2</sup> was received in due course of mail, but indispensable engagements have prevented my answering till this time.

We have no appellate tribunal by which the judgment of an inferior court against a slave for a capital felony can be reversed, or reviewed. The county and corporation courts are courts of Oyer and Terminer for the trial of slaves, and no Appeal, writ of error, or supersedeas lies to their judgments in such cases, as was decided by the General court in June 1823, in the case of Peter vs the Com[monweal]th.—2 Virga. Cases 330. Our statute requires that the evidence given on the trial of a slave convicted of a capital offense should be entered of record, and a

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<sup>1</sup>Judge William Brockenbrough of the Court of Appeals of Virginia was a first cousin of Ruffin's mother.

<sup>2</sup>The session of the Supreme Court which had just closed when this letter was written had many slave cases. Ruffin had written the opinion in the case of the most notable, that of the State vs. Mann, and his mind was probably full of the subject. Hence his letter of inquiry.

copy transmitted to the Governor and council. The object of the provision is to enable the executive to decide whether the slave condemned to death shall be sold and transported beyond the U. S. instead of being hanged, a discretion being vested in that Tribunal to make such commutation of punishment. The Executive probably do, in very glaring cases of error, if any should exist, exercise the *power* of reversing the judgment by granting an absolute pardon: but the *right* to reverse for any error is not granted to them by the law, they not having any constitutional or legal right to exercise judiciary powers. There being then 105 county, and eight or ten corporation courts all having the final power of deciding in the last resort on the life and death of slaves it is hardly to be expected that there should be any report of the decisions of those tribunals on the subject. I can only therefore give you my own opinion of what is considered as settled law on the points on which you have asked for information, not vouching at all for its correctness. I have however had a short conversation with our Atto. General, and several other lawyers on the subject and they all seem to agree with me.

The 1st question is, Whether in Virginia the master is a competent witness against him on an indictment for a capital felony, and what are the grounds of his admission, or exclusion?

There is no question that the master is a competent witness either for, or against his slave in such case. The reason why there has never been a *doubt* as to his admissibility *may* be drawn from our statute. The value of slave condemned to die, or to be transported, is to be estimated by the justices who try him, and to be paid by the public to the owner. His *interest* then is balanced, so far as the pecuniary value of the slave is concerned. Any bias which he may have on his mind in favor of his slave arising from attachment, or affection, does not affect his competency, but his credit merely. But independently of our statutory provision I should think that no reasonable doubt can be entertained that the Master is a competent witness as well for, as against his slave on Common law principles. There are no slaves in England, but there are domestic relations from which we can deduce the best rules by analogy, for the admission or exclusion of Evidence. The father is a competent witness for and against his child,—the master for and against his apprentice. If the affection of a father for his child and the deep interest which he takes in his welfare—if the pecuniary interest which a master has in the labor of his apprentice will not exclude the father and the master from being witnesses, why should not the owner be equally a competent witness for or against his slave? It is true that the slave is his *property*; but the slave is also *sub modo* a *person*. He has certain rights in which he is protected *by the law*, and he is *doli capax*, he may commit wrongs for which he may be punished by the law. The master stands to him not only in the relation of Owner, but in the relation which each member of a political society bears to every other member. If in the first relation he is interested that his property should not be destroyed,

in the second he is interested that crimes should not be committed with impunity. This public duty thus balances his private interests, and renders him competent.

There are certain minor offences, (less than capital) for which slaves are punishable by law, and to which the provision before mentioned, for paying the owner does not extend. Whipping, burning in the hand, cropping, and castration, are punishments which are or have been frequently inflicted on slaves. These when inflicted produce an injury either more or less grievous to the *property* of the owner and yet I never heard that in prosecutions for such offences the owner was ever excluded from giving evidence for his slave, or against him.

Again, public policy requires that they should be competent witnesses. Masters and Overseers are so much better acquainted with the habits, dispositions and conduct of their slaves than other persons, that if their evidence was excluded it would shut out the light on most trials, and it would be difficult to convict them when guilty or acquit them when innocent. I feel confident that if a single court was to decide deliberately that the master of a slave was an incompetent witness, it would produce the instantaneous passage of a law declaring their competency.

The second question is—Is the Master charged by law with the defence of the slave? If he can testify at all, can he to Confessions? If not, is the prohibition founded on the principle that being made to the master the confession cannot in the nature of things be free, and voluntary, but must have been induced by the hope of protection, or the fear of the power of the owner? Or is it because the master being charged with the defence comes within the reason of the rule respecting counsel? Is the exclusion if it exist the privilege of the owner, or of the slave—if the master is not compelled may he voluntarily testify either to confessions, or to facts within his own knowledge?

In answering these questions, I can only state (as to the first) what is my opinion, of the settled law and practice of the country.

Independently of the statute, I presume that the master is charged with the defence of his slave—as much as a father is with the defence of his child—but our statute puts this beyond question by declaring that the court shall assign him counsel for his defence, whose fee, if not less than \$5 nor more than \$25 at the discretion of the justices, *shall be paid by the owner*.

I have no doubt that a master may testify against his slave, and as to confessions, I believe such evidence has been frequently admitted in our county courts without question. Why may it not be admitted? Any confessions to be good evidence must be voluntary—if it be drawn from the prisoner by any threat on the one hand, or promise on the other, it is not voluntary and therefore inadmissible. But does it necessarily follow from the relation of Master and slave, that every confession made by the latter to the former is necessarily influenced by fear, or hope? I think not. To render the confession inadmissible, it must be *proved*,

that the influence is *actually* used—not that the prisoner is in such a situation as that it *may* be used, or that it is *likely* to be used. The slave is politically, not actually *in vinculis*—metaphorically, not literally. A person under arrest, or in jail, may make a voluntary confession. He may make it to the constable who arrested him, and has him actually in custody—to the jailor who has him locked up, or actually fettered—or to the Magistrate before whom he is brought from the walls of his prison, and yet this trying situation does not render the confession inadmissible, unless the improper influence be actually used. If in this *durance vile*, the confessions of the captive are admissible, I do not see why by analogy, those of the slave to his master should be rejected. It is unnecessary to make any reply to the latter part of the question—but I may remark that I do not see, in any aspect of the case, how the relation of Master and slave can be likened to that of client and counsel.

There are some cases in the reports of decisions of our General courts touching the relation of Master and slave, but not very numerous. The most important is in 5 Rand, 678. Turners case, in which the question was, whether an Indictment would lie against a Master for the malicious, cruel and excessive beating of his own slave.

Our whole Judiciary system is now under the Anvil in the House of Delegates—whether they will beat it out into anything valuable I know not. They have decided by a very large vote to send a superior court of *law and equity* into each county of the Commonwealth—and such will be the law—but it is yet uncertain whether the same judge is to exercise the jurisdiction.

With great respect, I am

Your obt. sert. and friend

Judge Ruffin  
Raleigh.

WM. BROCKENBROUGH.

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*From James H. Ruffin.*

OAKLAND Feb'y 19th, 1831.

An absence from home for a fortnight with my family has prevented my receiving your letter from Raleigh untill today. I was upon the point of starting a messenger to execute your commission to Meadows, but am fortunately excused by Jesse's arrival. By him I am happy to learn that you are all well and lively this cold weather. It has been with great difficulty that we here have all been able to keep breath in our bodies, the cold has been so severe. My overseer, however, has been for the last week engaged in pretty warm work, that of preparing his plant beds, of which I have got a sufficiency ready. I am fearful, however, that they will not do well as the ground has been very wet and the hands did not turn very hard. I hope however for the best. I shall be totally ruined if I miss my tobacco crop, of which, from present prospects, I

shall make a very good show, as I have got up 40,000 in the low-grounds ready for the coulter—I have however, all my corn-land on the creek to plough as yet, for which I am truly glad, as, if it had been turned over, it would all have been washed away, there having been nine freshets in the creek since Christmas which went over the whole of my flats. I am done fencing however, and shall begin next week to sow oats, should there come no more rain.

Your account of your own agricultural affairs is gloomy enough, but I hope not so bad, but that it might be worse. Your overseer is an industrious [man?] and will do all he can, though he nor any one else could have done much. I was at Vaughan's on yesterday; he was about finishing fencing though he has not cut down near all the branch, inasmuch as he was unable to work on it from the water standing on the ground. He tells me, that he has been able to plough but one day since Christmas, and no doubt it is so as no horse about my plantation has been in a plough since December. How Meadows comes on I do not know, nor have I heard, but I suppose like all the rest of us he is a good deal behind hand.

I shall be glad to see you in March: *do not come for a chunk of fire.*

[Address: Allemanee.]

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*From Henry Stith.<sup>1</sup>*

RALEIGH, April 4th, 1831.

(half past 8 o'clock at night)

Dear Sir

I arrived here last evening about Sun-set, in a severe thunder-gust. It is *now* thundering, lightening, and raining. I have been to the State Bank *today*; left my note there, saw Mr. Brown, who says it shall be attended to at an early hour *to-morrow*.

Mrs. Ruffin's memorandum for garden-seeds has been attended to. I bought the last and all of *the* kinds, that I could find in the City—2 ozs of one sort and  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz of the other—they cost 25 cts oz.

I doubt not, that you will have heard before *this* reaches Haw River, how very unsuccessful I was in making sale of our (your) flour and corn. If an oracle had told me such should be the case, I would not have believed it. I think, however, I can readily account for the failure, in *this way*. When I returned to *the Store* from your house on Saturday morning a few people were collected there, and among them was A. Boney, who appeared to be an exceeding busy body, taking men aside to whisper *soft* words in their ears. I suspected he was operating to our disadvantage and prejudice; and knowing the proneness of malevolent spirits to exult in the down fall or disappointment of those on whom

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<sup>1</sup>Henry Stith was in charge of Ruffin's mill and store at Haw River.

they had looked with a mixture of envy and malice, I threw myself amongst the crowd, and was soon convinced that my suspicions were not unfounded. This, that, and the other one, with a sort of independent smile on their faces, would come up, slap me on the shoulder, or seize me by the arm, with all the *civility* of drunken rusticity, (for they were nearly all drunk) and inquire: "what'll you take for barrel of corn or flour,—six months credit." I, wishing to extort from them the secret which seemed to make joy gambol on their countenances, replied \$4.50 for corn, and \$5 for flour per barrel. "Ah!" they said, "Mr. Boney's just off'ed us as much an' more'n we'll want to buy, at four dollars for the six an' nine months credit." In a little time I fully ascertained that Boney and others had come to the Mills *that day* to under-sell us, unless we would sacrifice our *good flour* for the price of their or his *common* stuff. But to comply with our advertisements, I opened the sale, (continued it long enough to have sold all the flour in the mills, if the people had wanted to buy at a *fair* price;) and barely succeeded in selling about 15 Bbls flour and 5 of corn. For which I could hardly get any security at all, and at last was compelled to take such as I disliked. So I may truly say that Mr. Boney ungenerously and ungentlemanly interfered and ruined our sale. I understood just before night, that he had sold 30 or 40 Bbls of flour during the evening. There were other persons on the ground who had no more "Christian charity" than he. One in particular had the execrable effrontery to tell me, when he heard the sale was closed, "he was right glad I didn't sell my flour, he'd off'ed me \$4 some time ago, and I wouldn't take it, and now he wished I mightn't never git two for't."

What shall I do *with* such people to possess them with better principals: or *to myself*, to make them more favourably disposed towards me? Shall I retail liquors, let them drink, gamble, and carrouse late and early in my house to suit the perverseness of their grovelling desires and the capriciousness of their drunken fancy?

Such privileges they were long accustomed to in the same house, and such they now expect; when I venture in the mildest manner to restrain them, no sweeter sound than the voice of misplaced anger assails my ears. The matter must be left to time, and perhaps they will get better after a while. I am very certain I shall never conciliate their favour by making them *drunk*, for I have a most insuperable aversion to drunkards and tapsters, and I would as leaf undertake to entoil a lion in a spider's web as to reconcile myself to the company of the one or the occupation of the other: or to extract venom from a viper by applying a magnet to his tail, as to induce the majority of the men whom I saw collected three days ago, to encourage a store at which they cannot get the "bane of life" plentifully. "Where the carcass is, there buzzards will be gathered together."

In regard to the flour, I will only say, that I leave it entirely to your discretion; what course to take, and what to do with it you know better

than I. I have been informed since I left home that flour is rising very fast in Petersburg and Norfolk; that some agents from Europe are in this country buying up immense quantities of bread-stuffs. I cannot vouch for the truth of what I have heard, yet I think, if one may judge of their necessities from the present state of the continent it is a very probable story: how much credit it is entitled to, I shall learn in Petersburg. It might be well to allow me time to write you from that place, before you send off much of the flour. I will make enquiry and if it be selling for a good price I will try to engage it. So many wagons will be going *down* after goods from Orange and especially from the neighbourhood of Hillsboro', that it will be the very best time to have it carried out.

I must beg that you will go to the Mills and Store occasionally and see that things are well sold and rightly charged. I fear my day-book will not be kept properly.

I met with the Governor here and he made particular enquiries about the health etc. of you and your family.

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[Address: Haw River  
Orange Co. N. C.]

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*From Henry Stith.*

PETERSBURG, April 7th, 1831.

I accomplished my business in Raleigh, to my Satisfaction: and set out from there about 2 O'clock, last tuesday evening: and after having riden, the greater part of the day, alone in a large Mail Coach, (a mode of travelling which is disagreeably destitute of all comforts), I arrived here just at 12 O'clock last night, somewhat bruised, a good deal fatigued, and very sleepy. I made haste to bed, and soon forgot my bruised limbs, and everything else which causes the heart to throb with anguish or palpitate with joy in profound sleep, from which I was roused this morning a few minutes before 9 O'clock, by a servant entering my chamber and desiring to know whether I would have breakfast. On waking I immediately felt that I was very much refreshed, and sprung out of bed with agility suitable to my regained vigour, Shaved and dressed as soon as I could with two or three servants to help me; (which you know is nothing more than an every-day occurrence with *me* at Buzzard Roost) then descended three flights of stairs to the breakfast table, where I found everything to eat that a hungry man ought to desire. Since that time I have been down to the wharfs and ware-houses. A quantity of flour was being carried on board the vessels. After the most diligent enquiry I learn that it is worth only \$6.25 here, per barrel. I think I mentioned,

in my letter from Raleigh, that flour was very "*high*" in this place, and at Norfolk. Knowing distance to be an excellent magnifier, the price is about as great *here*, as I *really* expected to find it.

In regard to our flour I hardly know what to say, for it appears like we shall not get much over four dollars per barl. clear of expenses, in any place to which we can send it. My opinion is, as the weather will soon be very warm, and some of it has been made a long time, it ought to be sent off to some market or other as speedily as possible. I regret that we ever attempted to sell it publickly at the Mills.

Feathers are in demand here at 33-1/3 cents per lb. If you can possibly engage a wagon, please to send (or have them sent) the 2 bags of feathers which I left in the store, to Deems and McIlwain of this place. As it is very certain that no man will undertake to haul a load of feathers so far without something heavier, I imagine we shall be obliged to have 8 or 10 barrels of flour brought to this place with them,—to the same Gent'n. The sooner they reach here the better.

Domestic goods, especially cotton cloths, are "*higher*" than they were last Fall, by 10 or 15 per cent. Cotton "*yarn*" has also advanced 2 or 3 cents in the pound. Such as I left at home, selling for 25 cents per lb. is now worth 22 or 23 cts. in New York. Please to instruct James and John not to "*fall*" a cent from the *marked-prices* on our domestics, nor on the Spun-cotton. I am almost inclined to "*raise*" the price of the cotton to 3/ per lb, but perhaps it would have a bad effect, so it may be sold for the old price.

I had determined this evening, to go on to night, in the Stage, which leaves here about 12 O'clock; but have been informed since nightfall that a new Steam Boat, or a new line of Boats, commenced arriving yesterday, and that one has unexpectedly arrived at City Point this evening and will leave for Norfolk and Baltimore to-morrow morning.

I was glad to hear it, and shall take that opportunity to avoid the Mail Stages, and leave here in the morning.

[Address: Haw River  
Orange Co., N. C.]

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*From William M. Green.*

*Dear Sir*

HILLSBORO' May 4th 1831.

I send this line by yr boy for the purpose of enquiring whether it will be in yr power to attend Convention on the 19th inst, and (if so) will consent to go as a Delegate from this Congregation. I need hardly say to you how gratified I should be in having the aid of yr counsel on that occasion. The Messrs Andersons unite with me in the wish that you would accompany us to Raleigh, and help us in the important business that will come before us. Unless there be a pretty strong lay-representa-



tion present, the Clergy will feel backward in making choice of a Bishop. Judge Cameron will attend, unless prevented by the indisposition of his family.

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As "Whitsunday" (one of the usual Communion Seasons) falls within our ensuing Convention, I shall administer the Lord's Supper in this place, the Sunday previous, viz next Sunday week. If convenient for Mrs. R. and yourself to leave home at that time, we shall be glad to have you with us, at our Saviour's board.

When health shall be once more restored to my family I will consider it a duty as well as a pleasure to visit you.

Present me most affectionately to Mrs. R. and all the family, and believe me Dear Sir

Very sincerely Yr's

W. M. GREEN.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

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*From John Berry.*<sup>1</sup>

HILSBOROUGH June the 16 1831.

*Judge Ruffin*

Dear Sir my object in taking the liberty of writing to you at this time; is to request the favour of a recommendation, from, you to the Commissioners appointed to contract for the Building of a new Court House, in the County of Caswell, the commissioners consist of Quintin Anderson, James W. Jeffreys, William A. Lea, Benjamin C. West and James Rainey. I am personally acquainted with some of the commissioners, who have expressed a wish that I should git the contract, and I thought that a recommendation from a person of your High Standing, who was personally acquainted with the commissioners, might be of service to me.

You have seen some of my work in salisbury and elsewhere, if from what you know of me you should be of an opinion that my skill as a Builder is worthy of a recommendation from you I shall consider my self under obligations to you for it. I have procured a number of Books on the science of Building and have made it my study for a number of years Back and I flatter my self at this time from the experience I have had bothe in practice and theory that I can have there building executed in as good stile and as substantially as any other person in this section of country.

The Commissioners receive proposiols till 11th of July it Being the first day of there County court at which time they will examine the proposiols they may have received, and determine upon which they will except.

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<sup>1</sup>John Berry, 1798-1880, a builder and contractor of Hillsboro, who represented Orange County in the Senate in 1848, 1850, 1852, 1864, and 1866; in the Commons in 1862; and in the conventions of 1861 and 1865.

if you should determine to recommend me to them I will thank you to send the recommendation to me before that time by maile or otherwise.

I Remain yours withe greate Respect and Esteem

JOHN BERRY.

[Address: Haw River.]

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*From William K. Ruffin.*

HAW RIVER P. O. June 27th 1831.

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Since you went to Raleigh we have had very fine rains, and consequently your corn and cotton have improved somewhat in appearance. The overseer has ploughed the greater part of the former and both ploughed and hoed the latter. The corn in many spots is small and puny and no where more so than in the old Meadow, on the branch and on *this* side of the branch it looks generally very well. All the cotton is clean and looks well. We commenced *harvesting* on Wednesday last, and should finish today had not that poor unfortunate fellow, *Alfred*, met with an accident from the improper maunagement of his *cradle*. His leg is seriously wounded (just below the knee). Under the expectation that *Dr. Murphey* would have been here, we have sent for no phyceisian. He is not dangerously hurt, but it will keep him, I fear, in the house for some time. We have also been deprived of Jerry's services. *Mr. Stith* had hired him part of Saturday and will keep him the whole of to-day. I think he might submit to a temporary inconvenience in such busy times. You will be greatly surprised at the *turnout* of your wheat. It is very fine grain and the heads are well filled. It is decidedly superior to any in this neighborhood, at least so say the neighbors. I do not know when the overseer will begin to thrash it. *Mr. Minis* is still working on the machine, and will not finish until the close of the present week. *Crutchfield* went away the Saturday previous to your leaving here and promised to return on the ensuing Monday, but he has not yet done so. *Mr. M.* will employ one of *Mr. Glass Smiths*. The overseer tells me that the boys you recently purchased seem well disposed and that *Willis* is a very active fellow. Everything is fine, goes on here as well as usual. I enquired, according to your request, of the overseer whether he proposed living with you another year, but could not glean from his answer whether or not such was his intention. He complained as he did to you, that his wages were unequal to his services and said that he had on the day you left here had a conversation with you upon the subject. Shall I mention it to him again? if so, what shall I say and in what way?

*Alfred* went to *Caswell* on tuesday with the salt. *Mr. Vaughan* had begun to harvest. He wrote me that his wheat was still very promising

and that the corn and cotton were as good as he had ever had there. *Simeon* was quite sick. Do you wish me to go there before you return?

I am unable to say how Mr. Stith comes on at the Mill, as I have not been there since you left home. He says pretty well.

My progress in Blackstone has been, and is likely to be very slow, though I am really desirous of prosecuting the study diligently and with my whole soul. My attention has been called off by the frequent visits of Mr. Stith, and a visit paid by Mr. Cameron to Ann: and I have also been obliged to go to Hillsboro' since I saw you. Mr. C. has gone and I hope to get under full way this week. I shall read closely when it is in my power to do so. Though my mind is not in a very proper train, I hope to restrain its wanderings and overcome my indolent habits. But I must not be interrupted for though I may think myself master of what I have read, and may have pondered for an hour over Mr. Blackstone's arguments, after a short conversation upon trivial and indifferent subjects, I forget his definitions and lose the web of his reasoning. I flatter myself with the hopes of frequently receiving letters from you during your absence, "commanding what is right and prohibiting what is wrong." *quere.* is not B's definition of the municipal Law a bad one? Methinks the Legislature of No. Ca. sometimes commands what is wrong, if not prohibit what is right. Yet their commands constitute the law of the land. Surely nothing affords me so much pleasure as hearing from you. Let me therefore earnestly beg you to write to *me* often. I know your letters will be full of wisdom and the best council, and will endeavour to make them the rule of my conduct.

Mr. Cameron came up on Friday and left here on Saturday afternoon. I believe a permanent arrangement has been made with my sister. I advised her to write you immediately which she will do: and I have no doubt will be entirely unreserved in her communications to you—a more intimate acquaintance with him, has convinced me of his merit and honor and I think he possesses the disposition as well as means to render Ann happy.

\* \* \* \* \*

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh, No. Carolina.]

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*From James Martin, Jr.*

SALISBURY July 6th 1831.

*My dear Sir*

I received your very friendly letter in the regular course of the mail. I am satisfied that you showed it to Judge Henderson altho I did not intend it for his eye nor did I anticipate that it would be subjected to his inspection.

I never have for one moment imagined that Judge Henderson entertained unkind feelings towards me. I have had too many proofs to the contrary to have harbored any such opinion. My letter was far from being predicated upon such a supposition. I was induced to write it mainly from an opinion which I myself and some other of my brethren of the circuit Bench had entertained, that on the part of the Supreme Court there was not felt towards us, that *esprit de corps* which without any sacrifice either of principle or opinion contributes so much to the ease and comfort of transacting business. You will perceive by recurring again to my letter, that such was the bearing of it.

I am pleased to find from your letter that the circumstances related to me as having taken place in the Supreme Court escaped the attention of the Judges or was said in a way that they did not hear it. That the individual alluded to indulged himself at the bar or in Court substantially as I stated I have the most decided proof. The only mistake under which I laboured was, that I supposed improperly as I am convinced from your letter, that it had been addressed to the Court. The inference which I drew from it and the other circumstance which I mentioned, was that there was not that feeling of courtesy on the part of the Supreme Court towards the Circuit Courts which contributes so essentially to the ease of business. I am much gratified that in consequence of my letter to you, an answer has been elicited which tends to remove an opinion which it had been painful to me to entertain and which was so contrary to that feeling of respect toward each one of the Judges of the Supreme Court which had "grown with my groth and strengthened with my strength."

As to the position which the Circuit Judges at this time occupy towards certain prominent members of the bar, I shall not trouble you with my views about it, further than to remark that the disposition is manifested by some of them to bring down and degrade the dignity of the Superior Courts to the level of that which is sometimes found to take place in the County Courts. The individual before alluded to is one of that class and his hostility to me arises from the circumstance of my not having permitted him to prostitute the dignity of the law or pervert in the presence of a court the privileges of a lawyer. I cannot be otherwise than obliged to you for your offer of interposing between the man alluded to and me. I am not conscious of ever giving him just cause of offence, But as to a wish to be on other terms than those which he has chosen to establish I have none. I regard him as a person that is to be feared *only* when he approaches under the garb of *friendship*.

Be pleased to present my kindest respects to Judge Henderson and say to him that I have always regarded him as the Father of the family to which I am so closely connected, and permit me to say that I am under great obligations to you for the trouble that I have put you to.

Your friend sincerely

JAMES MARTIN JUNR.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

From William K. Ruffin.

HAW RIVER July 8th 1831.

\* \* \* \* \*

It has rained here almost every day since I wrote to you, and of course your corn looks well. In a few spots on the other side of the Branch it is still quite small, but the greater part of it is very fine. The wet weather has prevented the overseer from ploughing since harvest. He has been over it all on the other side of the branch and will finish so soon as the ground becomes sufficiently dry. His hands are now full. The meadow to cut (which has needed it for two weeks past) bring in and thresh the wheat, and work the corn and cotton. Mr. Minis finished on tuesday last and the overseer is threshing today. The machine performs very well, and unless the posts which are worm-eaten and decayed should give way from the pressure of the wheat in the loft, of which Mr. M. was somewhat apprehensive, it will fully answer your expectations. Most of the wheat and all the Rye is still standing in the field in *shocks* and I believe has sustained no injury from the rains, though complaints of that kind are made by some of our neighbors and all the farmers around Hillsboro'. Should we have fair weather today the Overseer will haul it into the Barn tomorrow. Would it not be best to spread the wheat threshed in the sun for a day or two? I mentioned it to Mr. Adcock, but he seems to be so busy with other matters, that I fear he will not do so unless a wish to that effect is expressed by you.

The Rain is now falling in torrents, and Mr. A. has just told me that the sheet iron in the machine has sprung and prevents the wheel from turning. So he will be obliged to stop threshing until it is repaired. He will make, this morning, the fence between the Cotton and the wheat. The clover you sowed in the spring has come up and is growing very prettily in the greater part of the field; in some places there seems to be none. If you desire it, I can make Jesse save you any quantity of Grass and Clover seed, for he can get it out with the machine without any trouble. The Overseer will turn the Hogs, Calves, two cows and horse into the stubble-field next week. Agreeable to your directions I took off the *fore-shoes* of your horse, but he broke his hoofs on the stones in the barn-lot and was so lame that I had light ones put on until I could turn him into the pasture. He walks very well now.

I am fearful lest your crops in Caswell and on the river, have sustained great damage from the recent rains. I saw a gentleman the other day who lives in the neighborhood of the High Rock, who said that they had been almost drowned there. The River has also been much swollen, *here* two or three days after we have had rain, from this I conjecture that there must have been very bad ones above.

I am prosecuting as diligently as I can the course of studies you chalked out for me. I wish I could say that I was myself satisfied with the improvement I have derived from what I have read. There are so

many minute particulars, which in proportion as they are easy to comprehend, are difficult to retain, that I almost despair of making myself master of them. I have nearly finished the first volume of Blackstone, and shall begin to revise it some time in the ensuing week.

The candidates were at the Mill on Wednesday. Genl. Barringer addressed the people on the subject of re-chartering the U. S. Bank, which he advocated. Dr. M.<sup>1</sup> was not present, the Candidates for the House of Commons spoke chiefly of the University.<sup>2</sup> And Col. Allison thought that no man who had ever been within the walls of a College should be chosen to any office in the gift of the People. And he supported his position upon principle of republican equality. He said, it was an evil which he wished could be remedied, that the property for which all our fathers had equally shed their blood, should be so unequally divided and that the greater part should be in the hands of a few overbearing aristocrats, who were crushing the honest yeomanry of the Country to atoms, in order to make them minister to their luxury. Mr. Mebane has been warmly solicited by meetings at two of the *tax-gatherings* to offer for the H. of Commons. It is wished that he should represent the views of the people of Orange in relation to the removal of the seat of Government from Raleigh to Haywood. Should this place be fixed upon, it may give some value to your *town-lots*.

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Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh N. Carolina.]

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*From William K. Ruffin.*

HAW RIVER July 11th 1831.

My reason for writing to you at this time, is not that I have any thing interesting to communicate but I know you will look for a letter from home, and I promised to let you know every week how the crop looks and what the overseer is about. It has rained and continues to rain every day. So that the plantation wears the same appearance that it did on friday. The corn on this side the branch begins to *tassel* and *shoot*, and I fear will sustain some injury from the great luxuriance of its growth and the superabundance of the *shoots*; there being on many of the stocks from three to six. Of course the ears cannot be large and well filled unless the season should continue to be remarkably good, the wheat still remains in the fields, and I cannot say when we shall be able to get it into the Barn. The cotton does not look very well, the heavy rains, I

<sup>1</sup>Dr. William Montgomery.

<sup>2</sup>The University was at this time in severe financial straits and had applied to the State for aid. The question was much discussed in this campaign.

imagine, have been of no service to *it*; at least it does not seem to grow. It is clean. The overseer will cut the meadow sometime in the present week if there should be a prospect of any weather. Will you be so good as to let him know in your next letter whether you wish any of the grass-seed saved. What kind and what quantity. He can procure you almost any quantity without the least difficulty as the Machine answers for the threshing of the grass as well as of Wheat. Mr. Glass has made the proposition and the overseer agreed to it, that he should lend us two of his hands to cut the meadow and we return the favour by the loan of two of ours to assist in raising the Alamance Bridge. The overseer completed on Friday the fence which you directed to be made between the cotton patch and stubble fields, and was engaged on Saturday in hauling rails from Lowrie's old place to repair the fence on the Alamance and that around the lot westward of the house. Though the ground is very wet, too wet *I* think, he is ploughing the corn this morning and will finish before he stops. I walked through it yesterday and I think you will make a much better crop than you could have expected. It is quite foul in many spots.

\* \* \* \* \*

Of myself I can say nothing, but that I begin to despair. I have left so much behind me that I do not remember that I shudder at the thought of plodding through what is before me. I shall revise the first Vol. of B. next week, and perhaps I may then request the favour of some explanations upon parts that I do not thoroughly comprehend. Mr. B.'s encomiums upon the British Constitution, and Mr. Mitford's severe strictures, upon the Democratic Governments of Ancient Greece, together with the palpable evils of the System that prevails in our own State, have almost made me an advocate for Monarchical Governments. Tell Mr. Badger that Ed. Alison promises the people if they will give him a seat in the Legislature to shut his eyes to the sights he [torn] and his ears to the arguments he advances, and if he should entertain any doubts whatever upon the question under consideration that he will in all such cases take it for granted that Mr. B. is wrong and will vote against him. . . .

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh No. Carolina.]

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*To Montford Stokes.*

RALEIGH, July 16th 1831.

*Sir!*

As my judicial situation renders it improper, that I should join in the Consultations of the Trustees of the University, upon the most important fiscal concerns of the Institution; and the Terms of the Court, of

which I am a member, interfere with the annual examinations and commencement, so as to prevent my attendance on them; it is my duty to yield my situation at the Board to some gentleman more capable of filling it to the advantage of the College. Allow me, therefore, most respectfully, to tender my resignation of the place of a Trustee.<sup>1</sup>

I have the honor to be your Excellency's

Most obedient Servant

His Excellency  
Governor Stokes  
Raleigh, N. C.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

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*To Catherine Ruffin.*

RALEIGH—July 19th 1831.

*My dearest Daughter!*

It is difficult to determine, whether I am most affected by the sad or elated by the glad tidings contained in your letter—by the melancholy impression that I am shortly to lose from this earthly abode a virtuous and beloved sister; or the fond hope, that a cherished child is, by the grace of God, reconciled to her offended Maker by faith in the atonement of the precious death of our blessed Redeemer. I had heard from home, that my first born intended to seek peace in the “most comfortable sacrament of Sunday” and avow an earnest desire for the new birth to righteousness, the end whereof is everlasting life. Believing as I do, that your eternal salvation essentially depended on giving that evidence of repentance and faith and that token of obedience to the heavenly commandment “*Do this in remembrance of me*”: I rejoice in the happy event, as I value your soul. Bring forth now, my beloved, fruits meet for repentance—an holy and useful life, loving God above all things and your fellow men as yourself;—forgetting the things that are past and pressing forward from grace to grace and encreasing in the conviction of your own unworthiness and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ; and thus adorning the doctrine of God, our Saviour, in all things. May you have strength to resist and over come all temptations and to fight effectually against the world the flesh and the devil, with a reliance, not on your ability, but upon the goodness and help of God and with an eye single to his Glory! How much dearer you will become to your Parents, when the bond of Christianity is thus added to the natural tie of blood! I shall long to see and embrace you.

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I have never in my life suffered as keenly from absense from my family. The dire troubles that have fallen on so many members of it

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<sup>1</sup>Ruffin's resignation was accepted, but in 1849 he was again elected and served until the reorganization of the University in 1868.



aggravate a thousandfold the pains of seperation. But I will not dwell on the gloomy state of my feelings and reflections. I have carefully avoided the expression of them in my letters to Alleman: For I do not wish to add to the calamities they experience by letting them perceive how keenly they affect me. But I am low—low spirited at times, indeed.

The books for the boys, I cannot send up by Alexander Murphey as he goes early in the morning. But I will send them by Mr. Winston in fridays stage, if they are to be procured in town. Anne writes me that our boys are at Mr. Bingham's; which I am very glad to hear, as I always feared they might be too troublesome to our friends, so as to incline me to put them with Mr. B. if their grandfather and Mother would allow it. The present circumstances of the families both at Ayr-Mount and your Uncle John's will furnish a sufficient and obligatory inducement for geting other commons for them: Please therefore ask your Uncle John to engage board for them with Mr. Bingham. And tell Sterling to write to me; and lay on all of them my injunction to behave well and be studious.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is true that you have duties at home—but none I think that just now so imperatively demand your presence as those which detain you at Hillsborough. By all means stay, while you can be of any service to the sick or to her distressed attendants.

\* \* \* \* \*

Remember me in your addresses to the Throne of Grace: as you are ever in the mind and affection of

Dear Catherine,

Your father and friend

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Remember me most kindly to Mrs. Jones and the Colonel. I hope *he* will follow before long, if not *next*. Did neither of their sons accompany his Mother or will they not? I understand that dear Susan hath, at length, got all her doubts and difficulties settled and is enjoying the internal sunshine of a confident faith, which enables her to confess her Lord. I suppose and hope she has made open profession by uniting herself to the society for which she has so long expressed a partiality. I greet her cordially,

[Address: Hillsborough.]

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*From Lawson Henderson.*

Dear Sir.

NEAR LINCOLNTON 28th July 1831.

My son Hugh L. Henderson, who graduated last August at Franklin College in Athens (Geo) hath been reading law with his brother since

last Sept., but wishes to go to some law School to finish his studies, he had some intention of going to Judge Daggets School at Newhaven (Connecticut) but I was unwilling for him to study law out of this State, or to go so far North. In a conversation I had with D. F. Caldwell Esqr. of Salisbury last week he advised me to endeavour to get either you or Judge Henderson to take charge of him. He was 19 Years of age last March, he would expect to remain with you until he would arrive to the age of 21 Years, he is a Young man of good disposition and steady habits.

I write this to you, to know if you would take him and on what Terms, provided he should come to you with satisfactory certificates.

Be so good as to answer me on the subject as early as you can make it convenient. He would expect probably to go on about the middle of Sept. or first of October.

I am respectfully your  
most obedt. Servt.

Honble Thos. Ruffin.

LWN. HENDERSON.

[Address: Hawfields

Orange County No. Ca.]

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*From Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

WINDSOR 10th August 1831.

*My Dear Sir.*

The resolution of which the inclosed is a copy was unanimously passed by a meeting of the citizens of Bertie county convened by public notice to act in concert with the other sections of the United States on the subject of the tariff laws.

Resolved that we respectfully solicit and request the concurrence of other parts of the State in our solicitation to Jas. Iredell late Senator in Congress and Thomas Ruffin judge of the Supreme Court, that they attend as delegates of the State of North Carolina in the antitariff convention to be held in Philadelphia on 30th Sept. next.

I beg leave to assure you that it is highly gratifying to me to inform you of this manifestation of the continued confidence reposed in you by your fellow citizens of this county. And that no person at said meeting cherishes warmer feelings for you than your

Obt. St.

JOS. B. G. ROULHAC.

Thomas Ruffin Esq.

[Address: Haw River.]

*From E. P. Guion.*

RALEIGH SUNDAY August 28th 1831.

*Dear Sir:*

As there is at this time a very great excitement in the Country relative to the disturbance among the Slaves in the County of Southampton Va, and reports flying in every direction and Multiplying as they go and much calculated to allarm the people particularly the women I have thought that it would be agreeable to you to have a correct account as I have it from a very Inteligent young man (a Son of Doctor Bolin of Murfreesboro) who was out with a Company of armed men till Wednesday Morning Last when he left the X Keys for this place he States the facts to be those on Sunday Last there was a negro preaching near the X Keys where there was a considerable collection of Negroes that night after 12 o'clock about forty negroes assemble together with this preacher at therre head and went to a house and killed the family then took the horses and started for another killing all the whites they found. In this way they continued till they had killed fifty nine whites a list of (them the young Man has with him) at day light the alarm was Spread and the people assembled killed some of the negroes and the balance fled to the woods the people flocked together in different groups till some concert be had the people of Murfreesboro Mounted them Selves on horses and was the first to there assistance up to Wednesday Morning about twenty five of the Negroes had been killed and ten taken and confined to jail Seven more of the negroes had been discovered just as this young man left and about one hundred and fifty well mounted men had gone after them and he had no dout but they were killed therre was two Leaders one had been killed but the other the Preacher and General as he was told had not ben Taken It is Mr. Bolans opinion that not one was Left alive by Wednesday Night except those first Taken after the extent of the Murders was known Not one black was Spared that fell into there hands It is strange to me that men can be so blind and Infatuate as to be advocates of Negroes Preaching to negroes no dout that these verry Slaves would have Remained quiet but for this fanatic Black that has excited them to this diabolical deed some of them that were wounded and in the aggonies of Death declared that they was going happy fore that God had a hand in what they had been doing they also had a story among them that the English was to assist them Some instances of Fidelity was Shown by the Slaves that Deserve to be Recorded a gintleman By the name of Blount was about to Leve his plantation having learnt that the refractory Negroes where approaching it his Slaves entreated not to go as they would protect the family against any attack Shortly those wreches did appear and the Slaves faithful to there word assailed them with so much courage and one of two Being armed with their Master wounded two or three of the assailants and drove them entirely off three negroes that has left two plantations and

joined the Murderers returned after they were Dispersed and thought not to be discovered they where however Tied by the Negroes and kept in that State till the whites visited them when they where given up it was thought that not more than sixty negroes at the most was in the Rebellion the excite was however great when he left and no doubt would continue till there was a full investigation Mr. Bolin is after arms.

Respectfully Yours

E. P. GUION.

[Address: Haw River Postoffice  
Orange County N. C.]

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*From Thomas Hoskins.*

EDENTON, N. C. September 2nd 1831.

*Hon. Thomas Ruffin*

Dear Sir,

As Secretary of a meeting held in Edenton on the 27th ult. for the purpose of appointing Delegates to represent Chowan County and the State of North Carolina in the Anti-Tariff Convention which is to be held in Philadelphia on the 30th inst. I have the honor of transmitting to you a copy of the proceedings of said meeting—informing you of your appointment (among others) to represent the State—and hoping that you will accept of it, and attend said convention, to promote as far as you can the interests of your fellow-citizens.

Very Respectfully your obt. servt.

THO. S. HOSKINS.

In pursuance of a resolution published in the last No. of the Edenton Gazette, an adjourned meeting of the citizens of the Town of Edenton and County of Chowan, assembled in the Court House, on the afternoon of the 27th of August 1831, for the purpose of appointing Delegates to represent the County and the State, in the Anti-Tariff Convention proposed to be held in Philadelphia on the 30th of Sept. ensuing. Major Samuel T. Sawyer was called to the chair, and Thomas S. Hoskins Esq. appointed Secretary. The object of the meeting was then explained at considerable length by the Chairman, when D. W. Stone Esq. on the part of the Committee appointed for that purpose presented the following resolutions:

“Whereas it is a right which belongs to the people peaceably to assemble together at any time to remonstrate and protest against the passage or continuance in operation of any unjust and oppressive Laws; and whereas it is proposed that a Convention of Delegates from those parts of the Union oppressed by the Tariff Laws, be held in the City of

Philadelphia on the 30th of next month for the purpose of devising measures for their modification, and whereas it is an object as much to be desired by North Carolina as by any of her Sister States:—

Therefore Resolved, That it is with deep regret that we witness the great and unhappy state of excitement which prevails generally throughout the Union and particularly in the Southern States on account of the Tariff Laws.

Resolved, That all duties are partial in their operation, and that their imposition for any other purposes than those of revenue are unjust and oppressive, and, if not to the letter, are contrary to the spirit of the Constitution.

Resolved, That we will cheerfully co-operate with our fellow-citizens of the United States in using all constitutional means so to modify the Tariff Laws as to make them as little oppressive as the nature of the case will admit.

Resolved, That \_\_\_\_\_ be requested to attend said Convention in behalf of this meeting.

Resolved, That we cordially unite with our fellow citizens of Bertie in respectfully soliciting the Hon. James Iredell, late Senator in Congress, and the Hon. Thomas Ruffin, Judge of the Supreme Court, to attend said Convention as Representatives of the State of North Carolina.

Resolved, That these proceedings be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and that copies of them be forwarded to the Hon. James Iredell, and the Hon. Thomas Ruffin, and that they be published in the Edenton Gazette, with a request to all other Editors in the State friendly to the cause to give them an insertion in their papers.”

On motion, it was resolved, that the blank in the fourth resolution be filled with the names of three persons; Whereupon Major Saml. T. Sawyer, Joseph B. Skinner, and Nathl Bean Esqrs, were severally nominated and elected to attend the Convention to be held in Phila in behalf of the citizens of Chowan County.

On motion, it was further resolved, That the Hon. Wilie P. Mangum be respectfully requested to attend said Convention in company with the Hon. James Iredell, and the Hon. Thomas Ruffin, in behalf of the State, and that a copy of these proceedings be forwarded to him.

On motion, it was further resolved, that the persons appointed as Delegates to represent the County of Chowan, be authorized to supply any vacancy that may arise from sickness, absence, or inability to attend.

SAML. T. SAWYER, Ch'm.

THO. S. HOSKINS, Sec'y.

P. S. You have no doubt, ere this, heard of the great excitement and alarm that prevails in this section of country in consequence of an insurrection among the negroes in Southampton, Va. It has been nearly suppressed. About 60 whites murdered. Several negroes killed no doubt many innocent ones will suffer. The Guard and Patrol are very strict

everywhere. The jails are filled to overflowing. Ten likely fellows were bro't to town last night and put in jail, from the upper part of this County, C. E. Johnson's and Genl. Brownrigg's etc. Proof is *said to be* strong vs. them. Many people are up night and day. It has been very sickly this summer.

[Address: Hillsborough No. Carolina.]

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*From Henry Stith.*

HAW RIVER, Oct. 3rd, 1831.

I sit down to make a few remarks on the subject of our joint trade and business at this place: believing it be a duty which I owe first to you, and next to myself; to give you my candid opinion of this neighbourhood in regard to its adaptation to the interest of a Merchant, and to disclose to you the causes of my dissatisfaction and unwillingness to remain here much longer; and also the reasons why I think it would be against your interest to continue a Store here.

Twelve or eighteen months ago, perhaps, you had but a limited acquaintance with the majority of the people of this neighbourhood, and a slight knowledge of their habits and manner of living:—Thus situated you enquired if it was a good section of country for a store; and were told that it was;—true, it may have been in other days,—for a store different in kind and character from ours; but the time is gone; many of the people, perhaps, have removed, and those who remain have changed their habits, learned economy, and make their own clothing—trade to Fayetteville for their Iron, Salt, Sugar, Coffee, and Molasses etc. and live on the productions of their own plantations;—and now it is not a good place for a store, unless I have looked without seeing, and have heard without understanding. And I now feel convinced that I never should have settled here, and that you never would have desired it, nor been willing to vest any capital in trade at this place, if the character of the neighbourhood had been fairly and truly represented to us, as it is at the present day. If *we* have been deceived (and I think we have) what shall we do to remedy the evil? to guard against loss? Shall we remove the merchandise to some other place and continue trade, or try to dispose of it here and close the business? Mr. A. has informed me that, “he thinks Mr. Glass is very anxious to rent the Mills”—perhaps he will give as much or more for them than H. S. and Co. for the same length of time. If he will I am very willing for him to have them. You can think of that.

Several causes conspire to make me unwilling to remain here much longer under present circumstances: a few of which I will mention.

With me, time is money,—is precious, and should not pass by unimproved. I have all *that* to do which my progenitor should have done, or could not do for me. I have to make my fortune and *establish* a good character, (if I ever have either) to *refine* [refine?] my taste and correct my principles, to cultivate and enlarge my understanding. These things it is my duty as rational creature to perform. The first requires a good place for trade, with honesty, diligence and economy on my part. For the accomplishment of the others it is necessary that I should be where I could mingle (according to my merit), with *good society* of both Sexes—with Society whose conversation would tend to refine and enlarge the Soul and improve the understanding—whose example would be the best guide to propriety of conduct, correctness of principle, and laudibleness of purpose. Here I am obliged to spend my leisure hours in irksome solitude,—if I would laugh, there is no one to heighten my joy by participation—if I would weep (which is oftener the case), there is no one to meliorate my grief by sympathizing with me. Enough of this unmanly strain. Yet it is the force of social nature—the Spoiler of all my happiness. Another objection to staying here arises from the want of some family convenient, decent, and agreeable, with whom I could board,—supposing Mr. A. will go away. I can scarcely think of undertaking to board myself.

If you were first induced to engage in merchandising by the desire to make money produce more money?—If you selected this place because you thought it in a good neighbourhood for a merchant to trade profitably, and not merely because it was near you? If you are willing to have an interest in a store at any other place, and have confidence to commit the management of it to me, when it would be removed from under your eye? I humbly conceive there can be no very good reason for the continuing of it here, nor any insuperable objection to removing it to some other place where it would be more profitable: And, I think the difference in expense on business here and elsewhere would be very trifling and can hardly be an inducement to continue here, especially if we consider that we would probably do a great deal better some where else. Moreover, if I know any thing of *myself*, I would succeed much better with a Store in a town or village than I can in the country. I have tried both and know from experience that if I am fit for either I am much more fit for a salesman in a town.

I hope you will have reflected on these things when meet again.

Hon: Thos. Ruffin.

*From Anthony Meilan.<sup>1</sup>*

WILMINGTON N. C. 14th. Octo. 1831.

*Dear Sir.*

The several years that have interviened since I last had the pleasure of seeing you, have not contributed to my worldly accumulations; and the foreign Commission Business has so materially diminish'd, in comparison to its former Importance, without the probability of revival, at least to my benefit, that I have been induced to turn my Attention to an Avocation, wherein a knowledge of foreign Languages, a smattering of legal Learning, and a practical Mercantile Education and Experience may give me Advantages, facilitate my Duties and perhaps add to my circumscribed Resources.

It is that of a Notary Publick. The Opening is propitious. Two principal Notaries—Montesquieu M. Campbell, and Daniel Sherwood are elected members of the Assembly; and Mr. B. Blayne holds the Appointment of the Cashier of the Wilmington Branch of the St. Bk. of N. C.—thus all likely to be sufficiently otherwise engaged. The Recollection of the very many essential Services rendered, and other proofs of your friendly disposition towards me, naturally suggested to my mind, the proper Medium of an Application to the Governor of the State, would be thro' a person of high standing and merited Influence, who had voluntarily deemed me deserving of his good Opinion, and who would receive pleasure by furthering my reasonable pretensions.

It is therefore to the feelings of Gratitude for past kindnesses, that you must ascribe the present Importunity. That you will take an early Opportunity to recommend me to the Governor for an Appointment to the Office of Notary Publick for the County of New Hanover.

I will write to my friend John Burgwyn to request, Mr. Thos. Devreux of Raleigh to urge the Governor's Secretary to expedite the Document, should the Application be made, and meet the Governor's Goodwill and pleasure.

Any additional Recommendation, that may be deem'd requisite from here, shall be forwarded without delay.

I will not apologize for the trouble this Interceedence may occasion You, as I feel confident your Goodness would prompt a very different term—but I must beg leave to subscribe myself.

Dear Sir

Your grateful and  
Obliged friend

ANTHONY MEILAN.

Honble Judge Ruffin  
etc., etc.

Haw River Po. Office.

Orange County N. C.

<sup>1</sup>Anthony Meilan was an Englishman by birth who had been for a time British consul at Wilmington.



*From Frederick J. Hill.*<sup>1</sup>

PITTSBOROUGH 14th October 1831.

When I had the pleasure of seeing you in Raleigh and made application in behalf of my nephew for a situation in your office; I think you replied that if young Brown did not return there would be a vacancy which you would reserve for him; and if I remember correctly I was to write you on the subject previously to my return to the home country. You should have heard from me earlier but for my intention to visit you before the expiration of the summer the excitement under which we labored in this community in consequence of the negro Plot and other matters have prevented; and I hope there is still a vacancy which he can fill.

I should be glad to hear from you on the subject and as I expect to go to Wilmington in a few days you will please write me at that place.

[Address: Murphy Mills  
Orange County N. Carolina.]

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*From John M. Dick.*

RALEIGH, November the 22nd, 1831.

I had intended to call on you on my way to this place, but concluded to take the stage and I was therefore inconvenient for me to do so. The Legislature Convened on yesterday and appointed Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Fisher Speakers. Mr. C. was opposed by Mr. Moseley—the vote was 38—20. Mr. Fisher was also opposed by Mr. Henry and Mr. Sawyer, the State of the poll I did not learn.

From what I have been able to learn among the members I believe there is a general disposition to establish a Bank upon some plan. I presume Mr. Martin will bring forward his project again. I am fully satisfied from the reasons you assigned me last winter and others that have suggested themselves that his plan will not do. I intend either to offer an amendment to his bill or to introduce a bill provided some Gentlemen more capable should not do so before me. For I think it a matter of vast importance to the State that the Bank should be established on correct principles at first and not be labouring under difficulties from its origin. You have heretofore been pleased to converse freely with me on the subject And as I am in great need of all the information I can obtain I must ask the favour of you to so arrange

<sup>1</sup>Dr. Frederick J. Hill, of Brunswick and Chatham, state senator, 1835; member of the Commons, 1836-1840.

your affairs that I can see you at Hillsboro next week and have an hours Conversation on this subject. I expect to be there the three first days of the County Court. I have the highest confidence in your experience and Judgment on this subject and believe that you could make many suggestions to me that would be of lasting benefit to the State.

It is a matter in which we are both interested in common with every citizen of the State, and this must serve as my apology for making the above request.

I hope to meet you in good health at this place at the next session of the Supreme Court.

Be pleased to tender my respects to Mrs. Ruffin and the rest of your family

The Honourable Thomas Ruffin.

[Address: Haw River

Orange County N. Carolina]

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*From James R. Dodge.*

WILKESBORO, 4, Decr. 1831.

Permit me to introduce to you Mr. John Kerr,<sup>1</sup> a son of the Revd. John Kerr<sup>2</sup> of Richmond Virginia. He is a friend whom I esteem. He has been engaged for the last year in studying the profession of the Law of this State, in the Library of his brother in Law N. L. Williams of Surry, with some assistance from Mr. Pearson. He is a young gentleman of excellent standing and character.

Hon. T. Ruffin.

[Address: Supreme Court Raleigh.]

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*Lewis Williams to the Judges of the Supreme Court.*

*To the Honorable the Judges of the Supreme Court of North Carolina—  
Gentlemen.*

I take the liberty to submit to your consideration the inclosed letter of recommendation from Co. John Williams<sup>3</sup> of Knoxville.

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<sup>1</sup>John Kerr of Caswell, 1811-1879, destined to be later a prominent figure in North Carolina politics.

<sup>2</sup>Rev. John Kerr was a noted Baptist minister who had been a member of Congress from 1813 to 1817.

<sup>3</sup>John Williams was the brother of Lewis Williams. He was very prominent in Tennessee politics, possessing a full share of the political ability which characterized this very remarkable family, and was United States Senator from 1815 to 1823.

I believe you are personally acquainted with Col. Williams, and I have no doubt, if consistent with your rules, that you will give to his recommendation the effect to which, in your judgment, it may be entitled. In his letter to me he says the moral character of Mr. Porter is unexceptionable.

Allow me to add that as the circumstances of the case appear somewhat peculiar, I hope the application in behalf of Mr. Porter will succeed, and that you will be pleased to forward the license to me at this place.

I have the honor to be gentlemen with great respect  
your obt and most Hbl. Servt.

LEWIS WILLIAMS.

Washington Dec. 7th 1831.

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[Enclosure]

*To the Honble. J. Hall, L Henderson and T. Ruffin.*

*Gentlemen,*

Mr. James P. H. Porter of Sevier County Tennessee is desirous of obtaining a license to practice law in North Carolina. In 1803 I met with Mr. Porter in this State who was then and has continued to be a respectable Lawyer. He is a man of exemplary habits. His health is delicate and he would not be able to travel this winter to Raleigh. If consistent with your rules to dispense with a personal examination I shall be gratified if you will authorize Mr. Porter to practice in North Carolina. He lives adjacent to Haywood and Macon counties in your State.

Respectfully your

Humble Servt.

JOHN WILLIAMS.

Knoxville Nov: 27th 1831.

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*From J. R. Goodman.*

NEWBERN December 22d, [1831]

It will be known to you, no doubt by the time this reaches Raleigh, that Mr. Hawkes Collector of the Port died on Tuesday last, after a long and painful sickness, caused by an organic affection of the heart. To the vacancy in the office, the attention of four or five persons has already been directed, and two of them have proceeded to Washington to solicit the appointment.

Among the number of applicants is Mr. Wilkins, the Deputy Collector—the father of a numerous family,— and one of our most ex-

cellent citizens. I know I speak the sentiment of the town when I say that no appointment would be hailed with such universal satisfaction as his. It is for him or rather for his interest that I am guilty of the presumption of addressing you on a subject, in which my feelings have become warmly excited,—for I know Mr. Wilkins' worth and capacity.

Our common friend S. Simpson Esqr. has intimated to me that it is his sincere desire that you would as early as possible write to Senators Mangum and Brown and solicit their kind offices in behalf of Mr. Wilkins. The reason that he does not make the request himself, is that on account of family connexion alone he was induced to sign the petition of Abner Pasteur, for whom he believes there is no hope of success. To preserve his consistency he is unwilling to express his wishes, and it is with cheerfulness that I obey his request to write to you.

I need not I hope say any more; indeed the mail here will not permit me to do so. Let me respectfully request that you enquire of Mr. Gaston as to the applicant's character etc., and allow me to beg as a favour to the town and my humble self, that the desired communications be made to Messieurs Mangum and Brown.

Honble Judge Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

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*From John Giles.*

SALISBURY 26: Decemr. 1831.

This will be handed you by my friend Mr. Burton Craige,<sup>1</sup> and I request the favour to introduce him to your acquaintance. His object in going to Raleigh, is to make application at the ensuing Term of the Supreme Court, for a county Court License. Mr. Craige is a young man, in whose favour I have always taken a deep interest. He is the son of a respectable farmer of my County—and it was in a great degree at my solicitation, that he made exertions to give him the advantages of our University, and before he completed his course at the University, he had the misfortune to loose his father and mother, and without the aid of these two kind and best friends, Mr. Craig has so far made for himself a good moral character, and in every respect he is a man of strict integrity and the Gentleman. Sir, your own feelings will find for me an apology for the length of this letter.

[Address: Raleigh]

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<sup>1</sup>Burton Craige of Rowan, 1811-1875, later prominent in North Carolina politics and for many years a member of Congress.

*From H. P. Poindexter.*

*Dear Sir*

HUNTSVILLE July 14th 1832.

My Nephew Thomas L. Clingman<sup>1</sup> who is now a Student at Chapel Hill and will finish his Studies at that place next Summer, is desirous shortly afterwards of commencing the Study of the Law under your direction.

The reasons why he wishes this early application made, are, that you may have sufficient time to determine whether it will be agreeable to you to receive him and if not that he may make application elsewhere.

He has been informed that you sometimes take a few students under your direction.

An answer is not requested immediately but at your own option, within a month or two will answer his purposes: when that favor is solicited by yours with respect etc.

H. P. POINDEXTER.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.  
[Address: Raleigh.]

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*To Catherine Ruffin.*

*Dear Catherine./*

RALEIGH—Febry. 12th 1832.

I am pleased to hear from you at last, for I really feared you were ill—or worse—had forgotten me. It seems I was partly right as to the former; for, according to my experience, the influenza may be said to be a serious illness; and perhaps I was not altogether wrong in the latter apprehension. But as I am engaged in business and you fully occupied with amusements, perhaps it was well enough to overlook me for the time for the friends of the moment. The true value of real friends is that they are so with or without attentions and stick to one when those who must be courted fall off. The influenza has played sad work with some of us here. I was quite sick for ten days—much more than I thought, until I discovered how weak I was after the excitement of fever subsided. Judge Henderson had also a severe attack. And one old friend Mr. Browne was taken last tuesday night and has remained ill ever since. His attack was dangerous and may yet be so; for he is still in bed, unable to sit up. I think however that he is slowly mending.

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<sup>1</sup>Thomas L. Clingman of Surry and later of Buncombe, 1812-1897, destined to be one of the most notable figures in North Carolina political history. He was a member of the legislature, of Congress, of the United States Senate, a general in the Confederate Army, a prominent lawyer, and an active business man.

\* \* \* \* \*

I am chiefly reconciled to your remaining in Newbern by the hope that you will see and make yourself agreeable to Mrs. Taylor. Her absence during the winter has as yet deprived you of that pleasure and advantage; and her illness I fear still detains her from her niece's nuptials. I am very desirous that you should have an opportunity of showing her honor and reverence. She deserves such deference from you, for she is entitled to the respect of all the good. She is the widow of my predecessor, a man eminent for learning as for station—the Sister of a great and virtuous man, who is my particular friend—and a most amiable woman and pious Christian. I hope you will take all proper occasions of evincing your sense of her high claims to your particular respect and attachment. I am sure that the arrival of Mrs. James Taylor will not make Newbern less acceptable, nor the wedding less captivating to *you*.

They say, by the bye, that one marriage always brings about another, I have no reason to suppose that you can have any concern in that adage. If I had, I might feel it a duty to say, beware of *strangers*. It is a lottery at best; but where the disposition, personal *character* of the parties and reputation of the connexions are unknown—where education and manners are unlike and may be uncongenial—it is a lottery, in which a ticket does wonders when it comes out a mere blank: generally, it draws ruin and wretchedness. Never marry any man, whom *you* don't *know* and *I* don't *know*. This is not forbidding the banns; for I have no suspicion of your throwing yourself away. But it is opening your eyes to evil, while it is yet a great way off. Yet I suppose I should not have thought of such a matter, had I not heard from home that you joked in one of your letters about a *Mr. G \* \* \* \** who I suppose is the friend and companion of the worthless fellow who inveigled and deluded that essence of silly simplicity and old maidenism, Miss *D \* \* \**. I know nothing of the young man, but that association. But that's enough. So, while I was thinking of him, it struck me as well enough to lay down a general rule. For I love you too much not to feel uneasy even at a jest upon a point that concerns you so nearly.

\* \* \* \* \*

Believe me, dear Catherine,

Your affec. father and best friend

THOMAS RUFFIN.

[Address: New Bern, No. Ca.]

\* \* \* \* \*

*From Hugh Campbell.*<sup>1</sup>

CLARKSTON, KING AND QUEEN COUNTY, VIRGINIA,

March 18th, 1832.

*Dear Sir,*

Permit one who has the honor of being nearly related to you, by our common grand parents, the late Colo. Thomas Roane and Mrs. Mary Roane, of this county, to write you a few lines. My dear relative, I hope, and indeed am persuaded, you will pardon this liberty. The object of this letter, is to ask the favor of you, to endeavour to procure for me a fine bred mare, to be in foal by Monsieur Tonson (of your State) from the present season. I wish to procure a mare sired by Old Sir Archy, and of unexceptionable pedigree, on the dam's side.<sup>2</sup> And in the event that an Archy mare cannot be had, one by old Timoleon, or by Mr. Long's fine horse Marion.

The leading motive with me, is to get a thorough bred brood mare, not more than 6 or 8 years old, or younger, or older, and when delivered to me say at Petersburg, the 1st or 15th or 30th June next, to be in foal by Monsieur Tonson. Our stock of horses has greatly degenerated within the last 15 or 20 years, and I wish to make an effort to improve them. I would prefer a mare of good size, say 15 or 15½ hands high, full muscle, clean limbs, handsome and of blood or dark bay colour, with black legs, mane and tail, and no white, except a star in the forehead. A dark chestnut (without white) is next to be preferred. Next a fine strong grey colour. Will you be so good as to attend to this business and write me upon the subject, and if you can procure a suitable one, give me a full history of her size, colour, age and blood—in short, a detailed pedigree. I presume one can be had for \$250 or 300\$, delivered at Petersburg at a given day, when I could meet the owner and pay him. I do not wish you to make a positive contract, untill you write to me, and immediately upon the reception of yours, I will give you an answer. I have been informed that my excellent uncle, your late Father, had a very superior stock of blood horses. Perhaps you can supply me with one of genuine pedigree, from his old stock. If a mare with a colt by her side, can be got upon fair terms I should be highly pleased. My son, Thomas Roane, has just arrived and wishes to get a mare also. If two can be had, we will take them.

Enough upon this subject, fearing I have already tired you. In May next, I shall be 45—am an old man with gray hairs, blossoming for the grave. Have been twice married—a son and two daughters, (all married) by the first, and a son and three daughters, by the last marriage—all too young to marry.

<sup>1</sup>Hugh Campbell was the son of Archibald and Sarah (Roane) Campbell, and was Ruffin's first cousin.

<sup>2</sup>Written on the margin: "The blood of old impd. Citizen is particularly desirable."

Thank God, my three first children have good husbands and wife and are doing pretty well in temporal matters. But none of them have embraced Religion, the pearl of great price. I have been a poor unworthy Baptist 20 years this month. Have much to reproach myself for, and what I am, I am by the Grace of God. I have been informed that your late parents, for some years before their death, had cut loose their affections from the distracting cares of this life; were eminently pious members of the Methodist Church and died in the Triumphs of Faith. I do indeed envy such, and will try to emulate them. Our cousin Colo. Archd. R. Harwood, is now the representative from this county to the Assembly. Tom Harwood removed many years ago to Tennessee and has a large family of children. A great many of our relatives have gone the way of all the earth, notwithstanding, a large number still remain, as you know ours was a very numerous family.

I hope you believe that it will afford great satisfaction to hear from you and yours. Hoping this may reach you in the enjoyment of every earthly blessing and the prospect of a glorious immortality,

I remain your afft Cousin.

HUGH CAMPBELL.

P. S. I know of a fine bay colt, by Monsieur Tonson and genuine blood on the dam's side, one year old this grass, please write me, what such an one can be had for.

H. C.

[Address: The Hon. Judge Thomas Ruffin  
Haw River North Carolina.

Not knowing in what part of the state of N. C. Judge Ruffin resides, the Post Master at Raleigh will please send this letter to the proper office.

H. C.]

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*From B. R. Alexander.*

LOUISBURG. March 22d. 1832.

I received your letter sometime since, and should have answered it, as soon as the Court adjourned, but for my attendance upon my Courts.

When I wrote you, I had heard from some source that you had Law Students, and therefore you could have no objection to Mr. Henderson as one. Your letter leads me to a different conclusion. I must be excused for still pressing upon you that he may pass his course of legal studies, [torn].

You will oblige me, by writing upon the reception of this.

I left Judge Norwood very unwell at Anson, on Sunday, the old man is very weak and infirm, and the trial of a suit that took two days prostrated him.



"Few die none resign" was the expression of Mr. Jefferson, when he had reached the Presidency—the latter part is strictly true, of our Judges.

I think your friend, Van Buren's fate is sealed by the nomination of Judge Wilkins.<sup>1</sup> Van has but few friends in this part of the State. What do you think of the decision of the Supreme Court?<sup>2</sup> I believe Gen. Jackson will not have nerve to enforce it.

[Address: Haw River Orange County, N. C.]

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*From Michael Holt.*<sup>3</sup>

HOLTS STORE May 10th 1832.

Amongst divers opinions united with the experiments of many Farmers I have been one engaged for Twenty years in the improvement of our much exhausted soil of this my native Land.

In this time I have tried different plans and the experience of others worthy of notice, and have some times faild with the loss of labour and crops.

Within the last eight or Ten years I have persued a course of my own, I call it my own, because I have not known the same practiced by any other person, and I am lead to believe that I have fallen on the right course suitable for the soil and climate of N. C. I have been of that opinion for some time and no doubt I have often tired you with relating my course of Farming. I think an opportunity offers itself at this time to evidence to my country men and neighbors, that their is something more than theory. My present crop of wheat on very old Land, not manured, is worth a ride up to see it, and you will be able to Judge for your self—a favourable season for a crop of wheat would not show the difference so plain as the present very unfavourable season past, it was put in—in the month of November and has no advantage on that score, but the effect of management in a *Rotation* of crops.

I think your farm on the Allemance would suit my plan, it is not easy to discover an improvement in exoisted soil only in the crop it produces and that of a difficult season like the present.

Judge Thos. Ruffin.

[Address: Hawriver P. Office Orange, N. C.]

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<sup>1</sup>William Wilkins of Pennsylvania, 1779-1865, had just been nominated by the Democrats of his State for Vice-President.

<sup>2</sup>The decision here referred to was in the case of Worcester v. Georgia, 6 Peters, 521. Jackson's reported comment: "John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it," is well known.

<sup>3</sup>Michael Holt was a well-known farmer of Orange County who served several times in the state Senate.

*From Giles Mebane.*<sup>1</sup>

*Respected Sir.*

CHAPEL HILL May 19th 1832.

It is hoped you will excuse the liberty I take to inquire whether living at home I could enjoy the advantages of your library and instructions. I would make an occasional visit procure books get directions in the use of them and be examined on what I had read.

I should apply to spend a considerable portion (about half) of the time under your more immediate supervision—but I have understood that you could not with convenience receive more young men than have already engaged with you. If I have been incorrectly informed I would be glad to learn that it would not be inconvenient to give me a part of the time the benefit of your frequent counsel which I could not receive at the distance of Mason Hall from your house.

As from not having realized the anticipated advantages of a Tutorship in the University I have been induced to make this application. I would be very much obliged in learning the result of it before the close of the present College Session that I might make arrangements accordingly. I have the honour to be Sir your ob't and h'ble se'vnt.

GILES MEBANE.

Honble Thomas Ruffin.

[Address: Haw River Orange.]

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*From H. P. Poindexter.*

July 3d 1832.

I directed a letter to you some time past but from receiving no answer suppose you failed to receive it.

My nephew Thos. L. Clingman is desirous to commence the study of Law this fall under your direction if it would be agreeable to you to receive him.

I would take it as a favor if you would inform me whether or no you will accord to his wishes. Direct to Huntsville Surry County.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

[Address: Hawfield Orange County N. C.]

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<sup>1</sup>Giles Mebane, of Orange and later of Alamance and Caswell, 1809-1899, at this time a tutor at the University from which he graduated in 1831. He read law under Ruffin and became a successful practitioner. He served in the Commons, 1844-1848, 1854, and 1860. He was elected to the Senate in 1862, 1864, and 1878, and was speaker during the two former sessions.

*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT 16th July 1832.

I had not the pleasure of receiving your highly valued letter of the 7th Instant untill the day before yesterday—Yesterday I rode down to see our inestimable friend Judge Hall,<sup>1</sup> that I might give you the very best information as to the state of his health. I found him much as he was on his return from Raleigh—with the exception, that his strength, which was almost prostrated by his trip home, and his general appearance had improved. He *persuades* himself he is better. His friends, however, are not so fortunate—they cannot perceive any essential amendment—and still fear the worst result. . . . He walks about the house occasionally, and sometimes sits up in his chair. I fear he will not go to Philadelphia. He still hesitates, and seems so distressed at the idea that his friends mention it with great delicacy. I ventured upon it—(not the first time either) but he shrunk so feelingly from it, I could not but forbear. He hopes the best—fears the worst—and is, therefore, reluctant to know the true character of his malady. I will occasionally let you hear further from him.

Before I conclude, allow me to add that the receipt of a letter from you revives pleasurable recollections of bye-gone days—when after our separation in Warrenton our juvenile pens were employed for the entertainment and amusement of each other—and in giving utterance to feelings of the most disinterested friendship—feelings—which I am pleased to have it in my power now to say, still glow with unabated ardor in my bosom.

\* \* \* \* \*

[P. S.] Our crops are suffering much with the draught—tho' a good rain in a day or two, with tolerable seasons afterwards, will fill our cribs.

I have just read the Presidents veto message on the bank Bill—it is *very* able and strong—and with the exception of one or two paragraphs, which seem rather designed “ad captandum” is “hard to beat.” I think it will shed more lustre upon his name and fame than any act of his life—not excepting even the N. Orleans affair.

[Address: Haw River Orange Cty. N. C.]

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<sup>1</sup>John Hall, of Warren, 1767-1832, a native of Virginia, judge of the Superior Court, 1800-1818; associate justice of the Supreme Court, 1818-1832.

*From Frederick Nash.*

HILLSBORO 18th July, [1832]

I received lately a letter from Mr. Robert Chapman, a son Dr. Chapman formerly of our University—enclosing a number of papers and certificates, with a view of procuring him a license. These papers were intended to have met me at Raleigh during the siting of the Supreme Court. Mr. Chapman has a license to practice both in Alabama, and Tennessee and was under the impression that upon exhibiting to the Judges his licenses and certificates of his standing and character, he could be licensed here. I have written to him and informed him, that our court grants permission to practice only upon personal examination—and then in the first instance only in the County Court. Such is my impression as to the rule of the Supreme Court. Mr. Chapman has married the daughter of a Col. Chunn of Buncomb, is settled at Asheville and is anxious to procure his license. My object in writing to you is to ascertain whether the Judges grant licenses in Vacation. Such things I know have been done. Will the Judges do it again and do they ever grant a Supr. Court license in the first instance—this I know has also been done. Will you do me the favour to answer these inquiries.

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*From Wright C. Stanly.*

[NEW BERN, N. C. July 28, 1832]

\* \* \* \* \*

I arrived in Raleigh, some weeks ago, a few days after you had left—found Judge Hall much emaciated but in better spirits than he had been. Have you heard from or of him lately? What is the prospect of his recovery.

I recd. a few days since, from Will: Cummings of Geo<sup>a</sup>. a pamphlet on the subject of Nullification. He completely exposes the fallacy of the doctrine and declares there is no middle ground, Union or separation are the alternatives.—He requests to be remembered to you.

Judge Ruffin

[Address: Near Hillsboro No. Ca.]

*From Robert H. Chapman.<sup>1</sup>*

ASHEVILLE BUNCOMBE CO., No. CA. [July, 1832]

*Judge Ruffin*

*Sir*

For reasons hereinafter stated I have taken the liberty of addressing you, altho' I have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance, I am a member of the legal profession. My license bears date in the spring of 1829, the sphere of my legal operation heretofore has been Alabama and Tennessee of each of which states I hold a license. From some change in my domestic relations I have become desirous of locating myself in the western part of your state with a view of pursuing the practice of the Law.

The object of this communication is to request some information as regards the practice of the supreme court in granting Licenses to to applicants heretofore engaged in the practice in a sister state.

Do the Supreme court require of such a county court probation? Is the personal application and examination of such a "Sine qua non" with the Bench? Or would a written application, attended with sufficient vouchers of *Character, Deportment, and legal attainment be sufficient?*

Now Sir, if you will please to grant me an early answer to the foregoing together with other necessary information connected with the subject you will very much oblige

Your obdt Servant

ROBT. HETT CHAPMAN.

P. S. Will the Judges hear an application during vacation.  
[Address: Hawfield Orange County  
No. Carolina]

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*From John C. Ehringhaus.<sup>2</sup>*

ELIZABETH CITY August 16, 1832.

I have a son<sup>3</sup> who in October will be 18 Years, he has been 2½ Years at Washington College at Hartford Con: and owing to a difference with one of the professors was dismissed in April last. I kept him at home untill a few weeks past, and sent him to Chapel Hill to enter there.

<sup>1</sup>See *supra*, Nash to Ruffin, dated July 18, 1832.

<sup>2</sup>John Christopher Ehringhaus, of Pasquotank, who was a member of the House of Commons in 1819 and 1820.

<sup>3</sup>John Christopher Blucher Ehringhaus entered the University at this time and remained there for one year. He was a lawyer of some reputation and was a member of the legislature from 1842 to 1848. He died in 1853.

The professor will allow him to enter the Sophmore Class, to this I cannot agree, as it would throw him back to far; he is anxious to study law, and I know of no one in the State, under whose care I would place him with more satisfaction than under yours; presuming that you take law Students I ask of you the favour to take charge of my Son; from his promises and the remorse he seems to feel for his former error, I am satisfied he will endeavour to give satisfaction to you as well as myself. Your terms will be cheerfully and punctually complied with by me. I have written him by this mail to wait upon you, and learn the result of this application.

Should you however decline (which I trust will not be the case) allow me to solicit your friendly aid, to have him placed under some able Jurist; formerly Judge Henderson received Students, and any arrangement you may make will not only be complied with, but greatly oblige me.

Honble. Judge Ruffin.

[Address: Hillsborough N. C.]

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*To Sterling Ruffin.*<sup>1</sup>

ALLEMANCE—August 21st, 1832.

*My dear son./*

The letter you wrote me gave your Mother and myself, besides the other members of the family, more pleasure than your modesty will allow you to believe. It is a sincere gratification to find that our children love us; and to find proofs of that in their obedience to our commands, their compliances with our wishes, and their endeavours by diligence in study and propriety of behaviour to make themselves worthy of our care and our love. I hope you will not forget your promise to write according to my request; and also that covenant you have made in your own mind with yourself and your friends, to study hard. The great object of a Parent's life is to rear his children to virtue, to educate them for eminence in useful stations in life, and finally, to fit them for discharging their duties in this world and reaping their rich reward in that which is to come. And that on which our hearts is fixed and which fills them with happiness, is, to find that our children by piety, steadiness, studiousness, a grateful remembrance of our pains and benefits to them and the cultivation of an amiable and affectionate disposition, are throwing their exertions in aid of our own to accomplish those desirable ends. You are separated from us; but you are not out of our minds. You are daily thought of and almost as often talked of

<sup>1</sup>Sterling Ruffin, 1817-1908, Judge Ruffin's fifth child and second son.

at home. You ought to be sensible of this and let it have its perfect work in the regulation of your conduct. Ask yourself frequently "how would my father and my Mother wish me to employ my time or to act upon this particular occasion?—What conduct in this matter would please them or displease them? What advice would they give, if they knew my situation at present? Would *they* advise me to do *wrong*? May I not be sure, they would give me the best advice? Then ought not I to act *as I believe they would approve*? These interrogatories habitually repeated to yourself would give you a habit of self-examination and would lead you to the consideration of right and wrong and forming just notions of virtue and vice, which would have a most salutary effect in rendering the former lovely and the latter hideous in your sight; and I earnestly recommend to you such a catechism. But, my son, altho' you have not the advantage of the personal admonitions or approbation of your parents always at hand, you can often obtain their counsels by asking for them by your letters; and, moreover, you are ever provided with the best assistance in your excellent Grandfather and mother and Uncles and Aunts. You, like most boys, are not sent amongst strangers, who feel no interest in your conduct, your acquirements or your happiness. But it is your good fortune to be under the roof of your dearest friends, who love you, who are good, who take the deepest concern in your welfare and will readily do all you will permit them to promote it. They deserve your fullest confidence; and I trust you will ask their opinions as soon and abide by them as stedfastly as you would mine. The great dangers to which boys of your age are exposed are those of obstinacy of temper, self-will not yielding to control, and idleness. There is no true happiness which is not accompanied by the esteem of one's relations and acquaintances: Hence the necessity, as a matter of prudence, not to speak of the moral duty, of watching the heart and correcting its selfishness and its ill humors: Be modest, be kind and affectionate to all around you; be dutiful to your elders, your betters, your relatives; be cheerful and be polite to all. Yield with readiness and without a murmur or a frown to the commands and the advice of those who have the government over you and seek with humility their instructions. But the great thing I would warn you against is *sloth*. At your age an aversion to exertion and, particularly, to study is not uncommon. Indeed it is the besetting sin of boys; and leads to all other evils—bad company, bad habits, bad practices. Early life is wasted and your latter days are unfruitful, laborious, wretched. Be assured the earnest and diligent application of the periods of your boyhood and youth will be amply repaid in future life by profit, by respectability, by acquirements, by usefulness, by worth, by happiness. Apply yourself therefore. *Stretch* your mind, now, to your studies. Your progress will be rapid and extensive beyond your expectation or even your hopes: You will enjoy the advantage in all your future time, and will recur with the greatest satisfaction to that epoch, when the

resolution was formed and the practice adopted, as the most fortunate one in your earthly career—because it was the most useful, and productive of the most valuable, most enduring and truest joys. May God give you the grace of a virtuous purpose, of fortitude to withstand all opposite allurements and of perseverance in the pursuits of that which is right and good!

Let me add a word: You are the eldest of our three sons now at school. Forget not the duties appropriate to your situation. Think of the effect on Peter and Duncan of your example and conversation—how much of good or ill in them and to them, you may have to answer for and act accordingly. Give them my love and blessing; and say that they may apply to themselves, if they will, most of what I have now said to you. Be kind towards them and do not lead them nor countenance them in mischief or idleness. Your mother and I intend to pay a visit to our friend at the Superior Court; when we flatter ourselves with finding you good boys and *hearing* nothing to the contrary. If I had paper, I have not words to say to you how dear you all three are to all here and especially

Your affec. Father

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Your sister sends her Geography and Atlas. She parts from them with pleasure in the fond wish and hope that you will make a good use of them.

[Address: Hillsborough.]

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*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT, 2d Sepr. 1832.

When I wrote you some time in July about the state of our friend Judge Hall's health, I little expected I should so long neglect writing you again, but occasional absences from home and other engagements have engrossed nearly the whole of my time for the last month.

In the course of the last three or four days I have been much with the Judge, and painfully conclude there is no amendment. On the contrary there is every indication that he is worse. . . . His friends, I think, must begin to despair of his recovery, yet they may hope it will be a protracted case, unaccompanied with much pain. They are pleased to perceive that he is able to command so much patience and resignation. He seldom, however, ventures to speak of his situation.

Our crops of corn may be said to be tolerable—cotton is small and does not promise a good "*yield*". I have myself determined to abandon the culture of cotton—and go principally upon Grain—particularly wheat—and am making preparation for sowing this fall all that the



saving of my present crop of cotton will allow time for. Yours being a wheat country, every hint of instruction relative to the preparation of land, and the manner of seeding, with the implements used in the process will be thankfully received.

[Address: Haw River Orange County N. C.]

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*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT—9th Sepr. 1832.

I wrote you a few days ago and gave an account of our friend Judge Hall's situation—full of despondency—Since then a change for the better, as unexpected, I believe, to his Physicians, as it was to friends has taken place—which I take the greatest pleasure in making known to you. I sent down yesterday to know how he was, and Dr. Pope, who attends him, writes that—

“The ulceration in his throat has nearly ceased, and the suppuration is going on, at this time favorably—and I much hope that a complete and radical cure will be eventually effected. His General health has improved, and his spirits are as good as desirable. I would not venture, however, to pronounce with certainty as yet, as to the final issue of the case.”

That the hopes inspired by this intelligence may be realized is my sincere prayer—but I yet have the strongest apprehensions for the result.

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[Address: Haw River Orange County, N. C.]

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*From William J. Mhoon.*

RALEIGH 30th Sept. 1832

Mr. Hill has just completed the examination and refiling of the legislative papers. Every paper relative to the conventions held in this State has been examined, and particularly those in relation to the convention of Halifax in 1776. I am convinced we have here no record of propositions to amend our State constitution.

There was proposed and passed almost unanimously in the Convention at Fayetteville an amendment to the constitution of the U. S. which had it been ratified by the proper number of States would have saved the nullifiers from their present dilemma, and probably all of us from

the embarrassments of the Tariff. The amendment was in substance that Congress should have power to pass no law on the subject of Commerce or Navigation without a concurrence of two thirds of the members. But our proposition seems never to have been noticed by the other States.

You will no doubt have heard, before this reaches you, of our misfortune. The western side of Fayetteville street from the Bank of Newbern building to Mr. Cowan's Corner exhibits nothing but a forest of chimneys! Mr. R. Smith and the Taylor whose shop stood next above him lost everything. The property from the other buildings was chiefly saved. Nothing definite is known in regard to the Origin of the fire, only that Mr. S's Store house was the first on fire.

Thomas Ruffin Esqr.  
Haw River.

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*From David W. Stone.<sup>1</sup>*

EDENTON NO. CAROLINA. [October, 1832.]

Since I last wrote you I have been able to procure a couple of barrels of Roe Herrings for you, from Mr. Capehart of Bertie, which I shipped six or eight weeks since to a house in Norfolk to be reshipped from thence to Petersburg to the care of Dunn and McIlwain, as requested by you (no opportunity having occasioned of sending them direct to Petersburg). I informed Messrs. Dunn and McIlwain of their being sent to them for you by the next mail after they left this, and hope you have received them by or before this time, and that they have turned out good. (Mr. Capehart informed me they were put up for family herrings). Mr. C. asked 5 Dolls per bbl. for them. I paid the freight from this to Norfolk and requested the house in Norfolk to pay the freight to Petersburg and advise me of their charge and I wd. pay them—which they have not yet done though they advised me sometime since that they had been forwarded to Petersburg.

Our little town has at length got the Asiatic or Epidemic cholera in it. There have occurred from 25 to 30 cases of decided cholera, since it first came among us (about 3 weeks since) from 1/3 to 1/2 of which have died—mostly among the blacks only 3 cases of whites—one of which died one recovered, and the other, a dissolute old woman attacked this morning not expected to recover. Its subjects and victims here as every where else where it has prevailed is among the intemperate and imprudent—the deaths that have occurred here by it have terminated in from 10 hours to 3 days, most commonly in about 24 hours,

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<sup>1</sup>David W. Stone was at this time connected with the Edenton branch of the State Bank. Later he became cashier of the Raleigh branch of the Cape Fear Bank.

after the attack—the blacks seem peculiarly subject to it. Our folks hereabouts though somewhat alarmed at first, now regard it but very little more than bilious fever. The disease was not brought here by any body or in goods etc. but was produced by some unknown cause existing in the atmosphere or elsewhere which the Doctors dont seem to be able to account for with any sort of satisfaction either to themselves or others. It first broke out here among negroes that had not for the last 12 months past if ever in their lives been 20 miles from town—and within 24 hours at two or three different places remote from each other and where there had been no communication with the sick. I very much fear the same cause which produced it here and elsewhere will cause it to pervade the whole Country, which, God grant may not be the case, for it is the most destructive and malignant disease with which our country has yet been visited—so far as it has yet gone. The only reliable safeguard against it is temperance and prudence, consisting more in regularity of living than in abstemiousness, and the Doctors here seem to think with regularity in living and prudence and a tolerable constitution not much danger is to be apprehended of contracting the disease.

In all the premonitory cases that have occurred here (which are at least twice as many as those of confirmed cholera) where medical advice has been taken and followed there has not been a single death.

I have given you a long and I fear uninteresting account of the sickness of our Town, but being about to write about your fish, and having nothing other particular to say I have filled up a long letter with that for the want of a better subject.

The Honble. Thomas Ruffin

Haw River P. O.

Orange County N. C.

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*From William K. Ruffin.*

HAW RIVER January 4th 1833.

I came home Sunday as I expected, without however bringing up your horse, Bull. I saw him on that morning and he seemed so totally unable to travel, even to *walk* any distance, that with the advice of Mr. Cain I directed Jesse to leave him. I will send for him as soon as I hear from Mr. C. who promised to drop me a line, when he thought him able to come up. I gave Jesse the directions, you requested, about calling at Mr. Crane's for the peach trees, but he told me that Ma had given him orders to come by Mr. Campbell's. He did not therefore go to Crane's. I stopped there as I came up, but found no one at home. When I send for Bull, I will have those at Mr. Moore's brought up also. On Monday agreeably to your directions, the hogs from the Plantation were

killed—seventeen in number—their aggregate weight was 2403 lbs.—considerably less, I believe than you expected. They were well salted and every precaution has been taken to prevent their spoiling. The hams and shoulders are still lying on logs in the smoke-house, and will not be packed until there is a change in the weather. My Mother saw it salted and says that she thinks it perfectly secure. I have seen but little of your Overseer, and not at all with the negroes. He seems industrious, but I should say quite as little of a *Manager* as Poor Adcock. He ought to be severe at the start, for his father's negroes have no respect for him and yours will, I presume, entertain the same feeling towards him, unless he makes them fear him at the beginning. He commenced ploughing and splitting rails on Wednesday and of course will not stop, while the weather is good, until he finishes. Jesse and Armistead ought to keep us supplied with wood and unless he keeps his ploughs constantly running he will not have his land ready by planting time. He is quite attentive to your *stock*, and says he will continue so to be. He has fixed up the pot for boiling food for the milch cows, which I hope will be a means of keeping us hereafter better supplied in milk and butter, those real luxuries of country-living. I have not seen the sheep since my return, and forget whether you gave me any directions about *salting* them. Let me know, if you please, how often it must be done. Tuesday last was the first day of the New Year and we all wish you to accept from us the compliments of the Season. Our wishes for your health and happiness, and we take this as a fitting occasion for expressing our continued and increased esteem and affection. May Heaven Grant you a long life and full of bliss is the sincere prayer of each and all of us! That I can contribute to that happiness I know, and May God give me the firmness and resolution as I have the disposition, so to order my actions as in all things I may so act in such a way as may be most agreeable to *you*.

A report has reached us that Judge Daniel has been the successful Candidate for Judge Hall's seat. I hope the rumor may be incorrect. It will I know render the performance of your duties not quite so agreeable as it might otherwise be. By tomorrow's mail I suppose we shall hear who fills his vacancy. I do hope Mr. Winston may get the office. He would be a changed man. By the bye Dr. Murphey left us this morning and much to my surprise informed me that he should be a candidate for the County Court Clerkship, if he could get securities. He says his chances are good. I wish he may get the office. I wish it for his own sake and for the sake of his Sister. He spoke of writing to you, upon the subject.

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I have recommenced Old Coke, not with the anticipation of any great pleasure in the re-perusal I must confess, but I hope to lay him down the second time, with the consciousness of knowing some little more about him than I did the first time. I have tried with heart and soul

and really and truly with the determination to have it in my power once in my life to say that if I have failed, I have done so from want of power to learn and from no lack of zeal and industry. I want for once to feel satisfied with myself, to know that I have fulfilled my duty. The pleasure of being conscious of having done by whole duty is one I have seldom, if ever, experienced. I mean to feel it now in all its force.

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Weight of the Hogs from the Plantation:

1	164 lbs.		10	138
2	163		11	131
3	160		12	128
4	158		13	123
5	155		14	125
6	149		15	125
7	148		16	124
8	147		17	114
9	146			
			17	2403 lbs (141-1/3
			17	70
				68
				23
				6

[Address: Raleigh No. Carolina.]

—————  
*To Catherine Ruffin.*

RALEIGH, January 13th 1833.

I am much gratified, my dear child, at receiving today the letter you wrote me yesterday. One of my chief anxieties to hear from home arose out of the State of your health. I am mightily relieved in knowing that you continued to mend, to get color and strength—and the more so, to receive those assurances from yourself. Your letter conveys to me that information and also, in addition, that, which is more important, namely, that your heart has a due and grateful sense of God's mercies. Be assured, that he purposed your good both in laying on and taking off the hand of affliction; and be thankful. Quench not *that* spirit in yourself; for thereby you would "grieve the Holy Spirit of God", which, thro' your conscience, is moving you to depart from iniquity and put on righteousness and true holiness. *Meditate* on what you have experienced; how unexpected was your miraculous rescue; how feeble were your faculties; how utterly unequal to the office of preparation, by repentance and thro' faith for appearing to answer at the great

day of the Lord: And *pray* for God's grace to renew and to keep renewed this right mind within you; that you may never forget his abundant goodness, nor lose the blessed fruits of it! Which may he answer in mercy to you and us all, thro' our Redeemer, Jesus Christ!

This letter goes up by Mr. Boylan's carriage, in which James will have a seat to Hillsborough and *Kate* to our house; unless tomorrow should prove so inclement as to prevent the latter from venturing on the trip. I dined with the family today and found all well and this arrangement made. . . . .

I had no strong expectation that your Mother could excite herself to undertake a jaunt to the lower end of the County, especially without a particular and pressing invitation. But as I don't think so much of matters of that sort as most people and have so good an opinion of myself and mine as to believe that most of my acquaintances are glad to see us for the short times we generally stay from home, I was in hopes I could persuade her, upon this occasion, to pay so extraordinary a compliment to your sister and myself as to shew herself unasked, for the sake of seeing us. If however she be at all reluctant, I should not think of pressing her, even if she had not the good objection which Patty's health affords. But, to shew my generosity, again—I am really anxious, that she should put in execution her projected visit to Hillsboro. She has long wished it; and so do her friends there. And she may well claim such a respite from labors and cares. I have but one ground of demur; which is, that the pleasures of society there may make her less and less satisfied with home and its inmates. But I will stand the experiment and trusting to my own intrinsick worth, stake *myself* against all she sees elsewhere, as deserving her confidence and election! When I thus urge her to avail herself of the present opportunity of enjoyment, it is with no hope that I can participate with her. For altho' I might meet her on a Saturday night at Mr. Cameron's, by leaving here after dinner and leaving there at day on Monday; I can not spend even Sunday with her at Hillsboro, without losing *two whole days from Court*; which within the Bar, my Brethren, nor my masters—the people, would ever sanction. I make myself therefore content with my own lot; and it is grievous enough to prevent me from doing or saying anything to disappoint her views: For all the enjoyment I lose, I wish her to gain. I agree with her in the hope, that Mr. C. and Anne will meet her at your G. Father's; and think, as she does, that it is as little as they can do, to do that. . . . .

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Do you mean *my new road*, when you speak of the hands working two days on it? Say or tell William to say in your next letter; for if it be, I am glad to hear it. I wish also to know, what the last hogs weighed, *each* and the *whole*; and whether the overseer has cleared the wheat and carried it to the mill and how much there was. If Wm. does not come

down, say to him, that *he* must write me once a week about affairs. I can't promise to answer *him* or *you*; because I must write to your Mother once a week and can seldom write oftener than that. But that is no reason why you yourselves should not, among you, sign and seal to me every mail.

I hear nothing particular of your acquaintances, but that the Revd. Mr. Polk was well enough this day week to preach to us and that he is to remove to Tennessee as a permanent residence and betake himself to planting early this Spring.

Tell your *scholars*, that I remember them and know how well they can behave and learn, if they will; and shall expect to hear good accounts of them. If I do not, they will get some terrible frowns when I get back. Kiss them for me and all the rest, Wm. excepted; and, including him, I bless you and all.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Catherine,

Your father and friend

THOMAS RUFFIN

Request your Mother to make Jesse saw off the staves of my Tobacco keg and take up six good twists, which I beg Miss Ellinor to put in her trunk as a present to her Father.

Remember me to Mr. Scott.

[Address: Allemance]

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*From Victor M. Murphey.*

HILLSBORO—14th Jan'y 1833.

Since the Bill to elect the county and Superior Clerks by the people has become a Law. several of my friends have advised me to become a candidate for the Office of County Court Clerk. The general impression is that the present Clerk will not be reelected. I have delayed expressing any determination on the subject, until I could get the advice of those whose opinions I should feel at all times bound to respect. It is upon this subject I am induced at present to write you. My Uncle Mr. Scott was the first who suggested the project under a conviction that I could succeed. This is the belief of many with whom I have conversed upon the subject. There are at present four candidates, with a prospect of others offering. Your neighbor Dr. Craig is already on hunt of votes. I should view Mr. Clancy as the most formidable Candidate for I find a hostility to Mr. Taylor in the Country which I did not expect. But were my success as evident as the shining of the Sun, I would not declare myself a Candidate without establishing one fact beyond all manner of doubt, viz my ability in that court to give the necessary Security.

This I have been assured should be no obstacle, but with this promise I am not myself satisfied, and have resolved, (though a matter of delicacy with me) to solicit your consent in case I should succeed, to become one of my securities. With your name I could procure any man or set of men I might want.

I dislike the idea of abandoning my profession, but encumbered as I am, I see no prospect of doing better. However in this matter I hope you will advise me freely and should you not approve of the plan, It shall at once be abandoned.

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I have just thought of a message from Mr. Crain. He begged me to mention to you that Cunningham who had repaired his Mill Stones, would not consent to go up and repair yours for less than eight dollars. He would not from that circumstance send him up until he could hear from you. He also did some work upon his bolting Clothes, which he thinks superior to any thing of the sort he ever saw. Should you consent to give his price you can mention it to me by letter, and I will immediately deliver word to Mr. Crane.

Honble. Thomas Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh No. Carolina.]

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*From A. M. Holt to William Kirkland.*

INDEPENDENCE HENDERSON CTY [Ky.] Jan'y 20 1833

*Dear Uncle*

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You will discover from the caption of my letter that I have left Tipton. I left the first of Novr. with my family and have settled in a little country village where I design keeping a boarding house and a house of entertainment and attend to my profession there is no physician within 12 miles of the place at present that practices the country around is thickly inhabited with plain industrious citizens and is considered to be an excellent opening for a physician so far I have received a great deal of encouragement.

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[Address: Hillsboro Orange County N. Carolina.]



*From Thomas Settle.*<sup>1</sup>

GREENSBORO N. CA. February 17th 1833.

Please pardon me for enquiring of you whither it is not sufficient in law for a Judge of the Superior Courts to take his oaths of office before a Justice of the Peace. I had supposed after examining the acts on the subject there could be no doubt and should have made no further inquiry, but for the fact that Mr. Alexander Henderson who has been for some time in Raleigh, has written to me and as he says, at the request of Judge Seawell to inform me, that a Judge cannot qualify before a Justice of the Peace, or a Judge out of Court, but that he is bound to take his oaths of office before the Govnor for the time being or before a Judge in Court and that it is an error into which some of the Judges and particularly our present Govnor came very nearly falling in supposing they could qualify before a Justice of the Peace. I had believed that the Act of one thousand eight hundred and six changing the old district system and authorizing the appointment of two additional Judges and further making promises that the Judges appointed under said act might qualify before a Judge or Justice of the Peace, was not a temporary provision but that the tribunals were increased before whom Judges might take their oaths of office as well those who were then as those who might thereafter be appointed. The construction which may be or rather may have been put on these acts I know not. I therefore appeal to you who are able and I have no doubt willing to give me the necessary information. I know not from what motive the kindness of my friend Judge Seawell has arisen, it has however induced me to make this inquiry of you. Please answer this as soon as you can conveniently and direct your answer to John M. Morehead Esq. Greensboro. I shall leave this place on tomorrow for Rockingham to which place Mr. Morehead will bring me your letter.

Honble. Thomas Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh N. Ca.]

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*To Catherine Ruffin.*

RALEIGH—Feb'y 27th 1833.

*Dear Catherine./*

The arguments of the causes in Court are over and the Judges are now occupied exclusively in consultations and in drawing up their opinions—which I hope will be gotten through in between three and four weeks. But to effect it in that period, we must be very busy and constantly so. I however snatch a moment this morning to answer

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<sup>1</sup>Thomas Settle, of Rockingham, 1791-1857, frequently a member of the legislature; speaker of the Commons, 1828; member of Congress, 1817-1822; judge of the Superior Court, 1832-1857.

your last letter—which I do the more willingly, because I think the great effort you say it costs you to indite ought not to go unrewarded. Such acts of penance must be meritorious, at least in the eyes of our earthly friends! My child, you write very good letters—good enough to be read by any body that loves you; and much better than if colored higher with *blue*. I don't think they are very literary; nor very easy. The former I would not have them, if I could: more of the latter would be an improvement in more senses than one. In the first place, the style you complain of wanting would thereby be gained; and in the next, the task of writing would cease to be an irksome one. Only think, that I do not want a fine letter; but just the warm but plain expression of the affections of your heart and a simple relation of the incidents in the family, which are all interesting *to me*. I must oppose—and if necessary vehemently—all pretences in you to a repugnance to letter writing, founded either upon inaptitude for its due execution or inertness. The latter cause would soon extend itself to other duties, until the character of your whole life would become imbued with it and your imagination impressed with a horror of all exertion. The former finds its own remedy in the formation of a good habit. Therefore let me hear no more of it—not a word. But whatever you may choose as to correspondencies voluntarily assumed or declined, it is out of the question as to myself. You must write to me, not to please yourself, but to please me.

I will get the seed for your mother, if to be had in town. Say to her also, that I can not ask her to keep her beef any longer, in the hope of enjoying part of it myself, while fresh. My return home will be delayed so long, that I should fear the part she intends to salt might be injured by the warm weather, before it could be used. If therefore the overseer and she thinks it now fit to kill, it would best to fall in on him at once—especially as I expect, poor things! you are all tired enough of back bones and jowls and want a change.

\* \* \* \* \*

I cannot get an Orange either at Fayetteville or Newbern: so Alice and Anne must take the will for the deed.

Hereafter you must not look for letters from me but once a week. I will write every Sunday morning, that being my only leisure—But I rather think, I would find time to acknowledge letters from *your mother* on *any day they* may come.

My brethren are waiting for me and call. . . . .

My dear daughter,

Your father and friend

THOMAS RUFFIN.

This day week *was* Ash-Wednesday: Last Sunday, being the first in Lent, the Communion was administered in our Church, and I thank God, I participated.

[Address: Haw River Post Office  
Orange County No. Ca.]

*From James H. Ruffin.*

TUSCALOOSA, [ALA.,] April 30, 1833.

I leave to Mr. Gallaway the description of the country which we have traversed in company. He will also give to you a full account of our plans for a settlement in this South-Western region. They have, we think, been adopted upon sufficient data, and promise, in our view, sufficient inducements for emigration. The only difficulty in my way is the uncertainty in which I am as to the sale of my land in North Carolina. If I knew whether that had been already affected, or, when made, the amount it would bring, together with the proceeds of my available personal property, I should not hesitate a moment in completing the contract which is yet in embryo. Of one thing, however, I am most thoroughly satisfied, that though I should get not one dollar for my land, it is better to remove here than remain in Rockingham. If therefore, the worst should happen, suppose my land should have to be sold at a sacrifice, suppose all my personal property, except my negroes, should not be sufficient to satisfy my incumbrances, if I can get you and Mr. Cain to stand my security untill the credit on which I shall sell my property shall have expired, I shall certainly come to the southwest next fall. For your indemnity I offer you the proceeds of my property. I wish you to write at length your opinion upon an emigration hither, and whether I may calculate upon your assistance in the manner mentioned above. I hope, if you disapprove of it you will not hesitate to say so frankly and freely as I am inclined to be governed by your opinion.

Well authenticated accounts from the Yazoo concur in representing that whole section of country as very sickly, though it is very productive. That, together with the nature of the reservations under the Choctaw treaty, the uncertainty of most of the titles, the high price at which lands, under good titles, are held, without any improvements on them, are sufficient reasons for inducing me to decline visiting that country with a view of settling there. The prices of land in the nation vary from 6 to 10\$. It is moreover said not to [be] durable soil, consisting of extensive sand prairies and sandy woods, which cannot, in the nature of things, last long, as it is liable to wash by every rain which falls.

I shall, however, go there merely for the purpose of seeing it though without any hope of being induced to remove thither as I would go to no sickly country. It is calculated that in the county of Yazoo lying between the Yazoo and Big Black river, the negroes die off every few years, though it is said that in that time each hand also makes enough to buy two more in his place. This state of things will take place throughout the whole extent of country lying between these two rivers as they both run through a very low flat region, and are subject to frequent floods by which they rise above their banks and spread over an

immense quantity of land. Between these two rivers and the Alabama line, the country is barren and wholly worthless; so that unless you settle in that part of the Choctaw lands, you are in as poor a region as in No. Ca. and in that part you are liable at any moment to be taken off by diseases of every kind. These are sufficient reasons in our view to prevent our going thither, particularly when we can buy lands more desirable tho not so productive at the same rate, in a country confessedly healthy and within two days sail of a market for any thing to be sold.

When I left No. Ca. Col. Jones requested me to ascertain the price of the Jefferson College lands. Will you tell him that they are held at from 8 to 10\$ and even at that price cannot be located until after all the reservations and floats under the Choctaw treaty are satisfied. These reservations and floats amount in quantity to between 200,000 and 300,000 acres. It is supposed they will cover nearly all the desirable land in Mississippi and that after they are satisfied, the balance will be, in fact and in truth "*refuse lands.*" Cain's idea of *squatting* is too uncertain, as no conjecture can be safely made as to the time when the lands will be brought into market and the danger is too great that one will either lose the value of his improvements or be compelled to pay a very high price for his land as it is wholly uncertain whether the Congress will grant *preemption rights*, as they refused to do it at their last session, during the agitation of the *public land question*. Upon the whole I see no other way of getting along in this country except by buying a tract of land upon a good title, even at a high price. Its durability is certain as it will last forever; its product is from 1000 to 1500 pounds pr. acre, its vicinity to market is not distant, its health is undoubted, and its situation, though not pleasant on account of its depth of soil, is nevertheless tolerable. Upon all these matters, Mr. Gallaway will give you the result of our combined opinions and actions. We should be glad if you would take a part with us in our proposed settlement.

Give my best love and affection to every body at your house.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

Orange County.

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*From Romulus M. Saunders.*

RALEIGH May 21st, 1833.

I have just recd. from a friend at Washington information of my appointment as Com<sup>r</sup>. under the French Treaty in place of Mr. Williams. He says "it is honorable, lucrative and agreeable"—the lucrative part is the most acceptable to me at this time, as I shall likely receive in a day or so official information. I should like to be advised

by those in whom I have confidence whether I ought to accept. It will likely last for two years. Is it inconsistent with my present office? If not would it be expected that I should resign? I have no doubt that the sittings of the Board could and would be arranged to my accommodation. They meet again the 10th proximo.

The Federal Court still sitting—we succeeded in getting a verdict in one of the Land cases—carried of course to the Supreme Court. Please let me hear from you at an early day.

[Address: Haw River Orange County.]

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*From William K. Ruffin.*

HAW RIVER July 7th 1833—

It has been so long since I wrote a letter that I have about forgotten how such a thing is done; and if a sense of the duty and affection I owe you, did not impel me I am sure nothing else would be strong enough to overcome my aversion to epistolizing or arouse me from a kind of mental lethargy into which I have fallen. To this horror of pen and paper you must in part ascribe my not having written to you during the long month you have been at Raleigh. A *wish* (not an actual devotion) to devote my whole time and thoughts to my books, has also the honor of being in part the cause of my silence. To this last alone, if I could urge it with any kind of a face, I would ask you to ascribe the whole of my fault— but the facts of my case would not support such a plea. That Chapel Hill frolick with its crowds and bustle and speaking and music and to crown all the pretty girls I saw there have completely turned my head; and it seems to me the more I try to collect my thoughts and fix them upon my book, the more my ears ring with the noise and music and instead of imbibing knowledge through my eyes as they rest on *Selwyn's* pages, my mind's eye is dwelling in long and rapturous contemplation on some Angel face and lovely form I saw there. I *nail* myself however to my chair— and if I do not make any very great acquisitions, I go over ground and glean what I can. To tell the honest truth, I am down right afraid to appear before Judge Henderson as a candidate for a license, and if I had not heard favorable accounts of his easy disposition from those who have preceeded me before that dual tribunal, I should ask you to let me delay my application until next winter. As it is however, trusting to good luck and relying upon his reputed indulgence, I hope for the best. This unaffected sense of my deficiency, I hope— nay I am sure, will make me a closer student *after* I obtain my license.—The next year I spend in this office and I am determined it shall not be spent idly. I have read to the middle of the

second vol. of Selwyn- to *Dentenire* and shall finish this week; when according to your directions I shall take up Blackstone though I dislike to cast aside Selwyn with my present limited acquaintance with him. I have found but few things that I could not understand, but my bad memory will not retain. The chapter on *Assumpsit* I think the most difficult, because perhaps I cannot understand his leading distinction, for though I read it twice I cannot tell when a *special assumpsit* should be brought and when a *General Indebitatis assumpsit*- But enough of *me*, individually, for the present.

\* \* \* \* \*

You have heard, no doubt, that Mr Williamson is out for congress against Genl Barringer. We had all the candidates at the mill on the 3rd and Tom Ashe and myself walked down in the evening to be edified by their learned discourses. The candidates for Congress occupied the whole evening Mr W. rests his claims to a seat on the ground of his implacable hostility to the renewal of the present Bank Charter, though he says, he is for, not only *one*, but three or four other U. States Banks I was surprised at his ignorance of what the best men in the country say is the policy of the country, his total disregard of not only the elegancies, but the common proprieties of speech, and I was *astonished* at his vulgar electioneering turns. I was disappointed in him in every respect—but notwithstanding all this his opponent is so mean and tells so many lies, and lastly, which is perhaps a greater offence than all, is so bitter in his hostility to W. P. Mangum that if I exert my right of suffrage at all, I shall vote for W. Our neighbour, Col Stockard is a candidate for the commons

The corn in the field before the house and in the cotton patch, looks remarkably well. A great part of it is in silk and tassel- That in the old field on the river, does not, as might be expected promise any great things; it is small and looks sickly- The cotton has begun to bloom, and is I think pretty good- it is better, at least, than *Moore's*. *Simeon* and *Harry* are here from the plantation in Caswell. They say, the crop is very good- the wheat was not injured at all by the *scab* and was they say, better than any in the neighbourhood- all are well there. The injury done to the mill was slight as it turned out, though it threatened to be serious. The water broke through some part of the *pier head* and washed a very considerable hole under the mill, but it was stopped, and Jerry says, the place is now secure. I have nothing more to say. Indeed I fear, I have already worn out your patience. You can see though, that if I have committed a fault in not writing before, you have sustained no very great loss thereby. And however uninteresting my letter may be, I shall nevertheless hope for an answer to it. You are always in our thoughts here, and often the subject of conversation among young and old and we all desire to be as we are sure we are, affectionately remembered by you. . . . .

[Address: Raleigh No Carolina]

*To Sterling Ruffin.**Dear Sterling.*—

RALEIGH—July 14th 1833.

Partly in reward for your letter and partly that I may get another from you, I lose no time in making my reply. Your occupations as described by you, are quite agreeable to me, because they are improving to yourself. I hope you like to read; and that you will endeavour to derive the fullest advantages from it. The utility of reading consists, first, in acquiring a knowledge of the facts you find stated and impressing them upon the memory; secondly, in observing the proprieties of expression, the beauties of style and clearness of thought in the different authors perused, and, thirdly and chiefly, in the moral reflections either expressed by the writer or excited in the reader, tending to elevate the feelings and purify the heart. Reading therefore without attention, without devoting an undistracted mind to it, is very unprofitable. But I cannot imagine how one can go over the biographical pages of Plutarch without having all the faculties fastened on the subject. His heroes, philosophers and legislators are rendered in his accounts so good or so bad as to make every one a remarkable character, designed and fitted to fill the youthful bosom with emulation of their virtues or with horror and disgust at their depravity of principle and viciousness of practice. I hope you do not fail to make and express your reflections upon these points in the course of your reading and to compare the different personages with each other and even one with himself at the different periods of his life. For man, tho' in the general much the same in all ages, is virtuous or vicious according to his circumstances, that is the temptations which encompass him and the vigor or weakness of his moral sense and culture, inclining him to resist or yield to the enticements of sensual gratifications, the provocation of strong and unbridled passions or the sedative inertness of a drowsy intellect and a cold heart. The same person will therefore often present characteristics, apparently and really incongruous. You will find this most strongly exemplified in those who are least imbued *with piety*. That is the only principle, which, ever the same in itself, gives identity to the person, thro' the longest period of time and under all circumstances, adverse or propitious. The religious man only is he, who, as our Scriptures beautifully express it, "*can overcome the world*": That is to whom all States and modes of existence here are incapable, on the one hand, of seducing from the calm and even tenor of his pilgrimage or, on the other, driving to despair or to those acts, which the obdurate heart of desperation prompts. Let me advise you then to read nothing and hear nothing without internally reflecting, how you might have used the same incident to the becoming of a better man or escaped the taint which another seems to have imbibed from it. I suppose your Mama often asks your opinion upon the characters and sentiments of the personages

of whom you read. When she does, deliver it with perfect candor and sincerity, that any errors committed in your estimate of them may be corrected; and endeavour to express yourself with all the precision of language and clearness of thought which you can command.

Now to *my* affairs: Upon which I must say, you have not been as minute as I wish or as I think you might have been. You do not say, whether the Oats are stacked; nor how many stacks there are: Nor how many loads of hay, nor whether it is good or has been haled home. Let me know these things; and also whether you begin to want rain.

You mention, that the over-seer will lay by his corn this week. Will that be the case with the young corn at the gate and that in the old field at the river? How many times has that in the old field been ploughed? Say to Mr. Glass, that I think it ought to be ploughed *four* times, before it has been laid by: that is, all of it except the hill side at the bridge. If he is giving it the fourth ploughing now, that will be sufficient; but if the third, he ought to plough from the top of the hill at the old orchard to the road next to Mr. Albright's another time. Has he laid by the corn in the meadow and how does it look? I wish himself also to plough the cotton with his mould board ploughs about this time; which I expect will be all that is necessary, except to chop it over once more. Has he begun to get rails to fence the new meadow, in order that he may turn his hogs into the stubble field. I wish to do that as soon as he can otherwise the grain will all rot. Are there many apples in the orchard. Ask Mr. Glass, whether they are worth distilling and when they will be fit and let me know. Have they cut the little meadow on the mill branch at the road; and did they save the Hurd's grass seed; and how many are there and also of feather grass seed?

\* \* \* \* \*

Most affeey. Your father,

[Address:

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Haw River Post-Office

Orange County No. Ca.]

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*From Paul C. Cameron.*<sup>1</sup>

FAIRNTOSH ORANGE CO. July 21, 1833.

For two or three weeks I have thought of writing you; to beg (if you could command for yourself a day or two from the labours of your Court) that you would make your Friends at Fairntosh a visit. Knowing as I did that it would afford all here at all times much pleasure to see you within the pale of our Family circle—but especially in the last few weeks past when we had so much desired the company of kind

<sup>1</sup>Paul Carrington Cameron, 1808-1891, who had in 1832 married Anne, Judge Ruffin's second daughter.



friends and old acquaintances, But I have from time to time declined doing so, fearing that I might improperly put you to the pain of an unwilling refusal.

You have been informed I see by your last letter to your daughter that my Father has been labouring under great depression of spirits! From your long intimacy with him you can be no stranger to his cast of mind and temperament—energetick and sanguine—and of late years with a greatly deranged nervous system he is easily excited and as easily unstrung. When that horrible disease first broke out on his plantation in Person, the labour and anxiety which he underwent in visiting the poor negroes—his utter inability by the most devoted nursing with the best medical aid to be had to shorten so heavy a visitation—together with the gradual and steady depreciation of poor Beckeys health, pressed upon and exhausted his physical abilities—and with them seemed to sink his mental energies. His depression for a few days assumed all the colouring of melancholy, but I trust in God that the cloud with its threatening storm has passed away.

His devoted family in the warmth of their wishes have urged upon him the profit of travel, and it affords me no little pleasure in being able to say that he has passed the last three days in Hillsboro and will return on tomorrow, I hope greatly improved by his intercourse with his old companions and associates Nash, Norwood, Kirkland, and Webb. I doubt not you will be pleased to hear that he will with my two sisters in a short time set out for the Virginia Springs, from which we all hope much. My father has too long devoted himself to his domestic matters to the exclusion of almost every thing else—forgetting himself he thought only of his family. He wants mental labour for I think that I may with much truth and equal philosophy remark that the year spent by him in Raleigh as President of the Bank was more beneficial to him than gallons of the most approved Panacea.

I have been truly concerned to hear that you in company with your worthy Friend and Brother Justice Henderson suffered so much and so long from the epidemick of this season. And I hope that both of you are now (as a Military Man would say) “on duty” not only at your tables in the court Hall, but at the table of your landlord. The whole atmosphere seems to be chartered with disease. Last night about 1 o’clock Mr. Benchan was suddenly taken with a fit of what is commonly called “Colick” and I have but seldom if ever upon any occasion, under any disease seen any one suffer more pain than he did for two hours, and the only thing that gave him any relief was the use of the warm bath—he has been in bed the best part of to-day.

We have understood indirectly that you had passed through Hillsboro on your return to Raleigh: Anne has felt and expressed much anxiety in regard to the rumour, and her anxiety has been a good-deal heightened by an additional rumour that you had lost a slave very suddenly in your field.

We are now suffering very much for rain. I fear that our corn crops are even now a good deal shortened by so long a continuance of hot dry weather. The cotton crop looks well—better I think that it has done any year since my return from Connecticut—the plant is not generally large but to use one of the negroe's terms it is "mighty Branchy". But little wheat has as yet gotten to mill, but I understand from the Millers all over the country that the grain is very inferior. I see that it has been started in the Petersburg market at \$1.25 per Bush. If we shall not see you, during the Term of the Court may we not hope that you and my sister Kate will take us in your way homewards. . . . Anne joins me in love to Miss Catherine and asks with me that you will take for yourself the best expression of our kindest wishes.

[P. S.] I do not expect that you feel any interest in our electioneering canvass, withdrawn as you are from the filth of politics: if however you should I think it is now beyond all question that Williamson will have a *majority* in this county from six to nine hundred. Dr. M. you know has no opponent. Col. Allison and neighbour Stockard will be elected by handsome majorities—all advocating before the people a State Bank and reduction of your "pay" except my Brother Mangum and he poor man is confined at Home with the fever and ague. Taylor and Bruce will be elected clerks very easily.

[Address: Raleigh No. Carolina.]

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*From John L. Henderson.*

WILLIAMSBORO 29th July 1833.

*My Dear Sir.*

My Father instructs me to say to you, that after three days of the most unpleasant journeying he ever had, he arrived at home on Sunday, and is *certainly* no better He apprehends there is a collection of water in his chest or a predisposition to do so. He sets out early in the morning for the Nut-bush Mineral Springs. He has not yet seen Dr. Taylor, who he expects has returned to visit his Brother in Wake-Forest. He says he will keep you constantly informed of his situation, With sentiments of high respect and esteem, I, am

Yours very Sincerely

JNO. L. HENDERSON

N. B. He says he should like to hear how you stood your ride home and whether you have recover'd?

J. L. H.

[Address:

Haw-river P. Office

Orange County No. C.]

To Leonard Henderson.

HAW RIVER, July 31st, 1833.

My dear Judge.

This is the eighth day since we parted, and is the first on which I have been able to give you any information of the state of my health or inquire after yours. . . . .

I entertain the sincerest wishes and cherish a strong hope, that *your house* and your Physician and your family will have on yourself the like salutary effects. But you must be very sensible that I shall not be satisfied to rest in hope on their health. I shall want to know. I beg you therefore to say at intervals—the shorter, the better—how fares it with you. If the exertion be too great for yourself, do me the favor to make my satisfaction so much an object of concern with my friends, Mr. Archibald or Mr. John, as to induce them to make the truth certain to me. I shall thank either of them; tho' I hope they will not take it amiss, that I had rather have my advice from headquarters; because he that suffers, knows best, how much, and the more or less with respect to the past.

He who habitually anticipates, I think, well deserves the wretchedness which constant gloom and murmurs at the course of Providence never fails to bring on him, who sees not the preponderance of good on the whole is blind to the benevolence of Him, who is the Author of all that is good. Yet with a strong reliance on the heavenly beneficence there may be such a deep and identical regard and interest between two persons, that the one cannot experience the peace his own safety and prosperity might otherwise spread over him, while the other is in either danger or pain; or while he supposes him so. You know, without any open profession now to be made, the affection, the respect and reverence with which my intimate knowledge has inspired me towards you; and you will not therefore be surprised at the uneasiness I shall suffer while ignorant of your convalescence or at the earnestness with which I urge for frequent and explicit accounts of your health.

I offer my most respectful compliments to Mrs. Henderson and beg you to make the knowledge or remembrance of me acceptable to Dr. Taylor, your sons and *our* friend, Mr. Bullock.

With the greatest regard, Dear Sir, I am

Most affectly and sincerely,

Your friend and obt. Svt.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

As I have not yet been out of the house, I can not tell you of my own knowledge any thing of crops. I learn however that *corn* is tolerable. It has wanted rain and now needs it much. Cotton is good—Wheat, from the samples yet seen at the mills, worse than was even feared, both as to quality and quantity.

Can you tell me anything of our friend, faithful servant and nurse *John*? I have thought of him often since his hurt; and with deeper regard because he met with it in ministering to the comfort of one of us and while he had no mind as to other things the remembrance of his duty to you never forsook him! The loss of such an adherent would call for a sigh and a tear.

[Address:

Leonard Henderson Esq.

(By Raleigh)

Williamsborough

No. Ca.]

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*From Neil Morrison.*

CAMPBELLTOWN ARGYLLSHIRE 5<sup>th</sup>

August 1833 - - -

*Honored Sir*

Permit me to take this liberty of addressing you, and to inform you that an uncle of mine named Neill Morrison or McVorrán being the Gaelic name had Emigrated to the united States of America about 40 years ago, and that he had Settled in North Carolina, and there he had purchased a Plantation which he cultivated before his death. I am informed that previous thereto he had appointed a person named Duncan McCallum to manage his affairs and that after my uncles death the said Duncan McCallum did assume the name of Duncan Morrison or McVorrán and that he admistered to him or made Titles to my uncle as his next of kin, whereas he was no relation to him whatever. My object in taking this liberty is to mention that I am the only lawful heir of the said Neill Morrison and to request that you will have the goodness to cause the necessary search to be made into the Record under your Honours Jurisdiction as to whether or not such a person died within the same, and that thereafter you will take the additional trouble to let me know the result. I hope your Honour will pardon this freedom and I have the honour to be with due regard

Honored Sir

Your m<sup>s</sup> obd Servt

NEIL MORRISON HAIR

dresser Campbelltown

Argyllshire N. B.

[Address:

For The Hon<sup>ble</sup>.

The Chief Justice Raleigh

North Carolina -

North America]

*From Romulus M. Saunders.*

RALEIGH Aug. 6. 1833

From the intelligence brought by Mr. Bragg from Warrenton there is strong ground to fear that Judge Henderson is dead or his case is such as to have but little hopes of his recovery.

Gov. Hawkins has been reelected in the Warren district—Edwards is elected to the Senate from that County. From what we can learn there is some hopes the Senate may be able to save us the next session from the House of Commons.

[P. S.] I wish very much you had pronounced judgment—in the State cases—as their postponement in the event of Judge Henderson's demise, will I fear create great clamor.

[Address: Haw River Orange County N. C.]

*From John L. Henderson.*

WILLIAMSBORO 8th Aug. 1833

*My Dear Sir.*

Your very kind and feeling letter was received a few days since, but was not shown to Papa at the time on account of his extreme illness. The friendship and great concern for his health which it breathes will be long cherished and remembered by his *whole* Family. He called me to his bedside this Evening and reminded me of his promise to keep you constantly informed of his situation. He requested me to say to you (I give you his own words) "that it was out of the question for him to think of being able to hold court on the 3d or on the 4th or on the Monday following—that he had as narrowly escaped death if he had yet escaped it as a man well could do—that he was at the time something better. And that Dr. Taylor had been at his bed-side from last Tuesday week, until this time,—and had left to day to go to court on some particular business and will return to-night." This I believe to be a very correct account of his situation. It was not until yesterday we had any hopes of his recovery. The Dr. says he cannot yet be said to be *convalescent*, but that he is much better; I, must conclude or I shall loose the mail. Permit me Sir to renew to you the assurances of the great regard and esteem of

Yours Sincerely

J. L. HENDERSON

[Address: Haw River P Office Orange County No. C-]

*From Richard Sneed.*<sup>1</sup>

JONESBORO<sup>2</sup> 10th Augt. 1833.

Judge Ruffin  
D. Sir.

I have just time to say to you before the departure of the Mail that Judge Henderson is verry ill indeed and that his situation is regarded by his Physician as verry doubtful it is considered that he labours under an obstruction of his small Intestins resulting from Chronic inflammation of Several weeks, whether his disease proves fatal or otherwise he cannot possibly be able to attend the Supreme Court at the time appointed.

Yrs. respectfully

RICHD. SNEED.

[Address: Haw River P. O.  
Orange County No. Carolina.]

*From Horace L. Robards.*<sup>3</sup>

CHAPEL HILL Augt. 10th, 1833.

Mr. Downey (a student in College from Granville County) brought news last night that Judge Henderson is not dead. Mr. Saml. Sneed saw him Wednesday and told Mr. Downey that he was very sick. Potter<sup>4</sup> lost his election by a majority of eleven votes.

To Judge T. Ruffin.

[Address: Haw River Orange N. C.]

*From John U. Kirkland.*

HILLSBORO

10th August 1833

\* \* \* \* The Congressional election I *hope* has resulted favorably for Barringer his vote in this County upwards of 900 and in Wake (by report) upwards of 1400 in Person Not quite 200—We have nothing authentic upon the Subject. Mr. Graham Much to the Mortification of the Dr. and a few of his backers has succeeded in Town and altho by a Majority of only one vote I rejoice at it as a complete victory over efforts

<sup>1</sup>Richard Sneed was a physician in attendance upon Judge Henderson.

<sup>2</sup>This letter bears the postmark of Williamsborough.

<sup>3</sup>Horace Lawrence Robards, of Granville, at this time a student at the University.

<sup>4</sup>Robert Potter, of Granville, famous for his connection with the movement to control or destroy the banks.

the most *Villanous* and *treacherous* and *ungentlemanly* ever witnessed here in any previous election. It is said the Dr. will contest the election. He certainly has demanded his certificate from the sheriff—he says he has many grounds upon which the question will go to the Legislature. One of them is because a vote was taken for Mr. Graham which he with all his ingenuity and Artifice Could not obtain for him Self. The others are of a piece. I believe he has no idea of contesting the election if he does he has less fore sight and management than I am willing to give him Credit for. . . .

[Address:  
Hermitage  
Orange Cty]

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*From Richard Sneed.*

JONESBORO 13th Augt. 1833

I sencerly regrate that I now have to inform you of the Death of Judge Henderson. he expired this morning twenty Minuts before Eight Oclock; My feelings nor Situation will permit me to give you an acct of his Sufferings and Death. he met death with grate fortitude indeed and was perfectly willing to die he retaien<sup>d</sup> his Senses to the last Excuse every thing. You can conceive my Situation.

[Address:  
Haw River P. O  
Orange County  
No Carolina]

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*To John L. Henderson.*

RALEIGH—Aug: 21st. 1833.

*My dear Sir.*

The communication by Dr. Sneed of the fatal termination of the malady which afflicted the great man, whose loss we must all deplore, reached me while I was in the act of setting off from my home on my promised visit to him. Alas! What are the hopes of man! How vain his expectations! You will, of yourself, appreciate the motives of the change in my purposes. Grief, such as that of his family must be, is too sacred to be invaded, even by one who would and does unite most sincerely in the deep depression of the heart. I condole with you, Dear Sir, with your Mother, your sisters and brothers; as one, who is deprived of him, who was, at once, his most intimate and honored friend and

associate. But I *could not* go to see his grave, nor those whom he has left behind him. I was incapable of offering consolation to them: I stood and stand in need of it myself. I arrived here on Monday morning; but I find no relief in the occupations of business or the presence and voices of crowds. Altho' solitude is insupportable, I do not relish nor am I fit for company. There is a vacuum here which none can fill. Time (what cannot time do—of good, as well as of evil!) will, I trust, alleviate the pangs of sorrow. I now experience and sweeten the chalice which he has so lately embittered to you. You are yet too young, with prospects too bright and spirits, I hope, too bouyant to have experienced or, at all events, cherished the melancholy reflection, that life on this earth, if it be solitary, is not a blessing and that yearly and daily we come nearer and nearer to living alone. One friend after another leaves us (how soon have both of my venerable friends gone!) until unsupported and cheerless, we are willing to follow and surrender the world to those who, not having yet learned its worthlessness, have a craving appetite for its possessions or an intoxicating ambition for its stations. But this like all the orders of Providence, is wise, and good—passing wise and good. It is one of the mercies of Heaven to supply us with a ready and willing obedience to the course of nature; and in that obedience to the stroke of fate to include a disposition for the *preparation for it*. That, my dear young friend, is, after all, the great purpose of God in all his dispensations towards us, whether of good or apparent evil. In life and in prosperity; in afflictions and in the death of those around us and of us, we are taught our dependence; and in that lesson we learn but a smattering, if we do not master the great and invaluable truth, that a sense of our dependence, lively and permanent, is the true source of our virtues and consequently our happiness. We thus acquire the pervading consciousness that, living, we are God's creatures and care; and the hope that, dying, we shall be united to those we love here and be God's children and ministering spirits. I trust that these cursory and desultory observations will not render piety an object of aversion to you; but that you will be drawn by them, under the present desolation of your afflictions and earthly enjoyments, to reflect with the profoundness of your deceased Father, upon the inestimable value of Religion as the stay and anchor of the soul in trouble and as furnishing a sure hope in death. But all important as this subject is, in fact, to you and strong as my wish is that at no distant day you should feel it to be so, I will pursue it no further, for as true religion is the offering of the heart and affections to our Maker upon the conviction of the understanding that it is, reasonably, both our duty and our interest, the utmost, I think, that the exhortation of friendship and the earnestness of piety can do for one who is educated and in the habit of analyzing evidence, forming opinions for himself and acting upon them, is to satisfy him that Christianity is worth considering and thereby engaging him to its deliberate considera-



tion. To that allow me, upon an experience of some years and most mature investigation, to invite you. Begin and the result is almost as certain as it is desirable.

Permit me now to offer a suggestion which I hope will be profitable to you. The great duty of life is to be useful to others and particularly to contribute to the happiness of those whom nature has made dear to us. Your venerable Father fully discharged that office to his sons. They were the objects of his deepest solicitude, always in his remembrance and possessed of his affections. When grown to maturity, you were his friends and companions. You enjoyed his conversation, had the advantage of his opinions unreservedly expressed and wisely formed upon men, morals, literature, polity, and professional science. The reflection I wish to lay before you is this: He is gone now; *but let his works live after him*. Forget not his virtues, his purity of heart, his benevolence, his powerful and profound intellect; but while they are yet fresh in your mind let all that he said or did be carefully and frequently thought of so that the impression on your mind may be permanent and you thereby keep him constantly by you as a counsellor and guide. If possible *write* for yourself as minutely as your recollection will enable you his opinions and words upon occasions of interest or questions of importance. By these means "tho' dead he will yet speak" to you! I hope I shall daily through the remnant of my time derive advantage from my intercourse with him. I wish you to do so, too. Let him not die a second time!

There are none who were dear to him, in whose welfare I do not and shall not continue to feel a near concern; and an anxious wish to promote it. I hope you will not suffer the tie between us to be dissolved by the late fatal stroke, but that both you and your brother Archibald will occasionally let me know the state of the family and especially if I can be of service by counsel or otherwise. And here I take the liberty of urging you to complete your studies to come without delay to the bar: Come not with half an inclination; but with the purpose of acquiring both fame and fortune—of fulfilling the expectations reasonably formed of the son of such a Father. In that and in all other pursuits you have for your entire success the best wishes of, Dear Sir, Your father's and your own friend

THOMAS RUFFIN.

I will not distress your Mother and sisters by a message, but I beg you to offer to your brothers my cordial remembrance.

[Address:

Mr. John L. Henderson  
Williamsborough  
No. Ca.]

*From William Gaston.*

NEWBERN August 25th 1833

I received, my dear Sir, your interesting letter<sup>1</sup> from Raleigh by the last mail. For the confidence which it reposes in me, and the sentiments of kindness which it breathes, I beg you to believe me sincerely grateful.

<sup>1</sup>Ruffin's letters to Gaston on the subject discussed in this letter are not available for publication, but the following extracts from Judge H. G. Connor's *William Gaston* indicate their character:

Extract from a letter from Ruffin, dated May 23, 1832:

"I have much confidence in the conclusion I have long ago arrived at, that a Roman Catholic may lawfully, before God and Man, undertake to serve North Carolina to the best of his ability in any civil office according to his natural allegiance and his personal duty. . . . I am very decidedly persuaded, and have long been, that Roman Catholics cannot, without giving to the terms of the Constitution a latitude and force altogether unauthorized, be excluded from civil office."

On August 31, 1833, Judge Ruffin writes him describing, in intensely strong terms, the difficulties by which he is surrounded and his determination, unless they were removed, to retire from the Bench. The constant attacks upon the Court by members of the Legislature, he denounces in vigorous terms, saying: "I can submit to *any law*; but I cannot degrade myself into a submission to the unauthorized caprice of the sycophants (not the representatives) of the people. *Such a tyranny* ought to be resisted and, in this case, can be resisted only by refusing to eat the bread of dependence."

After describing the qualities which should be found in the judge to be appointed, Judge Ruffin says:

"He must be a sound lawyer and a sound man. Where is such a person to be found? How is such a one to be obtained? This communication proves my opinion, who is one such, if not *the individual*? "Thou art the man." . . . How are you to be had? Will the assurance of the almost unanimous wish and expectation of the Bar avail nothing? Have not the arduous labors of many years in chambers and in the courthouse, the silvery hue of thinned locks, the dignity of retirement from contests with your great grandsons in the law; the calmness of dispassionate deliberation and unbiased decision upon the great questions which involve the liberties and rights of our fellow-men, and the pleasure—superhuman almost, of redressing, in the name and by the authority of the law, the wrong done to those who can not redress themselves, never insinuated into your mind that it was now desirable, now proper, to change the theater of your exertions, because you could be, upon the bench, more useful, more happy, than at the Bar? Do you mean to devote no portion of the evening of your days to repose, to conversation with your children, to the more perfect service of another Being, whose state is too exalted, and whose name is too awful to be uttered in connection with a worldly occasion, even so grave as this? Do you, who have, with the self denial of a patriot, served your country in almost every other capacity, deny her claim to bring your mature abilities, and your diversified knowledge to her service in the adjudication of the controversies of her people and the settling of doubtful points in her jurisprudence? Is not that claim irresistible when you, and you alone, can sustain, and probably render permanent, her tribunal of justice in the last resort, of which the destruction would be her greatest calamity? . . . I hope your prudence and the undoubtedly large income earned by the diligence of many of the years last past, have saved you from the pecuniary obligations incurred heretofore for unfortunate friends."

Referring to the work of the Bench, the Chief Justice says:

"The fact is, that the pursuit of truth instead of victory, does both embellish and invigorate the mind; and the very desire for truth makes it attainable.

But for a hesitation upon the propriety of writing, this letter would have been more perspicacious and less fatiguing to you. But after declining it repeatedly in my mind, my hopes and fears overcame my doubts and, *after midnight*, I have written this letter, such as it is. . . . I have written from motives entirely pure towards my fellow citizens, and with those emotions of warm attachment, and perfect esteem which, for many years, have been felt and cherished toward you personally. . . . I said to Devereux that I had rather serve with you than any man on earth."

In reply to Gaston's letter of August 25, Ruffin wrote on August 31, saying that his obligation to Gaston was "heightened by the very ingenuous, explicit and confiding answer which I have received from you, which can only serve to increase the affection which I have long cherished and confirm the respect which I have always entertained for you. I have read it more than once that I might perfectly appreciate the difficulties which have presented themselves to you before giving my reply which, to be useful, must be immediate and which, I doubt not, you will expect by the first post. I must, in the first place, express my sincere and hearty satisfaction at observing that there is no obstacle, as it seems to me, that ought to be deemed serious, certainly not insuperable, to your accepting office. At least, were your case mine, I should thus think and act. . . . Everybody expects you to do your duty. The obstruction supposed by some to be interposed by the constitutional provision, I am very happy to find you have properly overcome. My opinion upon the construction of that clause has before been communicated to you. It remains unaltered and stands confirmed by subsequent reading and continued reflection, as you must necessarily have concluded from the general import of my letter, since I could not, in good faith, ask you to do, what I thought you could not, in good conscience, do."

After a discussion of the Thirty-second Article, Judge Ruffin says:

"I am, therefore, clear in the conclusion that the very circumstances which some might profess to believe, forbids, rather makes it a *duty*, in you, to accept office. It is known to *all* that *you* do not desire public employment; that you make a sacrifice of private emolument and personal comfort in leaving private life; and that your sole motive is to fulfil the duties of a faithful citizen and a responsible being. . . . I have often thought that with your opinion upon this question, you ought to seek rather than avoid, an opportunity by action, thus giving the most direct and impressive public memorial to all times and persons to come, of those opinions, and thus save one portion of your fellow citizens from the bitter pangs of persecution, and another portion, from those, still more bitter, of persecuting and proscribing."

Referring to Gaston's pecuniary obligations, he said: "With my sentiments expressed frequently in private discourse of the obligations upon all men to pay debts, and to pay them according to the wishes and rights of the creditor, you are too well acquainted to make it necessary that I should say that I honor you for every feeling of your bosom and every word you utter on that point. But I have not the least hesitation in believing that every arrangement you can desire in that respect is attainable. I have not the money myself (what Judge has), or it should be at your service." After naming a gentleman who would be glad to make the loan, with security, Judge Ruffin says: "Allow me without preface, or profession, to tender such as my name will be deemed, should you have occasion for the use of it."

Extract from a letter from Ruffin, dated December 2, 1833:

"A message is just now delivered from a friend in Hillsborough that you are elected by a large majority which gives us all here (Alamance) most sincere satisfaction. I cannot restrain myself from saying that I cordially unite in the congratulations your friends will tender to you in the triumph which the lovers of virtue and the admirers of ability, great attainments and elevated character, throughout the nation, will feel in the consolatory confidence in the stability of our institutions and the faithful administration of justice. . . . All good men rejoice in the event and all Christians will see in it, and acknowledge the overruling power of the Majesty on high. But above every other citizen, and all other men, I have especial cause for congratulation to you and self congratulations. . . . With unfeigned sincerity I salute you, with all the respect of an affectionate friend."

You know too well the respect which I feel for you to require any assurances of it; and I shall give you the highest proof of my confidence by the unreserved frankness with which I shall answer your communication.— The demand that has been made upon me to allow my friends to put me in nomination for the vacant seat on the Bench of the Supreme Court has embarrassed me exceedingly, and as far as is practicable within the limits of a letter I will make known to you the nature and extent of my difficulties.—Until lately I had supposed it the course of duty on my part to decline any office under our State Constitution. Whatever might be the proper construction of the 32d section of that Constitution there was room for the opinion that it intended to exclude R. Catholics from office. I had sworn to support that Constitution, and it seemed safer in conscience to remain always a private citizen, than to run the risque of breaking that oath by accepting an office from which perhaps that Constitution excluded me.—And could the subject be considered as one affecting the State on one side and myself on the other *solely*, I should probably persevere in the same opinion. I am satisfied however with you that whatever views some of the framers of the Constitution may have entertained this disqualification is not plainly expressed in it—can not judicially be inferred from it—and must therefore be regarded as not contained in it. I am further satisfied that if scruples of conscience could require of me to abstain from holding an office under these circumstances they ought to require the same course from all others entertaining the same religious opinions. The consequence then would be of those scruples to impose upon them all a political degradation and incapacity not contained in that Constitution.—Such scruples could not be well founded.

Having arrived at this conclusion I am not restrained by religious scruples from accepting office. In the event however of taking it I should deem it right in some authentic way to declare the views by which I was actuated, as well from regard to my own character as to public example.—

This difficulty removed—as it may be—there remain nevertheless very serious ones. The first grows out of the situation in which I stand with respect to my Creditors. I owe in round numbers \$8000. and exclusively (I may say so *in effect*) to the Banks. If I could sell my place near Raleigh I might hope retaining my present situation to pay off my debts in the course of another year—and without selling it in the course of the year next thereafter. By accepting the office in question I shall give up an income of at least \$6000 for a salary of \$2500.—I could not pay these debts as I had designed or with the promptness which the Bank rules would require. I might however and probably could in four or five years.—It is *necessary* therefore as an act of duty to my Creditors and my family, before I run any hazard on this subject, that I should change the nature of my engagements so as to have a longer period to meet them, and be allowed to pay by annual instead of quarter-yearly installments.—

I am told this may be done—that moneyed individuals would be glad to lend on these terms—but I have no turn for negotiations of this sort. I could not bear to make them *after* accepting office—and I must have all previously arranged. A short time will show whether this can be done or not,—and to this effect I have written my friend Devereux.—

If this matter be also disposed of, there is then no objection *absolutely insuperable*—but there are others well worthy of consideration.—Some of these are of *feeling*—the rest relate to *Duty*.—There is no civil office which man can hold of which I think more respectfully than of that of a Judge. If office could have any charms for me it would be the one in question. But I *must* say that even that office involves a departure from the state of Independence in which I prefer to live.—I now am accountable to no human being further than the laws of my God and my country make every one accountable. In office—my conduct—my demeanour—my opinions—become, it is thought, a fit subject for every body's criticism.—Every miserable demagogue feels that he has a right to enquire whether the work which a Judge does is worth what he is paid for it.—The bare discussion of such a question—(and almost every year it is discussed)—is painful and embarrassing to a man of sensibility. And the possibility that sooner or later these efforts of Demagogues may be successful in actually destroying the independent tenure of the Judicial office—must make him exceedingly loth to place himself in so precarious a situation. After weighing well the honour of the office, the leisure which it brings, and its superior fitness to my age than that of the profession I follow, still the considerations which I have mentioned—added to the invincible disgust with which I should regard a contest for the appointment—make me cling (if my feelings may be indulged) to the freedom and independence of private life.—

But I admit unequivocally that I have no right to consult this preference if it be at variance with my duty to my country. The hey-day of life is over and I am approaching to its close. I know that I am shortly to stand before the Judgment seat of an all-knowing and just God to render an account of the deeds done in the body. With this assurance I should be a fool without excuse if the comparative comfort of the few years that remain to me could tempt me to decline any obligation which I have reason to believe He wills me to perform.—It is His will that I should do all the good I can to my fellow men.—Were I assured that in taking this office I should be as useful as you and some others of my friends think—I would esteem myself bound to say (my engagements to my creditors being first provided for) they may declare me ready to enter on it if the Legislature choose to confer it.—But I am far from having this assurance.—You will not deem me guilty of the contemptible affectation of modesty when I say this. I know that I think of myself quite as favorably as I deserve, and if I did not *you* know me such as I am.—While I have the pride or vanity to believe that I could have made a respectable judge had I earlier contemplated the

possibility of being called on to perform the duties of one, and directed my efforts to qualifying myself for their performance, I do most seriously fear that I should now fall for below the estimate of my friends and my own conceptions of what ought to be done.—The incessant practice in which I have been engaged, supporting and defending causes of all sorts, has I apprehend rather given me a dexterity in arguing a *side* than a correct judgment in finding out on which side the law is—and now if called to the bench I must act upon the funds I have for it is too late to hope to swell them by study.—

And now my friend I have laid before you *all*. In the sincerity of my soul I say that if I did but know what I ought to do—I should not hesitate ONE INSTANT in doing it. I can have no peace for the residue of my days if I act against that duty.—If there be a man on earth who from his intimate knowledge of me, of my natural gifts, acquirements, habits, qualifications and infirmities—and also from his experience of the requirements which are wanted on the judgment seat—can counsel me wisely, it is *you*.—Suffer me to ask of you to counsel me *frankly and disinterestedly*.—I assure you on my honor that you need not fear to give me offence.—

If it had pleased God would that this emergency had not occurred! Would that the life could have been prolonged of that great and good man whom we have lost! What a perspicacious and commanding intellect—what an unshaken firmness of purpose—what an exalted love of justice—what a warm generous and kind heart were his!—Forgive the pedantry of the quotation.—It is so apt that I can not forbear it—

“Cui pudor, et justitia savor  
 “Incorrupta fides, nudaque veritas,  
 “Quando ullum invenient parem?”

I hope to hear from you as soon as your convenience will permit.—Address me at Newbern for I shall be here and hereabouts for several weeks yet.—

With very high respect and great regard  
 Truly your's

WILL: GASTON.

Judge Ruffin.—

[Address:

Haw River P. O  
 Orange County  
 No. Car.—]

*From William Gaston.*

*My dear Sir*

TARBOROUGH Sept. 9th. 1833.

Your kind letter of the 31st of August reached me at this place but a few moments since. Having decided on the course which I shall take upon the interesting subject of our correspondence I lose no time in communicating the result to you.—I yield to the requisition which has been made upon me, and hold myself ready to accept the seat on the Supreme Court Bench, now vacant, if the Legislature choose to call me to it. May God enable me to perform its duties faithfully and uprightly!—

Thank you, my good friend, for your kind offer to be one of my sureties!—I leave this matter to my friend Mr. Devereux who says that he can get the money from R. Cannon's representative who is anxious to lend. I shall make known to him your offer, and perhaps you may be called on to join in the execution of the bond. I want the arrangements to be made *at all events*. If the appointment does not take place there will be no harm done—and if it should there will be an indelicacy in then making them.—

I must be permitted to add a word. I did believe, and I should have been humbled if I did not believe, that I was honoured with your esteem. But I was not prepared for the fervent regard which your letters breathe; and whatever else may be the result of our correspondence I experience a gratification in the discovery among the most soothing that I have felt for a long—long—time!

May God bless you my dear friend! Remember me most affectionately to all *your's*.—

Affect. and truly your's

WILL: GASTON

Judge Ruffin,

[Address:

Haw River P. O

Orange County

No. Ca.]

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*From Thomas P. Devereux.*

*My Dear Sir*

RALEIGH Sept 21st 1833

At the request of Mr. Gaston I enclose you a bond for your signature. I presume he has written to you on the subject. I presume also that you are aware that he has consented to suffer his name to be run for the vacancy occasioned by the death of Judge Henderson. I am happy to say that whenever I hear the subject mentioned it is with expressions of

confidence in the hope that his election will make amends for a recent untoward event which you will understand without any further specification. Be good enough to return me the bond so that I may have all the arrangements completed on my return from Johnston. With my respects to Mrs. R and your daughters believe me

Very Sincerely  
Yours

Honble Thomas Ruffin

[Address:

Haw River

Orange County]

T. P. DEVEREUX

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*From Romulus M. Saunders.*

WARRENTON Oct. 15th 1833

I hope you will not think me impertinent from the inquiries I take the liberty of making, when I assure you, that altho' I do not feel at liberty *at this time* to give my reasons for doing so, my motives are entirely of a friendly character towards you. Am I mistaken in supposing you friendly to the President and his administration?—Are you not so towards the Vice President? Have you ever examined what is termed the Indian question and do you concur with the Pre<sup>t</sup> in his views in regard to it—or were you satisfied by the opinion of Judge Marshall? If you feel so disposed I should like to hear from you upon the above. I may when we meet be at liberty to give you my reasons for the inquiry; at present I can only say, should you answer me you may rely on the matter remaining in my own breast. We have had railroad meetings here—but all opposed to the State's doing any thing. I hear the subject of the Sup. Court named and am inclined to think it will run the gauntlet should it go through, the chances are in favour of its going down should its opponents not disagree about the arrangement of the circuits—otherwise Mr. Gaston's chance of success is almost certain.

[P. S.] You will recollect I have Halifax and Northamp. yet to attend—from thence I go to Washington City.

[Address:

Haw River

Orange County

N. C.]



To ———<sup>1</sup>

Pedigree of my mare *Cherokee*.

Sire, Virginian; Dam Figure, by Sir Archie; G. D. Jezebell, by Magog; g.g.d. Vixen, by imported Sterling; g.g.g.d. *Minerva*, by *Juba*; g.g.g.g.d. Diana, by Claudius; g.g.g.g.g.d. Sally Painter, by old imported Sterling; g.g.g.g.g.d. the imported old mare Silver, which was by the Bellsiz Arabian, as was also the last mentioned Sterling.

Virginian was by Sir Archie; Dam by the above Magog; *Magog* was by Chanticleer, Dam Camilla, by Woldair; G. Dam *Minerva* by the imported *Obscurity*; g.g. Dam, the above named Diana.

*Figure* I sold to Jonathan P. Sneed Esqr in 1828 and she is the dam of his race horse Hanslap, trained and run by Mr. Garrison.

*Vixen* was the dam of Mr. Cain's old mare *Lubey Foote* (given to him by my Father), which is the dam of his race-horse Orange Boy and of the mare sold to Mr. Yarborough, which is the dam of his race mare sold at 3 years old to Mr. for \$1000.

I believe *Cherokee* is more entirely of the pure blood of the old stock of my Father and Mr. Brodnax, of Brunswick, Va, than any mare now to be found in Va. or No Ca.

Oct. 18th 1834. [?]

THOMAS RUFFIN

ALLEMANCE—Oct. 28th 1833.

*My dear Sir*

I saw Mr. Robert Brodnax last week and applied to him for the pedigree of your colt, *Orange Boy*; For I knew his Father's Stud book contained it. He could not however give it to me, as all of his Father's papers are in Brunswick. From the anxiety expressed by you to get it I have been induced to examine my Father's papers in the hope of finding some memorandum from which I could make it out; and after much search have discovered an entry in an old book, from which and a pedigree given me by old Mr. Brodnax of my old mare *Figure* (sold to Mr. Sneed) I am able to trace your colt to the best stock in America.

I find that *Vixen* was put to Citizen 21st March 1810 and dropt a foal 4th March 1811; which I suppose to be your old mare, the dam of *Orange Boy*. If that be correct, his Pedigree is as follows, according to my memorandum.—

*Orange Boy*, got by Sir Archie; Dam Luky Foote by Citizen; G. Dam *Vixen*, by the imported horse Sterling; G.G. Dam, *Minerva*, by *Juba*; G.G.G.D. *Diana* by Claudius; G.G.G.G.D. *Sally Painter*, by the imported horse Sterling, out of the imported mare *Silver*; and both of them by the Bellsiz Arabian in England.

<sup>1</sup>There is nothing to indicate to whom this letter was written.

The above horse Citizen was got by Melzar, Dam *Camilla* by Wildair; G. Dam *Minerva* by the imported horse *Obscurity*; G.G. Dam the above mentioned mare, *Old Diana* by *Claudius*; etc.

To save you difficulty in future I also send you the pedigree of my Mare, *Cherokee*, from which you and I are now breeding; which you will find to be as good as it can be and very much the same in its origin and progress as *Orange Boy*.

*Cherokee* was got by *Virginian*; Dam *Figure* by Sir Archie, G. Dam *Jezebell* by Magog, G.G. Dam, *Vixen* by imported *Sterling*; G.G.G. Dam *Minerva* by Juba; G.G.G.G. Dam *Diana* by *Claudius*; G.G.G.G.G.D. *Sally Painter* by *Sterling*; G.G.G.G.G.G.D. *Old Silver* which was by the *Bellsizes Arabian* in England, as was also the latter horse *Sterling*.

The above horse *Virginian* belonged to Harrison and was got by Sir Archie, dam by Magog:

The above *Magog* was got by *Chanticleer*, his dam the above *Camilla* by Wildair; G. Dam *Minerva* by *Obscurity*; G.G. Dam, *Old Diana* by *Claudius* etc.

Thus it appears that both your horse and my mare are full of Sir Archi on one side and on the other go back in most of their crosses to the best Arabian blood. In this country the blood of this stock (kept chiefly by Mr. Brodnax and my Father) has proved itself to be superior on the turf; and I am pleased to see that at this day, *Orange Boy* and Mr. Sneed's *Hanslap* from *Figure*, prove that there is no degeneracy as yet. The colt from *Cherokee* by *Eclipse* must be equal in value as in blood to any colt in the world. In the hope that you will still have success enough to enable you to make a good sale,

I am dear Sir

Yours truly

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Luky Foote.

Bred by *Sterling Ruffin Esqr.* and presented to *Wm. Cain of Hillsboro'* N. C.

She was got by *Citizen* (*Ruffin's*) dam *Vixen* by *Sterling*, G. Dam *Minerva* by Juba; G.G. Dam *Diana* by *Claudius*; G.G.G. Dam *Sally Painter* out of the imported mare *Silver* by the imported *Sterling*; both of them gotten in E. by the *Bellsizes Arabian*, who was afterwards imported himself.

Her produce all bred by Mr. Cain.

B. F. *Betsy* by *Napoleon*—sold to D. *Yarborough*.

C. F. *Sally* by *Decatur*

C. H. *Orange Boy* by Sir Archie “ “ E. *Cunaut*

C. F. *Laura Lovel* by *Timoleon* “ “ I. *Garrison*.

B. F. *Patty Foote* by *Marion* “

*Betsy* by *Napoleon* her produce

B. C. by a common horse attend

B. F. *Mary Alston* by *Washington* E. *Cunaut*

G. F. Temptation by Jerry

C. F. Tennessee Lass by Leviathan " W. Cain,

F. by Son of Timoleon

C. by Leviathan dead

1835 in foal to Leesborough

Sally by Decatur her produce

B. F. Music by Marion

B. F. Myra " Yemen dead

1835 Stinted to Contract

Cherokee

A brown mare property of Thomas Ruffin Esqr and bred on shares by Mr. Wm. Cain

Cherokee by Virginian, her dam Figure by Sir Archie, G. Dam Jezebel by Magog, G.G.D. Vixen by Sterling, the grand dam of Orange Boy as given above.

Cherokee her produce.

B. F. By Murat Present J. Kirkland and W. Ruffin

B. F. Blue Bell by Eclipse Thomas Ruffin

G. F. Afong May " Yemen William Cain

Pedigree of Ruffin's Citizen.

Citizen by Melzar, dam Camilla by Wildair, G. Dam Minerva by Obscurity, G.G. dam, Diana by Claudius.

Decatur was got by Eagle, imported, his dam by Sir Archie, G.D. Campbel's gray mare bred in Maryland and always considered full bred; She sold at the enormous price of \$700 thirty years ago, and was at that time considered the finest mare in the state; for her pedigree and produce see first vol. of the Turf Register.

Figure the dam of Cherokee is also the dam of Mr. Garrison's Hanslap and other fine stock, and was himself sold for \$500 at 22 years old.

The late Mr. Brodnax of Brunswick Va bred 2 mares called Minerva, the one by Juba and the other by Obscurity. He also bred 2 mares called Coquett, one by Sterling and the other by Sir Archie. This statement is made to avoid all misunderstanding and explain seeming discrepancies in the pedigree in the pedigrees of horses descended from the stock of Mr. Brodnax, confessedly among the best and highest bred in our country.

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*From Rev. George W. Freeman.*

RALEIGH 30th. Octr. 1833

*My Dear Sir.*

Our Bishop having been suddenly called back to New York by intelligence of the death of his little son, has requested me to give notice to the members of the School committee, that he has appointed Wednesday the

27th day of November for a meeting of that body, and to solicit their punctual attendance. The place designated is, of course, Raleigh, the hour 10 o'clock A. M.—at my Study.

I hope, my dear Sir, you will find it convenient to attend as there will be business of importance before the committee, and we shall stand in need of all the wisdom we can command.

By the Bishop's request, I set out tomorrow on a begging tour through the eastern part of the State.

I am Respectfully, Your obd Svt.

[Address:

Haw-River

Orange County.]

GEO: W. FREEMAN

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*From David W. Stone.*

*My Dear Sir,*

RALEIGH, N. C. Friday 1st, Novr. 1833.

I received yours of the 30th ult: yesterday and avail myself of the earliest leisure to reply to your kind inquiries in relation to the last hours of our deceased friend.<sup>1</sup> He was taken sick so as to be confined to his room and the greater part of the time to his bed on tuesday the 15th of Octr. (on monday the 14th he was up street in at the auction at Kyle's Store and asked Mr. Coman to buy some things for him if they sold cheap). I went down to see him about 11 o'clock A.M. on tuesday the 15th (expecting he was more indisposed than usual as he did not attend the meeting of the Board on that morning) and found him in bed, in a good deal of pain afflicted with a most violent dysentery, very slight if any fever, and a total loss of appetite. I went to see him again in the afternoon, and again after supper thinking that his situation required that some person should sit up with him at night, and asked him if I should stay with him, he said no, he didn't wish any person to stay—he continued pretty much in the same state for two or three days though weakening continually as he eat hardly anything, when he called in a Physician (Dr. Beckwith) having at all times before when he was asked if he would not have a Doctor, declined it, for he said that he had very little faith in medicine, and only at all as an aid to nature and he thought that he ought first to point out the remedy needed before it could be applied beneficially, and that he had no confidence in the Doctors here, and if he had them in attendance it would be the "blind leading the blind." Doctor Beckwith after being called in continued to attend on him until his death, and I thought on the following monday and tuesday after his attack, that he had been a good deal benefitted, was a good deal better and would more than likely be up again—he himself thought he was much better and expected to be out again in the course of a week or

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<sup>1</sup>Peter Browne.

10 days—and Dr. Beckwith was, or said he was of the same opinion, that he would soon be up again but he thought that his constitution had then received a shock from which he did not think it would ever recover—on wednesday following he was evidently much worse, but still refused to permit any person to sit up with him at night and seemed almost offended that the question of being permitted to stay with him all night should be so often repeated—on thursday the decline was still more apparent—he had had a very bad night . . . . and he was so much exhausted a little before day that he could not get up without assistance. I was to see him again in the afternoon from  $\frac{1}{2}$  after 3, till dark. Colo. Cooke was there too at the same time and left before I did—when he was about going away he asked Mr. Browne if he did not need assistance or Company at night—he said no. When I was about to leave I did not repeat the question determining to go down after supper and stay all night as I saw Ned was exhausted—when I got there a little after dark, I directed Ned to get his supper, and lay down and go to sleep, which he did, and I staid alone with him until  $\frac{1}{2}$  after 4 o'clock in the morning. He frequently told me to go to bed and asked why I did not go home. I told him that Ned was exhausted, and that I had told him to go to sleep and was staying in his place, he said nothing more afterwards on that subject but permitted me to remain, . . . just before I left he sank into a kind of disturbed slumber. I was back again after breakfast about 8 o'clock and found that he got no better. . . . I was with him the greater part of the day of friday and all the night (the night of his death), about 5 o'clock in the evening Mr. Benehan (Thos. D.) came in to see him (having heard by Mr. P. Cameron who left this on thursday morning that Mr. Browne was very seriously ill he left home next morning and came down) and remained with me there through the night and was there at his death—he . . . . died sitting in the Easy Chair. Dr. B. was to see him about sun set and then told Mr. Benehan and myself that he did not think he could possibly live through the night. Dr. McPheeters, and Mr. Primrose came to see him about 9 o'clock. I asked the Dr. to go in and see him—he did so, and merely inquired about his health and came out (of the room) again—and just as he had started away Mr. Benehan asked me if we had not better ask the Doctor to talk with Mr. Browne. I told him that I would not do so, that if the Doctor had talked to him voluntarily, I should have said nothing, but that if he (Mr. B.) thought it best to ask him in the room again to do so. He went out there and saw the Doctor before he had got out of the yard, and told him of Mr. Browne's situation and asked him to go in and talk with him, telling him that he Dr. McP. knew Mr. B. as well as he did and if after commencing he saw it was disagreeable he could desist. Dr. McP. then came back and went into the room and after stating to Mr. Browne that he was then in a very low state of health and that he had been a great and good friend to him, said if he could do anything for him he would

willingly do it. He then told him that his Physician thought he could not live through the night. Mr. Browne merely asked if he did (witht. appearing to be [at] all moved by the information). The Doctor then asked him if all his worldly matters were settled or arranged—he said he had nothing to do that he knew of. The Doctor then stated to him, what was the means of salvation, and said that it was through the mercy of God that we must be saved, if saved, that our Saviour Jesus Christ was able if our sins were as scarlet to make them as snow, and that he was the only mediation for fallen man. Mr. Browne replied that there was no doubt of that or he never entertained any doubt of it, the Doctor afterwards went on to enlarge on the subject and Mr. Browne said "*no more preaching here tonight.*" Mr. Benehan then desired the Doctor (as he did not hear Mr. Browne being farther off from him than Mr. Benehan was) to say nothing more. Shortly afterwards the Doctor came out of the room and he and Mr. Pierson went home. Mr. B. was during the whole time perfectly calm and composed except when his pains would be more acute, he would then groan and change his position in bed, endeavoring to gain some relief, about an hour afterwards Dr. Beckwith came again to see him and when he went in the room Mr. Browne desired him to hand him his watch (which lay on the table) and hold the candle and he very deliberately counted his own pulse (which was then 120 to the minute) and remarked that it was right good and that it would do right well without any perturbation or discomposure—he spent this night pretty much as the night before getting up very frequently and dosing very restlessly, and his mind appeared to be wandering, he spoke frequently of Spain and the Spaniards, and said they had come to fight like men at last, his voice was however so low and inarticulate that it was hard to distinguish anything he did say, he drank small quantities of Porter and of sweetened milk and water through out the night but would in a very few minutes after taking it cough it up and spit it out, and could not get anything to stay on his stomach, about an hour before his death when I was alone with him in the room (Mr. Benehan having laid down on some blankets in the next room) he held his hands out to me to be helped up, and when he got up instead of stopping by the bedside as he had usually done he walked to the fire place with my assistance, sat down in a chair by the fire and looked at all the things there, (Pitchers, bowls, and cups, containing things that had been kindly sent him by his friends), after being there a few minutes he was struck with the first paroxysm of Death and it was with considerable difficulty that I held him up in his chair. I did so however and called Mr. Benehan and Ned up and we put him back to bed believing at the time we did so that he would never more speak, he however in a very few minutes revived again, asked for some milk and water of which he drank a very small quantity when it was handed him, he then asked for a tooth pick, I made him one and he lay picking his teeth very composedly for a half hour, when he endeavored to get up again and with the assistance of Mr. Benehan did

get out of bed at the foot of it, and went to the fire place (as before with me) where in a few minutes a second more violent paroxysm than the first seized him. I was standing at his back near the easy chair and turned it round immediately and Mr. Benehan and Ned placed him in it and in a half hour afterwards he ceased to breathe.

I believe he was conscious of his approaching dissolution, and met it as would have been expected of such a man, a day or two before his death he spoke to me of Hectors speech to Andromache before he went out to meet Achilles, when he says that the brave and the coward meet the same fate, and asks what it would avail him to be a dastard, and seemed very much to commend it—he spoke at the same time of the Christian Religion and thought that Homer's writings showed that the means of salvation as then understood corresponded very nearly with our understanding of it at this time and in speaking of the Creeds of the Christian world said it was very strange to him that those who believed in predestination and election should generally be the best people and less liable to backsliding, than those who entertained a different belief—and spoke on the subject in that plain lucid and perspicuous manner which he treated all subjects that he spoke about. I must hope and believe that he has found mercy, as we are told in Holy writ that the Lord delighteth in a *just man* and no man that I have ever known came more fully up to that character.

He did not desire to be buried in any particular manner but told Colo. Cooke if he died he knew how to bury him, nor did he speak at all of his business, no valuable papers except some letters from Mr. Lennox were found in the house with him.

For the very handsome and just estimate placed by you on the sterling virtues of our deceased friend in your late letter to me I sincerely thank you, and for yourself and family be pleased to accept my best wishes for your health and comfort in this world and rest and happiness in that to come.

Your friend and Obdt. Servt.

D. W. STONE.

Judge Ruffin  
Haw River  
Orange County, N. C.

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*From Romulus M. Saunders.*

*Private*

WASHINGTON CITY Nov. 4th, 1833

I duly recd. your letter at Jackson, which was highly satisfactory and I now feel at liberty to explain to you the cause and motive for my inquiry. I had recd. from the Secy. of State<sup>1</sup> under the directions of

<sup>1</sup>Louis McLane.

the Prest. a letter requesting to know yr opinions upon particular matters connected with the administration and particularly yr. views upon the Indian question and my opinion of yr. fitness for the office of attorney Genl,<sup>1</sup>—Of your qualifications for that or any other office within the gift of the Prest. I did not hesitate to speak as I thought—tho' I was unable to speak of your particular opinions as definitely as I could have wished, farther than what I inferred from past events and from knowing you had always acted and thought upon most subjects with the old democratic party. I felt it however but candid to state to Mr. McL. that I doubted your willingness to accept as I believed you satisfied with yr present situation, that you had a large family and property requiring yr personal superintendance. At Northampton after receiving yr. letter I heard that Mr. Daniel<sup>2</sup> had been appointed—tho' before hearing of this I inclosed your letter to Mr. McLean. On getting here I found the old gentleman was not entirely satisfied about yr. *Bank* opinions, and Mr. V. B. asked me how it happened that you was a Bankman. I told him you was so as Mr. Madison, thinking the question settled by Judicial decision. I mentioned this conversation to my friend McLean and he thought I ought to shew V. B. your letter, which I did, with the remark that he would see it was not written with the view or expectation of meeting his eye. He read it and expressed himself fully satisfied upon all points—except he said you were wrong about the Turkish mission. He said, it would not do to show the letter to the Prest. *but as he desired that the Prest. should continue to think well of you*, he would take occasion to say, I had learnt yr. opinions from yourself and what they were—and now my dear Sir—I do not know that I have acted exactly as you could have desired, yet I know you will not think that I have been officious or desired to hold you up as an *office* seeker in these days of scramble—but will ascribe my motives to their proper reason—in the first place we are permitted to speak of *absent* friends, in the honest warmth of commendatory truth, and in next place the Country is entitled to the services of such friends, when they can be rendered without too great a sacrifice. Mr. Daniel I understand has not yet accepted, his appointment having been announced through mistake, and if he acts prudently, I think he will not, as he gets \$1000 as Counsellor and has a practice worth 1500 or 2000\$ more—which is more than *he* could make here. Should he not accept I may be called upon to say whether *you* would, for I know both Mr. V. B. and McLean greatly prefer you—though I did not hesitate to say to Mr. V. B. the Secretary of the Treasury was the place for you, as it is whispered here, that Mr. Taney's

<sup>1</sup>On September 24, 1833, President Jackson had appointed Attorney-General Roger B. Taney Secretary of the Treasury to succeed Secretary Duane, who had declined to remove the deposits.

<sup>2</sup>Peter Vyvian Daniel of Virginia, 1785-1860, a class-mate of Ruffin's at Princeton. He declined the appointment and in 1836 was appointed United States district judge by Jackson. In 1840, Van Buren appointed him an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court.



*health* is failing. But after all, to be frank with you, my desire has been to place you where I wish to see you, upon the U. S. bench. You may rest assured that this matter will of course rest in my own bosom and with those only, who are at present advised of it.

The business of our board has not suffered from my absence—as the other commissioners have been engaged in merely receiving mem<sup>rs</sup> and passing upon their forms. I think it likely we shall by the last of Decr. get through all that will be in readiness for hearing.

Since the affair of the deposits, things have gone on smoothly here—tho' a storm is anticipated upon that subject when Cong<sup>s</sup> meets. The Alabama question, I yet hope will be accommodated.

[P. S.] It is but proper that I should say—that I was *not* asked for Your opinion upon the U. S. Bank nor your feelings towards the V. President, the latter was a matter of my own seeking and I am happy to find that we so fully concur in regard to him, as we have in many other things—rest assured you are not deceived—for I know those people here and there that are talked of for the presidency, and he unites qualifications vastly superior to any of them—he has more of the old democratic principles than any of them, and is by far more American in feeling—yet there is the same combination against him that there was against poor Crawford except he has not the popularity of Genl. J.—nor the patronage of the government against him.

Thomas Ruffin esqr.

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*From Thomas P. Devereux.*

RALEIGH Nov. 14th 1833.

As you foretold last summer Mr. Seawell is extremely fearful that the integrity of the Protestant Religion will be seriously affected if Mr. Gaston is elected to the Bench. It is generally understood that you have given Mr. G. your views as to the just construction of the 32d section of our constitution. It may be of great service to the friends of Mr. G. to have your views, if favorable, (if otherwise you may keep them to yourself) to his eligibility. Will you be good enough to embody them and let me have them as soon as possible. There is a class of men who are believed to be sincerely desirous of Mr. Gastons election but who, conscientiously feel as if they cannot vote for him. Your opinion is intended for such—we have a verbal one of Judge Marshall—he thinks the question is for the candidate alone and “that were he a member of the North Carolina legislature he should not hesitate to vote for any upright man, whom he otherwise approved, who was willing to take the common oath to support the constitution.”

Honble Thomas Ruffin.

[P. S.] I have Mr. Gs views—but they are in a course of *being* copied for distribution if necessary and as you are, I think, aware of them I do not send them.

[Address:

Haw River

Orange County.]

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*From Duncan Cameron.*

RALEIGH Nov. 28th 1833.

I have pleasure in saying that on yesterday, Mr. Gaston was elected to the vacancy on the Bench of the Supreme Co. The vote stood Gaston 112—Seawell 42—and Blank 33—and that Govr. Swain was re-elected without opposition.

I congratulate you on the election of Mr. Gaston, you will have a highly agreeable associate—the publick an able and faithful Judge in him.

The Convention<sup>1</sup> is still in session—its labours in all probability be bro't to a close this evening, or tomorrow—whether they will prove beneficial to the State rests with the Genl. Assembly.

Mr. Shober is here—and to him I have communicated all the information in my possession respecting the dividends of the Bank—he will communicate it to Mr. Biggs. . . . .

[Address: Haw River N. C.]

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*From Paul C. Cameron.*

STAGVILLE POST OFF. ORANGE. Jan 1st 1834.

*My dear Sir/.*

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I was not a little disappointed that you did not take this in your way to Raleigh and I can only excuse you by my disposition to indulge you to the *last* moment at home. I see by the "Raleigh Register" that you are now in harness. Believe me Sir, I entered fully into the pleasure that you must have enjoyed in being joined by Mr. Gaston at the com-

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<sup>1</sup>Reference is here made to an internal improvement convention which met in Raleigh on November 25, and stayed in session until November 30. Governor Swain presided. It recommended a ship channel from Beaufort harbor to the Neuse River, a railroad from the coast to the Tennessee line, a railroad from Roanoke River to the South Carolina line, and a canal from Elizabeth City to the Dismal Swamp Canal or a railroad connection to Norfolk. Forty-eight counties were represented and all voted for the recommendations except Warren, Halifax, Bertie, and Caswell.

mencement of the present Term of your court. And if I were an individual of more note, and better acquainted with Mr. Gaston I should be tempted to ask of you the favour to offer him my most cordial congratulations. No one honours or respects him more than I do. With patriotism the most disinterested—with morals the most pure—with attainments of the first rank in literature and science—to which he has added and so happily combined the virtues of decision and prudence, that he cannot fail to fulfill in his new character the highest and best hopes of his native State.

I am still upon the horns of doubt and uncertainty as to my location. In truth I know not what to do. My Father still urges me to locate in Hillsborough with no other object in view, but the prosecution of my profession. To this my judgment and inclination are alike opposed—and of this he is *not ignorant*. What in the present state of the profession am I to hope by a location in that place? What have I to envy in the condition of those Gentlemen of the Bar who are now residents in our county town: and I have not the presumption to hope that I can do better than they have done. Besides to be honest and frank (and I speak to you with the same candour and frankness that I do to my Father) I have ever honestly doubted my ability to advance in my profession beyond common mediocrity. But you must have become tired of me, and I will forbear, but not without saying that I shall at all times be thankful for any advice that you may offer me.

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Yours most truly and affectionately

PAUL CARRINGTON CAMERON.

[Address: Raleigh No. Carolina.]

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*From Thomas S. Ashe.*<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

ALAMANCE Jan 26 1834.

When in need of an adviser, there is no one to whom I would sooner apply for the performance of that friendly office than yourself. The long-existing friendship between our families—my inclination, the pres-

<sup>1</sup>Thomas S. Ashe of Orange and later of Anson, 1812-1887, was at this time studying law under Ruffin's direction. He later had a notable career at the bar and in politics, serving in both houses of the legislature, as a member of the Confederate Congress, and of the Congress of the United States. He was also elected to the Confederate Senate but never took his seat. He was defeated for the governorship in 1868 by William W. Holden. In 1878 he became an associate justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina and served until his death.

ent relation of my circumstances—all point you out as a proper person to appeal to, in the present emergency. I well know that, to men of sense, the task of advising is disagreeable inasmuch as it is most generally thankless,—and so, because it directly assails one's foolish pride. But not so in the present instance. Your advice will not be urged unasked upon me, it is solicited, and besides I have none of that fastidious pride which takes offence and feels mortification in listening to the tender counsels of friendship. You will therefore please to tell me candidly and disinterestedly what I should do in the present case.

Mr. James Norwood of C. Hill is with us this evening: he brings me an invitation from the Faculty to accept a tutorship in the University. The duties of the office, he says, are light and would leave a great portion of time entirely at my command, in which I could still pursue, with advantage, the study of the law. Would you have me adopt this plan,—or set aside the law altogether for the present and devote my leisure time exclusively to history; or abandon the whole scholastic scheme and continue the prosecution of my present studies? I hope you will not attribute my conduct to indecision of purpose. For having my course now chalked out, none would more eagerly press forward to the end to which it leads than myself, did I believe that my pecuniary circumstances justified me in its continuance. I admit it may possibly be to my advantage to remain in my present situation: but all my inclinations run against it, saving that of continuing a member of your very highly esteemed family. I want to divest myself of certain morbid misgivings which every now and then creep over my bosom. I am ambitious of throwing myself upon the world—I am ambitious of floating upon my own oars. I am ambitious of the “glorious privileges of being independent.”

Yours very respectfully

T. S. ASHE.

P. S. Please answer this immediately as I have to inform the Faculty of my determination, during the present week. T. A.

[Address: Raleigh North Carolina.]

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*From P. L. Brown and others.*

RANDOLPH MACON COLLEGE

February 1st, 1834.

*Hon. Sir*

We the students of R. M. College and members of the Franklin Polemic Society wishing to adopt any honorable measures that may promote the interest of this institution and that of the society to which we belong, and thinking that it will greatly assist us in securing this

object to elect honorary members, respectfully solicit you to accept your appointment as honorary member of the Franklin Society of Randolph Macon College.

Yours

Respectfully

P. L. BROWN	} Com.
J. A. TILLET	
B. CLEGG	

Hon. T. Ruffin.

P. S. Please favour us with an answer as soon as convenient. Comt.

[Address: Hillsborough N. C.]

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*From James H. Ruffin.*

February 15, 1834.

As I have so good an opportunity for a safe conveyance of a letter to Carolina, I will not wait the arrival of an answer to my last but take advantage of Mr. Ashe's return from Alabama to inform you of my agricultural operations.

I have succeeded in opening for cultivation 160 acres of land, a good deal of which is now ready for the plough and the remainder in considerable forwardness for the same process: so that without some untoward occurrence, to occasion delay, I shall be able to plant my whole crop of new-ground corn by the 1st May. I have 5 of Pugh's largest ploughs in full operation in my cotton field of which I have bedded 60 acres. If the present fair weather should continue for a month, I will have finished my whole quantity of cotton land. Of that however, I dare hardly hope, as such an occurrence would be most unusual in this country as an uninterrupted course of fair weather for a month at this season of the year. It has already lasted an unusual time, we having been without rain for the last fortnight. The weather has been also mild and pleasant as May in Carolina so that our peach trees and dogwoods are in full bloom and some of our forest trees beginning to bud. I fear that the month of March will make us shiver for our present mild weather as that time is generally cold in this climate. I hope however that although it may be cold, it will be clear and give us an opportunity of continuing our agricultural operations.

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I congratulate you on your appointment as C. J. I hope it will not turn your head, as I do not think that any honor which No. Ca. can bestow should have that effect upon any one who is so well poised as you, and is so conscious of the perfect contempt excited by her niggardly policy and dearth of high and ennobling patriotism. I was almost in hopes, her *wise men* would have abolished her Supreme Court, and by

that means have driven from the State the eminent men who yet linger within her limits, thereby leaving her barren of talent and a prey to the silly demagogues who rule her destinies. But I would not wound your State pride and patriotic feelings: I hope you will excuse the above as reflecting discredit upon myself inasmuch as "it is a foul bird that bewrays its own nest."

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[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

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*From William W. Hall.*

WADESBORO. Feby 24<sup>t</sup> 1834.

I have taken the liberty of writing you to solicit your influence in assisting me, in getting a situation in one of the Banks of this State, I would not presume to make such a request, without referring you to the Gentlemen of our Bar; viz P. H. Winston, A. Little Esq, etc., or any of the Members of the last Legislature, with whom you may be acquainted. I have taken this liberty thinking you might probably be at the head of one of those Institutions; my circumstances are very limited, and I have a large family dependent on my exertions, and my principal object is to get into Raleigh or some other place where they could have the benefit of a good School. I could give any Security required by the Banks, in the event of there being a vacancy, or there being no Candidate whose claims would be equal to my own, at the Same time, I would be far from offering my services for a Clerkship, did I think my qualifications were not such, as would justify such an appointment. I hope this will be a sufficient plea for the liberty I have taken, whilst I Remain

With the deepest Respect

Your Obt Sert

WM. W. HALL

[Address: Raleigh North Carolina]

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*To Catherine Ruffin.*

*My dear daughter.*

RALEIGH—March 15th 1834.

I must give you a little—*little* pay for all your kind letters, by sending you bad news for your good. I may as well tell it, at once. I

don't know, when I shall be at home. For the last fortnight, we have been getting off in a fortnight; and I believe it is still the same thing. At least, we have yet so much to do, that I can not tell when we shall or can get through it. Do not suppose, that there is any fault in any of my brethren or, of course, in myself, truly we work as hard as we can; but there is such a press of business and we have been so long at it—nothing but law, law, law, that I and all of us are tired out. But I will not fret and your Mother and you at home must not despair: You will see me some day, I hope.

These disappointments make it necessary I should ask the favor of some of you let Mr. Moore know, that I do not wish him to wait for me, but to sow the clover seed at once. I suppose too, your Uncle will be going to Petersburg before long. Mention to your Mother to make out her memorandum for anything she wants, not forgetting a few bottles of good sweet oil for *me* and lime juice for herself or the sick, if any of us should be so unfortunate.

Our old friend, Mr. R. Galloway is here and goes off in the morning to spend a week or two in Washington City, to see Congress and the great world. He looks well and I think from the little conversation I have had with him, improves. I am glad he is going north; for I suspected he was making his way towards Newbern again, which I suspect would be poorly worth his while. Though, may be, you know how he fared before: I do not. . . . .

I shall expect to hear from home in the morning, but I will mention, that you must write again and keep writing 'till you see me come. Pray how does the *little man* come on? Is he, as he ought to be, the smartest fellow in the world? You say, Thomas hates him and Anne writes that Patty doesn't care any thing for him. If his foes multiply at that rate, the poor little fellows prospects will soon be dismal enough: for he will have few friends left besides his Parents. However, they will be true to him, and I am not sure but he would find them the truer for persecutions from other quarters, and I *am* sure they will be his best friends. Tell him to keep up his spirits and be ready to shake hands and call my name against I come.

Pray does your dear mother find herself comfortable after so much trouble and anxiety? She has had a great many of my thoughts during the winter; and altho' the treatment to her is cruel, for me to leave her at such a time, I doubt often with myself, which has suffered the more, of the two. I needed her support nearly as much as she did mine; and *now* more, I believe. Give my warmest love to her and tell her to be *careful* of herself,—else I shall be indeed mightily dissatisfied; and not to be in too great a hurry to go to work or even to get about. Women will never learn, or she has had experience enough without my telling. But I will still do my duty and sing in her ears, how she ought to act; which I do partly for the sake of seting her an example of what she ought to do towards me.

I can give you no news, except that there is rife rumor that as soon as Lent is over two of your young friends, Mr. Hogg and Mrs. Sally Blount, will become a couple: which I more than partly believe. He has lately taken to the law again and is now on the Circuit in the lower counties. His health as it was.

William has written to me but once this winter. What is he about. Studying very hard? or gardening, or fishing or farming? I expect you and Alice will have your Mothers garden in fine order. You have had a delightfully mild Spring for it; tho' I see nothing forward about this town but the trees.

Give my dutiful compliments to your grand-mamy and say to her, that I am glad to find that her fears of March are again likely to prove groundless: My love to all the little ones, including Alice and Anne and to your Mother.

Most affeey, dear Catherine,

Your father and friend,

[Address:

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Haw River Post Office

Orange County No. Ca.]

*From James M. Williamson.*

GREENSBORO March 19th, 1834.

I take the liberty of addressing you a few lines, once more in relation to the pursuit in which I am engaged.

Since reading the few excellent hints with which I was favoured, from you last fall I have been exclusively employed in reading Coke upon Litt. I have succeeded in *wading* through it now almost for the second time. I cannot say however that I have *touched bottom* in all places. I feel greatly discouraged at the very small proficiency I have made. Indeed I find that the three volumes of Coke and his commentators contain such a *mass* of curious and cunning and I might add valuable learning, that I find it as yet utterly impossible to keep up any thing like a connected view of the whole—yet doubtless the exercise through which I have passed in reading these volumes will be very profitable to me—particularly in perusing them the third time.

I have some idea at this time of making application for County court license in July next. Not with a view of pretending to practice but mainly as an incentive to greater diligence in my studies. My object is to learn from you something of the nature of the examination which I will be required to undergo, and the books you would recommend me to read more particularly with a view to obtaining license.

I am conscious that my application will be rather premature—and it would be a source of no little mortification to me, to share the fate of



some of my brother apprentices who presented themselves last winter. I would therefore be very glad to learn your opinion of the propriety of the course I have proposed for myself, together with any other suggestions you may think proper to make touching my future pursuits.

[Address: Haw River N. Carolina.]

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*From John C. Ehringhaus.*

ELIZABETH CITY April 1, 1834.

From the tenor of your letter in reply to the one I addressed you in 1832, respecting my Son, I am induced to renew the application to You, to permit my Son to study under your directions. He has been reading in the office of John L. Bailey Esquire of this place, since last June, and my wish is for him to continue there until next October, at that time should it meet with your consent and approbation, I should be glad to place him under you. Mr. Bailey expressed himself favourably, as to his capacities, and I fondly hope that whenever the time comes for him to leave you, he will do credit to you and to himself.

My Son will be 20 years old on the 8 of October next, and I trust that on his arriving of age he will be fully qualified to receive his License.

I have made this early application to avoid any engagement on your part which might deprive my Son of the advantage of your instructions, and I most sincerely request of you the favour not to disappoint me in my expectations, as I think his future well doing will in a great measure depend on his having the credit of having studied under you.

You will easily imagine, that I feel great interest and anxiety on this subject, and you will therefore oblige me much with as early an answer as your time will admit, at the same time acquainting me with the terms on which you will undertake the charge.

Honble. Thomas Ruffin.

[Address: Hillsborough N. C.]

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*From Edmund Ruffin.<sup>1</sup>*

*Dear Sir*

SHELLBANKS, VA. April 14, 1834.

It was with far more gratification than would be usually produced by merely receiving an addition of two new subscribers, that I received

<sup>1</sup>Edmund Ruffin, of Virginia, 1794-1865, was a distant cousin of Thomas Ruffin's. He was noted for his writings on agriculture in Virginia and the Carolinas, and exerted a very great influence in the promotion of improved methods.

your subscription and Judge Gaston's—and the manner in which you were pleased to express yourself added still more to my gratification. Your receipts will be placed on No 11, which will issue in a few days. I send by this mail to you all the back nos. except No. 7, of which none are in my possession—but my printer is ordered to send it, and it will probably reach you within a few days after this.

Very respectfully

ED: RUFFIN.

[Address: Haw River Orange Co. N. Ca.]

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*From Edmund Ruffin.*

SHELLBANKS VA.

May 5th 1834.

The last mail brought your letter directing the Farmers' Register, from this time, to be sent to Col. Wm. Robards, and enclosing \$5 for his years subscription in advance. The payment will be inserted in the next published receipt list—and the month sent as directed—beginning with No 12 (the next) but no change will be made until the beginning of Vol. 2. to reserve uniformity.

I am pleased to hear that you have done so much to *increase*, as well as to illustrate our name—and in the former respect I may say that I am following close on your footsteps. I have had eleven children, the last two, twins—and nine are living. The other two died at an early age. With such an addition as you and I have furnished, I hope there is no danger of our name becoming extinct—which I have thought formerly no unlikely event. Considering how many adult males there have been of our family and name, it is remarkable that there has been so little increase. One son only has been left to continue the stock in two successive generations of my branch of the family, and in two other branches, one male only has been left alive in each, out of a large number of brothers. But we have broken the *charm*, if there was one, and I am heartily glad of it.

The facts you state respecting what are the most striking, and the best entitled to be considered *convincing*, on that side of the question, that I have ever heard. I cannot yield to them my previous opinion, but they *almost* persuade me. But why forbid my publishing your statement? I know it would be interesting to many—and much the more so if accompanied by *your* name. I hope you will give me your consent, to publish the part relating to the subject, and in that manner: but if not, I will use so much as is proper as an "extract from private correspondence" (and as anonymous) in No 1 of vol 2—unless you forbid

that also. I need not add that it will give me pleasure to insert any thing else from your pen—and besides the gratification, I know that any *avowed* aid from you, would benefit the F. R. with your countrymen of N. Ca.

The inclosed paper is one of the first sheets struck off at the *Shell-banks press*, which has been just put in operation at my own house. This novel, and perhaps hazardous establishment has been made necessary by the mismanagement of the business part of my publication in Richmond—and the trouble, vexation, and expense, all of which were increasing with time. I have made every preparation to have printing executed in the best style—and can do it more cheaply than any *good* work can be obtained south of the Potomac. I mention this, that if you should know of any literary or scientific work intended to be published, you may name this press to the author or publisher. At this time, it is particularly desirable to have the printing of some work of value, which would have extensive circulation—as it would furnish the best means of advertising the merits of the press. I believe that you have no press capable of turning out *good* printing in N. C.—there are only two in Va. and of them White's has so much of the small job printing to do, (the most profitable kind of work) and Shepard's of the public printing, that neither care to undertake book work except at enormous prices.

[Address: Haw River  
Orange County No. Ca.]

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*From William Gaston.*

NEWBERN June 1<sup>st</sup> 1834.

*My dear Sir*

Having always believed that punctuality was one of the most necessary qualities for the proper discharge of duty I have scarcely in my life failed to be at a Court which I ought to attend, at its very commencement. I am apprehensive however that I may be disabled from reaching Raleigh until the evening of Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> and I write this in order that you may not be surprised if you should not meet me on your arrival there. At the same time I promise to strive against the causes of delay which threaten to detain me here, and am not without hope that I may reach Raleigh on Saturday next, so that we may go to business on Monday morning.

I hope you and your's are happy and well. With affection and esteem always, my dear Sir,

Truly your's

WILL: GASTON.

Chief Justice Ruffin.

[Address: Ruffins Mills Orange County.]

*From William Norfleet.*

TARBOROUGH N. C. June 7th 1834.

*Respected Sir:*

Known to me only by reputation as filling a very exalted station in the judiciary department of our State Government, I take the liberty of addressing you on a subject of vast importance to myself, and one too, as I hope, of a nature calculated to enlist your sympathies in my behalf for the purpose of learning the facts, whether you are in a situation to admit me in your family in the capacity of a Law-Student, and if so, the conditions both pecuniary and personal of such admission. I have just entered my 20th year, am possessed of an education of a liberal character, and can give ample testimonials, if required of my good character.

It is my fortune, whether good or ill, to be placed in such a situation in life, as to be dependent on my own exertions for whatever of fame or property I may acquire.

Be pleased, Sir, to give me an immediate answer, accompanied with such suggestions as you may conceive to be applicable to one in my situation and if you cannot receive me into your family, be so good, as to designate some person, who is fully competent to assume the relation in regard to me which I have asked at your hands, and the favor will ever be held in grateful remembrance by

Your obt. St.

WILLIAM NORFLEET.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

*From William K. Ruffin.*

HAW RIVER July 14th 1834.

I should have written to you on Saturday but for Tommy's wish to do so; and indeed I intended to have added a postscript to his letter, which would have been sufficient for my purposes, but I was not at the house when he finished it and sent it to the Postoffice. As I know you are anxious to hear something of your crop, I write a few lines this morning begging however by way of preface, that you will excuse its brevity and other greater faults in consideration of my having a very severe headache. . . . .

The cotton on this side of the road continues to thrive. The cool weather for the last three or four days, has prevented its blooming as much as it otherwise would have done, but it has not checked its growth. It has been worked since I wrote you and is in fine condition. That on the overseer's side is not so fine. It is very uneven; and is not so full of bloom or buttons as the patch on this side. The corn is doing pretty well. The overseer has worked it nearly over. A considerable portion

perhaps a third, is in tassel and some in silk. The rest is small. It is suffering very much for rain, and unless it comes very shortly our crop will be a short one. We have had no rain here for more than two weeks, though there have been several fine showers below us in that time. Mr. Moore has hauled up all the wheat and Rye. He has not yet thrashed out any but will do so, as soon as he can. He cut oats this day week ago—they are very good. He is cutting the new meadow today. I have not seen it for some time, but I learn from him that it is very fine. I directed him to save you eight or ten bushels of seed, as well as Jesse to save all those below the garden. If you have more than you want, you can very readily dispose of them to Paul Cameron, who will want them to sow in the lot by the locust trees. The Overseer's health has not been good, in fact he has been once or twice very dangerously ill. He has had violent cramps. Such as uncle Henry used to have. I never knew so *pushing* a man. Mama complains grievously of her garden, though if one were to judge of its excellence by the specimens on the table every day, he would suppose there was no just cause of complaint. She says it is "A wilderness of weeds," and declares that she will never again be cheated of the labour of her gardener, by an overseer. Jesse, Peter and Marion are now hard at work, putting it in order by the time you reach home. I was at the Mill on Wednesday last, at the tax-gathering and heard all the Candidates speak. You have heard, I suppose that Mr. Waddell is out for the Senate. He says that his chance is very good. There has certainly been a very considerable change in public sentiment in this part of the county and I should not be much surprised if he was to beat the Dr. at Holt's Election. I was somewhat surprised at his *vulgus ad captandum* speech and I am not very sure that I should vote for him, if I were entitled to a vote. All the candidates are in favour of a system of Internal Improvement. Waddell of a Central road or a Cape-fear road, which I think is all balderdash—and upon which ground I should be inclined to vote against him. I was very glad to learn that *Bird* was licensed. I was sure that Tom Ashe would be and that he would do himself credit on his examination. He very fully merits the high opinion you entertain of him, both as a scholar and a gentleman.

I have been thinking of taking a jaunt to Rockingham. If I had a good riding horse I would do so, as I think the exercise would be beneficial to me. I intend applying to Dr. Murphey for the loan of his. I shall be gone probably a week and will be at home by the time you return.

*Absalom* was here the other day from Caswell, but I did not see him, nor indeed did I know he was here, untill he had gone—he gave gloomy accounts of the Crop—both of corn and cotton. Excuse this hurried epistle, My Dear Father.

[P. S.] You will have no grapes this year—they are all rotting.

[Address: Raleigh No. Carolina.]

*From Hugh Waddell.*

HILLSBORO' July 22d 1834.

A day or two since, Mr. Richardson Faucett, nephew of Chesley and Robt. and who lives at Haywood, requested me to know of you, what would be your price for the lots No. 16, 17, 18, and 19 in Haywood:—He says they are not likely to be saleable, owing to their situation, a branch running through one or more of them and being much broken. He thinks something like 12 or 15 \$ per lot would be a fair price: Be so good as to write me at Hillsboro' at your earliest convenience and I will write Mr. Faucett.

You have no doubt heard of my late folly in *undertaking* Montgomery in this hot weather, but there seemed to be no help for it. The good people I verily believe are tired of him and my canvass so far, is every way promising. Many of his old friends on Yr. side. of Haw River have deserted him and are apparently warm partisans of mine. It is said the defection is much more extensive in the lower part of the County and if so he must be beaten, but I am well aware of the old Scotch adage, that "he that sups with Devil must hae a long spoon", and whether mine will be long enough I know not.

[Address: Raleigh, N. C.]

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*From Hugh Waddell.*

HILLSBORO' July 27, '34.

Your favor of the 24th inst has this moment been handed me and although the *business* part of it requires no reply, yet the kindness of your advice in regard to my present canvass, requires a warm return of my thanks. Next to the consciousness of acting correctly is the gratification we find in the approbation of those whose esteem we value. On no occasion have I felt the force of this truth, more than on the receipt of your letter, for it prescribes the *precise course* which I have pursued:—Many of my friends feared that I should be sacrificed to the Molock of Jacksonism, that *the man* was still stronger than the government over which he presides. But the truth is, that the moderate of all parties are now ready to combine on any man in whom they may have some confidence, rather than continue to support a mere time-serving, party tool:—Your son William assured me that the question as to Mr. Brown's re-election would be stirred before we concluded the canvass and according to his prediction, it was commenced at Andrew McCauley's where the Caswell man came to feel the candidates:—My own course was easily selected.—I declined without hesitation to pledge myself to

vote for Mr. Brown.—I informed those who desired to know my opinion, that I would give no pledge to support any man in particular and above all that I would not support a *party* man:—that the attitude of Senator in Congress was one, which more than all others required a freedom from party trammels, that he should be, what the Constitution contemplated, an *adviser* of the President and not his tool: that the Senate was intended as a check on the Executive and of course he who desired the perpetuation of our present institutions could not require the candidate for that body, to give any other or further pledge than that he would weigh the measures of the administration impartially, give them his support when right and oppose them when wrong: We were called out by a trick of the Drs. to express in our speeches, opinions on this subject and to his great disappointment he has found that my course is approved and his own *condemned*: He is the advocate only of him who will *pledge himself* to sustain the administration:—I have several times, put the ugly question “what administration?” for the Senator to be elected, will only be called on to act with or against Jackson’s administration for *three* months, and then what other administration he may be called to support no one can tell: thus the folly of giving a pledge to sustain measures of which he knows nothing becomes so glaring that even the Dr. cannot escape it:—I have however made one thing a *sine qua non*, in the new Senator; *that he shall vote for the Land Bill*: This sticks in the Dr’s throat, for Mr. Brown is pledged to go against it and I believe this is now generally known. Allison and Stockard may do me some harm as they are less cunning than the Dr.—they say they will go for Brown or some other of *his faith*: Montgomery does not mention *names*.—But my dear Sir, the secret of my success so far and the general belief that it will continue is not to be sought in *National politics* or *local politics*, but simply in the fact that Montgomery has worn out.

They say he has been a member *long enough*; that in 10 years he has done nothing, except to have a Bill passed for the election of Clerk by the people and that he immediately thereupon, became a *Candidate for the office*, which you remember was the fact and that he was only driven to withdraw for fear of general defection in his own ranks.

Excuse this long, tiresome and unimportant draft on your patience and still more on yr. valuable time:—If things do not greatly alter, I shall beat my adversary very handsomely:—And I shall go as you desire me to go, untrammelled by pledges and without in one particular forfeiting character.

[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

*From William M. Green.*

HILLSBOROUGH Augt 25th 1834.

Dear Sir.

Will you permit me to mingle my sympathies and prayers with those of Mrs. Ruffin and yourself on account of the late distressing occurrence in yr family. I know that the subject must be painful to you, and I therefore desire to touch it only with the tender hand of sincere friendship and pastoral affection. To assure you that for the past week yr family has been often in my thoughts and prayers would not be sufficient to fulfil my obligations to you as a Christian friend and Pastor. I would do more; but I feel as if I could hardly suggest to you any source of comfort and spiritual help to which yr faith in Christ has not already led you.

Need I remind you that *every* affliction cometh by the permission or the immediate ordering of God, and is intended only for good to those who love Him? Dark and inexplicable as yr present trial may appear, yet I pray that you may have faith to find God in the lowest depths of yr suffering, and to say with David "It is good for me that I have been afflicted. But the knowledge that God is the Author of our *Afflictions* as well as what we esteem "*blessings*" would convey but little comfort to the heart, if it came not accompanied by that blessed and oft-repeated assurance "whom the Ld loveth he chasteneth". See then my dear Sir, whose hand it is that is laid upon you, and the Fatherly affection which prompts the blow. Yr. present trial is an evidence of God's love to you and your's, and is designed to give you still stronger claims upon his Divine compassion. But when He afflicts it is not only to give evidence that we are his children by adoption, but also to show us our work, and to prepare us more effectually, for serving Him here and reigning with Him hereafter.

It is the duty of every Christian therefore when called to suffer in any way, to ask with Job "Lord, wherefore contendest thou with me?" or with the astonished Saul "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

When the Almighty led his chosen Israel for forty years thro' that "great and terrible wilderness", it was that he might "prove them, to see what was in their heart". With the same kind intention does he now lead his people thro the deep waters of trial, that they may be brought to know themselves. To examine their hearts, and to see what share of them is given to God, and what to the world. May you my worthy friend, be brought by yr present visitation, to deep and faithful searchings-of-heart. Yr situation is one of difficulty and danger to yr. spiritual welfare. To the burthen of a high and arduous office are added the many cares of a numerous family and household, and unceasing demands upon yr time and thoughts from yr several worldly interests. This is no common part of danger and responsibility to the



Christian: and large must be that measure of grace which will enable any one under such circumstances to live close to God, and sit loosely to the world. That you have oftentimes experienced this difficulty I know full well. *How* you have struggled and prayed and laboured against it is known only to yrself and a rein-trying God. It is not for me to become yr accuser, while my own sins "are ever before me", and admonish me that I have so much daily to be forgiven. But, as yr. Pastor, may I not be permitted, in the spirit of Job (See Chap II. 5.) to fear in yr. behalf, that you "may have sinned" in loving the Creature more than the Creator? Has yr heart been equally solicitous to see yr Children growing in the knowledge and love of Christ as in the acquisition of the learning and the good opinion of the world? Has yr. first-born Son been as often lifted in the arms of prayers as yr. fond heart has figured him winning a name for himself amid the strife of the world? Have "line upon line and precept upon precept" of the word of God been instilled into him in equal proportion with the learning of the Courts, and the experience of the prudent? Pardon me, my dear Sir, pardon me, if I wound you unjustly or unnecessarily. Oh that mine office were only to be "a healer of the broken-hearted"! and never a reprover of other men's sins. God knows my unfitness for the task, and how I hate to say to another "Thou art the man", when my heart tells me that "in all things I offend". With the same breath then with which I bring yr sins to yr remembrance, would I humbly ask yr prayers.

May a merciful God show you wherefore he contendeth with you! May you go in prayer to his footstool, and there learn what "for my ignorance I know not, and for my unworthiness I dare not" say to you. In prayer you will find every balm for your wounded heart, and every help for yr. future guidance. Pray that you may love nothing in comparison with God,—that you and yours may be his in all things, and that you may live only for him and in Him. . . . .

My heart is full, and would fain unburthen itself in many words; but I know that you need a surer guide [torn] more effectual Comforter. To Him "without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy" I now heartily commend you and yr beloved family, praying that "the trial of yr faith, though it be tried with fire, may be found unto praise and honour and glory, at the appearing of J. Christ."

I will only add that my petitions shall continue to be offered in yr. behalf, and that I desire only to know how I may be useful to you and acquit myself before God with zeal and faithfulness. Command me in anything which I can do to serve you, for I am "yr Servant for Jesus' sake," no less than

Yr friend and brother in the Lord

W. M. GREEN.

*From William P. Webb.*<sup>1</sup>

*Hon. Thomas Ruffin,*  
Dear Sir

CHAPEL HILL August 28th 1834.

I take great pleasure in communicating your appointment to deliver the next annual Address before the two Literary Societies of this Institution. We flatter ourselves, that you will not refuse to comply with the appointment, and the station to which you were called by the unanimous voice of Society; since a denial on your part to perform the task assigned you, would disappoint not only the sanguine expectations of your Fellow Members, but the ardent wishes and desires of all intelligent persons throughout the State.

I have the honor to be your humble and Obt. Servt.

WILLIAM P. WEBB.

*President of the Dialectic Society.*

[Address: Haw River P. O. Orange.]

*From Peter U. Murphey<sup>2</sup> to Thomas Scott.<sup>3</sup>*

U. S. SHIP DELAWARE<sup>4</sup>

AT SEA Sept. 1834.

*Dear Uncle.*

I do not recollect whether among the many promises I made my relations about writing to them you were one of the number, but I feel it a duty involved on me to do so before many others. I would of written to you before this but we have been cruising all the summer on the coast of Africa with out seeing an American vessel—or vessels bound to places where we could send letters; though I will make it up now, and give you an account of our cruise from the time we left the United States up to the present time—also the character of a few of our officers, and the Capt in particular. I was prevented from going out in the

<sup>1</sup>William Peter Webb of Alabama, a member of the class of 1835. He later became a judge in Alabama.

<sup>2</sup>Peter Umstead Murphey, 1810-1876, a son of Archibald D. Murphey, after being a student at the Blingham School, was admitted to the University; was appointed a midshipman in the United States Navy in 1831; Lieutenant, 1846; saw service in the war with Mexico; resigned in 1861 and entered the Confederate Navy. He was one of the most popular men in the old navy.

<sup>3</sup>Thomas Scott was Murphey's uncle and also the uncle of Mrs. Thomas Ruffin.

<sup>4</sup>The Delaware was the second ship of that name in the navy. She was a vessel of 2,633 tons, 74 guns, and was built in 1817. She was destroyed at Norfolk in 1861.

Schooner *Grampus*<sup>1</sup> on account of my health. After leaving the Hospital I received orders to this ship bound to the Mediterranean. I was at first delighted with my fortune, but on learning what officers were ordered to her, I came very near aplying to get off, for the idea of being two or three years in the power of the greatest tyrants in the service was very trying—but before it should be said that I was afraid of duty I was determined to suffer everything—and made up my mind to go on board and attend strictly to my duty; we were attending to duty for near two months—before we sailed in the Navy Yard, which was very severe, exposed all the time to the burning rays of the sun during the months of June and July. About three weeks before the ship went in to dock, her Officers came on, and it was laughable to see the long faces of many of the young officers, they like myself though[t] that their troubles had commenced. We were under the command of the first Lieutenant of the yard, until the ship was reported ready for sea. So during this time our first Lieutenant whom we dreaded most had nothing to do with us. He came every day into the yard to see what was going on about the ship, fortunately for me, I was attending to some duty that called his attention more than any other—he came frequently to see what was going on, he never spoke to me except on duty but just before I had finished the job I was at, he became more familiar, he mentioned to me he had some work he wished me to attend in particular, when I had finished, and remarked he hoped I would shew the same spirit that I had done on the one I was at. I did it and soon finished it. A few days after the Captain<sup>2</sup> arived. I was soon disgusted with him, he was one of these pompous beings who is fond of flattery and followers—a man of strong sectional feeling, he was from Baltimore, and beleaved that there were no persons like the Baltimoreans, seven of his midshipmen and one Lieut were from this place, sons of his friends there. I will now return to the first Lieut—After the ship was reported ready for sea we moved on board, and after we had droped down to Hamton roads, I was given one of the most responsible stations that a Midshipman could hold on board, a situation always given to pass Midshipmen or the oldest Midn in date on board, but here was an exception for we had many Pass Midn., and several very old Midn. on board. I was very proud of my situation which was the charge of her lower gun deck, the duty at that time was very severe receaving stores of every kind on board, which was pass on my deck. I was frequently kept up untill twelve and one o'clock and then turn out at four the next morning, and during our stay in the roads we were visited by the President of the United States. We were all in full dress to receive him and introduced to him by the Captain *at least* as many as he knew, but it was my misfortune not to have any one to introduce me,

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<sup>1</sup>The *Grampus* was a vessel of 184 tons, 12 guns, built in 1821. She foundered off Charleston in 1843.

<sup>2</sup>Henry E. Ballard.

as Mr. so-and-so-son-of so and so—of such a place as was the case with the sons of his friends—he was on the point of asking me my name when the President extended his hand and call me by name much to the astonishment of the Capt.

You must think I am very fond of entering into details, but at this time I am suffering under the effects of inflammatory rheumatism, since my return from the Holy land, and the City of Jerusalem this is to let you know in the outset that I have been their. I was confined for ten days to my cot, not able to turn over with out assistance though at this time I am creeping about the decks, thinking over my misfortunes in life.

I would not be at home, but why say home, my home is on the bosom of the deep, no other place can I claim as home, enough of this I mean I would no[t] be with my relations for anything at this time. I should say things that would offend them, how often while I was confined to my cot not able to turn over, and suffering the most excruciating pain and under the influence of large quantities of laudanum, have I thought over my life. I beleave I always possessed a disposition different from any other person. I could always be advised into measures but never driven, talking allways had more effect on me than the rod. I never could bear to be slighted by my relations. I *have been* frequently and life will pass away before I forget them. I have spent hours arguing with myself wether they were intentional or not, but such is my disposition and I can not help it. I have some relations who have always treated me as some inferior being or other, but Uncle their sex prevents me from resenting such treatment. I allways had a dislike to haveing my hands and face scrached to pieces and allways prefered fighting in any other way, than with my fist, though I know any other way is contrary to your principles. I will be plain, knowing, that you will condem me for it but why speak otherwise. I have encouraged a fondness for the pistol since I came into the service, which is very common, not that I wish you to believe that I am a blood-thirsty monster, far from it. I should dislike very much to take the life of a fellow being very much—but their are some I should like to mark very much, and *will do it* if they will give me a chance. I have for the last five years of my life been very much given to melancholy fits and they seem to increase upon me—their is no medium to my feelings. At one time an overflow of spirits, at another a dispondancy of feelings, and the exertion to keep up the flow of spirits is frequently very great. I was very much troubled with them while I was in Hillsboro, thinking of the prospects I once had in life, and my plesent situation—what suffering our family have undergone—that was one great reason why I absented myself so much during my stay. I am very much attached to Judge Ruffins family, and was fond of visiting them, but not the place. Among strangers my feelings are entirely different, though enough of this now—so let us return to our subject,—the President on

passing round the ship praised my deck very much—though much to my surprise the Captain had a pass Midshipman ordered on the deck the first Lieut sent for me and told that it was the Capt's orders, in a few days we weighed anchor for New York—the first Lieutenant informed me he wished me to attend to duty on deck during the passage—saying that there were so many young Midshipmen on board who knew nothing about their duty—this was quite a compliment. On our arrival at New York I took charge of the deck again. I will now return to the Capt. Several of the Lieuts aplied to go on shore to see their friends—permission was granted them. One of the midshipmen aplied, he was refused the Capt observed with out he had a wife or a sick mother he should not go—a few minutes after one of his friends sons aplied and permission [was] given him to remain untill the next evening. I mention these things to shew you what beings we have to deal with, and how easy it is to make our time disagreeable, though strict attention to duty and a proper course of conduct will always keep you out of their power. I am very much pleased with our first Lieut. Mr. Wyman.<sup>1</sup> I am proud to say two of us have escaped suspension or arrest, so far out of the whole number. I was much pleased with New York. I saw Allen Jones, and James Campbell their and took them on board with me, the sight was very new to Allen Jones.

We left New York with Mr. Livingston and family for Cherbourg, in the north of France. I am again compelled to mention Capt. B conduct, he never introduced any person to him, but sons of his friends, nor were any other persons invited to dine with him during the passage, fortunately I had been introduced to Mr. L. at New York by a friend of mine, and came down in the steam boat with his family to join the ship, and was introduced to his wife and daughter when he expressed a wish to see me often, during the passage, but I never saw him untill a few days before he left the ship. I happened on deck one evening when he called me to him and expressed his surprize at not seeing me often, the Capt. was standing by and seemed astonished, on his leaving the ship he requested the Capt. to invite the Gentlemen to dine with [him] on shore, but the Captain with four or five of his favorites composed the party—at dinner Mr. L. expressed his surprize at the small number of officers—the Capt. replied they had much duty to attend to on board, but this was the first we heard of the invitation. The Capt. with several of the officers left for Paris, but I will say nothing about their trip, as have no doubt you have seen an account of it, as we have received several papers teeming with it.

I was not much pleased with Cherbourg, it is a small place crowded with soldiers, though the country near the town is beautifully cultivated, with many beautiful Villars—the dry docks are very fine—in digging out the mould for small vessels, a great number of large bones were

<sup>1</sup>Thomas W. Wyman.

found, together with a number of stone balls weighing from six to nine pounds, also two or three cannon made of bars of Iron welded together, with bands around them, they were nearly destroyed by rust, they were no doubt used by the ancient Normans. This place was planed out by Napoleon, and no place could be better defended than it is, the break water which was commenced by him was one of the greatest undertaking of the kind that ever was made, and will reflect honor on him as long as the place stands.

We remained at Cherbourg a month when we sailed for our home in the Mediterranean Port Mahon. We had a severe gale in the bay of Biscay which lasted several days, we had very fine weather afterward untill we reach Gibraltar. We had a calm off Traffalgar within a short distance of the spot where Lord Nelson fought that ever memorable battle—we have two or three old tars on board, who were in the action, one of them was a signal quarter master on board Lord Nelsons ship, and was near him when he fell—they gave us a very correct account of the engagement, and the manner in which Lord Collingswood lost his prizes, on the coast of Africa, oweing to the strong current setting into the straights. The scene on entering the straights is magnificent. We remained at Gibraltar but a few days. I was not ashore, during our stay, so I can say nothing about the place, only that it presents a very warlike apearance. We left Gibraltar for Mahon, and on the next evening fell in with the John Adams<sup>1</sup> sloop of war bound to the United States. I regreted I had no letters writen. We had some very rough weather before we arived at Mahon which was on the third of November. We were in hopes to of found the Commander their, but he did not arive untill the middle of January.

The harbour of Mahon is equal to any in the world. The entrance is very narrow, with bald shores. I never was more astonished than I was at the conduct of the inhabitants, the walls and shore were crowded with them. I beleave that three fourths of the inhabitants were present to give us a hearty welcome to the place. The harbour was crowded with boats, every one wishing to know wether he could serve us in any way, during our quarantine, which is a curse of this station such as washing haveing clothes made. after our quarantine was over. The ship was crowded with them, labor is very cheap there. A mans labour is not worth more than from twelve and half to twenty cents per day, and should we alter our winter quarters two thirds would perish, they are entirely dependent on our squadron for a support. The ships was crowded with them at every meal, to get something to eat, and the men seemed to take great pleasure in giving them all the spare soup and bread for which they frequently brought them fruit and eggs. I was amused the first time I went on shore, for every one seemed to welcome us to their houses. Mahon is the neatest place I ever saw they keep their

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<sup>1</sup>The John Adams 2d was a vessel of 700 tons, 18 guns, built in 1830. The vessel was sold in 1865.

streets clean, and white wash their houses once a week which gives the place a very neat appearance. On the twenty-sixth of January the Frigate *United States*,<sup>1</sup> bearing the broad pennant of Commodore Paterson<sup>2</sup> appeared off the Harbour, and a few hours after the Frigate *Constitution*, they were welcomed to Mahon. Amediately after their quarantine was out,—the broad pennant was seen waveing at our mast head. Captain Ballard disliked very much to give up so fine a ship, he took command of the States. I was much pleased with the Commodore and his family also Capt Nicholson<sup>3</sup> who took command of her. Many changes were made, but I had the good luck to remain on board this ship. We remained in Mahon waiting for provisions untill the middle of May, when we weighed anchor for Toulon, we had a very long passage on account of head winds. Toulon has a fine harbour and well sheltered from winds by the mountains. I was more pleased with it than than with Cherbourg, though, like it, it was crowded with soldiers. Toulon is the great Naval Depot of France, but a place of little commerce. I visited her Navy Yard and Arsenal, which are said to be inferior to none in Europe, they have procured, and preserved with great care the shields and armour of Godfrey-de-bouillon, Reginald-de-front-beauf, and Richard-cour-de-lion, and judging from their Armour they must of been very tall and robust men, the Armour of Godfrey-de-bouillon and Richard-cour-de-lion were worn by them during festival days in Jerusalem. They have a very large fleet lying here, in fact larger than all of our Navy. We would like to try the strength of a few of them for our Navy has remained too long idle. A very unfortunate accident hapened a few days before our arival, the Frigate *United States* in firing a salute, through the carlessness of her gunner in not drawing the shot fired into a French line of battle ship, the ball passed through her bough, killed three and wounded two more, it then passed through her oven knocking it into fifty pieces, and then through the opposite side, and had the accident of hapened a few minutes before the mortality would of been much greater for the crew were standing around this oven receaving an extra allowance of soup, it being the Kings birth day the excitement was very great for a short time but Johny Crapps was much astonished at the strength of one of our Guns. We left Toulon on the last of of the month for Marseilles. I was delighted with the place for it reminded me of New York, the streets are wide and well paved, and the houses are beautiful, this is a place of great trade. We had much attention paid us by the Americans of the place. Our stay there was short. We weight anchor with two French men of war, and we were happy to have an opportunity of shewing them how easy we could out sail them the wind was fair and they were bound

<sup>1</sup>The *United States* was a vessel of 1,576 tons, 44 guns, built in 1797. It was destroyed at Norfolk in 1861.

<sup>2</sup>Captain Daniel Todd Paterson.

<sup>3</sup>Joseph J. Nicholson.

to Toulon. The contest did not last long,—for in three hours they were hull down astern. We passed the harbour of Toulon, had a fine view of her shiping and ports and the wind continuing fair we soon came in sight of the snow capt mountains of Corsica which was the first time I had ever seen snow in the summer, the sight was beautiful. We had a very short passage to Leghorn. Many of the officers left for Florence. I wished very much to of gone but some of us had to remain to attend to duty and the Commodore ashuring us that all should have an opportunity during the cruse. I was much pleased with Leghorn. The town is well laid out, the streets are wide and and run parrellel to each other, with a fine canal from the river Arna forming a pininsular of the town. The ship was crowded with visitors every day, hundreds came from Florence, and others much farther to see her, and every attention was paid them by the officers, for two or three days during our stay at least three thousand soldiers came on board, in fact before we could finish washing the decks of a morning they were around the ship in their boats.

On the arena near to w[h]ere the boats land are four large bronze statues chain together with a beautiful marble statue of of the son of Grand Duke of Tuscany standing over them with a large club in his hand, representing four negro pirates taken by him of the coast of Africa, and brought in to Leghorn where he broke the quarantean, and was put to death on a count of it. The Officers returned from Florence in extices with their trip haveing seen the finest paintings in the world also the finest statutuues, the beautifull statue of Venus de Medicis which has ever been the admiration of the world, also a Mosaic table which took fifteen men twenty years to finish, and presented it to the Society of fine Arts, so great is their desire of fame. We left Leghorn for the Island of Elba to visit Napoleons house which is situated in a valley in quite a secluded spot, it is built of a very singular coloured stone. A young officer in the service some years since on visiting the spot asked a man who was standing by in Italian—Peasant tell me, where is he who lived in yonder vale, stranger, I neither know nor care, he came, he is gone, though short the tale, it is all I have to tell. Opposite Elba is the town of Piombino the place where the Pope embarked to crown that great man. Off the mouth of the Tiber we had a fine vew of the dome of St. Peters Church in Rome. The wind continueing fair we soon made the harbour of Naples; the country along the coast is highly cultivated, with many little villages and vineyards with tall trees, and the vines hanging in festoons from branch to branch, which gave a new life to the scene. We entered the bay of Naples in the afternoon. I never was more delighted in my life. My dear Uncle their is luxury inherent in the scene that far far supasses the utmost reach of art. Vesuvius emiting forth her misterious vapour, the bay crowded with villages presenting the appearance of an immense City. I visited Pompeii and Herculanecum, and spent a day among their ruins. I



shall never forget, and as I have given Moreau and Alexander Kirkland a short account of it I will refer you to them, As my letter will be very long without. I met with quite an adventure in Naples of which I will give you an account. The first evening we arrived several gentlemen came on board. I was requested by the officer of the deck to shew them around the ship. I soon found they were Englishmen, and took great pains in shewing them everything; they remained on board some time and just before leaving; one of them asked me if it was the first time I had been to Naples, and if so, should he meet with me on shore during our stay he would take great pleasure in shewing me everything worth seeing about the place, and on leaving the ship he handed me his card, but on seeing them over the side, it was blown out of my hand, before learning who he was, but on the next evening, after returning from Pompeii, a young friend of mine was with me, and we had just stepped out of a Coffee house, when a gentleman from the opposite side of the street hailed me, it hapened to be the same gentleman who was on board, he crossed the street, and shook hands with me, I introduced him to my friend, he insisted we should go and take a cup of Coffee with him, we did so. Our coffee and segars were soon brought when he commenced telling that he was at the battle of New Orleans and was wounded in the thigh, and that his farther was sent to America at the commencement of the revolution, but he had aplied to be recalled, stating that it was contrary to his feeling to fight against a nation who were fighting for their liberties and that he was recalled and remained out of service for many years after. We could not imagine who he could be, he remarked that though he was an Englishman no American breathed more republican principles than he did, that he had been to America three times and wished to visit it again, and that nothing he disliked more than to see an American gentleman driveing about in a foreign country with eight or ten servants in livery, that it gave the people about a very wrong idea of our Country. He was a man about fifty years of age very much pock marked about five feet six inches high and well made, a man of very pleaseing manners, while we were talking to him two sailors came up and informed him that his yatt was ready and the wind very fine, he told us that he was going to take a sail in his yatt and requested that we would accompany him. We felt a delicacy at first in doing so, but he insisted that we should and that he wished us to spend the evening with him. We at last consented to do so, a carriage was soon ordered and we drove down to the warf and took a boat for his yatt. We remained on deck for an hour or two admireing the beauties of the bay and then retired to the Cabin where we found a table covered with everything we could wish and old ham in particular for I had not tasted apiece for many months, he gave us some old wine made on Lord Byron's Bronte estate which was destroyed a few years ago by an eruption of Mount Etna. We continued smokeing and drinking wine untill just before sunset, when he ordered

one of the sailors to get a carriage and we would ride down on the arena and take a peep at the Bon tons and Nobility of the place. I have been in too great haste, on our going on board we heard one of the sailors call him my Marquis, we must of shown our astonishment, for my frend turned round and looked at me, but what was our astonishment on going into the eabin and finding one of his cards, with the Marquis of Anglesey,<sup>1</sup> brother of Lord Wellington and Lieutenant Governor of Ireland.

The carriage was soon ready when we drove down into the Villa Real on the Arena, this is the most fashionable resort in the evening about the place. You their see all the fashion of the place. We drove on the Arena untill dark, when we drove to the Hotel took supper and then drove to the St. Carlos theatre, which is the largest theatre in Europe, had a fine Opera, took leave of our frend the Marquis, and at three in the morning got on board ship at four call all hands, and weighed anchor for Alexandria in Egypt and by sun rise all sail was set to the inviting breeze. A few days brought us to the Island of Sicily. We passed through the straights of Messina and close to the rock Cylla, so frequently mention by Virgil, the whirlpool of Charybdis is no more, after passing the straights, Nature and art displayed to our view one of the finest prospects I ever beheld, the snow-clad summits of the gigantic Etna towering into the clouds, whilst just below she is emitting forth her misterious vapours—with its rocky and dreary sides presenting a sublime Coup-d-oeil, and formed a powerful contrast to its cultivated base, and the beautiful plantations interspersed along the shore, eternal white reigned above while all beneath flourished in the luxuriance of perpetual summer, a few days more brought us to the Island of Canedia, ancient Crete as I gazed on Mount Ida covered with snow and its beautiful scenery untill I was over come with admiration—little did I think eight years ago in studying ancient Mythology that I should ever see the Island of Crete.

My letter is growing very long and no doubt tiresome, so I will hasten on. On our arival at Alexandria a party was formed for grand Cairo and the Pyramids. I would give a short account but have no doubt you will see many accounts of the trip in the papers. I will remain silent. Alexandria is a dirty Turk town, containing fifty or sixty thousand inhabitants—the houses are built of very rough stone and present a horrid apearence, the streets very narrow and dirty beyond description—they never think of cleaning them in any way. You find dead dogs and cats at every step, so I ashure you that it requires a strong stomack to stand it. I am not surprised at their have plague, or any disease that filth would produce. everything worth seeing about about Alexandria is Pompeys pillar built on the spot where he was murdered, it is a solid block of red granite a hundred and twenty feet

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<sup>1</sup>Henry William Paget, 1768-1854, first Marquis of Anglesey. He was not Wellington's brother.

high and about ten feet in diameter, this pillar has caused many conjectures in the first place, where it was procured, next the manner in which it was conveyed to the spot, and lastly the purchase required to raise such an immense body. Next comes Cleopatras needles which are of the same kind of granite, though not near so large. Only two out of twelve remain, and only one of them is standing.

Then the battle field, and camp of Julius Casar which is some distance from the City.

On our arival the Captain Pasha was at Jaffa with his fleet, but arived before we sailed. When our Consul called on him to let him know the Commodore would call on him and that he would be very happy to see him on board, he replied, what—do you think that I would miss seeing that which all the world is running to see,—an American line of battle ship. We called on him in full dress, he received us very kindly, he gave us pipes and coffee, he is a fine looking old man about sixty years of age, with a beard as white as snow. I was much pleased with our visit. During the absence of the Commodore we had quite an accident to happen to us—were compelled to anchor four miles from City, on account of rocks and shoals—we had but one anchor down, having very light winds which blow for three months during the year right on shore but generally very light in the summer—during the morning of this day the wind was very light and sultry untill the afternoon, when it blew very fresh and it commenced clouding up at sun set the gale increased very rapidly—at dusk the men were called on deck to give them their hammocks. Many had been thrown out of the netings, and the men had taken them below when the man in the chains with the lead cryed out that the ship was draging—the first Lieutenant was on deck and ran forward to see what was the matter—when he found that the cable had parted, he very soon sent to the Captain to know what he should do wether to make sail or let go another anchor—the Capt. ordered sail to be made as soon as possible as we were fast drifting on to the rocks where every soul would of been lost—he took the trumpet ordered silence about the decks, and from the time the saillowers were ordered aloft and the sails set and the ship out of danger was three minutes by the watch I never saw men work better in my life.

We remained at Alexandria one month when we sailed for Jaffa the day before sailing we received news that the plague was rageing in Jaffa. We were very much down in the mouth about it expecting that it would prevent us from going to Jerusalem and on our arival, we were not able to learn wether the plague was in the country or not, they had not heard from Jerusalem for ten days and the last news they had was that an English gentlemans wife had died with it. We remained two days with out going on shore, but sent word to the Consul to have horses in readiness in case we should go, he sent word to the Commodore that he could procure five hundred if it was necessary. On

the fourth day he concluded to run the riske of the trip and sent to the Consul to procure horses by evening the boat returned with the news but forty could he procure that day, but fifteen more would be ready in the morning. We were all ready to leave the ship when the boat returned, it was bad news for us, only forty horses, and sixty souls, servants and all, the Commodore said that we go on shore and see what we could do. When we arived at the Consuls we found him at home as contented as if every preparation had been made, and when he was spoken to about the horses he said he was sick. The Commodore was very angry to think he should send him word that he could procure five hundred horses in two hours, and when they were to be procured, only to get forty. We soon found out that we could not depend on him for to get them, so we set to work ourselves, and in the course of three hours procured horses and donkies or Jack asses and donkies composed the greater part of the number and such horses I never saw in my life, they were inferior to Mr. Foust's old black mare if you recollect her, and what was worse than all we had pack saddles, with out stirups, every thing was ready for a start by an hour by sun in the evening the Commodore and ladies had saddles of their own, or I do not know what they would of done. When once mounted and out of town we presented quite formadable apearance, every man armed with two pistols and sword. We left Jaffa for Rama twelve miles distant. The moon was full and the road very fine, so we had a much more pleasant ride than we expected. We reached Rama about ten o'clock that night, this is the place mentioned by Jeremiah in his proficies refering to the birth of Christ, and the murdering of the young children by Herod, An in Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel mourning for her children and would not be comforted, because they were not. Several of the officers of Ibrahim Pashas army accompanied us to Rama. We had much better quarters there than we expected, a very good supper was provided for us, and carpets for us to sleep on. On the next morning we had much difficulty in procuring hor[s]es again, for every person who had paid in advance had their horses taken back to Jaffa, but by seven o'clock horses were procured and we were again on the road. We had a delightful ride untill we came to the mountains, through the Valey of Sharon, once no doubt a beautiful country, but now nothing by a baren waste as far as the eye can reach. We took breakfast eight miles from Rama near a small village containing about twenty houses resembling cowhouses more than dwellings, under a grove of figtrees, about eleven, we came to the ruins of the Village where Jeremiah wrote his lamentations—haveing the Valey of Sharon on one side and the baron mountains on the other, and soon after passing this village we came to a well where we found many herdsmen watering goats. I thought the water equal to any I ever drank, after leaving the well, we fell in with many of Ibrahim Pasha's troops returning from Jerusalem, they were conveying their Cannon on

Camels, they were well mounted and many of them fine looking men. We continued to meet detached parties during the day. After we entered the pass in the mountains, it was very disagreeable, the sun was very hot and sultry, and the road almost impassable, it was up one hill and down another for seven hours. As the sun was setting we came in sight of the Holy City, but two miles distant, and by the time we arrived it was quite dark, and on arriving at the gates of the City we found them closed for the night, but after some difficulty the gates were opened; I could not at first believe that I was within the walls of that Holy place such a horrid appearance it presented, it was quite dark and it was with much difficulty we could get along, the streets so very narrow. After we had entered the street of tall houses it was perfectly dark. I gave up my horse to one of the servants, to see the cause of our constant stopping, the streets were so narrow we were compelled to form an Indian file of march. I had not proceeded far before I fell in with one of the Miss P— and took her in tow after some time we learned the cause of our stopping was they could not find the way to the convent the place intended for our abode, lights were at length procured. When we made a little better head way than we did before. The English Missionary who is residing there gave the Commodore and family an invitation to stay with him, which was very acceptable, for I assure you there was no place fit for them at the Convent. After some time we arrived at the Convent, but the Missionary was much farther. We again set off with the ladies, and after a very fatiguing walk arrived there. We soon bade them a good night and set out to retrace our footsteps to the Convent. Never did I think that I would be shut up in a Convent, but alas it was my lot, with ten millions of fleas and every thing else that could torment man, though we slept in spite of every thing we were so much fatigued. On the next morning which was Sunday, after getting something to eat, we set out to visit the church of the Holy Sepulchre and Mount Calvary, which much to my astonishment we found in the center of the City and all under one roof. This church was built seventeen hundred years ago by St. Helena, mother of Constantine. On entering the walls of this sacred Church, your attention is first directed to a large flat stone in the floor on which the body of our Lord was washed and prepared for the tomb, then turning to the left, you soon come in a round space directly under the dome of the church which is surrounded with large columns, which support the gallery above, in the center of this space is the Holy Sepulchre, it is enclosed in an oblong house with small chapels for prayer on the outside of it, the front has a platform with marble steps, which leads into a small room, near the middle of which stands the stone on which the Angel sat who announced the blessed tidings to Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, this room is very small and will not hold more than ten persons. You then pass through a very narrow door of this Mansion of victory where Christ triumphed over the grave, the

tomb is of white marble tinged with blue about six feet long and three wide, it is badly polished and seems as if it once was exposed to the atmosphere by which it has been much effected, a number of lamps are always burning on the Sepulchre, which were presented to the church by different Princes. After leaving this Hallowed spot we proceeded to view the remains of the pillar at which he was scourged, then to the Chapel of St. Helena in which is the vault in which it is said the true cross was found. After leaving this place, we ascended a flight of steps to Mount Calvary. On Calvary is shown the spot where he was nailed to the cross which is near to the spot where the cross stood, a few feet on the right are the rents in the rocks, the spot where he was nailed to the cross is looked upon as very sacred, so much so no person is allowed to tread on, it is beautifully set in Mosaic work; all these places are covered with marble and perforated in the proper places so that they can be seen and touched. Over the spot where the cross stood is placed a large golden star.

After leaving the Church we set out to see the Mosque of Omar which stands on the site of Solomon's temple, the garden in which it stands takes up a considerable part of the city, and contrasted with the surrounding desert is beautiful—but it is forbidden ground, and a Jew or Christian entering within its precincts, if discovered forfeits either his life or religion, but you have a fine view of it from the top of Pontius Pilates house which forms a part of the wall, it is a Octagonal building and far surpasses any building in the place. During our stay at Jerusalem several of us were standing on this house top viewing the surrounding country when sun set was proclaimed from the minarets, when every Turk in the yard, and there was a great number of them, many walking about the yard, and many others who had collected together before the time, went prayers, forming a line, with an old reverent Turk in front, they first folded their arms across their breast, and seeming to go through a short service while stand, then kneeling down, muttered something and prostrated themselves to the earth, they went through this ceremony three times, with their faces turned towards Mecca, and then returned to their business. And I must confess I never saw so much devotion in my life. On Sunday evening we visited the tomb of the Virgin Mary which is in garden of Gethsemene, a plane slab of marble covers the tomb. St. Helena had a fine church built over it, after leaving the church we ascended the mount of Olives, from the top you have a fine view of the dead sea and the river Jordan also of the little town of Betheny which is near to the Mount. You also have the finest view that is had of Jerusalem, it would present a beautiful appearance with its hundred minarets if they would white wash their houses as they do in Mahon.

I cut several Olive sticks on the Mount and have taken great care of them. One I intend presenting to a Roman Catholic Priest at Norfolk should I live to see the United States again, he was very kind to

me during my stay in that place. We visited the tombs of the Kings and the pool of Siloam, which still retains healing qualities and the eyes in particular. I procured a bottle of the water and had it consecrated by my old friend the Priest of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

On the third day we visited Bethlehem, which is three hours ride or seven miles distant, of which I will give you a long account in my next letter as this one is growing long and uninteresting, so I will hasten through.

Please remember me to all my friends and relations who should ask after me. I have written a long letter to Cornelia and one to Moreau, and would write to many of my relations, but all my letters would be on the same subject, and as I have written eighteen on the same subject it is becoming stale—give my love to all Mr. Ruffin family, and tell Cousin Anne I have saved a great many water melon seed from Jerusalem of the finest kind, which I hope will be acceptable and that I will procure some cuttings of the finest grape vines for her. Tell Cate I will write her by the next opportunity, but why should I be writing to all my relations when I have not received the mark of a pen since I left the United States. I will write to cousin Maria Foust, by this opportunity, as I neglected it when I was from home before. I requested Cornelia to give my love cousin Ann Braekin—and I request you after you have finished my letter to send it to her.

I regretted very much I did not see her before I left home.

Do write to me, and give me all the news, and make Moreau write to me. I think it very hard to be separated from my relations for one or two years without receiving the mark of a pen, but I still have hopes that there are letters out here for me, and that I will soon get them. When you write send your letters to the Navy Dept, and they will be sent out by the first opportunity. Direct your letters in this way, P. U. M., U. S. Navy, U. S. Ship Delaware, Mediterranean Station.

I will write to you again by the next opportunity.

Yours affect.

P. U. MURPHEY

U. S. N.

Fort Mahon

Oct 26th 34.

Thomas Scott.

N. B. I expected to have sent my letters by the Frigate (Constellation), but she had left before we arrived, have lost many of her men with the cholera. I am sorry to inform you that this awfull plague has made its appearance on board our ships, since our arrival. I am now finishing my letter amidst the dying and the dead. I have had no appearances of the disease so far but I do not know what moment I may be attacked. I am not at all alarmed, for our life is such that we should not fear death.

I am afraid I have made many mistakes if so you must excuse them, as I have written in great haste. We will go to sea on to morrow to see what effect the sea breeze will have. I once more beg to be remembered to all friends and relations.

Yours respect.

P. U. MURPHEY  
U. S. N.

[Address:

Mr. Thos. Scott  
Haw River N. Carolina.]

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*From William Gaston.*

[PETERSBURG, VA Sept 8, 1834]

Despairing, until I got your last letter, that you would be able to move shortly, I wrote to New York naming the day of my leaving Raleigh and that on which I would join my family. In pursuance of this arrangement I quitted Raleigh yesterday and shall take the Steamboat to-morrow.

Do my dear Sir send me a line telling me how your poor Son<sup>1</sup> is and what are your plans about him. My address will be to the care of Robt. Donaldson No. 15. State Street New York. If there be any matter in the world in which I can be useful command me.

Petersburg 8th. Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1835.

[Address:

Honble Thos. Ruffin  
of No. Carolina  
To meet him at  
Petersburg.]

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*From William P. Webb.*

CHAPEL HILL October 2nd 1834.

*Hon. Thomas Ruffin*

Dear Sir.

I have waited with some anxiety for an answer to a letter written sometime in Sept. communicating your appointment to deliver the next "Annual Address" before the two literary Societies of this University. Presuming that by some accident it did not come to hand, I have been

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<sup>1</sup>Ruffin's son Sterling, then a student at the University, had been suffering from a severe attack of granulated lids which was threatening his eyesight. He obtained no relief in spite of the efforts of the most eminent men in the medical profession in the United States and lost the sight of both eyes.



induced to trouble you with a Second, and trust that you will not decline a task, the performance of which will confer a lasting favor upon our "Alma Mater."

I have the honor to subscribe myself  
Your humble and obt. Servant

WILLIAM P. WEBB.

*President of the Dialectic Society.*

[Address:  
Haw River P. O.  
Orange.]

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*From William Brockenbrough.*

RICHMOND 4th January 1835.

*My dear Sir,*

I have had some thoughts of sending my youngest son, a youth of nearly sixteen, to the episcopal school near Raleigh. The method of instruction, and the high character of the principal of that school have been the chief inducement in bringing my mind to that conclusion. I have however lately been informed that Mr. Coggswell has been appointed to a professorship in the college of Columbia (S. C.) If such be the fact and Mr. C. should determine to accept the appointment, I should probably change the destination of my son. I will therefore thank you to inform me whether it be so or not. If he should still continue at the head of the Raleigh school, you will still further oblige me by giving me your opinion of the real character of this institution: it has been but recently established, and it is possible that the prospectus which I have read, and the account of it which I have received from others, may give too favourable a representation of its advantages. Should you think proper to communicate freely your opinion, it will be received in a spirit of friendship, and of confidence, and you will confer a favor on your relation and friend

WM. BROCKENBROUGH

The honble  
Thomas R. Ruffin  
now at Raleigh.

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*From William Brockenbrough.*

RICHMOND 21 Jany 1835.

I wrote to you yesterday by the mail, and I now send on my son William S. R. Brockenborough to the Episcopal school, and he will be the bearer of this letter to you. He is a well grown boy of sixteen, and I hope that by his good conduct at school he will meet with the approbation of his preceptors, and the attachment of his companions.

I am well pleased that your son will be at the same school; be pleased to make them acquainted: I hope that the ties of relationship and their present association will lay the foundation of future permanent intimacy, and friendship between them. William is accompanied by a young friend of his, Alfred Gwathmey, a son of Mr. Robert Gwathmey of this city, who has been for some months a pupil at the school.

[P. S.] I have written to Mr. Cogswell by William, and have closed my letter. I omitted to enquire concerning the provision made in case of sickness. On this subject his mother expressed considerable solicitude. I take it for granted that in this event the best medical aid and nursing can be readily obtained.

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*To Catherine Ruffin.*

RALEIGH—January 22nd. 1835.

My pursuits here confine me almost to the returning of thanks for your most acceptable letters, as the theme of my own. Really the news conveyed in Mr. Cameron's and yours is so very grateful to my heart and so cheering to my spirits, that I cannot regard that theme, standing by itself, an unfruitful one. I am truly rejoiced that my dear children—what, in comparison, is dear to me, but my dear children and their more than dear mother? are all in progress towards health and comfort. I heartily thank God, that after all the painful trials to which it has pleased Him to subject us, that we are all spared yet a while. May we use the respite to complete our penances; to perfect our faith; to make our peace with Heaven, thro' our blessed Saviour! As it is our duty, humbly to submit to the dispensations of Providence of afflictions to some of us and even to the deprivations of the tender innocent, who has been kept from the knowledge of evil: So, it is no less incumbent on us to rejoice soberly in the manifestations of the power and goodness of our Creator in the preservation of those, who have been in so much peril. I needed the exciting intelligence conveyed in your letter, for after my return I found myself unstrung and altogether incapable of mental exertion. I feared, your Mother and the rest of you would experience the like lassitude; and, possibly, be prostrated by exhaustion after such long exertion. The alertness of thought exhibited in your letter satisfies me, that you have all passed the point of danger; and I now repose serenely in the belief that my beloved family will no longer suffer the pangs of disease or the still more bitter pangs of bearing witness to the heavy hand of affliction laid on any of the household. Say to your Mother, never hereafter to despair: The experiences of the past year make us consider ourselves proof against all that can happen on this side the grave, except dishonor! *That* I trust will never can never, be our lot.

From all we and ours have been safely rescued: To God, be the glory; and to us thankful hearts and the spirit that can truly say, "We die daily," and "when we are weak, then only are we strong"—that is, sensible of our weakness in ourselves and rendered strong by a confident reliance on Him, who only can make us stedfast and to stand up right. I hope our dear Anne has received the late incidents with so calm a mind, that she can now dwell on them with a pleasing, rather than a painful melancholy. Altho' the infirmity of our nature may make her shudder under the thought of what she has passed thro'; yet she ought to find consolation in the tests to which the affection of her friends have been put, and which they have borne, and, above all, in the fact, incontestibly established, That God, Her God, cares for her! Give her my love and my blessing—the boon of both friend and father; and to her husband, the most affectionate regards, which so much tenderness towards my beloved daughter, as is exhibited by him, merits.

Sweet Betty! Father's dear little daughter! who has suffered so much! May the pains of thy childhood redeem thee from the pangs and perils ordinarily incident to riper years! Kiss, embrace and bless her for me; and tell her not to be impatient under either the restraint of her Mother or the tortures of disease. I look upon the period of a long confinement by rheumatism just at the period of manhood not hardly as a fortunate *accident* of life, but as one of the most providential *incidents*, that could have been allotted to me. Under it, I first learned to reflect and became sensible of moral responsibility: I read the Bible and the Spectator and became enamoured of moral beauty and Classical literature. Dear Elizabeth need not therefore look upon the period of her confinement as time wasted. She may improve it to much advantage; and I hope, will do so. Let her make my former occupations her own now; and I will answer for it, if she ever regrets the employment or the occasion of it. "Poor Job"! Job? the patient, the humble, the penitent, the upright sufferer, who will pass the ordeal in such wise, as to make it consistent with the divine attributes to restore to him an hundred fold, what has, for his trial's sake, been striped from him? Tell him, that I shall expect to hear all the stories of the Arabian night's rehearsed accurately upon my return. I wish him to be running up and down stairs, with all my heart; but I most positively forbid any attempt at it until his shin shall be entirely well. Speaking about the sick going about again, reminds me to say, that I wish the overseer to give his people, who have been ill, full time to become perfectly restored, before he turns them out. There is plenty of spinning to be done to supply house work for the females during the winter if they should thus long be puny; and I had rather the males should be idle than be prematurely exposed. Ask Mr. C. or your brother to say as much for me.

I congratulate you that the presidency of the dairy is so likely not to be a mere office of dignity, without either care or compensation. You

must however begin at once to see that Jesse and Henry *feed* your milch kine, according to the plan of last winter: in which Mr. Moore will give upon request, his ready aid.

\* \* \* \* \*

I received today a letter from your Uncle James, written at Christmas just after his return from Mobile. He made a good crop; but is not satisfied and repeats his threats to go farther south. The craving lust of lucre! Where will it carry us? He sends a father's blessing to James; as I do to all my dear little ones. God bless them! Kiss them—every one; and give a warm one to Susan, a warmer to Anne; and a yet warmer to your excellent Mother. I send you one, two, three,

from, Dear Catherine,

Your father and next best friend,

[Address:

Haw-River Post-Office  
Orange County  
No. Ca.]

THOMAS RUFFIN.

*From William Davidson and others.*

CHARLOTTE, No. Ca.

April 3d. 1835.

*Dear Sir*

The citizens of Mecklenburg County having determined to celebrate the approaching anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, made at this place on the 20th May 1775, We the Committee appointed for that purpose respectfully invite you to unite with us in the celebration of that event.

Yours etc.

WILLIAM DAVIDSON

WASHINGTON MORRISON

WM. J. ALEXANDER

FRANKLIN L. SMITH

} Com.  
of  
Invitations.

[Address: Orange County No. Ca.]

*From John Kirkland.*

HILLSBORO 17th May 1835.

Jesse delivered me yours of yesterday this morning; And as I have made arrangements for a fishing excursion tomorrow and will not be at the Store in the morning, I have given Mr. Lucas a mem. of the articles you have written for with particular instructions. The approaching

election appears to excite but little interest throughout the country; and as mortifying as it would be to me to see you associated with a certain Dr. on your side of the river in any public capacity! Still I do hope you may be with him as a representative in the convention. His election it is allowed upon all hands is certain. The Genl. as yet persists (as I understand) in his determination not to be a Candidate, Contrary to the urgent solicitations of many friends. I fear it is evidence of more good sense than the Genl. is entitled to. I observe what you say with regard to yourself in the matter, nothing I hope will be done that will not meet with your approbation. I should be passively obedient to your passive injunctions, but you need not be surprised notwithstanding your predictions, if you should be one of two chosen to represent the people on that important occasion. This is my opinion bottomed more I fear upon my wish that you should be than from any Knowledge that I have of any circumstances that are to produce such a result. . . . .

[Address: Haw River]

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*From James C. Dockery and others.*

WAKE FOREST INSTITUTE

May 19th 1835.

*Hon Sir.*

Two Literary Societies have been formed at this Institution vid, the Euzelian and Philomathesian. The object of these Societies is the same as that of similar associations. The Philomathesian Society is solicitous to enroll your name among its honorary members. We believe that your approbation of our efforts will excite us to renewed energy in the elevated pursuits in which we are engaged. An early reply will place us under many obligations. In behalf of the Society, with respect,

JAMES C. DOCKERY	} Committee.
P. A. K. POUNCEY	
GEORGE WASHINGTON	

To the Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

[Address: Haw River N. C.]

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*From James E. Hamlett and others.*

Extract from the minutes of the Dialectic Society at its regular meeting 25th June 1835.

“Resolved That a committee be appointed to present to the Honorable Thomas Ruffin, the respectful acknowledgements of this Society, for the able and eloquent address delivered by him this day, and to request a copy for publication.”

UNIVERSITY OF N. CA. 27th June 1835.

Sir—

To us has been assigned the pleasing task of presenting to you the sentiments and wishes of the Dialectic Society as expressed in the above resolution. Having participated in the high gratification of hearing the address, we feel convinced that the lessons of wisdom and experience with which it is fraught, cannot, if given to the public, fail to produce a most beneficial result on the moral and intellectual condition of the youth of our country. To the request of the Society, therefore, we beg leave to add our own wishes, individually, that you will furnish us with a copy for publication.

We have the honor to be

With great respect

Your obedient servants

JAMES E. HAMLETT

THOMAS JONES

ROBERT G. McCUTCHEON

} Committee.

Hon: Thomas Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh N. Ca.]

*From J. H. Brooks and others.*

[WAKE] INSTITUTE, [July,] 1835.

*Judge Ruffin.*

Sir, the members of the Euzelian Society convinced of your literary merit are anxious to have your name enrolled among their honorary members.

Please answer us immediately.

In behalf of the Society yours

Most respectfully

J. H. BROOKS

T. J. RAYNER

E. BURNS

} Committee.

N. B. Direct your answer to J. Brooks.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

*From Edmund Ruffin.*

SHELLBANKS VA. July 21. 1835.

Your letter and remittance of \$10 (the latter rather *too much* in advance) arrived last mail. I am sorry that there is not a single entire copy of the index of vol I remaining—owing to the many duplicates

which have been called for to supply the places of those lost or overlooked. If one was not sent with your No 2, vol 2., it was a very uncommon piece of neglect, If I should be able to get an entire index hereafter, I will send it—and in the mean time the only *imperfect* one on hand is sent by this mail.

Your approbatory remarks on my Essay are highly gratifying, on account of the source whence they proceed.

I take the liberty of sending to you a few copies of a specimen sheet which I wish distributed, of a *cheap* form of the F. R. I find that low price is essential to general circulation—and the \$5 objection seems to operate with particular force in N. C. where I am particularly anxious to obtain good footing.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

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To Anne M. Ruffin.

DINWIDDIE COURT-HOUSE

Wednesday night—Sepr 9th

1835.

*My beloved wife.*

Expecting to reach Petersburg tomorrow morning and supposing that I shall not there have time to write to you, I have concluded to devote this evening; after putting our poor son to rest, to informing you of our progress and the state of the afflicted patient, whose case causes this melancholy journey. It will be a satisfaction to you to know, that his general health is good and that he bears the traveling without fatigue and, as far as we can tell, without injury from that cause. I could with propriety, as many might think and as most would probably act, stop the narration here. But I have never been one of those, who thought it right to deceive or keep concealed from those who have a deep interest in knowing the truth, that which much concerns them to be informed of at once and which at some day must be divulged. Besides, my dearest Anne, I trust that after so long a warning and the particular pains I took to express to you my apprehensions and expectations of the irretrievable loss of the sight of one eye, you will not be taken by surprise at being told that those expectations have *not* been agreeably disappointed. I own that, altho' I considered nothing more certain, the event, when it actually occurred, shocked me beyond any previous conception and far beyond description. But I hope *you* will fortify your mind to hear with calmness what to witness might have greatly agitated you and did unman me. On Monday night after parting from Mr. Cameron and reaching Mr. Richard Bullock's, while we were at supper—after having given dear Sterling his—the *right* eye lost its form and collapsed. He was in the next room to us and upon our return to him, he mentioned that he had

just felt that eye to be smaller and asked the cause. Upon examination, we discovered that it was gone! It gave him not the least pain; and I am truly thankful to be able to say, that he bore the communication we were obliged to make to him without a murmur. He remarked, that he had been afraid of that for some days; and that we must try the harder to save the other: which would indeed be a great blessing and call for all his thanks. We continue to work his eyes three times a day; and at each time Moreau (who is all attention and kindness itself) examines them particularly. I cannot! But Moreau assures me, that the left eye is not worse than when we left you. He says, there is little alteration; and, if any, it is for the better. The ulcer is not larger and the color of it less dark than it was. He tells me to foster the hope of the preservation of that eye; and he seems, himself, to indulge that hope confidently. May God grant us so great a mercy! Yesterday the poor boy seemed more depressed than usual. It is not to be wondered at, after the event of the preceding night. But today he is cheerful, being buoyed up with anxiety to get on and the hope of relief. He is, yet, wonderfully patient. I never witnessed a greater change. He says, that he has nothing particular for me to mention except that he wishes you and all the family to rest satisfied of his love for every one of you.

I cannot learn when the Steamboat leaves City Point; but suppose it to be Friday morning. If it be so, we shall be in Philadelphia Sunday. There I shall stop, and if I find that competent advice can be had there, I shall go no further. I suppose a day or two will be sufficient to answer my enquiries on that head; and if I go to New York at all, I shall probably do so on Tuesday. This letter I shall put into the post-office in Petersburg; and from Philadelphia you shall hear again from me. Jesse has behaved admirably on the trip, as have the horses. I shall use our own conveyance to City Point; preferring it to an uneasy stage going at an unseasonable hour. But I shall set Jesse off on his return Friday morning and suppose he will be at home without accident next Monday—at least, to Hillsboro. By him, it will be unnecessary to write again: but if any change should occur I will certainly do so. This letter I would send by him; but the mail will carry it to you one day sooner, and I know that every hour is an age to you.

And now, my dearest wife, I turn from the foregoing subject of deep solicitude to us both, to one of not less concern to me, I assure you: to that of your own health. My heart often sinks within me, when I look at my dear son in his privation. But deeper, deeper is the depression, when to that is added the remembrance of your health and spirits and the stern necessity which now tears me from you. I beg and beseech you, Anne, by all the tender ties between us, not to yield your health up a prey to despair and as the victim of nervous sensibility. Converse, read; above all, *pray* to God and trust in Him. Remember your husband, your sons and your daughters and the sweet little ones: for whom you must



live and be happy. I make the particular request, that you will try the Rockingham waters, and if you find them useful, remain, at least, until your appetite shall be improved and strength increased. I can do no more now than offer this advice. I know nothing better, that you can do. But if you find the springs to disagree with you, I would urge you then to return to Hillsboro and call in Dr. Webb again. While in Rockingham converse with Dr. Brodnax and consult him. I think Catherine—dear child—would be very useful to you up there and indeed that her own health requires some such jaunt. But if Anne must leave the children (which Mr. C. will hardly insist on) I suppose she *must* go home; and in that case, prefer for me the request of your Sister Susan to accompany you.

This letter I shall keep open until I get to Petersburg—that you may have advices to the latest moment before the departure of the mail.

Thursday noon: no change, for better or worse—We go on this evening. Mr. Gaston went last boat; but we met with Mr. Haigh of Fayetteville, who accompanies us. Mr. Simon, and John and Wm. Cameron were at the tavern to meet us; all well.

The mail is closing and I can only add my prayers for you and the children. God bless you all. I do not forget to ask yours and theirs for our safety and a prosperous termination to our affairs.

Your husband and, in that word, every thing,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

[Address: Hillsborough, No. Ca.]

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*To Anne M. Ruffin.*

PHILADELPHIA—Sepr. 21st. 1835.

Once more, my dearest wife, I write with more satisfaction than I have lately experienced in inditing the melancholy communications which I have lately addressed to you. The Physicians this morning think our poor son's eye in a decidedly better state than they have yet seen it. It is obvious to me, that there is less inflammation, and they say the ulcer has more the appearance of adhesion—or, as we call it, healing. He experiences no pain, except from hunger and constant sick stomach, from the medicine prescribed. He lies in bed all day and takes something, that does not vomit him, but produces nausea. The object is to produce an action on the surface; and to increase it, they have, this morning, directed him to wear flannel. He lives upon almost nothing; and has been cupped pretty copiously. Upon the whole he takes all these matters quite patiently; and indeed has not rebelled but once, which was against the nauseating dose, after having been nearly twenty-

four hours in that irritating distressing state. Thus I have given you all the information imparted to me by the professional men. I know you will not the less desire *my* opinion. To own the truth, I have none; but am in that distrustful and distressing uncertainty that finds but little enjoyment from hope and all those pains from fear, which the most adverse result could inflict. I begin to think—at least to hope, that the left eye may be saved; but whether the sight can be recovered, nobody, I believe, can give more than a guess. Yet there is now so much better promise than there has heretofore been exhibited, that I incline to think that two or three days more will determine, whether the power of vision is past recovery or may be partially preserved. To that extent I have concluded to postpone my departure. I learn from Mr. Simpson, that by leaving here friday morning I shall arrive at home on tuesday; and that I could not get through sooner, if I were to set off on thursday or wednesday. I shall therefore yield to Sterling's entreaties, that I will stay, with him to the last moment; for, besides gratifying him, I prefer staying with him to lying by on the road.

I can give you no accounts of any thing here, that would interest you. I go no where, except taking a walk once a day for exercise; and having few acquaintances, I do not seek admittance into any of the publick institutions *except the Streets*. Mr. Simpson's old friend, Mr. Togert is an honorable exception to the general apathy evinced by the Philadelphians towards strangers or old acquaintances. He calls to enquire about Sterling and has forced me to dine once with him. One of my old school mates, on whom I called, has left *his card*; and the other has thought that beneath him! Virginia and Carolina ought to be proud of the fact, that they act differently. Saturday night Moreau and Wm. Cameron went to the theatre and to some ladies, who came into their box, they presented their play bill: What, think you was their remark? One whispered to the other—and they were Phila. women—"Those are Southern Gentlemen."—True: and there is no such thing as mistaking them.

I have impatiently looked for another letter from home: But none yet. I am now going to the Post office to carry this and enquire again. Mr. Simpson is hurrying me and it is just dusk. I can only add the messages of love of Sterling and Moreau to all the family. My own warm and deep affection for my dear children I cannot express; and the devoted love to you, my dearest Anne, is all you can desire.

Your husband and truest friend

THOMAS RUFFIN.

[Address:

Haw River Post Office  
Orange County  
No. Ca.]

To David W. Stone.

HAW RIVER, Octo. 31st, 1835.

My Dear Sir./

I cannot say that, but for abominable emigration you speak of, I should regret the separation between you and your Bank principals. For I have always thought that *salaries* do not suit young men of talents and enterprise. They get no better, and as they seem permanent, they are apt to be spent, as received, while, in fact, they are not permanent. When the office closes or the employers change their mind or in a freak, want their work done cheap, the employed finds himself dependent—that the salary is necessary to him and that he is not in a condition to insist upon terms—I cannot say, that I regret that you have become free from the trammels before it was too late, tho' I wish so well to you, that I should have been pleased if others had formed as favorable an estimate of the value of your services as I have, and so well to the Stockholders, that I should desire their affairs to have continued in so good hands. At all events, go or stay and be engaged in what pursuit you may, I shall still feel, as I have long felt, much concern in your character and well fare; and be ready to promote both, as far as it may be in my power.

I would now do so in the particular manner you point out, were I known to Judge Martin.<sup>1</sup> But I should need to be introduced to him, instead of introducing you. I have therefore written the enclosed to my friend Mr. Gaston: which will be his voucher for a favorable introduction of you, on my authority—willingly pledged on my part, because my friendship has not prompted the utterance of a word, that I should not consider your due, were our relations entirely different from what they are. I suppose Judge Martin is yet in Newbern and that you purpose to call on him. In that case you can deliver my letter to Judge Gaston yourself. But if he has returned to New Orleans, I suppose you had better seal and forward my letter by mail, and, at the same time, write, yourself, to Judge G. requesting him to say to Judge M. what he may think to be proper, after your views shall be explained to him.

Rumor is as near right, as can ever be expected, touching my removal to Raleigh. I *wish* to have my family more with me than I now can. But one's wishes and expectations are very different things: for, if wishing would get us what we want, we should all be bountifully sup-

<sup>1</sup>Francis Xavier Martin, 1762-1846, a native of France who came to North Carolina during the Revolution. He became a successful printer and editor in New Bern after which he studied law. He then began his work as a legal compiler. He is possibly best known to North Carolina as the author of a history of the State. He was appointed a judge in the territory of Mississippi in 1809, of the territory of Orleans in 1810. Upon the admission of Louisiana in 1812, he was chosen attorney-general, and soon after an associate justice of the state Supreme Court. He later became chief justice. He was a very prolific writer on many subjects.

plied. I must sell here, before I can go there; and that is not an easy matter, while every body talks of moving and *wish*, even, more than they talk. At present, my prospect is very dim, and at any rate I could not accept your offer, as my object in going to town would be to be near my business and the Schools, and your place is too far from them.

In any event, I trust you will not leave No. Ca. before I can have an opportunity of seeing you and Mrs. Stone once more. I beg to be cordially remembered to her; and to assure you that no distance or change in your pursuits or situation will terminate my good wishes for you or the desire to hear from you occasionally.

With much respect and regard,

I am, Dear Sir,

Your friend and Obt. Svt.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

P. S.

I have every reason to believe that Mr. *Boylan's* feelings towards you are of the best kind, as well as that he entertains a most just and favourable opinion of your capacity. It occurs to me, that he may be very useful to you, by giving you the business of his Plantation in Mississippi and that of his late son in Tennessee and by communicating to the neighbouring Planters his knowledge of you. The least suggestion from you would call his good dispositions into activity; and I think *you* ought not to neglect so opportune an advantage.

I hope you and the Board have differed, as to compensation only; and that as matter of interest merely. Part, without bad feelings—at least, on your part, as much as in you lies.

[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

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*From Paul C. Cameron.*

HILLSBORO' Dec. 1st. 1835.

I am not a little concerned to learn that Jesse arrived at home in such a state of intoxication: and most readily do I give you all the information that I have in relation to his conduct while in Hillsborough. On his arrival here on Saturday (as he had to drive Miss Susan down home) I directed him to leave his carriage at the old Gentlemans, that it might have the benefit of a shelter—about sundown he returned with both horses and carriage, saying that he wished to keep both at the same place. After tea, on Saturday night, he came into the house with a gallon pot, and requested Anne to measure some clover seed that I had agreed to take of him. Anne immediately measured the seed and reported that he had delivered 15 gallons: for which I was to pay him a dollar a gallon. Upon his coming into the room to receive his pay, I

told him that \$15 Dolls was too much money for him to have at one time, and proposed that I should pay it to Dr. Murphey (who was with me) who would pay it to him as he should need it. My proposition did not seem acceptable to Jesse and I thereupon paid him \$12 Dolls, as I had not the change to make out the exact sum due him. I did not see him again (I think) until Monday morning, but learn that he was at Mr. Kirklands store where he obtained a quart of Brandy and a quart of Rum—on Saturday night.

Early on Sunday morning he was here, and accompanied by a boy of Judge Norwoods rode off both of the carriage horses, but where he went to, or how long he was absent—I do not know. His horses I saw in the stable about sun-down (on Sunday) they had been fed, and I thought had the appearance of having been *rode hard* that day. In this I may be mistaken. Alice tells me that he went on Sunday to Miss Campbells! Of this I know nothing.

He had his supper here on Saturday night and his breakfast on Monday morning, and I believe at no other time was he in my Kitchen while in Hillsboro. Anne says that she gave him no Coffee on Monday morning; and that he left here about 7 o'clock on Monday morning. I did not dream at any time that I saw him that he was intoxicated! From Mr. Heart I learn that he called at the old store as he went out of town and that he gave him a dram! This is about all that I know of him. His association about town I learn is not such as it should be; and I have for some time past, thought that the slaves over the river at Judge Norwoods were pretty much without a Master, and have forbidden my servants to visit *there*, or anywhere else but by my permission. Jesse is a valuable slave, and I hope that you may be able to get him to his place by keeping him out of Hillsboro.

Alice is well and spending her time very pleasantly with her friends—we all dined with our friend Mr. Nash to day, who is *not a little hurt* at the use that has been made of his name, at Raleigh in the election for a Judge. Mr. Dick is a Judge!!!! This is no humbug!!

From my fathers I have no very late intelligence.

\* \* \* \* \*

[Address:  
Haw River  
Orange.]

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*From A. J. Davis.*

Thomas Ruffin Esq.  
Sir.

HILLSBOROUGH 4 Decem. 35.

Under a contract with some gentlemen in Nashville to take charge of the new course there and of a Sporting Magazine, I am to remove

there in May next; connected as I shall be with the Turf, it is my intention to breed a few colts of the best blood every Spring, on reflection it is my opinion that no mare in our country is better calculated to breed Racers from Leviathan than your mare Cherokee.

Now as no horse of high reputation will in all probability stand in your vicinity for many years to come and your other more important occupations may induce you to neglect sending her to distance, I make you the following offer to take her and breed on shares and always to put her to the best horse in Tennessee all expense mine till 3 years old then [sell?] for a division.

I also offer to take your mare and colt (Eclipse Filly) and if I pay you 1500. in two years from this time then both to be mine or failing that both to be yours, I having an interest in the colts bred in my possession.

I should wait to see you, but I am now entitled to put two mares to Leviathan, and I am to name shortly or lose my chance: therefore you will oblige me by an early answer as failing to get yours my first choice I may look elsewhere.

Very Respectfully  
Yours

A. J. DAVIS.

[Address:

Allamance. P. O.

Orange Cy.

Endorsed: J. A. Davis.] \_\_\_\_\_

*From Robert Strange.*

FAYETTEVILLE January 11th, 1836.

Dear Sir

Mr. Dobbin<sup>1</sup> visits Raleigh for the purpose of obtaining license to practise law in the Superior Courts, twelve months having elapsed since his County Court licence was granted him. I can add nothing to what was contained in my former letter, save that his time has I believe been diligently employed in the interval in the acquisition of useful additions to his former qualifications. His conduct has been marked with all the propriety which his friends expected of him and so far as my recommendation can have any influence it is cheerfully furnished him to the fullest extent.

I am Dear Sir

Yrs. very respectfully

RO. STRANGE.

Judge Ruffin

[Address: Raleigh N. Carolina.]

<sup>1</sup>James Cochran Dobbin, of Cumberland, 1814-1857, who had graduated from the University in 1832 and had studied law under Robert Strange. He was elected to Congress in 1845 and served one term. In 1848 he was a member of the Commons and secured the passage of the asylum bill. Re-elected in 1850 and 1852, he served as speaker the former year. In 1853 he was appointed secretary of the navy by President Pierce and served until 1857.

To Catherine Ruffin.

My dear Catherine./

RALEIGH—July 14th 1836.

It gives me much pain to hear that my dear sister is still so low. I had hoped, that by this time she would be so decidedly convalescent as to be able to sustain herself under the grief for the bereavement she has met with. It is a heavy stroke for the time being. I know by experience. But there are many considerations to reconcile a reflecting parent to such an event; and after a little while to make one rejoice in being preceded in Heaven by an angel from one's own household. What excuse could I offer for the wish to bring back to *this* world the sweet cherub that took flight from the arms of your mother and myself! I never indulge the thought, except to praise God that when it was in my heart it was involuntary and that He has been pleased graciously to cleanse me from it. I believe too, that your Mother would not recall him now to this world, for all that is in it—keen as was the pang of separation. I trust that your Aunt's feelings will soon become calm and her wounds healed. Give my best love to her, her husband and children.

I do not mean to hurry you away from her, while your presence is either necessary or comfortable to her. But I wish you to be at home as soon as you can properly leave your aunt. I should be glad that your Mother should spend some time—if only a few days—at Hillsboro. I am sure it would gratify her; and I hope it would be beneficial to her health. Her message to you does not alter my opinion or wishes; for I know, she always thinks last, or at all events cares least for herself, and would not take you away, how useful soever you would be to her at home. Besides these considerations, perhaps if she were in Hillsboro next week I could go up Saturday evening and spend half Sunday with her; and I wish very much to have some conversation with her, that I may judge of her health and also of her real feelings upon the subject of a change of residence. I wrote her two long letters upon the subject, which I expect, she will shew you. I have her answer, that she is perfectly content where she is and does not wish and will not consent to remove. But it is perfectly clear, that she is not content and that after every honest effort for her own sake and for mine, she has been unable to reconcile herself to the particular place we are at or to vocations that unavoidably engage the attention of the master and mistress of slaves on a large plantation. She has done her best on those points; and more cannot be expected or desired from her. It is equally clear to me, that her present resolution is but a continuation of her virtuous struggle with herself, in which she must fail: and also that it is founded on the belief, that the offer to remove is made against my inclination and that, in fact or in my opinion an actual removal will prejudice the worldly interests of her husband and children; with which she will never reproach herself

nor put it in the power of others to reproach her. Now, in all this she is mistaken. It is true, that going to Hillsboro would in no degree advance our prosperity; or my satisfaction, except in so far as it would enable me to contribute to her happiness. But you know my profound solicitude on that head so well, as to be convinced that I would even do that with pleasure; and the obligations of myself and of her children to her are so great, that the duty to yield to her wishes is so clear, that the very sense of its performance would ensure the pleasure and be a reward. There is however no necessity in the case for adopting a step, from which mutual satisfaction would not be derived by all parties. We may come here. That would be highly agreeable to me and I should suppose, not disagreeable to any of the family. I own that I should prefer living in the country, if I could do so altogether; and I think our plantation the best I am acquainted with. But I cannot give up the income arising from my personal exertions. My duty to my children requires me to labor—for my estate will not educate and provide for them. In my present office I am here half the year and in prospect, a less proportion of my time thro' life will not suffice for its duties. In this state of the case, it is the interest of my children that I should submit to a small pecuniary loss for the present to keep us all together. But if it be not *their* interest, it is necessary to the happiness of their parents and will promote theirs ultimately, unless the sacrifice should be inordinate. I have calculated those matters and believe that, upon the whole, I could live here and educate my children of both sexes without any great loss, taking all items of income and expenditure at both places into account. However, I need not press this subject further, as you already have witnessed, more than once, how few my enjoyments here are even when you are with me and how illy I conceal the effect of their loss. Raleigh is no favorite place of mine. But it is the place of my business; and therefore I must be here. If indeed there was nothing in the state of my family to cause uneasiness about them except simply the separation, I could, tho' that would be bad enough—bear that myself. But it is so large, that some one or more of them may frequently be sick and your Mother's health is so declining and her spirits so depressed, that she ought not to be enumbered with the sole charge, and often needs her friends—her husband—with her for her own support. I am therefore perfectly willing to come here, if a suitable place can be obtained; and I wish your Mother and our grown children to consult freely together—so that our action can be in concert after a common deliberation. If we are to remove, I think this the most favorable period for purchasing here and disposing of my slaves and as good as I can expect for a sale of my land. Sterling's affliction makes it more painful to me to have such long absences from my family. I request therefore, that you will, after reading all my letters, with your brothers and sister, have a general council and with honest and open hearts tell each other your minds and also



tell me: that I may be doing something. I have not mentioned to your Mother that I would see her in Hillsboro, because she or I might be disappointed. But if she can come down, let me know; that I may go up, if I can.

Dr. Hays wrote me an alarming letter on the 4th Inst; but on the 7th he wrote again and gives me the most cheering accounts we have yet had from dear Sterling. I enclose his letter home by tonight's stage. The eye is clearer and the vision better than it has ever been, since he reached Phila; and the Doctor thinks all unfavorable symptoms removed. Sterling's great complaint now is *not getting letters from home* often enough. Write—write to him!

Other people have no concern in our affairs, nor care for them, except for the sake of a little talk. You know, I don't like to be the topic of talk and especially of "Society" talk. Therefore, speak nothing of my matters out of the family: In it, your tongue and that of each member of it may be as free, as your thoughts. Have your friends amongst your brethren, and your confidants at *Home*—if you will take my advice.

Give my love to my dear daughter Anne—whom I should rejoice to have near me, if I could go to her and she come to me—and to her husband and patient from the land of *Uz*. Tell *him*, he must hasten home and make up for lost time; and that he must be his mother's comfort by his talk and his father's by his letters and that of both by his good behavior. Wm. Cain says, he looks well. Remember me to all our kindred and friends: who are all dear to me.

God bless you, my daughter!

Your fond Father,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

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*From Thomas Scott.*

HAW RIVER 28th January 1836.

I wrote to you about two weeks ago giving some account of your farm . . . . . Since writing that letter the weather has been so bad and the ground so wet that very little plowing has been done and in fact not much of any thing except splitting rails and fixing negro Houses. The old School House has been moved and put up near Mr. Moore's House. The Kitchen or loom House has been raised two or three logs higher. The Stable is covered in and finished except the doors. The cotton patch has been picked over but what yield I know not as it has not been weighed. When Robert Moore made application to sundry persons for leave to remove the logs of the school-House all with the exception readily consented except Nicholas Albright who refused.

Robert then proceeded to pull down the House and left one side for Nicholas to use as he pleased. Nicholas told Mr. Glass that if you were a poor man he would make no objection but as you were not that he knew no good reason why he should give you anything. To Robert Moore he said if you would give him the same privilege in the River as he had had that he would give up the logs with the exception of Albright they all said that they had been more than paid in the attention and books which had been given to their children. We had a report here that the mail rout was to be changed to run by Trolingers and that a new road was clearing out so as to meet that road near Mr. Whitleys. This new road was to run thence from Daniel Albrights—William Holt and his son Samuel wrote on to Messrs. Mangum and Rencher requesting them to oppose this rout. We learned moreover that the Honble. Wm. Montgomery had stated at Washington City that there was not one word of truth in your statement made to the post office Department. Messrs Holts took occasion in their letter to request Messrs. M. and R. to submit their statements to the right Honble. Doctr. and ask him if their statement was also false. For my own part I do not believe that there will be any change made. The subject of a new County is much talked of and I think is becoming more and more popular and will succeed I fear. Mr. Glass who was opposed in the first instance is now a warm advocate for it, he has been with Michael Holt who told him that they had justice on their side and it should be done. Mr. Glass talks strong of bringing out Michael Holt against Allison on that question and thinks that he can beat him. Business dull as usual.

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[Address: Raleigh, N. Carolina.]

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*From George Tucker.*<sup>1</sup>

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, Feb. 9. 1836.

*My Dear Sir;*

On the strength of our former acquaintance, and I may venture to add, friendship, permit me to ask a favor of you. It is to assist the inquiries I am now engaged in, relative to "the Mecklenburg declaration of Independence" for the purpose of vindicating the character of Mr. Jefferson, whose life I have been some time engaged in writing, and have now in the press. The attacks that have been made upon him by some of the citizens of your state seem to be equally unjust and unnecessary

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<sup>1</sup>George Tucker, 1775-1861, was a native of Bermuda who settled in Virginia. He had a long service in the Virginia legislature and in Congress and then became professor of moral philosophy and political economy in the University of Virginia. He was a prolific author.

to the defence of North Carolina. Nor would I presume now to trouble you, if I thought that the result of my inquiries would in the smallest degree derogate from the just claims of your adopted State. That the people of Mecklenburg did assemble and pass resolutions of the character of those now published to the world, I have no question. They are mentioned in Gov. Martin's proclamation which was published in 1776 in Almon's remembrances, a work referred to by every historian and annalist. I only question their precise form—and I have satisfied myself that the two paragraphs which alone have any resemblance to the declaration by Congress are interpolations. But I feel it my duty to obtain all the evidence I can on the subject, for the sake of ascertaining the truth, and of detecting my error, if I am in one. I would therefore ask the favor of you to satisfy me on the following points.

1. Is there any history of the copy of the Meck: declar: found among General Davie's papers?

2. Is there no file of the Cape Fear Mercury for the year 1775 extant? [In Judge Ruffin's writing: "None."]

3. Who has the memoir of the Revd. Humphrey Hunter? At what time was the narrative of the proceedings of Mecklenburg written? and how is it explained that the first resolution is in the language of the *narrator*, while the others are in that of the *Committee*?

4. Do the records of the proceedings of the provincial Congress at Hillsborough in Aug. 1775 shew that the County of Mecklenburg was there represented? and were their members present when the very loyal address of Mr. Hooper on the 10th of September 1775 was unanimously adopted? [In Judge Ruffin's writing: "and] who were the members [In Ruffin's writing: Sept. 8th unanimously read—but does not appear, who present.]

It is no more my intention or wish to injure the character of Mr. Hooper than that of North Carolina, for he seems to have been a highly respectable man, and I regret that Mr. Jefferson should have used the language he has, in his letter to Mr. Adams. But he was in the habit of employing the word *tory* in a much more extensive sense than most other people, and the context clearly shews that it was only in this extended sense that he applied it to Mr. Hooper, and would have applied it to Mr. Jay, Mr. Dickinson, and some of the purest and best men in the country, who however did not have the same confidence as himself either in the ability of the United States to effect their independence or the capacity of the people for self government.

My purpose is only to shew that 1. Mr. Jefferson cannot as Mr. Jones accuses him of doing, be considering as *aspersing* the character of North Carolina—for supposing the paper altogether genuine, he merely expresses his doubts about its authenticity, and called for further proofs. In which call his accusers themselves justify him, my adducing those very proofs.

2. That he was not a plagiarist from the Mecklenburg declaration—from evidence afforded by the papers themselves.

3. That he was not a calumniator of Mr. Hooper—what he said of him being true in the sense in which he meant it.

Mr. Jones's book has the air of a party attack, under the guise of self defence, but possibly it is only the overflow of patriotism in one who evidently has more zeal than either temper, justice or judgment. The pamphlet put forth by the State of North Carolina I have never yet been able to obtain. With sentiments of great respect and esteem I

Am dear Sir, sincerely yours

Hon. Thomas Ruffin  
N. Carolina.

GEORGE TUCKER.

[The following notes in Judge Ruffin's writing appear on the same sheet:]

*Mecklenburg*

Thos. Polk.

John Phiher

Waightstill Avery

John McKnitt Alexander

altogether new and different from representation in Congress of 1774.

Dr. Joseph McKnitt Alexander of Mecklenburg has the memoir of Revd. Humphrey Hunter which is an autobiography drawn up many years after the declaration.

Thos. Polk, Colo. Adam Alexander, Lt. Col John Phiher 1st Waightstill Avery, appointed member of Provincial Council.

High prm. for fire arms, gun powder, iron and salt works, domestic manufacturers—Treasurers appointed and to acco. with Council: high taxes laid and paper money issued \$125,000 for defence of colony—mounted men and regular troops levied. Committees of safety in every county.

Govr. Martin's proclamation order to be burned by common hangman: Copy preserved by Govr. Johnston, the Prest of Council and among Judge Murphey's papers—Original among publick records, having been lately returned by Judge Martin (of Louisiana).

A test Oath of fidelity to the American cause and obedience to the Genl. Congress.

Thos. Polk one of the Committee to prepare plan for regulation of internal peace and safety of province, to determine qualifications of electors etc. almost Constitution.

An address to the people vindicating the taking up arms and requiring them to unite in defence of American liberty.

Committee of secrecy to procure arms.

Thanks returned to Hooper Hewes and Caswell for services in Genl. Congress.

Cannon and three armed vessels provided in Octo. 1775.

*To Catherine Ruffin.*

RALEIGH—March 5th 1836.

Between your Mother and yourself I am prevailed on to promote the plan which is to make you the nurse and companion of your poor brother. I have accordingly written to Mr. Cameron to let him know what is brewing and to engage for you, in due time, a good room, immediately adjoining that of Sterling. I have also requested your Uncle John to inform you, when you must be ready. I think it was said in Hillsboro, when I was there, that he would go thro' Newbern. That will not suit you; and therefore I have asked him to engage, in that case, Alexander's conduct for you. I wish you to accompany the one who will be there the sooner; as Mr. Cameron will probably not wish to remain the whole of this month. I will bring the requisite money for you, when I come home; or you will find me here with it. I put it in that form because it is yet uncertain when I can leave Raleigh; tho' I expect to do so tomorrow fortnight. The labors of Mr. Gaston and myself are increased by a melancholy event that befell our poor brother Daniel last Monday. Mrs. Daniel died suddenly on that day; and he left us Wednesday morning, upon hearing the news. She had been unwell several days; but dangerously so, only for two days. They wrote for him; but she was no more, before the letter reached him. The consequence to *us* is, that we have to write the opinions he would have delivered, if he had remained. I pity him, from the bottom of my heart

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[P. S.] Beg your Mother to begin to garden and to spend as much of her time as she can spare in sowing her seeds and training her flowers and admiring them. There is nothing that contributes more to a sound body and a cheerful mind than that delightful occupation. How gladly I would exchange my cares for it—especially in her company.

[Address:

Haw River Post Office  
Orange County No. Ca.]

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*From William Montgomery.*

H. R. 25 March 1836.

*Sir*

A proposition is now before the p. o. department, for changing the Stage line by Trollingers Bridge. It will not be acted upon until you shall be Heard from. If in a reasonable time, the Mail will not be taken away from you, should an alteration take place; In the Stage line, any Communications from you will be promptly attended to.

Nothing new Here only what the papers Contain. We Have the Best Regulated government now on Earth, people all prosperous and Happy and not one Dollar of publick Debt Hanging over our Heads, and Near 20 Millions of Money on Hand, and notwithstanding all this, there are some who are dissatisfied and wish to Break up and Change the whole System of things, and Run the Risk of bettering which cannot be done.

yours

W. MONTGOMERY.

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*From Bedford Brown.*

SENATE CHAMBER, WASHINGTON, 20th April 1836.

*My dear Sir,*

Your letters of the 4th and 11th instant, were duly received, and would have been answered at an earlier period, but for my wish to communicate to you some certain information, as to the views of the Post Master General, in relation to the application for a change on the Stage route, passing through your vicinity.

I called this morning, at the Department and was informed by Col. Gardner, that no change had been made on this route or was contemplated to be made, unless some additional facts, should be placed before the Department, showing the propriety of the change. Col. G. informed me, that he had understood some further communications would be made, to the Department in support of their application, by some of those who desire the change. I presume, when made that they will contain nothing, which is not already before the Department or which will have the effect to change its views. My impression is, that there is an indisposition on the part of the officers of the Department, at present to make any change in the existing arrangements.

In compliance with your request, I have placed the Petitions, which you enclosed me, in reference to this subject, before the Department, for their consideration, if the application for a change should be further continued.

The letter of Dr. Montgomery to Mr. Foust is herewith returned as desired by you.

Nothing has lately transpired here, of much public interest more than you will see in the newspapers, of this city, some of which, I presume, you take.

I think the Senate, will probably ratify the Treaty, lately concluded by the Government with the Cherokee Tribe. Only a portion of the Chiefs are parties to the Treaty. Those who refused to sign it are now here, and allege themselves to be the only persons competent to treat on behalf of the Tribe. I trust however, that the present arrangement will be carried into effect, and that the States in whose limits this Tribe

is settled, will be relieved from that unfortunate species of population. I mention this, as our State is, as you know, among those, which will be benefitted by the extinguishment of the Indian title.

I remain with great respect.

Your obedt. Servt.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

B. BROWN.

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*From Edmund Ruffin.*

*Dear Sir.*

PETERSBURG July 19, 1836.

I should not have delayed so long an answer to your last kind letter, but that I hoped soon to announce what I have just now affected—viz: that I have bought for Mr. Cain a set of the F. Regr. Vol I. which I have had bound, and shall this day deliver to Pannill and Lea to send to him, as was before done with the Nos. of vol 2 and 3. There is no extra charge for the binding.

Though a slow demand continues for vol I and I am buying back all the copies that I can get (and they are very few,) to supply the demand; still it would not be profitable to reprint the 1st vol (as you suggest) without a more certain and greater demand. Should the demand increase sufficiently hereafter, I will be very willing to meet it by a second edition, even though at some risk of loss.

Your remarks on my scheme of a cheaper publication, were to a considerable extent correct—and I confess in urging that scheme, I showed *more* than my usual deficiency of *common sense*. It met with almost no encouragement. Still, the cause that prompted that effort continues to operate, and most injuriously to the success of my journal. The very low priced agricultural publications of the North, *merely because low-priced*, stand in perpetual contrast to mine—and very many withhold their support from both. Because the Cultivator, for example, can be had for 50 cents, they will not give \$5 for any other agricultural journal—and yet the greater part of these objectors also refuse to take the Cultivator, because a northern paper is unsuitable to the circumstances of southern farmers. It is very certain, that if my list was much extended, I could publish at a lower price—though not so low, nor would I be content to publish in such a manner, as to the contents, as my cheap rivals.

I heard that your daughter had been some days in this place, but not until she had gone away—and that other members of your family have been here since my residence was in Petersburg. I regret much that their visits were not known at the time,—and beg that whenever such may again occur, that my family may be permitted to pay that attention to any part of yours, that I wish to be done, and have now to regret was omitted, in ignorance of their being near. Besides the tie of kin-

dred, which is to me very strong, there would have been abundant reasons to desire to form acquaintances with any member of your family. Especially if your daughter should again come here, *mine* will be much gratified to have her company, not as a stranger but as a cousin and friend, for as many days as her inclination may induce her to extend her visit.

Respectfully

ED: RUFFIN.

[Address: Haw River, Orange N. C.]

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*From William Gaston.*

*My dear Sir*

BLYTHE-WOOD August 15th 1836.

I reached this place, the country residence of Mr. Donaldson, on the evening of Saturday the 13th. As I passed through Philadelphia I called on Dr. Hayes and paid him the money which you placed in my hands before you quitted Raleigh. The Doctor was very polite in ordering his Gig and accompanying me to the Institution where I found your son and passed an hour with him. He was in excellent spirits and expressed himself much pleased with his situation. He greatly preferred it in all respects to remaining in the City. His general health is perfectly good and both he and the Doctor declared that his vision was improved. I fear however that it must always remain imperfect. But you no doubt receive from the Doctor information far more exact in detail than I am able to render. Sterling entered with great interest into all the matters of local intelligence which I was able to communicate and had a hearty and cheerful laugh ready at every little joke that occurred. I mentioned that I had been told that the name of your little stranger was to be Octavia because it was your eighth daughter, he suggested that it should be Decima-quarta in commemoration of its being your 14th child.

My daughters accompanied me from Georgetown and are both quite well. Mrs. Donaldson has been seriously ill, but thanks to the skillful and energetic assistance of Dr. Washington she is now apparently free from disease, and in a short time I trust will be as stout as ever.

I shall probably return in October. On my way back I shall stop some days in Philadelphia. If I can be of any use to you, command my services freely. My direction is "Care of James Donaldson Esqr. Merchant Broad Way New York." In a few days I expect to commence my Niagara trip.

Present me respectfully and kindly to Mrs. Ruffin and all the other members of your family, and believe me always and affectionately

Your's

Chief Justice Ruffin.

WILL GASTON.

[Address: Hillsborough No. Carolina.]



*From William Garnett.*

NORFOLK 21st Nov: 1836.

*My dear friend*

This will be handed to you by my friend the Rev. Ro: Cross, who proposes to settle in your State, and if he should be stationed near you, you will find himself, and his amiable wife a most valuable acquisition to your society. It has been many years since we met and enjoyed the social intercourse, so much cherished, and so dear to both of us when we were at college together; but I feel well persuaded that I could not then have so misunderstood your character, as not to be well satisfied, that it would give you great pleasure to show kindness and attention to such a family as I now introduce to your notice; and that the claims of these interesting strangers, will be still more strongly recommended, from the circumstance of their being conveyed through the medium of an old friend, who, though long separated from you, yet cherishes the same regard, which we have so frequently mutually plighted to each other, and who has ever experienced the most heartfelt gratification at hearing of your success, and of the merited honors bestowed upon you by your adopted State. I say your adopted state, for I am convinced that no son of your dear old Mother Virginia, would have it to be forgotten that on her bosom he drew his first breath: in her genial atmosphere he passed the most joyous of his years, and that to her, when the last scene shall close, will his fondest aspirations be given. Such, I am persuaded, are the feelings of all true Virginians; and that although in the vicissitudes of life, they may be driven to other climes, yet will their hopes and affections ever centre in the land of their nativity, and the seat of their dearest associations. But I have unintentionally broached a subject on which I cannot speak but in a vein of enthusiasm, with which I may not always find sympathy, and I will not therefore give it further indulgence. With assurances of undiminished regard and esteem I remain as ever your most sincere friend,

WM. GARNETT.

I shall be much pleased to hear from you once more.

[Address: North Carolina]

*From James T. Morehead.*

RALEIGH December 1st, 1836.

*Dear Sir.*

I take the liberty of writing to you relative to our legislative proceedings which thus far have been of but little importance: Mr. Man-

gum's resignation<sup>1</sup> has been received and accepted, and a proposition was to day received by the senate from the commons to vote for a senator to fill the vacancy, with the name of Judge Strange as the nominee, which was laid on the table, but I have no doubt that the election will take place before this reaches you, at present I am not advised, that there will be opposition, tho I have no hesitation upon the election for six years every effort will be made by the Whig party to succeed in electing their man; we have a remarkable State of facts among us, upon a full house, agreeably to the returns made in August upon Joint vote, the parties would stand upon a tie, one individual however a member of the commons has for some time been so unwell that he forwarded his resignation which has been accepted, and a writ of election has issued. Should a Whig member be returned in his place, the parties will again be upon equal numbers, and from the zeal manifested on all hands I think it questionable whether a senator will be elected before the last of the session, if at all.

We have much talk privately, and on some occasions mentioned the propriety of grounding arms and concentrating on a man, which I believe cannot be done, without looking to the Bench of the Supreme Court (even supposing the appointment acceptable to any gentleman there). Some of us cannot agree to that, for fear of weakening that institution, by supplying the vacancy by a weak Judge, and consequently giving the enemies to that institution a weapon to use against it: and as a member of the community I had rather all legislation should stop for the next Ten years than to see that tribunal torn down.

We have some matters before us of deep and vital importance. I allude to the surplus revenue, coming to the state under the late act of Congress. The Governor in his message seems to intimate an opinion, that we had as well not accept, if we do, to retain it, so that it can be ready for refunding whenever called for.

This to me is a question of great importance, I do not Hesitate upon the question, but its application, is and will be a perplexed subject, as we differ much in our notions: Some advocate such a diversity of opinion that it is difficult to say what will be the result: The erecting a penitentiary, internal improvement, division among the counties, and Banking have each its advocates: for my own part I view it an important era in our legislation, a new order of things has taken place, never before perhaps happening in the History of any country—a national treasury filled to over flowing, and dealing out with a copious hand to

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<sup>1</sup>In 1835 Willie P. Mangum and Bedford Brown, the two United States Senators, had been instructed by the legislature to vote for Benton's resolution to expunge the Senate's censure of Jackson. Mangum, who had voted for the resolution of censure, declined to obey. When the next legislature showed a tie between the two parties on joint ballot, and John B. Muse, a Whig member, resigned, thus giving the Democrats a majority of one, Mangum resigned. Robert Strange was chosen to succeed him by a strict party vote.

the states, which are made their own agents in its application. I feel very sensibly the duties and obligations imposed on me at this time. Heretofore the friends of internal improvement and liberal education have been restrained, by poverty and an unwillingness to have Taxation among our people, and he who had the nerve to advocate it, has generally fallen a victim to the hand of some unprincipal Demagogue: To suffer this opportunity to pass, or to make a false step, seems to me to be criminal, and may be fraught with the most serious consequences to our future condition:

Nothing would be more pleasing to me than to hear the views and plans of intelligent and experienced gentlemen on this subject: And should time and inclination admit of it: I should be much pleased to learn your views and notions in relation to the advancement of our State both morally and physically.

We have another subject of much importance before us. The revisal of the Statutes: I have heretofore regretted to learn the objections to the improvement in our Statute Law: However, we have got through the worst of it. The only question now of importance among us, is whether the Laws or code as revised is a new Statute, and consequently required to be read three times. I find among us intelligent gentlemen, who think that from the course heretofore pursued in revising the laws, of the state that it's a mere compilation of the laws and not the enactment of new laws. I hope the opinion is correct, but in due deference, I think differently below reference is had to the acts heretofore authorizing the codyfying the statutes also to the act of 1833 authorising the present:

In the plan submitted, (which I highly approve) the preambles are omitted which are the keys to unlock (as my Lord Coke would say) the meaning. The usual repealing clauses etc.—and a simple, statement of the law is given in happy connection—with marginal notes as to dates. The style and caption of the several acts is omitted: and each Chapter (115 in number) is headed by a caption and style, given in most instances by the commissioners themselves.

Upon this statement of facts, you will please pardon me for troubling you. I know your willingness to be useful to our common country, and if I should be of a wrong opinion, a correction of the error might perhaps save the State of at least several weeks of labor. I cannot conceive, that under any circumstances, the question can ever be brought before you in the official character in which you stand to the people otherwise, I should not have presumed this far.

Should you answer me on this subject, I shall receive it as the opinion of a private gentlemen, merely in interchange of ideas and opinions on various subjects: I am placed on the Committee on this subject and expect for the next six weeks to thumb the revisal of 1819 and Acts of

later date as a child would its spelling books. Be pleased to tender my respects to your Lady and family and accept of kindest feelings for yourself

Yours With great regard

JAMES T. MOREHEAD.

Honorable Thomas Ruffin.

Revised Code—1781 Chap 266

do " —1791 Chap 333

" " —1819 Chap 967

Acts of 1833 Chap. 21.

[Address:

Haw-river Post-office

Orange Cty. N. C.]

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*From A. W. Thomson.*

COLUMBIA So. CA. 22nd. Decr. 1836.

*Hon. Sir:*

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance the bearer, my worthy and particular friend C. G. Meminger<sup>1</sup> Esq of the city of Charleston, So. Car. who visits your State for the purpose of aiding the project of constructing the great Western Rail Road any assistance you may find it convenient and consistent with your feelings to render him in the accomplishment of this object so far as your State is concerned, and every attention shown him personally will confer a singular favor on your humble and obedient Servant

A. W. THOMSON.

[Address: Raleigh, N. C.]

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*From T. G. Stone.*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

31 Dec. 1836.

*Sir.*

You are respectfully requested to attend at the Hall of the House of Commons at the hour of Twelve O'Clock this day, and administer the Oaths of office to the Governor Elect.

I remain Sir

Your Obt. Svt.

T. G. STONE, C[lerk] S[enate].

An answer is requested.

The Honl.

Thomas Ruffin

Chief Justice.

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<sup>1</sup>C. G. Memminger, of South Carolina, afterwards Secretary of the Treasury of the Confederacy.

*From Paul C. Cameron to Catherine Ruffin Roulhac.*

HILLSBOROUGH Jan 20th 1837.

*My dear Kate/.*

My dear Madam! would be much more dignified and respectful! But I must be permitted to address you by a name more dear and familiar—by that name, I have known you longest; and it is too closely associated with some of the happiest, as well as the most trying scenes of my life, to be easily abandoned for one more formal.

Inclination and a sense of duty, has prompted me before this, to blot you a sheet, but I have been unable to bring myself to the task. You know my love of procrastination: I fear that I am fatally devoted to this over-ruling sin! Pardon me dear Kate, my thoughts, my duties have been nearer home, a wife and sister have claimed, and had a right to all. Doubtless you have had frequent letters from Haw River, your friends in Hillsborough, and I will guaranty, that your father, has withdrawn himself more than once from the press of Court labour, to hold intercourse, with his eldest born, and latest married child, to counsel, to console, to tell of self, the dear inmates of home and friends. . . . .

Now for detail and news—I will do my best to give you *all*, I know your thirst; it is natural and whilst I gratify you, it will enable me to blot the balance of my sheet. Our friends in and near Hillsborough are *all well*. Your uncle John returned, on Sunday last, from Newbern with his family, after five days travel through sleet and snow—all well and *fat*. Mrs. Anderson and many have bade farewell to North Carolina and friends, and are ere this quartered at their new home in that sunny land of sand and flowers. John Syme too has located himself in Pensacola, and doubtless he will be followed by his father and mother. . . . . William Cameron *has just* returned from Philadelphia—he came up to see Mrs. Ruffin and he speaks cheeringly of poor Sterling. William will leave Hillsborough in a few days for the south west to look for a home. May they all find Gold enough in this great “Eldorado.” Mr. Green too has just returned from Philadelphia, hither he had gone to look after his lost son William.

You see that our friend Judge Nash is again upon the Bench, his friends are much pleased. I alone regret his elevation to the bench: he is too good a man to hazard his life on a fall circuit in *Windsor* and the country around it—and withal his *fees* are more than equal to the *salary*. Our brothers Graham and Waddell (representatives from our old Orange) are said to be the brightest lights at Raleigh; have you seen the high Editorial compliments paid them. It is reported that Mr. Graham will locate in the Western part of the State—at his fathers residence. I hope not, he will be a great loss to our County, and the social circle of

our little town. Col. Jones was to see me to day, he says that lad is "boiling his pot in Raleigh." Tell Minerva that I have seen her father and mother frequently—they speak often of her. Martha and Mary have been permitted with the other young people to pass a day or two upon the Jas. I have not seen your brother William since he returned from Raleigh—when last here, he was endeavouring to have it reported that he was addressing, Miss J. Polk daughter of Genl. Polk. Ask Alice in your next letter if she has not had a *Beau*. I am under the impression as Grandmother Kirkland would say, that she has given him cold pudding? Here I must close this "hodge podgiana"

Anne and Alice unite with me in love to you and Minerva. To Mr. Roulhac present me in terms of Kindness. We hope to hear from you *soon*. I wish you much happiness and pleasure in your new home and new relation.

Regard me as ever your friend and brother

PAUL C. CAMERON.

[Address:

Mrs. Catherine Roulhac  
Windsor  
Bertie  
No. Ca.]

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*From T. H. Scott and others.*

GREENSBORO January 21st. 1837.

*Sir*

In the name, and by the authority of the Hermean Society, composed of students of the Caldwell Institute, We hereby notify you of your Election as an honorary member of that body, and respectfully request your acceptance of the same.

THEO. H. SCOTT  
JOHN S. ERWIN  
MATS. BARNHARDT } *Committee.*

[Address:

Raleigh  
No. Carolina.]

To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.

ALLAMANCE, May 13th 1837.

My dear Sir./

As money is said to be now worth something in your parts and may be so readily sent where it will certainly bring its value, I have thought that you may choose to invest the little remnant of Catherine's portion before you leave home; and therefore, instead of keeping it as a bait to draw you here, I send you, above, my check for two thousand dollars more, with the hope that it will be useful to you at this juncture. By the Gazette received this morning I perceive an evidence that could not have been anticipated, of the demands for money and the decline of mercantile confidence, that is either truly alarming, on the one hand, or, on the other affords a most favorable opportunity for laying out Capital—whether for income or speculation, that will seldom occur. I allude to the price of U. States Bank Stocks; being, this day week, in New York 98!! What can this mean? Where will it end? If that institution fails, all similar ones must follow: indeed we shall all go together. I do not perceive therefore that one could do better with money than to turn it into *that Stock*, unless it has come to this: That it is not safe to trust to anything but coined cash, concealed in the cellar! But I am arrogant, retired man as I am, thus to speak of money and credit to a merchant and a banker; and I therefore forbear further suggestions, in the full belief that *your* transactions will be both prudent and profitable. You may say to Katy that she turns out to be worth more than she was valued at; since the nominal amount is not diminished and *one* dollar now seems to be equal to what *two* were in her courting days, recently as they have passed by. This I mention, not by way of complaining of *the times*, but for her benefit—that she may hold up her head a little, which, but for these happenings, hung low enough on this score.

Our agricultural prospects up the country are gloomy enough to make us all despondent, upon the ground of the failure in production as well as the decline in prices. Wheat looked badly as it could at the end of winter, much of it not having come up until February. But now it is much worse. We have not had a drop of rain in *thirty six* days! That, with the unusual frosts and cold winds throughout April, has nearly ruined it. Corn, of course, can neither come up or grow; and cotton is either not planted or might as well not be; and oats are dying—Yet, I keep up my spirits, under the consolatory experience, that there never has been a famine in this delightful climate and favoured country of ours. The variety of our productions is such that if one staff of life fail, nature will supply another in due season and prevent suffering.

Our friends in this part of the country enjoy their usual good health except my dear and only sister. She has passed a winter of suffering and a spring of imminent peril. Her life has been in constant and great

jeopardy for the last five weeks, from repeated and violent attacks of *influenza*, which produced violent pneumonia threatening immediate dissolution. . . . My brother has written, that he cannot come to Carolina this summer—for the want of strength to bear the journey, and of money to defray the expense. But I have read him a lecture on both—insisting on his coming, because his health will be improved by everyday's travel and altho' we, here, be poor, yet we are not so badly off, that, among us, we cannot raise money to maintain one man one summer. I hope and expect you will meet him here. William came from Rockingham Court last week to see Sterling and left us yesterday. He is well and is domiciled—as far as a Tavern affords that accommodation—in Salisbury; where, he tells us, he has good prospects in his *profession*, but not amatory responses corresponding to his *professions*. Our friend Kirkland has gone back to New York, being moved thereto, I believe, by his love of money, which was put in action by some communication from yourself.

\* \* \* \* \*

I shall go to see the boys at school in about ten days. They will be at home the middle of June, but then I shall be away. Their vacation is only a fortnight, and they will be disappointed and you too, if you and Catherine should not arrive before their departure. I hope your things, sent by Mr. Mebane's waggon, reached you safely.

Her mother bids me say to Catherine, that she shall look for her by the *1st day* of June. But I say, no; not as soon as that; because that can hardly be hoped for. But we both assure you, that we shall be glad to see you come when you may; and we shall greatly desire and assuredly expect you to be with us the whole of *this* and of *every* summer, when your affairs will allow. The love of every member of the family to yourself and my dear daughter—God bless you both!

With affection, dear sir, Your friend,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

[Address:  
Windsor  
Bertie County  
No. Ca.]

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*From George C. Mendenhall.*

*My dear friend.*

COLUMBUS OHIO July 1837.

It is exceeding difficult to write at all while traveling, or I should have dropped you a line before this. Whether the Supreme Court of N. C. is still in Session, I can only conjecture. I attended the trial of a Suit in Sup. Co. at Dayton yesterday, matters were formally carried on, but with not much ability at the Bar or on the Bench.



Myself and Lady and little Son James Ruffin who is with us all keep well—we have viewed a most fertile Region from Cincinnati to Indianapolis and none faster improving anywhere. Towns growing up almost in sight. The National Road where finished is well worthy the name and cost. Property is high above measure especially farms and Town lots—property in Dayton is high as in Baltimore or near it. The pressure is only talked of, but not much felt north of Ohio.

We are now going by way of Wheeling and Baltimore to return James Ruffin to Haverford School without taking him to N. C.—he likes the School—and so do I above any other of my Acquaintance.

The improvement made in the Northern and this Western World since 1827 when I was here before is scarcely to be credited. We find as much moving from here as from N. C. almost. Indianapolis I think bids fair to be a very Considerable place—everything centres there and seems to point it out as the Metropolis of almost an Empire State. This City of Columbus is in a state of rapid improvement, with fine streets and splendid Buildings.

I hope to return to the fall Circuit and be with you at Decr Term of the Supreme Co. in Raleigh.

I have but little time allowed me now to write. All have had throughout a pleasant voyage and travel and without any accident worthy of remark.

I am however left with a strong impression favourable to North Carolina.

With great Respect

Your friend

GEORGE C. MENDENHALL

My respects to your family.

[Address: Raleigh, North Carolina.]

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*From George Luther.*

CHATHAM COUNTY N. C. 29th August 1837.

*Dear Sir*

My poverty is the only apology I can offer for Intruding myself upon your notice at this time and a Strong desire to mend my condition has prompted me to make this application to you. My Down fall was in part known to you. But my Difficulties since then have not. I have for the Last Ten years had to struggle hard to support a large family consisting of my wife with eight Daughters and Two sons with But Little prospect of making my condition any better. But I have Lately come to the Conclusion that there is yet a chance for me to get myself and family above the frowns of the world upon honorable Terms. If I can

Get the help I now Solicit. My plan for this purpose I will briefly State. I have for some time been of opinion that there was nothing that offered such Inducements to a man in my Situation as the cultivation of the mulberry and Raising the Silk Worm. But for some time when ever I mentioned the subject I was laught at and discouraged untill the Report of the committee of Congress come out since that time the Subject has been more favorably Treated. Upon Receipt of that Report I wrote on to the Secretary of the parent Silk Society at Hartford in Conneticut who furnished me with all the information the Society had on the Subject which more fully confirms my opinions of the Advantages that may be derived from engaging in the enterprise and from the high and Respectable authority from which my information is derived It has not Left a Doubt upon my mind that If I can make myself able to make a Good Start in the Business that I can make a Handsome Turne out and not only benefit myself and family But the whole Community by it. Now it does not require a Large Capital to Start upon But a small capital is as hard to Raise by a man that has not Got it as a Large one is for some Men. Now if I can Raise \$100 I can accomplish my object and for this purpose I have come to the conclusion to make application to men of the best opportunity of information and at the same time have it in their power to Loan a small sum without Inconvenience to themselves and Give 18 months or 2 years Indulgence for Its repayment and those who may think proper to paternize me in my undirtaking I will return such sum as they may think proper to Lend me with Interest or I will return the principle and the amount of the principle in Mulberry Trees from my nursery my object is to Start a Good nursery and an orchard and I am Confident that in 18 months or 2 years I can refund the money with Interest from the sale of Trees or furnish my patrons to the amount they lend me at 100 percent Lower than German Station trees can be Got Else-where this shall be at their option should you feel willing to help me to a small sum which I hope you will you will oblige me by putting it in the hands of Charles Manly or William H. Haywood Jr who will Bring it to Chatham Superior Court where I will give a note for the same should you decline complying with my request I hope you will pardon me for the Liberty I have taken in asking it. I can assure you that I am actuated only from a desire If possible to improve the condition of my family and if possible to blunt the sharpest sting that Death has in store for me, that is, Leaving my family in unprovided Circumstances.

I am Sir with high Consideration  
Your Obt. Servt.

GEO. LUTHER.

Hon Thomas Ruffin.

*From William Gaston.*

BEATTY'S FORD Octr. 4th, 1837.

*My dear Sir*

I have been wandering about extensively since I parted from you, and am now about to turn my steps towards home, as I have often promised to avail myself of the first favorable opportunity, in passing through your part of the State, to accept of your pressing invitations to call upon you. I have arranged with the girls that we shall do so on our return from this to Hillsborough. If no unexpected occurrence should derange our plan we shall leave this on Saturday and have the pleasure of seeing you and your family on Monday next. Our stay can not extend beyond a day or two.

Very truly yours

WILL: GASTON.

Chief Justice Ruffin.

[Address:

Haw River P. O.

Orange County

No. Carolina.]

*From William Gaston.*

NEW YORK October 17th, 1838.

This morning, my dear Sir, and not before I received your letter of the 12th Inst<sup>t</sup>. I hasten to say in answer to it that we have been unavoidably detained so late as to abandon the notion of visiting Hillsborough. We shall leave New York for Philadelphia on Monday, and we shall spend Tuesday there. Mr. and Mrs. Farley (the latter the 2d daughter of our late friend Joseph Pearson) accompanying us. If Mrs. Allen can make it convenient to accommodate us we would be glad to put up at the same house with you. If she can not do it be pleased to have lodgings engaged for us elsewhere and drop me a line (care of James Donaldson) stating what is done.

I forbear from saying what I feel for you. Present me in the kindest and most respectful terms to Mrs. Ruffin.

With perfect truth

Your affect.<sup>te</sup> friend

WILL: GASTON.

Honble T. Ruffin.

[Address:

Honble Thos. Ruffin (of No. Carolina)

At Mrs. Allen's No. 42 So. 6th St.

Philadelphia.]

*From David W. Stone.*

RALEIGH NORTH CAROLINA  
November 29th 1838.

*My Dear Sir:*

I received last week by Mr. Frosts your letter of the 12th instant and the shoes which you were so kind as to get for me at Philadelphia and beg to return you my very sincere thanks for the present and for the kind remembrance which you were pleased to have of me while absent. It is my fortune to have but few friends in this world, but I am thankful that among that few there are none whom any man might not be proud to number as his own; there are none among them whose good opinion and good will I hold in higher estimation than yours, and my most ardent hope is that I may be always able to retain the friendship of one whose regard I estimate so highly and whose favors I have so little merited.

Our Legislature has as yet done nothing but give a stir and bustle to the Streets and boarding houses of Raleigh. The Governor has in his message recommended four magnificent projects for Rip Van Winkle, but I apprehend his recommendation will hardly be met—as we are rather too sober and prudent a people to make *high adventures*. The State Rights men hold the balance of power as neither of the other parties can make a majority without their aid. So far however they have moved with the Whigs and I expect will continue so to do. We have Mr. Jos. Seawell Jones (of Shocco) here representing as some have jocosely said the General Government as Minister etc. near the Seat of government of North Carolina—he keeps Bachelors Hall and has given several handsome dinner parties. What his object is I cant for my life conjecture for I should not suppose his means would justify such an outlay. Be pleased to present my best respects to Mrs. Ruffin (whose health I hope has been much improved by the trip north this past summer) and to the rest of your family and believe me to remain with best wishes for your health and happiness, Very truly Yr Obliged  
and Obedt. Servt.

DAVID W. STONE.

Judge Ruffin  
Allamance  
Orange County  
N. C.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—Decr. 5, 1838.

Dear Sir, A proposition is before the Judiciary Committee of one house,—on which I understand a favourable report will be made,—to compel the Supreme Court to hold their sessions, at Raleigh, and at some place in the Western part of the State, *alternately*. I am utterly opposed to the proposed alteration and design stating my objections to it, when the measure comes up for discussion.

I have taken the liberty to address you on the subject—believing, and in fact feeling assured, that you are opposed to the proposition. I am unacquainted with the details of the many objections to the proposed change—the reasons for my opposition being of a *general nature*. Will you be so kind as to write me on the receipt of this, and state to me your views of the inconveniences attending the proposed measure, and the reason why it should not be adopted,—should you not deem it inconsistent with the relation you bear to the subject. Should you consent to give me your views, you will please answer me by the return mail of Friday, as the matter will be before us in a very short time.

I presume you have become acquainted with our legislative proceedings thus far from the newspapers. Gov. Dudley submitted to us yesterday, his plan for a system of free schools, which is likely to create great interest. Resolutions of a political character have been introduced in our house,—they are perhaps less violent than you might expect from a *Whig Legislature*. They condemn the course of the Administration on the subjects of expunging, the pre-emption law bill, the expenses of the government, etc. and without containing *instructions* to Senators, merely declare that they will represent the wishes of the people by conforming their votes to the views expressed therein. Judging from the opinions of members, as expressed in conversation, I think the Governor's, the Million bank, and his grand scheme of I. Improvement, are not likely to meet with great favour. The bill for the division of your county passed the Commons on Tuesday by a small majority. I think it will not pass the Senate. We have before us four or five propositions for the division of counties, all of which, I think, are likely to fail, except perhaps that for the division of Buncombe.

I believe it is now pretty well understood that we shall have no Senator to elect this winter, as it is the impression of both parties, that neither of our present Senators intend to resign as was once contemplated.

\* \* \* \* \*

[Address:

Haw River

Orange County

No. Ca.]

From Edward B. Freeman.<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir,

RALEIGH N. C. Dec. 17, 1838.

Mr. A. Williams of this place called upon me about ten days ago with some detached sheets from Hawk's Repts, requesting me to certify them stating that he was advised by W. H. Haywood and G. W. Haywood Esqrs to pursue this course. I thought then that it was a novel proceeding, and informed Mr. W. that Hawk's Rep. was evidence of what the law was without any certificate from the clerk. He insisted, and as he had been advised by *better lawyers* than myself, I made the certificate. The first application was made several months before the meeting of the General Assembly at a time when I could have made a copy for him without inconvenience, if he had desired one. I regret that I have done wrong in this matter, but I have been led astray by others.

With great respect

Yr. ob. sert.

[Address:

Haw River  
Orange Co.  
N. C.]

E. B. FREEMAN.

From Wm. J. Alexander and others.

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG CO. NO. CA.

1. May 1839.

Sir

The Citizens of this County as early as May 1775 animated by that spirit of patriotism which achieved our liberties, on this very spot declared independence of all allegiance to the British Crown.

At the recent meeting of the Citizens of this County held without *distinction of party*, it was *resolved* to celebrate the day becoming its patriotic recollections, and that meeting could not have confided a more agreeable duty to the undersigned, than to request the honor of your company on the 20th Inst to a public dinner at this place.

The favor of an early answer is requested.

We have the honor to be

Very respectfully

Your Obt. Servts.

WM. J. ALEXANDER

JNO. J. BLACKWOOD

THOMAS HARRIS

P. C. CALDWELL

JNO. H. WHEELER.

Hon Thos Ruffin  
Haw River N. C.

<sup>1</sup>Clerk of the Supreme Court of North Carolina.

*From Thomas P. Devereux.*

RALEIGH June 10th 1839.

*My Dear Sir*

Circumstances have occurred which will probably separate me forever from those pursuits which I have followed from my youth—it is my earnest wish that they should not separate me from those with whom I have followed them, and from that society in which many of my pleasantest hours have been past. In tendering to you my resignation of the office of Reporter of the Supreme Court I have to thank the members of that court, as well as the profession at large, for the indulgence they have ever exhibited to the difficulties which I fear are inseparable from the office and to wish them all long life, long pleasure and many friends.

Most Respectfully

Yours

T. P. DEVEREUX.

Honbl. Thomas Ruffin.

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*From William H. Battle<sup>1</sup> to the Judges of the Supreme Court of North Carolina.*

LOUISBURG June 12th 1839.

*Gentlemen/*

I received a letter from Mr. Devereux this morning, informing me that he had resigned the office of Reporter to the Supreme Court. This of course dissolves my connexion with that office, unless you should think proper to appoint me to fill the vacancy arising from Mr. Devereux's resignation. I beg of you however not to consider me as an applicant for the office, unless no person more competent to discharge its duties presents himself to the consideration of your Honors.

With the utmost respect

I am your's etc.,

WILL: H. BATTLE.

To the

Hon. Judges of the Supreme  
Court of N. Carolina  
Raleigh.

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<sup>1</sup>William H. Battle was at this time a practicing lawyer in Louisburg. He was later judge of the Superior Court and of the Supreme Court.

*From Nathaniel H. McCain.*

MILTON August 12th 1839.

*My dear Sir*

A vacancy has occurred in the office of Clerk and Master in Equity for this County by the death of Mr. A. Harrison. I have some idea of making application for the appointment and now take the liberty of writing to you to consult with you on the propriety of my doing so. The duties of the office would necessarily consume some time that might be profitably devoted to reading; but would it not be better, if necessary, to discontinue my attendance at some of the courts, those at which my prospects are the least flattering? The office is worth from \$400 to \$500, an amount sufficient for my support. I understand there will be several applicants for the appointment, none, however, of the profession. The many acts of kindness I have recd at your hands and the repeated manifestations of the interest you feel in my welfare lead me once more to presume upon your goodness, and if you think it advisable for me to apply for the office, to ask you to [add?] another to the already long list of obligations under which I lie, by writing to Judge Baily and advising him of my wishes. I learn he does not design making the appointment until Orange Superior Court. No news of general interest except that we have flattering prospects of abundant crops. I have not done myself the pleasure of visiting your kind family since I saw you but hope to be able to do so before long.

With my best wishes for the health of yourself and family, be pleased to accept renewed assurances of the

Very high regard and esteem  
of Your Obt. Svt.

N. H. McCAIN.

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*From Richard Ronzie.*

LOYDS ESSEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA, Decr. 4th, 1839.

*My Dear Sir.*

It has long been my purpose and desire to answer your esteemed favour of the 26th of February last, and to keep up the correspondence so unexpectedly commenced between us, and above all to tender to you the sympathy and condolence due from one fellow-being to another suffering under afflictions of a deep and distressing nature. I allude to the affliction of one dearer to you than all other earthly objects, long may he in whose hands are all our destinies avert the threatened blow, and spare you to each other in the enjoyment of that happy intercourse, which has a tendency to smooth the rough and stormy conflicts through which we have to pass in this unfriendly world, and when you shall have numbered



your days on earth that you may fall in the arms of everlasting mercy and be crowned with glory and immortality in a world where sickness and sorrow pain and death are felt and feared no more. On the subject of your affliction, I can write experimentally, having been a fellow-sufferer for the last fifteen years. My wife the best of women and of wives, my solace in all my cares and afflictions has been the subject of disease for that time. I can well conceive your many anxious cares and direful anticipations, for I have witnessed them all unnumbered times. While it has been my lot to drink the cup of affliction almost to the dregs in many cases, God has supported me safely through them, from which I should take encouragement, and be enabled to trust Him in His future dispensations of providence, but the thoughts of a separation from one I so dearly love, has been an event that I could never contemplate. I involuntarily shrink from the reflection. However let us take courage and so live as to Claim the precious promises that "He will not suffer us to be tempted above that we are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape that we may be able to bear it." After having exhausted all the medical skill in our surrounding country, I was informed of an eminent physician in the City of Baltimore who had performed almost miraculous cures on patients from this and the surrounding states even as far as Mississippi in May last we visited him, and by his course of treatment, owned and blessed of God, she was restored to a more comfortable state of health than she had experienced in the last fifteen years. In August last whilst under his prescription from which she was daily deriving benefit I was thrown from my sulkey, my leg fractured and had to remain on the public highway for several hours, when a cart passed and took me home. Knowing the dreadful shock which the accident would occasion her, I took every precaution in my power to prepare her for it, notwithstanding she was almost overwhelmed, for four or five days I had to forget my situation and use all the energies of my mind to sustain her—just as she became a little composed, we had a daughter taken so ill that her life was despaired of for two or three days, and before this calamity had passed intelligence reached us that her mother was so dangerously ill that it was thought she could not survive,—under these afflictions you can better conceive than I can express our distress, but out of all of them the Lord has delivered us, and I hope her health is again improving. To all your relatives I have presented you in the terms you desired, and can assure you from them that they most anxiously desire a more intimate acquaintance and association. I am surprised at myself in my last letter that I did not give you an account of the descendants of your uncle Thomas Roane, he left two interesting sons, one of whom is a practitioner of medicine and my most intimate friend, living near me and with whom I have much intercourse, the other is a young man of fine mind but from affliction has been a cripple from his earliest youth, he also left a daughter who is now a widow with seven children—your aunt Roane is still living and well. It

is melancholy to think that time with its desultory influence has swept from the stage of action the patriarchal republicans of your family, and that their survivors do not promise to fill up their Chasm in society in the way they did. Wm. H. Roane now of the Senate of the U. States and Mr. Ritchie editor of the Richmond Enquirer are the only Conspicuous ones among us. Dr. Roane has lately been elected a representative to our legislature to fill a vacancy which occurred by the death of a member elected last spring. Sumner is a whig, and the first of the Roane family, that I have known. In relation to our small pecuniary concerns here, I have to inform you that our Claims are in a state of prosecution, and that I was informed by our Counsel during my Confinement that he expected to obtain a decree for the sale of the land last Novr. term, not being yet able to travel any distance with ease. I addressed a letter to him some time since asking him to inform me whether he had obtained the decree, to which he has not replied, so soon as he shall have done so I will inform you on the subject. My wife and children, your Aunt and Cousin (Mrs. Claxton) desire to be most affectionately remembered to you, Mrs. Ruffin and your children. I hope you will frequently occupy a leisure moment from other concerns to let us hear from you.

I am Dr. Sir Your friend sincerely

RICHARD RONZIE.

[Address:

Haw River

Orange County

North Carolina.]

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*From Tod R. Caldwell<sup>1</sup>*

CHAPEL HILL 9th Jany. 1840.

*Honl. Thomas Ruffin*

Dear Sir: I wish to get some advice from you relative to a course of reading. My intention at present is, to make application, at the next session of the Supreme Court, for license to practice in the County Courts and I have already read and reviewed second and third Blackstone, Walker's Introduction to American Law and Stephen on Pleading. Gov: Swain had advised me to take up Chitty on Contracts but on application to Messrs. Turner and Hughes I find that that book is not to be had. It is not thro' want of confidence in any recommendations that the Gov: may make that I now solicit your advice; but because I am confident that it necessarily follows from the situation which you occupy, that you must be more intimately acquainted with what is ex-

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<sup>1</sup>Tod R. Caldwell of Burke, 1818-1874, was later several times a member of the legislature. Elected the first lieutenant-governor of the State in 1868, he succeeded to the governorship in 1871 when Governor Holden was impeached and removed from office. He was reelected in 1872 and died in office. He married Ruffin's niece.

pected of young men by your court, when they make application for license. I am sorry that I neglected the opportunity of conversing with you on this subject, when I last saw you. Beside my law studies I will be further obliged to you, for your opinion as to what other books it would be most useful for me to read. I know it to be the general opinion of law-students that it is necessary to study some History of England in order to find the source and enter into the true spirit of the laws of England to me this opinion appears to have foundation. I wish to learn from you if it be correct and if correct what History you would advise me to read. You perhaps may think that a student at College has not, after attending to his proper duties, much leisure time to devote to other pursuits; generally speaking it is so, but during the Senior year there is a considerable surplus of time after all college exercises have been performed at night especially our time is unoccupied.

You will impose great obligations upon me by communicating the desired information at as early a period as suits your convenience.

Very respectfully, I am

Sir Your Obt. Servant

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

TOD. R. CALDWELL.

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*From Duncan Cameron.*

ST. AUGUSTINE E. FLORIDA,

January 21st, 1840.

*My dear sir,*

I have not been unmindful of your request that I would write to you, or of my promise to do so. I have deferred writing until we should meet with the end of our journey—and since we arrived here, I have been so much occupied in getting my family settled in winter quarters, as comfortably as the scanty means within my reach will allow; and in replying to Letters which I found here—that I have not hitherto been able to fulfill my promise.

You have doubtless heard from the others writing from various places since we left home of our progress, and the conditions of our family, and especially of our daughter Anne.—it is with painful regret I am obliged to state that her health has not improved since we deserted Charleston. By the advice of Dr. Dobson of that city, we have come here, in the hope that this climate may prove beneficial to her—it is a delightful climate indeed at this season of the year, corresponding with the Temperature of *our finest* weather in the last of April or first of May. Whether or not she may be benefitted by it, is known only to Him, who knoweth all things. We endeavour (by his grace assisting us) to commit the result of our undertaking to his wisdom and goodness, in humble resignation to his will!

\* \* \* \* \*

The history of this ancient city is well known to you—it has a “time worn” appearance—its population is much mixed and their habits, customs and manners, consequently, various and in some particulars opposite. The Roman Catholic religion is professed by a majority of the inhabitants—they have a cathedral, and a resident Priest. There are a few Episcopalians, who have a small neat church, at present served by the Revd. Mr. Rutledge from Charleston—there are also a few Presbyterians—they too have a good church building, and a settled Pastor.

This is a military Post here and Ivey (a son of John Ivey of Randolph) is commanding officer; he is quite intelligent, highly respectable, and is a member of the Episcopal church. The Hotel in which we lodge, is filled with officers of the army passing and repassing to and from the military stations—the army is doing nothing; and they all seem heartily tired of the war, and their own inglorious position.

While waiting at Brunswick, in Georgia, for a passage to this place, I saw Mr. Littlejohn who arrived there from Vicksburg, accompanied by his sister Mrs. Atkinson and her family of children, on their way to No. Ca. From him I heard the *first* tidings of your friend Mr. Boylan and Miss Eleanor—he informed me that Montfort had recovered—, that they had gone on to Yazoo—and that Laura Burges had departed this life at Memphis. I thought *much* of them while they were detained at Ga. and was rejoiced to hear that Montfort had survived the long and severe illness he had, and that they had, after such a long and painful detention, been permitted to prosecute their journey. I suppose they cannot yet have returned to Raleigh,—if they have, or whenever they may while you are there, remember us all most kindly to them, Mrs. Boylan, and to dear, good Kate.

Remember me in terms of warmest regard to our affectionate friend Mr. Gaston. I should be most happy to hear from him, as well as from yourself, during our sojourn here.

My dear Sir

Yrs. Mo: truly,

DUN: CAMERON.

[Address: Raleigh No. Carolina.]

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To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.

RALEIGH, March 2nd, 1840.

My dear Sir./

I received your kind letter two or three days ago and employ my last hours in Raleigh in acknowledging it. It was, I assure you, very welcome,—bringing, as it did, tidings of the health of Catherine, yourself

and the dear little ones; and moreover *such* accounts of the existing and impending beauties and talents of the *phenomena!* I have, however, no more doubt than their father and mother that they will be uncommon children; at least in this respect, if no other—that they will always have a peculiar interest in the hearts of their Parents, above all other children in the world, and also be, in their opinion, transcendantly excellent. Whether they will thus shine before the fathers and mothers of other new comers of the species, remains to be seen. For my own part, I do not think it of much consequence whether they will or not, as I shall be well content if they make good christian women, walking in God's ways by being dutiful to their Parents and affectionate between themselves, charitable in their judgment of others, obedient wives and vigilant and instructive Mothers. *Then, they will* be a comfort to you, contented with the labours of life, useful and happy: which, I think, will do pretty well for this world, and give no slight augury of not being badly off in that which is to come. May God's blessing rest upon them, with all his heavenly consolations when needed.

We have just closed the Court and in the morning's stage I return home. I believe I never did so with more satisfaction; or, the rather, that I never had more solicitude to be with my family. Mrs. Ruffin has been extremely ill since I left her; and, indeed, for the great part of the period of my absence she has been both feeble and suffering. . . .

I have long wondered that you were not a fisherman. Not that I know any thing of it as a pursuit, yielding profit: indeed, I believe that often it does, but that often too it does not. It is for that reason, the more fascinating; as it has more the characteristics of a lottery; which, after all, has more charms than grave looking people are willing to acknowledge. Who expects to draw a blank—make a *water-haul*? Who does not count on the high prize?—But I am really pleased that for the present the business is so hopeful; for I never saw such a season—so warm and so calm, at this period of the year. Alice says they have wall flower, violets, persian iris, flags, Johnquills, single and double hyacinths in full bloom—peas two inches high: indeed Dame Nature has put on her green mantle of spring at Allamance. Still I should like to spend at least *part* of the *Lent* that begins day after tomorrow in the region of Roanoke—nay, or Cashie. I bespeak for you good luck in your undertaking and as many fish as you have salt to cure!

When I get home and look about a little I will try to find time to write again—tho' I hope to hear from you first and shall wish often to know how you all are and how the traffic and the net prosper. . . .

Tell Annie, that her aunt Patty and her uncle John (!) has each written me a letter and I assure her, a very pretty letter too. She must remember this and send me a long message often and also learn early to write. Jennie has written twice to me; and she may really be proud of her clever style and neat penmanship. Bless their little hearts, I shall soon see them, and I long to do so.

You have at the top a check for my salt bill.

Give my best regards to your Sister and Uncle. My benediction for Catherine and the bairns; and for yourself, dear sir, the affectionate esteem of

Your very sincere friend,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

How, if I were to send one or two loads of good flour? Please say. It is right dull in these parts.

[Address:

Windsor

Bertie County

No. Ca.]

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*From Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

WINDSOR 13th Mar 1840.

\* \* \* \* \*

Yesterday and today were the first that a rock graced our dinner table and on both you were not only remembered but spoken of. The fishing has commenced finely, as to quantity taken. Dr. A. W. Mebane caught 4400 shad the first haul this season and 600 the second, this is however better than any other person has done so far as I have heard. My net left the shore this morning for the fishing and will be wet tomorrow morning for the first time. I did not go down to see it done, as the place is somewhat inconvenient to get at, and as my partners are experienced fishermen I very well knew I could not advise to advantage. I look for several water-hauls at the beginning, as the place is entirely new and will show up some snags to the seine which the rope could not find in clearing the bottom.

An old fisherman would look with much more complacency on a new seine torn to ribbons than I fancy I could, so I stay away at the beginning and trust to more experienced nerves.

I had not made very extravagant calculations on our success, but like most persons who own lottery tickets, I too hope for a share of the prizes. We have the second fishing on Roanoke within a mile of the mouth, a fine new seine, good hands, and an experienced, sober and untiring man to manage, and therefore think it fair to calculate on a share of the finny multitude. It had been better for us, could we have had our seine in the water ten days ago, but every thing had to be done; Houses to build, batteaux to build, stands and barrels to be made and a thousand other things in order to get ready, but if any man can make up for time lost, my man Cooper can, by hard work. We are however not behind most of the neighbours as they generally began with the last two days. I will write you next week and let you know how we

get on. With regard to the flour, I think that I can get \$7 for it, and possibly more, unless the wagon's coming for fish bring down large quantities of it. I could have sold as much as you have to spare since Mr. White brought down some for me, was frequently out of the article in consequence of expecting Mr<sup>s</sup>. Sutherlands, Mr. Cain having said she would send hers to me to sell. Should you conclude to send, your fish will be ready for the wagon when it arrives at Windsor, if I have notice in time to bring them up from the fishing. . . . .

[Address: Haw River  
Orange County N. C.]

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*From Paul C. Cameron.*

RALEIGH March 26th 1840.

\* \* \* \* \*

Not being able to attend to the little commissions, with which her Mother entrusted her, she [Anne] requested me to act in her stead. The watch has been deposited with Mr. Thomson, who says it is "in very bad order": Mr. Thomson not being a manufacturer of spoons, I was compelled, to call on his *little* neighbor, of whom, no man, ever yet bought a bargain. Your spoons weigh 27 oz. and are worth \$30; for a new set weighing 28 oz. \$50 is asked? For *old* silver \$1.10 is *given* per oz. and for *new* silver in form \$2 per oz. is asked? If you wish it I can get off *our old friends* upon the above terms. But I should send them to Philadelphia, where you can get a *much better* article upon better terms.

Had Anne given me the spoons a few hours sooner and made known your wishes I would have sent them off by our friend Mr. Mordecai who will return in a day or two from Philadelphia. Let me know what you wish done.

Our Rail Road is nearly completed, cars now come daily to the Depot, and judging from the noise that we hear at this distance, the good people of the town seem well nigh crazed. . . . .

[Address:  
Haw River Post: off:  
Orange Co.]

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*From Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

WINDSOR 18th Apl. 1840.

Having finished writing my business letters this morning and finding I have half an hour before the mail closes, I will fulfill my promise to let you know how our net takes the finny multitude. We have been now

four weeks at this fishery the first of which was employed in drawing up logs, stumps and snags of all descriptions and making awfull rents in our handsome new seine.

For the last three weeks we have had ample employment for all hands in saving fish. Our late start in consequence of having to do every thing from the stump has caused the quantity of shad to be comparatively small, the best runs having gone past us, before we were ready. I was at the fishery in the early part of the week when we had 100 Blls of shad and three hundred of herrings and from what I have since heard we must have now at least 500 Blls of fish.

Could we have anticipated such success at an entirely new place and have been prepared, I have no doubt we should have now had 750 or 800 Blls. Our anxiety is now not so much for more fish as to find a good market for what we have and must necessarily get in the next three weeks.

I have been looking for yours and Dr. Webb's wagons several days. I had the roe herrings put up early that they might be ready, tho the early runs of herrings are not so large as later in the season. It was well however I had them then put up as we have been so busy since, that we have not been able to save roe herrings, it requiring just double the time to prepare a Bll of roe, it does a barrel of trim<sup>d</sup>—Flour has been scarce and would now bring \$7.50 a Bll.

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*From Thomas C. Dodd.*

HENDERSON June 13th 1840.

*Sir*

I was advised by Judge Gaston to apply to the Chief Justice for a certificate to the purpose I mentioned before leaving your presence, and accordingly I called several times in the course of the same evening but failed to see you. I was compelled to leave the next morning, and of course without effecting my object, and I hope I shall not be considered now as asking too great a favor if I request you to certify that, by virtue of the several licenses granted me by the Judges of the supreme Court, I am admitted to practice in *all* the courts of Law and *Equity* in the State, as Attorney counsellor and solicitor. I believe I do not overrate the privileges which the Judges have implicitly granted me, and an explicit statement under your hand (If I could receive it by mail in the course of a few days) would, as I think, serve me an important purpose.

With the greatest respect, I remain

Your obedt. servant.

THOMAS C. DODD.

Hon. Th. Ruffin, C. J.

[Address: Raleigh N. Carolina.]



*From William H. Battle.*

RALEIGH Aug. 29th 1840.

*My Dear Sir/*

The Governor and Council have done me the honor to confer upon me the appointment of Judge to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Judge Toomer. Lest you should apprehend that the reports will be neglected in consequence of my accepting the office, I have taken the liberty of stating that many of the cases are already prepared for the press with the exception of the marginal notes, and I hope the whole will be prepared and published in proper time.

With the highest regard

Yours etc.

WILL: H. BATTLE.

Hon Thomas Ruffin  
Orange County  
N. Carolina.

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*From James A. Long and others.*

UNIVERSITY OF N. C. Sept. 26th, 1840.

*Honl. Thomas Ruffin*  
*Sir*

We the undersigned have been appointed a Committee to address a communication requesting that you would, on the first convenient opportunity, do the Dialectic Society the honor of sitting for your portrait and direct the Artist to present his account to the Society.

We sincerely hope that you will add another to your many favors by complying with this request.

Very Respectfully

Your obt. Servants

Committee { JAMES A. LONG  
SAML. B. MCPHEETERS  
JOHN S. ERWIN.

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*From John W. Norwood.*

HILLSBOROUGH Oct. 10, 1840.

I suppose the office of reporter to the Supreme Court, will become vacant, by the promotion of Mr. Battle to the Bench. In this event, I should like to receive the appointment. My circumstances would render the place acceptable to me: and my business arrangements, would enable me to attend promptly, and faithfully to the discharge of its duties.

The communication should perhaps have been made through a friend; but I do not perceive any want of delicacy in making the application directly, as I hope I will not be thought guilty of presumption, in desiring such an office, after thirteen years service at the bar.

Not having the same acquaintance with the other Judges, as with yourself, I would be glad, if you will be kind enough, to make known to them, that my name will be before them for the office.

[Address: Haw River Orange.]

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*From Paul C. Cameron.*

FAIRNTOSH ORANGE Co. Saturday.

[Nov. 15, 1840]

Learning that my father had let Mr. Bennehan have one half of his lot of Salt, and fearing that the quantity on hand might fall short of our own wants, I have ordered 5 sacks to be sent immediately to Henderson Depot, marked T. Ruffin—the cost and Rail Road charges will be charged to my a/c. Should your wagon come to hand before this letter is received, Mr. Piper has had his orders to fill up five sacks: but should you wait until I receive the 5 sacks from Henderson, I will inform you of its arrival here—and if a *bag* is as much valued on your plantation, as it is *here* you will be the richer in 5 *new* sacks—our lot large as the number was have been much worn in hauling wheat to and elevating it into the mill. We have finished our crop of wheat—800 bushels have been seeded—and should you ever *again* come to see us, I hope to show you in the proper season, a handsome show of grain—the early part of the crop has begun to look quite green.

I am devoting a large portion of our labour to manure making: Shall shorten our crop of corn and cotton—and enlarge the tobacco crop.

I am here alone. I came up from Raleigh on yesterday—having been over-ruled by the Household, obliging me to leave Anne and the little ones behind me: . . . . I shall be in Hillsboro myself on Monday or tuesday. The legislature will do nothing until they have made the elections of Senators. Mr. Mangum is the *first choice* of all: as it is said, the victory will not be complete, until he is restored to his seat. He will be elected to the long term and for the remainder of Mr. Browns term. Judge Gaston has but to say that he would go into the service and no one would stand in his way. At the Whig caucus a number of gentlemen had friends willing to pledge for them. Mr. Williams, Mr. Bryan, Mr. Shepherd, Mr. Graham, Gov. Owen, and Gov. Swain. But if I am not much mistaken Mr. Mangum and Judge Gaston out of the way Mr. Graham is *in advance* of all others, and I am satisfied

in my mind that Mr. Mangum and Graham *will be* sent to the Senate. You will not receive the message of Gov. Dudley in any of the Raleigh Papers of this week, as I have the first copy from the press yesterday morning. I send it by mail it is more of a review of Mr. Van Burens Administration than a State paper. Mr. Battle will be a candidate for the Judge-Ship and will be elected. Judge Swain will in my opinion go upon the bench, and fill the seat now occupied by Judge Hall. I wish he could be retained at Chapel Hill. . . . .

[Address: Haw River Postoff. Orange Co.]

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*From Warren Winslow.*<sup>1</sup>

*Dear Sir!*

[FAYETTEVILLE, N. C. NOV. 28, 1840]

I trust I do not violate propriety by the application to you contained in this letter: A license to practice in the Superior Courts, by the next Spring Circuit is so important to me, that I am induced to ask you if the Judges, under the circumstances would not forego the general rule. I have in my possession a Superior Court License from Judges Harris and Chapman of the Alabama Court, before whom I stood an examination in 1838.

I had not looked at a text book for some years, and was so ill-prepared to stand a technical examination in June that I felt ashamed to ask to be examined for the higher Court. Indeed I am not prepared as I ought to be now; for altho assiduously engaged in study since I saw you at Raleigh, I have been more or less indisposed with chills and fever ever since.

I had thought perhaps, I might be permitted an examination at the close of the December Term of the Court.

The importance of the matter to me personally, will I trust excuse the liberty I take of soliciting your view upon an application.

With much respect

Your Obt. Servt.

W. WINSLOW.

Fayetteville, 28 Nov. 1840

[Address: Haw River Orange Co. N. C.]

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<sup>1</sup>Warren Winslow, of Fayetteville, 1810-1862, a graduate of the University in the class of 1827. As speaker of the Senate in 1854 he succeeded David S. Reid as governor of the State when the latter was elected to the United States Senate. He was a member of Congress from 1855 to 1861 and a delegate to the convention of 1861.

*From Nathaniel J. Palmer.*

HILLSBOROUGH, Dec. 14th, 1840.

I am on my return from Raleigh, where I have purchased a House and Lot (Mr. Stone's residence) with a view of removing to Raleigh to engage in the practice of my profession there. Mr. Stone is alert to remove to Baltimore and gives me up his business. As the office of reporter of the decisions of the Supreme Court will be vacant should the appointment of Mr. Battle as Circuit Judge be confirmed, of which there is but little doubt, I have taken the liberty to say to you that I should be pleased to receive that appointment. Should it be the pleasure of the Supreme Court to confer it on me I would endeavour to discharge the duties of the appointment *faithfully*, what I may want in ability I will endeavour to supply by industry and attention. Please mention this to the Associate Judges, if it meets with your approbation.  
Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

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*From William H. Battle to the Judges of the Supreme Court of North Carolina.*

RALEIGH Dec. 28th 1840.

*Gentlemen/*

Be pleased to accept this as my resignation of the office of Reporter of the Decisions of the Supreme Court.

In taking my leave of the court, I trust that I shall never become insensible of the uniform kindness and respect which I have received at the hands of its members and that I shall always cherish for them that consideration and regard which are alike due to their public worth and private virtues.

With the highest respect

I am etc.,

WILL: H. BATTLE.

To the Hon.

Judges of the Supreme Court of North Carolina.

From Calvin H. Wiley.<sup>1</sup>

RALEIGH Dec. 30th 1840.

Dear Sir:

I trust you will not accuse me of presumption in what I am going to ask. I am sure you will believe me, when I tell you it is not for the sake of a little applause, nor yet from a spirit *cupidus novarum rerum*, fond of innovations, but from far different motives that I make the request. I am desirous of being examined for both County and Superior Court license. I was unable to get here at the last session of the Court and had then gone over a course larger than usual. In addition to the regular course, I have studied pleadings, the laws or rules of Evidence, of *EH.O Act* and some works on Equity. I have no time to idle: by the sweat of my brow I must make my bread. In addition, there are several other advantages of a peculiar nature which would result to me if I could get both licenses. But I base all my hopes on my preparation: let me be fully examined and if found wanting I ask no peculiar favour at the hand of the Judges.

With the highest respect

C. H. WILEY.

[Address: Raleigh.]

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From J. Hoke and others.

Jan 31st. [1841]

Hon Sir

We learn from Mr. Boylan that the committee appointed to confer with you on the subject of your Portrait did not state the wishes of the Society. It is the desire of our society that you use your own pleasure and convenience in selecting the artist to execute the work.

With respect yours

J. HOKE

S. ENNIS

W. CLARKE.

To

Hon Thomas Ruffin.

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<sup>1</sup>Calvin Henderson Wiley, of Granville, 1819-1887, was at this time planning a legal and editorial career, but became famous for his work in public education. He was quite a prolific writer and was in later years a minister.

*From William W. Holden.*<sup>1</sup>

[RALEIGH, N. C.]

February 3, 1841.

*Hon. Thomas Ruffin,*

*Sir:* I received a letter from my Father, a few days ago, from which I take the liberty of transcribing the following passage:

"I wish you to present to his Honour, Judge Ruffin, a renewal of my warmest affections, for the kind and liberal manner he manifested toward you in your examination; and any act of kindness in future will be gratefully appreciated and remembered by his humble friend,

THOS. W. HOLDEN."

I have been disappointed in the expectation I entertained of locating in Western Carolina; and shall remain in the city, at all events, until I obtain a license in the Superior Courts. In case of a vacancy, may I be pardoned in presuming to ask the Office of Reporter to the Supreme Court? Being a practical printer, and engaged in the Office at which the Reports are statedly printed, I should be enabled to give to them my undivided attention; and I would most confidently, but respectfully, assure the Honourable Court, that no pains should be spared, in the event of my appointment, to Report the decisions with accuracy and fidelity, and to enhance, if possible, the typographical beauty and elegance of the Work.

I hope the kindness of your heart will pardon the liberties I have taken on this occasion.

With great respect,

WILL: W. HOLDEN.

[Address: Raleigh.]

*From William A. Graham.*

WASHINGTON CITY,

Feb. 19th, 1841.

*My Dear Sir.*

I have delayed a reply to your letter for several days in the hope of being able to send you a copy of the case you desire. The volume containing it, 4. Bibb, belongs to the Library of Congress. But it has been taken out, by some one of the Judges or Bar of the Supreme Court, and after three applications at the Library and a search by the Librarian among those likely to have it, I have been unable to procure it.

<sup>1</sup>William W. Holden was a native of Orange, but was at this time already a resident of Wake. He is one of the best-known figures in North Carolina history and was the storm center of politics in the State for more than three decades.

I send you a note of it from Pintle's Digest of the Kentucky cases published 1832, and also of another Kentucky case which is somewhat connected with it in principle. Mr. Crittenden has promised to obtain the Vol. 4th Bibb, and send it to me, the other volume of Reports, in that State and Monroe is not in the Library of Congress. If I can procure either of them, or any thing else pertinent to the subject I will forward it to you. I have looked into the Reports of several of the slaveholding states, and have propounded the question to several members of Congress who are practicing lawyers in those states, but have heard no suggestion, which I think would afford you any aid in passing on the question. I shall be happy, if in this or any other matter, my position here will enable me to serve you.

Great interest has been manifested in the argument of a cause in Supreme Court U. S, for several days past in which negro traders are endeavouring to effect a recovery of a note given for slaves carried and sold in Mississippi, the defence being that the Constitution of that State prohibits the introduction of slaves for sale. Messrs. Webster, Clay and Walter Jones argue in favour of the recovery, and Walker of Miss. and Gilpin Atto Genl against it, and all are being heard at length.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Adams with some assistant counsel from New York is sitting at the bar waiting for the taking up of the case of the "Amistad"<sup>2</sup> negroes, which will be called next. You have heard no doubt of the appointment of our friend Mr. Badger as Secretary of the Navy, as well as the other Cabinet ministers of the coming administration. The appointment is highly honorable to B., emanating entirely from the estimate which the President elect has formed of his abilities and his desire to surround himself with wise Counsellors. We have not yet heard whether he will accept.

Genl. Harrison is now on a visit to his relatives in Va. and enjoying a respite from the importunities of persons desiring office.

Please present my respects to to Judges Gaston and Daniel, and accept assurances of my sincere regard and affection.

WILL A. GRAHAM.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

<sup>1</sup>See *Groves v. Slaughter*, 15 Peters, 449.

<sup>2</sup>The "Amistad" was a Spanish schooner engaged in the slave trade. On one of her voyages in 1839, the slaves rose and killed the captain and crew, sparing, however, the lives of the owners who were on board. After a long and very remarkable voyage, she was captured by the United States warship "Washington." A series of complicated legal questions at once arose, involving matters of ownership of the vessel and the status of the negroes. Diplomatic discussion of the case with Spain and Great Britain also followed. The case went through the lower courts and finally, in 1841, reached the Supreme Court of the United States. In a decision rendered by Mr. Justice Story it was held that the negroes were free and could not be deported. See *The Amistad*, 15 Peters, 518.

*From David F. Caldwell and others to the Supreme Court.*

MORGANTON No. CA.

May 22d. 1841.

To

*The Honourable Judges of the Supreme Court of North Carolina,*

We the undersigned do hereby certify, that Mr. Tod R. Caldwell, who proposes to make application to the Supreme Court, for License to practise as an Attorney and Councillor at Law in the Superior Courts of Law and Equity of this State, is a young Gentleman of excellent moral character—most of us have known him intimately both in his social and Professional relations, and take pleasure in recommending him to your Honble. Court as an Applicant for License.

D. F. CALDWELL

J. G. BYNUM

B. S. GATHIER

A. L. ERWIN

WILLIAM W. AVERY.

*From Thomas S. Ashe.*

WADESORO July 10th 1841.

At the request of my Brother Dr. W. C. Ashe of Demopolis Ala. I address you for the purpose of soliciting your aid in an application he is about making to the Secretary of the Navy for the place of Surgeon to the Naval Hospital at Mobile Ala. He has conceived that you are intimate with Mr. Badger and that a commendatory letter from you would have considerable weight in his favour.

I am afraid, however, that you will think me troublesome and I confess I feel great delicacy in making this application, but the request has come in such a way from my brother that I cannot do otherwise than comply with it. I do not know my dear Sir what opportunities you may have had of receiving information respecting my brother's standing as a gentlemen and Physician. If you have had none, of course I cannot and do not ask your interference. Should report, however, have brought you a favourable account of him in *both* those capacities, I need not assure you that your assistance, so far only as is compatible with your notions of propriety, will be gratefully acknowledged by one who is already indebted to you for many favours.

Please accept my assurances of sincere respect and gratitude.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]



*From Duncan K. McRae.*

FAYETTEVILLE July 28. [1841]

*Dear Sir.*

I would not trouble you again upon the subject of my license but for peculiar circumstances. I have made a selection of a circuit in which I have included the county of Onslow—which promises to be my best court—The term of this court will commence the week previous to my coming of age. If it would not be improper I would request of the supreme court to allow my license in time to begin my circuit at Onslow which will be asking only nine days,—so short a period earlier than the Law suggests that I am presumptive to think the request *not improper*. My license (blank) I have left in the hands of Mr. Alpheus Jones. Should the Court see proper to comply—I would be happy to receive a reply before the 30th of this month. My Father desires his best respects to you. With warmest gratitude for your past kindness and affection.

I am Very afftly Your Serv.

DUNCAN McRAE.

*From Cadwallader Jones.*

WASHINGTON CITY Augt. 11, 1841.

Mr. Alfred Jones, from whom I learn that Mrs. Ruffins health has declined since I saw you, informs me that you wished me to write you concerning the efficacy of the waters at Fauquier Springs with a view to your taking her on to that place. It appears to me they are weak, producing no very sensible effect on me or any of my party during the time we were there—they are considered most valuable in dropsical cases, are diuretic and tonic and in conjunction with the bath are said to act pretty powerfully on the skin. I should think however that a long use of them, say five or six weeks would be necessary to produce any very beneficial effect. All the arrangements for the comfort and pleasure of the visitors are good and altogether superior to those of any watering place I have ever been at.

Judge Cameron and family left here for Phila yesterday morning. Mr. Mordecai's party and mine are to meet him at Baltimore on Monday and after visiting Harpers ferry, are to go down the bay together—spend a day at Old Point and return home by the way of Petersburg.

There is no doubt now that the bank bill will be vetoed. The president is expected to send his communication on the subject tomorrow, tho' some say he will not send it till monday. Many think there will be a blow up in the cabinet, but I have heard one distinguished member

of the Senate (Mr. Barrow)<sup>1</sup> express an opposite opinion and the views he expressed seemed to me to be very reasonable. The opinion is entertained and freely expressed that if the bank bill should not be vetoed the stock would not be taken in its present shape. A very intelligent gentleman from New York boarding in the same house with me says the Capitalists there will not touch it.

It is thought the land bill will not pass—the Senators from Pennsylvania took ground against one of the important provisions of it today (that which grants 10 per cent and 500,000 acres to the new states) and declared their determination not to vote for it unless it was struck out. Mr. Clay in the course of his remarks observed that if they did not, the bill could not pass—the amendment introduced by them to strike out was lost. I have heard other members of the Whig party say the bill would not pass. I understand the more hot headed Whigs are abusing Mr. Tyler very much—a good deal of warm work is expected in both bodies when the veto goes in—particularly in the Senate. I was gratified to observe that there was great decorum and good feeling pervading the debates to day. I had the pleasure of hearing Messrs. Clay, Buchanan, Wright, Talmadge, Calhoun and several others to day.

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[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

*From Cadwallader Jones, Jr.*

[August, 1841]

I hand you some directions which I hope may be of service in yr. trip to the Va: Springs.

At Danville you take the Turnpike which leads direct to Fincastle.

HOURS AND DISTANCES.

From Danville to Jobe Smith's.....	25 mls.
From Smiths neck, good House, Muse.....	15 "
" Muse to Franklin Courthouse (Rocky Mount)...	14 "
" Court House to Boons.....	14 "
" Boons to Big Lick (Daggs tavern best).....	14 "
" Big Lick to Fincastle.....	18 "
" Fincastle to Prices .....	8 "
" Prices to (McCartney's) good house.....	6 "
" Fincastle Sweet Springs by Prices and [torn]...	30 "
" Sweet to White—17.....	130
	144
	17
	161 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Alexander Barrow, 1801-1846, senator from Louisiana, 1841-1846.

<sup>2</sup>The last group of figures was written by Ruffin.

All the places I have mentioned are good houses—after you reach Boons gap, you will find no difficulty in getting to good houses.

Between Muses and Franklin Co House part of the turnpike is not finished—you may get out of the road unless you enquire.

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*From Robert B. Gilliam to the Judges of the Supreme Court.*

To the Honourable,  
The Judges of the Supreme Court,  
Gentlemen.

OXFORD, Decr. 27th, 1841.

I have been intimately acquainted with Mr. Calvin H. Wiley during the present year, and I have great pleasure in testifying to his high and honourable bearing, both as a lawyer and a gentleman. He desires to apply for license to practice in the Superior Courts, and I beg leave to remark that with his correctness of deportment, habits of industry and anxiety for improvement, there is every reason to believe he will prove a worthy and acceptable member of the profession, to which he has devoted himself.

I have the honor to be with the  
highest respect

ROBT. B. GILLIAM.

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*From H. L. Robards to the Judges of the Supreme Court.*

*My dear Sirs*

OXFORD N. C. Dec. 28th 1841.

It gives me much pleasure to say to you that I have practised law for the last twelve months in the County Courts of Granville with Mr C. H. Wiley the bearer of this—Who is a gentleman of exemplary morals and industrious habits. Which I hope will be proven to you by Your examination of him for Superior Court Licence.

With great esteem for you individually and collectively  
I am your obt srvt

H. L. ROBARDS

To the Honbls.

Thomas Ruffin	} Judges Supreme Court of N. Ca.
William Gaston	
Joseph J. Daniel	

*From James Iredell to the Judges of the Supreme Court.*

To the Honorable the Judges of the  
Supreme Court.

[RALEIGH, Dec. 30, 1841]

Mr. Daniel R. Goodloe<sup>1</sup> of Louisburg who is an applicant for a Superior Court License has been practising for the last months in the county of Granville, the Courts of which I attend. Mr. Goodloe is a young gentleman of unexceptionable and indeed excellent character.

Very respectfully

Your obt. Servt.

J. A. IREDELL.

Raleigh Decr. 30th 1841.

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*From Maurice Q. Waddell.<sup>2</sup>*

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Dear Sir.

HOTEL Jany 20th—42.

Your communication is received and however mortified I may be at being refused an examination at this time, I believe that the Judges have acted from the best and most proper motives, but I had flattered myself that an individual at my time of life (under the best Circumstances) with a gloomy prospect before me having to contend with difficulties pecuniary and otherwise would not have been turned away without License, but I must submit to your decisions without a murmur.

Your obt. Servt.

M. Q. WADDELL.

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<sup>1</sup>Daniel Reaves Goodloe, a native of Louisburg. He obtained his license but did not long practice law, becoming an editor almost immediately. In 1842 he became an abolitionist and was for years the editor of the *National Era*, an abolitionist paper in Washington. Lincoln made him the chairman of the commission on compensation for slaves in the District of Columbia. He was United States marshal for North Carolina in 1865 and became a bitter opponent of the Republican party in the State.

<sup>2</sup>Maurice Quince Waddell was a brother of Hugh Waddell of Orange. He was educated at the University and lived in Chatham which he represented in the legislature in 1838, 1846, and 1862. He finally obtained his license.

*From George W. Dame.*

*Hon Judge Ruffin*

DANVILLE Feb 3 1842

*Sir—*

Although personally unacquainted with you, I hope the business upon which I write will excuse the trouble I may give you. A few Episcopalians, desirous of worshipping God, after the manner of our Fathers, are in the providence of God, brought together in this Town. The most of us are poor, but we wish to have a church and as we are unable to build with our means we are compelled to do the best that we can to make the little that we have and what our friends have given and may yet give—extend to the greatest distance. We are not only few in numbers but we are unfortunate in having very few funds in this part of the Lord's Vineyard. We wish to put up our church this spring—i. e as much of it as our very limited funds will permit. We think that we can build the walls and cover them. But we want a Lot. We had expected to obtain one near the upper end of Main street. but we cannot get a deed suitable to the case—or rather we can get no legal deed made to the Land; we are therefore compelled to yield in that Quarter. We now wish to obtain your lot provided you will dispose of it on such terms as will suit our small purse. The lot we refer to is near the upper end of Main Street. and having on it a small house etc. We wish, Sir, that you would look at our want of funds. Our want of a church and the ability with which God may have blessed you and let me know as soon as you can conveniently do so. on what terms you can let our church have the lot of Land alluded to. Be so good as to take this subject into consideration. Were you an inhabitant of our state we might be tempted to ask it as a Donation, but as you are not, although doubtless anxious to see our Beloved Zion prosper, we hope that you will favor us much as possible. Be so good as to let me hear from you as soon as you can—

With my best wishes for your temporal and eternal welfare

I remain

Your Respectfully

GEORGE W. DAME

*Rector Camden Parish, Va*

Judge Ruffin

Raleigh N. C.

*From John Gray Bynum.*<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir:

RUTHERFORDTON Feb 4th 1842.

I shall take great pleasure in procuring you the book you requested and in performing any other office you may in future charge me with. I think I shall be successful on my search. The book was perhaps sent by Judge Cameron at Rev. Saml. Edny's, a son in law of Mr. Mills, who has been a preacher for the last fifty years. He resides within a few miles of the Mills Farm residence and upon the same road. He passed through the place a few days since to the Methodist Conference, and hoped to have seen him on his return, but I have been disappointed.

Mr. Mills I believe was not a preacher, though a very upright man. His father and himself previous to the revolution, held some office each, under the British Government, and upon the breaking out of the war, took the side of the Government. They were both taken, I believe at Kings Mountain, and condemned to be hanged. His father was executed and he himself, with many others was saved by the actual resistance of Cols Shelby, Cleveland and others, to the commands of Col Campbell, who was proceeding with the utmost rigor and cruelty, to hang all the principal tories then at King's Mountain until *forcibly* prevented by Shelby, Cleveland etc. After that event Mr Mills never regarded himself as entitled to the rights of citizenship and never could be induced to accept of the most inconsiderable office under that Government, which "he said, he had endeavored to destroy."

He died some six or seven years ago, and left a pretty wild progeny, none of whom appreciate books of any kind much less religious works. If the work was his son in law Mr. Edny's, he has taken care of it, but if it did not fall into his hands, I fear it is lost. I shall however, visit Mr. Edny's while at Henderson Court and search for it.

If I can, at any time execute any office for you in this region of country I hope you will not hesitate to command my services.

With the highest respect

Yr obt Servt

J. G. BYNUM

[Address: Raleigh N. Carolina]

<sup>1</sup>John Gray Bynum, of Stokes County, graduated from the University in 1833, studied law under Gaston, and became a prominent member of the bar. He represented Rutherford in the Senate in 1840, 1850, 1852; in the Commons, in 1854. He died in Wilmington in 1857.

From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.<sup>1</sup>

CHAPEL HILL, N. CAROLINA. [February, 1842]

Dear father.

I suppose you did not receive the letter, which I addressed to you, when in Raleigh, by my receiving no answer to it, and I expect that you are vexed that I did not write to you as you requested, which I did, just before you left Raleigh for home. I now wish to lay open to you my plan of future life, and *dear father* do not blame me for it, for it shall be my constant endeavour myself as is suitable to the character, which you now have gained, by hard labour and toil, for your family, and besides should you think it wrong after hearing my reasons, charge it to my head and not to my heart,—To look forward, when you shall be *no more* and to think that the name of Ruffin which is one of the first in the pages of *North Carolina* history shall sink and that my brothers and sisters shall merely be respected, It is then that I form resolutions to conduct my life in such a way as not only to be respectable, but such a profitable one, that, after *your death*, Mama, at least, shall continue in the same manner of life, as she did when you were here. This is my reason for making the following request, Viz, that you would permit me to quit college and go to sea, and do not think that I have gone over all these things, which I have related merely to deceive you, or that it is a mere fancy, *boyish and childish*, for I do assure you that I have thought over it often, *in tears* and It is my opinion that I can not succeed at the *Bar* or in the practice of medicine, and I disdain to become a *pety politician*, who can alter his sentiments according to popular caprice, and should you permit me to go to sea, I would make it my profession and endeavour to make it an honorable one, I would also endeavour to become a scholar of some renown and if God should permit me to reach an old age, I will withdraw myself from my profession and sit myself down to an instructor of the youth of my country.

The most honorable occupation of all occupations. It is for these reasons, that I make the request and if you should think differently I will lay them aside, to be thought of no more only *father* do not blame me for it. I confess that I tried to deceive you once, but forgive me for it and I will pray to our heavenly father, that he will forgive me and also to direct me in the path of rectitude and virtue hereafter. I have made the utmost endeavours this session, to correct all my vices, and I feel as if a heavy burden was take off of me, after making this session and I feel assured that it will be received with joy by you and

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Ruffin, Jr., 1824-1889, became one of the most eminent criminal lawyers in North Carolina, was solicitor, judge of a military court, and associate justice of the state Supreme Court. He served with gallantry and distinction in the Civil War as lieutenant-colonel of the 13th North Carolina Regiment.

my *dear Mama*. I hope that you will write immediately and give me your opinion on it, and Dr. Jones came very near writing to you, himself, once this session to persuade you to let me go, on account of my health but I told him, that he had better wait a little while and since that my health has improved and I enjoy better health, than I ever did in my life, and I wish you would write me word, what I am to do about his account, both for last and this sessions.

I suppose you know that body of the Hon. Louis Williams, passed through here last week, and that it passed by Mr. Foust's, if it did not stop there, we all formed a procession and marched out about half a mile with it. You will receive my report before long and I hope that will be a better one than before, on languages, but it is almost impossible for me to get better on *mathematics* for I am by nature no *mathematician*. I suppose that you know that the two Polks of Tenessee.

You will please to give my love to Mama and all of the family, and tell *Jane Minerva*, that Miss Mary Mitchell told me to ask her to set out a *Citerener* so that I can bring it down to her next session and also she wishes Mama to send her some flower seed.

I remain your affectionate son

THOMAS RUFFIN.

[Address: Haw River N. C.]

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*From Sandy Harris.*<sup>1</sup>

PHILADELPHIA March 28th, 1842.

*Dear Sir;*

You will perhaps remember the individual who at the *Rail Road Convention* at Hillsborough, N. C., several years ago, nominated you as President against Gov. Swain. The same individual was afterwards a member of your Legislature, (Colleague, of the notorious *Robert Potter* who he expelled from his seat.) This individual was afterwards transferred to the Texian Legation at Washington. After this he was taken by the Hon. Mr. Poinset, Secretary at War, into the Indian service of this Government. He is now married and settled in this city, and desires to be admitted to the Bar here. He has consulted counsel and is informed that he can be admitted *upon the same terms that a respectable member of the Bar of Pennsylvania could be admitted upon in North Carolina*.

His *Superior Court* license was signed by Judges Henderson, Hall and yourself. You are now Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State and it is necessary, in order to be admitted here to have your letter stating the manner in which you would admit a respectable member of

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<sup>1</sup>Sandy Harris was a member of the House of Commons in 1834 from Granville County.



the Bar of Pennsylvania to practice in your Courts; and also that you know nothing to the contrary of his being a respectable member of the Bar of your State or that he has never been deprived of his license. He now respectfully solicits such a letter as will answer his purposes.

For his conduct and moral character since he was licensed by you; and the position he has held in society he refers you to Robert B. Gilliam Speaker of the House of Commons of your State, Judge Cameron, Hon. Mr. Poinset and the Hon. Henry Clay. This individual is

Your obt. svt.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin  
Chief Justice of N. C.

SANDY HARRIS.

P. S. I have just seen that Robert Potter had been murdered and that the Minister to whom I was Secretary is one of the Santa Fe prisoners; tell this to Judge Cameron.

S. H.

[Address: Raleigh, N. C.]

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*From William H. Owen.*<sup>1</sup>

CHAPEL HILL, April 22d, 1842.

*Dear Sir;*

After the presentation of my respects and an expression of my wishes that this may find you in good health, I beg leave to inform you that I am an applicant for the Professorship of Ancient Languages vacant in the College of William and Mary. I make the application with much diffidence, as I am aware that I shall come before the board of appointment under several disadvantages, the greatest of which, perhaps is that I have the title of tutor only. I know the influence of a distinguished name, particularly in that ancient and somewhat aristocratic seat of learning. In order to lessen the force of the disadvantage just referred to, I hope it is not improper to apply to some of N. Carolina's most distinguished citizens for their intercession in my behalf. Of these I know of no one to whom I am more willing to address myself than to you and this for several reasons. No one of them fills a more exalted station. I have been known to you for a longer period than to any other very distinguished gentlemen in the State. You first knew me, at an early age, a deputy clerk in the office of Stephen K. Sneed Esqr. formerly of Oxford. I am known to three of your sons, and have taught two of them, and you, as I am, are a Virginian. Qualifications aside, I am confident that no applicant's circumstances ought more strongly to interest his friends. I am about 36 years old and yet, not-

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<sup>1</sup>William H. Owen graduated from the University in 1833. He was a tutor from 1835 to 1843 when he was elected a professor at Wake Forest College.

withstanding the most rigorous economy, have accumulated nothing, and have no permanent establishment in life. I have a family of five delicate females in a great measure dependent on my small salary. For seven tedious and toilsome years have I sustained myself in one of the most cruelly trying difficult and thankless offices in the world. During this time, in my humble station I have faithfully served the State, in season and out of season. I have broken my rest, exposed my person, confined myself to my post like a fixture of the college, and I verily believe injured my health by my anxiety and the severity of my labours. All this I know is sufficient to interest you, but not enough to justify a strong recommendation in my behalf. I therefore beg that I may be exempted from the suspicion of ostentation, if I furnish you with a basis on which to ground anything that you may be kind enough to do in my favor. I would premise that although my stated duty here has been to teach Greek and Latin, several of the certificates from which extracts are made were given to aid me in my application for the Professorship of Eng. Lit in Randolph Macon College. In 1838 Gov. Swain thus certifies "if a similar vacancy were to occur in the Faculty of this College, I would not hesitate to recommend him to the patronage of the Trustees" etc., etc. Charles Manly Esqr 1838 "If a vacancy were to occur in either of the Professorships of *Ancient Languages* and Literature in our University you would be a favorite competitor for the place", etc., etc. Dr. Mitchell states in 1838 "I think him well qualified by the natural endowments of his mind and the acquisitions he has already made to fill a Professorship of English Literature. He is known amongst us as a valuable officer of the college—judicious, faithful and efficient in the maintenance of order and discipline" etc., etc. Gov. Swain, 1842, says "He is an accomplished and experienced instructor and what in my estimation is scarcely of secondary importance is perfectly familiar with the character, habits, disposition and proper mode of government of southern youth". again "with these qualities, I can state with great confidence, are united much moral worth, kindness of manner and benevolence of disposition" etc., etc. Prof. Green 1842 says "Having been acquainted with Mr. W. H. Owen from his boyhood I can the more confidently testify to his worth, both as a scholar and a Gentleman. Together with an ardent love of Philological research and a keen relish for the beauties of Polite Literature, Mr. O. possesses a critical knowledge of the Greek and Roman classics and an intimate acquaintance with the peculiarities of our own tongue" etc., etc. The Honble. William A. Graham 1842 certifies "I have no hesitation in adding that were a similar Professorship to that which he now seeks, vacant in our University, as one of the trustees, I would deem the place well filled by his promotion to it". etc., etc. If the query should arise why is any addition desired to testimonials of such a high character, I have to say that some how or other I am impressed with the belief that a letter from our Chief Justice to T. R. Dew, President of Wm and

Mary will be of essential service to me—the more so because you are a Virginian, and probably personally known to some of the visitors of William and Mary.

With much veneration and friendship

Your obt. Servt.

WM. H. OWEN.

[Address: Haw River Orange Cty.]

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*From David W. Stone.*

RALEIGH N. C. May 3rd 1842.

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We had a most disgraceful mob in our town last night was a week since. Lunsford Lane<sup>1</sup> formerly belonging to Sherwood Haywood's Estate through the aid of Mr. Ben Smith paid for himself and was liberated by Smith in N. York where he settled and has latterly been about in N. Yk and the New England States begging for money to buy his wife and children which he succeeded in raising and came on to pay for them and take them on to N. Yk. with him and some of our rowdies raised a mob and refused to let him leave on Monday morning in the Cars—and he was committed to Jail by the Intendant for safety and on Monday night the Intendant directed him to be released that he might leave Raleigh that night and take the cars on the road next day to avoid the mobocratic excitement—but the fact that he was to be released at night is believed to have been told to some of the Rowdies by the Sheriff, and accordingly when he was let out about 8 o'clock p.m. there were 100 or more round the Jail who immediately laid violent hands on him carried him over in the old field near the water works and there *tarred* and *feathered* him—and some (I hear) were for hanging him—but fortunately they didn't attempt it so the poor negro was let go after being tarred and feathered. Mr. Wm. Boylan Dr. Haywood and Mr. A. Stith went in pursuit of them to persuade them to let the negro alone—fortunately they didn't find them—or I think it more than probable they would have attempted to beat or maltreat them in some way and some serious consequences might have followed. — The next day tuesday (today week) Lunsford and his wife and children took the Cars and went off and are by this time I hope in New York. Since then this mob have taken on themselves to publish a Bulletin and stick it up all about Town threatening every one that condemns their lawless acts with the "tar bucket" and a "coat of feathers" and say they are no *mob* but the "*Raleigh*

<sup>1</sup>Lane's own account of the outrageous treatment he received is to be found in Hawkins, *Lunsford Lane*, pp. 146-149.

*Regulators*" and on Saturday night last they tore down a log school house about 1½ from Town where Baily Smith and Allen Jones had got a Teacher to instruct their children—and indeed they are giving notices to several people about here to act in conformity to their wishes or notions of propriety, or they will be visited by the "Raleigh Regulators." I hope we shall be able to get some of them before our Supr. Court and that the Judges will there teach them that this is a land of law yet, and that when they set themselves up superior to the law, it is a usurpation not to be endured or tolerated in the old North State however well it may flourish in the meridian of Mississippi and some other Western States.

Judge Ruffin

Haw River

Orange County N. C.

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*From Samuel P. Hill, and others.*

GREENSBORO N. C.

June 6th, 1842.

*Sir*

It is with pleasure that we as the representatives of the Hermean Society (a Branch of the Caldwell Institute) inform you, that you have been unanimously elected a member of their Body. This Society has for its object the promotion of Virtue Literature and Science, and the course it pursues for the promotion of which objects, we presume is well known to you.

Your assent or dissent to the same is respectfully solicited.

Yours with high regard,

Com. { SAML. P. HILL  
 AUG. W. BURTON  
 I. L. DAVIDSON

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh, N. C.]

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*From Joseph C. Norwood.*

HILLSBORO 23d. June 1842.

*Dear Sir*

The Vestry of St. Mathew's Church, Hillsboro, have never been able to offer to their pastor an adequate support, and in their present enfeebled state they find it peculiarly difficult to do so. But they are determined, if possible to retain the services of their present very able and beloved minister, and in order to do so are using every exertion to make up for him a salary which will at least afford him a comfortable living. They

have only been able to do so the past year by extraordinary assistance from the Missionary fund which seems to be rather a precarious source to depend upon. And they anticipate for the year to come still greater difficulty. They find the rent of a house, which costs them from seventy-five to one hundred dollars, to be a very important item, and to take a large part of what they are able to raise, and think if they had a rectory they would be able with some aid from the missionary society to give their minister an assurance of a decent support. And there happens to be at this time offered for sale a house and lot which from its vicinity to the church privacy and price—\$700,—is very well adapted to their wants, and which they would be very loth to see pass into other hands. But as they are not able to raise the amount necessary from their own congregation they have thought it not improper to apply to a few of the friends of the church in their vicinity for aid and it is to that end that I have ventured to address you.

They submit that any aid which should be given them would not only afford temporary relief but should it enable them to succeed in their design could constitute a permanent fund yielding from seventy-five to one hundred dollars annually toward the support of their pastor. And they respectfully suggest that this Parish constitutes a ground of some importance to the diocese at large and requires for the successful discharge of its duties an able man.

Should you therefore approve their design and Please to aid them your assistance will be highly appreciated and they will hold themselves ready as they ever have been to reciprocate with other parts of the diocese when in need.

They beg leave further to state that the number of persons to whom they feel at liberty to apply is very limited and they hope to raise a very small amount from their own congregation as they are already taxed annually to the uttermost in support of their rector and to raise the various assessments laid upon them by the convention.

Most respectly, Your Humble Servt.

JOS. C. NORWOOD

for and by order of vestry.

[Address: Raleigh, N. Ca.]

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*From Bedford Brown.*

CASWELL, N. C. 25th July 1842.

I trouble you with a line for the purpose of obtaining some information in regard to the rules of the Supreme Court of this State in receiving applications, for License to practice Law.

My son Livingston graduated in Law at the University of Virginia at its late session and under a recent Act of the Legislature of that State conferring a License, to practice Law in her Courts, on those, who graduate at her University, in that branch of Study, is entitled to that privilege there.

Although, I am aware of the general rule of the Supreme Court of our State requiring Applicants for License, to attend in the first week of their session, yet I have supposed that their practice, may have been to relax the rule, in favor of Licensed Attorneys from other States and to receive applications from them, at any time, during the Term and especially, when the Applicant could not have applied earlier which was his case, the Session of the University of Virginia not having terminated until the 4th of the present month.

I shall be much obliged to you for a line in answer.

Chief Justice Ruffin

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*From Allen C. Jones to James H. Ruffin.*

HILLSBORO Augt. 7th 1842.

Dear Ruffin

Since my arrival here, I have thought of you very often and would have written if there had been any thing of interest to communicate. Our town has been duller than *usual*. Nothing has been talked of but the election, that took place on the 4 inst. and the result is so gratifying, that I cannot withhold it from you. North Carolina was claimed by the Whigs as the surest State in the Union for Clay with the exception of Kentucky, and Orange was called the pivot County—judge then of their dismay when they have met defeat in the County of which they boasted so much, as having given to the State two Senators in Congress. Yes old Orange is herself again, and Whiggery prostrate in the dust,—for the Senate Allison beat Waddell one vote, for the Commons my brother got the highest vote, Brackin Stockard and Nash are elected—Rockingham entirely Democratic, Granville 3 Dem 1 Whig elected, Surry and Stokes are also reported to have gone for the Demos. in Chat-ham we have gained one.

I commenced this last night, went into town this morning and saw Gov. Morehead on his way from the West, he confirms the statement as to Stokes and believes that Surrey has also gone for the Dem. but has [not?] seen the official returns—and in addition says he is beaten unless he has been better sustained in the Edenton district than he has been in the West.

The Legislature will be Democratic, Graham will have to walk a plank this winter and Mangum if he will obey instructions will have full liberty to enjoy *otium cum dignitate* on Flat River.

All of your friends and relations here are well. Mrs. Roulhac is keeping house in Hillsboro, Miss Alice is with her at present, the Judge is still in Raleigh, I was at Cain's during the canvass—he has a most unpromising crop of corn, the worst I have seen in the County.

I hear you have had a billious fever. I had the same disease on my way here in Columbia, was detained there two weeks by it,—in fact I was taken sick in Montgomery, but came on to Columbia without much inconvenience.

\* \* \* \* \*

I hope to hear from you shortly, if you intend leaving home in the fall, say the latter part of September and will travel as far as Nashville I will meet you there.

The Citizens of Warren are to give a great dinner at Shocco Springs to Mr. Calhoun after the adjournment of Congress—some of the leading Democrats here are in favour of his nomination for the Presidency, others go for Mr. Van Buren. I am prepared to go for either, and will certainly go to the Dinner.

I have done nothing as yet in the way of getting a wife, but intend to set about it shortly in good earnest.

I hope to hear from you soon

Yours Truly

ALLEN C. JONES.

P. S. Dr. Hill Whig is beaten in Brunswick.

	Henry	Morehead
Caswell	1109	244
Chatham	707	992
Davie		Maj 81
Granville	851	901
Guilford	418	1615
Orange	1472	1576
Wake	1185	953
Warren	730	113

[Address:

James H. Ruffin Esq

Macon

Marengo Co

Alabama]

*From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.*

CHAPEL HILL August 8th, [1842]

According to your request I write to you another letter before you leave Raleigh. But I can scarcely write for the excitement which prevails on account of the course, which the election has taken so unexpectedly. I must confess though I know that it is foolish, that I was never so excited in my life as I was on the day of the election, for I supposed that I was on the weak side, but time has shown otherwise—and I saw so many mean and low stratagems, made by the other side, I mean, the Whigs, to put us down, that I could but help to the best of my ability, to make such means of no avail, and I have just as much right to say as anyone else that I was the cause of Allison's election, for I procured him one vote and caused another man, as he would not give it to him, to throw his vote away and I also turned, by some means, Dr. Mitchell and Mr. Fetter, from strong Whigs to Democrats, though it was after they had voted for the whole Federal ticket. We have just received a statement that Gov. Morehead had lost in the two counties of Granville and Guilford. I suppose you know that Jones, Brackin, Stockard and Nash are our commoners and Mr. Allison our senator, elected only by one majority, and who knows but that one vote which I got for him was the cause of it, but to come to the truth of the matter I am neither Whig or Democrat, but a strong *Jones man* or to give him his appropriated name, I am for *little Cad*.

\* \* \* \* \*

On the receipt of your letter, I immediately went to the book store and endeavoured to get the books but he did not have any one of them, so you will please get me, as soon as he procures them a *Levizacs French Grammar* and a *Meadow's french Dictionary*. I expect I can procure the others here, or elsewhere. . . .

[Address: Raleigh N. Carolina]

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*From John B. White.*

FORESTVILLE August 15, 1842.

Hon. T. Ruffin.

Sir

The students in the Institution here often apply to me to recommend to them a course of study for entering the legal profession. I sometimes refer them to the printed course of the Law school at New Haven and Cambridge, but these are obviously more extended courses of reading than will be pursued for county practice. I am at a loss whether to



advise the reading of the Law of Real Property—such as 2d vol. Blackstone, Cruise Digest Coke on Littleton etc., or at first to pursue the Law of Personal Property—such as works on Pleading, Evidence, Contracts, Executors etc.

If your leisure will allow you to suggest a course of reading and the name of the authors you would recommend to students who wish to prepare for practice in the State you will greatly oblige me.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN B. WHITE.

[Address: Raleigh, N. C.]

*From Thomas S. W. Mott.*

DIAMOND OF THE DESERT December 10th 1842.

*My dear Sir.*

Allow me to introduce to you Mr. William Bryson, the bearer who goes to your city with a view to being examined for admission to the Bar.

Mr. Bryson's personal history is somewhat interesting, and I am induced to give a brief sketch of it with the hope of creating some little interest in his favour. He is not, as you will doubtless perceive, a man of liberal education; but was found by me, on first coming to this county, about 6 years ago, a common labourer in indigent circumstances. An accident, by which he has been subsequently made a cripple for life, rendering him incapable of further exertions in that way for the support of a young and increasing family, he was taken up by me, and in the course of a year or two so far instructed as to enable him to take the charge of a common school. In the mean time he has, by dint of great application and steady perseverance, made such progress in the study of the law, as is hoped by his teacher, will enable him to enter upon that profession. As I have not been his instructor in this department, I am not able to say much as to his acquirements. The above facts are mentioned merely with a view to showing that what ever he has attained has been under great disadvantages, and of course affords encouragement, to hope for his future success.

Since my acquaintance with Mr. Bryson, he together with his family, has been recd. into the church and has thus far proved a consistent member. It is not improbable that being naturally of a nervous temperament he may be a good deal embarrassed before the court, and thus appear to great disadvantage. I can only say that among those of us, who know him best, he passes for a person of good sense, and more than ordinary tact. It is hoped that the deep interest I of course feel in his success, will prove a sufficient apology for this long letter.

With sincere wishes for your prosperity in all things, I am dear Sir,  
very truly

Your friend and servant in Christ

THOMAS S. W. MOTT.

[Address: Raleigh N. Carolina.]

*From John M. Morehead.*

RALEIGH 17th December 1842.

I have the Honor to acknowledge the receipt of your extended favor of the 9th instant. post-marked 13th, and should have replied by return mail, but I postponed it to ascertain on what day your court will meet under the new regulation.

I am informed by my Mother that the courts meet on the 30th Inst.

Being a man of Precedents myself, I cannot but approve your adherence to them on most occasions, and am particularly gratified to ascertain your willingness to do so on this occasion.

I look upon the installation of the Executive as anything else than a mere empty pageant or idle show, at least so far as he is concerned.

Although the powers of the Executive of our State are very limited, and but little room is left for the discretionary exercise of them—which is the evidence of the excellence of our institutions, which regulates by law everything as far as it is practicable—it becomes the more important to watch carefully over that excellence.

The solemnity of the obligation which the Executive assumes when about to enter upon the discharge of his duties, is well calculated to strengthen that frailty to which poor human nature is too often a victim, and to nerve that firmness necessary to a faithful discharge of these duties.

I think there is great propriety in the Oaths of office being administered to the Executive by the highest officer of the Judicial Department, in the presence of the Legislature.

And it will be an additional gratification to me to have these oaths administered by the high Judicial Officer in the person of yourself.

My kind regards to Mrs. Ruffin, the young ladies and *Uncle Tommy*.

P. S. Like a lady, the most important part in the postscript. I expect to qualify on Saturday 31st of Dec.

[Address: Haw River Orange, N. C.]

*Tax List of Thomas Ruffin for 1843.*<sup>1</sup>

A List of the Taxable property of Thomas Ruffin in Orange County, for the year 1843.

One tract of land, situate on Haw River and Alemance Creeks on which are his grist and saw mills, a store house, the dwelling house in which he resides, with the usual plantation houses and improvements; containing 1450 acres, more or less.

The other tract of land on the south of the Allemance creek, adjoining the lands of Colo. Stockard, Peter Foust, Holmes and others, having no improvement and containing about 152  $\frac{6}{10}$  acres.

One other tract adjoining Hillsborough, the land of the late Judge Norwood, Wm. A. Graham Esqr and others, on which Judge Bailey resides: the improvements inconsiderable, and containing about 46 acres.

One other tract of land, about two miles from Hillsborough on the Chapel-hill road and adjoining the land of Hart, Pratt and others.

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*From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.*

CHAPEL HILL Jan 11th, [1843]

Knowing that you would like to hear how we are all situated, I hasten to inform you so soon as we got fixed. James is rooming with George McNeill in their same old room, which is a right good one; I am still with Fred Brodnax who says that he means to study much more than he did last session and I believe that he will do so, for he has certainly done more during these few days that he did during the half of last session.

We found them all well at Dr. Mitchell's with the exception of Mrs. Mitchell, who is still confined to her room. We also found considerable excitement amongst the students on account of some new ordinances of the Trustees, one of which is that there shall be a recitation on Saturday, this prevents our societies from meeting then as we were used to do, and will compell us to do all in one night, half of which ought to take up nearly the whole of the time. We hope, however, to get it repealed and I expect that there will be a petition to that effect sent to the Trustees. If we fail to get it repealed, there will be an end, I think, to the Societies and it will be a great pity to discontinue them after so much labour and money have expended on them. The Faculty say that they do so in order to put a stop to frolicing which takes place on friday nights after

<sup>1</sup>In Judge Ruffin's handwriting.

the adjournment of the Societies, but it will fail to have that effect for no one frolics then but the children of college, who will frolic any way, because they think that it is smart to do so. But Papa the *Faculty* are to blame for the whole of it. They admit into college children of 13 and 14 years and the consequence is that they are compelled to reduce the standard of scholarship in order to get them through. The Societies are a humbug for their members have not the sense, it can not be expected that they should have at their age, to keep them straight and there are some here really so young that they do not know how to take care of themselves. Mr Smith's carriage went by for George I heard from Hillsborough the other day and they have the scarlet fever there very badly. One of the Mr Turners lost three children in one week I have not heard from home yet and can not give you any news from them.

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[Address: Raleigh N Carolina]

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*From William Gaston.*

NEWBERN June 8th, 1843.

*My dear Sir*

A few days since I wrote a letter to Mr. Freeman, which I requested him to show you on your arrival at Raleigh, giving an account of an accident which had befallen me, and which I anticipated would put it out of my power to be present at the opening of the Court. I am getting better of all the injuries I received in my unfortunate bouleversement, and have every reason to hope that in time *all will be cured*. There is one, however, which will give me inconvenience a long time. My left foot has been violently sprained—the same which was hurt last year. As yet I can not put it to the ground without severe pain. I flatter myself with the expectation however that in the course of a week I shall be able to move about with the assistance of a crutch, and if that expectation is realized I shall be with you at the commencement of the second week of the Court. Whether I shall travel all the way or a part only of it, in a private conveyance is not yet settled.

\* \* \* \* \*

Present me affectionately to Mrs. Taylor and her family—to Brother Daniel—the Governor—and all friends—and believe me

Very truly yours

WILL: GASTON.

Ch. Justice Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh, No. Ca.]

From William Gaston.

NEWBERN June 13th, 1843.

*My dear Sir*

I take great pleasure in introducing to you my young friend Mr. Sparrow who visits Raleigh to undergo an examination for admission to the bar. He is a gentleman of excellent principles pure morals and amiable disposition.

It was not Mr. Sparrow's intention, until very lately, to apply for a license at this term. His father's calamities, (who is, take it all in all, the greatest sufferer by our late destructive fire) have induced him to seek for the earliest admission into business. If he be not thoroughly prepared, such are his habits of diligence that there is no doubt but he will hasten to supply his deficiencies.

I am enabled by a crutch to hop about a little, and am sensible of a slight and daily improvement in the injured foot. My *strong expectation* is to be with you on Saturday Evening, but it is *possible* that my arrival may be delayed until Tuesday.

Remember me affectionately to Mrs. Taylor, Brother Daniel, the Governor and all friends.

Truly Yours

WILL: GASTON.

Ch. Justice Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh.]

From Elisha Mitchell.

UNIVERSITY OF N. CA. Aug. 9th, 1843.

To Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

*Dear Sir.*

Whilst the Judges of the Supreme Court of North Carolina are expounding and applying human laws for the benefit of their fellow citizens, I do not doubt that they sometimes read God's law for their own. But every book that has in it anything of a local character, will be better understood when we are well informed respecting the country to which it relates. There may be something in the accompanying sheets that has not attracted the attention of Judge Ruffin and his worthy associates before. I beg that they may be accepted as a token of my high respect and not as an impertinence on my part. I believe all is correct now. Three errors which are not the printers but mine, have been corrected with the pen. I do not know how I fell into them, having had the true numbers in my bible, and given them to the class for many years.

I am very respectfully

Yours,

E. MITCHELL.

To Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh.]

*From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.*

CHAPEL HILL Sept. 6th 1843.

This is a duty which I know should have been performed long since. Yet I write to some of the girls, at home, every alternate mail, and I have the idea of home connected so intimately with yourself that I forgot that I was neglecting a parent, who has the first claim on all my actions.

The time has now arrived, when I begin to appreciate your kindness, in offering an education, and the benefits to be derived from one. Indeed I may say that a complete change has been wrought in my ideas of what is right and what is wrong. I have determined to be something and not to leave this world, to be remembered as one, who came into it, merely to enjoy its sweets and to submit to its misfortunes, and then to leave it, without one deed, which may have had a happy influence on some fellow being. No I begin to despise the poor wretches, who are here, spending their parent's hard earned money, without deriving one single benefit from it, but on the other hand, are contracting such habits of vice and dissipation, as will heap misery on their own heads, and cause them to be a disgrace to their friends. And here, dear father, I can not help but notice the revolutions, which have occurred in my notions concerning religion and all things connected with it. I can no longer regard it with that indifference, which I was once accustomed to do, and with which I now see it treated, every day. I can now value religion, and religious characters. This change was the effect of my associating with Joseph Huske, who was my only companion, last session, and in whose example I witnessed something so lovely, so ennobling, in a young man who was surround by vice and dissipation, in every shape, yet was able to mingle with it and to escape unhurt, uncorrupted. I could not help from admiring such a character and from entertaining hopes of reaching to such a one. The same happy effects were produced on Rob. Jones. He is entirely altered. So much so that the Faculty and students all have noticed it, he is now my only companion, and the only friend, that I ever expect to have on earth, for, papa, I never expect to see much pleasure, whilst here, my disposition is an unhappy one. The past is all one dark and unpleasant picture to look upon and I can hope but for few bright spots in that part of my life, which is to come. Yet I pray to *God*, every night, that he may give me his grace that I may prove a blessing to those kind parents, who have toiled so much, and reaped, as yet, so little benefit from their labours. The time will shortly come when I shall be forced to leave college. When I shall glide from the quiet labours of a college life, into the bustle and confusion of the world, and I begin to consider what shall be my occupation in future life, however I have resolved to leave this point to be settled by a kind parent, who is so much better acquainted with the world and its ways and to whom I know my interest is such a care. I have one request to

make however, that you will permit me to spend one year, after I shall have graduated here, at West Point. I wish to redeem my character as a student, and knowing that with my experience, I shall be so much better able to select my associates and to make better use of my time. I hope you will allow me to do so. I wish to join at that place particularly, for to stand high there is some honour and difficult, besides the course of studies is so well adapted for training the mind. I felt great reluctance in making this request, for I dislike so much to be any longer a burden to you and to tax your liberality in asking for the money requisite that I abandoned the hope once, but then I thought that I would make the request and if you did not approve of it, then I would most cherfully submit to your decision.

Gov. Swain has been very unwell for the last week and is still sick, so much so as to be confined to his room.

Dr Mitchell intends taking Robin Jones and myself out mineralizing, on next Saturday, we are going to Jones's ferry, about fifteen miles distant, it will be quite a treat to us, as we are both, very much taken with that Science.

We have also formed a private class on botany. We are making some collections of flowers and the girls, at home, are making for us, a *herbarium*. I have their book, but they have written for it, so you will please to purchase one for me, "Mrs. Lincoln's botany." Dr. Mitchell advised me to procure a Johnston's Chemistry and as there are none here, I will be very much obliged to you if you will send me one up by the first opportunity. You are very anxious to reach home, I expect, after having been absent so long. You will please to let us know when you will pass through, in order that we may see you, at the tavern.

[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

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*Richard Peters*<sup>1</sup> to *William H. Washington*.<sup>2</sup>

PHILA NOV 26 1843.

*My dear Sir*

To fill up the chasm in my life, made by my not having been appointed Reporter of the Supreme Court, I have undertaken to edit a book which will be of great value to the Country when it shall be completed, and which will call for much labour of mind, and bodily toil. The plan of the edition of *the laws* has been suggested by Judge Story, and to him I owe all its most comprehensive features. The Laws of the United States as heretofore published are contained in five or six editions, none of

<sup>1</sup>Richard Peters, of Pennsylvania, 1780-1848, reporter of the United States Supreme Court.

<sup>2</sup>William H. Washington, of Wayne. 1813-1860, a graduate of Yale and a lawyer who served in Congress from 1841 to 1843.

them complete and no edition with an index which enables those who examine them to obtain an accurate knowledge of the law on any subject. I propose asking Congress to patronise this work and I am most desirous to obtain the approbation of distinguished gentlemen of my undertaking.

In the confident hope of obtaining your aid for my purpose I send the program of the work to you, and shall be much gratified if, in the form of a letter to me, you will express your opinion of it, which I will upon the proper occasion

Could you obtain for me in *like form* the opinions of Judge Gaston, and Mr. Badger, and also of *Judge Ruffin* and any other Judicial and legal gentlemen of your courts. These letters you can enclose to our friend Rayner who will be in Washington, requesting him to forward them to me.

I have much to say to you on political matters, and that of friendship, but will do this in another letter, before your franking rights cease; now I only add my most sincere regards for Mrs. Washington, and assurances of my own esteem and respect.

RICH PETERS.

Hon. W. H. Washington.

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*From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.*

CHAPEL HILL Jan. 28th 1844

The Faculty have granted a petition made on the part of the students, for holiday, that they may avail themselves of this opportunity, for skating, which the cold weather has given us, at last. I not being master of the art am compelled to remain at home; and will employ myself in making an acknowledgment of the receipt of your letter and in returning my thanks for it, for though it was the bearer of sad news yet it was a source of great pleasure to me, for it is but seldom that I am treated with a letter from you. Immediately after receiving your letter, stating the death of Judge Gaston, I went to inform Gov. Swain of it, at his request I showed him, that part, which related to the Judge. He was very much affected at the news, and immediately ordered a cessation of collegiate duties for the day, he also called, or rather had called, a meeting of both Societies, requesting me to go up and make a motion to wear crape for thirty days and also to read that part of your letter, to the Society, to which I at first demured, thinking it not to be very delicate in me to do so and fearing to do so, with out your permission. When I stated these things, he said that he could see no impropriety whatsoever, in my doing it, and insisted on it, untill I resolved to do so, hoping that you would kindly forgive me, should it be contrary to your wishes. The students met, afterwards, en masse, and appointed a committee to request Gov.



Swain to deliver a eulogy on Judge Gaston, which, however, he declined, but referred us to Judge Battle, whom he thought would accept it, we then asked him, but have received, as yet, no answer.

Dr Mitchell is filling his ice house to-day, and I hope they are thus engaged at home. I shall certainly call on the Dr and his family, indeed, he has invited me to do so, and has been to see me, once. But now, my father, I wish to engage your attention to matters connected with myself, 'tis but four short months and I go out into the world—a man—at least with all the responsibility of such resting upon me, which responsibility has been doubled in my case, by having the advantages of a good education offered me, and I go forth determined to be a man, and if hard labour and strenuous endeavours will insure success, to have it. I make no farther promises, but to say that I feel the amount of responsibilities resting upon me and will endeavour to meet them. For nineteen years, now, have I been an object of care, and a source of expense, to you, and I feel unwilling to remain so any longer than necessary, for this reason, I wish to know, what occupation, you would have me follow, that I may be prepared to enter upon its duties so soon as I leave college, to go right from college to work is my desire. I hope you will chose for me, for never yet have I seen a parent ignorant of his child's capacities, and you are certainly more able to select than I am. As for me, I am perfectly willing to go at any thing, from the cornfield to the highest profession, anything, that you may think best, and at which I can make a support, so that I will be no longer a burden to you, from this you may think that I do not set a sufficiently high value on an education, or that I am incapable of appreciating your kindness, in offering me one, be assured that this is not so. I know it was kind in you and I am grateful and I have, at least, learned to appreciate an educated man. No, whatever may be my immediate pursuit, if I live, I am determined to rise in life, I can never be content to die as I came into the world, without honour and without praise, I saw too great an example in the late Judge Gaston, he has run a long course of glory and goodness, and he died but to be buried in the memories of his countrymen, like him I would live, like him I would die.

I hope you will not judge this to be premature, if so, however, I hope you will attribute it to my desire of getting off of your hands. And I hope also that you may be able to find time to write me, shortly.

I must not forget to thank you for noticing Mr. Huske, whom you knew to be so nearly, my friend. I assure you I look upon it as another, and by no means the least, mark of your great kindness. I had received a letter from him, in which he mentioned his having been invited, and his having been, to call on you. I hope you were much pleased with him. I have not heard from home in two weeks now, nor from any one else, but your-self. . . .

[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

From Kenneth Rayner.

HO. REPS. WASHINGTON—Jany: 29th 1844.

Hon Thos. Ruffin,

My Dear Sir,

I received your letter announcing the melancholy intelligence of the death of Judge Gaston on Thursday evening—and immediately repaired to Mr. Graham's house to put your letter in his hands. Mr. Haywood had heard of it just before me, and had gone to let Mr. Graham hear the disagreeable news. Mrs. Graham was not at home, having gone that morning to Baltimore, whither Mr. G. repaired early on Friday morning, to perform the sad duty of informing her of the death of her honored father.

The news has oppressed us all here greatly—for he was a man who had only to be known to be loved. As a North Carolinian, I felt proud of him. The sensation, which the news of his death produced here, went to show how high was his reputation for talents and for virtue even in the most distant parts of the county. The exclamation made by almost every one, on hearing his death was—"his death is a public loss—he was one of the great men of the nation" etc. The loss of such a man would be severely felt at any time, but at a period like this, when *private virtue* is so rare among the great, it is indeed a public calamity.

To you, my dear Judge, I should suppose his loss would be irreparable. And I truly sympathise with you in the loss you have sustained. The idea has frequently crossed my mind, in the last two days—will my friend Judge Ruffin ever find another associate on the bench, who will be so much endeared to him, by his high and commanding intellect, by his meek and unpretending virtues?

This dispensation of Providence is well calculated to produce the most serious reflection. In the first place, it teaches us the progress and unerring termination of man's temporal destiny. With all his honors, and his greatness, the fruits of many long years of toil, he has gone down to the grave, which is the common receptacle of us all. But in the second place, it speaks to us in the language of Hope. Although it admonishes us that we are all hastening to the same "bourne", yet it tells us that it is the Christian virtues of the heart alone that will avail us when we reach the boundaries of that future existence which is to us a dread unknown.

Please pardon the foregoing reflection, into which I have been led by my feelings.

Congress is doing literally nothing—except to debate those abstract propositions which are not likely to lead to any practical result. The session will prove a fruitless one and nothing will be done, except the passing the necessary appropriation bills.

Yours most respectfully  
and sincerely

K. RAYNER.

[Circular.]

NEWBERN, 29th January, 1844.

Pursuant to previous notice, the citizens of Newbern assembled at the Courthouse this day, to make arrangements for paying a suitable tribute of respect to the memory of their lamented fellow-citizen, the Honourable WILLIAM GASTON, deceased.

The meeting was organized by calling Thomas S. Singleton, Esq., the Intendant of Police, to the Chair, and appointing John I. Pasteur, Secretary.

The Chairman, in a few appropriate and feeling remarks, explained the object of the meeting, and thereupon,—

The Hon. John R. Donnell rose, and after paying a becoming tribute of respect to the memory and virtues of the illustrious deceased, submitted the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

The Citizens of Newbern have learned with the deepest regret, the sudden and most unexpected death of their eminent townsman, the Hon. WILLIAM GASTON. Deeply sensible that this dispensation of an all-wise Providence has brought a heavy calamity on the whole country, in depriving it of one of its most distinguished ornaments, they yet feel that theirs is a bereavement of peculiar severity. A native of our town, which has been his home throughout his whole eventful and distinguished life—the school-mate of some of our oldest inhabitants yet remaining among us—the associate and companion of those of middle age—the pattern of excellence in all the relations of life,—one to whom the young looked as the surest guide to distinction and honour,—and endeared to all by a life of spotless purity and integrity, and a devotedness to the honour and interests of our town, in all the exalted stations in which he has been placed,—*we* should be recreant indeed if we did not feel, with the deepest anguish, the irreparable loss we have sustained in the death of our honoured and beloved Townsman. His fame as a distinguished statesman, an accomplished orator and scholar, and a profound jurist, belongs to his country—she will cherish it among her brightest jewels, and the pen of the Historian will hand it down to the latest posterity.

*We*, his neighbours and companions, will bear testimony to his private virtues, his stern integrity and honour, his piety, his benevolence, and his heart void of guile or malice, which we believe never did intentional wrong to any human being. We will cherish his memory and teach our children to emulate his bright example, and to impress upon their children's children, to the latest generation, as a matter of just pride, that our town was the birth-place and the home of the great, the good, and the illustrious GASTON.

Resolved, Therefore, as a token of our profound respect for his memory, that throughout the day of the arrival of the body of our deceased Townsman, we will suspend all business, and unite in such funeral honours as may be suitable for the occasion.

Resolved, That we will wear crepe on the left arm for the space of thirty days.

Resolved, That a Committee of four persons be appointed by the Chair to make arrangements for carrying these Resolutions into effect.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and that a copy be sent to the family of the deceased.

Pursuant to the 3rd Resolution, the Chairman appointed the following persons to compose the Committee:—George S. Attmore, William G. Bryan, John I. Pasteur, William S. Blackledge.

On motion of James W. Bryan, Esq., the Chairman was added to the Committee.

On motion of S. Oliver, Esqr., the meeting adjourned.

THOS. S. SINGLETON, Chairman.

JOHN I. PASTEUR, Secretary.

[Address: Thomas Ruffin, Raleigh, N. C.]

*From Paul C. Cameron.*

FAIRTOSH ORANGE CO.

Feb. 2nd 1844.

In your letter by Thomas, you express the wish that either Anne or myself or *both* should write you. As Anne *seems* to have, but little time to give to epistolary composition, and as in fact her fingers and mind are fully occupied, our faithful nurse Mima, having been absent from our bed room, for nearly a month, in very bad health, if not lastingly and fatally diseased, her other servants being untrained and unworthy of trust as nurses of our little ones, and add to this the many jobs of needle work, she has on hand, she indeed has "no time to spare." I am alike willing and ready to acquit myself of this duty to you—and beg that you will accept this in part acquittal of my better half, until she shall feel that she is, more at liberty. And now my dear Sir—what can one have, conditioned like myself, to render a letter the source of any interest or amusement. Cut off from all intercourse with the world; seeing hardly any one but overseers and negroes and but for my evenings with my wife and children, should feel myself almost a hermit, in the midst of a multitude. In this seclusion, of late, at least more so than formerly, I drink from a fountain sending forth alike "sweet water and bitter"; I feel much the want of the society of *friends*; but I feel no

inclination to quit my solitude. Indeed Home, its inmates, a fully employed and well spent day constitutes almost my only, certainly my best sources, of pleasure. But no man can long be agreeable when discoursing about self, and I will quit it. . . . You have been called to pass through the 'deep waters of sorrow' in the death of your friend and associate "the good man and great Judge" Gaston! Seated alone with Anne, late at night, a servant delivers a letter, at our door, we are for a moment delighted, at hearing from the dear ones at Raleigh; The letter is opened, the second sentence, turns our joy into grief! We went to bed, it was long before I could sleep. I felt as *I never did before* on hearing of the death of one with whom I was in no way connected. To us *all* in No. Carolina it is a grievous dispensation; to *you* it is a calamity that is without consolation. I am unwilling to express what I fear and feel, in regard to the succession which is shortly to be filled, at least temporarily. God grant that the election may be made with an eye only to the "safety honor and welfare" of the people. You have a deep interest in it, and will I trust if consulted in the matter not withhold your wishes or opinions. Let who will put on the mantle of the good Judge Gaston it will be a burthen to him. Heaven send us a good deliverance.

We have had a spell of bitter weather, enabling us to fill our ice house, and requiring constant attention to stock—of lambs I have a few, hogs and cattle look indifferently, too much food, more than usual has been consumed—the wheat fields were looking quite green before the cold weather set in.

I was gratified to understand from Thomas that you were not prevented by cold and unpleasant weather from visiting my father and sisters, and as usual dining with them on Sunday last. I hope you will visit them as *often*, as you can conveniently. It will be very kind in you to do so; and very gratifying to me.

[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

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*From Robert Donaldson.*

BLITHWOOD Feby 6th, 1844.

*My Dear Sir,*

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 23rd Ulti<sup>o</sup>. and to thank you for your kindness in informing us of the occurrences in the last hours of Judge Gaston.

It is as you may conceive,—an overwhelming affliction to Mrs. Donaldson—and an irreparable loss to his Family. I have no doubt but that the people of North Carolina will feel as they ought his departure—for he was a true son of his native State—devoted to her interests and attached to her soil and institutions.

In his last letter to his daughter Mrs. D. he mentions the Duties of the Supreme Court—thus “To administer Justice in the last resort, to expound and apply the Laws for the advancement of right and the suppression of wrong is an ennobling and indeed a holy office and the exercise of its functions while it raises my mind above the mists of earth-born cares and passions always seems to impart fresh vigor to my understanding and a better temper to my whole soul.”

I am Dear Sir Yours

Very truly and Respectfully

ROBERT DONALDSON.

Judge Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh North Carolina.]

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*From Matthias E. Manly.<sup>1</sup>*

NEWBERN Feb. 8th 1844.

Your letter of the 29th of Jan<sup>y</sup>. enclosing the proceedings of the supreme court upon the sudden and ever to be lamented death of Judge Gaston was recd by the last mail—and has been communicated to his family.

The kind assurances of sorrow and sympathy which come to us from every part of the State (whilst they overwhelm us with a repeated sense of the magnitude of our loss) afford us next to an humble confidence in his everlasting happiness the highest consolation and will be ever gratefully remembered.

Amongst the evidences thus recd. that which you have been charged to communicate has been particularly gratifying.

Your own kind letter of condolence, coming as it does from an intimate friend of their father, is warmly cherished, and I am directed by each individual of his household to return you assurances of their gratitude and hearty thanks of their high and lasting regard. It is needless for me, I trust, to say how much I was personally gratified by the contents of your letter, or to express to you how earnestly I reciprocate all your friendly sentiments.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

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<sup>1</sup>Matthias Evans Manly, of Craven, 1801-1881, a brother of Governor Charles Manly; graduate of the University in the class of 1824, tutor, 1825-1826, member of the House of Commons, 1834-1835, 1865, 1866, speaker, 1866; judge of the Superior Court, 1840-1859; associate justice, 1859-1865; member of the convention of 1865-1866; elected to the United States Senate in 1866, but not seated.

*From Robert H. Cowan, Jr.*<sup>1</sup>

UNIVERSITY OF N. C. Feb 14th, 1844.

To the Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Dear Sir

At a meeting of the students I was appointed among the number of Manager's for the next "Commencement Ball."

It is a situation of some responsibility. The world may think perhaps that Youths, such as we are, will be unable to control, the number's that assemble on that night. Hence; That the Ladies might not scruple to attend, it has been customary to engage the assistance, of older, experienced and influential men, as "Attendant Manager's" and I have now to request, as a favor, that you will act as mine.

Believing that you are willing to promote any act of gallantry—that you are an advocate for enjoyments of so refined a nature—that you are willing also that the season of our literary labours should thus be brought to a close, I am encouraged in the hope that my request will be granted.

Allow me to subscribe myself

With high esteem

Your Obt. Servant

R. H. COWAN, JR.

Should you find it inconvenient to  
attend: Allow me at least the use  
of your name R. H. C.  
[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

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*From Edmund Ruffin.*

HANOVER, VA. April 7th, 1844.

Dear Sir.

The operation of moving a large family and business to a distant and almost unknown location (that is there being almost no previous acquaintance,) must present to your mind enough of trouble and difficulty, even if you have never had personal experience in a like case. We have had an unusual amount of such difficulties to contend with, and cannot expect all to be overcome, and that we shall be as comfortably fixed as old residents, for some time yet. However, though having to put up with some privations, we can now get on pretty well—and can, without being ashamed for their fare, entertain either in transient or long visits our friends who can make due allowances for new house-keeping. And among the earliest and the longest continuing visitors, I would especially

<sup>1</sup>Robert H. Cowan, Jr., of New Hanover, 1824-1872, a member of the senior class at the University. He was later a colonel in the Confederate Army.

be pleased to have your daughters, and any others of your family. Your children will not feel slighted, however, in my specifying yourself as the one whom I would be most rejoiced to see in my house. And though I cannot expect that, unless business should bring you to Richmond or Petersburg, in that case it will be easy, and I trust will certainly be effected. I live 16 miles from Rd; and by my having previous notice, I can easily send my carriage to the depot, meet any of you, and the whole trip from Petersburg will not be more than 5½ hours. If Mrs. Ruffin will come with you the gratification to us will be doubled.

\* \* \* \* \*

I directed to be sent to you (by Dr. T. S. Beckwith) a copy of my report of the S. C. agricultural survey, which I trust you have received. It is full of errors of the press. A supplementary report was made of some later observations made by my son Julian under my directions, and part of which affect your own state—which I will send you when I receive any copies.

We are all well—and all enjoying the natural advantages and beauties of our new farm. It is highly susceptible of improvement, and is greatly in want of. This situation of the mansion and the prospect of the farm all spread out below, are beautiful, even in the present neglected and empoverished condition of the land. I trust that a few years of marling will put a new face on the fields.

Respectfully and truly Yours

EDMUND RUFFIN sen.

My P. O. "Old Church", Hanover, Va."  
[Address: Haw River N. C.]

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*From Robert Brodnax.*

April 8th 1844.

I understand by Peter you intend going to Raleigh this week if so I should be very much obliged to you if you would see Frederick as you pass Chapel Hill and advance to him thirty dollars, he informed me a few days past that same would be acceptable to him about this time and I dont know that it would be safe to send it by mail.

I have been looking for you for sometime little thinking that you were waiting to witness the reception of Mr. Clay at Raleigh before you made your appearance on Dan River but I suppose we shall see you very shortly after your return.

There has been and is now prevailing to some extent the most distressing disease among our black people that I have ever known among yours I think there has been no death, but at Brother Traveses it has been distressing beyond conception to him particularly.



From Paul C. Cameron.

RALEIGH Wed: Morn: Oct. 1st, 1844.

I address you this in the hope, that it will find your brother James still at your house and should he have left, that you will if you can, let him know where I am and how it is that I am not at Home. . . .

I am *exceedingly* anxious to see your brother before he takes his departure for the South, and as the saying is "I will break a trace to do it."

Beg him to remain a little longer with you that I may have more time as well as you more of his company.

I do desire much, very *much*, to avail myself of his experience, and good sense in carrying out my wishes in regard to the location of our stores at the south. Without his aid I very much fear I may make a blunder.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our old friend Mr. John Hinton is said to be very low and will hardly hold out much longer—he has no Physician to see him.

Meeting with Mr. Stone on yesterday, he told me he had *just* perfected Mr. Roulhacs title to his Raleigh lot and house, by purchase from Mr. Williams and wife (who are here) at \$1375 dolls and paid them, or would do it in the course of the day.

I think it not unlikely you will have some of your Raleigh friends with you on tuesday next as they pass up to the Battle ground<sup>1</sup> of the Regulators. Messrs Badger, Manly, Miller, Hinton and Freeman I understand intend going to Orange next week. It is said a large party will go from this place and County. If I can spare the time from my domestic matters and our children should be well, it is not unlikely that we shall *all*, go up from Fairntosh.

I write with a steel pen and in great haste. Anne and the family here unite with me in best wishes to all.

Ever your  
affectionate friend

P. C. CAMERON.

[Address:  
Haw River Post Office  
Orange Co.]

<sup>1</sup>Reference is here made to a much advertised meeting of the Whigs on the battle ground of the Regulators at Alamance Creek.

*From Charles F. M. Garnett<sup>1</sup> to George W. Mordecai.<sup>2</sup>*

*My dear friend*

MARIETTA, [GA.] Dec. 25, 1844.

Judge King, President of the Georgia R. Road is with me and we have both just received letters from Gadsden, informing us of the move made by South Carolina for reaching Raleigh. King urges me to hasten what I have for some time intended writing to you on this subject. Could not something be done among you. If any move could be made there King and Gadsden both think a considerable amount of stock would be contributed from this quarter. King says he would himself take 5000\$ on the spot.

As an investment no line of railroad has even been undertaken in this country which would be more sure to pay a fair interest. And I can assure you my judgment is much more sober, certain and practical than when we first became acquainted. You cannot have a conception how cheaply a road may now be built. I am getting sills which we used to pay 40 cts for at 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> and other things in proportion. A road built at present prices from Raleigh to the S. C. line would be as good an investment as could be made. Our friends in South Carolina would promptly meet you at the State line and our friends in Georgia would help you to build your part of the great line. I beg, I beseech you to stir up our Raleigh friends. Depend upon it this is the moment to strike a blow,—strike quick and strike home.

There is not a well located road in the United States which, if it had been constructed at present prices and its debts were paid, would not be now paying a handsome interest. The improvements in the construction of rail roads and rail road machinery, within the last three years are producing a revolution in the affairs of the world greater than was ever before produced by any cause whatever.

We hear various rumors about the great mail being restored to the metropolitan line, what a *palpable* argument that would be in favor of the merits of that line.

But I need not suggest arguments to you who have made this whole subject a study for years past and whose interest is so deeply staked. I merely wish to arouse you from that lethargy which I saw had crept over all our friends when I was there. Write to me soon on the subject.

Your sincere friend

CHAS. F. M. GARNETT.

P. S. Remember me generally to all friends but most especially to your household.

[Address: George W. Mordecai Esqr.  
President Raleigh & Gaston R. Road  
Raleigh North Carolina.]

<sup>1</sup>Charles Fenton Mercer Garnett, of Essex County, Virginia, 1810-1886.

<sup>2</sup>George W. Mordecai was a prominent lawyer and business man of Raleigh. He was for a time president of the State Bank, and president of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad.

*From Elisha Mitchell to David L. Swain.*

To Pres. Swain

Dear Sir.

The paper I left at your house this evening is a slovenly thing in regard to both the composition and the handwriting. Please mention that I have been laid upon the shelf and intimate that if quite well I might have done better.

Judge Murphy in his Memoir Page 24 on Ocracoke Inlet says \*"that there are scarcely any perceptible tides in the sounds."

Wimble in the corner of his Map published in 1738 gives "Directions to sail into all the Navigable Inlets in this chart". and does *not* include either Currituck, Roanoke or Hatteras. He says of Okerecock "This Harbour serves for Albermarle Sound as well as Pamlico for all the rest of the bars shift often and are not to be trusted by those who are not well acquainted with them".

The connection between shallow water on the bars of Currituck and Roanoke Inlets and no perceptible tide in Albemarle—*except just about the Inlets* I consider to be certain.

Yours

E. MITCHELL

Saturday Evening.

\*The Judge gives the tide at Smithville from 4 to 6 feet—average 5 feet. I have supposed, relying on an European Authority the average to be six inches less or  $4\frac{1}{2}$ .

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*From David L. Swain.*<sup>1</sup>

9th March, 1845.

To Judge Ruffin

My dear Sir,

Your note of Friday was submitted to Doct. Mitchell yesterday morning, who although he had been confined to his bed for the two or three previous days, seemed willing to attempt a reply.

If the question does not lose its interest with the present term of the Court, I can venture to promise a much fuller investigation hereafter. Maj. Gwin (the Engineer) has in his possession a bound volume belonging to me, containing all the Reports of the Board of Int. Im. from 1816 to 1835, together with other matter upon the same subject. You perhaps recollect the discussion in 1820 by Fulton of the question whether Sir Walter Raleigh passed through Roanoke Inlet. Fulton

<sup>1</sup>Written on the reverse side of the foregoing letter.

and Gwinn both attempt to show, not merely that he did not, but that *he* was never on the coast of N. C. I have very strong if not conclusive evidence in McCalls history of Georgia to prove that on the latter point at least, they are mistaken, and that he accompanied Harriott, at the time the latter surveyed that portion of our coast.

I recollect the late Willoughby D. Barnard of Currituck complaining, 18 or 20 years ago, that their supply of fish and oysters, had been cut off in a great degree by the lessening and ultimate closing of Currituck inlet. I agree with Dr. M. in the opinion, that there has always been a nearly imperceptible tide in our sounds, and that there has at no time been anything more.

D. L. S.

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[Enclosure]

*From Elisha Mitchell to David L. Swain.*

CHAPEL HILL, March 8th 1845.

*To President Swain,*

*Dear Sir.*

If the enquiry relates to what is strictly and mathematically true there can be little doubt that the tide does at this time ebb and flow in the sounds of North Carolina. There is evidence enough that there is a regular alteration of high and low water on the bars of all our inlets and from those points the same effect must be propagated through the interior waters. The tide advances under the form of an immense wave across the main ocean with results that are infinitely varied. When there is a long channel growing gradually narrower the flood and ebb are both very great. All the western part of Great Britain is remarkable for the greatness of its tides. They are 30 feet at Bristol—at Liverpool they have rendered immense docks necessary to prevent the shipping from being destroyed. Sir Walter Scott says in the song:

“Love swells like the Solway, but ebbs like its tide”. The tides are greater in the Bay of Funday than elsewhere in the world, sometimes 100 feet.

On our own coast they are from four to five feet and the Atlantic wave having to act upon the waters of a large sound only through a small inlet the head with which they come being also so small, the effect upon the shores of the sounds *must be* imperceptible being meager and lost in other effects such as those of winds blowing in a particular direction, freshets Etc.

The questions which seem to me to be settled for the purpose of determining whether there was an ebb and flow in the sounds or in a particular one any given number of years since are two.

1. Is there an ebb and flow in Pamlico Sound through Ocracoke Inlet *now*? I have always understood that there was none perceptible but may have been misinformed.

2. What was the width and depth of the inlets leading into Albemarle Sound a given number of years since? In Brickells history of N. Ca. Pages 2, 3, 4, it is said 1. of Currituck Inlet: "The course over it is S. W. by W. having *not above seven or eight Foot water on the Barr* though a good harbour when you are over where you may ride safe and deep enough. But this part of the Sound is so full of Shoals continually shifting and oyster banks as not to suffer anything except Periaugers to trade through it to vessels that ride near the inlet it not being navigable or safe for any craft that draws above four or five foot at most to pass through it which renders it very incommodious for trade."

2. Roanoke Inlet. "has about ten foot and a half water upon the *Barr.*" "This Barr as well as Currituck often shifts by the violence of the N. E. storms both these inlets lying exposed to the said winds. Notwithstanding a considerable trade is carried on by the Assistance of Pilots this part of the country being very fertile and the Planters rich.

3. Hatteras Inlet. "As you come into the Inlet keep close to the South Breakers till you are over—*whereon you may have two fathom at low water.*"

4. Ocacock Inlet. "It is one of the best inlets in this country having *thirteen feet at low water upon the Barr.*"

5. Port Beaufort or Topsail Inlet. "Where you have a fair channel over the Barr *and two fathom water thereon.*"

6. Cape Fear Inlet. "is the best in all North Carolina where *you have seven Fathom water at the Barr.*"

The first two extracts appear to me to render it quite certain that there was no *perceptible* tide in Albemarle in 1737 in which your Brickells book was printed at Dublin. I am respectfully yours

E. MITCHELL.

To President Swain.

[Address: Honble Thomas Ruffin,  
Ch. J. Supr. Ct. N. C. Raleigh.]

*From James C. Dobbin to J. J. Daniel.*

June 7th 1845.

Dear Sir:

I take the liberty of introducing to you, my friend *Robert Strange Jr.*,<sup>1</sup> who visits Raleigh for the purpose of obtaining his *Superior Court License*.

In conformity to the rules of the court requiring some certificate of moral character, permit me to assure you that Mr. Strange possesses more *moral qualities* than are well calculated to adorn the profession he has assumed.

Very Respectfully

J. C. DOBBIN.

To

Hon. J. J. Daniel.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

*From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.*

HAW RIVER August 11th 1845.

I have been waiting all the evening, on John, who has been pretending to be writing to you; that I might add a post-script to his letter, giving some account of how matters stand, on the plantation, but he has just come up from the schoolhouse, when it is almost too late for me to write, and says he has given out writing, by this mail, but will postpone it, 'till the next. So I will endeavour to give you as much, as the short time will allow.

Mr. Bishop has finished ploughing the little field, above the house, for rye and wishes to know when you will have it sown, whether after the next rain. He has two ploughs running in the field opposite the barn and expects to finish them, by friday or Saturday, when he thinks of working the cotton, as it has become very foul, since the rain, of course the crop is a very short one. The corn has not been materially benefited, by the late rains, that next to Mrs. Albrights and in the pea-field seems to be most improved, as it was the least forward.

The grass has taken a very pretty start to grow and the fall crop will be much superior, to the earlier one, tho, it is now suffering for rain. I was in Hillsboro, last Friday, that night, they had a fine shower. Jesse has gone down this evening, for the sugar and nails, which have been there, for a week past. He will bring up also some peach buds, as but few, of those, which have been budded have survived the drought. Those which you sent up were all dead, when they came, so that we used none of them, but if you will send some more up, we will

<sup>1</sup>Robert Strange, Jr., was the son of Mrs. Thomas Ruffin's sister.

try again. I was at Mr. Edwin Holt's on Sunday, he is sowing his rye now and was preparing to put in ten acres of turnips, he gave me my calf, which is a very pretty one, but advised me, not to send for it, till fall. Mama is having the water drawn, from the icehouse, of which there is a good deal, three or four feet. She says she thinks you had best have a pump made, while you are in Raleigh. I suppose you have heard of the mortifying result of the Clerk's Election. Uncle John is less affected, by it, than any of his friends, not one, of his *professed friends*, in Hillsboro, supported him, with the exception of Mr. Henry Nash, and he did not exert himself, in the least, it is at least, one happy result, from his being a candidate, that in future, he will be able to discern his real, from his feigned friends. . . . .

[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

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*From Lyman C. Draper.*<sup>1</sup>

BALTIMORE, MD. Octr. 2d. 1845.

*My Dr. Sir—*

I have been several years engaged in the collection of materials for a work designed as *Lives of the Pioneers*—illustrative of the border history of Indian wars of the West. Among the number whom I wish deservedly to notice, are several North Carolinians—Col. Ben Cleveland, Colo. Jos. Williams, Gen. Jos. McDowell, and Gen. Chs. McDowell, Colo. Joseph Winston, Col. Richard Henderson and others.

Last year when in Tennessee collecting materials for my work, I made the acquaintance, near Brownsville, in the Western District, of the venerable Maj. Herndon Haralson. From him I learned, that his kinsman the late Judge Arch<sup>d</sup>. D. Murphy, of Hillsboro' collected materials for a history of North Carolina—or at least a History of the Revolution in North Carolina, and suggested that you would know whether they have been preserved—and if so, whether I could hope to get access to them. A recent letter from Nich<sup>s</sup>. L. Williams, of Panther Creek, N. C., states that Judge Murphy took notes of his father, the late Colo. Jos. Williams, and I am persuaded Judge Murphy's papers would be of much service to me in my researches; and if a letter from my friend Ex. Gov. David Campbell, of Abington Va., would facilitate my getting access to Judge Murphy's papers, such a recommendation I can at any time command.

I hope to be able, the ensuing Spring, to visit Raleigh to examine your State archives—to which, Mr. Hill, yr. Secy of State, writes me,

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<sup>1</sup>Lyman C. Draper, one of the best known of historical collectors, who gathered so much of the historical material now in the possession of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

there will be no objection, and then I wd. visit Hillsboro' and examine the papers of Judge Murphy shd. permission to this effect be extended to me.

Let me, my dear Sir, beg your kind aid and influence to procure this favor for me. If I can, at any time serve you in this section of the Union, be free to command me. Pray do me the favor to write me at your earliest convenience.

I am, Sir, with the best of good wishes,

Your friend and obedient Servant,

LYMAN C. DRAPER.

Hon. Thos Ruffin  
Hillsboro, N. C.

[Address: Hillsboro  
Orange County,  
North Carolina.]

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*From Richard Ronzie.*

ROXBURG, ESSEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
Dec. 16th, 1845.

*My Dear Sir.*

It has been my purpose and desire to have written to you long since, in fulfilment of my promise to do so when I last had the pleasure of your company, but various circumstances connected with numerous bereavements and afflictions have conspired to prevent my doing so until this time. Our mother and your Aunt whose fast approaching dissolution was apparent when you were with us, gradually declined until the 15th day of May last, when I trust her disembodied spirit entered upon the rest prepared for the people of God—she under all her sufferings was truly an example of patience—no murmurings or complaints ever escaping her lips until towards the closing scene, when mortification attacked her extremities, and even then, her patience was without a parallel. She was unable to lie down for many weeks from the dropsy in the chest, as was supposed, and departed this life in a chair as her husband did, whose exit from time to eternity preceded hers about twelve years. It will be a source of gratification to you, to know how frequently she adverted to your visit to her, and how highly she appreciated it—how often would she say, what pleasure Tom's visit gave her, and that she should never forget the respect he had shown her—feeble as she was, our Cousin's society cheered her exceedingly, they were the subjects of her frequent conversations to her last moments. We regretted that we had so little of their society with us, the afflictions under which we were then suffering likely prevented their being with us more than they were, to them be pleased to tender our most affectionate regard.



A few months after our mother's decease a brother, my only one, and a bosom friend followed her, so that I can truly say, afflictions come not as "single spies" to me,—but under them all I have had that Gracious support promised to them who trust in God; I am fully assured that He does not willingly afflict any but for their own good, and that whom He loveth He chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth". As unworthy as I am, I can *sometimes* apply these gracious promises to myself, which are as an anchor to my soul, both sure and stedfast. I trust you are all well, in the enjoyment of the comforts of this world, and the prospect of a blissful immortality in that which is to come. I was much pleased to hear through my friend Mr. Hipkins who saw you in New York, that I still retained a place in your memory, and that you had made affectionate enquiry about us—rest assured whilst memory lasts, I shall never forget your kind visit to us, and the sweet solace your society afforded us whilst suffering under a sore bereavement. I learnt from Mr. Hipkins that you visited the North on account of the health of one dear to you. I trust she derived the benefit you desired from the visit, and that God in his mercy may long spare you to each other, and to the charge entrusted to your care. My health has been very delicate during the months of May and June, so much so, that I was induced to visit a Doctor in Baltimore in whom I had great confidence in June last, and the Fauquier Springs in August accompanied by my wife and Doctr. Clopton and his. I have derived benefit I think from the visits, and am now in the enjoyment of tolerable health. A distressing drought has prevailed through this section of country and indeed through all I have passed during my perigrinations the last summer, the crops are short generally, in some places deplorably so. Our community at this time is considerably agitated by the introduction of the small pox in Tappa. by a sailor. We have taken steps which we trust will arrest the further progress of the contagion, although it prevails in several of the adjoining lower counties to a very considerable extent. In relation to our public affairs, I think president Polk's administration has so far been equal to the anticipations of his friends, and far exceeds the predictions of his enemies—the annexation of Texas relieved my mind of a painful anxiety under which it laboured to a greater extent than on any other subject of a public nature which was ever presented to my consideration. I trust she will become a member of our great family without the scourge of war as predicted by our Federal Brethren. The abolition question is exercising a tremendous influence in our Union and I fear will result in awful consequences unless overruled by that good Being who controls the destinies of worlds. The fanatical tribe who keep the subject in agitation seem reckless of consequence to us, upon whom the misfortune of owning slaves has devolved, and visit our misfortunes upon us as sins. I trust it may be the will of Heaven that we may again meet on earth, but if otherwise decreed, I hope our meeting will be in a better world than this, where

[one word illegible] will be no more, and troubles and sorrows are unknown. June and our children join in the most affectionate remembrance to you, and all who are dear to you. I had forgotten to say to you, that your relations in this section of the Country, are in the enjoyment of health, and desire an affectionate remembrance to you. I shall always be pleased to receive a letter from you.

Yours sincerely

RICHARD RONZIE.

[Address: Raleigh North Carolina.]

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*From William J. Alexander<sup>1</sup> to Frederick Nash.*

CHARLOTTE Jany 4th 1846.

Dear Sir

I presume that the supreme court have the power to appoint their clerk at Morganton and I beg leave to recommend to you and the other members of the court William Williamson of Lincoln. He is the son of your old friend Robert Williamson Esq. a member of the bar the commissioner commonly appointed by the supreme court to act in the place of the clerk in the West and every way qualified for the appointment. I will be in Raleigh by the next stage and write now to prevent any appointment being made before I reach there. I have to report that you will *never* make it. I do not like much the one term system but I suppose it was the best the west could get.

I am Dear Sir with

much respect yours etc.

WM. J. ALEXANDER.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

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*From Robert Donaldson.*

RED HOOK Jany 24th 1846.

My Dear Sir.

When you were here to Octo. you expressed a wish to have a Bust of the late Judge Gaston, and I have since made enquiries as to the expense etc. The usual price (in N. Y.) where the Artist *models* the figure, is \$450 to \$500. But as I have Hughes' Bust in Plaster, which I am willing to lend for the purpose, Frazer offers to execute in the best stat-

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<sup>1</sup>William Julius Alexander, of Mecklenburg, a graduate of the University in 1816; member of the House of Commons, 1826-1830, 1833-1834; speaker, 1829.

uary marble, 2 Busts for \$700. Judge Manly is also desirous of obtaining a Bust, and if you unite and order *two*, your purpose may be accomplished for \$350. Launitz will execute two Busts for \$600.

I shall await an answer.

We have a bracing Winter in this Hyper-borean region. At 9 o'clock this morning the Thermometer stood in the East Portico at 7 degrees above Zero. But I accompanied my little Sons in a walk on the ice of the River, which looks like a meadow.

The Grape cuttings and the Pear-grafts that James Taylor has written for, will be sent for you and for him, by the first opportunity. The children of Judge Gaston are collecting materials for a *Biographical Sketch*, to be accompanied by a few of his Speeches and Addresses, and if you have any Letters or information which could be used, we shall be obliged if you will hand them, under seal, to Mrs. Taylor of Raleigh, who will forward them to us.

Mrs. Donaldson unites with me in kind regards to you.

Yours Very truly

ROBERT DONALDSON.

Judge Ruffin  
Raleigh.

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*From Nicholas L. Williams to William K. Ruffin.*

PANTHER CREEK, 2d. Feb. 1846.

Your letter of the 25th Ult. has been read. I return you my acknowledgements for your prompt attention to my inquiries.

I dislike to trouble you again, about matters which do not concern you, but I have been applied to several times by a gentleman in Baltimore (Mr. Draper) for information respecting the lives and character of the Pioneers of this State. I have concluded that as it is a work in which we all feel some interest that you will not consider me troublesome, therefore I take the liberty of asking you what has become of Judge Murphys manuscript History of N. Carolina, which he commenced some years before his death. If I could procure that, it might furnish Mr. Draper with more information than I could collect in several years. If you know any thing about Murphys History you will oblige me, if you will let me know where it is, and whether a copy could be obtained for Mr. Draper.

I expect to be at Chapel [Hill] next Commencement, and it will give me great pleasure to call at your house. I have been persuading Mrs. Williams to accompany me at that time, but I have not yet gotten her to consent. It would afford both Mrs. Williams, and myself very great satisfaction to see you, your Sisters, in short the whole family at this place at any time, and under any circumstances.

W. K. Ruffin Esqr.

[Address: Haw River N. Carolina.]

To Robert Donaldson.

RALEIGH, Feby 3rd 1846.

My dear Sir./

When I went to Blithewood my purpose was to ask of you the favour of allowing a copy to be made of the painting of Judge Gaston, in your possession. That purpose was changed by a remark from you, that a bust in marble would cost, probably, double the price of a picture: which, tho' I possess little information upon such subjects, struck me at the time, I must confess, with some suspicion, as I should have expected the difference to be much greater. It now seems that my supposition was nearer the mark than your own; and I am much obliged by the communication of the result of your inquiries, made in your letter of the 24th ult, as it enables me, without disappointment to the artist, to say that it is not convenient or proper, that I should lay out such a sum for a gratification of the sort—great as this would be. I must therefore recur to my original and more moderate design of requesting, that the painting may be copied, and that you will do me the kindness to contract for it. I wish it of the size of yours and put into a plain gilt frame; and when ready I will give directions for its transmission. The price of the whole will be remitted to yourself with pleasure, whenever I may be advised of the amount.

I heartily wish I could contribute any thing of value to the materials for the Biographical sketch of my most esteemed and valued friend, which his family is collecting. But I do not possess them; for, although our intimacy was very close for many years, and there were few opinions entertained or sentiments felt by him, if any, which he did not freely express to me, but few written communications passed between us. Our personal intercourse was so frequent and for such long periods, that it served for all our purposes of business or friendship, and we seldom had occasion for epistolary correspondence. The few letters I received from him were upon matters of not much moment, and, if preserved among my papers, would neither elevate his character nor impart dignity to the contemplated work. There is, perhaps, a single exception: which would evince his conscientious solicitude to ascertain the true construction of the 32nd section of the former constitution of this State, supposed to create, in persons of his faith, religious disqualifications for office, as far as he could do so by the opinions of his personal and professional friends. I know he did me the honour of consulting me on the question, and we had many full conversations on it: And I am under the impression, that, upon an occasion when his son was appointed to some civil office at Newbern, he addressed me by letter and requested my opinion in writing, and that I gave it without hesitation. If my recollection be correct, that Mr. Gaston wrote to me upon the subject, *that* letter I must certainly have, tho' not a copy of my

reply; and it will afford me satisfaction to endeavour to discover his letter, if it should be supposed of consequence enough to induce you to desire it.

I shall thankfully accept my share of the pear and grape cuttings; promising to have some ready for your use, when, on returning to your native State, you may need them for stocking Blithewood the 2nd.

I beg to present my most respectful regards to Mrs. Donaldson and Miss Donaldson.

I am, dear sir, very truly

Your friend and obt. Svt.

Robert Donaldson Esq.  
Red-Hook  
New York.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

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*From J. W. Merriam.*

W[AKE] F[OREST] COLLEGE Feb. 14th 1846.  
*Chief Justice Ruffin,*  
*Sir,*

At a recent meeting of the Philomathesian Society the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resd. "That Chief Justice Ruffin be requested to allow us the privilege of enrolling his name as an honorary member of Phi Society".

Permit me, respected Sir, to offer my personal acknowledgements, and in behalf of the Society to indulge the hope that you will comply with their request.

I remain Sir,

Your humble servant

Judge Ruffin.  
[Address: Raleigh No. C.]

J. W. MERRIAM,  
*Cor. Secy. of Phi. Society.*

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*From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.*

HAW RIVER Feb. 17th 1846.

In your letter, to Mama, you express a wish, to know, what has become of me and a desire to hear from me, in person; so I have determined, to give you, today, an account, of how matters get on here and there, to report of myself; Mr. Bishop wishes to know whether or not, you are willing, for him, to plough up the piece of land, lying over the river, with a view, to putting it, in corn; his reasons, for wishing to do so, are, the sparseness of good land, in the quarter field, and the short crop, there must inevitably be, if that one field be all, that is to be, in corn; he also says, that the pasturage will be of no service, to you, as

some one is always leaving the fence down and letting other peoples stock in, upon it. he thinks he will have full leisure to tend it, as he hopes, to finish ploughing, for corn, this week and will sow oats next week, the clover he will sow, tomorrow; He also wishes, to know whether you intend selling any flour, for if so, he would advise, that it be ground up now, so that the offal may be used, in feeding, instead of corn, and not to wait, the spring, when there will be a greater supply, of food, for stock: The cattle look better than could be expected, after so much cold, but still they are quite thin, there are twenty-nine lambs, four or five having been killed, by that mischievous colt, of Pigeon's. Ma. sent the clover seed, as well as the peas and cotton, to Rockingham, on last friday, by uncle Henry, who has not returned yet. Brother William had a letter from John Brodnax, last week, in which, he said, that there had been a lot of corn, sold, in his neighborhood, that brought from five, to five and a quarter, dollars, per barrel; It is selling in Hillsborough at four and a half and with every prospect of getting higher; as then, there are, but about, an hundred barrels, in your crib, would it not be well, to purchase now; especially as you can get it, at four dollars from your nearest neighbors (Henry Albright). If you think so, I hope you will authorize some one, to buy immediately, for he has an opportunity, of selling and will do so shortly:

And now, to the more important subject (myself). After Uncle John returned, from Fayetteville, Robin Jones and myself walked down, to see sister Anne, with whom we spent, two days, but as the snow caught us there, we were obliged to get sister Anne to send us, in her carriage, to Hillsboro; from there I came home, the next day. Whilst in Hillsboro, I accomplished my tenth reading, of the 2nd volume, of Blackstone and came home to seek an examination, from brother William, thinking to make a great display, of my legal acquirements; he readily granted the favour, but we had not proceeded far, before I became very well convinced, that I had made, but a small progress, in legal attainments; after which I almost despaired, of ever making a lawyer; and so, in looking over the papers, I saw, such glowing accounts, given of Captain Fremont's Exploring expedition, and that he contemplated making another shortly, I concluded, that I would do well, to attach myself, to it, and take a trip to Oregon. As however, I was not sure, that you would approve of my plan, I continued, to prosecute my studies, and have been reading the 3rd Blackstone, which I read attentively, as I do not expect, to be able, to read it again before June, as I still have Coke, to read, between now, and that time; So much for myself: . . . . .

The overseer says, the quantity of baggin needed, is 40 yards, that of roping, is 320 feet. he has carried the cotton, to the gin, there were 7786 weights of it.

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[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

*To Catherine Ruffin Roulhac.**My dearest Child./*

RALEIGH—March 2nd. 1846.

I have been so long expecting a letter from Mr. Roulhac or yourself, that I was truly pleased to get one from both by your servant: especially as I had heard from home, that you entertained apprehensions, that the children had taken the whooping cough. I am gratified to learn, that it is so mild, and that they stand it so well. As the news in that respect was so favourable, and that about your having the disease also was so strange, I inclosed the letter, by the stage of yesterday, to your Mother; who, I know, was anxious to hear. How in the world came you by the disease at this late day? I do not remember, that you in particular had it, when you were a child; but it has been so often in the family and through it, that I could almost have taken an oath, that you had your allotted share of that plague long ago. But I suppose, I must have been mistaken.

I wish I could pay you for your letters by giving an account of performing your commission to the letter. But I have to say, that I have done much better than by adhering literally to your request to set out your shrubbery in your garden. The truth is, that there is neither yard nor garden, but every place is open to the plundering of people and the ravages of cattle and hogs; and that will be so until you come and take possession for yourselves. The railings and planking of the fences are much decayed, though they are strong enough to keep out stock, if the people would let them alone. Mr. Stone has taken much pains to attend to the place; and has had the fences repaired once or twice a week thro' the winter. But it is of no use, as by the next morning three or four planks are knocked off, and the grounds covered with beasts. Indeed, the shutter to one of the windows in the basement has been opened, and I observe evidences that cattle had been under the house. I might therefore as well have thrown your things into the street as to have set them out in the yard or the garden; and I was really at a loss, what to do. Your man, who has a wife at Dr. Johnson's mentioned his errand to him; and the Doctor, who knew the state of things as well as I did, kindly came over at once and offered to relieve me in my dilemma by having them set out in *his* garden for this year. He has lately moved to *Cookes Corner*, where the garden is large, rich, low and moist, and, in all respects, most suitable. I cannot but hope the shrubs will live and thrive there; and at all events, I hope you will be satisfied, that we have done all that could be done in the emergency. Of course, I did not request Mr. Stone to have the gardening done, which Mr. R. mentioned; but requested him not to have it done. He would readily have undertaken it, tho' he said, he knew it would be of no avail; and was not reconciled not to make the attempt until he made me promise, that I would write and say, that I concurred with him in opinion, that it

would be labour and money thrown away. He would, I believe, with pleasure make a contract with some one to enclose the lot; but both he and I think that you and Mr. R. could have that done much more to your satisfaction if you were present, and therefore that it had better be postponed until your arrival. I am sorry for the disappointment, as you will have to depend on the market for vegetables this year, should you postpone your removal to the late period you mention, and, I presume, Mr. R's affairs will not possibly admit of his leaving them sooner.

My last letter from home I enclose, except one which I sent to Anne yesterday. They are all well, except your Mother. Jane says, she has a cold; but in a short postscript by herself to a letter from Sally she mentioned, that she had suffered a good deal lately from one of her old turns. She said it made her wish to see [me] more than she had ever done; and I assure you, it had the same effect on me. I am labouring very hard, that I may go to her as early as possible; and nearly broke myself down. But the anxiety to return to her and the family and a sincere desire to do my duty faithfully and creditably, to the country, keeps me up. I feel, however, that I am getting older. I find I am am forgetting some things which I formerly knew; and that my mind does not turn from one subject to another with the same readiness and devotedness of attention that it once did. Nor am I quite as much of whale bone in frame. But I have no reason to preach premature decay; for I believe I am capable of mental or corporal exertion to a degree equal to most persons, who have gone through so much of it; tho' if I could, I would willingly do more.

\* \* \* \* \*

My best regards to Mr. Roulhac, and believe me, dear Katy, fondly and continually your father and friend, .

THOMAS RUFFIN

Let me remind Mr. Roulhac, that Mrs. Hays and the Doctor are fond of Albemarle Herrings.

We have dreadful weather here yesterday and today, and Mr. R. must not blame his man for detention on the road. It is well that he put the things in the ground on Saturday.

Write us at home, what news Mr. R. got in Perquimans about *the* dreadful affair.

[Address: Windsor No. Ca.]



From L. Roper.

PHILADELPHIA April 27/46.

Judge Ruffin  
Dear Sir.

Finding I cannot obtain the Autograph, of Mr. John Penn, I accept your kind offer, of trying to obtain one for me in North Carolina. Your Daughter, when she was here, said she thought she could obtain a letter of Wm. Hooper if she has done so, will you have the kindness to forward them to me. I am afraid I have already trespassed too much on your generosity.

I send you a copy of the Journal of Isaac Senter which has been published from the Original Manuscript which is in My possession. My best respects to Mrs. Ruffin and your Daughter. Accept my sincere wishes for your health etc.

Very respectfully

Yours

L. ROPER.

direct N. 381 Arch St.

[Address: Haw River Post Office  
Orange County North Carolina.]

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From Frederick Nash.

HILLSBORO' May the 14th, [1846]

You have, upon the subject of your inquiry, all the information in my possession. On my way from Wilmington home, I passed a night with our friend Cameron—he informed me that the time of the meeting of the Court was not altered. I remarked to him, that it certainly was, as I with you had seen the Bill—his reply was, it certainly was not so in the law as published. He had seen it, and as I understood him, Mr. Freeman had compared it with the act as passed, and there was no error. Last Sunday evening, I received a note from a Mr. or Col. Watkins, informing me he was on his way to Raleigh to Court, which he was informed by you would commence its Term the day following—the 2d Monday—I enclosed your note to him—and there it was in black and white. I saw him the next morning and told him, if I had been applied to on the 4th of the month, the date of your note, I should have made the same answer, except as to the Monday—in May—and made the statement I now do. I addressed a note to Mr. Waddell asking information on the subject—his reply was—he was under the “*impression* that it was generally *understood* that the court would meet on the 3d

Monday of this month". Yesterday I heard from him, that no alteration had been made by the Legislature in the commencement of the summer Term. Mr. Watkin's application to me was in consequence of a difference of opinion among the gentlemen of the Bar, on the subject whom he met at Yancyville. Mr. Gilmer stated positively that no alteration had been made, as to the succeeding Term as he had introduced a proviso, that the act, to that purpose, should not take effect untill next year. This introduces a new feature, in the matter. How the matter is I know not, as I have not seen the printed Statute, but from what you state, I have no doubt, the Court will meet as heretofore. But is it the 2nd Monday in June, is it not the 1st? I should while in Raleigh have examined into the matter, but as I before stated, understood from Mr. Cameron, that Mr. Freeman was as much surprised as he was, at the law, as published and had made the examination you pointed out. I regret I did not spend a day in Raleigh, to examine into the matter—but Cameron and Freeman are usually so very correct and the former was so certain of the fact, that I rested contented and now, for not writing to you on the subject—upon reaching home, I understood from Mr. Cameron that Catherine had written you, but I must have misunderstood him. Upon receiving Mr. Watkin's note I did write, but upon reflection concluded that after the date of your note to him, you had received her letter, and if not as you were of opinion that the court met on the 2d Monday of this month, which was the day succeeding my communication, would be either unnecessary or too late, and I put it into the fire.

You will have one advantage of me, in the arrangement, as the Stage passes Hillsboro, about 2'oclock, in the morning. I shall not have the privilege of shaking my good old wife by the hand and telling her good-bye, on the contrary, as the sun will be up, when we pass your house, if it not raining too hard Mrs. R. can meet you at the head of the lane and drop you a farewell curtesy—or kiss her hand to you. But more than this, Commencement you know is on Thursday the 3d of June, Mr. Polk will be here, of course you must as Chief-Justice meet him. If I am right that the Court meets on the first Monday, you will have to leave home only *five* days before the necessary time. What is that—when a President, and such a President is to be seen.

Should you receive from Mr. Freeman, by this mail, of which I have no doubt, an answer to your letter, may I ask the favor of you to let me hear what he says. I have, however, no doubt that the case is as stated by Gilmer, but that my friend Mr. Waddell should know nothing about it, is *prodigious*.

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[Address:

Haw River, Post Office,  
Orange County.]

*From Will B. Shepard<sup>1</sup> to the Judges of the Supreme Court.*

ELIZABETH CITY May 25th 1846.

*To the honourable Judges of the Supreme Court of the State of No. Carolina.*

*Gentlemen:*

Mr George Brooks<sup>2</sup> has practised in the County Courts for Pasquotank County for more than a year past, and is a gentleman of good morals and unexceptionable private character.

Your Obt. St.

WILL: B. SHEPARD.

[Address:

To the Hon Judges of the  
Supreme Court Raleigh No. Ca.]

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*From John C. B. Ehringhaus.*

ELIZ<sup>A</sup> CITY June 4/46.

*Gentlemen—*

George W. Brooks Esq. now visits Raleigh, with the intention of making application to your Honors for a license to practice Law in the Superior Courts. Mr. B. has been before your Honors for county court license and since that time has filled the office of Clk. of our Superior Court, and continued his studies. I trust that your Honors will find Mr. B. as well qualified in his knowledge of the Law, as he certainly is in gentlemanly conduct, to merit admission to all the Courts of our State.

Very Respectfully

JNO. C. B. EHRRINGHAUS.

Their Honors.

Thomas Ruffin

J. J. Daniel

F. Nash

} Judges Supreme Ct.  
Raleigh, N. C.

[Address:

Honble. Thomas Ruffin

Chief Justice

N. C.]

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<sup>1</sup>William B. Shepard, of Pasquotank, was a noted Whig leader who was in Congress for a number of years.

<sup>2</sup>George W. Brooks, of Pasquotank, 1821-1882, was appointed a federal district judge in 1865 and won great reputation in North Carolina by his interference with the plans of Governor Holden in the so-called Kirk-Holden war.

To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.

HAW RIVER—Octo 3rd 1846.

*My dear Sir./*

On the other side is the Memo of Mrs. Ruffin and myself for New York, which you were kind enough to allow me to trouble you with. My Brother remitted to you, the beginning of the week from Raleigh, a check on New York for \$400, to the care of Messrs. Bryan and Maitland:—which is on account of this Memo. At the time, I did not know what things Mrs. R. would want, and I have some fears it may not cover our bill. Should it not, as soon as I receive your account (which I beg to have as early as convenient to you) any deficiency shall be supplied by a check on Raleigh. I have furthermore, to apologize for the delay in forwarding our Memo: at least, I would have to offer an apology, if you were not already apprised of the extraordinary sickness in my family, which I found on my return home, and which has prevailed ever since. No doubt, Catherine has informed you of the death of good Mrs. Brodnax, and of the dangerous illness of Mr. Brodnax and little Travis. Thank God, Mrs. B's is the only death that has as yet occurred here. But there were many impending for days and weeks together. Brodnax was as sick a man for four days as I ever saw, to recover; and at the end of four weeks he is still here, and just able to walk about the house and ride a mile or two. His whole family have been with us most of the time; and now one of his servants is as low as he can be, with fever. B. came here sick, and the servant was taken ten days ago—the day after *his* arrival. I have had upwards of thirty cases in *my own* family. All are convalescent, I believe: certainly, all, except one. But they required constant attention day and night, and kept me and Thomas and James Sterling incessantly occupied. Thomas and I attended the Body of Mrs. B. to Cascade; and when we arrived we found the sickness of my plantation, as well as of the whole vicinity and surrounding Country, so great, that it was necessary *he* should remain. My overseer and his wife were both very ill, and three of my grown negroes. The overseer, we hear is still dangerously ill, so that Thomas is obliged to remain; tho' we understand his wife and my people are again about. I fear I shall lose most of my crop of Tobacco, for want of the hands to save it, and the skill to cure it properly. But I shall be content if my poor people should be spared. The like has never been known in our parts. In 14 years my Physician's bill on Dan River for about 40 people was \$15! Here I have been nearly 17 years and never before had but *one* case of a chill! But *this* year the whole county is a perfect hospital. In every family (except one) adjoining my land—upwards of twenty—the sickness has prevailed, and generally attacked most of the family. I have been on the point of it twice, I am satisfied; but happily and thro' prudence I escaped; and my good wife has gone thro' all the fatigue and anxiety in

safety, tho' often almost broken down. Wm. has had three or four attacks, as he will observe no rule for diet or exposure. Alice had chills and fever twice. Mr. Scott had a short spell. Sterling had a severe attack of a week, and has since had a chill or two. But I hope the worst is over—tho' we cannot be certain as new cases are occurring daily around us: including, for this week, our Physician Dr. Holt; whose case has not reached its crisis yet.

Your man, Sheppard, is now here, on his way to Grayson. He brought me a letter from Katy—saying all well. May you soon be restored to her and your dear children—all hands safe and sound.

With sincere regard, dear sir, yours truly,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

My Agents at Petersburg are "Messrs. Andrew Kevan and Brother"—I hope to hear from you from New York—possibly, getting my bill.  
[Address:

Joseph B. G. Roulhac Esq.  
Care of Messrs Bryan and Maitland,  
New York.]

[Enclosure]

MEMO. OF THOMAS RUFFIN, FOR MR. ROULHAC AT NEW YORK.

- Alpacha for a dress for Mrs. Ruffin, to be made full—a jet (and not a blue) black, of the best quality.  
3 pr. best black worsted stockings for Mrs. R.  
3 pr *best* raw silk do for do.  
1 dozen pr fine Ladies cotton hose } 3 threads—large size, for the girls.  
1 Dozen good Do do }  
4 pieces best bleached cotton shirting  
3 do unbleached do do  
4 pieces best unbleached cotton jeans—for table clothes  
1 piece linen Diaper—for napkins, for common use.  
1 piece cotton Huck-aback for towels  
3 pieces cotton sheeting—for sheets  
4 pr linen sheets, or sheeting to make them.  
½ piece of linen, for pillow cases.  
1 piece good White flannel, for the Ladies.  
2 lb No. 18 Knitting cotton.  
2 lb. lamb's wool yarn for stockings—sample sent.  
1 dozn bordered Handkerchiefs, for Mrs. Ruffin  
1 dozn do do , for Susan Mary and Jane.  
1 dozn do (not quite so good) for Patty and Sally  
6 Silk Handkerchiefs—for myself—White preferred or plain colours.  
3 dozn ground glass tumblers—shaped like Catherine's (if to be found)  
1 dozn good Buck-horn Dinner knives and forks.  
1 Dozn " " breakfast do (of same pattern)  
2 Carving knives and forks and 1 steel.  
2 pr. good large bed blankets  
5 dozn pr. good Negro blankets  
1 box (300 lbs) best loaf sugar.  
1 Box best green Tea—14 or 15 lbs.  
1 Bll Buck Wheat Flour  
1 Bll Sugar-house Molasses  
6 dozn Boxes best blacking

Robinson's Shoes—3 pr Walking, No. 5½—6 pr. slippers, No. 5½  
 2 pr do No. 5 3 pr. do No. 5  
 2 pr do No. 4½ 3 pr. do No. 4½

## For Self

4 oz Calomel  
 8 oz Pulverised Rhubarb  
 2 oz Best French Quinine  
 4 oz Blue Mass.

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*From Francis Wharton.*

[PHILADELPHIA, PA., Nov. 2, 1846]

*Sir,*

I have been requested by the publisher of the Law Journal, a copy of which you will receive by this evening's mail, and which will hereafter be sent to you monthly, to ask your attention to it as an organ of professional communication. Its object is, if possible, to publish at early periods, such opinions of the courts of the middle states as are of immediate importance to the profession; and in accordance with this design I beg leave to invite your personal assistance. Any communication or opinion falling within the general design of the work which you may do me the honor to address to me, will be included in its monthly reports, and I cannot but hope that it may be able, through the distinguished aid thus afforded, to be of permanent benefit to the profession.

Respectfully Yours

FRANCIS WHARTON.

Philadelphia Nov. 2. 1846.

[Address: Orange County North Carolina.]

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*From Edward Stanly<sup>1</sup> to the Judges of the Supreme Court.*

*To the Honble*

WASHINGTON Nov. 13th 1846.

*Thos. Ruffin Chief Justice*

*Jos. John Daniel }  
 and Fred Nash } Judges Suprm Court.*

*Gentlemen.*

Mr. Jesse R. Stubbs<sup>2</sup> who delivers this letter, has been reading law for more than twelve months, past, and I think has read diligently. He

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<sup>1</sup>Edward Stanly, 1808-1872, speaker of the House of Commons, member of Congress, 1837-1843, 1849-1853; attorney-general of North Carolina, 1848; military governor of North Carolina, 1862-1863.

<sup>2</sup>Jesse R. Stubbs, of Martin, member of the state Senate, 1860, 1864.

is a young gentleman of unexceptionable moral character, entirely dependent on his own exertions, for success in life.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully etc.,

EDW. STANLY.

[Address:

Hon. Thos. Ruffin. Ch: Justice  
and Jos. Jno. Daniel  
and Fred. Nash.  
Raleigh.]

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*From Rufus K. Turnage.*

MEMPHIS TENNESSEE,

November 16th 1846.

*Dear Sir/*

Your esteemed favour of——Covering important documents from the Secy. of State of your state, was received sometime since, the only appology which I can offer for the delay of which I have been guilty is the press of business and almost a continued absence from home during the time which has elapsed. Allow me however upon the present occasion to return to you my thanks for the favour which you have done me and to hope that at some period I may be permitted to reciprocate the same.

I will take occasion to correct an error into which you were led doubtless by my letter to you, which however was unintentional on my part, and although it is a subject on which I delight to meditate, still it is not without pain and regret that I am ever called upon to communicate it to others, or to write about it at all. I informed you that I married the daughter of your kinsman, Majr. James Ruffin of Panola County Mississippi, which is so. I married Mary Roane, his 4th daughter on the 5th of September 1838 who was then in her 18th year and I in my 22nd. We commenced life with fair prospects of happiness which seemed to promise all that our fond hearts could desire. But alas! How allusory, how transitory and how fleeting are all thing here. I could as I thought look forward upon the bright pathway which seemed to present itself to my gaze in the future with unsullied delight; possessing the love and confidence of one of so dignified, beautiful, amiable, accomplished and pure, our very existence seemingly being perfectly entwined and interwoven in each others, and then to crown all at the close of the year we were blessed with a dear, a lovely little girl; (whom I call Lucy Ruffin) amid all those prospects of happiness, how soon may the whole fabric reel, totter, and fall, and is buried in the dust, 'tis to me a bitter cup, but I have been compelled to drink it to the very dregs. My Mary is no more, she died of Consumption on the 31st of

March A. D. 1845, in this City, being at that date 24 years 10 mos and 17 days old. I have seen her enjoy herself in the happiness of her girlhood, and afterwards in the enjoyment of her family and friends, and in discharging the various duties of wife, child, sister, mother, friend, and her duties to God, all of which she did to an eminent degree; but all other enjoyment and pleasurable delight which I had seen play so vividly on her countenance, and flash forth with mute though thrilling eloquence from those soft blue orbs, dwindled into insignificance compared with the ineffible delight with which she met and conquered the monster death, she was truly happy, and although on some subjects I am disposed to be skeptical, I have no doubt of the immortality of the soul, and that while I am penning these lines she is enjoying a blessed immortality. I will only add that her death made a deep impression on all her friends, but there was none who felt it as I have done.

I will endeavour in compliance with your request to give you a condensed sketch of Majr. R. and his family, he had by his first wife (who was Miss Dandridge, nine children. Seven daughters and 2 sons.

Lucy Ann, the eldest married in 1834, to Mr. C. W. Hunt who resides at present in Hardeman County in this state, has 6 children, (Mr. H. is making a fortune fast) her health is not very good however being rather predisposed to consumption.

#### JAMES FRANCIS

Was raised up to the law, married a Miss Wood of Va., in 1830, and was securing a fine practice, his health became delicate in 1841, he made a trip to the Island of Cuba, by which he had partially regained his usual health, on his return he relapsed and after a long protracted indisposition breathed his last on the 21st of November, 1845. I loved him as a brother, he was an honest man and a more perfect gentleman I have never known, he left four children, his family are in independent Circumstances.

#### ROSANNA,

Married James D. only son of Wm. Ruffin, and of course first cousin. James is doing well and resides a few miles from Majr. J. R. he makes from 150 to 200 Bales Cotton per annum.

#### MARIA AGNES,

Married Mr. Edwin H. Price, of this place—1836. She has 3 children all girls. Mr. P. died on the 24th of April 1845, but left a competency for his family. Mrs. P. resides near her farther. I will only say in relation to Mr. Price, that he was my friend in the most liberal acceptation of the term, and died lamented by all, the loss to his family is irreparable.



ELIZA DANDRIDGE,

was married in April last to Dr. John P. Wallace of Panola County Miss, with whom you are partially acquainted, he is a gentleman of high standing in the country where he resides, though my acquaintance is not sufficiently extended to say any thing from my own knowledge of him, he is considered wealthy.

WILLIAM D. RUFFIN

Is now about 20 years of age, and resides with his Farther and is a young man of some promise.

Cornelia and Ellen, are about 13 and 11 years of age, will be intellectual and pretty.

Mary Roane, I have spoken of already. My Lue is at her grand-fathers. She is now just entering her 7th year. I have her at a fine school, she reads well, and is progressing as rapidly as I desire for her age. I shall let her remain in the country untill she is 10 or 11 years of age. I shall then place her here at the Institute. My intention is to keep her at school until she is 16. I shall then if I live, travel with her for 2 years. I have a great desire to make her a very accomplished woman. I think she will be beautiful, though it is difficult to tell at her age. All my hopes and fears are concentrated in her.

Mrs. Ruffin, Maj. R's first wife died in 1839, he married agin in 1840, he has no child by his last marriage. He is doing well and though his health is rather delicate he still retains that bouyancy of spirit which has ever characterized him, and for him and his family I entertain the very highest regards.

Mr. William Ruffin resides at Somerville T. he is doing very well, his family were well when I was at his house about 10 days since. Mrs. Kenny resides about 20 miles from this place, her health is delicate, and I am of opinion she cannot live a great while. Mr. K. is in very independent circumstances.

I am, authorized and requested by your relatives here to present them kindly and affectionately to yourself and family and permit me further to say that they were highly pleased to hear from you. I visit Maj. R's about 4 times a year, as a part of my Circuit extends down there. I make my arrangements to spend some 10 days each time. I am always happy when the time arrives, for it is only on such occasions that I feel that I am going home, (in other words no other place now seems like home to me).

It will afford me great pleasure to hear from you, at any time when you can find Convenience to do so. I hope to be able to visit Raleigh and Hillsborough this winter if I can spare time on some business, if not I shall do so in the summer and will do myself the pleasure of calling to see you, if I mistake not Hillsboro is the seat of justice for your county. Will you do me the favour to furnish me with all the information of which you are in possession in relation to the Rice family, and

particularly Joel Rice, and his heirs. Joel is in all probability dead. he must have been over 21 years old in 1795. I think he was the brother of John Rice, the granter of the tract of land specified in the Copy of the grant you sent me, had he any sisters, and if so, did they marry, and to whom.

If I can serve any friend of yours in any way in this country you may command me. Present me respectfully to your family and accept for yourself my best wishes.

I am Dr. Sir, with Sentiments  
of the highest respect,  
Your Friend and obt. Sert.

RUFUS K. TURNAGE.

N. B. I enclose you \$8— the amount of fees as marked in the papers sent me, and paid by you to Mr. Hill, secy etc.

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*From Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

RALEIGH Nov. 20th 1846.

You will perceive by the proclamation of the Govr. that the Regiment of Volunteers who came forward last Spring are now called on, but under a very different requisition from that under which the men came forward and volunteered.

I trust Thomas who I cannot think intended to *enlist* for the war or any other indefinite period, will now withdraw, as I think he or any other volunteer can honorably do, if they think proper. I write in haste this morning to give Thomas time for reflection and advice, before he is called on for his action in the premises. We are all well, and yesterday recd. yours to Mrs. Ruffin. Kate and the boy both elicit the admiration of all visitors, the former for her good looks and sweetness and the little fellow for his uncommon infantile beauty etc.

Say to Thomas from me that I should not, were I his age, and every way in his position, think of enlisting as a common soldier under any hardly conceivable circumstances, for an indefinite period. And though I would not have him do any thing to lesson his own self respect, yet under these circumstances I think a proper appreciation of himself requires him to walk out of the scrape into which the secretary of war would draw him and others.

[Address: Haw River N. C.]

*From James R. Dodge.*

RALEIGH, Dec. 3, 1846.

As the Bill to establish a Supreme Court at Morganton, a Branch of the present is now before the Houses and will probably pass, if you think I could perform the duties of Clerk to your Satisfaction, I would be truly thankful for the appointment. I am getting old and feel unable to struggle as I must do and have done.

[Address: Haw River N. C.]

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*From James R. Dodge.*

RALEIGH 10 Dec. 1846.

I received your kind letter today and as you are not satisfied that I am getting old, I must try another reason why I "bespoke" as you say the office, but that in its order. I am not fond of quizzing and much as I love and always shall love an innocent jest, I never indulged in that species of wit farther than to heighten innocent enjoyment for the moment.

The Bill has passed both Houses and is now no jest. The reason I wrote you so soon was that you should have my name before you when other applications were made. I was not consulted about the Bill in any way, it was introduced entirely unexpected by me, and I do not know but suppose the fathers of the Bill have their eye upon some other person for Clerk. My reason for wishing the office is—that my family needs respectable support and so far they have had it. Since the sale of my property at Lincoln my Income has been rather precarious but it has been enough for support. I have no faculty of exacting fees for my services, and having a constitutional repugnance to devoting myself to the Law as I ought in order to insure success, I feel that I shall never reach that station in the profession, which I am capable of reaching by application. Now this office will be highly respectable and worth more than my practice as a lawyer, altho not a great deal—the ordinary duties of a clerk I know I can discharge well, and I have a perfect passion for investigating accounts, and some skill in it. I do not mind labor to any extent of that kind and never shall grow old at it,—but I am totally unfit to struggle for practice as it is now carried on on the circuits.

I am not sure that the present Bill will not have the effect of destroying all opposition to the present system of the Supreme Court, a system which has my most cordial support. When you appear in the West all prejudice will be dissipated—by the By most of the prejudice in my opinion has its origin in Raleigh, and is fostered by the opinions and the neglect of some of the Lawyers here. I am satisfied one term of your Court in Morganton will make the whole west not only friends to the

system but they will hail you as part of them. There is a project introduced to divide the State into nine circuits and to compel the Judges of the Supreme Court to ride with the other judges, as the first result of this court at the West you will find that when that bill comes up it will be killed at once.

And now Sir I only repeat that it is very important for me to get the clerkship.

[Address: Haw River  
Orange Cty. N. C.]

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*From Tod R. Caldwell.*

RALEIGH 15th Decr. 1846.

*My Dear Sir.*

Upon my arrival in this place on last evening, I learned that the Legislature had just passed a Bill establishing a Branch of the Supreme Court at Morganton and that a Clerk for that Branch of the Court has to be appointed in the western part of the State. My object in writing to you now is to inform you that I am an applicant for that office and that I shall feel very much obliged to you if you can consistently with yr. feelings and your duty give me your aid in procuring the appointment. I could, if I deemed it at all important, get a recommendation from the members of the Bar in the Western part of the State, but this I think unnecessary as you and Judge Nash are both pretty well acquainted with me; and that as you well know that recommendations have become mere "matters of course" and almost any person can get them. . . . .

Yours most Truly  
TOD R. CALDWELL.

Honl. Thomas Ruffin.  
[Address: Haw River  
Orange County N. C.]

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*From Edward J. Erwin to Frederick Nash.*

MORGANTON Decr. 23d, 1846.

*Dear Sir,*

I see by the last Register that a bill has passed the Legislature establishing a branch of the Supreme Court at Morganton, and the appointment of Clerk is given to the Judges. I wish to place my name before you for that appointment. And I hope it will meet with your approbation. I could, were it necessary, procure a recommendation from the entire Bar and the Citizens of Morganton and County.

I wrote to Colo. Gaither requesting him to present my name and claims before the Judges in case the bill should become a Law.

I intend removing to Town in the Spring and it would suit me to have the Clerkship.

One reason, and the only one I have, is the embarrassed state of my affairs. I am in debt and have no way to get out. This state of things has been brought about by Securityship.

I refer you to Messrs. Gaither, Erwin, McKesson and Avery. Please inform the other Judges of my application.

Yours Respectfully

E. J. ERWIN.

[Address: Hon. F. Nash  
Raleigh, No: Ca:]

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*From R. B. Gilliam and others.*

The undersigned take pleasure in recommending to the favorable consideration of the Judges of the Supreme Court, Edward Jones Erwin, as a gentleman every way qualified to fill the office of Clerk of the Supreme Court at Morganton.

January 12th 1847.

ROB. B. GILLIAM  
K. RAYNER  
S. F. PATTERSON  
C. MELCHOR  
COLUMBUS MILLS  
WM. F. JONES  
RUFUS REID  
JO. M. BOYLE  
DANL. WARD.  
NATHL. H. STREET.

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*From James R. Dodge to Edward B. Freeman.*

*My Dear Freeman.*

AT HOME 26 Jany 1847.

I arrived safely at home and found all well and in fine Spirits especially at the reasonably fair prospect I have of getting the Clerkship. We have had the matter discussed between my wife and myself and in full family Divan. And it is perfectly understood that the removing to Morganton is to be no obstacle, if the appointment is conferred upon me. I will go up to Morganton in April and make arrangement for my family going up there in the Summer in June I will join you at Raleigh and study under you for a month and aid you in pre-

paring the cases for Morganton and on my return my family will accompany me to Morganton and during the summer we will make such arrangements as prudence will dictate, however we may arrange our affairs I perfectly understand that it is the wish of the court that my time is to be devoted to the office at Morganton, and if from any cause Susan should be unwilling to remain there, for some unkind treatment she met at Lincolnton, has given her rather a dread of moving among strangers.—Still I will make my home at Morganton. I am in hopes however that when we go up this summer she will be so kindly treated, and be so pleased that we will be able to make a permanent arrangement all hands to move as soon as possible. We will do all that we ought. If in Twelve months after my appointment my attention does not give entire satisfaction to the Court I pledge myself to resign—meantime let me ask you to tell the judges that it is no light matter with me but all important. If they do not think I am competent to discharge the duties, or think that I will neglect them, I have nothing further to say.

My good wife claims Judge Ruffin and Judge Nash as old friends, she wishes you to tell them from her that she thinks it an appointment I ought to accept and further that it is one they ought to give me, that she pledges herself that the duties will be faithfully performed.

Recollect I tell you distinctly I have no notion of making a John Henderson business of it but to attend to it myself.

And now Freeman let me ask you to aid me in this matter—it is more important to me than you can think.

I trust that Mrs. Freeman is better and that the rest of your family have good health

I remain

As ever Your friend

JAS. R. DODGE.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

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*From Tod R. Caldwell.*

MORGANTON 30th Jany 1847.

I am sorry to think that there is any necessity for addressing you a second time on the subject of the Clerkship of the Supreme Court, but having within the last day or two, learned that several of the applicants, either by themselves or their respective friends, have had recommendations laid before yr. honorable Court, urging their claims and qualifications, I deem it proper to say to you, that if the Court should think it important that applicants should come recommended and will appoint no one unless he is recommended, that I can, in a very short time, send on a recommendation which will I think, be perfectly satisfactory to the Court.

This I could have done in the first instance but thought it unnecessary, knowing as a general rule that it is as easy to get a recommendation in favour of unqualified as of well qualified persons for an office. By this I do not mean or wish to be understood as intimating that any of my competitors for this office are not qualified for it, for so far as I am acquainted with them, I doubt not that any one of them would be competent to discharge the duties of the office in a manner entirely satisfactory. My meaning is that it is no difficult matter for any respectable gentleman to get a recommendation from his friends for any office which he seeks.

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Hon. Thomas Ruffin  
Raleigh.

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*From James R. Dodge.*

ROCKFORD 6 Feby 1847.

*My Dear Sir.*

I received yours of the 2nd this evening and hasten to answer it and have no hesitation in stating to you and the other judges of the Supreme Court, that I will reside in Morganton or its vicinity. It would be imprudent in me to break up here now and move to Morganton with my family at once without knowing where or how we will live afterwards and the office cannot be profitable before fall, but I can be there myself and if I give the same personal attendance to the office that any other citizen there would give it ought to suffice. My plan is to attend the term of the Supreme Court in Raleigh in May or to go down before tender my bonds and qualify and then work with Mr. Freeman in his office until I understand the duties, come home and go up to Morganton and prepare the business and commence practice in the Morganton courts—abandoning the practice in Surry as too distant and making my home in Morganton take my family up in the Summer, and then proceed as prudence will dictate, but whether my Wife and family will return to Surry or remain there this fall, I will remain and personally perform the duties. Mr. Courts performed the duties of Treasurer for two years without taking his family to Raleigh and I could do the same at Morganton as Clerk altho I would not be willing for a much larger office to part with my family permanently—it appears to me that all that can fairly be required of me is that I will personally perform the duties of clerk and remove my family as soon as it can be prudently arranged, this I will do or resign. There is nothing fine in our present establishment, it is a log house and where it stands was a forest four years ago, but we have moved and been harrassed and sold out until we have a dread of moving and all I would ask in this case is that I should be permitted to live by myself in Morganton for such a length

of time (attending personally to my Duties) as will enable me to remove my family in comfort. I have spoken freely to you as I always have done of my plans. The office is one which I think will be of great importance to me and mine. I am determined to give satisfaction if in my power to the Court and to the public, and no man while I hold it shall say with truth that the duties would have been better or more fully performed by either of the Gentlemen applying who now reside in Burke.

I would thank you to ask Mr. Freeman to write me—to send me the form of his bond and to tell me when it would be best for me to come to Raleigh and work for him and myself. I suppose I must have a subscribing witness whose signature the Judges know will you ask him to write me full instructions.

With great regard I remain

Dr. Sir Your friend and Sevt.

JAS. R. DODGE.

[Address:

Chf. Justice Supreme Court  
Raleigh N. C.]

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*From Nicholas L. Williams.*

PANTHER CREEK 8th Feb. 1847.

Your letter of the 2d inst. communicating the fact of Mr. Dodges appointment to the Supreme Court Clerkship was recd. two days since. I immediately sent your letter to Mr. Dodge which he has returned with an answer to yours to be sent by the mail today.

When I remarked to Judge Nash that I did not believe Mr. Dodge would reside in Morganton I did so without ever having one word with him upon that subject, but only presumed that as he was comfortably situated *in his own house* for the first time in his life he would hardly consent to break up again to go any where. I am however agreeably mistaken in my conclusion, and am able to say that he will go and no doubt will give general satisfaction.

I feel greatly obliged to you and the other Judges for conferring the appointment of Clerk upon Mr. Dodge.

You will please tender my kindest regards to your brothers Nash and Daniel—and I sincerely hope to see you all at my house when you go up to Morganton next summer.

Honble. Thomas Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh N. Carolina.]



From Tod R. Caldwell.

MORGANTON Feby 10 1847.

Your favor of the 2nd inst. has reached me by the last mail. However much I may have been disappointed, and I must confess that it was no little, by the action of the Court, I most cheerfully submit to their decision in the choice of a clerk for the Supreme Court at Morganton. Upon the reception of your kind letter I determined, even if the contingency you allude to shall arise, not to place my name a second time before the judges, lest I *might* suffer the mortification of another defeat, but Minerva, who is now much more solicitous on the subject than I am, (probably owing to a promise I made in the event of my being appointed clerk to take her to Orange in May and leave her with her friends whilst I went to Raleigh and attended the Court) has persuaded me to still keep my name before the Judges. I have consented to do so, and now ask of you as particular favor not to mention me as a candidate unless you are well satisfied that I would be the choice of the Court as I would not be defeated a second time for three times the value of the office. I cannot think however that you will have this matter before you again, as Mr. Dodge must have been aware before he recd. the appointment that the Act of Assembly required the Clerk to reside in Morganton, and would not have been an applicant had he not been willing to remove to this place.

With regard to your enquiries relative to Col. Fagg's<sup>1</sup> military character and his character as a gentleman, I am really at a loss to give you a satisfactory answer. I never knew and scarcely ever heard of the man, until I served in the Legislature with him two years ago. Whether or not he is skilled in military tactics or is renowned for warlike exploits I am wholly ignorant, the most that I know or can say of him in that line is, that he is a very *belly cose* looking man and to all appearances could swallow a half dozen small Mexicans without apparently being much inconvenienced by the meal. He is certainly a very rude illiterate man and has evidently not been associated too much with genteel society; to do him justice however, he is what most of his acquaintances call a clever good sort of a fellow, who will do well enough in his proper place but out of place won't do at all.

We have nothing in this quarter of the world in the way of news, except that we are still trying to raise volunteers for Mexico, and it is more than probable that a company of dragoons from this country will tender themselves before long.

\* \* \* \* \*

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

<sup>1</sup>John A. Fagg, member of the House of Commons from Buncombe, 1844, 1848, whose appointment as colonel of the North Carolina regiment in the Mexican war on purely political grounds had caused much feeling in the State.

From Edward B. Freeman.

Dear Sir—

RALEIGH, April 29, 1847.

About the time of the close of the last term, and perhaps for several weeks before, it was the general impression here, among the Judges, as I believe, as well as with all of us, that the summer term of the Supreme Court had been altered from 2d Monday in June to 3d Monday in May. I have had occasion, this morning, at the request of Mr. Boyden to examine the two acts concerning the Supreme Court and I can find no such alteration mentioned.

Will you please advise me upon this: The 1st section of the supplemental Bill directs all *appeals* remaining on the docket at last term from the western counties to be removed to Morganton *unless both parties agree* to retain etc., and any of the *cases* from Stokes, Davidson, etc. *may by consent of both parties* be sent to Morganton. The 2d section makes it the duty of the Clerk to make out a transcript "in all the cases directed by the first section of this act to be removed" and that this duty shall be performed by the first day of June.

If the Court does not meet until the 2d Monday in June as heretofore, my difficulty is, what cases are removed by the statute. I suppose only *appeals*, not equity cases transferred, from the western counties are removed as there is no evidence here that *both parties agree* to retain them, and as to the counties of Stokes, Davidson, etc. no cases are removed as there has been no consent of both parties to remove them.

I think the impression has gone abroad pretty generally that the next term commences on the 17th. I know that is the impression in the first and fifth circuit. Ought not something to be done to correct this, if it is erroneous? I shall look anxiously for your answer.

\* \* \* \* \*

I hope this will find you all well. Mr. Webster is expected here today.

Very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

E. B. FREEMAN.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

I shall send you a copy of the Laws, if I find that you will not be taxed too much by way of postage.

*From Edward B. Freeman.*

RALEIGH, May 14, 1847.

I have this morning carefully examined all the papers of the Senate (and a confused mass they are) for the original bill to provide for holding a session of the Supreme Court in the West; but the search has been fruitless. In the desk of the Clerk Assistant, I found the printed Bill containing, it is presumed, his memoranda of amendments. I send to you just as I found it—the 6th section is erased. This agrees with the Engrossed copy sent to the Commons. It was therefore, no doubt stricken out by the Senate on the passage of the Bill there.

Having written this far, it occurred to me that the Journal would throw some light upon the subject, if more was needed. I have just returned from Lemays—the Journal states, that on Thursday Dec. 3, “Mr. Gilmer moved to amend the Bill by striking out the *seventh* section; which was agreed to”. No doubt this amendment was to strike out the *sixth*, and Miller has come within one of it, as near as could be expected.

\* \* \* \* \*

We heard yesterday of the death of Mr. John Hill of Wilmington, Presdt. of C. F. Bank.

\* \* \* \* \*

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*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

HAW RIVER Sept 23, 1847.

\* \* \* \* \*

You will have heard that the Court at Morganton detained us a less time than had been anticipated. I returned much fatigued, but in good health; and, thank God, I found the family white and black, in good health also, and as yet we have escaped the scourge of last autumn, and I hope will escape it entirely. Tomorrow, I go to Rockingham, where, at the last accounts, all were likewise well. . . . .

P. S.

My best respects to my venerable and excellent friend, Chancellor Kent: who I am happy to hear, is to have the comfort of his son’s society again at home.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are always *bothered* about *Oil* for our salad and fish in the spring, and often get that which is rancid and fit for nothing. Can you not

find out from your friends of "the City Hotel", where they get *their oil* from and whether this be the proper season for getting it *sweet*? If it be, I will thank you very much to get me a basket or box of a dozen bottles of the *best*, as we make a good deal of use of it, when we can get good.

MEMO. FOR MR. ROULHAC AT THE NORTH, FOR MRS. RUFFIN AND THOS. RUFFIN.

- 5. pieces of best bleached cotton shirting.
- 2 pieces of good (Family) linnen—(for T. R.)
- About 60 yards of 12/4 Cotton sheeting.
- ½ piece of linnen for shirt bosoms—for the boys.
- Stuff for a dress for Susan Mary, such as will be worn next winter, and trimmings.
- Cashmere for a dress, each, for Jane and Patty—both alike—and the proper trimmings. "Brother Joe" will exercise his own taste in the selection.
- If Cashmere be not worn—then, stuff that is fashionable for Ladies winter dresses.
- 3 pr Black worsted hose, for Mrs. R.—large.
- 3 pr do raw silk do
- 2 dozn. English Cotton hose—for the girls.
- 1 lb Knitting cotton—No. 20.
- 2 dozn. Linnen Cambric Hchfs. for the girls.
- 2 pr Morocco Slippers—(Robertson's No. 5. )
- 2 pr leather or Seal skin walking shoes (do) } for Mrs. Ruffin
- 6 pr. Morocco Slippers for Susan Mary—(Robinson's No. 5½)
- 6 pr do do for Jane ( do No. 5 )
- 4 pr. do do ( do 4½ )
- 2 pr do walking shoes 4½ } for Patty.
- 2 pr Morocco Walking Shoes } No. 2½—for Sally.
- 1 pr Seal skin do }
- 1000 best assorted needles.
- 6 dozn spools of sewing cotton—medium sizes—for making linnen and cotton shirting, etc.
- 1 pr metal covered pitchers, like Catherine's.
- 1 Box of Woolsey's Loaf Sugar.
- 15 lb. of best green Tea
- 1 Bll Buckwheat flour } For Mrs. R. and Sterling)
- 1 Bll of Sugar house molasses }
- 1 lb. of Mace.
- 1 good cheese (*Like the last!*)
- Buckhorn carvers and 2 good steels—4 Bottles of German Quinine.
- 6 dozen boxes of best blacking. 3½ dozn Negroes' Hats, mostly of large sizes
- 1 Basket Sweet Oil.

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*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

*My dear Sir./*

ALLEMANCE, Octo 5th 1847.

In making out Mrs. R's memorandum, which I forwarded about a fortnight ago to the care of Messrs Bryan and Maitland, I forgot a *Family Travelling Trunk*, for the use of each of the Ladies, when going a visiting in our own parts. Mrs. Ruffin prefers one exactly of the same size and structure with one you got for yourself last Spring; and she hopes you would remember it, altho' omitted by me. But for fear you should not hold it in mind more than I did, she bids me write this.—

She commends me also—having experience, how much you will undertake and perform—to beg you to get for her from Buist, in Philadelphia, the following Roses:

1. Chromatella or Cloth of Gold.
2. Rosa Lutea, or Capusine Rose of the French. Upon their own roots and *not* budded.
3. Provins Moss, or Unique de Provins.—If we have not this last, then get “the Old Unique, or White Provins Rose”, not mossed.—Mr. Buist sent Mrs. Ruffin, No 2, or Rosa Lutea, last Spring; but it died; indeed, never budded. Mrs. Ruffin wishes them securely put up in a *small* box, which can easily be brought by Miss Bryant in the stage, when she comes up from Raleigh. She corrects me by saying, she prefers for No. 3 “the old Unique or White Provins Rose,” not mossed, if Mr. B. has it.—

She hopes Mr. Roulhac can bring the parcel with him to Raleigh, and, if Miss B. should not come with him, find an opportunity of sending it up, by the stage, if no other.

I have been on Dan River for the last ten days; where I found our friends generally well. On my return I am thankful to see that all here are up; and that the neighborhood, is generally healthy, in comparison with the last year. There are, however, some cases of sickness; and among them the families of the Fousts over the Creek have their share.

With best wishes, I remain Dear Sir

Yours affectionately

THOMAS RUFFIN

[Address: Care of  
Mason, Bryan, and Maitland  
New York.]

Dear Sir.

*From William M. Green.*

As you were kind enough, a year or two ago, to promise me something in aid of our undertaking, I now send you the accompanying Circular to make known to you our present wants.

Our beautiful little Church needs but little to complete it, and to free it from debt. That little we hope, through the liberality of our friends to receive in answer to our Circulars. Unless greatly disappointed we will endeavour to worship in our Church, before the ensuing Commencement.

Very respectfully

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

W. M. GREEN.

[Address:  
Raleigh N. C.]

[Enclosure]

## CIRCULAR.

CHAPEL HILL, February 9, 1848.

*Dear Sir:*—Convinced, from long observation, that the best interests of the Church require that her services should be duly presented at this place, our little Congregation, about five years ago, made an appeal to the Diocese for aid in the erection of a suitable place of worship. An eligible situation was procured; and, through the liberality of a distant Clerical friend, the skill of one of the best Artists of our Country was employed in designing a building of a style and character suited to the importance of its position. It was reasonable to expect such an undertaking would be attended with no little expense. That expense has been considerably increased by the gradual and irregular manner in which the contributions have been received, and the consequent impossibility of contracting for the whole, at the beginning. The contributions made, from time to time, by our friends throughout the Diocese, added to what has been given by ourselves, have fallen short of the necessary cost of the work. In order to complete it and to meet responsibilities already incurred, \$1,600 more will be required. With this sum we pledge ourselves to prepare the Church for consecration in a few weeks, and to leave it untrammelled by debt. At present, the Congregation, including a large portion of the Students of the University, has no other place of assembling than a private Parlour.

In these circumstances, we feel constrained to make another and last appeal to our friends for aid. Our work was begun, with the sanction of our Bishop and Clergy, and in the confident expectation that the Diocese would sustain it to the end. Whilst we are truly thankful to those who have already lent their aid, we humbly trust that a work, so decidedly Diocesan in its character, and so well calculated to exercise an important religious influence on the sons of the Church educated at this place, will not be suffered to languish for the want of help from those whom God has enabled to give. In order to hasten the completion of the Church, we promise to appropriate the contributions first received to that object. From proposals now before us, we are certain that \$550 will be sufficient for that purpose. Whatever is given beyond this sum will go towards reimbursing a member of the Congregation who has embarrassed himself by the advances which he has made, and the responsibilities he has incurred in bringing the work so far towards completion.

We respectfully ask *your* aid; and will be thankful to hear from you, at your earliest convenience.

WILLIAM H. BATTLE,	} Committee.
J. DB. HOOPER,	
WILLIAM M. GREEN,	

From William K. Ruffin.

HAW RIVER Feby 18th 1848.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Buck* returned with the wagon, this morning. He brought every thing, from the plantation and Milton in good order and the ladies are pleased with the manner in which *Day* did his work. *Buck* reports all well at the plantation. I only saw him for a moment and did not learn from him what was the state of affairs, there, so as to be able to communicate anything to you upon that matter. He left here on Saturday morning and the plantation on Monday. The snow in R. was quite a deep one; here it was only an inch, or a little more deeper. Mr. Moore, with all his forces, is still filling up *gullies* on the other side of the River. I was there yesterday afternoon and I am sure that no one, in this wide world but you, and he, under your directions, would ever have undertaken so great and thankless a labour. I think you must have set your heart upon *deserving* Swift's commendation of being of more worth to the world than all the Politicians that ever lived, by making grass grow where *none* would ever have grown without you—and when I looked at the '*prospect*' I could not but think, that the wish, that you might live to see grass or anything else grow *there*, would be equivalent to the Spanish wish "that your shadow might never be less". He will finish *filling up* in a day or two, but he expects to be engaged over the river, for the remainder of the present month. He has been engaged there, as you know, since the beginning of the month, and has ploughed nearly all the cleared land, and has cleared all that you wished except the piece running from the Branch, near the store up by the spring and the piece of Pine and thicket near your Black oak corner east corner of (the Jones place) the former piece, he is at present at work upon, the latter, he is not sure whether he will have the time to clear or not. It will depend upon the state of the weather. He sowed clover seed, in the snow, on Saturday last in the field near the school house. He begs to know from you, whether you do not think it advisable to sow oats on the *half* of the orchard *now*, so as to come early and be eat off by the hogs, before the others get ripe. He thinks it would be better, but awaits instructions from you. The Stock of any description still looks well, except the horses, they are a good deal *pulled down*. Jesse has ploughed the ground about the grape vines and scraped them down; he has also worked your little apple trees. The rest of his work is all forward enough and well done, as far as I can judge. There was quite a *scene* here yesterday, while I was at the River. Two of the joists in the smoke house *broke*, and about twelve or fifteen hundred weight of meat came down with a crash, that alarmed Mama prodigiously. She thought the house was on fire and when she *came to herself*, was half way to the Barn, in search of help!

I believe I have said all I know, that would interest you, about home. I have had to write, however, in great haste in order to send my letter to the office so that if I have omitted anything, *that* must be my excuse. Before I close, however, I hope you will allow me to express my admiration of the beauty and appropriateness of the remarks made by you in court, upon the occasion of Judge Daniels death. I hope, on your account as well as on that of public law and justice, that the Governor will make a nomination to the Council of a wise discreet and learned man, to succeed him. For my part, I own, I prefer Judge Caldwell. He is not a classical scholar or perhaps very learned in the laws but he has a clear sound understanding, with more vigor, I humbly think, of mind than Judge Battle—equally conscientious—devoted to his *business* and capable of untiring labour and disposed honestly to apply it in the discharge of his duties—above all, however, I prefer him, because he is one of the old fashioned sort of Judges who is disposed “stare dis-cisis”, and who thinks that the end of the law is to promote and secure *justice* and *honesty* in the old sense of those words, and not to further chicanery and refinement, whereby those objects are eluded. In addition to which, so far as *your* comfort is concerned, I am sure, you could not have an associate upon whose integrity, firmness and kind dispositions towards yourself, you could better rely, than upon his.

I hope therefore he will be the man. . . . .

[P. S.] Mama has just brought me the enclosed letter from Mr. W. which was sent from the P. O. by Buck. She thought that from its being addressed to you here, that Mr. W. might want something and so took the liberty of opening it. I enclose it without the envelope.

I have opened my letter to ask, for Mr. Moore, whether you wish the parts of the field below the quarter, which were sowed with pease, to be sowed in clover? Moore says that you did not speak to him about it, but as he supposes that field will, according to your system, lie out next year, that possibly you will wish it sowed in clover. He says the old cotton patch will make a magnificent piece of clover, and as he has plaister enough for it he wishes to know, whether you would not like him to have it broken and ground, so as to apply it to that field this spring? I hope you may consent, as I think it will make something worth looking at, especially after looking at the premises on the other side of the River. . . . .

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To James H. Ruffin.

RALEIGH, March 8th, 1848.

\* \* \* \* \*

You will have heard, no doubt, of the death of my brother Daniel—a severe stroke to me and the Court. He had his defects; but they were



small in comparison to his qualifications for his station on the bench, and I know not where his place can be supplied. Who his successor is to be I am not informed. I should be pleased with an amiable associate, it is true; but I had rather have an *able* one, and I trust the Governor will select the best lawyer and the most sensible and firm man he can get to accept the place.

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[Address:

Macon, Marengo County,  
Alabama.]

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*From Nicholas L. Williams.*

PANTHER CREEK 26th March 1848.

Your letter by my boy and the Tennessee seed were recd. yesterday, for which please accept my thanks. My Turnip crop failed entirely last year from the ravages of the fly. I shall in future adopt your mode of cultivation. When I was last at your house I saw some of the finest Turnips I ever met with anywhere, which induced me to make the request of Mr. Wm. Ruffin to save me some seed, and to inquire your manner of cultivating that crop etc. It would afford me much pleasure to ascertain your mode of cultivating many other articles of food for both *man* and *beast*. I assure you I have great confidence in your opinions, and experience in farming.

I owe you an apology for not sending the barrel of whiskey according to promise. When I was in Raleigh I engaged a certain number of barrels of whiskey, ten were to be sent at the time I started my wagon, the ten barrels filled up the wagon so full, that I could not get another barrel in, but you may rest assured that I shall not forget my promise.

Mrs. Morehead, and Mrs. Williams together with their *young* husbands will attend the next Commencement at Chapel Hill. and will take great pleasure in paying you a visit at that time, *provided* some or all of your family will visit us this spring. Nothing would give us more pleasure than to have a visit from all of you. We expect a visit from Mrs. Saml. Hairston and her Daughters some time this spring, would it not suit you to meet them here? If we should all get together it will be a *sort of Jubilee*.

*From David Graham.*

NEW YORK, April 25th 1848.

*Dear Sir,*

I have the honor to transmit to you herewith, the Code of Procedure reported by the Commissioners on Practice and Pleadings to the legislature of the State of New York, and a supplementary Report containing provisions applicable to existing suits.

Both these acts have been passed, the latter without amendments, and the former with amendments, of which I also send you a copy, many of which were proposed by us, and all of which met with our concurrence.

You will perceive from the first report that an extensive field of labor is yet before us, which we are proceeding to perform with as much rapidity as the delicate and difficult nature of the undertaking will permit. In the further process of our duties, it is our desire to avail ourselves of the systems of procedure of the other states of the Union, and of such suggestions as can conveniently be afforded us by the most eminent jurists and lawyers in the country. In a measure we have done this already, but not to so great an extent as it is our wish to do hereafter, in order to render the result of our future labors as perfect and complete as possible.

With this view I take the liberty of asking of you as careful a perusal of the documents referred to as your other duties will allow; and of requesting also that you will favor me with such suggestions on the subjects embraced in them as your experience of the system of practice and pleading adopted in your State may enable you to present.

I have the honor to be, Dear Sir, Your obt. Servt.

DAVID GRAHAM.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

*From William A. Graham.*

RALEIGH May 20th, 1848.

*My Dear Sir,*

Presuming that you may feel some curiosity, to learn the result of the proceedings of the Executive and Council today, I drop you a line to say that Judge Battle is appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court. B. F. Moore Attorney General. Augustus Moore<sup>1</sup> of Edenton Judge of

<sup>1</sup>Augustus Moore, a graduate of the University in the class of 1824, judge of the Superior Court, 1848-1851.

the Superior Courts, vice Judge Battle. All confirmed unanimously. We have no other news.

With my kindest regards to Mrs. Ruffin and your family

I remain Dear Sir

Very truly Yours,

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

WILL: A. GRAHAM.

[Address: Haw River Orange N. C.]

*From William Eaton, Jr.,<sup>1</sup> to the Judges of the Supreme Court.*

WARRENTON June 9th 1848.

This letter will be presented to the Judges of the Supreme Court of North Carolina by Mr. Matthew W. Ransom<sup>2</sup> of the County of Warren. Mr. Ransom is a gentleman of studious habits, high standing, and exemplary, and unexceptionable character.

Very Respectfully Yours

WM. EATON JR.

The Hon. the Judges of the  
Supreme Court.

*From James R. Dodge.*

MORGANTON 27 July 1848.

Dear sir

I write merely to inform your Honors that Mr McEntire expects to entertain at least the Judges of the Supreme Court, and that your old rooms will be ready for yourself and Judge Nash and also a room for Judge Battle and that you will board with him. He told me he thought Mr. Smith imposed upon you in prices, but if report speaks true he bled Smith in his turn. I trust this will meet you all in fine health.

Yours Truly,

JAS R. DODGE.

[Address:

Hon Thomas Ruffin,  
C. J. Supreme Court,  
to meet him at  
Salisbury N C]

<sup>1</sup>William Eaton, Jr., of Warren, a graduate of the University in the class of 1829, member of the House of Commons, 1833, 1840, 1850; member of the Senate, 1854; attorney-general of North Carolina, 1851-1852; delegate to the convention of 1865-1866.

<sup>2</sup>Matthew Whitaker Ransom, who had graduated from the University the year before and was just entering upon his notable career.

*From Nicholas W. Woodfin.*

ASHEVILLE Sept. 3rd. 1848

I have been starting to Morganton every day since thursday and have only defrd. it from day to day hoping to find Mrs. Woodfin in condition to be left for a few days, but have not been so fortunate on the contrary she seems on this morning still further reduced. and is suffering more than when first taken. We think it is all occasioned by a defective tooth but Dr. Bason declines extracting it until the inflammation is removed and she has more strength. I cannot leave her on any account.

I have sent you the horses that I spoke of as belonging to John. He has consented to take \$250 for them. I desire you to see them in harness and drive and if they please you in size and other respects take them. If however they are not large enough to answer well or you doubt their pleasing Mrs. Ruffin, please to let the boy bring them back. It will not put any one to any inconvenience. I do not know your notion about size and therefore said to John that if you desired larger horses you would send them back. I am confident that in other respects you will be pleased with them. They are both fine saddle horses and work well in single harness and find them as quiet and safe together as any horses that I have seen. One of them reed. a kick on friday last which lames him a little in a hind leg but I suppose it will pass off before he reaches there.

If the horses suit you the money can be left with Mr. Caldwell or Mr. Pearson, unless Mr. McDowell goes in with them.

I could not get Genl. Edneys. He asked \$400 and would not part with them at that untill he ascertained the result of an experiment that he was working. John was placing his at \$300 which was just \$50 more than I regarded them worth under the present low prices in this country and he has come to the same conclusion.

If you do not think that they will answer the purpose I hope that you feel no difficulty about sending them back. It will not be attended with any inconvenience to any one.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin  
Morganton N. C.

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*From Wiley Franks.*

CLINTON JONES COUNTY GA.

Sept 3rd, 1848.

I make no doubt that you will feel surprised at receiving these few lines from one (who from the multiplicity of business in which you are so constantly engaged) you must long since have forgotten. My

present aim in addressing you is to solicit your views with regard to the issue of the forthcoming Election in your State (my native state also) Well knowing the depth of knowledge you possess of men and manners coupled with your acute observation of the constant changes of the times I know of no one to whom I could apply with the same chance of procuring information, as yourself, and your opinion upon the issue of the forthcoming struggle would confer a favour which should an opportunity occur, will be warmly reciprocated. With regard to this State I speak from my own observation, and that of others who have some opportunity of knowing. I believe that General Taylor will without doubt carry it. I have felt somewhat surprised at the issue of the State Election in your State and can hardly tell to what cause to attribute it that those who gave so large a majority for Clay in 44 should have given Manley so meager a one in 48.

As it is the State in which I first drew the breath of life, I naturally have a strong feeling in favor of the place of my nativity, the heart has naturally an affection for the home, of childhood and this I trust will be a sufficient excuse for the trouble I give you in respectfully requesting an early answer.

[Address: Haw River N. C.]

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*From Nicholas L. Williams.*

PANTHER CREEK, 25th Sept. 1848.

I have been intending for some time to send you a barrel of Whiskey, the boy will start today with it; also, a bunch of feathers made with my own hands for Mrs. Ruffin, both of which I hope will be acceptable.

As it affords you so much pleasure to distribute good seed, I ask for a few of your red pea for seed (of the kind spoken of to Dr. Brodnax and myself last winter). Mrs. Williams too, will be glad to get some slips of Mrs. Ruffin's Roses, particularly the yellow roses.

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Honble. Thomas Ruffin.

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*From William M. Green.*

CHAPEL HILL Oct. 11th, 1848.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin  
Dear Sir.

Some six months ago I directed to you, at Raleigh, a printed Circular of the vestry, of the Church in this place, setting forth the then condition of our Undertaking, the causes of delay in the work, and the

amount required to prepare it for the use of the Congregation. The amount needed at that time was between five and six hundred dollars. The greater part of that sum has since been subscribed, but in such a way as to make it unavailable until the list is completed. I will explain: Eight individuals have promised \$50 each, provided their number be increased to *ten*, so as to make together the round sum of \$500. The object of this communication therefore is respectfully to ask yr aid in making up the deficiency in our Subscription list, by becoming one the "Decemviri", or by making any such contribution as the occasion may seem to call for. The small sum of two hundred dollars in addition to what we may fairly hope for from subscriptions and pledges already made, would free our building from every *legal* claim, and leave the Bishop at liberty to consecrate it without delay.

In the hope of hearing from you at an early moment, I remain Dear Sir, Yr's Very respectfully

[Address: Hawfields N. Ca.]

W. M. GREEN.

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*To William H. Battle.*<sup>1</sup>

HAW RIVER—Decr. 2nd. 1848.

*My dear Sir./*

I was at Hillsborough yesterday, and had hoped to hear there, that the Judicial appointments, at least, had been made at Raleigh. But I did not, and, on the contrary, understood that the difficulties ahead were multiplying by the addition of other candidates—among them, my friend Mr. Strange—and by imparting to the election a partisan character: circumstances, the former of which took me entirely by surprise, and the latter created the most sincere regret. You know the deep interest I take in this matter; which, I must say, is intense, and upon grounds involving deeply, as I conceive, the jurisprudence of the country, the character of the Court, and the best interests of our people. You will excuse, therefore, the liberty I take in asking you to favour me with the earliest intelligence of the result, that is to say, if favourable: if otherwise, I shall not wish to hear it from yourself nor any other person as long as I can avoid it.

With the greatest respect and esteem, I am,

Dear Sir,

affectionately your friend,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Honble. Wm. H. Battle  
Chapel Hill, No. Ca.

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<sup>1</sup>The original of this letter is in the possession of Dr. Kemp P. Battle, of Chapel Hill, N. C.

*From William H. Battle.*

CHAPEL HILL Dec. 15th 1848.

*My Dear Sir/*

I have been for more than a week waiting for the occurrence of the event upon which according to the request contained in your letter, I was to write to you. That event has at last occurred and is, as you have no doubt already heard, unfavorable to me. It is unnecessary now to advert to the circumstances which produced it. I will not deny that I am mortified. My regrets are, however, not altogether selfish. They are felt as deeply on the account of my friends as on my own. But as the wound which has been inflicted upon me is not aggravated by the poison of disgrace I trust that it will soon be healed.

My commission, as you know, will not expire before the end of the session of the Legislature. Shall I take my seat on the Bench until that time, or shall I resign before the court meets?

I see from the papers that soon after Judge Pearson's election my name was put in nomination, for the vacancy occasioned by his resignation. It was done without any authority from me so that if I am elected I shall feel entirely at liberty to decline it. Shall I do so? I think that I ought, but some of my friends here are of a contrary opinion.

Have you seen the last (Morganton) number of the Reports. It is more defective and full of errors than any of its predecessors. It omits all of the Equity and seven of the Law cases in which the opinion of the court was delivered by Judge Nash and myself. It represents one of Judge Nash's opinions as having been delivered by me and the last published Equity case in which the opinion is delivered by you concludes with "Per curiam. Judgment reversed and venire de novo !!!"

Please write by the return mail.

With my best respects to your family,

I am gratefully and

Sincerely yours

WILL: H. BATTLE.

*From William H. Battle.*

CHAPEL HILL Dec. 20th 1848.

*My Dear Sir/*

An answer to your last letter is, doubtless, unexpected, yet I trust that you will not consider one untimely or improper. I cannot refrain from returning you my most grateful acknowledgments for the favorable—I fear much too favorable—opinion which you express of me, but more especially for the uniform kindness and partiality with which

you have always treated me. Whenever and in whatever, I can show my sense of obligations imposed, by something more than words, I trust that you will not find me slow or backward in manifesting it.

I am sorry that you have permitted yourself to be at all disquieted by the supposition that your wishes in favour of my election were made the means of injuring me. It was, no doubt, urged as an objection, but not, I think, with much if any, effect. My residence in the same county with the two other Judges was the main cause of my defeat, because it added much to the force of the personal solicitation of votes by my successful competitor. There were other causes of minor importance which contributed to the result, but it would be useless now to speak of them. I have said thus much only for the purpose of relieving your mind from the suspicion that your known partiality for me had been turned to my prejudice.

I should have been much pleased to have availed myself of your invitation to spend a day with you this week could I have well postponed other engagements. I hope however that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you next week. Mrs. Battle unites with me in, not only an invitation but, an earnest entreaty that Mrs. Ruffin and yourself will stay with us on your way to Raleigh. Mrs. B. was a school mate of some of Mrs. Ruffin's sisters and would be glad of an opportunity of forming an acquaintance with her. To an arrangement every way so desirable to us we can anticipate no objection on your part, and shall therefore consider it a settled matter.

I have acted on your advice with regard to the resignation of my office, having forwarded yesterday to the care of Gov. Swain now in Raleigh a communication to that effect. The Legislature has saved me the trouble of deciding upon the other question upon which you were kind enough to give me your opinion,—John W. Ellis<sup>1</sup> Esq. of Salisbury was elected on Saturday last by two votes over my name. The result has relieved me from much embarrassment and I am now compelled to pursue the course which the best interests of my family would have required even if any other had been left open to me. With regard to this last election I have no regrets to express for myself personally, but I do regret, deeply regret for the public, that the fell spirit of party has at last seized our judiciary. What it is all to end in I cannot tell, but I fear that it is to produce a disastrous effect upon the purity and impartiality which have heretofore generally distinguished our Judges. You will of course understand me as making this remark without intending to apply it to one of the political parties of our State more than to the other.

I expect to go down to Raleigh soon after the meeting of the Supreme Court with the view to attend to any business that may be offered me.

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<sup>1</sup>John W. Ellis, of Rowan, 1820-1861, was a member of the legislature when he was chosen judge. He served with distinction for ten years and in 1858 was elected governor, holding that office until his death.



It seemed a little singular that the same mail which brought me the first authentic intelligence of my defeat, brought me also a letter from a gentleman in Edgecombe to retain me in that event, as his counsel in a case pending in the Supreme Court.

Expressing the hope once more of having Mrs. Ruffin and your self with us next week I will only add that

I am sincerely

and truly yours etc.

[Address:

Haw River, Orange County  
N. Carolina.]

WILL: H. BATTLE.

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*To William H. Battle.*<sup>1</sup>

*My dear Friend.*

RALEIGH—January 1st—1849.

I have a favour to ask of you; and, as you know I would willingly oblige you and there should be a flow of good feeling in every one on the New Year, I hope you will not refuse it.

In consequence of the return of Vertigo and other symptoms of the malady—paralysis—under which our friend, Mr. Augustus Moore, suffered some years past, he declines accepting a Seat on the Bench. Yesterday evening I heard of it, and learned that a letter had been received from him the night before; and that the fact would be announced in the Assembly today. I heard further, that there is an intention to nominate you in his place. "They say", you can be easily elected—almost by acclamation. I do not vouch for that; for one must be very rash, to prejudge what this Assembly would do or would not do. But I hear, and at present have reason to think, that it may be so, and probably will be so, unless you should interfere and prevent it. I believe the members will be influenced to it, partly from shame for the wrongs done you—and grosser were never suffered by a deserving gentleman from a Government professing to be just; and partly from a glimmering sense that it is their duty to have some able and upright judicial ministers of the law on the Circuits. I have been told by two gentlemen—one of them Mr. Caldwell—that Mr. Cadr. Jones declared to them in reference to the expectation of another Judge for an additional circuit, that he and the whole Orange delegation "meant to go for Battle against the world", and "they say", the "Democratic party" generally will do so, as well as the "federal party" or "Whigs", as you call yourselves. However that may be—and upon it I cannot say anything for certain—my wish is, that the matter may be allowed to proceed in the course begun, without any obstacle from yourself. Suppose the antici-

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<sup>1</sup>The original of this letter is in the possession of Dr. Kemp P. Battle, of Chapel Hill, N. C.

pations, above mentioned, should fail, you will be exactly in your present condition: having the highest respect of all men of sense, and the cordial sympathy of all good men. But my hope and expectation is, that, if nominated, you will be elected; and that is greatly desired by me and all the best part of the Community. You will not suppose that this wish is prompted by the vain desire, that an empty compliment should be tendered to you. I would not have high judicial places thus treated as paltry baubles. I heartily desire, both as a citizen and as your friend, that the office should be conferred on you, and that you should serve in it. But I own, that, whether you would accept it or not, I think it ought to be tendered to you, provided it be not previously known, that you will decline. Now, that is a point, on which you are not bound to declare yourself beforehand, unless directly asked: certainly, not to volunteer a rejection. The favour then, which I have to ask is, that you will not throw yourself in the way of being asked, nor give any answer, if asked, if you can avoid it. To that end, I beg that you will not come here until after the election, nor hold any communication with any here, myself included. I am sure, if you come down, you will thwart your friends either by refusing to be nominated or as a matter of course, to solicit support. I think we have a right to expect you to leave the Assembly to its own action. When they shall have acted it will be your time to speak, and not before. I beg you will not forestal the friends of the law and justice of the Country by a previous refusal to serve. I would not have you seek the place, directly or indirectly. But there is no impropriety *in your knowing nothing about the matter*, until it is over; and therefore, be pleased to stay at home a few days longer and write no letters to Raleigh. When there shall have been a decision, by the Assembly, it may be that I shall wish to say something further before you make up your own decision; and I will endeavour to do so as soon as I can. In the meanwhile, I repeat the less that is seen or heard of you here, the more you will oblige, my dear sir,

Your friend sincerely and affeey.,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

[P. S.] No one knows of this letter, but Dr. McKee; who kindly undertakes to have conveyed to you in time to prevent your appearance here tomorrow.

The weather had been so warm, that we could not kill hogs until last week; which is the apology of Mrs. Ruffin and myself for not accepting the kind invitation of Mrs. Battle and yourself. I am sure it will be deemed sufficient by Mrs. B. as she has too much of *Nut-bush* and *Possum-quarter* housewifery in her to blame a lady for securing her pork, lard, sausages etc. before leaving home for a month at this period of the year. Some of these days we will come unbidden, well knowing a welcome awaits us; for I am equally sure that Mrs. B. has too much of the hospitable spirit of that excellent old democratic and American Whig—

not one of your modern Racoons!—her good Father, ever to be taken unawares by a friend. My best respects to her and kind wishes to your girls and boys, and a happy New Year to all!—

Yours,  
T. R.

[Address:  
William H. Battle Esqr.  
Chapel-Hill.]

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*From Burton Craige.*

MORGANTON Jan 11th 1849.

*Dear Sir*

Col. Gaither<sup>1</sup> of this place, with whose qualifications you are as well acquainted as I am, is, I understand an applicant for the appointment of Solicitor to attend the sessions of the Branch of the Supreme Court to be held here. As a member of the Bar, living in one of the judicial circuits, from which cases will be sent here, I beg leave most respectfully to say that his appointment would meet with the approbation of a greater number of the profession who practice here than that of any one else. Believe me most respectfully etc. Your obt. Svt.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.  
[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

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BURTON CRAIGE.

*To Calvin Graves.<sup>2</sup>*

RALEIGH, January 18th, 1849.

*Sir:* The Resolution of the Senate, passed on the 17th instant, requesting the Judges of the Supreme Court to furnish the Senate with their opinions on certain questions therein mentioned, touching the qualifications of persons to vote for members of the Senate, under the Constitution of this State, was laid before the Judges on the evening of yesterday.

Although not strictly an act of official obligation, which could not be declined, yet from the nature of the questions, and the purposes to which the answers are to be applied—being somewhat of a judicial character—

<sup>1</sup>Burgess Sidney Gaither, of Burke. 1807-1892, was a prominent Whig who was frequently a member of the legislature. He also served as a delegate in the convention of 1835. He was a member of the Confederate Congress from 1862 until its close.

<sup>2</sup>Calvin Graves, of Caswell, 1804-1877, delegate to the convention of 1835; member of the House of Commons, 1840-1846, speaker, 1844; state Senator, 1846-1850, speaker, 1848. He is best remembered for his breaking of the tie vote on the charter of the North Carolina Railroad in 1849, an act which led to his retirement from public life.—From Senate Journal, 1848-49, p. 239.

the Judges have deemed it a duty of courtesy and respect to the Senate, to consider the points submitted to them and to give their opinions thereon. I am, accordingly, directed to communicate it.

Three questions are proposed, which are thus expressed:

"First. Is or is not the vote of a Bargainor in a deed of trust legal?

"Second. Is or is not the vote of a Trustee under a deed of trust legal?

"Third. Is or is not the vote of a *Cestui que* Trust legal?"

It is to be premised, that categorical answers to these enquiries could not be useful to the Senate, for want of the precision in the terms of the questions themselves, which is usual and requisite in legal discussions. For, neither the subject of the conveyance, nor the nature of the trusts, nor the estates or the bargainor and bargainee are specified. But referring to the nature of the controversy before the Senate, as stated in the resolution, it is supposed that the case to which the Senate alludes is of this kind: That one entitled to at least fifty acres of land for life or some greater estate, conveys it by deed of bargain and sale to a trustee, to secure debts to other persons, with a power to the trustee to sell the estate, and out of the proceeds to pay the debts. Then supposing the proper residences of the parties, the points are, whether the bargainor, the bargainee, or the creditor, and, if either, which of them, hath a right to vote for a member of the Senate.

The Judges would have been gratified to have heard, before forming their opinion, an argument on the part of the gentlemen concerned on opposite sides; and, if the matter of law, involved in the questions of the Senate, were deemed by them doubtful, they would have been obliged to defer their answer until the parties or their counsel could submit their views. But as the Judges, upon conference, have found that their opinions entirely concur, and that no one of them entertains a serious doubt upon the subject, they have felt safe, and that it was proper to deliver their opinion at once, in order to remove the difficulty felt by the Senate in determining the pending contest, as far as their opinion can contribute to that end.

The questions depend entirely upon the proper construction of the second clause of the third section of the first article of the amendments to the Constitution of the State. It is, that "all freemen, (except free negroes, etc.) who have been inhabitants of any one district within the State twelve months immediately preceding the day of any election, and possessed of a freehold within the same district, of fifty acres of land for six months next before and at the day of election, shall be entitled to vote for a member of the Senate." This language is precise and positive, that the right to vote belongs only to him who is possessed of a freehold. The first enquiry, then, naturally is, what is a freehold, and who is a freeholder, within the meaning of the Constitution?

The term "Freehold," is a legal one, of very ancient use, and of known signification in the Common Law. It means an estate in land, of which a freeman is seised for the term of his own life, or the life

of another, at least. In its proper sense, it is restricted to such an estate at law. In reference to private rights it is always used in pleadings and statutes, as applicable to legal rights and to legal rights only. It has likewise been used in the same sense, in reference to the qualifications of voters. Long before the settlement of the Colony of North Carolina, the right of voting for a member of parliament was limited, by an ancient Statute of England, to "Freeholders". A conclusive proof, that a freeholder, as meant in that Statute was as at Common Law, one who had the legal estate in himself, is furnished by the facts, that it required a subsequent Statute in that country to enable a mortgagor of a freehold estate, continuing in possession, to vote, and another to disable the mortgagee from voting, when he is not in the actual possession of the mortgaged premises, or in the permanency of the profits. So, by an Act passed in the year 1760, by our Colonial Legislature, substantially following a previous one of the year 1743, it was thought necessary or useful to define the term, "freeholder," as descriptive of one entitled to vote for Representatives; and therein it was provided, that a person who *bona fide* hath an *Estate Real* for his own life or the life of another, or *an estate* of greater dignity, of a sufficient number of acres of land, should be accounted a "freeholder", and entitled as such to vote; and in a subsequent clause, it was further enacted, that the voter must be "possessed of a freehold within the meaning of that act"—that is, *an estate real* for life at least—"in fifty acres of land." It is, thus, easy to see, whence the framers of the Constitution, in 1776, and in 1835, derived the notion of the particular qualification of a freehold, and also the terms of its description. Certainly, the settled sense of the word "freehold," as a term of the law descriptive of an estate in land, and in like manner as descriptive of a property qualification of voters, both in the mother country and in this Colony, is that, in which it must be received when used in the Constitution, when prescribing such a qualification for voters.

It may be thought by some persons, that, in favor of the elective franchise, the Constitution should receive an equitable interpretation, enlarging the term "freehold", so as to embrace also, what is called an "equitable freehold." But that instrument is to be fairly construed and received, according to the plain and popular import of its language generally, or according to their legal sense when it uses technical legal terms. It is not to be crippled by a rigorous adherence to the letter, on one hand, nor stretched out of bounds on the other, by a latitudinous construction of words of definite and well known signification. The very fact of requiring a property qualification, repels all attempts to fritter it away upon a plea of favor to the citizen. The Constitution forbids any such favor, by the plain implication, that such a qualification is deemed indispensably requisite to the security of the citizens, or the stability of the government; and its provisions, in this respect ought no more to be enlarged, than restricted, by construction. Now

“freehold” and “freeholder”, are terms of art, of the definite signification in the law, hitherto mentioned, and therefore they ought so to be understood. It is true, that writers on that peculiar branch of our jurisprudence, which is called Equity, in contradiction to the common or statute laws, and also Chancellors, sometimes use the expression “equitable freeholder”. But, in thus using it, they speak, not in a literal, but a figurative sense. They do not mean, that there really is a freehold in equity; but only that one, who in the view of a Court of Equity, is entitled in *presenti* to the profits of land for life, of which another is seised, is to be regarded in that Court, to many purposes, as if he were seised of the land, instead of being entitled to the use and profits merely. But that refers solely to the beneficial rights of property *in equity*, in respect to the enjoyment, disposition, and transmission of the use by descent, or the like; and not at all to legal rights, or political privileges. To such rights and privileges, the clause in the Constitution relates; and its terms cannot therefore be controlled by any peculiar sense in which a Chancellor might figuratively use them in reference to certain equitable interests, which in some respects have a similitude to freeholds in land, but are not really freeholds.

The foregoing considerations have so much weigh in establishing the proportion, that a bargainor in such a deed of trust as that supposed, or a mortgagor, is not entitled to vote for a member of the Senate; that the Judges would entertain that opinion on those grounds, were there nothing else bearing on the point. But there are various other reasons, arising out of the purposes of the provision in the Constitution, and from the nature of such trusts and the rights of mortgagors, which strongly tend to the same result. Undoubtedly, the object in requiring the freehold qualification, was to constitute one branch of the Legislature peculiarly the guardian of property, by having it chosen by the owners of property. To answer that end, the ownership of the property ought to [be] *bona fide* and substantial, and not colourable and covinous, or nominal merely. Then, it is to be observed, that debtors frequently mortgage their estates, or convey them in trust, as a security for debts to a greater amount than the value of the land. In those cases they have such interests in the equity of redemption, or resulting trust, that, while they continue in the possession and enjoyment of the land, they may be called “the equitable Freeholders” in the Court of Chancery, though their estates, or rather, interests are, really of no value. It would be a gross abuse of the Constitution for such persons to vote; as they have neither a legal or a beneficial property. That might, indeed, be otherwise, if the Constitution required a freehold of a particular value. In that case, possibly, the value of the land above the incumbrance might be deemed or declared to be the measure of the equitable freehold, as it is called. But there can be no such discrimination in this State. No act of the Legislature can add to the qualifications for voting, or take any thing away. No law can now declare what is a free-

hold, so as to make it different from that described and meant in the Constitution. As therefore, debtors who convey their estates in mortgage or in trust to secure more than their value, cannot, in any just sense, or by any intelligent or upright tribunal, be deemed freeholders, to the purposes of the Constitution, and, as there is no power to create a distinction between such mortgages and deeds of trust, and those in which the debts are less than the value of the estate; it appears to follow necessarily, that no mortgagor, or bargainor in a deed of trust of that kind, is competent to vote. For, as all cannot be admitted to the polls, none can: since they all have rights of the same nature, though of different values in the market, and the Constitution refers exclusively to the quantity of land and the nature of the estate in it, without regard to value in any case.

Moreover, if persons claiming equitable interests under express reservations or declarations of trust were entitled to vote; so, in like manner, would those entitled by way of resulting or implied trusts. Thus, upon a contract for the purchase of a freehold, the vendor before a conveyance becomes a trustee for the vendee, and the latter the equitable owner of the land, provided he has paid the purchase money or performed the contract on his part. But it seems quite clear, that it was not contemplated in the Constitution to make such nice and doubtful equities as often arise out of such dealings, the subject of controversy at the polls, to be decided by the judges of the election. On the contrary it was proper, that the title to vote should be defined clearly and rendered simple, so that the rights and duties of the citizen could be easily understood and readily determined. By viewing the Constitution in the legal and obvious sense of its language the right to vote is thus defined, and vested in the owner of the land for life—"the freeholder" in possession.

The conclusion of the Judges is, and they are all of opinion, that the bargainor in such a deed of trust, as that supposed, is not entitled to vote for a member of the Senate, in virtue of any trust or interest in the land or in the surplus of its proceeds, after payment of the debts, reserved or resulting to him.

It follows, that a creditor, secured by such a deed, cannot as a *cestui que trust*, vote for a Senator; for he has neither a legal nor an equitable right to the land, but only a right to have his debts raised out of it. Indeed, if a conveyance be made to one upon an express and pure trust for another for life, the reasons already addressed upon the first point, satisfy the Judges, that the *cestui que trust* is not entitled to vote; because, in their opinion, merely equitable interests are not within the purview of the Constitution at all, but proper freeholds only.

Upon the remaining questions as framed, namely: Whether the bargainee or trustee in such a deed be entitled to vote, the opinion of the Judges is likewise in the negative. Such a person is a freeholder, if that by itself would suffice, he would be entitled to vote. But, by the words of the Constitution, one must not only have a freehold, but be

“possessed” of it. That is a material, and indeed, essential part of the provision. In a legal language, “possessed” is not the appropriate term to describe the quantity of an estate, as being a freehold. Technically, he who has a freehold, is said to be “seized” and we know thereby, that he is fully invested of the estate. “Possessed,” then, when applied to a freehold, means something more than that the party is seized for life; for such seisin is implied in the term “freehold”, by itself. It can therefore only mean, that the person must be in possession of the land as his freehold. “Possessed”, is therefore, very properly applied to the term “freehold”, in the Constitution—not as denoting merely, that a person hath a lawful right to the land, but further, that he is in the actual enjoyment, by possession or perception of the profits, or at least that no one else is.

As has already been remarked, the policy of the Constitution is, that voters for members of the Senate should have a substantial interest in the country in the form of a freehold, in at least fifty acres of land. Now, there may be such a freehold; which gives no beneficial interests to the freeholder, in whom the estate was vested for the use and benefit of another entirely. It is manifest that such a freeholder does not stand in such a relation to the property and the country as affords a reasonable expectation, that he will exercise the elective franchise upon the motives, and to the ends, for which the property qualification is required. A mere mortgagee, that is, one not in possession, has the estate barely as a security for a sum of money; and a trustee in the like condition holds the title exclusively for the benefit of others. It often happens, that the legal estate is outstanding in the trustee long after the debts are paid or other trusts are satisfied; in which cases the trustee cannot rightfully enter for any purpose, but is bound to reconvey the land upon request. If such a trustee were allowed to vote, it would plainly violate the policy and meaning of the Constitution, and not less its language. If however, a mortgagee take actual possession by himself or his lessee, he becomes thereby a freeholder in possession. Indeed, he has a substantial interest, as well as the estate, and is in fact enjoying it, and therefore his right to vote is unquestionable. It is not so obvious, that a trustee, in a deed to secure debts to others, is within the fair sense of the Constitution, though he take possession; and it can hardly be doubted that were the constitution such an instrument as deals in details, such a trustee would have been expressly excluded, or, had the case occurred to the Convention that to the words “possessed of a freehold”, would have been added “to his own use”, or some provision of similar import. But the Constitution, in fact, contains no such qualification upon the right of the freeholder in possession to vote; and therefore though not plainly within the reason of the Constitution a trustee who is in possession, or in the actual receipt of the profits, though not to its own use, is fully within the express words of the provision in the Constitution as it is, and consequently he must be ad-



mitted to his vote. For there is no authority for a judicial or legislative interpolation of an exception, that the person must be "possessed to his own use," when the Constitution is not thus qualified, but is expressed in language, not in itself of doubtful import, but having a clear and settled sense.

The question of the Senate has no reference to the possession of the land by the trustee, and it must therefore be understood as referring to the right of a trustee to vote by force, merely, of the conveyance to him, vesting the legal freehold in him. Thus understood, the answer of the Judges to it is, that in their opinion, such a trustee is not entitled to vote.

But at the same time, they deem it their duty to say further, that they are likewise of opinion, that if a mortgagee go into possession of the mortgaged premises or received the profits, or if a trustee, in such a deed as that all along supposed, actually enter into possession, or take the profits for the requisite period, then the former, undoubtedly, and in the opinion of the Judges, the latter also, is entitled to vote for a member of the Senate.

It will be observed, that the effect of these answers is, that except when the Trustee is in possession, neither the Bargainor nor the Trustee can be allowed to vote. It may possibly occur to the minds of some, as an objection to the principles laid down, that the land is thereby excluded from representation altogether, and in so doing, that the Constitution is disregarded. But the objection, though it may at first appear plausible, has no real force, for the land is in no case represented. The right is in the owner. It is true, the right is conferred on him in respect to the land. But it is only for the security of his rights and interests as a citizen and owner of land; and he is not obliged by the Constitution to vote, or, after once acquiring the right to vote, not to part from it. The truth is, that there is a great deal of land on which no one votes or can vote; as, for example, that belonging to single women and infants, and to persons residing in a different district from that in which the land lies. So, if one conveys his land in such a manner as not to leave in himself a "freehold", he, of course, parts with his right to vote, though he continued to occupy the land. But it does not follow, that by depriving himself of that right, he transfers it to the alienee of the freehold. For, while the former owner cannot vote for the want of a freehold, the new owner does not become entitled to vote by having the "freehold," unless he has also become "possessed" of it. There is, consequently, no inconsistency in holding that neither of them is entitled, when the Trustee is not in possession either actually or by receipt of the profits.

I am, sir, with very great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

To the Hon. Calvin Graves,  
Speaker of the Senate.

*From James F. Cain.*<sup>1</sup>

CHAPEL HILL—Jan'y 25th, 49.

*My Dear Uncle—*

According to a long established custom, that the Managers of the ball, given complimentary to the graduating class, should choose some old gentlemen as their attendant Managers; I beg leave to state that I have selected your name and most respectfully solicit your acquiescence.

Should you find it inconvenient to attend I cherish the hope you will not refuse on that ground—as it more frequently happens than otherwise that those who submit their names to the young men never attend.

But should you find it consistent with your arrangements and agreeable to your wishes, I shall be very happy to have you present at our next annual commencement.

Remember me to Cousin Kate's family. I shall await an answer with much anxiety—Yr. affectionate Nephew

JAS. F. CAIN.

[Address: Raleigh, N. Ca.]

*From William Maxwell.*

RICHMOND, Feb. 27th, 1849.

*Dear Sir,*

I have the pleasure to inform you that at a late meeting of our Virginia Historical Society, you were unanimously elected an Honorary Member.

In giving you this mark of our consideration, we only pay you a compliment which we think is fairly due to you as a worthy and distinguished son of our old Commonwealth whose virtues, talents, and public services have done honor to our State and country.

I am, Sir,

With great respect,

Yr. Obdt. Servt.

WM. MAXWELL,

*Cor. Sec. of the Va. Hist. Soc.*

Hon. Thomas Ruffin,  
Chief Justice etc., etc.

<sup>1</sup>James Frederick Cain, of Orange, graduated from the University in 1850 and became a physician.

*From Nicholas L. Williams.*

PANTHER CREEK 23d April 1849

I intended answering your kind letter by the Ladies, but I put it off until the last day, and then I disliked to quit their society long enough to write, have requested them to say to you that I would drop you a line by the mail. I have been very busy arranging my business so that I could leave home with as little inconvenience as possible, the hour has almost arrived for my setting-out; I shall start early in the morning for Tennessee but I cannot leave without saying a word in reply to your letter. I am really glad that you and Judge Pearson are so highly pleased with each other; the elevation of character, to which a personal acquaintance has brought each of you in the other's estimation is highly gratifying, and I hope will continue through many years of pleasant official intercourse. To quote Judge Pearson's *own* language "He finds that you are the greatest Judge in the U. States, he can contradict you in your *legal opinion* without giving any offence, and upon the whole you are the *greatest man he ever saw.*"

We have had a delightful visit from your Son and daughter, and Miss Morehead. I hope they enjoyed themselves while in this section, as *all* seemed particularly anxious to contribute to their happiness. We went to Salem, to the Pilot, and paid a visit to Judge Pearson's and Mrs. Dodge's families. Pearson was more polite than I ever saw him, he said none but such a company of fine Ladies could have kept his students from their books so long; they have now found the way out, and I hope often to have a visit from them. May we not some day hope to have a visit from you and Mrs. Ruffin; to whom present my highest regards and accept for yourself my warmest wishes for your health and happiness.

[P. S.] Say to the young ladies that Mrs. Williams has declined her visit to Caswell for the present, which enables me to make an earlier start to Tennessee.

[Address: Haw River, No. Carolina]

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*To Anne M. Ruffin.*

MORGANTON, Sepr. 2nd 1849.

*My dearest Anne./*

I know not to whom I am most indebted—Patty and Mr. Brodnax, or yourself—for their welcome letters. But I am much indebted to some one or all of you for their letters. They were welcome indeed in all respects, but thrice so, because they bring me such good tidings of *your*

health and cheerful spirits. May you, through God's most mighty protection, both here and ever, be preserved in body and soul, for our Saviour Jesus Christ's sake. In return for the pleasing intelligence received from you I take pleasure in mentioning, that my own health is perfectly good; and that, notwithstanding very laborious occupations, I keep up without being conscious of much exhaustion—not near as much as I experienced during the *hot* weather and *severe* work of the last two weeks of my late sojourn in Raleigh. I have however been constantly occupied during the last week, and, we have got through a great deal of business. There is, nevertheless, much yet to do; and I think we cannot possibly get through it in the two weeks to come. My hope is that we shall finish tomorrow fortnight, so that I can leave this place in the stage of tuesday morning, the 18th inst. and be with you, without an accident friday morning, following. In the meanwhile, I must request that the family will continue to write to me at this place until this day week; and after that direct the letters to meet me at Salisbury, up to the stage of Saturday morning, the 15th instant. I shall desire to hear of all of you there; but I shall be particularly solicitous to hear there, what Polly shall [have] done and how she will, dear thing!, then be. I am much obliged by her affectionate remembrance conveyed in a short postscript to her husband's letter, and hope she will be able to perform the promise she makes in it, to write again soon. Though I rather hope, that things may so turn up, that, instead of hearing *from* her, I may hear the best of tidings *of* her. Give her my very best love, next to that which lies preserved in *your* corner of my heart!

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Bishop Ives<sup>1</sup> arrived here yesterday, having come up for the purpose of ordaining Mr. Passmore *Priest* today. But it was not done, owing, as the Bishop tells me, to some disappointment of the mail in bringing some formal testimonials from the Standing Committee, which the Canon requires. The Bishop tells me his health has improved very much during the summer, and, indeed, that it is better than it has been for years past. He preached an excellent sermon in the morning and gave a most moving exhortation this afternoon: both *practical*, earnest, and instructive. It is much to be regretted and by himself more than any one, that it has not been more his use, than it has been, to deliver such discourses. He sat two hours with me, alone, yesterday evening, and talked a great deal and very seriously and zealously: with a full sense, I think, of the mischief—temporary, at least, that may come of recent events and a clear perception, that trouble is before him and the church. Yet he speaks with bitterness of no one, and with little of the spirit of censure of any but two persons, who, he supposes, may be actuated

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<sup>1</sup>Levi Silliman Ives, 1797-1867, was a native of Connecticut, and was Episcopal bishop of North Carolina from 1831 to 1852. In the latter year he left the Episcopal Church and joined the Church of Rome.

by improper motives to keep up an agitation of needless controversies among the brothers. He has, certainly, not acted at all times with the grave discretion, appropriate to his office, and has sometimes spoken too lightly of the imperfections, and omissions of our Liturgy and standard of doctrine, discipline, worship and ecclesiastical duties: whereby the Best Book in the world, next to *The Book*, as I think, has been disparaged in the estimation of himself and some others. Yet I believe, he has had no bad intentions; and he avers most solemnly, that he has *no Roman* affections or tendencies, and declares that, if driven from the Diocese upon a charge of heterodoxy and, even, cut off from the Church, he can never, never, go to Rome! Yet he maintains some positions, in a way, which would lead one to think, that he does not clearly perceive their nature, or that he is not conscious of the state of his own mind or feelings. What I fear most, however, at present is, that there are some, who are disposed to deal hardly by him, and thereby to carry out their own inclinations to err as much or more on one side as they say the Bishop has on the other. He would *make* me speak what I thought on some points: which, being thus urged, I did with due respect, of course, but with the candour indicative of the sincerity belonging to a Christian and a friend. I wish he had earlier sought Counsel from his Clergy and listened to it with readiness; and sincerely hope that in any future proceedings—should there be any—he will be calm, candid, and dignified—not bringing a blot on his good name, or a scandal on the Church, however in points of faith or doctrine he may differ from some or the bulk of the Church. He leaves us tomorrow morning: Wednesday he has services in Lexington, Sunday next in Leaksville and goes thence—he said—“to your house, if you are not afraid I shall carry off your family to Rome!” I told him, I did not think he would try; but that I believed, were he to make the attempt, it would be to no purpose, as I thought you would all *stay with me*, in the High Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America. I presume you will have him with you, and I hope, to edification, and not to disputations. Poor man! From his station in the Church he is a shining mark at which many partisan foes in the church, and many foes of the Church from without, will aim a shaft, of which some, it may be feared, will penetrate deeply, making painful and rankling wounds. May the Church lean only upon the hope of God’s heavenly grace, so that He, as he hath promised, may keep His Household continually *in His true religion*, and defend it by His mighty power through Jesus Christ our Lord! The Bishop says, he thinks he will be at Alamance tuesday night, and that he has laid off to spend the next day with you. Say to John Brodnax, if with you, that I am much obliged by his kind offer to take on him the trouble of attending to the manufacturing of my crop of wheat at Dan River and shipping the flour, and that I will thank him to “go ahead”. Supposing, however, that he will probably have gone home, I have written him, particularly,

to Danville. When any one writes to Raleigh or Fairtosh I beg that my most affectionate remembrances may be sent to Katy, Anne, and their good men and little ones. And to each one at home, nephew, brother, son, daughter and grand-child, and, before all others, *my dearest old woman*, I send for myself the fondest love of, my beloved Anne,

Your constant friend and husband,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

MORGANTON, Sepr 6th, 1849.

*My dear Sir./*

I have been thinking for several days past, as I am detained here so much longer than usual, that I ought to write you, for fear you would leave for New York before I could put you in funds for such things as Mrs. Ruffin may want. Being much engaged, I had put it off from day to day, until I have just time to make the remittance so as to reach you before leaving Raleigh; and even that I owe to your being so considerate as to write me in due season, for the receipt of which favour last night, I make you my thanks. I enclose herein a certificate of deposit in Bank of *Ithaca*, New York, for \$74.50/00, my order on Mr. Arthur N. Gifford of New York for \$200:50/00; and my check on the Bank of Cape Fear at Raleigh for \$225:00—making in all \$500, as a fund to cover any orders for you while at the North. I hope to leave this—possibly tomorrow week, but, certainly next tuesday week; and as soon as I get home I will get my good wife and the Household to make out the memo and forward it to you at New York, as directed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Of course I am not capable of judging of your speculation; but I doubt not you have made a prudent bargain, as I have much confidence in your judgment in matters of business. At all events, I am much pleased that you are again in business, as I thought I saw that your time often hung heavily on hand, and, at any rate, employment is needful to every man—for happiness, not less than for gains. I must say, however, that I have enough of it to satisfy any man, in all conscience; and that, either in regard to the comfort of it or the profit, I should willingly dispense with a goodly portion of it. The docket here has been one third larger, that is, in numbers, than that of the last term at Raleigh. So the West means to carry us! With these labours on my hands and the wish to terminate them, that I may move towards home—to which my face is desperately set—but little time is left me for correspondence with friends, to which otherwise, I should delight to addict myself. You will therefore excuse me for having put off writing this to so late an hour, that I am now forced to conclude it in order to be in

the office before the mail closes. I do so with a message of fond love to your dear wife and children and the assurances, dear Sir, of the highest respect and esteem of

Your friend very sincerely,  
THOMAS RUFFIN.

Be so kind as to acknowledge the receipt of this by a letter directed to Haw-River, as I shall want to hear of the remittances. I do not suppose it is necessary I should advise Mr. Gifford of my drawing on him except by the bill itself. If it be, mention it in your letter, and I will do so in reaching Alemance.

Sepr. 15th Saturday morning.

[Address: Windsor Bertie Cty. No. Ca.]

*From William N. H. Smith<sup>1</sup> to the Judges of the Supreme Court.*

MURFREESBORO N. C. Decr. 28, 1849.

*To the Honorable the Judges of  
the Supreme Court at Raleigh.*

Permit me to introduce and commend to your kindly regards my brother, A. P. Yancey, who visits Raleigh at this time for the purpose of applying for his Superior Court license. Since he commenced the practice of the law, about eighteen months since, he has been in my office, and has pursued his professional studies.

The embarrassment of an examination may cause him to appear to less advantage, but I feel no hesitation in saying from my opportunities of knowing the extent of his reading, and his acquaintance with legal principles, that his attainments entitle him to practice in the higher Courts of the State. Should he be deemed so by yourselves he will return with much lighter spirits than can be inspired by the empty compliment of my own opinion.

With great Respect

I am your very Obt. Sevt.

WM. N. H. SMITH.

[Address: To the Honorable  
The Judges of the Supreme Court  
Raleigh.]

<sup>1</sup>William Nathan Harrell Smith, 1812-1889, a native of Hertford County, a graduate of Yale, member of the House of Commons, 1840, state Senate, 1848, 1858; solicitor, 1848-1857; member of Congress, 1859-1861, Confederate Congress, 1861-1865; chief justice of North Carolina, 1878-1889.

*From Francis Lieber.*<sup>1</sup>

[COLUMBIA S. C 1850 (*circa*)]

*Sir,*

One of our judges an intimate friend of mine, told me last night that you had lately spoken in very kind terms of me to a gentleman, whom he did not mention, and that your partial opinion was chiefly founded upon my letters as I have not the honor of your acquaintance, and you occupy so eminent a position in the legal system of your state and as a citizen in general your opinion is very grateful to me, and I beg to indicate my acknowledgement by the sending of the two accompanying pamphlets. Perhaps they may be perused with some degree of interest by one who has not disrelished the Political Ethics. The Discourse on the Character of the Gentlemen has been issued in a second, much enlarged and I, would hope some what improved edition by Allen and McCarter at Charleston, S. C. If I had a copy I should do myself the honor of transmitting it to you, as it is I must beg of you to accept a copy if its prototype, meagre as it is.

Should you Sir happen to see my worthy friend and former colleague, the Rev. Mr. Thorpe of Wake Forest, I would politely request to be remembered.

Trusting that you will pardon the liberty I have taken as an entire stranger to you, I am with sentiments of great respect.

Sir

Your very obdtd. servt

FRANCIS LIEBER.

[Address: Hon. Thomas Ruffin  
Chief Justice of N. C.  
Orange Co., North Carolina.]

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*From William H. Battle.*

CHAPEL HILL Feb'y 22d 1850.

In looking over the last (Morganton) number of the Reports of the Supreme Court, I find that the Court, in an opinion delivered by your-

<sup>1</sup>Francis Lieber, 1800-1872, a native of Prussia, who after fighting at Ligny and Waterloo was denied admission to any Prussian university because of his liberal political views. He graduated at Jena in 1820, fled from Germany to avoid further punishment for his liberalism, served in the Greek revolt, and, after being Niebuhr's secretary, came to America in 1827. He was professor in Girard College, 1832-1835, going in the latter year to South Carolina College as professor of history and political economy. He remained there for twenty years, during which time he wrote the works on which his chief reputation rests. In 1855 he went to Columbia College where he remained for the rest of his life.



self, used the following language: "The Statute 4 Hen. 7 Ch. 20 gives to one, suing an action popular in good faith, the replication that a prior recovery pleaded was had by *covin*, and enacts that if the *covin* be found, the plaintiff with good faith shall have recovery and execution. That is among several beneficial ancient English Statutes, which were inadvertently not re-enacted in the revision of 1836, although they were suitable to our condition and had been in force and use here" *Burnet v Donaldson* 95. Now my Dear Sir, if the court will only take the trouble to look at the 105 section of the 31 Ch. of the Revised Statutes, they will find that the identical Statute of 4 Hen. 7 Ch. 20 *was* reenacted in the revision of 1836; and that therefore neither the Commissioners of revisal nor the Legislature are, so far at least as that statute is concerned, obnoxious to the censure implied in the language of the Court. In saying that the language of the Court implies censure I can hardly believe that the court so intended, but the language admits of such a construction, and I have no doubt it will be so understood by the profession. Such being the case I feel confident that you will pardon me for calling your attention and, through you, the attention of the court, to it.

I regret that I could not call to see you on my return from Washington. I got to Raleigh late one evening very much fatigued after a long ride of more than fifty miles, and the next morning I had so many little matters of business to attend to that I hardly had time to get home that day. I hope I shall have the pleasure of meeting you at Alamance Court in May.

[Address: Raleigh N. Carolina.]

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*To Catherine Ruffin Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE—March 30th 1850.

As you made me promise, I would let you know how I got home, and how I found all, and suppose you will think, that by this time I have waked up, I conclude that it is as fit, I should now fulfil my engagement as at any future period—especially, as I want to hear from you all, and this service on my part will give me a right to claim a reciprocal one from you.

We left Raleigh with only six passengers, and I congratulated myself at the prospect of as comfortable a trip as the state of the roads would allow—which was bad enough—worse, I believe, than I ever saw them. But we were six hours getting to Morings; and then three merchants overtook us, who were returning from the North, each hav-

ing a large trunk of merchandize, besides a small trunk of clothes. That added to my trunks, and the baggage of three ladies from the North, made a load for a waggon; and we were till ten o'clk. on Monday getting home. But I was sincerely rejoiced to get here at all; for what with the condition of the road and the loading behind, before, and on the top, there was good reason to fear a break-down, or an upset, every 100 yards. I walked about one third of the way, and broke down all the young men! But I got through safe, and, thank God!, I found all well, and, of course, glad to see me. Nobody was surprised or scolded at my being sleepy; but at the pressing instance of the house I took a nap—a good nap—on Monday, and, after a sleep all that night, took another the next day. By the time the snow came I had made up all losses, and was wide awake and ready to make the best use of the unseasonable visitor by turning all hands to collecting it in the stead of ice—of which, you know, there was no store here. We succeeded in getting about forty loads before it went away; which filled our house about two thirds. It was well beaten down as it was thrown in and had sufficient moisture after the few first loads, to make a compact mass. I have been told, it will keep as well as ice. I do not know, how that is, but, with many fears to the contrary, I have some hopes it may last long enough to pay us for the trouble of collecting it—which, by-the-bye, was not a great deal. It will add vastly to our comfort in the way of fresh meats, milk, butter, ice-cream and the like, if it will stay by us even to the middle of summer. If anybody about you has any experience on that subject, I will thank you to let us know.

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I enclose an order to enable your husband to draw my salary on Monday. When I left you, I did not know I should have any use for the money before my return to Raleigh; but find a use for more than half of it immediately. Say to Mr. R. therefore, that I will thank him to enclose to me by Wednesday's stage \$250 in large notes, and to deposit the residue to my credit in the Bank of Cape Fear, so that I may check for it.

\* \* \* \* \*

[P. S.] . . . . There are but few peaches left by the snow; but I do not discover much injury to any thing else.

[Address: Raleigh, No. Ca.]

To Frances Gray Roulhac.<sup>1</sup>

My dearest Fanny./

ALLEMANCE, April 22nd 1850.

I take it for granted that you have not had a hard thought at not receiving an acknowledgement of your letter, as I suppose certainly, that Annie has informed you all at home, that I went to Rockingham the day before James and she arrived. I got home again Saturday evening in the rain and very unwell with a *dreadful* cold. But "Mama" took me in hand on the instant and has been *treating* me ever since with *house candy* all day and paragorick and croup sirup every night so that I have been constantly getting better, and now I am pretty well, and have, indeed, a feeling of great delight at the bright sunshine which has blessed our longing sight since the middle of today. I have strong inclination after such a long and cloudy gloom to enjoy the soft and balmy airs, out of doors; and I believe I could get leave to do so now, did not "Mama" and I both think it much of a duty in both of us, that the one or the other should write to our beloved child in return for her affectionate and pretty letters to each of us. You must *not* imagine that I call your letters by those terms out of compliment merely; for I really think they merit those epithets. Indeed, every body here says, "that is a pretty and sweet letter"; and I not only join in that sentence, but carry the matter further by saying, that it is the sweetest and prettiest letter of one of the sweetest and best children, that an *old* "Mama and papa" ever had. May God bless you, my beloved child, and make you His child and faithful servant, filling you with His Grace and pouring on you His heavenly benediction until he finally brings you to His Kingdom in Heaven! But to that end, you must remember, that it is *your* part and duty to live answerably to the law of God, in obedience thereto and with full faith in His Son Jesus Christ, and to the law of Charity towards your fellowman—always governing your temper and your tongue, and denying selfishness and mortifying all evil affections and striving after a godly life. I must tell you plainly, that there is another thing you must remember and never forget: which is, that God has blessed you with so many treasures, that He may justly, as He certainly will, expect much from you. He has bestowed on you competent understanding to learn readily all useful knowledge belonging to your Sex and station, and also a fondness for the acquisition of knowledge, and a station in life whereby the best opportunities are opened to you through the ready willingness and ability of your excellent Parents. There is nothing therefore, wanting to your success but a steadfast continuance of your present desire to learn, and then the disposition to

<sup>1</sup>Frances Gray Roulhac, later Mrs. Daniel Heyward Hamilton, the second daughter of Catharine Ruffin Roulhac, at this time twelve years old. This letter is a characteristic example of Ruffin's letters to his grandchildren.

make the best use of knowledge, which is, to turn it to your own moral and religious culture, inclining you to do your duty towards God and towards man, by knowing yourself, studying to correct whatever you may find evil in any point of your disposition or character and thereby making yourself by His help the child of God in his sight, and always amiable and mild and lovely in the sight of your Parents, sisters and brothers, and your fellow men generally. I often think of you, my sweet little one, with strong affection and hope, and, of course, with some fears. I pray God, that you may grow in Grace and in the knowledge of your Saviour and His word!

I told you, I had been to Rockingham, but in going there I took Mr. John Brodnax in the way, and had the pleasure of staying a day and a half and two nights with him, and our dear Polly and *their* "sweetest of the sweet"! I found all well, and very glad to see me. I do not know, when I had a heartier welcome. Even little Alice seemed to know, I was something to her, and was ready to come to me and laugh for me and be kissed. She is a large healthy baby, and very quiet and good natured; and her parents think her, of course,—*your* Father knows—very beautiful. I can't say, that I do; but I must own her to be much like the rest of you were at her age, with the exception, that she has the extra charm of a red head, like your Jock. But Jock will never catch her in other points of beauty, I fear, or, rather hope—as I suppose you will give up, a boy ought not to contend with a girl in personal beauty. Tell Mother, that her dear Polly is getting on very well towards establishing a high reputation not only as a good wife and mother, but a choice house-keeper in all branches, house, kitchen, yard, garden, poultry, and the rest; and, withall, keeps her amiable manners, cheerful smiles, and social qualities and genteel appearance: all of which I know she will be pleased to hear.

Annie is quite well. . . . I wish you were with her, and also every one of you my dear grand-children; for I think you would all and every one of you be delighted at Alemance now that it has cleared up and the fruit trees are in full bloom and the other trees putting out and grass putting up. Notwithstanding all the frosts there is yet good prospect of an abundance of fruit—which I hope you will have the opportunity, in due season of helping to consume. *My* Lilly must come up this summer and "fat up" again. I pray God's blessing on her and send my best love to her. How came you not to say a word about *the Judge*. I must not omit to send him also "papa's" love and blessing, as well as to Joe and Jock, and Rebecca, Annie and sweetie, sweetie, chattering Maggie and their and your dear Mothers and fathers. Ask your father to do "Mama" the favour of getting for her from Williams and Haywood two boxes of "Mothers' Gelatine Capsules", and send them up by the first opportunity—as she finds them a very salutary medicine, without being disagreeable.

We shall be anxious to hear how the surgical operation on poor Jock's gums finally operated, and also how Sally's curls come on and therefore shall expect another letter from you before long. I wish Lilly could write, for, if she could, I know she would write often to her "Mama and papa". God bless her! Be sure to let us know, likewise, what you hear from our charming little Mary Amis—whom I long to see. Everybody here sends much love to the whole of your house and to Aunt Anne and her household. Believe me, Dearest Fan,

Most fondly your grandfather,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

"Mama" says, "Ask Catherine and Anne, if they do not mean to write: they have not written a line during the winter or spring."

[Address:

Miss Frances G. Roulhac  
care of Colo. Roulhac.]  
Raleigh No. Ca.]

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*From W. H. Rhodes.*

WINDSOR, N. C. 15th May 1850.

*Hon: Thomas Ruffin,*

*Dear Sir,*

I trust you will excuse the liberty I take, in addressing you this note. But cut off as I am from all sources of information, on the subject of my letter, no other course was left me.

Without further apology then, will you have the kindness to inform me, whether or not I can apply for license to practice, both in the Superior and County Courts at one and the same Term of the Supreme Court? And if so, at what day of the approaching Term my application would be heard?

I can learn nothing definite from the Rev. stat. as I am respectfully informed that the General law has either been repealed, or so modified by subsequent legislation and orders of the Sup. Ct. as to convey but little idea of the present regulations on the subject.

If a previous license would be of any service to me, I beg leave to state that I was called to the Bar three or four years ago in the State of Texas, and that up to about the first of May 1849, I was in active practice at Galveston. Since which time, I have been either in or on my way to Bertie of which county I am a native.

If you are too much pressed, to reply personally to this letter, my old friend Mr. Roulhac, will convey any information you may think proper to send me.

I have entrusted to him a volume of the Sup. Ct. reports of Texas, which I hope you will do me the honor to place upon the shelves of your

library, as a slight token of my appreciation of that national fame, you have so justly merited and obtained, and of the unfeigned respect

With which I have the honor to be

Your Obt. Svt.

W. H. RHODES.

*From Benjamin F. Shreve.<sup>1</sup>*

PRINCETON COLLEGE, PRINCETON N. J.

May 27th 1850.

Thomas Ruffin

Sir.

I have to announce in the name of the Cliosophic Society of the College of New Jersey, that you have been unanimously elected an honorary member of the same.

As the internal regulations of this Society are sealed exclusively to the initiated it is impossible in this communication to give particulars. It is sufficient however to say that it is one of the oldest institutions of the kind in the country having been established in the year 1765. I have only to add that we would be happy to introduce you to more particular acquaintance with our customs and regulations at any time you can make it convenient to attend: Provided that you have not received and accepted a similar offer of membership from the "American Whig Society" connected with this college: in which case this election is to be considered *null*, as it is impossible to become connected with both.

Most respectfully yours etc.,

BENJAMIN F. SHREVE

Hon Thomas Ruffin.

[Endorsed:

The Cliosophic Society  
of Princeton May 1850.

Answered that I was a *Whig*.]

*From Calvin H. Wiley.*

GREENSBORO N. C. May 28th, 1850.

Dear Sir:

Would it be unreasonable to ask you to write me an Essay on farming? I often pass your farm on Haw River; and I have come to the Conclusion that you are an excellent farmer. And, then, you can write;

<sup>1</sup>A member of the class of 1851 at Princeton.

you can farm well and tell how you do it. I want a contribution for my Gazetteer, from just such a person: an article on the present condition of farming, in the middle part of the State, and on the best modes of improvement etc., etc.

The Essay will be printed as written—: I can spare for it, at least ten pages of the book, and will not need it before the first of November next. For your pains I will present you with a copy of my work: that is, in gratitude, and from respect, and not as pay.

With high regard

I am

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

C. H. WILEY

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*From John U. Kirkland.*<sup>1</sup>

*My dear Sir*

HILLSBORO July 15/50

In all my embarrassments and difficulties it has heretofore been my privilege to receive the benefit of your friendly counsel and assistance of which at this present juncture I particularly stand in need. And I hope you will excuse the liberty I now take in again taxing your kindness in that way.

You will have heard probably ere this reaches you that I have received the appointment of Treasurer and Secretary to the North Carolina Railroad Company. Upon the first intimation of it and the great disparity between the requirements of the bond and emolument of the office, I unhesitatingly determined to decline it; and upon the official notice being put into my hands by Genl. Sanders and Genl. Trollinger, I intimated to them my determination; they refused to listen to it; representing it as unfair to Govr. Graham who had nominated me to themselves, as well as the other gentlemen of the directory who had supported my nomination; that it would require a called meeting of the directors to their great inconvenience and that it would be a source of great disappointment to many friends of the road as well as stockholders; they went further and assured me that the directors were authorised to increase the emolument, and they had determined to do so as soon as the duties of the Treasurer were increased, and many other inducements they held out to me which I do not now recollect. Upon this representation I agreed to reconsider the matter and upon this reconsideration I now beg your (as I more properly should have done before taking the first step in the matter) advice. What would you have me do. If you think it will not do I hope you will in candor say so: for notwithstanding my dear Sir the Sum of \$1250 a year would be an important item to me and mine I do not desire to take a step that would

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<sup>1</sup>Ruffin's brother-in-law.

not meet the approval of one to them I am indebted so much as yourself. On the other hand, Should my acceptance meet your approbation and you feel at liberty to be one of my surities to the *odious* bond I am authorised to say Mr. Simpson will be one with you: also that your names alone will be acceptable to the directory. I know this is asking a great deal from you both, but it will serve, I trust, to strengthen me in my integrity. I would observe that by a resolution of the Convention it is made the duty of the Treasurer to keep the Monies on deposit in Bank which I should do for my own protection, had there been no such regulation. Enclosed you will find a form of the Bond should it be thought advisable to execute one drawn from a draft furnished me by Govr. Graham if there is any inaccuracies in it you know how to correct them. I send same down. As I am instructed that it is necessary there should be a witness to the signatures that they may be proven when presented to the Board of Directors. I use him as the witness as I can take him to Greensboro with more convenience, and I suppose there is no impropriety in his witnessing the instrument. The directors have satisfied me there will be a special meeting in Greensboro on next Friday to take the bond so you see I have but little time allowed me else I should have gone to see you in person. . . . .

Yours very truly

JOHN U. KIRKLAND.

[Address: Raleigh, N. C.]

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*From Paul C. Cameron to Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

FAIRNTOSH, Aug 8th. 50.

*My dear Sir/.*

It is my impression that I said to Mr. McKimmon that you would order the tin at the time I returned his bills. But to make assurance, sure, please tell him so now. I have no wish to have any sort of trouble with him. Virgil got up last night about 12 o'clock, when I got up to read my letters and papers. . . . . I have been anxious to know what is the temper of Congress and the Country on the rejection of the Compromise! I fear we have trouble ahead! And poor Manly is beaten! Poor Fellow he will take it I fear with but little fortitude. The Denunciation of the Nashville Convention by Whig orators hurt him much. Whigs who felt strongly became lukewarm towards friends who denounced them as traitors. And what a Governor we shall have in Reid! He will give Holden the reins of State. Well what we cant help we must submit to. My family are all pretty well. . . . . I hope you and yours keep well.

[P. S.] Dont let any one see this sheet.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]



*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT, 30th Augt. 1850

I have today reluctantly consented to be present, if health permit—at the grand jubilation<sup>1</sup> on the 6th Prox. at Raleigh. I have been forced to this by many calls. I am not the judge, whether it will do good. I had much rather be with you at your quiet home, where I wrote you I expected to be next Monday, or soon after, not having heard from you in answer, suppose you are from home.

I write this, lest you should trouble yourself to meet me at our friend Jones' Monday evg, next as I requested—old men should not make promises, but if I am able I will see you and Jones after the Raleigh demonstration if *your business is not in the way*. Do come to Raleigh.

My Tobc. brought distressingly low prices. Do not waste all your superfluous funds, if starvation threatens I shall know my resource.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin  
Graham.

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*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE—Sepr 14th, 1850.

To the expression of my thanks for the renewed instances of your kind disposition to oblige me and mine, manifested, too, by acts more or less troublesome to you, I have to add, for the present occasion, the expression also of my regret, that I find myself in some degree, unable to fulfill my expectation and your partial engagement about *the Hams*. We have the quantity mentioned by you—100—and more, which we could spare. But as you know that neither Mrs. Ruffin nor I would be willing to let any go, which we did not believe to be the very best, we have examined ours, with a view to ascertain their quality; and to our surprise and mortification we find, for the second time in our house-keeping, that some of the hams have more or less *skippers* in them. It is true, they are not numerous enough to injure many of the pieces seriously. But we believe that some are seriously affected, and a good many somewhat so. Under those circumstances fair dealing requires a prompt communication to the gentlemen, who expect them, of the true state of the case. The result of the examination made and of the consultation between Mrs. R. and myself is, that we can venture to send between 50 or 100—say 75 pieces—which Mrs. R. would be willing to have sold as of her curing; but not more. You will remember I mentioned, that Colo. Yarborough desired some hams to be sent to him at the market price, and we had a stock sufficient to enable us to supply

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<sup>1</sup>The celebration was in honor of Reid's election and the Democratic victory.

both him and Mr. Smedes. We can do so now, if *shoulders*—called *hams* by some—would suit them or either of them. I hardly suppose, however, they will; tho' I have to remark that *they* are of the best quality and for *my* use are as much esteemed as hams, technically speaking. Of them we could spare 75 more. You will add, my dear Sir, to the many favours, for which I am your debtor already, by explaining these matters to the two gentlemen, and ascertaining which of them will take the *hams*, if either, and at what price; and also whether either would like to take the *shoulders*, and at what price; and let me know. It will not be a disappointment to *me*, if neither should be willing to take the bacon, of either kind; as from the failure of crops pork must be very high this winter and bacon next year. But I am desirous of making good our word; tho' to my own hindrance, as far as I can; and therefore I would be willing to send 75 hams and 75 shoulders, and I think I can do so, of a quality which would give satisfaction. Indeed, I will not send any which I do not believe *ought* to satisfy, any taste. I shall leave home Monday for Dan River—for the dismal sights there; and upon my return I shall hope for your answer. Colo. Yarborough said, he would want what he should take about the 1st of Novemr. and by that time or before I can send. Indeed I will do so at any time I hear our things from New York shall have reached Raleigh. You must endeavour to satisfy these gentlemen with me; for my desire has been most sincere to serve them, and it is my misfortune, that, contrary to my expectation in July, I am not entirely able to do so.

The Boy is waiting, nearly dark, to go to the post-office, and I can only add, that we are all well as usual. . . . .

[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

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*From Hugh Waddell to Peter Browne Ruffin.*

HOME Octr. 30. 1850.

*My dear Sir!*

I promised Mr. Alexander King of Stokes County, about 10 days since, that I would deliver a message to the Chief Justice touching the *Silver mine* which has been recently discovered on his Land in that County: Being too unwell today to go down the street I take occasion to drop *you* a line in regard to this matter, hoping that you may have an opportunity to convey the aforesaid message to yr. father. King says that he or Mr. Cloud has heretofore written to the Judge but has received no answer—that he has a Mr. Dewey engaged in making the necessary examinations and that very recently they have got out large quantities of ore which they consider very rich and though not sufficiently skilled in smelting it, to judge *accurately* of its value, they all believe a large proportion of the mass to be silver, and were, while I

was at Stokes Court in the act of sending part of the ore to the Washington mine near Lexington, to be *tested*. You are aware that the Washington Mine is of Silver and Lead and has been successfully worked for years past by a Philadelphia Company. King seemed anxious to know, *how far* yr. father would permit him to go in exploring and especially the *terms* on which he would lease the mine. He stated, I think that through Mr. Dodge, the Judge had consented to his *going on as he pleased*, but I am of opinion he now believes the mine *very valuable* and is fearful of incurring heavy charges without some more explicit understanding. He assured Judge Manly and myself that the ore seemed inexhaustable and that he had traced it a great distance on the surface. Now I am aware that success has not always or even often crowned the labours of miners in this State, and that this is more especially true of Gold mining. But from all I Heard at Lexington of the Silver mine near that place, I have been led to believe that veins of Silver have yielded more and promise happier results than the Gold veins. At all events as King is able to prosecute this work and seems desirous to enter upon it with spirit and vigour were it my Land I should look to it forthwith and let him have a *liberal* and *encouraging* Lease. I would ask pardon for venturing *advice* upon such a subject and to such a man as yr. Father, but that I know he, like others, has so little *faith* in such things, that without importunity from some quarter, he would scarcely deem it worth a second thought. K spoke of writing to or visiting the Judge soon. May it turn out to be what K. called it "*a Mountain of Silver*".

With great regard. Yr. friend

H. WADDELL

P. B. Ruffin Esqr.

[Address: Hillsboro.]

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*To Catherine Ruffin Roulhac.*

*My Eldest and dearest Child!*

ALAMANCE—NOV, 11th 1850.

You cannot now deny that you are Forty—full forty! This day completes the term, and tomorrow begins your forty-first year. Since your birth *I* have had many joys and sorrows—thank God, however, that He blessed me with a buoyant spirit and cheerful temper, which with His blessing have enabled me to enjoy His boons with a grateful heart. I trust and believe that with you life has had many charms and but few frowns. May you enjoy yet many years of health and peace, sustained by the love and life of your excellent husband, and made happy by virtuous, intelligent, and dutious children! I suppose Mr. R, did not relish the feast of your fortieth birthday, and therefore he went off under the pretence of business at Windsor. A cunning chap he! I

wished to have sent the wagons down in time to help out a dinner for the birthday. But since I got tidings, that our things were at hand, we have hurried to get off, and the present is the earliest day, it could be effected. As Mr. R, is, or may be away, I write this to you as his deputy, or to him, as the case may be. The wagons take down 39 hams and 81 shoulders: which I think *good* bacon. But your Mother thinks it is not the *very best*, and desires I should say so. I do not know what is the particular bargain between Mr. R. and Colo Yarborough and Mr. Smedes; but he will divide it between them, as he agreed and at the price he agreed on. I could sell every pound here for 10 cents, and much more, if I had it. There are also several firkins of lard. One, the largest, is a present *to you*; but I wish Mr. R. or you to inspect the whole, and take the one you like best. I use the word "several", because I do not know, how many there will be; for the wagons start with 11 firkins, but with directions to sell some at Chapel-hill if 12½ cents can be had for it. What may not be disposed of there will be taken to Raleigh; and after Col. Yarborough gets what he wishes Mr. R. will be pleased to sell the other at the market price. It is a hard thing to get firkins here, and therefore, I urge that the purchasers take the lard and let me have the firkins—to which I suppose they will have no objection. The residue of Buck's load is made up of flour: of which *you* will be pleased to accept a Bll, and Mr. R. have the rest sold. Jesse takes in his wagon some other notions for *you*: namely two bags of irish potatoes, some turnips and cabbages, and a bag of dried apples. The autumn has been so dry, that our cabbages and turnips have not attained their usual size; but they do very well and I dare say, are as good as you can get in your market, and I doubt not will be quite acceptable. I also send for my sweet little ones five bushels of apples, and a small bag of chestnuts, which I got in Rockingham. All which I hope they will enjoy much, letting Father and Mother come in for full shares of the apples. Your Mother bids me say, that she engaged some ducks for you and also that she has a dozen Turkeys of her own raising, which she would be glad you had, and which you may have for sending for. It was impossible to take them alive in the wagons—which are craming full; and the weather would not allow sending my wagons to Raleigh again—which I propose doing before Christmas—when as many of these things shall enter into the cargo as possible. If the apples should keep well, we can have the pleasure of offering you another supply; and also replenish your stock of cabbages and turnips, if the weather should continue mild for ten days more.

I presume Mr. R. had all our things put up, ready for the wagons, before he left home. I wish them all sent, and suppose Jesse can bring them in his wagon, or the greater part of them: which I prefer his doing, as Buck will return, probably, by Fairntosh for my supply of salt. In addition to the things mentioned in the memorandum, your mother wishes a box of Raisins, if Mr. R. has any that are very good.

Your Mother does not know *the Rose* to which you allude—else she would try to send it. Fan's trunk, which she lent to Jane, goes and in it will be found the bag of chestnuts and a letter to Annie from Sal. I am sorry the *harp* has been broken. Ask Mr. R. to have it mended and charge the cost to me. Request Mr. R. or Mr. Wiggins to be so good to get from Williams and Haywood a couple of bottles of *Cod-liver oil*; which I want for the poor boy, Colin. Duncan can tell the kind that is to be preferred. By the way, ask Lilly and Turkey Lurky, for me, to present a few apples to dear *Maggie* and little *Jinnie*, and offer my love to Virginia and Duncan. Your Mother regrets, that she was unable to raise a *Cloth of Gold* from a layer in consequence of the drought of the summer and autumn; as she was very desirous of presenting one to Mrs. Nelson. She thinks, however, that she has a small one in a jar, which will get through the winter; and if it should, it is intended for that lady. At all events, she shall have it, if one can be reared another year. During the present but one has been raised to any size, and that belong to Anne—to whom it was previously promised. I send by Jesse two double flowering peaches—which I beg you to present for me to Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. McKimmon, and make acceptable to them with my compliments. Now in return for the little notions we send you, I must beg you for a few more *strawberry vines*. Let Jesse select them; as Caesar sent us the *old roots*, whereas this year's runners are the best for transplanting. Furthermore, I think I saw in the back yard at the store a good many empty good' boxes, which seemed to be rotting or used for kindling a fire in the stove. If they be still there and they cannot be sold for a reasonable price to others, I should be glad to have a few of them upon moderate terms, for the purpose of putting away our apples and irish potatoes in them. But I do not wish them sent, if they can be disposed of for anything worth naming; because unless they could come very low, it would be cheaper to me to saw plank and have boxes made.

I believe I have troubled you enough with this long business letter which, by the way, I trust will give you the less trouble, as I hope Mr. R. will have returned to Raleigh by thursday. I will, however, harass you no further, but conclude with the love of every one here to you and yours: in which I include the fondest affection of Dear Katy,

Your Father and friend,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

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*From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.*

RALEIGH Nov 24th 1850.

In obedience to your wish expressed to me, as I was leaving home, I write to you, to give you an account of what we are doing here, and what is likely to be done.<sup>1</sup>

Thus far our time has been given to filling the several offices and I imagine that the next week will be principally devoted to the same business, at least, I hope so, as I wish to get them off of our hands as soon as possible, as we have scores of candidates, for every thing, whose pressing solicitations are exceedingly troublesome to those who have not learned the art of *promising*, with no intention of complying! We have also endeavoured to adopt some system of operations for the session, but have made but little progress, owing to the grossly selfish policy of some with whom we have to deal, who seem to regard the success of "*their party*" only as a means of advancing their own individual interest, and to have no higher sense of duty or principle of action, than that which leads to their own aggrandisement!

We are to be troubled too by those who have constituted themselves the champions of their respective parties and whose highest ambition seems to be to engage and bluster in the party polemics and warfare, which themselves create and which their sensible constituents feel no interest in whatever: of this last class are Gen. Saunders and Mr. Rayner, both of whom I conceive are rendering themselves completely ridiculous.

We have too some of the most ultra radicals, which ever disgraced any body—nothing is good as it is—everything must be subjected to a new modeling—proposition after proposition has been and will be introduced to alter the constitution and it is about this mainly that I wish to ask your advice. I am on a Committee who has been instructed to inquire into the expediency of changing the mode of electing Judges and the tenure of their offices. I am opposed to it, and can never be brought to support such a proposition even though I be single in my vote though that I shall not be as I am disposed to think that there are a several of each party, who will oppose it! I am anxious though to gather all the information that I can, on the subject and for that reason I write to you, to beg of you, to give me your views of it and concisely your reasons for them. I know that this may be troublesome to you and that you may feel some delicacy in doing so, but I hope that you will comply, as it will be of great service to me and I can assure you I will not betray your confidence. If you think it proper to comply with my request at all, I would be greatly obliged to you to do so at once.

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[Address: Graham N: Ca.]

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Ruffin, Jr., was a member of the Commons from Rockingham in this legislature.

*From Patrick Henry Winston.<sup>1</sup>*

WADESBOROUGH 12 Dec., [1850]

Dear Sir

It is rumored that the office of Reporter to the Supreme Court will shortly be vacant. I take the liberty of saying to you that in case of a vacancy Mr. Thomas Ashe and I will be applicants for it. As we do not live in Raleigh it may be proper to pledge ourselves as we do, that we will perform the duties of the office with diligence and promptitude and for that purpose one or both of us will attend at every Term of the Court for such part of the Term as our attendance will be of use, the whole Term if necessary—and that any suggestion made by the Judges relative to the discharge of the duties of the office will be regarded as a command to be obeyed and if the duties are not performed to the satisfaction of the Judges any intimation to that fact will be followed by immediate resignation.

With respect your friend and servant

PATRICK H. WINSTON

Chief Justice Ruffin.

[Address:

Allemance P. O.

Orange County N. C.]

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*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

GRAHAM, N. C., Dec. 15, [1850]

Finding that I shall probably need about \$150 before I leave home, I enclose my check for that sum, and beg you to remit it to me by the next mail.

Mrs. Ruffin, to our regret, received Katy's letter, advising her that she might look for Caesar today. We regret it, as I intended sending my wagon and *Jesse's Tender* again to Raleigh Before Christmas with flour and bacon.—the "tender" taking a load for Katy, as I think I wrote her. But—as she chooses. I must, however, ask the favour of you to ascertain what my flour can be sold for, and also whether you can find a market at a tolerable price for 50 hams and 50 shoulders or thereabouts. I thought Mrs. Ruffin was alarmed beyond any reason about her bacon. We have continued to use it daily in our family and with only one or two exceptions. I never saw sweeter or firmer bacon. It so far surpasses her expectations that she is willing to send more to market under her name. We do not, however, care much about it at

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<sup>1</sup>Patrick Henry Winston, a native of Rockingham County, at this time a resident of Wadesboro. He had served in the House of Commons in 1838 and 1840. He was appointed reporter.

present, since our white and black family can consume the present stock, and thus enable us to part from this year's (this week's) killing,—91 hogs—at better prices next summer and autumn. Yet we would prefer selling now, and I think we can select the above number, or near it, that are *good*.

Corn is so scarce that no whiskey, or very little, will be made during the winter. That being so, we hope to get fair prices for brandy; and I have two or three hundred gallons of *Apple* brandy, I should like to dispose of soon, as it is a losing article and is of the usual quality for Alamance—of which the improvement by age does not compensate for the loss in quantity. About *that* (as well as the flavor) your friend *Womble* can give all information.

I am just returned from Rockingham and Stokes. As might be expected, Mr. Waddell's "Mountain of Silver" turns out to be a promising "lead mine"—of which I have been long aware. I will tell you all about it when we meet.

[P. S.] Love to Thomas I am so cold I can hardly hold my pen.

[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

(Graham N. C.)

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*From John D. Eccles.*

NEW YEAR'S DAY A. D. 1851.

I hope you have not furnished your library with Lord Campbells "Lives of the Chief Justices", as I should be sorry to be anticipated in introducing you to the acquaintance of your distinguished brothers of the "S. S. Collar" Be pleased to accept the volumes which I send by Mr. Banks, as a New Years offering, and withal as a slight token that I hold in very grateful remembrance your uniform kindness.

I tender you the good wishes of the Season, and with them the expression of the hope that you may be long spared to fulfill the high duties which you now discharge I need not say how acceptably to the profession, and the public.

To Chief Justice Ruffin

Raleigh.



*From John K. Ruffin.*<sup>1</sup>

CHAPEL HILL, Feb. 9th 1851.

*Dear Father!*

Perhaps you think I have deferred writing to you too long, but I have heard nothing which I thought would interest you, as school-boys' prattle can have but few charms for men who have affairs of state to direct. I suppose Raleigh looks quite deserted now that the legislature has adjourned, from all the reports I hear it seems as if the members did little credit either to themselves or to the counties which they represented during the last week; the description which Brother Tom gave me of some of their meetings resembles more the meeting of the students to discuss Southern rights than of the law-givers of N. Carolina.

There has been a Southern right association formed here during the past week, several patriotic speeches delivered, and resolutions past tending to dissolution, rights of secession etc. The proceeding of which however you will see in the papers, as they have been ordered to be printed. I am glad to inform you that the change of room-mate which you desired has been effected though in a way which does my room-mate but little credit, as the habits of idleness contracted by him here last session rendered it impossible for him to continue in his class. Wherefore his father took him and his brother who was suspended at the time home with him. I can't say that I am bettered however in that respect as my present room-mate, James Wilson, has been sick ever since he came with me, and attention to him has occupied a good deal of my time, but he is now most well. I wish you would subscribe to the Standard for me as I have no better way to amuse myself, when I have nothing to do, than to read what is going on in foreign parts. I hope you will write to me soon. I have no correspondent now whatever, no one has even written me a line from home this session. I suppose that they have forgotten that I am in the land of the living, so you can give me home as well as Raleigh news when you write. I should like to know whether Sister Jane and Patty have gone to Virginia yet or not.

Most affecy, dear Father,

Your son,

J. K. RUFFIN.

[Address: Raleigh, N. C.]

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<sup>1</sup>John Kirkland Ruffin, Ruffin's thirteenth child and fifth son. He graduated at the University in 1854, and studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He was a surgeon in the Confederate Army.

*From John H. Wheeler.*<sup>1</sup>

RALEIGH, WEDNESDAY MORNING 26, Feb. '51.

Col. Wheeler's respects to Judge Ruffin and would say that he would have done himself the honor of calling on Judge R. but his business compels him to be engaged this morning and he leaves at 12 m. for New York. He would be glad to see Judge R. as he passes to court this morning, to show him a collection of M. S. S. and printed matter, relative to early history of North Carolina—rare, valuable and interesting. It has been for years, an object with him to collect and condense material relative to the early history of North Carolina. This he used for his own private reference and convenience. In 1842 he directed by a resolution of the General Assembly the printing of the list of papers in the offices in London (Board of trade and plantations) and in the next year, the able and excellent man Hon. Geo. Bancroft, who has been a kind friend for many years, being our Envoy at London, he sent to him a copy of this list with a request to procure such papers as were valuable. This at the time he promised and has performed. When in New York last spring Col. W. called on Mr. Bancroft he found the papers, but was only allowed to have copies as Mr. Bancroft would not part with his copies.

They are of vast importance to North Carolina and will throw a flood of light upon her early history now dimmed by age. Col. W. goes now to New York to make additional extracts. The archives of our own State afford much information—they have been explored—minute statistical information as to the population products of each county—its early history, a sketch of its distinguished citizens, the Institutions, literary and otherwise, of the State, the officers of the State, Executive, Judicial and Legislative are recorded. This matter so increased on my hands by labour industry and time that it has become to my friends interesting. A joint committee of the last Legislature, on examining the work says "that it embraces a mass of information alike interesting, useful and instructive".

He would be pleased if Judge R. could examine it, and hopes that it will be convenient for him to call.

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<sup>1</sup>John H. Wheeler, 1806-1882, a native of Hertford County, graduate of the University, 1826; A.M., 1828; lawyer; member of the Commons, 1827-1852; secretary of the commission to adjust the French Spoliation Claims, 1831-1836; superintendent of the Charlotte mint, 1836-1841; state treasurer, 1843-1845; minister to Nicaragua, 1853-1857. He was the author of the well-known history of the State.

*From Cadwallader Jones.*

HILLSBORO' May 11th 1851.

At a meeting of the vestry of St. Mathews Church, on yesterday, you were appointed one of the delegates to the convention to be held shortly at Fayetteville. Col. Bagley, Mr. McNair and Dr. Jones were also appointed—as business of unusual interest, connected with the Bishop, will probably be brought before that body, we are very anxious that you should go and hope you may find it convenient to do so. Mr. Donelley and Mr. McNair will go, as I understand. I can not say as to the others. . . . .

[Address: Haw River.]

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*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE—May 29th, 1851.

*My Dear Sir./*

Your letters are always acceptable, ever abounding in expressions, evidently dictated by the feelings of nature, of fond affection for my children, who constitute your House-hold. But I believe the last is more exceedingly rich in that excellent quality than any of its predecessors—being the natural promptings of an over-flowing heart rejoicing in the repossession of its treasures after an absence unexpectedly long; and, consequently, it had a proportional welcome here. Lilly said, when I read it to her, “Oh! That’s a sweet letter”! I assure you it is a source of the most affecting and grateful emotions and thanksgiving to God, when I reflect, as I often do, on the happy prospect of security in point of morals, character, and principles, and domestic affections and enjoyments, under your care and guidance that lies before my beloved daughter and our little ones after I may be gone. But I do not know, that I have a right to obtrude my personal sensibilities on such subjects on you; and perhaps it may produce a positive evil in tending to relax that discipline, which over all children is sometimes wholesome, and increase yet more the inclination to indulge the wishes of all about you, which, you will pardon me for suggesting, you already carry to the full extent of utility. But I will say no more, for fear that I may find myself bound to consume one half of my sheet in apologies for the contents of the other half.

By Jesse I send the bacon, which I hope and believe Mr. Smedes will find as good as that with which he was pleased last year. We think it now as fine as we ever had at this period of the year, or, indeed, ever made. I could get the same price here for every pound we have; and

at Danville I learn hams and shoulders bring 15 cents. Jesse also takes down for Katy a Bll of flour in bags; and a bushel of late red potatoes. They are of the kind we have cultivated for 20 years, and are the best for winters' and springs' use we ever tried. These, however, are the produce of seed, which we got last year from Yancy County. I am glad you used a part of the *Mercers* you intended for me, as I only want one bushel; for, in truth, we have only ground left for that quantity or thereabouts, and what will put us in seed for another year will suffice. By Jesse I will thank you to send the things you have for us; and be pleased to load him time enough to let him get some miles on the road on Saturday night. We have concluded not to return the cotton negro shirting, as it is here. But I wish to have the same quantity of the Cotton Oznaburgs for men's trousers. Anne also wants a piece of fine bleached cotton shirting, and 4 tea pots, that is, 2 of the earthen ware, and 2 of the fine kind that Katy sported last winter. By another wagon I send 10 Blls of flour for Mr. Walker's disposition—with directions, however, to Jesse to sell at Chapel-hill what he can. I shall be content with any price he Mr. W. may get for it; as I am sure he will do the best he can.

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We are wanting *rain* here very much; chiefly for oats and the meadows. We were fortunate enough, however, to have a fine *season* last Sunday was a week on Dan River, which enabled my overseer there very nearly to plant my whole tobacco crop. and John Brodnax the same, and his father and Fred, and the Doctor, all theirs,—which is uncommonly forward, at least, with me.

With a great deal of love from all here to every one under your roof I am, dear Sir, very truly

Your friend

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Send me a box of *Gray's ointment* for the scrofulous boy. There are 65 hams and 65 shoulders, in all 130. I have *not* weighed them, as they are to be weighed by your balances at all events, and one is enough.

Mother's message to Katy: "I am mighty sorry, I have nothing good to send her. I never was so bad off for *something* to eat in my life"! (Alas! Alas!) "Send by the wagon the two *green blankets* which were over the ottoman". After all, she sends to Katy a jar of pickled nasturtiums, and to Cook Jenny homespun for a frock. Alice sends a box with two yellow mothfloras, or Banksiana roses for *Mrs. Lucas*; which Catherine will please send to her with Alice's compliments.

"Katy must have *my Ducks* and little rose, Aunt Roane sent, put up carefully so as to come safe."

P. S. We have just heard by Katy's letter, that you have gone to Convention: which I am sorry for on my acco, as no one can attend to my matters like yourself, and it has happened, unfortunately, that you

are often away, when my wagon gets there. But Katy and George and Mr. Wiggins must do their best without you, and the *Church* needs good men and orthodox *Protestant* Episcopalians in Her Councils!

[Address:

Joseph B. G. Roulhac Esqr.  
Raleigh No. Ca.]

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*William H. Battle to the Judges of the Supreme Court.*

CHAPEL HILL June 7th 1851.

Gentlemen/

George Howard<sup>1</sup> esq. is an applicant for a license to practice law in the Superior Courts of this State. He is a young gentleman of fine talents and excellent character and as such is recommended to your favorable consideration.

With high respect

I am your's etc.

WILL. H. BATTLE.

Judges of the Supreme Court  
of N. Carolina.

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*From James Iredell.*

RALEIGH July 11th, 1851.

*The Honorable Thomas Ruffin, Chief Justice*

I beg leave through you to make this communication to the Judges of the Supreme Court.

I find that it will be dangerous to my health to attend the Supreme Court at Morganton at the next Term. I have had a slight relapse in the last few days, and my strength improves very slowly. I am not yet able to walk as far as the Court room.

I, therefore, ask the favor of the Judges to permit me to send my son James to attend to the copying of the Reports. He can do everything under my previous directions, except making out the abstracts, which, of course, I shall do myself.

I propose, that he shall make a memorandum of the names of the parties, the Court below, from which the cause is brought, the Term, at which it was decided below, and the name of the Judge, who gave the decision. In every case, when the Judge of the Supreme Court shall not state the case from below fully, he will copy the case as made out

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<sup>1</sup>George Howard, of Edgecombe, 1829-1905, studied law at the University and became a successful practitioner. He was also a newspaper editor. In 1859 he was elected a judge of the Superior Court and served until 1865. He was a member of the conventions of 1861 and of 1865-1866.

in the record from the Court below. And in the last event I will make such amendments and condensations in the copy of the case, as it shall seem to me necessary.

James can be there, at farthest, on the second Monday of the court and will continue there until the copies are all made out.

Be pleased to let me hear from you on this subject through Mr. Freeman or by a short note. I am with the highest respect.

Your obedient Servt.

J. A. IREDELL.

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*From Paul C. Cameron.*

RALEIGH Aug. 17th Sunday. [1851]

On my return from Orange I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 4th from Morganton. And whilst I thank you for your kind attention to my wishes; I regret to tell you that I have failed to obtain the services of Mr. Moore for my Rail Road job. I propose to go up to Orange this week and towards the last of the week to ride as far as your House for our daughter Mary and make a short visit to Mrs. Ruffin and family, and whilst in that neighborhood to make one more attempt with Mr. Moore. His chief difficulty seems to be how to satisfy his wife. Thus far he has never placed me in a position to let me make him an offer. I just said to him that whenever he should say that he could come to me the terms would be a matter of no sort of difficulty between us. Tho' I have little or no hope of making any impression on him I will cheerfully give the time and the pains to make him a visit at his House and if need be make him extra compensation. I *know* of no one that I can trust with any sort of satisfaction in this undertaking if I fail to get Mr. Moore.

It affords me much gratification to learn from your letter that the day of your departure from Home found you in a much better condition to undertake the journey than we had anticipated, and that the ride West only seemed to quicken and stimulate your progress towards the recovery of your usual good health. I do not conceal from you the fact that I have been so impoverished in the last few years in my friendships by death and other causes that I am startled when I am told that one of so much consequence to me and mine as you are "has a fever or is looking badly".

\* \* \* \* \*

My father sleeps well—takes his food with a good relish—is cheerful—enjoys his friend—or his newspaper—and seems free from excitement. He makes some improvement in his powers of locomotion, but as yet he is not willing, I fear hardly able to walk by himself. No improvement as yet in the left arm. I think the *hand* exhibits a more

*life* like appearance. He suffers occasionally much pain in the muscles of his left shoulder arm and hand, which we hope is a good indication.

Of his own motion some five days ago he commenced the use of the Galvanic Battery, and is now every day placed in connection with it, for an half hour at a time. Dr. Haywood has not promised him anything from the use of it, but this seems in no degree to lessen his hopes or expectations. I have thought that its use had improved the expression of the eye! He began some days ago to make frequent inquiries about the health of his brother Dr. C. when it was thought best that the truth should be no longer concealed from him—and the death of his brother was told without any bad consequences as far as we can discover—he expressed himself gratified that the intelligence had been withheld from him to this late day. This matter has caused me no little anxiety on his account and some vexation of which I will tell you hereafter. Deliver me from a town life and the scandle of its over benevolent and self conceited people male and female who not satisfied with the mismanagement of their own affairs undertake to manage everybody elses. I hardly think it possible for me to get through life without attempting some man's life or sacrificing my own. All I ask is to be let alone. Dont notice this in your reply for my letter must be seen by others and I beg you also to pardon the freedom with which I write. . . . I am sorry to tell you that as far as I can learn the condition of my crops the prospect is much worse with me than in 1845. I have had no rain on our fields in Person since the Month of May!

\* \* \* \* \*

I am told that \$300,000 has been subscribed to the Gaston road,<sup>1</sup> it is now attempted to get the remainder subscribed by a limited number of persons—one of which I have been invited to be but declined—intending never to invest a dollar in any corporation of the State beyond that to which I am committed. I hope you will soon be at Home and that as soon as you can do so you will visit us at Fairntosh. My wife and little ones with my father wished to be properly mentioned to you.

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*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE—Sepr. 6th, 1851.

*My Dear Sir./*

I am happily at home again—having closed the business at Morganton last Monday, which was a week, or more sooner than I had expected. I found all well here, except that my good Old Woman is

<sup>1</sup>The legislature of 1848 had re-incorporated the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad with the provision that when half a million dollars had been raised and spent on the road by the stockholders it should be released from all liability to the State.

complaining of some pain and fatigue; which I hope will wear off or be forgotten in the pleasure of having me under command once more. I suppose, from what Katy said in her letter to her Mother, that you, too, are at the apron-string by this time and, if so, I congratulate you on your escape from the Raleigh Rail Road, and wish you may find the domestic servitude not too grievous. I very sincerely and earnestly congratulate you and Katy, himself, and all the children, on the happy restoration of my dear Boy, Thomas, hoping that by this time he is entirely over his late attack and all its consequences—biles, hunger, fretfulness, and every species of ill-humour; and that he is able to call to mind all the good service and nursing he had from Father, Mother, grand-ma, and his other friends, and thank them for their kindness from the bottom of his heart, and God for his mercy and goodness in raising him up from death's door to health and life again! Give him and all my children my best love, and to Katy just as much as to all the others.

I found a letter here from Messrs Andrew Kevan and Brother, saying that they sent by Rail Road on the 26th Augt. 3 Kegs of Nails for me to your care at Raleigh; and that at the same time they sent 16 sacks of salt to your care at Gaston! The reason they give is, that the Rail Road at Petersburg would not undertake for the Raleigh Road, that it would take them from there. Now allow me to beg your attention to this matter at once, and request that you will urge the officers to bring my salt to you at Raleigh, before the freights of Merchandise pour in for the autumn trade; for it would be a dreadful thing to be obliged to send my wagon all the way to Gaston, just for a little Salt. If the officers will not agree to take it, let me know; as I believe it will be better to order it up the river to John Brodnax's rather than send as far as Gaston for it.

Give my love to Anne Cameron and her brood, and my best wishes to all others at Mr. Cameron's, as well as my most hearty congratulations upon the happy changes among them.

I must not, I suppose, conclude my letter without saying as in truth I may, that I have not only got over *the spell* I had at Raleigh but am in as good health, I believe as I ever was at any time: So you all need not look shortly for a "*divide*" (as our Mountaineers say). But, notwithstanding good health three days ride over rough roads, and the loss of two night's sleep. makes one tired enough not to relish the labour, even of writing to one's best friend. I therefore conclude with the assurance of the greatest regard from, dear Sir,

Your friend and most obd. Svt.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

\* \* \* \* \*

I open my letter to say, that when I left Raleigh our friend *Rayner* gave me twigs of *twelve* kinds of fruit for budding, and that I find *eight* of them living—nearly every bud of them; but those of four kinds,



nearly all, failed by reason that the buds or eyes were not *then mature*. I wish to supply the place of them with new buds of the same kind; and I will thank you to ask Mr. Rayner to give me some of the following: viz. 1. Green nutmeg Peach. 2. El Ruge Nectarine. 3. Old Roman Nectarine. 4. Boston or Perkins Nectarine. *Number* them as above, and put each by itself and wrap a little *wet cotton* at the ends of them and roll them in a moist cloth: and request some gentleman coming in the stage on Wednesday next to take charge of them and leave them with Mr. Scott, post master at Graham.

[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

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*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE, Octo 4th, 1851.

*My dear Sir.*

I am sorry to say, that I have been simple enough to Buy Mrs. Roysters' land at a very hard bargain: having given a very high price for very poor land. The folly is the greater too, as I have not the money to pay for it altho' I have agreed to pay down about \$900 more than I have. I have therefore to depend on borrowing to get it. I have supposed, however, that it may be certainly had at one of your Banks; and upon that faith I made my contract. I accordingly enclose herein my note for that sum, which I must get you to fill up and endorse. If another name be required by the Bank, ask Mr. Paul Cameron to put his on it. I shall go to Rockingham on monday and be back on wednesday the 15th Inst., and I am to pay the money on the next day. It will be sufficient therefore, and save a week's interest, to have the discount on tuesday or wednesday the 14th or 15th, so that the remittance may be made by the mail of the 15th and reach me next morning. But, be sure that I get it then; as I would not disappoint the good lady on any account, as she will then be ready to set out on her route to Texas!

As I mentioned above, I shall go to Dan River on Monday, and would have done so sooner, but for our duty to our worthy Virginian kindred, who were with us, or expected. . . . .

The carriage is waiting to take our young friends to Hillsborough So, I only add my warmest love to my dear Katy, and to all the children and in particular, to *Redevivus* Master Thomas.

Affecy, dear Sir, Your friend,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

\* \* \* \* \*

[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

*From William White.*

POST OFFICE RALEIGH N. C.

October 26th 1851.

*Dr. Sir.*

I have for considerable time thought you were entitled to a Daily Mail West, as far at least as Greensboro, (If not to Salisbury). The Mail Matter on that Route has increased within the last year 20 per cent and is daily increasing and with the additional importance given to those Western Towns by the improvements now going on must continue to increase in a still greater ratio. I understand the citizens of Greensboro and Chapel Hill and perhaps Hillsboro are about to urge the matter upon the Department, and a Cooperation with them from the citizens of Graham would be of service. A letter from you to Governor Graham about the time the memorial from Greensboro goes on would be of service. Gov. Graham would be disposed to aid in the matter but letters from those interested on the Route would very much aid him in urging it upon the Department, such improvements in mail service are never granted unless they are asked for, and those who ask for *most get most*, and I believe no State or at least none of the old states are as poorly provided with mail facilities as North Carolina. And even in North Carolina Daily service has been extended on Routes far less entitled [to] it than the Route from Raleigh to Greensboro. Fayetteville had two daily mails one from Raleigh and one from the South and a triweekly to Wilmington and have lately got a daily mail to Warsaw in order to give them a daily mail from Wilmington. They have got this by continued urging it upon the Department.

You can hardly see the importance of a Daily mail to business men in those Western towns as I see it, it is not uncommon that we have a failure of the mail to connect at Baltimore and the next day it fails to connect at either Petersburg, Gaston or Raleigh. Suppose this to happen on Sunday, it cannot go West until Wednesday, consequently your mail is delayed 5 days, while at Raleigh it is delayed only two days, or perhaps only one day and part of another If the connection is broken at Raleigh.

You must feel personally interested in this matter for whether you are at home or at Raleigh it must be a great convenience to you to have a daily mail.

I do not wish to be known as recommending this move, and nothing but the strongest convictions of its justice and importance could induce me to do it, for to make up this mail daily would give me much additional labour without any increase of compensation.

I am very respectfully

Your obt. Servt

The Honl. Thomas Ruffin.

W. WHITE P. M.

[Address: Graham N. C.]

*From R. C. Pearson.*<sup>1</sup>

[MORGANTON, N. C., Nov. 14, 1851.]

*My dear Sir,*

I refer you to the columns of the "Republican" a newspaper published in Lincolnton (which I requested the E-d to send you) for the particulars of a difficulty which took place at Marion between our Friend W. W. Avery<sup>2</sup> and Saml. Fleming and which was resumed in our place on tues. last and resulted in the death of Fleming.

At Marion Fleming armed himself, made an attack on Avery unexpectedly, got the advantage disabled him by a blow with a rock and *cowhided* him in the public streets.

Avery met him in the C. H. here on tuesday last and shot him down. He expired without saying a word.

Avery of course surrendered himself to the proper authorities is now in jail and is expected to be tried for the offence tomorrow.

Yours Truly

R. C. PEARSON

Morganton N C 14 Nov 1851

[Address: Graham N. C.]

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*From John Livingston.*

OFFICE OF THE U. S. MONTHLY LAW MAGAZINE  
157 BROADWAY NEW YORK January 19th, 1852.

*Dear Sir.*

I am preparing for the press, a biographical work, which will contain the portraits and memoirs of many of our most eminent living jurists. The favour with which the sketches of a few distinguished lawyers heretofore published in the Magazine, has been received by the profession, induced me to undertake this work. Among members of the bar, there seems to be a laudable desire to see the faces and trace the history of those who illustrate our system of American jurisprudence. Moreover it is peculiarly proper that the memory of persons who occupy high positions of accredited usefulness, besides being treasured in the hearts of relatives and friends should have its public record also, for the double purpose of respect and emulation. To extend a knowledge of those whose substantial fame rests upon their high legal character and attainments, must exert a wholesome effect on the rising generation of American lawyers, and will tend to elevate the standard of professional

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<sup>1</sup>The postmaster at Morganton. Later he was president of the Western North Carolina Railroad.

<sup>2</sup>William Waightstill Avery, of Burke, 1816-1864, graduate of the University in 1837, member of the House of Commons, 1842, 1850, 1852; member of the Provisional Congress of the Confederacy; a prominent Democratic leader.

excellence for familiarity with the talented begets a desire for honorable distinction, and in this. I think consists the true moral of biography.

I feel therefore that in publishing this work, giving portraits and biographies of the more learned and illustrious members of the American bar, I shall be discharging a portion of that duty which my Lord Hale says every man owes to his profession.

The work will contain about fifty likenesses and memoirs, the portraits will be engraved on steel in the neatest style, by the very first artists in this country—the letter press will be done in the best manner.

Having written thus much, I will say that we have fixed upon yours as a proper name to occupy a space in this work, and permit me to add, that I hope you will do me the favor to accept the honor, that it will be an honor yourself, will, I think admit, for it will place your name and counterpart, where they will be seen and known, “not for a day but for all time”. If you shall accept of the offered place, please forward to me at your earliest convenience, your likeness (a good daguerreotype will do) so that it may at once be put in the hands of our engravers. Please forward also a memoir of yourself or such facts as will enable us to prepare it. The memoir may be from one to twenty octavo pages in length, according to your wishes.

In conclusion permit me to request that you will send me both the memoir and the daguerreotype within sixty days from the time you receive this, as we wish to have the work published in three months from this period, and desire to avoid all delay.

Very truly yours

JOHN LIVINGSTON.

[Address: Hillsborough  
Orange County North Carolina.]

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*From George E. Badger.<sup>1</sup>*

WASHINGTON—Feb'y 8—1852.

I have enquired as opportunity offered as to the matter mentioned in your letter. The general answer I have received is that no such question has been decided or raised in the States represented by the gentleman of whom I have enquired. There are two exceptions—Mr. Geyer<sup>2</sup> of Missouri and Mr. Pratt<sup>3</sup> of Maryland inform me that in these states female slaves are deemed the subjects of Rape and that persons have

<sup>1</sup>Badger had been sent to the United States Senate in 1846, succeeding William H. Haywood. He served until 1855, when he was defeated by Asa Biggs.

<sup>2</sup>Henry Geyer, 1798-1859; senator, 1851-1857.

<sup>3</sup>Thomas G. Pratt, 1805-1869; senator, 1851-1857.

been convicted as felons for the offence. In Delaware Bayard<sup>4</sup> tells me they have a special statute which prevents the question you propose from arising.

I will not venture to add any opinion of my own farther than to say; that since females of the class in question are almost always *willing*, to force one who happens to dissent, is certainly aggravated by the total want of apology for the violence.

Hon. Ch. J. Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

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*From James H. Ruffin.*

MOBILE, Feby 9, 1852.

*My dear brother.*

I have been dreadfully sick since I last wrote, with "Colera morbus", very near "*Colera*". I am now convalescent, though not fat or strong as before the attack.

I cannot lend any of your friends in the upper country—Those who want it are not able to pay and those who are able to pay do not want it. This State was never more prosperous and unencumbered—at a sale a few days since on the Alabama river, negro men sold above \$1000.00 average and negro women at \$800.00. One hundred in families sold for Cash at \$580.00 average, and it was said on the ground that there were between \$2 and 3,000,000 of cash to purchase them with. So that you may see the poor prospect of making loans in this State.

Would you be willing to vest in Southern Stocks in this City. Mobile Bank Stock can be bought here now at par. My agents here advise small investments in it as a safe stock paying 8 pr. Cts. "Merchants" "Insurance" Company's stock is worth 10 pr. Ct. prm. and is better paying than the other. Let me know, if I shall buy either for you.

I go up the river tomorrow evening for a few days but shall be back by 1st March, shortly after which "Eastwood Ho"!

[Address: Raleigh North Carolina.]

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<sup>4</sup>James A. Bayard, 1799-1880; senator, 1851-1864, 1867-1874.

*From Charles F. M. Garnett.*

RICHMOND Feb. 9th, 1852.

*My dear Judge*

Allow me to introduce my brother Mr. Theodore S. Garnett, who goes to assist in making your great road.

Your former kindness to me encourages me to ask a continuation of it in behalf of my brother.

I am, with sincere regard

Your friend etc.

Honble Thomas Ruffin  
Supreme Court.

CHAS. F. M. GARNETT.

*From Theodore S. Garnett.<sup>1</sup>*

HILLSBORO' N. C. Feby 15th/52.

*Hon: Thomas Ruffin*

*Dr. Sir.*

As some time may elapse before we meet I take the liberty of enclosing a letter of introduction from my brother.

Yours very resptly

THEODORE S. GARNETT.

[Address: Raleigh N. Carolina.]

[Circular]

TO THE PUBLIC

WE, A PORTION OF THE FISHERMEN ON ALBEMARLE SOUND AND its tributaries, hereby GIVE NOTICE to the persons from whom we may hire Hands the ensuing Fishing Season that we shall endeavor to use all proper care and discretion in the management of our Fishing Operations, BUT WISH IT DISTINCTLY UNDERSTOOD THAT WE DO NOT

HOLD OURSELVES RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACCIDENTS WHICH MAY OCCUR, resulting in LOSS OF LIFE, or in any other injury which the Hands may sustain. We all adhere to the opinion that

<sup>1</sup>Theodore Stanford Garnett, of Essex County, Virginia, 1812-1885.

the RISK, IF ANY, RESTS WITH THE OWNERS OF THE HANDS, in consideration of the additional price we have to pay for such labor, over the price paid for ordinary labor.

JOHN H. LEASY,  
 JOSHUA C. SKINNER & BRO.  
 JOSHUA SKINNER,  
 THOMAS BENBURY,  
 ALEXANDER CHESHIRE,  
 MILLS ROBERTS,  
 JOSEPH NORCOM,  
 EDWARD WOOD,  
 WHITE & SKINNER  
 CHARLES W. MIXSON  
 CHARLES W. SKINNER, JR.,  
 A. R. ELLIOTT & Co.,  
 ELLIOTT & SCOTT,  
 NIXON & GRANBURY  
 GRANBURY & NIXON,  
 LINDSAY & BRAY,  
 WILLIAM CHARLES & Co.,  
 SIMPSON, WELCH & Co.,  
 ROBERTS, JORDAN & HINTON.

Gatesville, February 16, 1852.

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*From John Gray Bynum.*

RUTHERFORDTON 25th Feb. 1852.

I send to your address at Graham, by Stage, the grape vines I promised you last summer. I hope they will arrive safely and live. They should have been sent earlier, but a bundle I got was exposed to the cold weather before I got them home and I supposed they were frozen and my boy when I sent for another bundle brought me muscadines.

They grew in McDowell—on a poor red clay and gravelly soil—upon a little knoll, near the dwelling house and in the edge of a wood of small trees, almost smothered by briars, weeds and bushes. The old lady who lives there says it came up about 20 years ago and commenced bearing the 2nd year. The grape is not quite so large as the English grape, is of the same color, is round, and most delicious to the taste. The old lady thinks it has a slight taste of the Fox grape. The clusters are large and much like the common summer grape. They ripen at "Fodder pulling time", about the last of August or first of September, never rot and continue round on the vine until killed by the frost, when they dry up.

I have made diligent inquiry and can hear of no other vine or grape at all like it in that section of the country.

I shall charge you for my trouble some turnip seed to be delivered at Morganton in August next.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

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To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.

ALAMANCE, March 22d, 1852.

I have been so fully engaged in *grafting* all day, that I have barely time to write you a short note and get it to Graham by dark. As I enjoy home so much I must begin by congratulating you on your return to wife and bairns, I hope, in good health, and to all the enjoyments which the presence of those one loves most can produce. I found all in more than usual health and ready to give me a cordial welcome; and, but for the *cold snap* and its consequences upon fruits and flowers, all would be enjoying life here to the full. As it is, say to Katy, she must take good care of her present stock of dried fruits and preserves; for she is not likely to get more until another year at least, from Alamance. My next message is to Mr. L. B. Walker, to whom I spoke about selling Madam's Irish potatoes. Before I reached home she had engaged them all at Chapel hill, and sent them down the day after my arrival. We shall keep some, however, for Catherine and Mrs. Taylor—say  $\frac{1}{2}$  or 2 bushels each, for planting and will send them by the first opportunity. As my wagon will not go to Raleigh soon, be pleased to forward our things, including salt, by wagons from this vicinity as you may have opportunity. Finding my little negroes in need of some *Vermifuge*, I will thank you to send by my brother 2 doz'n bottles of Fahnestock's vermifuge, which I began to administer at his recommendation, and find very efficient. Mrs. Ruffin says, she wrote me at Raleigh to get you to buy for her two pieces of *curtain calico* of 24 yds each, which she needs to make 4 *bed-spreads*. If she did, I have forgotten it—tho' you may have put it on your memo. and remember it. If you did not get it for her at New York please supply it from the store. Let me add, that Katy told me you got in Norfolk some good patterns of raw-silk for Ladies' mourning. It is a favourite dress with me, and I shall be obliged if you and Katy will select as good as the best for a present from me to my good wife and send it by James or the next hand. We hope to go to Fairintosh at Easter, and would be delighted to meet you and Katy and as many more of your household as can come. But I will write again about that. I enclose an order on Mr. Courts, and will thank you to receive my salary and send it by some safe hand, after making my account square with you, if I should be behind. It is dark



and I can only add my love and that of all here to every member of your household, including "Colo. Ruffin", whom we shall look for by every Stage.

[P. S.] Mrs. R. will thank you to get from Williams and Haywood some cucumber seed for her—an early kind, and some long greens.

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*From Walker Anderson<sup>1</sup> to Paul C. Cameron.*

*My dear Cousin*

MARIANA [FLA.] March 27th 1852.

Your kind reception of me last summer emboldens me to ask a favour of you which I do not think I would ask of any other man in N. Carolina.

I think if the suggestion were delicately made in the proper quarter, that at the ensuing commencement of the University the board of Trustees would confer upon me the honorary degree of L. L. D. My claims to this distinction are the following:

1. I am a graduate of the institution.
2. I graduated with the first honors of my class.
3. I was subsequently a professor in the institution.
4. I have recently attained the highest rank in my profession.
5. Though not a native of N. C. I resided in it many years.
6. I am connected by blood and friendship with some of the earliest and best friends of the college.—7. I am fifty years old.

I think that on these grounds I am entitled to a favorable consideration at the hands of the Board and I think if you could present the matter to Gov: Swain, Judge Nash and such other of the trustees as you might think proper, there would be no difficulty about it.

I trust implicitly to your discretion in not committing me in this business. I would not of course like to be considered as an applicant and I avail myself of your services, because I know you will act for me as a friend and a relative.

I need not say to you, I am sure My dear Paul, that it is no idle vanity that makes me desire this compliment at the hands of my Alma Mater. It would of course be gratifying, but to be frank, I go into it as a business operation.

It is very certain that our ensuing legislature will so amend our state constitution as to give the election of Judges to the people and so curtail our tenures as to send us all before the sovereignty next year. I

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<sup>1</sup>Walker Anderson, a native of Virginia, graduate of the University, 1819, A.M., 1822; professor of logic and rhetoric, 1833; chief justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, 1851-1853. He was awarded the degree desired at the Commencement of 1853. He died in 1857.

shall in all probability be a candidate for re-election and have no particular reason, to doubt my success, but as the election is throughout the State and I am necessarily not personally known in all parts of the State, an endorsement by North Carolina, such as what I propose, would amount to, would be of very great service to me. You see now exactly what I am at. If you doubt the propriety of moving in this affair or feel that it would be at all unpleasant to you, I hope you will not hesitate to say so. I leave it entirely with you and shall be content any way.

I am very glad to hear from occasional sources that your father continues to enjoy a reasonable degree of comfort. I trust he may long continue to do so.

I have just finished my circuit, the court having adjourned at this place on yesterday. I have been from home and constantly engaged for three months, but as a compensation I have now nothing to do for the next nine. I leave tomorrow and when I get home shall have travelled 1400 miles.

Remember me affectionately to cousin Ann and believe me dear Paul  
to be very truly Yours

WALKER ANDERSON

[Address: Paul C. Cameron Esq  
Stagville P O. N. Carolina]

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*From William H. Battle.*

CHAPEL HILL May 25th 1852.

You have probably heard that the students of our University, complaining that they were aggrieved by an ordinance of the Trustees in relation to the College Marshall and his assistants, held a meeting a few weeks ago and by an almost unanimous vote adopted a set of resolutions which were calculated to lead to serious disturbances at the ensuing commencement.<sup>1</sup> These resolutions were presented by a committee to the Faculty, but at a subsequent meeting of the students were by a unanimous vote withdrawn. We now indulge the hope that the exercises of commencement day will be conducted as usual, but to insure such a very desirable result, we think there ought to be a full attendance of the Trustees here on Monday next. We think further that your presence is very desirable on many accounts, and we therefore hope you will be able to attend at that time.

To Hon. Thomas Ruffin  
Haw River N. Carolina.

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<sup>1</sup>The difficulty was not settled and there were no marshals at this Commencement. See Battle, *History of the University of North Carolina*, I, pp. 630-31.

From David F. Caldwell.

SALISBURY 20th June 1852.

My dear Sir.

There is a matter now pending before one of the committees of Congress in relation to a claim of the heirs at law of Wm Lee Alexander Esqr. for his services in the revolution. If there be any thing in it, it was ferretted out by Govr. Duval of Florida, who it seems, is engaged in hunting up similar claims. More on account of the unfortunate condition of the family, than from any thing I expect for my children, I paid him \$50, being his charge in advance. Julius and Washington Alexander are neglecting the case, I fear, for Duval is urging me to have certain facts proved; and I know of no one now living who knew Mr. Alexander and his offspring as well as Judge Cameron, and to him, thro' you, I must appeal. And I must ask of you the favor to embody such facts as the Judge may know, touching the matter, into an affidavit, have it sworn to before you and certify it, I sent on to Joseph P. Caldwell, who will hand it to Mr. Duval. So far as I can understand the facts to be proved they are as follows. Did the affiant know Mr. Alexander and how long? Where was he born and raised! Was he reputed and believed to have served in the revolution? and if so in what capacity and Did he die leaving children? and if so how many? and what were their names? How many of them have died since their father? Did either Fanny or Richd. leave issue and how many? Was Mr. Alexander known in early life as Wm. Alexander, and did he not after the revolution assume the name of Lee? Some of the foregoing facts Judge Cameron may not know.

I have always understood from the family that Mr. Alexander was a Lieutenant, and fought in that capacity at Eutaw: And I have also understood from the same source that during the revolution he was known as William Alexander, and assumed the name of Lee after it, because of the great number of Alexanders in his region of the same Christian name.

I learn from Duval that his name is written *Wm.* Alexander on the Muster roll, I believe it is called. . . . Please forward Judge Camerons affidavit at an early day.

N. B. I observe a letter to Baldy with your superscription: he has gone to Tennessee on business of my own, and will be home, I hope in a week or ten days. He will have to navigate a part of the Mississippi, and see the Cholera is prevailing at certain points. I am uneasy, but hope for the best.

[In Judge Ruffin's hand.]

It being asked the deponent whether he did not know, or understand from the said William Lee Alexander, that his name, originally, was William Alexander and that after he left the army he used the additional name of *Lee*, in order to distinguish him from many other persons

in that part of the Country named William Alexander; he the defendant doth answer thereto, that true it is, that the name of Alexander was borne by a very numerous family in the Counties of Mecklenburg and Cabarrus aforesaid and the adjacent country, and he doubts not that divers persons among them bore the Christian name of William: but that he the deponent hath no knowledge that the said William Lee Alexander was ever known by the name of William merely though he may have been; for the deponent did not know him until the year 1798, as aforesaid, and then and during the residue of his life he was known to the deponent as William Lee Alexander, and the deponent did not then suppose he had ever been known by any other name. But the deponent further saith, that he was formerly well acquainted with many persons from the same part of the Country who were officers or soldiers in the North Carolina Line, or served in the army with that Line; and that he never knew or heard of any William Alexander, who served as a Lieutenant in the North Carolina line or was in the battle of Eutaw but the person, whom the deponent knew as the William Lee Alexander above mentioned.

SALLY  
 FANNY  
 WILLIAM JULIUS  
 RICHARD H.  
 WASHINGTON

[Address: Raleigh N. Carolina]

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*From James T. Morehead.*

HO REP MONDAY MORNING 24th June /52.

On Saturday evening I wrote in relation to your slave etc. Now I am better informed as to the points of inquiry. By the laws of Kentucky, the person who apprehends a slave out of the State and confines him in Jail in the State is entitled to a reward of Seventy five dollars (\$75:00), if taken in the State and committed the reward is twenty five dollars (\$25:00) as I am informed by Col. H. Marshall, a gentleman of high professional distinction from that State, the State law, allows the Jailer thirty seven  $\frac{1}{2}$  cents ( $:\$37\frac{1}{2}/100$ ) per day board etc. and some small fees for committing etc. As to the necessary travelling expenses, you can form an opinion, it is a cheap country: The best rout from you, will be by Abington Va. thence down Sandy. There is not the least difficulty after getting to Abington. Col. Marshall also informs me, that the Statute of Kentucky does not require any subscribing witness to a bill of sale, or Power of Atty to transfer a slave. You can if you think proper execute a power of Atty to Mr. Joseph Pollock; (who

is a gentleman worthy of confidence) and acknowledge it before one of your brothers, with the seal of the court: or if you acknowledge it before a Magistrate get his certificate and the Clerk's certificate, as to his being a Magistrate under seal of office, this will answer. I merely state these things in answer to your requests. Honble John C. Mason wrote to Mr. Pollock Saturday. I did the same Saturday night, and this morning Senator Underwood, indorsed your letter to Mr. Pollock (duplicate) which I inclose under a frank—so that you will have no difficulty whatever.

As to the second slave Armstead at London I can give you no information. Honble Addison White<sup>1</sup> is the Member from that district, a highly worthy young man, of fine feelings and honesty of purpose—He says he does not live in Laurel county but in Richmond, Madison Coty—he heard nothing of a slave in Jail in London, because he paid no attention to such things: He says that Dr. Lewis Renfro is a worthy young man, so also is W. H. Wilson, (formerly P. M., but not so now) White says, that William H. Randall, the clerk of the Court is a most worthy man, and a gentleman of business habits, and very prompt in business transactions. Granville Pearl, the Commonwealth's Atty is also a very clever man and lives at London, any one of whom, would with pleasure answer your inquiries.

Should you send out to London, Abingdon is in the route—then across the Cumberland Mountain at the Cumberland Gap. I think it is about fifty miles from the Gap to London.

I believe this answers your inquiries, it would be extremely gratifying to know, how they got off so far, how they got the first information that Ohio lies in that direction; We need not talk about free States and scoundrels, we have within our own bosoms Scoundrels, much more cunning and dangerous than any foreign influence—It is doubtless a regular systematized business, to steal, and sell, then steal again, and so on until the price is got some two or three times, and then the slaves cross over the river and wend their way up to the lakes or over in Canada. From my situation I sometimes feel very uneasy, but my sons will soon be capable of protecting my interest in my absence.

I have but little interest to write you. On Saturday we passed a Bill giving to each State one hundred and fifty thousand acres of land for each member and Senator, this Bill has caused great dissatisfaction in the *land States*: It is the only bill which could stand the test for a moment, between man and man, in a Court of Equity.

I should be greatly gratified to come over and spend a week with you and our brethren but, it is now a busy period of the Session, and it would be morally dishonest to do so; If you wish to be a member of Congress, have Alamance put in my district and you can come without opposition, at all events so far as I am concerned. Mr. Clay will probably die this week: Oh what a man will fall, when he falls. Now he is past away,

<sup>1</sup>Addison White, member of Congress from Kentucky, 1851-1853.

all men of all parties speak of him as "the noblest Roman of them all."

My respects to Judges Nash and Pearson, I hope you may have a pleasant Term, and of short duration—Say to Mrs. Roulhae, I am decidedly the most exemplary man at Washington City:

Honble Thomas Ruffin.

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To Joseph Pollock.

[Copy<sup>1</sup>]

RALEIGH—JUNE 24th 1852

Sir:

Mr William White, the Postmaster in this city, did me the favor yesterday of showing me your letter to him, dated the 14th of the month; for which I am much obliged to him and yourself. I was so much occupied officially through the day, that I had not the opportunity of writing you; but Mr White was kind enough to say, that he would, and now I do myself the pleasure of acknowledging your goodness in communicating the information contained in your letter.—I have no doubt, that the man in your prison is my slave, *Buck*. It is true, as he tells you, that I reside in the *new* county of *Alamance*, recently the western part of *Orange* County, and about fifty miles above this place, passing through *Chapel-hill*, as laid down in the map; and it is also true, that I am a Judge—being the Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, and now engaged in holding that court in this city. While I was here on a similar duty, in the winter and Spring of 1851, a misunderstanding arose between my Overseer and some of my negroes and *Eight* of them went off early in March. During that month I returned home and thereupon *six* of them came in, or had done so. But two of them, the one, named *Armstead*, and the other, *Buck*, as he was usually called, kept out. I heard of them occasionally for some time in the vicinity; but, after some months, we got no tidings of them, and I became convinced, that they had either been carried off by some villain, or had found means of getting free papers, and effecting their escape to a Northwestern State. Since that, your letter brought me the first intelligence of my man, *Buck*. The account he gives of himself and his owner satisfies me fully, and I presume will satisfy you and the jailer also, that he is my runaway slave, But I will add other matters: He formerly belonged to *Judge Archibald D. Murphy*, from whom I purchased him, a boy, twenty three years ago. He had when he went away, a wife, who belonged to Mr *Samuel Kerr*, of the *Hawfields*, usually, pronounced *Carr*. My overseer, from whom he absconded, was named *Covington*. He is, I think, about thirty four years of age, though not looking so old; and, although I never measured him, I think he is between 5 feet 5 and 5 feet 7 inches high: a sturdy, well-set, active, strong

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<sup>1</sup>This copy is not in Ruffin's hand but was interlined by him and endorsed.

man; with but a small beard, and a clear, though soft, voice; a black colour, and, unless he has seen many hardships since he left, he has a full face, and a smooth skin. and weighs about 160 lbs. probably; and he is a very sensible man, a good wagoner and capital ploughman. I am not in the habit of examining the person of my slaves minutely, and do not remember any particular mark on his body. But I trust you will have no difficulty in identifying him by the means here furnished; and I shall be much obliged to you, upon the receipt of this, to have an interview with him, and write me fully without delay. I am particularly anxious to discover, whether he has any *papers, free documents* or other papers; and, if so, I request you and the jailer to *get and secure them for me*. You would oblige me also by enquiring, what he knows about my other man, Armstead; or, as he sometimes calls him Umstead: when he left him, and where he knows or supposes him to be. The reasons for those enquiries at this time are, that I have heard of a negro, described to me somewhat like Armstead, about *London*, in Laurel County, in the Southeastern part of *Kentucky* last winter; and although I have written to the postmaster at that place I have not received an answer. Hence I wish to find out all I can from Buck respecting Armstead, so that when I send for the one, I may also get on the track of the other, if I can. I shall send an agent out, as soon as I can provide one after hearing from you. I shall await your reply, because I wish, before sending, to have every proof and document prepared, which may be requisite in your law, to enable me to get him. I have full faith in the fairness of the Kentucky laws on this subject, and in its upright administration there. But I wish to be fully prepared to comply with the law, when my messenger may go out. Therefore I will thank you to procure from a respectable gentleman of the Bar instructions on those points: saying to him, that my agent will properly remunerate the service. Be pleased also to inform me of the full amount of *charges*, of every kind, for which I must make provision. I do not understand from your letter with precision, whether Buck wishes to return to me, or not; and I shall be obliged to you to inform me on that point, and also as to the particulars in respect to his coming or getting again into Kentucky from Ohio.—

To give you the more satisfaction in respect to my station in life, and the confidence to be placed on my statements, I shall send this Duplicate (the original going direct to yourself) to a friend, who resides in my vicinity, and is now serving in Congress, with a request, that he will obtain the favour of some member of Congress from Kentucky, on the credit of those who know me at Washington, forward this to you and to certify to you of his information respecting me.

I am, Sir, with respect and under much obligation,

Your friend and obdt<sup>t</sup> Svt.

Signed T. R.

Of course, I shall send out an agent, who knows the slaves and can identify them; and I shall give him or some other person a power of

attorney to take the negro out of jail. Would you have any objection to acting as my attorney for that purpose. If you would act, the agent from here could witness and prove the power of attorney without difficulty, and then receive the negro from you and bring him to this State. My post office is "Graham—Alamance County, N<sup>o</sup> C<sup>a</sup>". But I shall remain in court here for a month or more, and therefore I will thank you to direct your reply to Raleigh.

[Endorsed:

Copy of Letter to Mr Joseph Pollock—  
Post Master at Greenup C. H.  
Kentucky—

Mailed to him the original direct June 24th 1852, and a duplicate under cover to James T. Morehead Esq at Washington, that he might get a Kentucky member to forward it and let Mr P— know, who I am.—]

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*To James Renfro.*

[Copy<sup>1</sup>]

RALEIGH NO. CA. June 24th 1852.

*Sir,*

In March 1851 two negro men, belonging to me, absconded, and the object of this letter is to make some enquiry respecting one of them. The name of one was Buck, and of the other, Armstead, or, as he commonly pronounced it, *Umstead*. My residence is near Graham, in the new county of Alamance, taken from the upper part of the old county of Orange, and about fifty miles above this city. During my absence from home a misunderstanding arose between my overseer and some of my slaves, and several of them ran off. In a few days all returned except the two men above-mentioned. Of them we heard occasionally in the neighborhood for some months. But after the beginning of autumn there were no certain tidings of either, until very recently I received a letter from a gentleman in the North-Eastern part of Kentucky, informing me, that Buck was in jail there. Of Armstead I think it possible I have heard something, which induces me to suppose, that he is or has been in jail at London, in Laurel County, Kentucky; and I have taken the liberty of addressing myself for information to you, as a person represented to me to be a respectable gentleman residing at or near London, who would be willing to collect and communicate such information as would be useful to me. The grounds for supposing it possible, that my man might be in your parts, are these. About Christmas last a Mr Thomas C. Burch, who brought in a drove of hogs for sale, and stated that he lived in Knox County, Kentucky, and seemed to be an intelligent and upright man, told me, that he learned on his way in, that

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<sup>1</sup>This copy was not written by Ruffin but was interlined by him and endorsed.



two negro men had been stopped at some stream in the mountains, and that after some effort to capture them, one had escaped, and the other been taken and lodged in prison at London. They represented themselves, as he said, to be free, and had been working on wages. The probability was considered by me to be so little, that they were my men, that I did not attend to it as I ought. But the fact, just ascertained, that Buck about that time actually went on to Ohio, and was there taken and brought thence to prison in Kentucky, leads me now to conjecture, that they were the two mentioned by Mr Burch, and that Armstead may be or may have been in your jail. I am not in the habit of examining the persons of my slaves minutely, and therefore am not able to give an exact description of this man—tho' sufficient, I hope, to enable you to identify him, if he be the man in your prison,—He is about 38 years of age; with a round face; wide mouth, strong teeth, and jaws, well set together; stout beard; dark Colour, but not fully black, and with enough yellow to show a slight admixture of white blood; is between (I think) 5 feet 6 and 5 feet 8 inches high, weighs, probably, about 160 lbs; and has a coarse or hoarse voice, with a surly countenance and gruff aspect, when not decidedly laughing. He has no mechanical trade, but was bred on the farm; his work in the summer being at the hoe, at which he was excellent, and at other times he was the carter and drove oxen. My Post-office is "Graham, Alamance County, No. Ca."—But as I shall be in this city for a month or more engaged in the publick duty of holding the Supreme Court of North Carolina, (in which I sit) I will thank you to direct your reply to me at "Raleigh, North Carolina".—Perhaps it is proper I should state, that your friend, Mr Burch, gave me your name, and authorised me to take the liberty of addressing you. Therefore I trust I am not trespassing against your will in making these requests: and I beg to assure you, that such kindnesses to yourself or any fellow citizen will at all times be readily rendered, when in the power, Sir, of  
Your friend, and Obet. Svt.

T. R.

[P. S.] If my slave should be in London, I will thank you to let me know what proofs and documents I must send, according to your law, to enable me to get him and also what amount of charges I must provide for. My official duties will prevent me from going in my own person. But I would send an agent, who knew the negro, and could identify him. I have perfect confidence in the justice of the law of Kentucky on this subject, and its fair administration. Yet I wish to be prepared to meet every requisition that could be made, as to proof, charges and the like. You will oblige me by writing speedily.—I have to add that to prevent disappointment from your absence from home I shall also write on the subject to W. H. Wilson Esq your Post Master.—T. R.

Dr. James Renfro

London

Laurel County Kentucky

*To the Post-Master, at London, Laurel County, Kentucky.*

[Copy.<sup>1</sup>]

[June 25, 1852]

*Sir,*

Within is the copy of a letter, which I sent by the mail of yesterday to your office, for D<sup>r</sup> Renfro. As I have no acquaintance with that gentleman, and do not know, whether he still lives, or, if so, lives in or near London, it has occurred to me to be at least, prudent to provide against the consequences of his absence by writing to some other gentleman of the same place on the same subject—Your office suggests yourself. I have, therefore, presumed to forward to yourself a copy of my letter to D<sup>r</sup> Renfro, and to request that, in case he should not be in London or decline obliging me, you would do me the favour of complying with the applications made in my letter to him. Be assured, that, should it fall in my way, your service in the premises would be cheerfully reciprocated by

Sir,

Your Obed<sup>t</sup> Svt and friend,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Raleigh—N<sup>o</sup> C<sup>a</sup>  
June 26th 1852

*From James T. Morehead.*

WASHINGTON CITY June 26th 1852.

*Dear Sir*

Yours of 24th Instant came to hand this morning just as the House met. I forthwith saw the Honbl. John C. Mason,<sup>2</sup> the Member from the Greenup district, who informed me, that Joseph Pollock, P.M. at Greenup, is a highly respectable man, and married the daughter of one of the most respectable and wealthy men in Kentucky; Mr. Mason, informed me, that Greenup is near the Ohio river about twenty miles below the mouth of Big Sandy, and that a truer population in favor of the Slave holder does not exist in America. They have been worried by their neighbors on the other side of the river, about their own slaves, and the moment an owner's rights are invaded; to a man they rise in his behalf, and as true Kentuckians, will shed their last drop of blood, for the *Stranger*.

Mr. Mason further stated that upon my letter the slave would at once be surrendered to any person you might send; I told him however that I would write this evening to Mr. Pollock on the subject, and that you would send an agent for the boy with all necessary directions and instruc-

<sup>1</sup>Written on the same sheet with the preceding letter to which it refers.

<sup>2</sup>John C. Mason, a member of Congress from Kentucky, 1849-1853, 1857-1859.

tions; Mr. Mason wrote during the session of the house, to Mr. Pollock, informing him, who you and I are, and mailed it forthwith, apprising him that I would write to him to night.

I have not had time to make all the inquiries requested, but write this hasty note simply to let you know, that yours has been received, and the preparatory steps taken, to regain your slave—by next mail, you shall have all the information I can get; I will see Judge Underwood<sup>1</sup> (Senator) this evening, and get him to advise and write, if deemed necessary.

Now let me say to you, that you well know, that it now and always will afford me pleasure to aid you, or any of your family in any thing within my power, and therefore *order, direct, or command* me, in anything, which can be of service to you.

My respects to Col. Roulhac and lady and kiss the babes for me.

God bless you

Your friend

JAMES T. MOREHEAD.

Honble Thomas Ruffin.

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*From Joseph Pollock.*

POST OFFICE GREENUP C H KY

July 5th 1852

*Hon T Ruffin*

*Dr Sir*

Yours of the 24 and 25th ult. as well as the Duplicate of the 24th certified by Hon J. R. Underwood and a letter from Hon J. T. Morehead and one from Hon J. C. Mason, came to hand by this mornings mail; as I was very busy (and being very anxious to answer you by this days mail) I got my Fatherinlaw Major J. C. Kanns to visit the Jail with the Jailor and the result of the examination, has been such as to perfectly satisfy us as to his identity as he corroborated all you have said about him as well as what Hon. J. T. Morehead said about his hauling corn from his place to you, he says that he and Armstead parted in three days after he left home at a Creek Called Alamance for which your county is named and that he knows nothing of him since after he left home, he says that he went to Columbia where his mother resides, who he says is a free woman; She gave him Thirty dollars and She advised him to return and he Started back home but at a place called Taylorsville, he came in contact with an abolition Preacher by the name of Calvin Smith, alias William Hall, who brought him out in a Buggy as far as Tazwell Court House Virginia, then he left the Buggy and came

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<sup>1</sup>Joseph R. Underwood, a native of Virginia, educated in Kentucky, a Lieutenant in the War of 1812, member of the legislature, 1825-1826, speaker, 1846; judge, 1828-1835, member of Congress, 1835-1843; United States Senator, 1847-1853.

through the Southwestern counties of Virginia and crossed the Ohio River near the Town of Guyandotte Va, a man of our County has been in correspondence with Dr Perry of Tazwell Court House Va relative to the matter and thinks there may yet be a possibility of getting hold of the Abolitionist; who is said to be the same man for whom the Citizens of Washington Co Va have offered one Thousand dollars reward after getting to Ohio he loaned Seventy five dollars to a Scoundrel by the name of Collier to be returned when called for by Collier gave his note at Twelve months with interest for the mony, this not being satisfactory to Buck, when he found how it was written went back to Collier and wanted him to make the note differently. But Collier whose object was to get the negroes mony then told some other men that he was no doubt a runaway Slave. They arrested Buck but as there was no evidence of his being a Slave the magistrate set him free. But a free Black man of our county, orriginally from Fayetteville in your State had seen Buck and learned that he was a slave told one of our citizens and he got some of the Ohio men to arrest and Bring him over, thinking from the description of the Boy that he was one that ran away from Tennessee, But found he was mistaken—with the evidence we have from you now and what your agent would give you will not have any difficulty in getting the Boy. You can give your agent a power of attorney properly certified or make a power of attorney to me certified and witnessed by your agent who must know the Boy to be your slave and that will be all the law demands as to evidence in the case The law of our State allows (\$75) Seventy Five dolls for arresting a slave in a free State and lodging him in a Jail in this State and allows the Jailor 37½ cents per day for boarding him while in Jail and a fee of about 88 cents for committing him to and delivering him out of the Jail he was Lodged in Jail June 9th and you can make a calculation of what will be the fees and expences from that the boy Says that he would be willing to be sold here, or go back but he would not like to go under the same overseer—he says you are a very good Master but Mr Covington a very hard overseer, I am glad that you have been able to succeed in saving him as it will have a good effect on the negroes here along the Border of our State—The men in Ohio who brought him over have been indicted by the Grand Jury of their county and held to bail for kidnapping, I understand that Collier, who got [his money?] is a worthless man and the mony cannot probably be made out of him, it is also said that Buck had considerable counterfeit Gold coin for which [he?] does not account very readily but it is supposed he bought it of the abolitionist who brought him out with the mony he received from his Mother—

Very Respy

Your obt Svt

J. POLLOCK.

N. B. the Boy will be taken care of till your agent comes

*From Tod R. Caldwell.*

*My Dear Sir*

MORGANTON 19th July 1852.

At Maj. Smyth's request I write to inform you that he would be pleased to have the Judges of the Supreme Court board with him during the ensuing term of the Court at this place, he says that he has two very eligible rooms in close proximity to each other that he would like to let you and judge Nash have, if they would suit you when you see them.

Your old friend Mr. McEntire is dead and that will make it necessary for you to look for quarters elsewhere. I told the Maj. however that we were expecting Aunt Annie to make us a visit during this summer according to her promise, and in the event of her doing so, that we should claim you as our guest. I hope you will allow her no excuse for not coming to Morganton with you. . . .

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[Address: Graham  
Alamance Co N. C.]

*From Beals Davis, Sr. and John Davis, Jr.*

COAL GROVE LAWRENCE COUNTY OHIO.

*Thomas Ruffin Esqr:—*

July 20th, 1852.

Dear Sir after my compliments To yours as a Stranger I wish to address you upon a subject of deep importance to us, and of deep interest to many of our Citizens but I cannot say to all for there is some in our land who are opposed to Slavery and all such I Call abolishenists who profess friendship to the negro and at the same time would be glad to have the poor African labour for them and too in many instances without pay such individuals are getting too numerous in our land, which leads the reasons why we address you; and in the first place we would say to you that on or about the first of june last there was a negro fetched into our neighbourhood by a man calling himself Calvin Smith (a white man) who if he is wished for can be found, the negro man at that time called his name William Hall but sence he was put in Jail calls himself Buck the white man who brot him here left him at one of our neighbours houses saying he was a free negro but without free papers, which allways lead to a suspicion the negro Continued his Stay at this neighbours house some days, and this neighbour professing to be a great friend to the negro after having gained the friendship and Confidence of the negro he also obtained seventy five dollars in gold of the poor negro and has it yet; in the second place I John Davis happened at the mouth of Big Sandy and there I saw an advertisement describing this same negro true as could be done and when I returned home me and my father arrested the negro and sent for the supposed owner of the negro but the man

would not own him at all then we ware in a Cituation that we dare not let the negro go, for had we of let him go and you had of came on and found it out we could have been made pay for him or otherwise you never would have gotten your property and we had no proof who he belonged to so we Concluded the best way was to put him in Jail at Greenupsburgh and we would send some word to where he said Came from and so if there could be anything found out about him therefore we put him in Jail; after a few days had pased by the man who had obtained the money of the negro tells it around that he had borrowed the money of the negro and at an other time tells, he sold young cattle and had got the money in that way and this together with the negro being missed led to a suspician and this suspician led to an arest of us, Charging us with having Kidnaped the negro and brot before a Justice of the peace and ruled to Security in the sum of one hundred dollars each for our appearance at Court and there the Grand Jury found a bill against us leaving us to defend ourselves the best we could and we are men of familys which leaves us in a poor Cituation to defend ourselves having but a poor chance to obtain the right sort of testimony to satisfy the Court that we were aiming at nothing more than to secure to every man his just rites therefore we ask assistance of you. Dear Sir we do not wish you to think that we want your money to aid us, money would not do any good whatever but sir we ask of you to aid us in procuring such evidence to satisfy the Court that this same negro was a slave and a runaway, and that he belonged to you, and my dear sir the best and only way to affect this will be by bringing the same negro to this place and that to will be the only way to save us from serving a tower in the penetensary which no doubt you are a man of better principles than that and we hope that you are a man of simpithies to good at least to let us suffer who have don you the kindness to secure your property for you therefore Mr. Ruffin pleas be speedy doing something for us that we may get home to our families and small farms and by this means show to the abolishinists that you are oposed to them in all their treachery and deseption you can when you send for your negro to Greenupsburgh just bring him to our side and take him before our magistrate and prove him to be yours and all will be right and stop the mouths of the gain sayers and this too will satisfy the Court when it comes on that we did neither Steal nor kidnap your negro; and Should you wish to get hold of the man who brot the negro here we will aid you in that mater with satisfaction.

Mr. Ruffin will pleas think of the mater and be speedy in answering this letter and that too to our satisfaction and oblige us

and we shall ever Remain

Respectfully Yours O. B. Servants

BEALS. DAVIS SENR.

JOHN DAVIS JNR.

N. B. pleas Direct your letter to Coal Grove post office Lawrence County Ohio to either or both of us.

*From David F. Caldwell.*

SALISBURY 22d July 1852.

I very much desire the pleasure of seeing you at my house on your way to Morganton. The Stage from Raleigh reaches this place on tuesday night, Thursday night, and saturday night, about 9 or 10 o'clock, in ordinary weather; and the Morganton Hack leaves here on monday morning, and friday morning. I shall expect you at my house on thursday night, or saturday night. In the latter event you rest on the sabbath with me, and take the Hack to Morganton on Monday morning. At all events I shall expect you. I have written a similar letter to Judge Nash and Mr. Eaton. Should Mr. Eaton not have received my letter please invite him. I shall be happy to see you all. Come to my house at any hour of the night.

[Address: Graham  
Alamance Co. No. Ca.]

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*From Paul C. Cameron.*

RALEIGH. Monday Aug. 7th 52.

I am here on a visit to my father. I drop you a line by this days mail. I parted with my family yesterday at 11 o'clock leaving all in the enjoyment of almost perfect health. . . .

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On Wednesday last we had an abundant rain, (which extended to H. River) that making our crops of corn—once more we shall be in the region of plenty. I know of but two indifferent crops of corn, and those are the crops of our esteemed friends Cain and Kirkland.

I find my father in his usual condition, the last time I was here, he directed me to come down in my carriage the next time that I visited him saying that he would return home with me and I am here with it, but I have no idea he will do so; nor will I urge him to the effort.

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The impression prevails here that Gov. Reid is reelected by a very large Majority—it is thought by several thousand, on the other hand it is said that the Whigs have both branches of the Legislature. In Orange and Alamance we have elected Berry by a majority of 51 votes—in the Ho: Com. Durham, Lyon, Turner, and Phillips, Tapscott and Jones Sheriffs in the two counties by large majorities—and a Majority of 260 for Reid in the two counties.

I am leading a very active life at this time, having placed a large additional force on the road and trying to get out of the way of water a very fine crop of wheat, and to keep things up at at home with a

diminished force. Mr. Moore is now working 90 hands and 30 mules on his job, and what with blasting, brick making and culvert building, he is kept in a red heat all the time.

I long for rest—desire to be off with Anne and the family to your house for an idle week where I am resolved to meet you in September, and discourse about fruits, flowers,—pease, corn, turnips and the good things of the earth and Home. Our friends all very well at Hillsboro, Browns family especially. Col. Jones is looking for Allan and his family this week. Gov. Graham and family have returned to Hillsboro. Very good accounts are received here of the improved health of Gov. Iredell who is able to walk 3 miles every morning.

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*From James H. Ruffin to George S. Ruffin.<sup>1</sup>*

HAW RIVER Sept. 8, 1852.

I sent down by Genl. Trollinger last week, your brother's box of books. You will mark them to him at Demopolis, care of Mr. Roulhac's agents at Petersburg and New York, and Tortt, Stewarts and Co. of Mobile, with instructions to Messr. White of Petersburg and Brown and DeRosset to pay all charges as far as on ship-board at New York, which they can charge to Mr. Roulhac, who can in like way charge to me. Forward them as soon as you can do so, as he may want them. Make the box secure before starting it.

A late letter from your brother advises us of his continued good-health, and full practise in his profession. . . .

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I see by the "Standard" that you acted as a *Deputy-Marshal* to a sort of *Jollification* got up to welcome Govr. Reid home from his canvass!! I learn also that *sobriety* was not one of the goddesses of worship at the *glorifying*. The last word I said to you at your departure hence expressed a desire that you would not mix with the heated partisans of the present elective squabble going on in the Country. For this I had many reasons which I did not detail, hoping that my wishes alone would have some effect upon you. It seems, however, that their expression has had none. I will, therefore, but suggest that it cannot but be disagreeable and offensive to Mr. Roulhac, who may not wish his store the battleground for heated political discussions, or his business neglected by one of his agents for the strife and confusion of an electioneering campaign. If you will only look around you, it will be plain to a very superficial glance, that those engaged in such an employment follow no profitable occupation and spend their time and thoughts in practices still less

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<sup>1</sup>George S. Ruffin was the second son of James H. Ruffin. After a short stay at the University he was now in the employ of Joseph B. G. Roulhac.



reputable and ennobling. It leads to idleness, debauchery, dissipation, destruction of health, loss of character and caste, ruin of temporal and eternal prospects. If you only knew yourself; if you but knew the fear and prayers of a fond and affectionate parent for your future respectability and standing, you must be heartless indeed, if advice and solicitation should be unheeded by you. . . .

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*From Joseph B. G. Roulhac to Thomas Ruffin, Jr.*

RALEIGH 9th Sept. 1852.

*My dear Thomas.*

I returned last Saturday from N. York and found all my household well including our Sister Jane who left on tuesday for home where she arrived yesterday without doubt, as Mr. Cameron who came down last night reported having seen her in Hillsboro, and Caesar told us a carriage met her there. So much for the well being of those dear to you, and now for a matter strictly "Inter nos" in which I am personally interested.

You must know that a considerable portion of the large stockholders of the R. and G. R Road, without solicitation or intimation on my part, proposed to me last winter to take the office of President of said road as soon as it was completed, Mr. Mordecai having agreed to take it the present year, he having experience and a general acquaintance with the people on the whole line, and doing so mainly for the purpose of securing the succession to me. Shortly after the organization of the Compy. Mr. Vass one of the directors appointed by the literary board resigned to accept the office of treasurer with a salary of \$1000—and your honorable svt. was elected by the board of directors (who fill vacancies ad interim) to the vacant seat at the board, my friend Mordecai having brought about this without my knowledge and while I was absent in the low country. Having an eye to the accomplishment of the original purpose and that I might be prepared for the responsibility of the Station, he has put me on all the committees during the year, where there was work to be done, or information to be acquired. On reaching home and writing Mr. Mordecai I was somewhat surprised to learn that there were several aspirants for the post and some two or three formidable ones, unless some headway is promptly made. Of course I take this only on rumor as it came to me. It is said that Genl. Saunders if he is not made U. S. Senator, will take and wishes to be Prest. of the R. Road. Mr. L. O. B. Branch<sup>1</sup> is also said to desire it. Mr. Thomas Miller of Granville is also said to wish it; he was formerly Prest. and is a business man of *real pre-*

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<sup>1</sup>Lawrence O'Brien Branch, 1820-1862, a graduate of Princeton, 1838; lawyer; member of Congress, 1855-1861; brigadier-general, C. S. A. He was killed at Sharpsburg.

tentions. Some four or five other names are spoken of in reference to the same place, but are less formidable than the above. You may well ask, why all this detail to me I here in Rockingham and in strict secrecy too? I will answer, I would like to get the office and perhaps am the more anxious for the reason that I have been made to expect it, and that it *may* be in your power to help me. I will explain in what manner.

The board of directors of the company consists of 7 members, of which the private stockholders make 4 and the Literary board make 3. As above stated I am at present one of those three and if I could be reappointed by the Govr. it would *at the least* prevent a vote's being thrown against me in the election, and further would give me a vote of some friend elected by the Stockholders, for the Prest. must be a director by the charter.

In few words, my reappointment *by the State* will secure the control of 2 of the 7 votes, or half of a majority of the board, for a capital to commence with.

If I should not be reappointed then in order to be in the line of promotion my friend Mordecai will have to retire from the board, to make room for me on the Stockholder's ticket of 4.

Thus you will see the the vast importance, to my prospects, of my occupying my present position in the next board.

Now if your personal relations with Govr. Reid are such that you could ask as a favor to yourself, that I be retained in the next board of *State directors*, it would, if not *secure* very much strengthen my chance of success. I say favor to you because I wish not to ask favors of any but of those on whom I have claims of consanguinity or affinity, having acted on that principle thus far in life and having held no office which was not tendered to me and not sought.

It is much more pleasant to dispense than seek favors—And this very feeling has given me trouble all the while I have been writing, Viz to settle the question with myself, whether I ought to ask of you to do for me what I would not do for myself. You see how the point was decided, but I will not say that self did not shake the wavering balance.

My old acquaintance Calvin Graves is one of the Literary board, and I presume would not reject me if nominated by the Governor, but it would not be amiss to have his good will as the other member is Mr. Thos. Bragg, with whom I once had a law suit, the trial and verdict in which, he has no reason to recollect with pleasure. The annual meeting of the Stockholders takes place in Novr. next and it is desirable to have the information previous to that time. Indeed the sooner the better for if Genl. Saunders should not be senator, he may try the force of Party drill, to have three of his chosen friends appointed. Should the Govr. assure you of my reappointment I should have the utmost confidence in his performance and should consider *my stock* as having reached the value which I have all along attached to it.

Now, Tom, I would not have you move tongue or finger in this matter unless as I said above the personal relations between you and the other

parties are such as will not compromise your feelings or political position in the slightest degree. For I have lived thus far in my life without the emoluments of office, and would not have you do anything not perfectly agreeable to you in every particular, to *secure*, much less to only add to the chances of my election. I have never spoken of the proposition made to me last winter to any others than my wife and your honoured father, and as I shall not appear as a candidate unless success is certain, so I used the term "inter nos."

Sept. 10. I wrote the foregoing last night while Kate was writing her mother, and have not put down any of her messages, nor indeed could I record all on this sheet, but after love etc., she bids me say you did not take leave of her when last here and that you must give her her kiss and she can take no less. I would further suggest that as your unexpected trip to Kentucky deprived us of your company and at a time too which you designed giving us the past summer, that you come down the first leisure season and make that visit *out*. Frances reached home from the Alum Springs yesterday very much improved and made us very happy. All without exception send love to you in no measured, or measurable quantity, and you must accept my best wishes for your health, prosperity, and happiness.

Your friend and relative

JOS. B. G. ROULHAC.

[Address: Thomas Ruffin  
Atto at Law  
Wentworth N. C.]

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*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE Sept. 18th. 1852.

I have been somewhat surprised at not hitherto hearing anything of the *Salt*, which you were kind enough to order for me from Messrs A. Kevan and Brother last summer; and am now still more surprised at hearing of it (as I suppose) in the manner which the within will explain. I gather from Mr. Reid's letter, that Messrs. A. K. and Bro. have *by mistake* sent the salt for me to Henderson instead of Raleigh, as I requested you to order, and as you did order, I doubt not inasmuch as you told me so on your return from Petersburg. It happens fortunately, that Mr. Reid, having misdirected my letter, sent it to Stagville, as Mr. Cameron forwarded it. But it is so very inconvenient for me to send for the salt just now—with empty wagons—that it is even better to pay the storage for a short time. I have been thinking, however, whether it would not be better for you to order it on to Raleigh at once,—in the mean while claiming exemption from storage at Henderson, as

the Agent directed his letter to a wrong Post-Office. By the way, I think you will find this arrangement about storage a bad one in practice. Freights are so long on the road and come so divided into parcels, that a farmer can seldom tell when to order them to be put on the road or when to send for them to the depot; and it is no small inconvenience to a farmer to send off his wagon at a day's warning, and to be disappointed in not getting all the first sending, so as to make a second trip necessary in order to get a few things, left behind. I believe it would be best to get back to the old way: at all events, until the rail roads shall be extended and things get to working regularly. I beg you to take such order in the matter, as you think most beneficial and to let me know where and when I am to send for the things now at Henderson, as well as those we expect at Raleigh. I shall go to Roekingham on Monday next and hope to be accompanied by Mrs. Ruffin whose health is not good and may possibly be benefited by the trip. I should like to hear from you on our return. If she should find her advantage in the ride up the country, I think it probable we may early next month take one down the country as far as Fairintosh and, probably, Raleigh. I hope Katy and Joe and the other members and yourself were not *too much* disappointed in not getting the *grapes* by the last stage. They were gathered—a fine box full of very fine and fully ripe grapes and sent to Graham and a half a dollar paid for the carriage, and, Lo and behold! the next morning the box came back, the Agent sending word it could not go, as the Stage was cramed full of people going to some political encampment at Hillsboro! I am sorry for it; but it was no fault of ours. . . .

[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

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*From William H. Battle.*

CHAPEL HILL Sept. 21st 1852

*My Dear Sir/*

I well recollect the conversation which we had at Morganton last year, and I trust that I have always duly appreciated the kindness which prompted you to make the communication which is repeated in your recent letter. It adds another to the many instances of friendly regard which you have always manifested towards me from the first moment at which I had the pleasure of your acquaintance.

As one of the citizens of the State whom, as her highest judicial officer, you have served so long and so well, I cannot venture to censure any course which you may think proper to pursue in relation to retiring from the public service. I am not willing to contest the sufficiency of any cause which in the estimation of yourself is sufficient to justify you in seeking the shades of private life. But you must permit to say—and I say it in all sincerity—that I do not believe that your place

can at this time be adequately filled. By whom it will be attempted to be filled, it is difficult now even to form a conjecture. Party considerations have of late years had so much influence upon the election to all our public offices that the enquiry who is best qualified to fill them? is almost entirely lost sight of. The main question now among all parties is, who is the most available candidate? and this although the office has—or ought to have—no connection whatever with party. For these reasons I think it very doubtful whether your wishes in my behalf, can be realised. I do not desire to be elected by a party vote, and if I were so elected and could be satisfied that any respectable number of the opposite party thought me unfit for the office I would not accept it. The office which I now hold I would not have accepted had it not been conferred upon me by the concurrent vote of both parties, and I so declared in the only letter which I wrote to any member of the Legislature pending the election. I take pleasure in the belief that there are several members of the Democratic party in the present Assembly who would gladly vote for me to fill the office which you propose to vacate, but being fully aware of the difficulty of resisting party organization I cannot count upon their support.

The reasons which you suggest for the propriety of not sending in your resignation until about the close of the Fall circuits are certainly entitled to great consideration; and are indeed in my opinion difficult to be resisted. I do not see how the public interests can suffer by the delay, while it will give to the Judges of the Superior Courts, what they cannot otherwise have, “a fair start and a fair field”, in the competition for the office. So far as I am concerned, let the result be what it may, I shall endeavour not to permit it to disturb my equanimity. You know that I am aware that after you shall have left it, a seat on the Supreme Court bench will not be a bed of roses. If the circuits were somewhat smaller than they now are, and I were not required to go so far from home as I am now sometimes compelled to go, I should certainly prefer to remain where I am. As it is, I may not decline if tendered to me, what I shall not very eagerly seek.

My circuit will commence on Monday next, and I shall leave home the day after to-morrow to be absent until about the 5th of December. In the mean time if any thing should occur to induce you to change your plans I beg you to act upon it without any reference to me. Should you still persist in your determination to retire from the active duties of official life, I know you will not pass your time uselessly either to yourself or others. That what may remain to you of earthly existence, whether long or short, may be attended with Heaven’s best blessings, ought to be the wish of all, as it is of

Your sincere friend

WILL: H. BATTLE

*From Patrick Henry Winston.*

WADESBOROUGH 25 September, [1852]

*Dear Sir.*

This last proof of your affection and esteem has gratified me beyond expression. Your uniform kindness since we first met proved how much you desired my welfare but I have not hitherto hoped to have so large a share of your esteem.

You have certainly earned the right to spend the residue of your life free from official care and labour. You may well be pronounced fortunate in having acquired such a right while you have full capacity to perform all the duties and enjoy all the pleasures of your new life—not the less fortunate that the right has been acquired by your own severe and well directed labours. I can not help feeling sorry at your retirement but that is altogether from consideration of the publick loss.

As to the time when your resignation should actually be made I think that when the Legislature shall have been in Session about three weeks will be an unexceptionable time, though I do not see that it signifies much when it is sent in so it be not at a late period of the session. This is a short way of treating the question, but really I have no reasons to give sufficiently distinct to be written down except for the last part of the proposition, and they are obvious without being stated.

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Respectfully Your friend

PATRICK H. WINSTON.

Chief Justice Ruffin.

*From Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

RALEIGH Oct. 5th 1852.

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The telegraph says, and it doubtless says truly, that Pierce and King have carried every State north of this except Massachusetts and Vermont, Kentucky and Tennessee doubtful. In this State 25 counties only yet heard from, which give S. and Graham a gain on the Augt. election of 2450 and renders it doubtful which party has carried it. It is an entire Waterloo defeat, by which it is possible the country may be benefited if the Fillibusters' influence of Douglas and a few others can be held off from it, but which will be worse than any we have yet had, if they get in the ascendant. I hope it is all for the best, but have doubts.

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[Address: Stagville N. C.]

*From Romulus M. Saunders.*

RALEIGH Oct. 12th—'52.

The legislature has organized and after debate decided on repealing the 25th section of Ch. 52 revised statutes fixing the time of our meeting and of going on with the regular business so as to have but one regular session. But resolutions have been offered and referred to the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the constitutional right of doing so on the grounds as the constitution only provides for "biennial" sessions—that the present meeting is convened by the Governor under a Statute 20 Sec. R. S 52—and that gives us no power to do anything more than what we were specially convened for. I cannot think there is anything in the objection. But as it is an important matter and as I am chairman of the committee I should like much to have the benefit of your views if you feel at liberty to give them, promising that I will treat them as private or otherwise as you may direct. If I am asking too much of you I pray you to say so and I shall acquiesce.

I have no political news to give you the information I have from the north is favorable to our candidates Pierce and King.

Excuse the liberty I have taken.

Hon: Thomas Ruffin

Graham

Alamance Co. N. C.

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*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE—NOV. 3rd. 1852.

George told me, *the wheat* had been sent by a wagon before he left Raleigh, and I had no doubt, that I should find it at home. But I am sorry to say, it has not reached Graham, and my fear is, that the carrier has a notion of applying it to his own use, instead of taking pay for the carriage. I hope you kept *his name*, and, if so, be pleased to let me know it, that steps may be taken for the recovery of the wheat. I shall leave home tomorrow or next day for Fairintosh, and expect to be with you on Saturday or Monday afternoon. Therefore be pleased to address your reply to Sterling by fridays stage. I hope Caty placed herself in due time last evening, where every good wife wishes to be—under her husband's care. I wish my better half were here, to take charge of me. However, I do not know that I have done much harm since I saw her. On the contrary I hope I have done some good, as I reached Graham in time to vote: the second time since 1824! I can't say, whether my vote will avail anything or not. But it was given with hearty good will and with good intentions, and I trust it will contribute

to keep out General Scott and his tutors and patrons, Seward, Johnston, Stephens, Stanly, Clayton and the *Galphin Cabinet* in general. I long to see *honest* men once more in the public service.

[Address: Raleigh, N. Ca.]

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To B. F. Moore.<sup>1</sup>

RALEIGH, Nov. 10, 1852.

*My Dear Sir:* Nearly two years ago, I mentioned to you my wish to retire from the Bench. I was induced to forego the purpose, at that time, by your partial remonstrances and other considerations; and in the interval I thought it best not to give occasion for speculation in the public mind, by letting it be known that I had such thoughts at all. Subsequent events, however, furnish other reasons in confirmation of my previous inclination, which I think sufficiently justify it. They need not be particularly expressed, as I trust you will not impute a dereliction of duty to my retiring. Indeed, it does not seem to me, it can be fairly done; but on the contrary, that I may claim to have fairly earned the rest I desire.

The place I have held, besides other important qualifications, requires an immense capacity for work, and a constant willingness to exert it, which are found in few and belong to the prime and vigor of life. Now, I have, just at this time, been engaged forty-five years, either in the practice or the administration of the law: upwards of twenty-eight of those years on the Bench. I repeat, that after that, I think I have some right to rest. I am not, indeed, aware of a falling off, which would, for the present, render me less fit for a Judge than hitherto. But the day must soon come, when there will be the falling off. I do not wish to be the last to perceive decay; nor do I wish to postpone my retirement until it will have become cheerless and painful. Besides, if, as yet, there be no diminution in mental power or in the fund of knowledge, I must, at least, own a consciousness, that I have not, now, that endurance and love of labor I formerly felt, and which I deem indispensable to the due performance of the duties of the station to which I was called. On the contrary, though flying from languor, I desire relaxation and repose. That I should do so, after so long a service, I hope will excite neither surprise nor censure, but that you and my other friends will without withdrawing any part of your regard, discharge me from professional toils and official solitudes and responsibilities, and allow me to turn to the congenial pursuits of agriculture, and the tranquil amusements and occupations of domestic rural life.

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<sup>1</sup>From the *Raleigh Register*, November 24, 1852.



I ask the liberty, therefore, of committing to your friendly charge the enclosed letter of resignation, with the request that it may be delivered next Tuesday or Wednesday. I select that time, as other exciting elections may then, probably be over, and thus not be blended with or influence that to this vacated office. Moreover, I shall then have reached home, and thus be out of the way of any solicitations like yours, formerly, or, what is worse, the frowns of friends.

In terminating my official relations towards my brethren and our country, I cannot refrain from expressing the most earnest wish and prayer, that North Carolina and the Union may religiously preserve the independence of the Judiciary, and thereby have one both sound and able, and, in the mercy of Providence, be saved from dependent, and by consequence, flexible, cringing, time-serving, weak, bad men for Judges. All experience and all just reasoning concur in proving a dependent Judiciary to be, practically, the heaviest and the most enduring curse that can befall a deluded, depraved, and gain-saying people, and especially, a nation having a popular form of government.

Allow me to add this further office, which, I am sure, it will be a pleasure to you to discharge. At the approaching term of the Court, tender for me to the brethren heartfelt acknowledgments for the numerous acts of invariable respect and affectionate friendship received throughout my service, from the Bench and the Bar; and assure them that they will abide in my memory while it retains anything, and that in my retirement, I shall ever cherish a warm wish, that each and every one of them may, God bless them! be prosperous and happy.

With affectionate regard, I am, dear sir,

Very truly, your obliged friend,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

B. F. Moore, Esq., Raleigh.

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*Extract from the Raleigh Register<sup>1</sup> of Nov. 20, 1852*

Resignation of the Chief Justice of N. C.

We publish below the letter of Chief Justice Ruffin, of the Supreme Court, resigning his seat on the Bench. This event, we understand, has been in contemplation for two years past.

This act takes us, and, no less, will it take the State, by surprise. The public are not prepared for it; and we doubt not there will scarcely be an exception to the deep and general regret which will be felt throughout the State. Judge Ruffin's great and unsurpassed legal learning, his untiring industry, the ease with which he mastered the details, and comprehended the whole, of the most complicated cases, were the ad-

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<sup>1</sup>See *post*, Moore to Ruffin, dated November 26, 1852.

miration of the bar; and it has been a common saying of the ablest lawyers of the State, for a long time past, that his place on the Bench could be supplied by no other than himself.

He is now, as we learn, in the 65th year of his age, in full possession of his usual excellent health, unaffected, so far as we can discover, in his natural vigor and strength, and, certainly, without any symptom of mental decay. Forty-five years ago, he commenced the practice of the law. He has been on the Bench 28 years, of which time he has been one of the Supreme Court 23 years. During this long public service he has, in a pecuniary point of view, sacrificed many thousands; for there has been no time of it, in which he might not, with perfect ease, have doubled, by practice, the amount of his salary as Judge.

True it is, that no man in the State is so well entitled, by the extent, length of time through which they have run, and value of his public labors, to a cessation from their toils, but true it is, that, in our humble judgment, it would be difficult to find any public officer whose withdrawal will be more seriously felt. No one will deny, but every man will cheerfully accord to him, that, in the administration of the law, he has labored to repress crime and to elevate the standard of our moral duties. His opinions inculcate pure morals, fair good faith between men, an honest compliance with contracts, and an abhorrence of fraud and imposition. These constitute the safety of the weak and candid against the force and stratagem of the strong and cunning, and infuse confidence into all the great interests of society.

No one of all the Judges, who have ever sat on the Bench, has left so many judicial opinions—and such is the variety of the subjects, and the ability with which he has treated them, that his opinions constitute, of themselves, almost a code of law. In the department of Equity, which embraces so much of our system of jurisprudence, his services have been of the most valuable kind in all its branches; but, perhaps, in none so great and influential in maintaining the character of our people, for honesty in their transactions of business, as that which engages the jurist in the discovery and suppression of fraud.

In his letter of resignation, as in several of his opinions delivered at different times, the Chief Justice, it will be seen, has expressed his earnest convictions, that the ability of the judiciary and the impartial and satisfactory administration of justice can exist only, while the Judges shall be independent of popular favors and popular resentments, and shall be removed in the discharge of their duties from the insinuating influences of party.

It will be seen that appropriate and graceful allusions were made, in the Senate, by Messrs. Gilmer and Joyner, to the resignation. We learn that it is the contemplation of the Legislature to endeavor to induce the Chief Justice to re-consider his determination.

*To the Honorable the General Assembly of North  
Carolina, now in session:*

*Gentlemen:*—I desire to retire to the walks of private life, and therefore pray your Honorable Body to accept the resignation of my place on the Bench of the Supreme Court. In surrendering this trust, I would wish to express my grateful sense of the confidence and honors so often and so long bestowed on me by the General Assembly. But I have no language to do it suitably. I am very sensible, that they were far beyond my deserts, and that I have made an insufficient return of service. Yet, I can truly aver, that, to the best of my ability, I have administered the law as I understood it, and to the ends of suppressing crime and wrong, and upholding virtue, truth, and right: aiming to give confidence to honest men, and to confirm in all good citizens a love for our Country and a pure trust in her laws and magistrates. In my place, I hope that I have contributed to those ends; and I firmly believe, that our laws will, as heretofore, be executed, and our People happy in the administration of justice, honest, and contented, as long as they keep, and only as long as they keep, the independent and sound Judiciary now established in the Constitution,—which, with all other blessings, I earnestly pray, may be perpetuated to the people of North Carolina.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,

Your most obliged and ob't ser't,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Raleigh, Nov. 10. 1852.

*Proceedings in the State Senate upon the Occasion of Judge Ruffin's  
Resignation<sup>1</sup> November 17, 1852.*

A message was received from the House of Commons, communicating the resignation of Chief Justice Ruffin.

The message having been read, Mr. Joyner rose and addressed the Senate. He said:

I rise, Mr. Speaker, to express my very sincere regret that Judge Ruffin, for any reason should have resigned the distinguished position he occupies as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and I am fully persuaded that regret will be deeply felt throughout the length and breadth of the State. He is well known, and is universally admitted, to be one of the ablest jurists and most learned Judges of the Country. To eminent abilities in the discharge of his official duties he has united the utmost uprightness, independence, and urbanity, and no man has left the bench with a more spotless, pure and unimpeachable character. To his other distinguished merits I may be permitted to particularize an

<sup>1</sup>From the *Raleigh Register* of November 20, 1852.

important fact, that he has contributed much to infuse into the decisions of the Supreme Court a high tone and moral feeling and sentiment producing the most beneficial results. When such a man, uniting in himself all the high and eminent qualities necessary to form and adorn the judicial character, retires from the bench, in the full possession of the most vigorous intellect, the loss cannot be otherwise than deeply felt, and his place most difficult to supply. I have known Judge Ruffin for forty years,—our acquaintance having commenced in eighteen hundred and twelve. Living remotely from each other, I cannot claim the honor of being among the number of his most intimate confidential friends, but I am happy to say that the kindest relations have always subsisted between us, without the slightest interruption; and in the retirement he now seeks, he has my best wishes that the remainder of his days may be as peaceful and happy, as his past life has been eminently valuable to the State.

Mr. Gilmer said :

Mr. Speaker, the resignation of so distinguished, faithful and useful an officer as Judge Ruffin, at this time, coming upon me suddenly and unexpectedly, fills me with emotion. The respect and regard which I have for him urge me to say something on the occasion, but Sir, I am unable to command words that would fitly express my thoughts and feelings. I feel as I believe all North Carolina feels, a deep concern for this occurrence—the loss of the services of a Chief Justice, whose learning, ability and integrity have so justly secured the universal and unlimited confidence of his fellow citizens.

For more than a quarter of a century has his name been identified with the administration of the law in North Carolina, and which law, from his extraordinary ability, in expounding the same, has gradually grown and increased, not only in the esteem of the legal profession but in the confidence of the people generally.

Although his leaving the bench may be likened to the withdrawal of the brighter lamp from our path, or the larger beacon light that secured a safe passage on our coast in the night time, a familiarity and thorough acquaintance with the instructions he has already given, must and will for years to come be a chart to guide and direct us in much safety, and for which we shall owe him a debt of lasting gratitude. The much that he has done, instead of creating a willingness that he should retire, has induced the greater anxiety that he should continue in the public service. Whilst, with others, I yield reluctantly to that on which he has determined, and which must produce such universal regret in the public mind, I must ever bear testimony to his learning, pure integrity, and usefulness.

Judge Ruffin, whose name all North Carolinians, familiar with his character, have for years been ready and proud to pronounce, whenever and wherever the distinguished lawyers of other States are mentioned, had passed from the Bar to the Bench, before I had personal knowledge

of him. In all his private and social relations, his Christian character, and his industry, care, and skill, in agricultural pursuits, he has ever presented an example worthy of all imitation.

Although cautious and moderate in the expression of his political opinions, and never the advocate of strange or violent measures, yet he has never been wanting in that self respect and independence necessary to form and express for himself his own views of political men and measures.

Favored with an excellent understanding, at the Bar, as I learn from his associates, few if any presented talents more proper to acquire and preserve. The success that resulted to him as a practitioner, from his industry and indomitable perseverance and research, should cheer and animate all who would aspire to be great and useful. He was generally courteous, respectful, and kind in argument; and if, on any occasion, betrayed into any such excess of zeal as to provoke remark, it was from those who were excited by his superior intellectual powers, and who, for the moment, forgot that in the richest soil are to be found some weeds which even the diligent hand of the husbandman fails to remove. In the discharge of his duties as a Judge, he has given conclusive evidence of his purity and greatness. Divested of passion and never biased with compassion for the poor or favor to the rich, he patiently heard all parties to the end, and then, "indifferent as to what men might say or think", decided according to what he believed to be the established rule of justice. For the truth of all this the reports of the Supreme Court for the last twenty years and more will bear testimony, as long as North Carolina shall remain a free State. "In short, when we contemplate his various excellencies, we find ourselves at a loss whether most to admire his deep and extensive learning and penetration as a lawyer", or "his industry, probity, firmness, wisdom, and patience as a Judge."

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, permit me to repeat my regret that one so experienced and useful, in the full strength and vigor of his intellect should, from any cause, leave the service of the State.

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*From James R. Dodge.*

RALEIGH 17 Nov. 1852.

I was deeply pained today in having to read your resignation, it took me entirely by surprise. I have no idea what the Legislature will now do with the Judiciary System of our State, but am satisfied that the fact of your being Chief Justice has heretofore been a check upon innovation. I am fearful that your resignation will open the door to all kinds of mischief.

Personally I have the saddest feelings. Sincere respect and friendship for you not unmixed with a selfish feeling arising from the probability almost certainly that I shall again be thrown upon the world to scramble for support, a business I was never fit for even in my younger days.

However the matters may affect me personally, you take with you into retirement my warmest thanks for your uniform kindness and friendship and sincere wishes for your future happiness.

[Address: Graham  
Alamance C. N. C.]

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*From Richmond M. Pearson.*<sup>1</sup>

RICHMOND HILL, Nov. 18th, [1852.]

*My Dear Sir,*

Your favor, of the 10th inst was not reced, untill last night.

Most occurrences, whether of a pleasant or of an unpleasant nature, admit of considerations on the other side, by which the feeling, is in some degree mitigated: But the fact of your resignation, is, to me a source of the deepest regret; unmitigated in any degree:—

By it, the publick lose the services of one whose place cannot be filled; there is no man in the State, who can make any pretence, of his being able to do it,—by it, Judge Nash and myself lose the aid of one, who lessened our labors more than one half: For myself; I can say, my labor was lessened much more than one half; If after examining a subject, the conclusion to which I had arrived, agreed with yours, I rested upon it with entire confidence, and it gave me no further trouble; If we differed, the free and full discussion which followed, either produced a concensus of opinion, or I then rested upon my own judgment, entirely satisfied, that by your aid, everything that could be suggested on the other side had been brought to my notice and been duly considered; add to this that upon all subjects, growing out of the discussion, altho not necessary to the decision, you were kind enough to allow me “to draw without limit,” upon your experience and vast stores of learning, and where, (let me ask) is the consideration to mitigate my regret?—Yes! there is one source of consolation, you have been on the bench long enough to make “your mark” upon the laws of North Carolina; and every one for ages to come, will have the benefit of your written opinions; There is to me, still another source of consolation,—you yet live!—and I know I shall at all times, be at liberty to ask your opinion upon questions of doubt.—

<sup>1</sup>Richmond Mumford Pearson, 1805-1878, graduate of the University, 1823; member of the Commons, 1829-1832; judge of the Superior Court, 1836-1848; associate justice of the Supreme Court, 1848-1858; chief justice, 1858-1878.

Was it entirely fair, to give me no intimation of your intention, untill it was too late to hear what could be said on the other side? You have several times told me that you wished to resign and I made the above and other suggestions which I had hoped satisfied you,—But perhaps it was right, “to steal a march on me” as my opposition to your wish, may in some measure subject me, to the charge of selfishness.—

I trust you will live many years to enjoy the “pleasures of home” and to amuse yourself in the pursuits of agriculture, which you know so well, how to manage, in a way to make them both profitable and Pleasant.—

My respects to Mrs. Ruffin and the young ladies,—Eliza was quite flattered by your notice of her, and begs to be remembered to you and all the family.—

Yours etc. truly.

R. M. PEARSON

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*From Asa Biggs.*<sup>1</sup>

WILLIAMSTON Nov. 22, 1852.

*My Dear Sir.*

On yesterday I heard with much regret of your resignation. I am of course not aware of the reasons which prompted it but I presume they are entirely satisfactory to your mind and should be to mine; but I trust they are not of that character that will preclude you from accepting all other positions in the public service. I have had no consultation with any one; but the conviction is very strong in my mind that you ought to occupy a seat in Mr. Pierce’s cabinet. I know you have no partiality for political life, yet I may be permitted to say that we all owe a duty to our country and your matured intellect in my opinion will now be very serviceable to the country and reflect great credit on our State in the National councils as you have done here on the Bench. Entertaining this view of the matter I take the liberty to enquire whether your determination is *fixed* to decline all further public station. If so, much as I may regret it, I must be content. If not: is there any impropriety in your saying to your friends; confidentially if necessary; that if a seat in the cabinet is tendered you would not decline it. I have no idea whatever may be your determination, that you would *seek* any position, but you are aware that one’s friends have to act in concert in submitting claims to a cabinet appointment and therefore I venture to make the enquiry: You will no doubt well understand my feelings and motives, I know of no movement in the Democratic party to

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<sup>1</sup>Asa Biggs, 1811-1878, a native of Martin County, member of the convention of 1835; House of Commons, 1840; state Senate, 1844, 1854; member of Congress, 1845-1847; United States Senator, 1855-1858; United States district judge, 1858-1861; Confederate district judge, 1861-1865.

procure a cabinet appointment from this State. This letter is the result of my own reflections and I have ventured to address Mr. Pierce requesting him not to overlook North Carolina in the selection of his constitutional advisers.

I have the Honor to be

Truly Yours,

ASA BIGGS.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

[Address: Graham N. C.]

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*From Weldon N. Edwards and John Baxter.*

RALEIGH November 22nd, 1852.

*Hon Thomas Ruffin*

*Dear Sir,*

As the Presiding Officers of the two Houses of the General Assembly of North Carolina, we perform the grateful duty assigned us of communicating to you, the enclosed Resolutions unanimously adopted by them, with the assurance of our most cordial concurrence in the sentiments which they communicate; and we take great pleasure in adding our best wishes, individually, for your health and future happiness.

We are, Sir,

Very respectfully,

Yours obt Servts.

W. N. EDWARDS

JNO BAXTER.

Resolutions upon the resignation of Chief Justice Ruffin.

1. Resolved unanimously, that the General Assembly receives reluctantly and with deep regret, the announcement that Thomas Ruffin has resigned his office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of this State.

2. Resolved unanimously, That the pre-eminent ability, profound learning and unspotted integrity which mark his long career as a Magistrate, command the warmest acknowledgment of this General Assembly, the gratitude of the people at large, and will ever be the ornament and pride of administrative justice in North Carolina.

3. Resolved, That the proceedings of the General Assembly upon this resignation be signed by the Speakers of both Houses and transmitted to Chief Justice Ruffin.

JNO BAXTER,

*S[peaker] H[ouse] C[ommons]*

W. N. EDWARDS

*S[peaker] S[enate]*



*From B. F. Moore to Seaton Gales.*

[RALEIGH N. C. Nov. 23, 1852]

*Dear Sir:* Chief Justice Ruffin, on the occasion of his withdrawing from the Bench of the Supreme Court, which, for so long a time, he adorned with the highest attributes of a great and learned Judge, did me the honor to address me a letter.<sup>1</sup>

As it explains more fully the motives which counselled him to the step which he was then about to take, than with propriety could be set forth in his letter of resignation, I deem it but just to him that his fellow citizens should read it.

I am further urged to do this by the friendly office which he has entrusted me to discharge; and although it is done at an earlier day than is designated, I am sure it will not be, on that account, the less acceptable to his professional brethren, with whom his position on the Bench has so long been the means of intellectual and friendly intercourse.

Yours, etc.,

B. F. MOORE.

Seaton Gales Esq.

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*From Edward B. Freeman.*

RALEIGH, Nov. 23, 1852.

*My dear Sir:*

With feelings of gratitude, far beyond what I am able to express, I read your very kind letter; and would sooner have acknowledged the receipt of it, but for my absence in the meantime on a visit to Chatham. It did not require this further evidence on your part to assure me of your friendship—that had been fully evinced by your kindness to me during the whole time of my service in the Clerk's office—and I shall always feel that I have been greatly deficient in acknowledging my gratitude for the forbearance and encouragement you have extended towards me throughout the whole of that time.

The day your resignation was read was a sad one to all of us, and by way of comfort I found myself repeating to our friends as they would call at my office to express their regrets, that I had served as clerk twenty years and had never received an unkind word from you.

My poor abilities will not allow me to express how sincere is my friendship and gratitude to you; but be assured, my dear Sir, that I feel deeply all the obligations you have conferred upon me, and they shall ever be warmly remembered and always promptly acknowledged.

<sup>1</sup>See *supra*, Ruffin to Moore, dated November 10, 1852.

My daughter, who has become the depositary of your letter, desires to be affectionately remembered to you and promises to take good care of me.

With sentiments of the most  
sincere respect, and esteem

Your Friend and Obt. Servant

E. B. FREEMAN.

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*From B. F. Moore.*

RALEIGH NOV. 26/52.

*My dear Sir,*

I did not return in time to hand to Mr. Speaker Baxter personally, your letter of resignation. I enclosed it with a short one of my own, left it with our friend Col. Joyner, who was fully apprised of the contents: He kept the whole matter secret, and placed the paper in the hands of the Speaker on Wednesday morning. Seldom has it happened that an affair of so much public interest, destined to become published in a few days, has been so completely shut out from all suspicion.

The deep regret which fell on the legislature, and the complimentary proceedings, of that body, as well as the flattering remarks of the most distinguished members, were exceedingly grateful to your friends, and, no less just, allow me to say, to you.

You have seen that I submitted, for publication, the kind and excellent letter which you addressed to me. I took the step without consultation with any one. It stands in high favor with public opinion.

If you ever doubted it, you now have the unquestionable evidence how highly have been appreciated at all times, your eminent services on the bench. Perhaps at no time could you have left it with so strong a conviction in the public mind, of the irreparable loss which the State must sustain by your withdrawal from the judiciary. One who knows, as I do how deeply seated is this conviction, is almost driven, by self-alarm, from desiring the place: while at the same time, he must feel how great is the compliment to be selected to fill it. On your account I feel very happy at the deserved testimonial to the value and magnitude of your services; but on my own, when my friends propose for me the place, I feel too much distressed to have joy in the anticipation of success. If while you presided, I might have taken a seat, I should have felt such security in my elevation, as had allowed me to be altogether happy in my fortune—but I fear, that the position will be a seat of thorns—I am scared at the responsibility, and I dread the things unseen—and I am almost ready to wish myself beaten in the contest.

Gentlemen tell me that I am far in advance of any other candidate, and many regard my election as sure: but I know too well the under

currents which circulate among elective bodies, and the mines that are suddenly sprung, to count with certainty on any such event. Attempts are on foot to throw the election in as an element in the selection of other officers, and so it may be. There is little likelihood that the election of Senators will be accomplished in many days. When parties and factions become wearied and exasperated by opposition and collision, virtue flies from their councils and the choice of means to effect any given end is always the necessity of the hour. I believe that any man who is a tolerable lawyer, who, next week, could give Mr. Dobbin twelve votes in addition to his present friends, would secure his place on the bench. I hope I err, but my experience is my teacher. One thing I am resolved on: I will not degrade the bench before I get on it. In justice, however I ought to state that there are, to my knowledge, several democrats who declare their unalterable purpose not to go into caucus on the judgeship, and I believe they will adhere to their declaration. The whigs will not, as the leaders tell me, and certainly they will not by my consent.

Our excellent friend judge Battle has many supporters, and, generally, they prefer me secondly, as mine do him: I have taken no pains to count his number or mine. Judge Strange has just arrived, and the conjecture is that he will be a candidate for the office. His arrival, however, has been so recent, that I have heard nothing of his strength—I have no reason to believe, that he will be formidable. On my arrival home, I waited on Mr. Badger to ascertain whether he would take the place, and preferred at once, most sincerely, I assure you, to withdraw my name from my friends, if he would allow his to be used. As we supposed, he declined in decided terms. But proposed, very warmly, that means should be taken to induce the President to nominate you to fill the vacancy of McKinly.<sup>1</sup> He was very earnest in the proposition, and, so far as I hear, it has the hearty concurrence of every one.

If such a nomination should be made and concurred in by the Senate, you will have to accept, notwithstanding your letter of resignation, and your letter to me. I know that you will not escape some censure: but no one can say of you that you vacated one office to leap into another: and there are nine tenths of the members of this legislature who believe and say, that you have not told the *whole* truth in assigning your motives for retirement. When your resignation was read in the Senate, Woodfin, I am told said very audibly—“*Just as I expected and foretold four years ago that d. . . . d fellow has driven the Chief Justice from the bench*”. Mr. Lillington asked me with the appearance of great concern, if the Chief Justice had said anything in his letter to me about quitting the bench in consequence of judge P's conduct. Of course, I answered

<sup>1</sup>John McKinley, of Alabama, 1780-1852, a native of Virginia, United States senator, 1826-1831; member of Congress, 1833-1835; associate justice of the Supreme Court, 1837-1852. He was finally succeeded by John A. Campbell of Alabama.

that you had not, and stated that I should publish it. I told him further, that you had written P. a farewell letter, perfectly courteous and friendly in its terms. But the opinion is gone forth, that certain matters, behind the curtain, have precipitated, at least, your retirement, and it is fully believed.

When your letter of resignation was published I wrote an editorial for the Register, a great part of which was left out, because it supported your views of an independent judiciary and was supposed to Commit the editor, against popular judicial elections. It was written after I reached Halifax and sent to the editor to accompany the publication of the resignation—I was mortified at its mutilation. As I told you I would do some thing of that kind, and as you may suppose that the article published was regarded by me as a full execution of my promise, I take the liberty to disabuse myself, and to send you the remnant which was rejected.

I am not often in either hall, and see and know little more of what is going on than one at home, like yourself—But I have never seen a day in the State, when there was such a scarcity of Statesmanlike conservatism. The fact is, we are in a storm, every anchor is lifted, and the ship of State is obeying every gust that strikes her.

Be pleased to present me kindly to Mrs. Ruffin, and accept for yourself the kindest wishes, for your health, long life and prosperity and happiness, of one who has had occasion so many times to feel in all our intercourse personal and professional the deepest obligations of a disinterested friendship.

B. F. MOORE.

Hon Thos Ruffin.

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[Enclosure]

The judge in the administration of the law, should have but one influence to direct his course, and that should be the influence of duty. The hope of any other reward than that of his own bosom, and the approval of the just and honorable portion of his countrymen, makes self—self with its corrupting interests—a party to his judgments and

“When self the wavering balance shakes,

Tis rarely right adjusted”.

Every judge sits on his own case, when a favor is lost or gained by the decision. Great favors and great losses are heavy weights in the judicial balance—too heavy much, to be upborne by a love of justice or a sense of duty. Few are the men who in political life, do not enquire what are likely to be the effects of their conduct on their prospects for promotion, and fewer still are they, who do not take counsel of their fears, and shape their course accordingly. These evils, great as they

be are inherent in a representative system of government. If the same element shall accompany the judge to his seat on the bench, they will of a certainty insinuate themselves into the councils of his mind: And in all controversies between the great and the small; between the powerful and the weak the conflict will be determined by the selfish interests of the judge; and the bread of the humble will be taken to supply the wants of the functionary.

We believe that we have a just appreciation of the honesty of men, when we declare that we are unwilling to trust, any officer whose interest may often tempt him to look around for other lights in the discharge of his functions, besides those of a firm and righteous conscience. And we announce our utter aversion to any judicial system which will place the judge in greater dependence than now they are on individuals or parties:—We know no greater curse on free institutions than can be found in weak and cringing judges who tremble in their seats while they are armed with the majesty and strength of the law.

The achievements of our ancestors in England of rendering the judges independant of the crown, has ever been justly regarded as one of the highest triumphs of truth and justice. *Yet the greatness of the deed consisted simply in making the bread of the judge dependant only on his good behavior*, and allowing him to sit on the bench without the fear of censure for “doing equal law and right to the rich and poor” and of withdrawing from him the temptation to take part in any man’s “plea or quarrell”—

The long experience of the chief justice eminently qualifies him to speak to his fellow citizens on this subject. The time of doing so—on his withdrawal, in all probability forever to the shades of private life—entitles his counsel to a degree of respect, consideration and weight, which few if any so much deserve to have and we trust will fall not unheeded on the citizens of a state, whose honesty encouraged, nurtured and protected by the pure administration of an independent judiciary, commands a tribute from every clime to which they remove.

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*From Paul C. Cameron.*

RALEIGH Dec. 4th, 1852

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Judge Nash is here and is accompanied by Waddell and Strudwick who say that they have made a sale of one half the coalfield for \$40,000. I learn from Judge N. that on the 2nd ballot on yesterday that Judge Battle was elected to fill your seat on the Supreme Bench—a close vote between Moore and Battle, Bryan receiving some 20 votes on the first

attempt to make a Judge! But you will no doubt be fully informed by others as to this and other matters passing here. Has Sterling made his visit to Chatham yet! You must help Anne out as to the stock for the orchard in such way as will best and soonest accomplish her wishes.

\* \* \* \* \*

I am your friend

P. C. CAMERON.

We expect to hear by to days mail of the death of my Kinsman Wm. E. Anderson of Wilmington!

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*From Asa Biggs.*

WILLIAMSTON Dec. 11, 1852.

*My dear Sir—*

Your esteemed favor of 30th ult. has been received, and being thus honored with your confidence I desire to express my acknowledgment and the pleasure I have in learning that you have decided *not* to decline all further public stations. The universal expression of regret for your retirement from the Supreme Court, you may rest assured is sincere and feeling as I do your ability to reflect credit on our native State in the public Councils I could not refrain from writing you on the subject. I knew very well that what *I* might say would do no "mischief" in turning *your* head but I knew you would pardon the liberty and I calculated that my solicitation would be one of numerous others of more weight and might add some little in forming your conclusion and I entirely concur with you in supposing that you can be of more permanent usefulness on the Bench than any where else, and I know it will much better suit your habits studies and tastes. It is true that too frequently politicians who control the movements of a party are apt to be governed more by expediency than by a sense of right and therefore the importance I attached to *your* having a seat in the Cabinet—the infusion into its deliberations of a spirit of right to control excesses produced by a spirit of mere expediency—feeling as I do great solicitude for the success of Mr. Pierce's administration. My attention however was not called to the fact that there was a vacancy on the Bench of the Supreme Court of the United States until I received your letter. It will afford me great pleasure to co-operate with others in inducing the President to nominate you to that vacancy. I presume that Mr. Fillmore will certainly make a nomination before he retires and the suggestion of Mr. Badger, Mr. Moore and others of his party will no doubt have great influence with him. My recommendation or others of our party as Democrats will not probably have much weight but our recommendation as lawyers attending the Supreme Court may be useful and if a nomina-

tion through Mr. Badger can be proposed as late as possible when we meet in Raleigh in January, the Bar joining in a recommendation would I think be of much assistance.

I calculated at one time to be in Raleigh 1st. Dec. but hearing that my name was spoken of to fill a Judgeship, declined to go on as it would subject me to the charge of a personal appeal for the office which is entirely inconsistent with my feelings. If you have occasion to write Mr. Moore on the subject please say to him that I desire to co-operate with him in the matter if I can be of any service, and as he will better know *how* I can be useful than I do to write me if necessary before we meet in January.

With great respect I have the honor  
to be truly your friend and Obt. srvt.

ASA BIGGS.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin  
Graham N C  
[Address: Graham  
Alamance Co N. C.]

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*From William H. Battle.*

CHAPEL HILL Dec. 13th, 1852.

*My Dear Sir.*

I have just received your very kind letter of congratulation for which I heartily thank you. The gratification which my election to the Bench of the Supreme Court affords me is greatly enhanced by the pleasure which it seems to give my friends; and I have heard of no incident connected with it more pleasing than that which you tell of Mrs. Ruffin. I shall certainly feel less diffidence in entering upon the duties of the office to which I am called, since I find that she unites with her husband in the opinion that I am not unworthy of it.

There were several circumstances attending my election which could not be otherwise than grateful to my feelings; but there was no one which gave me greater satisfaction than the fact that the result was produced by the votes of members of both the great political parties into which the State and its Legislature are now divided. I have always had a great horror of being regarded as a party Judge, and I now rejoice—sincerely rejoice—that the votes by which I was last chosen a Judge of the Superior Courts as well as those by which I hold my present office, were cast without distinction of party. I agree with you that such a result would scarcely have been brought about elsewhere than in good old North Carolina. The Democratic party in this State certainly deserves great credit for their course in the late contest. Whether the Whigs under similar circumstances would have acted with the same

liberality towards their political opponents I can not say. I think they would have elected you. I doubt whether they would have elected any one else.

It was a matter of deep regret with me to be placed in competition with my old classmate and friend B. F. Moore. As he can not blame me for it I sincerely hope that it will cause no interruption of our friendly intercourse. It so happened that during the day I spent in Raleigh on my way home from my circuit I met with both my competitors Moore and Bryan, and received their congratulations upon my election.

I cannot at present avail myself of your kind invitation to visit you. I hope the time is not very far distant when the pleasure of doing so will be afforded me. In the meanwhile my wife and myself will be glad to see you or any member of your family whom business or pleasure may bring to our village.

With my kindest regards to Mrs. Ruffin and the rest of your household, and my best wishes for your own continued health and happiness

I am truly and sincerely

Your friend

WILL: H. BATTLE.

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*From George McNeill.*

FAYETTEVILLE Decem 14th 1852.

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Your resignation took us by surprise, and I must say some little regret:—As one result I fear the politicians will not permit the court, in its present form, to remain very long. How the step may effect you *personally* is yet to be seen—but I suspect that the *public* will think you too *young* yet to be given up entirely—and that after a little rest, you may expect to be calld. to enter the public service in some form again.

I have not seen John Strange since I wrote a hasty line on Saturday—but I learn that he is no better—rather sinking!

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*From B. F. Moore.*

RALEIGH Decr. 16/52.

*My dear Sir:*

You would have heard from me earlier, but I was desirous of seeing our memorial to the president, in behalf of your appointment, off to Washington. They are both nearly ready for their destination. By the



by, I am addressing you as though you were privy to our doings; whereas no one, I presume, is more ignorant than yourself, of what was proposed to be done to urge and accomplish our own wishes in regard to yourself. A day or two after Mr. Badger had left for Washington, I went to the Clerks room with the draft of two petitions to be sent to the president,—one to be signed by the members of the Legislature, and the other by the bar. Mr. Freeman presented me with one dictated by Badger for the members, and it was preferred by me, and dispatched to the care of our friend Dodge. Some one got it, and, for several days, it was among the missing. It was found, however, and, as I have said, will be transmitted in a day or two. I have written to Gov. Graham to aid us, your fellow citizens and brethren of the bar; and I know his admiration and friendship towards you to be such as to enlist him firmly in the matter, unless some of the objections, which you suggest, shall, under a sense of duty, determine his silence. I understand that Saunders regards the attempt as improper, because of your residence out of the judicial circuit. Inter pares, I would hold the objection good, myself, for it is founded on expediency only; but, certainly, I would not forego by virtue of that reason, the chance of placing on the Supreme Court Bench of the United States, a man preeminently qualified to discharge its onerous and vastly responsible labors. It is obvious to all, and the source of the deepest regret to every intelligent and patriotic lover and admirer of our republican institutions, that the public sacrifice has been immense, in too great a deference to local and partisan partialities. No man grew up, and no lawyer in the Union, ever entered on the field of his professional labors with a higher sense than myself, of the purity and ability needful in determining those questions which, though, seemingly, individual in their character, constitute, in fact, the basis of all that is valuable in society, whether of property, or morals or government: What I want—what the republic demands, is a *judge*—all other is but “leather or prunella.” It is sufficient for me therefore, to excuse myself from adhering strictly to a rule of usual expediency, that the man, whom I may recommend, is possessed of qualifications, so rarely to be met with, as lift him out of the rule.

But, my dear sir, if the thing be impossible, your friends, and the public, whom you have served so long, and so efficiently, will take pleasure in leaving this proof of their obligation and of their gratitude to a faithful officer. And if there be any impropriety in the exhibition of it in this mode, the responsibility of that will not rest on you, nor, I hope, will it enfeeble the compliment, in your estimation.

But if your connection with public affairs, as an officer of authority, shall have ceased forever, you cannot deny to yourself, if you have ambition, the proud thought, that you have left, in the administration of our laws, a durable impress on the public mind, of your judicial character: and, what is vastly more a subject of pleasant and happy reflection, that impress is the stamp of elevated morals and social virtue. How long it

may be before that progress which is the swift current of the times may, by its attrition, abrasions, and depositions disfigure, obscure or hide the impressive lines along which now flows, as in a well worn channel, "the equal law and right to all persons, rich or poor", No man may say; but whatever may be the violence of that current the present generation, at least, will find great, if not perfect, security against the total change which it seems ultimately to threaten. And I doubt not, that whoever, in future times, may write our history, he will call that the golden age of the State, which signalized the perfect triumph of the law and justice, with speed, and, almost, without price as they have been administered by the Supreme Court of the State.

You are aware that it was from the year 1840 a favorite wish with me to have selected, for publication, the most important causes only, which were decided by the court. As a legislator, I labored to effect that purpose, but I was overruled. I regret, exceedingly, that it had not become a law. The court would have taken a higher stand abroad, and at home; and always, proportionably with the standing of the court among a people, will be its influence on the public mind. The Supreme Court would have been seen considering only questions of magnitude; and its importance would have been the more readily acknowledged, the more condensed became its high and responsible labors. The trash (arising from trashy cases) which fills many numbers of the reports, has injured, with unreflecting minds, (and these are legion, even in the profession) the argument for its existence.

A serious effort is making to overthrow it and reestablish the Conference system. This can never succeed, in my opinion, at all, but with great loss to the administration of justice: but certainly, not, unless by organizing a distinct jurisprudence for courts of Chancery.

Allow me, my dear Sir, to turn to a recent event affecting me somewhat. I should not introduce it at all, but your remarks hardly allow me to be silent. Of course, I allude to the election of your successor. If I had been more ambitious, than I was, to fill that distinguished post, your complimentary notice of my qualifications, had been a source of pride and agreeable enjoyment. Certainly I shall practice, with great pleasure, before my honored competitor; nor can I imagine anything likely to disturb a friendship that has grown up with us from boyhood, has continued through our manhood, till both have passed one meridian, and will, I doubt not, accompany us down the declivity of life. And if, I had any cause for grief or regret in the defeat, it could not, with justice, be brought to his door, nor would I trouble you with its recital, although I doubt not, I should find, in your bosom, a ready and a warm sympathy. Nor, if I had cause, which I might lay elsewhere, should I feel greatly consoled by your assurance, that I am destined to fill the next vacancy on the bench, "occur where it may". That might be, if like yourself, I was placed, by common opinion, beyond the reach of rivalry; but it never will happen to one, who, like myself, have many rivals, and no

bone which the hungry would be glad to snap at, with the hope of possessing. This is an age of office hunters, and, I desire, I expect, quite as much pleasure from the consciousness, that I do not need the emoluments of office, as they do, from the honors which it affords them.

Do not understand me, I beseech you, as intending the slightest breath of censure on Judge Battle, who I am sure, owed his first elevation to the circuit bench to my zealous efforts, and whose conduct has more than justified my partiality and zeal in his behalf.

I have dismissed my defeat among the things of the past; and I am sure that I slept better under it, than I should have done after an election. I did not deceive myself, when I wrote you, that the idea of being called to so responsible a station was most distressing to me. I know I can practice law with some satisfaction, and a little reputation; but I might have lost all in the new and arduous position of deciding causes. The fact is I am a great doubter, too much so, I fear, for a successful judge. You know we can talk what nonsense we please, before, even, laearned judges, take our fees, and leave the responsibility with the bench: and then, if the decision is against us, we can, with the most perfect impunity, have at the judge, behind his back, and sometimes to his face, and take the most gratifying revenge for his folly and our wrongs.

I ought not to omit to say to you, that the law to Revise the Statutes, will be revived; and, if you will accept, you will be associated in the commission. In that event, you know, you will do the work, and I shall divide the compensation—so I shall have, for once in my life, a sinecure and a holiday. I know that if I tell you that this favor is absolutely necessary to console me in my great distress, you will undertake it most cheerfully. So I will bid you a good night and turn into bed, where with this most happy thought within, and the noise of the pattering rain without I shall have a couch of down and dreams that might paradise a prison.

With very great regard,  
I am yours truly

Hon. Th. Ruffin.

B. F. MOORE.

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*From Asa Biggs.*

*My dear Sir.*

WILLIAMSTON. Dec. 17, 1852.

Your esteemed favor of 11th is at hand. On the same day I replied to your first letter which you have no doubt e're this received. In this I concurred with you that the station of Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States better suited you and I have no doubt it is a position in which you can be more permanently useful. A few days ago having

occasion to write Mr. Moore on business I alluded to our correspondence confidentially about the Judgeship and requested if I could be useful in any way to secure your nomination by Mr. Fillmore to command me. I heard from Judge Battle at Beaufort Court that Mr. Strange would probably be presented for a Cabinet appointment, by our party friends in the Legislature, but I have not been advised of such a movement otherwise. I certainly would not desire to bring about a competition between your claims and his for many reasons—some of them alluded to by you—and as it is probable that some movement of the kind spoken of is made or contemplated, I will adopt your suggestion: for the present at least: in not urging your name for a cabinet appointment. I shall however seek your nomination to the more desirable position of Judge, at the same time expressing my earnest wish and desire that you may fill one or the other of these stations. I have to two or three of my correspondents before your first letter was received mentioned the propriety of your being one of the cabinet but I have not proceeded farther, waiting to hear your determination.

I certainly have no cause to regret this correspondence, for although my first letter was written under some excitement it was the result of mature reflection, dictated by an anxious desire to keep in public service one who had been eminently useful to North Carolina on the Bench, and whose talents were so well suited to reflect credit on the State in other distinguished stations. I do not feel that I have been subjected to any inconvenience for I shall consider any trouble I may have fully compensated if successful by the public benefit attained. My fear is that the trouble will be yours.

With high respect and esteem I am, dear Sir,  
truly your friend and obt. Servt.

ASA BIGGS.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin  
Alamance N. C.  
[Address: Graham  
Alamance Co. N. C.]

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*From James H. Otey.<sup>1</sup>*

*Honl. Thos: Ruffin*  
*My dear Sir.*

MEMPHIS Decr. 17. 1852.

Sickness on my return from No. C. last summer, prevented my attendance at the Court summoned to try the Presentment of Bp. Doane,

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<sup>1</sup>James Harvey Otey, 1800-1863, a native of Virginia; a graduate of the University of North Carolina in 1820; tutor, 1820-1823; Episcopal bishop of Tennessee. With Leonidas Polk, another alumnus of the University, he founded the University of the South.

made by Bps. Meade, McIlwaine and Burgess.<sup>1</sup> It was my fixed purpose, after I saw you in Raleigh, to be present, but I was confined to my house nearly the whole month of Octo, and was utterly unable to go.

I have recently seen the Journal of proceedings of this Court and some of the conclusions arrived at by a majority of the Bps. present, appear to me very extraordinary, and so contrary to what obtains in all other cases. When the ends of truth and justice are sought by investigation, and withal so opposed to what my own common sense suggests, that I have, for the relief of my own mind, determined to consult you, as to certain points which appear to have been made questions before the court. Let me state certain facts, that you may have a clear view of the points I wish to submit to you.

The 30th March, three Bps. make a presentment of Bp. Doane to the Presiding Bp. whereupon he summons a court to try the same the 24th June. The time for the meeting of the Court was subsequently changed by the presiding Bp. to Oct 7th.

In May the N. Jersey Convention met and by a Committee proceeded to investigate the charges against Bp. Doane and made their report to the convention of N. Jersey on the 14th July.

The presenting Bps. apprehending that the postponement of the trial might affect their presentment, made a new Presentment dated July 22d. which being laid before the presiding Bp. he issues summons anew to the Bps. to meet as a court for the trial of the same, at the time (Oct. 7) and place (Camden N. J.) before designated.

The Canon for the trial of a Bp. provides that a presentment of a Bp. may be made by the Convention of the Diocese whose Bp. is charged and also by any three Bishops of this Church.

Now what I want to know is this:—Had the Court any power to go behind the presentment, and consider the question of the expediency or in expediency, the justice or injustice of making a presentment, as that question was raised and presented by the Convention of N. Jersey?

If they had, and if they could adopt the report of the Com: of the Convention as their (the court's) judgment acquitting the Bp. (as the Convention claims to have done, "totidem verbis")—could not the Court also adopt the contrary verdict, supposing it to have been made, condemning the Bp. and make the same their judgment as in the former case?

Does not the very fact that an Ecclesiastical Court has assembled at the summons of the Presiding Bp. and organized itself to try a presentment, exclude necessarily the question raised by the N. J. Convention, and was not the Court therefore bound to try the issue presented? I wish also to know what is the proper and according to the general principles of law, what the *legal* effect of the protest offered by the Bp. of

<sup>1</sup>George W. Doane, 1799-1859, bishop of New Jersey, had been charged in 1851 with dishonesty in the management of two church schools which he had founded. The charges were dismissed, renewed in 1853, and again found groundless.

Maryland, received and admitted to record by the Court, upon the subsequent proceedings, and how it affects both him and the respondent? viz . . . "the Bishops now assembled are incompetent to proceed to the trial of the presentment, and that whatever may be done by them in the premises will be irregular, null, void, and of no consequence."?

I know that I have no right to trouble you with these questions, and perhaps, they will seem to you too simple to justify grave inquiry on my part and scarcely creditable to the general intelligence which a Bp. ought to have in such matters. I must cast myself on your indulgence and friendship which has been so kindly extended to me heretofore and especially upon your love of the Church for thus intruding on your time and attention.

Whether your answers to my questions be as I anticipate or not, they will at least enable me to steer my way clear in the midst of difficulties in which I shall probably find myself, if proceedings against the Bp. of N. J. are to be renewed.

I may add that viewing the whole case as it now stands, a darker cloud has gathered around the Bp. of N. J. than any previous suspicion or rumors had collected. Please address me at Memphis. With kindest regards to your family I remain dear Sir, with the highest respect and most sincere esteem,

Yr. friend

J. H. OTEY.

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To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.

ALAMANCE—Decmr. 22nd. 1852.

Caesar was despatched yesterday morning with as much as he could take—though but a small load at that. I am sorry you had to send up at all, and, especially, to get so few things. It was our expectation and intention to send down and take Katy's things to her before this; and we should have done so but for the impossibility of getting barrels for flour, and the extreme badness of the roads. As it is, I shall be obliged to send next week or the week after, as we have not here more than half salt for our pork. I do not expect to be able to get Blls then, and therefore I propose trying *bags*, holding 100 lbs. and 200 lbs. made of cotton osnabergs. But, before doing so, I must trouble you to ask of the grocers, whether bags will suit: what will be the difference between the price in bags and blls, and they keep the bags or return them—the latter of which I should prefer. When the wagons go, they shall take Katy's other cabbages—50 in number—and her long red potatoes—10 bushs; which we hope will answer her a good purpose for eating. As for *planting* the long reds, I should not allow it, were I in your place; as she never gets more of them than she plants and generally she can have her supply from us. By the way, you mentioned to me, that an Ithecan friend of ours had consulted you

about presenting Mrs. R. and myself a couple of Blls of *Real Mercers*. Should such things heave into your possession, be pleased to charge all the expenses to me, and then oblige Madam R. and myself by forwarding to this place one of the Blls. and dividing the other between your wife and Anne Cameron. Our Mercers are as good for present eating as any can be; and one Bll of the New Yorkers will answer us for planting; so that Katy and Anne will be welcome to a Bll. between them.

I must get you again to procure for me my annual supply of Red Clover seed from Baltimore. I wish them put into bags and then into Blls: 3 bushs in one cask, (that is 4 bushs in each cask) and 8 in two others, and to have the quantity marked on each cask or in some way so designated that I may know them; as the 3 bushs are for a friend, who wants that particular quantity. Get the seed of the *best* quality and freest from other seeds; and please order them at once, so that they may leave Baltimore before hard frost shall detain the vessel, as it did last year. Mrs. R. bids me say, that if you have on hand a Bll of herrings for her, she will thank you to send it when our wagons go down. It is my purpose and hope to pay you a short visit in the early part of January, as several little matters will require me to be there soon after *Dividend* days, and I hope to be able to get down for a day or two and take Fairintosh in the way, going, or returning, or both. I wish I could be with you in the life time of my old and esteemed friend, Mr. Duncan Cameron; for I should be extremely gratified to see him once more. I have, however, the poorest talent for offering consolation to the sick, or the sorrowing friends of the sick, whether by word or letter. Therefore I could only hope by a visit to gratify my own feelings and affections, as a friend, and not to be of use to the poor sufferer, or a comfort to his afflicted family. But I have a large debt of friendship and gratitude to Mr. Cameron, which I would most gladly avail myself of any opportunity of saying to him or his. There are few men, if any, to whose beneficent regards and actual deeds of kindness and consideration I owe more than to this excellent gentleman: who, indeed, has been largely the benefactor of a numerous kindred, besides his immediate family, and a still more numerous circle of unconnected friends, and also a most upright, active, intelligent, and successful depository of various and important public trusts. Such a man is entitled to the aid and sympathy of all good men, while among us, and his memory, when removed to their reverence. He has and will have mine! I have written a short letter to Mr. P. C. C. today, which poorly expresses my emotions and feelings towards his Father and himself. But even such as it is, it may be worth his perusal, as some evidence of the sensibilities I cherish on the occasion, and would desire him under like circumstances to cherish towards me. One thing, however, about which I feel much interest, I could not mention to him but must take the liberty of presenting to your attention. No doubt the last resting

place of our friends remains will be among his kindred ashes at Fairtosh. If possible my desire and anxious desire is to unite in the funeral obsequies, as a mourning friend; and I will thank you very much to let me know at the proper time, so that I may have the opportunity of reaching the scene in due season for joining in the sad service. You observe, that I take it for certain that the period cannot be remote, when he will sleep with his fathers and his departed partner and their offspring. I do so, as Mr. Brodnax gives us such intelligence as forces on us the sorrowing anticipation. At all events write soon, and let us know the true state of things.

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*From Frederick Nash.*

*My dear Sir*

HILLSBORO' Decr. 27th, [1852]

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I sincerely agree with you in what you say of Judge Battle. He is indeed an amiable gentleman, and worthy of the love and confidence of all who know him. To me his election to the Bench of the Supreme Court is a matter of great moment a good lawyer and a perfect gentleman, our judicial intercourse cannot but be pleasant. I have great confidence in his sound judgment and firmness. The Legislature could not have made a more judicious selection, nor one more desirable to me. *Stare decisis*, is my motto, and I believe is his. You need not therefore fear any violent departure from the paths pointed out to us, by the talent and learning which have gone before us.

I read your letter to Mr. Moore with great pleasure—it was a patriotic offering. Whether it will stay the madness of the times, is to be seen. To me the alterations in the Judiciary within and without the constitution, which are proposed is not a matter of much moment—my time is getting short, but to the country at large they are vital. The commentaries contained in recent publications, upon the subject of Rowdysm in our Northern cities, ought to strike the most tho'tless and unprincipled of our modern demagogues. How I envy you the *otium cum dignitate*, which you are enjoying—no compulsion to leave home—go and return just as you please—nothing to do this bad weather, but to sit before the fire, stretch out your legs, enjoy the genial heat, and your newspapers, no cares, no anxieties for the present or the future—all peace, harmony and love. But this blessed state of happiness will not I suspect last long. I expect to see you on your way to Mississippi soon, to teach the natives to pay their debts—to New Orleans to punish Filibustering—and anywhere out there, to prove we have a national



Government. But if I were in your place, I should much prefer being chief Justice of the United States. Judge Taney I learn is very infirm and it is tho't will not long be where he is. I admit it is not the thing to be waiting for dead mens shoes—we some times slip our own too soon.<sup>1</sup> Pardon these remarks.

What we shall do without you at Raleigh, I do not know, but we must do the best we can. I hope others will not be as sensible of your absence as we of the Court shall be, if so we shall be in a cruel fix. I tell you Sir, in sober sadness, there is not a man in North Carolina who deplores your resignation as I do, and now my good Sir let me remind you of the old latin aphorism *Orugo animi religio ingenii*.

Your friend, F. NASH.

Genl. Saunders is elected to supply Battle's place, another good appointment—No Senator.

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*From Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

RALEIGH Decr. 27th [1852]

I recd yours of 22d on the 25th. Ceasar reached home the afternoon before, very much to the gratification of all, for the seniors of the household had began to fear for horses and wagon to say nothing of the freight. He reports the roads as we had heard they were, very heavy.

The freight was to us a great treat, for such has been the demand for all kinds of poultry that most of it was brought to our market in the skeleton state, and the breast of a turkey gave only a fair sized lady's slice, on each side of the breast bone. You may well imagine that on Christmas when the stoutest gobler graced the board, the donors nor the hand that fed them was forgotten.

Verily, the good cheer was general.

I have made inquiry about flour, in sacks, and the general opinion among the grocers seems to be, that it will sell better in 100 lb sacks than in larger. Some think it will sell as well as in Blls, while others are of a different opinion. They all seem to think the sack, in general, must go with the flour.

It seems I did not understand Miss Bryant, or rather she did not write exactly what she meant, by a subsequent note from her, telling of their starting from Ithica, I learned that one of the barrels were for our friends the Camerons and the other for you, so Ann will get some for her planting and Catherine will have of her own which I expect, selected by a friend who always has sent us very fine ones. We do not however the less appreciate your good intentions in the *Mercer line*.

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<sup>1</sup>Ruffin outlived Chief Justice Taney six years, but when the latter died was a citizen of the Confederate States.

I trespassed yesterday so far, as to order your clover seed, and as you did not say whereto they were to be ship<sup>d</sup>, I directed them here, as they will probably arrive before the whole of the salt is taken away.

Your instructions about putting up in bags and Blls were strictly given. The herrings are here and will be sent by first wagon. You speak of taking Fairntosh in your way, coming or returning on your proposed visit. All the family are here, and are likely to be so for some time to come. Our old Friend Judge Cameron is no worse than a week ago, and a great deal better than he was a fortnight since. From present appearances you will see him when you come down. He breathes better than he did, takes food better, and is less troubled with nausea. It is very uncertain how long the sufferer may last, or indeed I should confidently expect him to recover but for the paralysis of one side, and I think not unlikely he may live for months yet. Just two weeks ago, he and those around him thought death was then on him, but he rallyd, and his voice at least is stronger. He sometimes wanders but generally his mind is perfectly clear. I saw him today, the family told me a cough troubled him much at times, but he was perfectly composed while I was there. I told him, he was better than when I saw him last, he asked me at once in what, and when I stated, in improved appetite, freedom from nausea etc. he gave his assent. I had not seen him for two or three days having caught a violent cold which gave me a fever, with great soreness of bone and muscle. The wife and daughter of our friend Dodge arrived some two hours since and put a stop to my writing—they have just retired and will finish my letter by saying how all are. Catherine is well and so indeed are all the children, they all and each have enjoyed the good things brought by the wagon in a high degree and will each add somewhat to their weight doubtless. George is also very well. Robt. Strange is not well, he has a cold, is overworked and dissatisfied with the legislature etc. He took a dose of medicine tonight and I hope he will be better in the morning.

The legislature adjourned about 8½ or 9 this night. Saunders is the judge, no Senator elected, the extreme of both parties dissatisfied with senatorial and congressional districts, from which I infer that the division is pretty fair. All send best love to each and all of your household and wish all blessings with approaching New Year.

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*From Nicholas L. Williams.*

\* PANTHER CREEK—3d Jan 1853

Your letter of the 23d of Decr. was duly recd. and should have been duly answered—but we have had the pleasure of a visit from several

of our friends here during Christmas week, and being deprived by constant bad weather of my out door and usual way of amusement I had to join the young folks in playing and dancing, and have not until the present had an opportunity of replying to your letter. In the first place, lest I should forget it I will tell you Mr Hairstons office is Fulton Davie County, and no doubt he will be glad to receive any communication from you, either respecting grape vines or any thing else.

I reached home on Wednesday morning after leaving your house, found all well and in readiness to kill the hogs, as was expected, so I had the pleasure of having the hogs killed and seeing Mrs. Williams reach here on Friday afternoon, time enough to plant the trees, and rose-bushes brought from your house.

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*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE, Janu<sup>y</sup> 3rd 1853.

Jesse and George set off this morning with their wagons for Raleigh with loads of only 24 bags of flour, of 100 lb each; which I have to request you will dispose of for me to the best advantage. I should like to have the bags returned to you, as it would be but little trouble to you to have them kept, and they would answer me again for the same purposes. But, of course, you must comply with the necessities of the market in that respect, as well as others. The state of the roads, which is said to be dreadful, prevents me from sending larger loads: indeed I would not have sent at present, but that I am obliged to have some salt for the residue of my pork—having had on hand only enough for about half, which was killed last week. By the way, considering their chance, they were pretty good: there being 35 killed, which averaged 187-1/7 lb.—So much for peas for three months!

You will be pleased to send by the wagons the Bll of Sugar, the Bll of herrings, and Bll of buckwheat, and also Miss Bryant's potatoes, if arrived, a sack of Java Coffee, and the other goods for Madam Ruffin, on the memo of last summer; and have the loads made up of my salt from the Depot. Do not let the boys load too heavily, as I do not wish the horses pulled too hard, and I shall have to send again at any rate; But they must bring seven sacks of salt at all events, and more if proper, and I wish two of them to be Liverpool blown, and the others the Liverpool ground. Katy will find in the wagons about 2 dozn. fine heads of cabbage, five bush. of long red potatoes for her table, and about a bush. of the nicest dried apples for George and the other children, including Katy and her young husband. The long prom-

ised "Cloth of Gold Rose" for handsome Mrs. Nelson and *good* Mrs. Nelson is in Jesse's charge, and I hope will arrive safely; and I beg Katy will have it delivered and with the best respects of Mrs. Ruffin and myself ask its acceptance. I believe that is all in the way of advice touching the consignments, and I will now turn to other things. In ten or twelve days I wish to pay you a short visit, as well to do a little business as to see you all, according to old usages, and deliver Fan safely to her chief owner. But I cannot fix any certain time, as I am told the roads are now so bad, that the mail *coaches* have been taken off and small wagons substituted in their stead. I will, however, make the attempt as soon as I can find transportation fit for Fanny after this day week. I wish to go as soon as I can, not only because I desire to see the dear ones of your Household and my Fairtosh children, but *chiefly* in the hope of finding my dear old friend Mr. Cameron still in possession of life and his mental faculties and also of his affections—which last I am sure will last as long as any mind and memory remain to him. I believe, I have felt more concern in him of late, than I ever did in any one since the deaths of my parents and those of my wife. He is hardly ever out of my thoughts; and for his children and grand children I feel most deeply and tenderly. I feel so much for them, that I really cannot undertake to express my feelings to them on paper. But I will thank you to offer to him and them upon proper occasions assurances of my condolence and sympathy—as you have a *tact* for doing such things in the right time and in the right way!

For the same reason I must ask you to speak for me to our worthy friend and kinsman, Mr. Strange, who, I suppose, is compelled by necessity to be with you. His bereavement, tho' not unexpected, but long looked for, is felt by every one here, as grievous to us as well as to himself, and we participate in all his sensibilities. Such afflictions admit of no human consolation. But, thank God! He has provided for those, who love him and submit themselves to his hand, in the healing influences of time and the balm of His Grace a cure for the deepest wounds of the heart as well as of the body; and I doubt not, that both the Head of the Family and all the surviving members of it will be the cherished objects of God's kind Providence on this occasion.

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By the way "Mama" regrets very much that she did not think of sending Katy a bucket of sausage meat—which is very nice. But I tell her not to mourn over her forgetfulness, as the *dried* and *smoked* sausages will be as acceptable when the wagons go again. She has heard somehow, that Katy can get from Mrs. Taylor or some other lady some *sage*, and she requests her, if she can, to do so, and send it by Jesse. I expect him to get down Wednesday afternoon in time to deliver his loads, and I must request you to let the wagons stand in your stable

yard that night, and to have them loaded *very early* thursday morning, as they must come by Hillsboro, and I want them to get home on Saturday. I intended to have sent *you* a couple of quarters of fat mutton, but the weather has been so warm and the roads are so bad, that I feared it would not keep and therefore I have postponed that also. For the reasons given by you and likewise by reason of the roads, I do not send any Irish potatoes now; but in February it is probable we can spare 25 or 30 bushels of very fine, besides the balance due Katy of her *ten* bushels, and I propose to do so. "Mama" remembers now, that she wants a box of good raisins and a couple of gallons of *Cooking* wine in a small demijohn, and requests you to send them. That we may trouble you no further, I add only our best love to Catherine and yourself, George, and all the children a happy New-Year, and a prayer for God's blessing on each and every one of you!

Very truly, dear Sir, Your friend,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

*This* is the *first* New-Year I have passed *at home* in twenty three years, and therefore the quietest and happiest of the twenty-three!

Didn't I ask you to get me a Bll of that Cheap light wine—Burgundy Port, or Claret? I intended to do so, and if I did, and you got it, I will thank you still to keep it for me, as it will come better when I next send in better roads.

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*From Robert Strange.*

RALEIGH Jany 10th/53.

*My dear Sir.*

I sincerely thank you for your kind sympathy expressed in your favor of the 4 Inst. in my late bereavement. Your letter did not reach me until the 9th and I infer from your saying nothing about it that mine addressed to Mrs. Ruffin from home on the 31st Ulto had not reached her. I suppose however it will ultimately reach its destination and I need not repeat what I have there said in relation to dear John's death. It is a great solace however under all afflictions to have the sympathy of friends and to be supported by their kind counsel in our efforts to turn those afflictions to their proper account. We shall probably see less of each other in the short remainder of our lives than heretofore; your withdrawal from the Supreme Court Bench which I in common with all whom I have heard speak upon the subject most deeply regret cuts off the most frequent occasion of our meeting and neither you nor I devote much time to mere visits of friendship.

I have always regretted that our associations have experienced so many interruptions of that cordiality which I should have always been proud

and happy to have maintained. But we are all imperfect beings and I may have often given you just cause of complaint when entirely unintended by me. If such has been the case I pray you to forget it and to accept the assurances of my highest respect and most affectionate regards.

I will not deny that you have often wounded my feelings (I believe now unintentionally). But however that may be, I have always been disposed to construe after the first smart of the moment was over as favorably as possible and no record now remains upon my memory but that you were the first to introduce me to her from whom all my earthly happiness has been derived and of the many other acts of kindness I have experienced at your hands. Bound together by the ties of family kindred and of Christian fellowship on earth as we have been I trust we shall constitute parts of the sacred family in Heaven and be there reunited to those dear ones who have preceded us to the termination of lifes journey.

My affectionate regards to Mrs. Ruffin and all the dear members of your family and believe me in all the force of the term

Most sincerely

Your friend

RO. STRANGE.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

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*To Catherine Ruffin Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE, July 14th 1853

*My dearest Catherine!*

Finding that Fan and I stand no chance to get a passage to Raleigh in the stage in any short time, and therefore that we must take the *buggy*, we concluded, it was best to send her trunk as far as Chapel Hill by John, who went down today in the carriage. He promised to forward it tomorrow to Mr. Roulhac by some Hackman, who would return to Raleigh after setting down his load of students; and I doubt not he will do so. I write you this, that you may understand why Fan's trunk precedes her, and to let you know, that we hope in the course of next week to see you, tho' I cannot say, on what particular day: probably the last, as John has the horses I shall drive, and on monday next I hope to be able to kill my remaining fifty hogs—which will give me employment for that and several days afterwards. I wish, moreover, to make a short visit to my afflicted children, Mr. C. and Anne, and Fan has prevailed on me to do so as I go down, in order that she may enjoy a day and night, or so, there. But as soon as my engagements here, above mentioned, and the weather and the roads, will allow, it is my purpose to set out. I wish to see you all—Mr. R. yourself, and my other children you have given me—very much. I have been so long in the habit of being with you at

this season of the year, that it seems somewhat strange, that I should not be now; and therefore I intend to take this little jaunt, not to say any thing of some small matters of business. But I assure you, that, notwithstanding the troubles of planting, milling etc. I am spending a much *quieter* and *easier* winter here on the Alamance, under the care of my good wife and the girls, than I have for many a year past: My fears being only two—the one; that the folks here may get tired of an Old Foggy and vinegar-cruet like me; and the other, that I may *forget my law!* This last really gives me some uneasiness, as I find my occupations here engaging my attention more and more and occupying my thoughts accordingly: so that at last the lawyer may be altogether sunk in the farmer. To prevent that, I believe I shall undertake the duties of “Judge of Alamance County Court,” as I understand, that the Citizens of the County urged the legislature to appoint me a Justice of the peace, and that honorable body raised me to that dignity! I am, however, not certain yet on that head though I am very seriously deliberating on it; and if I find a probability of being useful enough in the station to compensate for the trouble, I rather think it may be my duty to serve. What think you of it?

\* \* \* \* \*

Jesse and George got safely back Sunday evening; which was more than I expected, after the heavy fall of rain the evening and night after they left home. I am also obliged by Mr. R's letter: especially that part of it respecting my honored and revered old friend, Mr. Cameron, and his beloved children—in whom I feel a great concern, and to whom I desire to be most cordially remembered.

Give my kindest regards to your husband, and to each of my little Children—Annie and down—my love and blessing. May God bless them and you, my dear daughter, and your good man!

Fondly your father,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

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*To Frederick Nash.*

ALAMANCE, Jan. 17, 1853.

*My Dear Sir:* I have to acknowledge your very kind and polite note, communicating the Resolutions of the Bench and Bar of the Supreme Court, on the occasion of my recent resignation of a place in the Court; and I do so, with the utmost thankfulness for their good opinion of my personal and official department, and the honor they have done me in such unusual expression of that opinion, and also with a full sense of my obligations to yourself for the very friendly manner in which you have made the communication. As nothing could have rendered my situation in the Court more painful than the dissatisfaction of my asso-

ciates and our brethren of the Bar, on the score of either the purity of my purposes, or the legal correctness of our judgments—excepting only the reproaches of my own conscience for wilful defaults—so, saving the approval of the witness and monitor within, it is most grateful to my feelings to have gained their confidence while in office, and to retire with that confidence unimpaired. It is a recompense for all the toils of my life—of which, without being vain, I am proud and justly proud; though I cannot but be conscious that the commendation is far beyond my deservings. In return, I renew to my brethren the best wishes of a grateful heart, and beg you, my dear sir, to believe me to be,

Truly and sincerely,

Your friend and ob't serv't

THOMAS RUFFIN.

The Hon. F. Nash, Raleigh, N. C.

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*From T. L. Skinner.*

EDENTON Jany. 19th, 1853.

Honble. Thomas Ruffin

Dear Sir

I hope you will not consider me as presuming too far upon your kindness if I intrude on the retirement which you have sought, by asking of you the favor which is the object of this letter.

While you were fulfilling the laborious and constant duties which the high office which you have recently resigned required of you, I could not feel warranted in calling on you; But now that you are permitted to pass your time at home enjoying its comfort and happiness, instead of the cares and labour of a most important office calling you constantly away from home, I feel justified in a measure, in asking of you a favor, and the occupation of a few hours of your time, which I think it will afford you a melancholy pleasure to devote, as an offering to the memory of an old friend. His friendship and companionship, I think you valued, while I know that he ever esteemed you as one of the few whose character and learning he most admired, and whose friendship he most valued.

My uncle Revd. Thomas H. Skinner of New York, who, much younger than my Father, was placed under his care when a boy, and was indebted to him for his education both collegiate and professional, revered and loved him as though he had been his Father instead of his Brother. He most highly appreciated his character and wishes to prepare, what he is indeed now engaged in preparing during his few leisure hours, a short memoir of my Father, to be distributed among the members of our rather extensive family, and among the few of his friends of his own time and generation whose lot it has been to outlive him. The younger members



were not able to become sufficiently acquainted with him to understand the excellency of his character and example; and one great object of my uncle, is, to place before the minds of these, a short account of his course and usefulness in life, that they may not lack the means of profiting by his example—while the older members will, by reading it over, have brought more vividly before their minds the excellency of the friend whose memory is so highly respected, and so affectionately remembered by all who knew him well.

To aid him in his task, he has called upon only three gentlemen out of our immediate family, from whom he requested a short statement of their opinion of the chief traits or points of his character, fitting him for usefulness in both public and private life—of the ability and usefulness which he exercised in his professional life, as lawyer, and farmer,—as well as in his legislative career.

Two of these gentlemen have been obliged to decline the aid requested of them on account of their health and other circumstances hindering them from complying. But the other,—Judge Nash,—during the autumnal recess of his court, furnished my uncle with very valuable additions to his collection of facts and other contributions. A similar statement, made in the manner which will be deemed by you most useful to my uncle, and at the same time most agreeable and convenient to you, to the extent of one or two sheets of paper, is what, if you can conveniently make it, I, in my own behalf, as in the name of my uncle, ask of you. And if you can aid him thus you will confer on me an honor and a kindness, which, while I certainly do not merit it, I shall gratefully re[me]mber through life; and my uncle will himself cordially thank you for what he has had to ask through me. A letter directed to him at 62 Bleeker St. New York, or to me at this place, will be received by him.

Judge Cameron too, has recently died, full of years, and full of honors; The family afflictions with which for many years he has been visited, seem to have perfected his Christian character and prepared him for what he long and patiently awaited, a peaceful end. How very few are left of the generation to which he,—my Father,—Yourself,—Judge Nash,—Mr. Iredell, and a few other good useful men, belong!

I sincerely trust that to you is reserved a long evening of repose and comfort, in closing the day of your most active and useful life, so large a portion of which you have been willing to devote to the good of your State. Hoping that you will excuse the liberty which I have taken, on the ground of the friendship which existed between you and my Father, which, with the position which you have long occupied, renders you so peculiarly fitted to render us a truthful and appropriate statement of what I ask. I am my dear sir most respectfully and truly yrs

T. L. SKINNER.

*Proceedings of the Bench and Bar.*<sup>1</sup>

At a meeting of the Bench and Bar, of the Court, the following Resolutions were adopted:

The Hon. Thomas Ruffin, late the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State, having, in the month of November last, resigned his seat on the Bench, and thus severed the connection, which has, for so many years, subsisted between himself and his associates and the bar:

*Resolved*, That they deem the convening of the Court a fit occasion to offer to him, in his retirement, their testimonial of the learning, fidelity, ability, and integrity, with which he has, at all times, during his long continuance in office discharged his duties as judge. That they share, deeply and personally, the loss which the public sustains, in his withdrawal from the most useful, honorable and highly responsible position, which he has illustrated for nearly the third of a century, with the rare qualifications of a great Judge.

*Resolved*, That they receive, with a grateful sense of satisfaction, the tender made by him, through a member of the bar of the Court, of his "*heartfelt acknowledgements for the numerous acts of invaluable respect, affectionate friendship,*" which he desires to make known, he "*has received throughout his service, from the Bench and the Bar.*" And that, in responding to a sentiment so agreeable to them, they avail themselves with much pleasure, of the opportunity to reciprocate the acknowledgement; and to assure him, that the memory of their professional associations will always be cherished by them, with pride and warm regard; and that, in his retirement, he has with him always, their most cordial wish, that he may enjoy, what he has so well entitled himself to, the pleasing reflection, that he has served his country well, and left the Bench and the Bar his admirers and friends.

*Resolved*, that permission be asked that these Resolutions be copied into the minutes of the Court; and that a copy of them be transmitted by the Chairman of this meeting to Judge Ruffin.

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*From Frederick Nash.*

RALEIGH the 30th Jany, [1853]

I avail myself, my dear Sir, of the first leisure moment to reply to your most kind letter. Let me assure you I feel very thankful to you, for the interest it exhibits in my concern. In my letter to you, conveying Mr. Roulhac's directions as to the road you were to take, I urged you to

<sup>1</sup>From *Raleigh Register*, January 26, 1853.

come at once, as we were all desirous to see you. I observed that I was particularly so. My object was to converse with you freely on the matter of the coal-fields. Your stay here was so short, and you appeared to be so much engaged in your own matters, that I did not think it right to trouble you with my concerns, determining still to seek an interview with you upon my return home. So that you see you have only anticipated me in the movement.

I have tho't over the matter repeatedly and with much anxiety as to my proper course and had determined on that you recommend that is to sell out as soon as I could procure what I deemed an adequate price. My object in going into the company was twofold, one was to free myself from my pecuniary embarrassments which are very heavy for one of my limited means, the other to secure something for my wife and daughters, I mean my single ones, when, from any cause, I should fail to be able to support them by my labour. I am an old man, and cannot be of any service much longer. The course which I had proposed to myself was to raise by loan as much money as I need by a pledge of my interest in the land. This would leave me the right of redemption and thereby secure both objects. You seem to think, that there are so many impediments to rendering the river navigable above Fayetteville, that it is not probable, such improvements will take place, so as to render coal lands valuable, and that the deposits of that mineral, if it be one, are so extensive as naturally to affect their value. In all this I agree with you. If however the river should be so improved, I am of opinion, the coal-fields of Chatham will be very valuable—notwithstanding the other course pointed out. I admit however that it is yet doubtful, if such improvements of a permanent nature can be made—and in that case the land will be worth nothing more, than land of similar quality for agricultural purposes. This together with my poverty, has led to the conclusion, that I ought to sell, if I can. If I were a rich man or a young man, I would not sell upon any terms, for I am very sure in process of time, the land must become valuable, it cannot be otherwise. When I say upon any terms, I mean upon no such terms as I shall now be likely to be tempted by. You caution me against any effort to work the coal. I have no such intention—nor do I believe any of the gentlemen with whom I have associated myself, have. You probably heard, while in Raleigh, that the company in New York to whom one half of the land has been sold, have proposed to form a joint stock company with us and sell out shares there. What do you think of it. Supposing that I do not meet with an opportunity to dispose of my interest. You see by writing to me on the subject you have got yourself into trouble for I shall freely consult with you, untill you intimate that you have enough. You will oblige me much indeed, by taking the matter into serious consideration giving me your opinion in extenso, upon all the points of this business—advise me freely and fully. Be assured there is no one, whose advice I shall value

as highly as yours. I am old in years, but young in experience in matters of this description. Mr. Freeman asked me a few days ago if I would take \$8000 for my interest in the one half unsold, valuing that half at \$80,000. There are five shares. Dr. Strudwick and I own one between us, so that I have but a half a share—this you see would make my share of that sum, just the sum proposed. I declined it, but I suppose it would be renewed if I was disposed to take it. That amount of money would pay my debts and leave me something over. Now while I continue on the Bench of the Supreme Court, my debts paid, the salary will support my family in comfort, but you know that the stability of the Court is problematical at least and the time must come, and that at no distant period, when I must retire, either by death or resignation, and when that time does come, my good old wife and my two daughters must be left entirely dependent. My property is small and entirely unproductive, my salary is all I have to depend on for their support. Years ago I should have retired from the Bench but neither my age or poverty would permit it. Now my dear Sir, you have the whole ground before you—give me your opinion as to the course I ought to pursue.

By the sale upon half of the land, we shall discharge our debt to Mr. Taylor and have between \$4 and \$5000 to divide. The first payment of \$12500 has been made to Mr. Gilmer, as I understand and the deferred payments are to be secured by bonds payable in one year and a half from the first of the month. Our sale was for \$25000.—that is will net us that sum—pay off the original debt and leave us the amount first specified to wit between \$4 and \$5000.

You have opened the door Sir, and I have stept in you must abide the consequences. I fear you will find me a troublesome customer.

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*From B. F. Moore.*

RALEIGH JANU 31/53.

*My dear Sir;*

You have not forgotten, that while you were in this place the other day, I told you, I should write to Washington, to ascertain the present condition, and the past course of the memorials, respecting your nomination to the vacancy on the supe. court bench of the U. States:

I did write—to David Outlaw,<sup>1</sup> enclosing a letter addressed to Gov. Graham, sealed and to be delivered to him, if there; and, if not there, for the letter to be broken by Outlaw, and its contents replied to by him.

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<sup>1</sup>David Outlaw, of Bertie, 1805-1868, a graduate of the University in 1824, studied law under Gaston, was a member of the House of Commons, 1831-1835, 1854-1858; state Senate, 1860, 1866; convention of 1835; solicitor, 1836-1847; member of Congress, 1847-1853.

Outlaw received my letter, and Graham not being in Washington, and there being no prospect of his immediate arrival, Outlaw felt authorised to open it.

This morning I received a letter from Outlaw in which he writes, (and it is all on the subject) as follows, "At the time when Mr. Badgers nomination was made, I was absent on a visit to my family, and therefore, I have no personal knowledge on the subject. I accordingly addressed a note to Mr. Stanly, and I forward to you herewith his reply. You may ask why I did not apply directly to Mr. Badger? For this reason;—He is already very much annoyed, at being held in suspense by the Senate, and I knew that feeling would be exceedingly increased by an imputation of the character you mention. I thought therefore I would not mention it, until after the Senate has disposed of his nomination."

I enclose the reply of Mr. Stanly, to you.

I have no doubt, that the president deems himself aggrieved by the course of the Senate, whose motive of action seems to have been to keep open judicial office, for the mere purpose of rewarding political and partisan services. This, the president had determined to oppose, and, deeming any concession to such course of action, unpatriotic and weak, he has refused to fill the office on such terms. Hence, as I suppose, he has assumed the position, indicated by Mr. Stanly's letter.

Mr. Roulhac, to whom I communicated the contents of my information from Washington, advises the withdrawal of the memorials, with a view to use them, if occasion may offer, before Gen. Pierce.

I miss you greatly, as does every one else, from the place you have so long filled, and with so much satisfaction to me and the bar.

Between us, when you were on the bench, I felt that all that was necessary, was for me to make the *point*, and there was little need to elaborate it. However, we must all learn, and I doubt not that our friend Battle will do his part well and ably.

I sent to Saunders, the other day, for his material concerning the revision; and it is all left with Freeman, subject to your order.

You will find among the papers a table or index, with two parts, which I made out the summer before the last, by which all the statutes from 1836 to 1850, inclusive, will be *certainly* revised. The first contains all the statutes of a public or general nature, with a memorandum under what Chapter of the Revised Statutes they are, severally, to be placed. The second was formed out of this, and therein is set forth each chapter of the Revised Statutes, and opposite to it, what of the statutes passed since, are to be placed under, or with that chapter of the Revd. Stat. An inspection of the tables however, will make them easy of understanding. The Statutes since passed, to wit, at the last session, must now be added, and the tables will be complete.

Of course, you will find it necessary, in many instances, to refer to the statutes of a remote period; I have corrected some gross faults in the revisal of 1836 by such reference;—One in particular, I now recollect of an important character—11 Sec of “Crimes and Punishments.” I know not unless you have the acts previous to 1836, where you will procure them. I have them bound from 1820.

If you should eventually be thrown into the Commission, with Biggs and myself, we must meet about the first of June, and again during next fall or winter, and then prepare them for the press.

In the mean time, you can very usefully employ yourself on the Rev. Law, courts of equity etc.

We have nearly closed the arguments in the court. Tomorrow I expect to finish mine.

With great respect

I am most truly yours

Hon. Th. Ruffin.

B. F. MOORE.

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[Enclosure]

*Edward Stanly to David Outlaw.*

HO: REPR: Jan'y 26th, 1853.

*My Dear Sir:*

In reply to yours inquiring what disposition was made of the memorials recommending Judge Ruffin for the place made vacant by the decease of Judge McKinley, on the Bench Supreme Court, of U. S. I have to say that some days before Mr. Badger was nominated, I think more than a week—at Mr. Badger's solicitation I asked an intimate friend of the President's to ascertain whether the President would nominate Judge Ruffin, stating who he was, his eminent abilities etc. I heard in reply that he could not do so.

To satisfy myself I called in person, and the President informed me, if he went out of the Judicial District at all he must nominate Mr. Crittenden first, and then Mr. Badger, if Mr. C. declined,—he would nominate no others being out of the district.

Mr. Crittenden declined, and Mr. Badger was nominated.

The memorials of course were not presented after this explicit declaration from the President.

Very truly your's

EDW. STANLY.

Hon: Mr. Outlaw of N. C.

*From Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

RALEIGH Feby 2nd, 1853.

I have just seen our friend Govr. Graham, who is immediately from W. City. of whom I inquired the private history of the result of the movement of your friends, at head quarters. He states, that he himself wrote a private letter to Mr. Fillmore, in which he said to him in substance, that if it was ascertained that the senate would not confirm the nomination of a Whig, that he had an opportunity of giving to the bench the very best occupant that the country afforded, in yourself, and that it was entirely probable the Senate would confirm the nomination, as you were of the dominant party. His answer was, that he could not travel out of his party, under present circumstances, but that the Senate should have legal talents of the first order presented to it. Govr. Graham further says that before he left Washington last summer that Mr. Crittenden<sup>1</sup> had spoken to him about the nomtion. of Mr. Badger and that at that time Mr. B. did not give it much countenance. That subsequently, this winter after the wishes and feelings of the president were known on the subject and the nomination was tendered to Mr. B. and some of his friends had as they thought polled the Senate satisfactorily, he agreed that the president might nominate him. His friends thought that his nomination would be confirmed by a vote of 42 yeas but strong opposition had sprung up and it was now doubtful whether the opposition would not be able to stave it off till after 4th March without coming to a direct vote. It was understood that the following demo. would vote for him Stockton,<sup>2</sup> Rusk,<sup>3</sup> Walker<sup>4</sup> of Wisn. Sebastian,<sup>5</sup> Hale<sup>6</sup> and Sumner<sup>7</sup> and that Borland<sup>8</sup> had paired off with Dixon<sup>9</sup> of Kenky. who has gone South for his health.

I had a very free conversation with our friend telling him I wished to learn, because some persons (but none of your family) had seemed to fear that all things might not be right, in what had been done, or not done, at W. City, and I am pleased to say that you were right in the opinion of Mr. B. so far as I could gather from him.

<sup>1</sup>John J. Crittenden, of Kentucky, 1786-1863, at this time attorney-general of the United States.

<sup>2</sup>Robert Field Stockton, of New Jersey, 1795-1866, a distinguished naval officer, at this time senator. He was a member of the Peace Conference of 1861 to which Ruffin was also a delegate.

<sup>3</sup>Thomas J. Rusk, of Texas, 1802-1856, at this time a member of the Senate. He had played a very prominent part in the establishment of the independence of Texas.

<sup>4</sup>Isaac P. Walker, senator from Wisconsin, 1845-1855.

<sup>5</sup>William K. Sebastian, senator from Arkansas, 1847-1861.

<sup>6</sup>John P. Hale, 1806-1873, senator from New Hampshire, 1847-1853, 1855-1865.

<sup>7</sup>Charles Sumner, 1811-1874, senator from Massachusetts, 1851-1874.

<sup>8</sup>Solon Borland, senator from Arkansas, 1848-1853.

<sup>9</sup>Archibald Dixon, a native of Caswell County, senator from Kentucky, 1852-1855.

I rather think from what Graham says, and what I hear and see from other sources, that it is most probable that a direct vote will not be taken on this nomination, and if so had not Mr. B. F. Moore or myself as well write Col. Outlaw or J. T. Morehead to procure the papers forwarded by the members of the legislature, and hand them over to Mr. Venable<sup>1</sup> or Mr. J. J. R. Daniel?<sup>2</sup>

I had a thought of writing Mr. Venable myself at once on the subject, but will wait till I hear from you.

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To Jos. B. G. Roulhac.

ALAMANCE—Febry 7th 1853.

I was taken unwell with a cold, as I thought, on the Saturday evening, that I got home. But it has proved an uncommon sort of cold and kept me in bed for the last five days, and induced me to take calomel twice, opium, and no one knows how many other drugs; and at the same Mrs. R. Alice, Sally and little Alice were affected much in the same way. So that we have been a sick set, and I have been unable until the present to answer your kind letter or one of a similar import from Mr. Moore, for which you will be pleased to return my thanks. It is proper, however, that, at the earliest moment I can think a thought, I should reply to the principal subject on which you addressed me.

There are one or two preliminary matters on which I desire to say a word. In the first place, I have been blaming the Senate for rejecting or attempting to reject the President's nomination to the Judiciary on Party grounds. It is not a fit ground for refusing a proper man: one who would make a *Judge*. But I am sorry to find, that the President also wishes to constitute a Partisan Court and refuses to listen to representations in favour of persons not of "*his party*." Now, a nomination made on that principle and for that reason may reasonably be rejected. A party nomination may be justly met by a party opposition; and the Senate, it seems, understood the President better than I did. In the next place, it appears, from a note of Mr. Stanly, that "the memorials" were never submitted to the President, tho' sent on to Mr. Badger and received by him. He says, that at Mr. B's request he got a friend of the President to call on him and enquire whether he would appoint me, stating who I was etc., and the reply was, that he could not; and that

<sup>1</sup>Abram W. Venable, 1799-1876, a native of Virginia, graduate of Hampden-Sidney College and Princeton, member of Congress, 1847-1853; member of the Provisional Congress of the Confederacy.

<sup>2</sup>John R. J. Daniel, 1802-1866, a graduate of the University, 1821; member of the Commons, 1831-1834; attorney-general, 1835-1840; member of Congress, 1841-1853.



to satisfy himself he (Mr. Stanly) called on the President and was informed, that he would nominate Mr. Crittenden or Mr. Badger; and "the memorials, of course, were not presented after that declaration." Now to one here in No. Ca., it must seem singular, that the representations, on which the President was requested, and expected, if at all, to make an appointment to office, should not be submitted to him before requesting his decision on the application! And, further, that this ex-parte informal adverse decision should be assigned as a sufficient reason for never letting him see "the memorials"! And yet more singular, that Mr. Badger, on whose motion, instance, and preparation the memorials were signed, and whose opinions as to the qualifications and fitness of the proposed person must be supposed would have carried the highest influence with the Executive, should never have laid the documents before the President, nor had any direct communication with him, but merely requested Mr. Stanly to get another friend to inquire whether the President would appoint me—of whom he had no direct knowledge. I think you must concur in opinion with me, that is too singular to be true of Mr. Badger, and that Mr. Stanly must be under some mistake. I doubt not, that the true state of the case is that given by Mr. Graham: namely, that the President intended not to go out of "his party", and that he hoped to carry thro' his nomination of Mr. Badger from his personal influence in the Senate, added to his eminent qualifications. And I cannot but believe, that Mr. Badger *did* give the President his own opinion and wishes in respect to myself, and also faithfully communicated that of the Legislature and Bar of the State. If he did not, he is not the man I have ever taken him to be. I know his caprices and eccentricities. But they have never led him to a breach of good faith or made him less than a true man. Just consider, how Moore, or Strange, and I may say, *I* would [have] acted on such an occasion! But I will pursue this point no farther.

With respect to the disposition now to be made of those memorials, which is the question, I have this to say, that if now as the ground of an application in my favour, I can have now, as heretofore, nothing to do with the matter. My friends must act, if at all, upon their personal regards towards me and their sense of the public welfare. I do not believe, it is at all worth while to move again in the matter, and at all events, not at present. It seems, from what you write, that Mr. Badger will probably be confirmed; and that at once, ends the matter. But suppose it otherwise, I do not think the chances much better with the incoming, than they were with the outgoing, President tho' perhaps not precisely for the same reasons. So many want the place, whose residence, and political connections and influences, and probably, qualifications present stronger claims than any possessed by myself, that now, as at first, I set up, myself, no pretensions. It is true, it is a professional preferment I should willingly accept and be proud to fill, as it is in the direction of all my labours and tasks. But I have never looked

up to it, I assure you; and it is entirely true, that in resigning my late office, I expected and desired to be allowed to spend the residue of my days in the quiet occupations of *Home*,—as I think, and, probably, you now think, I am likely to do! Well, I am content. But if the gentlemen from No. Ca. or in No. Ca. choose to take on themselves the risk and trouble (in case Mr. B. should fail), it is not my part to foil them in their efforts. What is the proper course to be pursued by them I do not know. Upon consultation with Mr. Moore and, probably Colo. Biggs, at Windsor—(a true man, also and a gentleman) you will be able to judge better than I can. I am hardly able to hold my pen or my head up, and therefore I dare say I have not written intelligibly. And yet Mrs. R. and I are going to Fairntosh tomorrow. Mr. Cameron sent his carriage for us Saturday, as his wife and children are so poorly. We felt bound to go, if possible; but neither was able hitherto. We shall stay till Saturday probably. Can't you come up Wednesday or Thursday evening and spend the night with us. I want also to see you on other business and shall feel obliged to you to come.

\* \* \* \* \*

[P. S.] All I have said on these personal matters—personal to myself or others—is strictly confidential. But I do not keep my views either from Mr. Moore or Colo. Biggs, who would no more betray one species of confidence than another.

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*From William A. Allen.*

(NEAR ROGER'S STORE) WAKE CO. N, C,  
February 14th 1853

*Hon. Thomas Ruffin,*

*Dear Sir:*

Presuming, in the absence of any information to the contrary, that it is your intention to accept of the appointment to serve on the Commission to revise the laws of our State, tendered you by the last Legislature, I take this occasion to inform you that I am a candidate for the Secretaryship of the Commission, and would feel profoundly grateful to you for any services that your regard for the public interest may permit you to render in my favor.

For character and qualifications I would most respectfully refer you to Hon. R. M. Saunders, with whom I served in the last Legislature, W. W. Holden Esqr. and Perrin Busbee Esqr.

With much respect I am

Your Obedient Servant

WM A. ALLEN.

P. S. My P. O. is Roger's Store.

*From Abram W. Venable to J. B. G. Roulhac.*

WASHINGTON 15 Feby 1853.

*My dear Sir*

Your letter which was read two days ago has been a subject of mature reflection. I had thought some months ago of Judge Ruffin for the Supreme Court Bench. No appointment would be more satisfactory to me. No superior man could be found for the vacancy to be filled. Mr. Badgers nomination failed because he did not live in the District and for that cause alone. The bitter opposition to his appointment by the Senators from Louisiana and Alabama and Mississippi caused the defeat. He was postponed only by one vote and the President has sent in a Mr. Micou of New Orleans. It seems that his nomination will not be confirmed. Now I see no prospect of an appointment except by Genl Pierce—He will doubtless look to the District for a Nominee and there are many able Lawyers resident there. I will still see whether he will in any event go out of the District. If he Does rely upon it I shall insist upon Judge Ruffin. With my best regards to Mrs. R.

I am truly yours

A. W. VENABLE.

*From Edward Stanly to B. F. Moore.*

Ho. REP. Feb. 28th/53.

*My Dear Sir;*

I enclose you the papers sent on recommending Judge Ruffin to the Bench Supreme Court of U. States, which you can hand to Mr. Roulhac.

They were not presented by Mr. Badger, because he thought it would be unkind, to say the least, to Judge R. to present them, after the President had said he could not nominate him. This was ascertained through two reliable sources.

In great haste,

Vy truly your's

EDW. STANLY.

B. F. Moore Esq  
Raleigh N. C.

*From Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

NEW YORK Mar 8th 1853.

*My dear Sir.*

I reached here last night and have seen our friend Mr. Gifford on your business. He says he will write you tomorrow, or as soon as he is informed of all the requirements necessary for the transfer of the U. S. Stock.

He was at the time of our interview under the impression, that a U. S. Judge or Marshall must attest the transfer or power of Atto.

He thinks the probable price, with present money market, will be about 105 to 107 but will depend materially on the money market at or about the time of bidding.

\* \* \* \* \*

P. S. Certain memorials of the last Legislature which were returned to me in our friend B. F. Moore's absence, were, with a letter of explanation to the new president from Govr. Reid, which I saw and read, forwarded to Mr. Dobbin a few days before I left home.

[Address: Graham N. C.]

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*From Edward B. Freeman.*

RALEIGH March 12, 1853.

*Dear Sir—*

At the urgent request of Dr. Stith, I accompanied him and his brother to New York in December last to assist them in organizing their company under the charter then just obtained. For my services they agreed to give me one ninth part of all future acquisition requiring no money to be advanced by me, and allowing me to withdraw from any speculation when I deemed it prudent to do so. Since then they have purchased three copper mines and leased two coal fields—and it is proposed to make companies of these (that is five companies) under the authority given by the 3rd section of the charter of the N. C. Mining Co.

These companies are created in this way: The By-laws authorise the Directors of the N. C. Mining Company to establish Branch Companies on such terms as may be agreed on by the parties. The directory then pass the following resolutions, or something like them—I give only the substance of them and the by-laws relating to this subject.

The corporators of the N. C. Mining Company having obtained by purchase from A. B. a copper mine in the county of Guilford N. C. as will be seen by the deed of the said A. B. dated February 23, 1853. Resolved that the said Mine be conveyed to the Guilford Copper Mining Company, a branch company to operate under the N. C. Mining Company now hereby established as a separate and distinct interest under said charter. Resolved that the said Mine be taken and deemed as the capital stock of said Guilford Copper Mining Company at \$500,000 divided into 100,000 shares at \$5 each.

Here they stop. This is their company and then proceed to sell a portion of the stock to raise the means to work the mine. The purchasers or new sharcholders having no vote or agency in the control of its affairs, it being under the management of the stockholders of the N. C. Mining Company.

But they are willing, I am informed, to add at my request resolutions to give to each of the separate companies in which I am to be interested, the right to hold its own annual meetings, to elect its own directors, officers, and agents and to make by-laws for its own government etc.

Will you please inform me, whether under their charter they have the power to create such separate companies—and if they have whether these additional resolutions will secure to such separate company all the rights of a corporation, so that members of it will not be liable as copartners but only as corporators.

If you will advise me upon these matters, it shall be strictly confidential, if you wish it—and I will act without letting any one know by whom I am advised. It is not my intention to continue a member of any of these companies—but to sell at any price as soon as the stock can be brought into market.

I expect to leave for New York on Monday the 21st inst on this business, and you will confer a great favor by advising me before that day.

With great respect

Your Mo. obt. servant

E. B. FREEMAN.

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*From Thomas B. Long.*

ST. LAWRENCE CHATHAM CO

March 13, /53.

*Hon'l Thos Ruffin*

*Dear Sir—*

Permit me to address you on a subject of great importance to myself and family. I am very desirous of obtaining an office in Washington City in the Navy Department now under the control of your friend James C. Dobbin of Fayetteville. I would trust getting the office upon letters of Recommendation from less abler heads but I am a business man. my mother raised me a business man I have no capital and If I can procure this office I can during this administration lay up cash enough to embark in any business I desire. I am idle and have been so for two or three years, and am determined if I can succeed to apply myself assiduously so I can make money enough to go in business again, I hope. Sir you know my father and mother well enough to know I have always attempted to act honestly. I married the daughter of Genl Carney Cotten of this county and have one child which I want to support and educate as well as this or any other county can afford. I am obliged Sir to get in business to effect this therefor with these considerations pressing upon *your* mind I hope you will have no hesitancy in addressing him a letter in my favor. I wish the office of (Recording Clerk in the

Navy Proper) with a salary of twelve Hundred Dollars. You have forgotten me I suppose however I visited your house in company with my father in June 1847 on our way to commencement at Chapel Hill the same time the lamented Polk visited that place. My father is Alexander Long of Salisbury N. C. J. C. Dobbin being aware that a gentleman of your standing would recommend no one but a proper one to fill the place would appoint me without the least doubts and I can here assure you Sir I can fill It as well as any one he can get. Should you think proper to grant my request you can during this month as I want all my letters of Recommendation to reach there by 1st day of April, address J. C. Dobbin, Secty. Navy Washington instead of sending the letter to me as it would have more effect coming from your hand, than from me. I shall ever feel grateful to you for your interference in this case.

My respects to your family and believe

Me truly yours etc.

Po.

THOMAS B. LONG.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Alamance N. C.

P. S. I do not know your post office so I send it to Hillsboro to be mailed so It will be certain to reach Its destination.

T. B. L.

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*From Peter W. Hairston.*

COOLEEMEE HILL 24 March 1853.

*My dear Sir,*

I return you my thanks for the Scuppernong grape vines which you were kind enough to send me during my absence in Mississippi. These favors to me and the many of the same kind that you have performed to my Father and Mother will ever be held in grateful remembrance by me. They were received in due time, have been planted and the pleasure of the gift can only be increased by your partaking at some future day of the fruit which they may bear.

A difficulty is about to arise concerning the proper construction to be given to my Great Grand Fathers will. I have heard that it was probably your intention to open a consulting office in your house, as you have retired from the Bench. I would thank you to inform me if such be the fact as I would then wish to obtain your views of the case, as it is a matter of considerable importance to my Father's family.

Most faithfully Yours

PETER W. HAIRSTON

Fulton Davie Co. N. C.

*From Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

RALEIGH 11th April 1853

I rec<sup>d</sup>, this morning yours of the 8th inst covering two hundred dollars in bank notes, and your check on Bank of C. Fear for \$501<sup>51</sup> which I shall herewith return as you forgot and wrote on the back of it, and there is no necessity requiring its immediate use—I wrote Mr Gifford the day you left us, to increase your bid \$1000 and said to him to give Mr Courts an order on me for the amount, writing at same time to Mr Courts explanatory of the transaction and telling him I would give him on sight my check on Fulton Bank in N; York or on State Bank here as he might prefer. Mr Courts returned on Friday last and informed me he had Mr Giffords order and the Bonds at his house—Saturday I called and gave my check to him for the amount \$1103 09/100 and he promised to bring the bonds down when he went to dinner, which however he neglected to do, and was not at his office when I sent George for them in the afternoon. I called this morning and got them, and they are now in my Iron chest—I inclose a list of their N<sup>os</sup> I have said nothing to Mr Courts about the interest today, as he and I had it over Saturday—He very properly as I thought, looked on it as a deposit at his option either here or in N. York—I gave a rec<sup>t</sup>. for the bonds in your name by me. The treasurer is in somewhat of a difficulty, but I have not spoken with him, about it, he seems so worsted by cold fatigue etc. But between ourselves, he has not taken the best bids that were offered. He left it to some Bank officers to look over and ascertain who were entitled to the bonds, they reported Comman & Co as entitled to the whole amount, when in truth the sum of \$500,000 might have been made from the smaller bids and a gain of more than \$1000 to the State, to say nothing of accomodating a larger number of persons. The bids from 4 per. Ct. to 6<sup>29</sup> would have made upwards of \$26,000. premium. I understand he has written to N. York to try and rectify the error as far as possible, by getting bonds for all who bid over 5.<sup>02</sup> at their bids, which I think ought under the circumstances to be done. I sent this morning by Mr White's wagon (going to Hillsboro) a basket of oil and a small box, the latter a memento from Kate, to the care of P. B. Ruffin, for you. This is the first opportunity we have had, since my return. I have rec<sup>d</sup>. notice that your oil floor cloth was ship<sup>d</sup> last week from N. York, and will in all probability, be here next week. . . .

\* \* \* \* \*

*From Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

RALEIGH, April 18th, 1853.

Since I wrote you a few days since our friend Courts has made the arrangement at N. York to furnish all those with bonds whose bids exceeded 5.02 as he yesterday informed me, asking me to give notice to Mr. Bryan at Windsor that he could have the amount of his bids above 5.02. I mentioned this as I had spoken of his blunder in my last.

A Telegraphic dispatch was recd. here the night before last saying Gov. Iredell was desperately sick in Edenton and yesterday a few moments before the Starting of the cars and after the family were seated for the journey a dispatch was recd. saying he had died Wednesday morning of erysipelas, having been attacked on Sunday.

He had been gone from home for a week, was not well when he left but in an improving state, and would go without company. The family did not proceed, and are in that state which may be easily imagined.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. Johnson thinks it is quite probable that as Doctors Norecom and Sawyer were both dead, that he would not take any medicine and this may have lost his life, that might have been saved if at home.

There is a ticket for you here for a trip to Norfolk next Wednesday as Catharine wrote you and tho I do not know that I shall go, yet if you will come down and go I will go with you with great pleasure. It is said we are to have here on tuesday evening next ex-president Tyler, Wise, etc.

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*From Peter W. Hairston.*

COOLEEMEE HILL 28. April 1853.

I did not receive until a few days past your kind favour of the 8th instant; too late indeed to have complied with your request to meet you in Rockingham.

While I am gratified at your proffered kindness, I think the labour which the investigation of the case would require, would be too great to impose upon the generosity of a friend without remuneration. I am now in hopes the whole matter may be settled without further difficulty—as a compromise has been agreed upon between some of the parties and I hope all will concur as nothing is more disagreeable to my feelings than family strife or more agreeable than the peace and quiet of my home and family.

One of the Scuppernons is growing finely which we have dignified with the name of Judge, while not far distant stands Mrs. Ruffin in the



form of a beautiful rose one of the numerous ones sent by her to my Mother. I shall cherish them not only for their beauty and intrinsic worth but also for the associations connected with them.

Judge Thomas Ruffin

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*From John Livingston.*

157 BROADWAY, NEW YORK. May 10/53.

*Hon. Thomas Ruffin*

*Dear Sir.*

I have taken the liberty of sending for your examination, the first number of the third volume of my Biographical Magazine, the advertisements in which will fully explain the plan and objects of the work.

It has been suggested to me that you are a suitable person to occupy a place in this work; and, I hope you will accept the invitation now given, in order that your name and counterpart may be placed where they will be seen and known, "not for a day, but for all time." If you accept the invitation, please forward to me at your earliest convenience your likeness, (a good daguerreotype of the same size as our portraits is best) so that it may at once be put in the hands of our Engravers: cause also to be forwarded, a memoir of yourself, or such facts as will enable us to prepare it. The memoir may occupy from five to fifty octavo pages, or it may be merely a brief statement of facts according to your wishes.

It may be as well however, at once to say, that you will be expected to take impressions from the plate and copies of the numbers in which your likeness appears, sufficient to cover a portion of the expenses of the portrait. Nothing would afford us greater pleasure than to have your likeness executed in that superior style essential to the character of the work, on other terms, were it possible for us to do so without pecuniary loss; but in justice to myself, I cannot avoid adhering to this rule, which I suppose you are aware is followed in many cases by those who publish similar works. Though desirous to extend the fame and perpetuate the memory of distinguished Americans, by giving to the world such a work as we hope will do honor, both to themselves and to us, yet we feel unwilling to subject ourselves to the sole expense of having any portrait engraved, because saying nothing of our time and labor we should thereby be greatly the loser, and we think therefore it is not only usual, but fair that those who are most exalted and benefited by such enterprises, should defray a proportionate share of the cost.

The cost of good steel portraits is about one hundred and ten dollars. I am willing to engrave and publish a portrait of yourself on the following terms:—

I will furnish you with 50 copies of the number of the Biog. Magazine containing your Portrait and memoir, at 50 cents each,

which is .....	\$25
and with 100 proof impressions from your engraving, at 50 cents each, which is.....	50
<hr/>	
Amounting to .....	\$75

If you think proper to forward to me your daguerreotype with a draft for *Seventy five dollars*, that sum will be *received in full of all expenses to be incurred by you in this matter*, and we will at once instruct our engraver to commence the work and have it finished up by an artist who, as he is reckoned one of the first in this country, will be able to get up the picture in such a manner as to do its original no discredit, and we will in consideration of such payment also furnish you with the portraits and numbers named above, whereby you will be enabled to supply your friends with one hundred good and durable likenesses of yourself, with a permanent record of the leading events of your life, at less than one tenth the cost of so many frail daguerreotypes.

It is apparent that \$75 could not be appropriated by you to any other purpose that would conduce to such an elegant and enduring testimonial of honor to yourself or give more lasting gratification to your numerous friends and relatives. You will be enabled to furnish them with a memento by which they may have the melancholy pleasure of bringing to remembrance its original perhaps long after he is called to the grave.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience, I am

Very Truly Yours

JOHN LIVINGSTON.

P. S. Should you neither desire to accept the above offer, nor to subscribe for the work, please return to my address the number sent.

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*From T. L. Skinner.*

*My dear Sir—*

EDENTON May 19th, 1853.

Towards the close of the last winter, or early in the first month of Spring, I took the liberty of addressing a letter to you asking a favor which it is true I had no right to ask, but which I hoped and believed it would afford you a pleasure to grant at some time when you might have the leisure to do so. But as I did not know to what P. O. to send the letter, I enclosed it to my old friend and schoolmate P. B. Ruffin, at Hillsboro, asking him to forward it to you.

Were I certain that you had received that letter and had not found it convenient to answer it, I should not trouble you with this; but in the absence of that certainty I hope you will pardon me for writing again, as I do so for the following reason. My uncle Revd. T. H. Skinner of New York, who, as I stated in my first letter, is engaged in the, to him, grateful task of preparing a short memoir of my Father, for distribution among our relations and the few of my Father's old and valued friends whom he has left behind him, visited me a few days ago. He read me the memoir as far as he has been able as yet to finish it, and it is truly a just and faithful delineation of my Father's character, while it is a handsome tribute to his memory.

Judge Nash very kindly contributed a letter giving to my uncle his impression of the character, attainments, and usefulness of his old and cherished friend, and from it my uncle has derived much that has proved both gratifying and useful to him.

It affords him so much pleasure to be sustained and aided by the few [of] my Father's old and honored friends who knew him long and well, and who appreciated his merits—that he urged me to write again to you to know with certainty whether you had received my first letter, and to assure you that he will most highly appreciate a letter from you. Either one which you will be willing for him to give at length in his memoir, or one which he can work up in his own composition. I can only assure you that I will most highly value such a contribution from you, as I will feel that it will add to our tribute to my Father's memory, not a little, to have my uncle sustained in it by such valued and honored friends as yourself and judge Nash. My uncle would like to have his memoir printed early in July. I do not suppose that you have allowed your retirement from the high office which you so long filled to afford you at the same time a cessation from labor, both constant and useful; but I hope the retirement which it has enabled you to enjoy in the midst of your family, and the comforts of home, will secure to you a long continuation of good health, which with the consciousness of having truly well spent a long life of usefulness, will make the evening of your course peaceful and happy.

Should you find it convenient to write to my uncle or me, please address either, to me at this place.

With sincere respect and high regards,

Yrs. truly  
T. L. SKINNER.

Honble. Thomas Ruffin.  
[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

*From Boswell DeGraffenried.*

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,  
MILLEDGEVILLE GEORGIA.

May 21st, 1853.

*My dear Cousin.*

Believing you to be a Good Democrat and at heart a patriot, and as my thoughts have just turned upon the friends in the old north State, and as I see you sitting in your chair ready to hear the news of the day read to you by one of my sweet cousins, I have thought I would send you a precious morsel to stir up your patriotic blood, in the shape of a letter from our former Whig representative, the Hon. A. H. Stephens. I bid you "read, ponder and digest" it, and after you have done so if you know of one of your worthy brothers in the faith who has departed from the fold of true democracy, give it to him to read. I know not whether you have joined the league against Democracy, but if you have, come out from among the foul party. "Eschew evil and learn to do well", is my injunction. Parties here are breathless with anxiety, to know the cast of the die in Virginia, and should Henry A. Wise be defeated, "Democracy's flag will be shrouded in gloom", in Georgia. We are buckling on the armor of battle, and should our flag trail in the dust, our men will be found fighting for liberty of speech and conscience, and should they be compelled to fall prostrate before a secret enemy, they will fall with their "feet to the sun and face to the foe". We are determined to make a fight in Georgia in the approaching Gubernatorial election, unprecedented in the annals of political warfare. There is not at present to be found in the "midnight order" in this state a single Whig of any prominence, and the Democracy is arrayed as one man, to wage a war of extermination, even to the hilt, with their political adversaries. We look confidently to the triumphant vindication of our principles, in Virginia, and should Mr. Wise be triumphant, Georgia will roll up a majority for the democratic nominee, which shall cause groanings and quakings in the "dry bones of the valley" of "Hindooism", but should defeat and failure be the consequence in Virginia, then prepare to behold upheaving earthquakes, in the political battlegrounds, in the "Empire State of the South". We shall have to fight with desperation, and we are prepared to wrestle with our adversaries, the cohorts of Democracy have "thrown aside the dew drops of slothfulness that glittered upon their garments", and are ready to "march forward to battle and to victory". I perceive that the Hon. Thomas Ruffin Jr. has been chosen as the standard bearer in Rockingham district, to plant the flag upon the ancient landmarks of Republicanism, bid him Godspeed, tell him Georgia sends greeting to North Carolina. Let the flag of Democracy still wave, "o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave"—"Tear not her tattered ensign down, long has it waved on high" the hope of the country and the beacon light to the oppressed of all nations. Georgia had in

1852 6000 foreigners, out of a population of 600,000, should more seek a home among us, our broad fields of wire grass, our mountain vales, our rich savannas, and pine forests are broad enough to hold us and them, they teem with the variegated beauties of nature and are rich in sustenance for man, the hearts of our generous yeomanry are capacious enough to give them shelter, and sympathy and the lap of Mother earth will afford them six feet of earth, and our long leafed pines sing a requiem for their souls. We say to them come, we are brothers to you in tribulation, we feel the heel of oppression, but our hearts are strong in resisting it. It is on dit that the Hon. Rob. Toombs will also favor us with his views in opposition to the Ramshackles party, and should I be fortunate enough to secure a copy of his letter it will afford me very great pleasure to send it for your perusal. Now what if I should have all this time been addressing a "Know Nothing." If so excuse the temper of my blade as it is heated with youthful enthusiasm, and should it cut deep, remember that a wound is soon healed when he who inflicts it, bears a part of the pain consequent upon its infliction. Give my love to the "old folks at home" and a greeting to the "young folks at home." I suppose you are aware that I hold the post of Secretary to His Excellency Gov. Johnson. My colleagues frequently in conversing with me say—well de Graff, you must prepare to "walk the plank" in November. I reply gentlemen I am ready, all I wish to be my rebuke to them i. e. Know Nothings. is that when I shall have resigned the sceptre, they may that night look upon me as I have wrapped my cloak around me to pleasant dreams" and they be heard to exclaim "after life's fitful fever he sleeps well". I am uncertain whether in the event of Gov. Johnsons reelection I will remain in office, he has proffered it to me, but it is an office so promotive of idleness, that I am afraid should I hold it two years longer, at the expiration of the time I shall be fit for nothing. I am getting to be of that age when I should have a settled pursuit. I propose now to locate in Florida and practice the Law, but I have exhausted my paper. Give my love to Cousins Alice, Jennie, Pattie and Sallie, and William, John and everybody else you know I would desire to see. Should you see any of the Kith and Kin at Hillsborough present my love. I tried to get my intended to say she would marry me in July and go with me to pay you all a visit, but she could not fix up so soon.

Believe me as ever your very true friend and Cousin, All were well in Columbus when I last heard.

Bos.

*From Richard H. Smith and Others.*

Hon: Thomas Ruffin  
Dr Sir

EAGLE HOTEL RALEIGH  
May 26th. 1853

At a meeting of the "State Agricultural Society," the undersigned were appointed a committee to select some person to deliver an address before the Society at its next annual meeting on the 18th October 1853. The committee have unanimously selected you to discharge that duty. A few zealous friends of agriculture are making an effort to hold a "Fair" at the next meeting of the society and we express the hope that you will not withhold an influence that has always been exerted to promote whatever may advance the interest of our good old State.

With great respect

we are Respectfully

Your obt sevts

RICHARD H. SMITH	} Committee
D. F. TOMPKINS	
DAVID HINTON	

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

*My Dear Sir!*

ALAMANCE—JUNE 26th 1853.

As I am going to Rockingham in the morning, Anne bids me acknowledge your letter to her, which was received shortly after mine to you was written. She regards your communication of an intention to our daughters, under your escort, and at your instance, to make a short trip to Norfolk, as very respectful and polite: and, of course, we can do no less than wish you, as we sincerely do, a most pleasant jaunt: and the same to my Brother, who, I learn, proposes to make a stay, somewhat longer, at Old Point. Should you really take this little run, you will, of course, see our young friends, Lieut. Murphey and his wife and Lizzie Ruffin and her husband, and also, I hope, *my* old and excellent friend, Mr. William Garnett, to whom I am, and have ever been, sincerely attached. To each and all of them present my particular regards and very good wishes; and to the last, in particular, be pleased to say, that if ever I take a trip of pleasure or find a week's leisure, my purpose is to make *him* a visit. Tell him to take care of himself and not to get old, at all events; for, I often think of him and always contemplate him *unchanged*, (as I am!!) and cannot answer for the effect on me of changes in him! But I think, I shall never cease to be his friend, as I am, Dear Sir, very truly yours,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Mr. Cameron received your letter at Fairintosh yesterday morning; and he, the Captain and Browne came here at night-fall finding *all well*, including *his wife*. Mr. C. and Anne, Jane, and Rebecca allow me to pilot them to Dan River, going by way of *Air-Castle* and getting there tomorrow night. I shall be back in time to get to Raleigh on wednesday, the 6th of July, agreeably to appointment; and Mr. C. says the whole party may probably return with me, tho' I think our friends there will hardly allow that.

I expect Mr. Whitsett will take another load of flour during the week, probably on wednesday.

[Address: Raleigh, No. Ca.]

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*To David S. Reid.*<sup>1</sup>

RALEIGH, July 11th, 1853.

*Sir:* I feel greatly honored by the confidence of the Legislature in associating me with the two distinguished gentlemen previously appointed, to revise the Statutes of this State; and I should be pleased, if I could with propriety accept the appointment. I am obliged, however, to decline it, as I am unwilling to undertake a duty which I may not be able to perform as I ought. The work is of great importance and of some difficulty; and it were better that it should not be done at all than that it should not be well done. To do it well much time, study and labor are requisite: more, I am sure, than it would be in my power, consistently with other engagements to devote to the execution of my fair share of it. I hope I shall not be considered ungrateful in asking to be excused on this occasion, as I fully believe the other gentlemen to be entirely competent to the task, by themselves, and that they will execute it, without me, to the satisfaction of the Legislature and the country.

I am, sir, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most ob't servant,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

His Excellency, Gov. Reid, Raleigh, N. C.

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*From R. S. Mason.*

*Dear Sir*

Inclosed I send you an alteration I propose to make in one part of our report,<sup>2</sup> it is in reference to the convocation of the clergy the account of which I think ought to be more particular than I originally had it I

<sup>1</sup>From the *Weekly North Carolina Standard*, July 20, 1853.

<sup>2</sup>This alludes to a report which was being prepared by a committee, of which Dr. Mason and Judge Ruffin were both members, for presentation to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in relation to Bishop Ives's apostasy.

had it written this morning to shew you had you stopped, and I send it now that if it meets your approbation as well as that of the other members of the committee I may subscribe it in place of the original passage

With great respect and esteem

I am very truly Yours

RALEIGH July 12, 1853

R. S. MASON.

Hon Thos Ruffin

In consequence of the State of the publick mind, the bishop on the advice of some of his clergy requested a convocation of all the clergy on the night preceding the convention of 1850 held in Elizabeth-city, and at that time read to them a long paper as explanatory of his views. With this paper the clergy declared themselves not satisfied as being too long, too obscure, and too much taken up with quotations from other persons. They requested that he would be as explicit as possible, as short as possible, and especially that he would be as exact as possible in declaring what he did not hold. A committee was appointed to wait on the bishop with a statement of these views of the clergy; and the bishop read to the committee a paper containing the remarks with which he afterwards concluded his annual address.

It is proposed to insert the above instead of.

In consequence of this state of the publick mind, the bishop at the convention of 1850 held in the town of Elizabeth-city, after consultation with his clergy on the night preceding the convention, concluded his annual address with the following remarks—

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*From John H. Bryan.*

RALEIGH Aug 20th '53.

It will not be in my power without too great a sacrifice, to attend the Genl. Convention.

As you are the first alternate, I am required to notify you, which I now do.

Our old friend Dr. Baker is dead, leaving very few worthier behind.

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*From R. H. Smith and Others.*

RALEIGH N. C. August 29th 1853.

*Hon. Thomas Ruffin*

*Dear Sir.*

We the undersigned were appointed a committee at the called meeting of The State Agricultural Society, held in Raleigh on the 25th of May



last, to select some person to deliver an address before the Society at its first annual meeting on the 18th of october next. Beleiving that would discharge this duty with entire satisfaction to those interested, besides affording much information to the farmers of the State, we solicit your acceptance of an invitation from us to deliver the address on that occasion. With feelings of the highest esteem on the part of ourselves and those we represent we remain your

Obedient Servants

R. H. SMITH

D. W. HINTON

G. F. TOMPKINS.

*Hon. Thomas Ruffin.*

*Dear Sir.* During the Session of the Episcopal Convention in Raleigh in May last I have been informed by Mr. R. H. Smith one of the members of the above committee that he addressed you a letter making the request which we here make and that he received no reply from you. Presuming that you failed to notice this, for the reason that during the meeting of the Convention your mind was deeply absorbed in the proceedings, we again address you hoping that you will comply with our request, you will please upon the reception of this reply to it and direct the letter to me at Bath N. C.

Very respectfully yours

G. F. TOMPKINS M. D.

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*From Josiah Collins.*

EDENTON 16th Sept. 1853.

*Hon. Thos. Ruffin*

*My dear Sir.*

A resolution of the Convention of the Diocese passed some years since requires that in the event of a deputy to the Genl. Convention being prevented from attending its session he should give notice to his alternate. In pursuance of my duty under this resolution I beg leave to notify you that I shall not be present at the meeting of the Genl. Convention. I have to apologize for the late period at which this communication is made but I have recently returned from a journey of some few weeks hastily and unexpectedly determined upon, prior to which my mind was not entirely *certain* as to whether I should be present at the Convention or not.

With sentiments of high regard

I remain very Respectfully

Your obt. Sert.

JOSIAH COLLINS.

*To Josiah Collins.*

ALAMANCE, Sepr. 22nd 1853.

*My Dear Sir.*

Your letter dated the 16th of this month, was forwarded from Hillsborough and was received today. I hasten, in reply, to inform you, that some weeks ago I received notice from John H. Bryan Esqr. one of the delegates from this Diocese to the General Convention, that he could not attend and that I must take the seat in his place. You will therefore see that I cannot be your substitute; and I hope this note will reach you in time to enable you to make arrangements for going yourself, and discharging the important office laid on you by the Church. I need not say that under other circumstances I would take pleasure in relieving you from this duty, as I would in rendering you any other service; nor that as the case is, I am glad I cannot comply with your request, since the interests of the Church require a full, able, and influential delegation, and I shall, personally, be much gratified to sit with you and serve as your junior.

With very great esteem and the best wishes I remain, Dear Sir,  
Your friend and obt. Svt.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Josiah Collins Esquire  
Seuppernong Post Office No. Ca.

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*From Frederick Nash.*

HILLSBORO' Sepr. 21st, [1853]

*My dear Sir.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Poor Busbee<sup>1</sup> is in truth dead. He got home Saturday morning from Morganton—complained on Monday—no fears were entertained until Thursday—and he died about 8 o'clock Friday night. His brother in a letter to me mentioned that on Friday he was baptised, expressed his strong faith in the Redeemer—and was entirely willing to die. It is indeed a terrible blow to our poor friends. . . . He was buried on Monday.

In his letter Mr. Q. Busbee requests my direction as to what disposition he shall make of the manuscripts of Reports. That his brother did not wish them to go to the printer untill they had been revised. I understand from his letter that the reports are complete, except as above. I

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<sup>1</sup>Perrin Busbee, reporter of the Supreme Court.

have advised him to go on and prepare the manuscripts for the printer, as his brother's estate has an interest in the reports, a copy-right, after supplying the State and its officers with the stipulated copies. He will doubtless administer upon the estate. I do not think the act of "21-the 17th S. of the 33d ch. of the Rev. Statutes applies. Here the reports of the two last terms are actually completed except revision. Will you do me the favour to say if my directions to Mr. Busbee are correct, and I beg you to write me without delay.

[P. S.] I shall suspend sending my letter to Mr. Busbee I believe untill I hear from you.

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*From Rev. James B. Donnelly.<sup>1</sup>*

[HILLSBORO, Sept 23, 1853]

*Sir,*

A meeting of the wardens and vestry of S. Matthews parish Hillsborough was held yesterday, and it was determined by them to comply with and fulfil the conditions on which you offered them an additional quantity of land near the church for a place of burial. They are ready, so soon as the circumstances of the case permit, to put up the front wall of stone and enclose the sides and rear with a neat fence or palings of wood. A committee was appointed to confer with different masons etc. in order to ascertain what will be the cost of such work as is needed. They will lay the information so gained before the vestry to guide them in making a contract. But before it can be made it will be necessary to know the exact boundaries and extent of the land which you propose to bestow on the church, a point for you to determine. The vestry would like to have you meet with them if possible, to determine how the lines shall be run for them and they have desired me while making known to you the general result of their meeting to ask of you the favour of an interview if convenient for you to grant it. The vestry as a body undertake that the work shall be done, so that there seems to be no doubt of its speedy accomplishment.

I may add on my own account, that there are one or two points connected with the matter on which I would like to consult you and have the aid of your opinion. If you can manage to spend a day in town it will oblige us all.

Your obedient Servant

J. B. DONNELLY,  
Hillsborough, Sept. 23, 1853.

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<sup>1</sup>Rector of St. Matthew's Church, Hillsboro.

*From Frederick N. Hill.*

PITTSBORO Sept 30th 1853

*My dear Sir,*

Your letter of the 28th instant has just been received and I was much pleased to learn from it a confirmation of what I had before heard from rumor that you had determined upon going as a delegate to the Genl Convention of the Church.

I assure you My Dear Sir that it would afford me unfeigned pleasure to accompany you and to be present at an assemblage of the Great Council of the Church of our Fathers, but the very late notice of the Treasurer in the Delegation throws obstacles in the way which I apprehend will be insurmountable.

I had earnestly desired to be present at the very important session of the convention now at hand; but having no reason for anticipating the present state of things; I have within the last few days made engagements requiring my presence here which I do not feel myself at liberty to violate.

Mr. Haughton is absent at Randolph court but is expected to return to this place tonight. As soon as he arrives I will see him and endeavor to prevail upon him to go on.

I received last evening from Doctor Mason a communication of similar import to yours of the day following and not knowing whether this reply will find you in Raleigh, I have addressed it to either of you in order that it may come as a reply to either.

Wishing you a very pleasant and profitable visit and with my earnest Prayers that the deliberations of the Convention may resound to the advancement of the Church and the progress of the Redeemers kingdom.

Believe me dear sir

Yours truly

Your friend

FRED-K N. HILL.

Honble. Thomas Ruffin  
Raleigh North Carolina

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*From John Livingston.*

157 BROADWAY. NEW YORK

October 1st. 1853

*My Dear Sir.*

For the pages of the forthcoming nos of the Law Magazine, we are in want of important recent American decisions, or any other legal intelligence of general interest to the profession; and thinking you may have something of the kind in your possession or within your reach, I write to ask whether you cannot furnish me with a few pages, at least, of what

is required. I send you some numbers of the magazine, and shall be glad to send the whole year, and continue it to your address, free of any charge, if desired, hoping you will furnish occasionally, reports of such leading cases as decide new principles, of general interest to the profession in all the states.

I do not expect to obtain good matter for nothing, but am willing to pay \$1 a page for what I shall publish.

We desire to make the magazine the best of its kind, which cannot be done by my labor alone, but only by the aid of gentlemen of your ability and occupying your high official position. Please send whatever you can that may be suitable for our pages, and I shall be pleased not only to compensate you for your trouble, but also to make my grateful acknowledgments for the assistance. As the future nos will go to nearly all practicing lawyers in the United States it is of importance that we should have some of the best of matter.

I shall be very happy to hear from you at your convenience.

With great respect  
your friend and Servant

JOHN LIVINGSTON.

P. S. I hope some day to be able to afford myself the pleasure of publishing your portrait etc. in a N<sup>o</sup>. of this periodical. It would gratify your friends no less than myself to be able to do so.

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*From James H. Ruffin.*

*My dear brother*

AT HOME, Octo. 10, 1853.

We have been for more than a week suffering great uneasiness at hearing not one word from any of your party since you left Raleigh. Three letters have been forwarded to Philadelphia, and yet we are without intelligence from any of you. Our patience has become nearly exhausted, and we have come nearly to despair at the daily recurring answer from the mail box "No letter from Father, Mother or Sisters". What can be the cause? If you are all well, surely you might let us participate in the agreeable knowledge; if sickness, or any other disastrous occurrence has supervened, we might be trusted with the information, and you would be sure of our sympathies and perhaps with the presence of some of us, if that were necessary or desirable. We do hope and trust that some of you will have written ere this or will write soon after receipt of this letter.

\* \* \* \* \*

Your hands returned from Dan river last Saturday 8th. The overseer writes that he had filled 12 barns, had enough cut to fill 2 more, and one yet to cut. He had good luck in curing, some of it being very nice and

yellow. Some two or three hundred pounds had been injured by a frost which fell on 3rd and 4th Instant.

Mr. Covington reports on his return from Caswell, that Wright will not consent to come here as overseer. The corn at the Royster place has been gathered, yielding about 100 barrels, the straw is in the field which will be sown in wheat as soon as they have gleaned it and it rains for which we are now suffering very much, none having fallen since your departure. The hands are working on the milldam on today as it needs some repairs. The crop of Hay was a very fine one, all saved in good order. Two top-stacks made and put up fodder in good dry condition. Jesse is digging your Winter Irish potatoes today, and thus far they turn out very well in quality and quantity. He gathered on yesterday your winter apples from the large orchard, because daily depredations were going on in it by travellers. Those for cider were hauled at the same time to the cider press.

All are well here, young and old, and desire much love to you; we are extremely anxious to see you all and earnestly press your return at the earliest possible period. At the same time we wish you much pleasure and amusement in your travel.

James writes me that the country is awfully sickly in Alabama and forbids my return until after *hard frost*. If you will come back soon, I may see you before I leave this state, which I am very anxious to do, as something tells me that after I take my departure this fall, we meet no more on this earth. Do come home, where all needs your presence, and which, if possible, you ought to leave no more.

My best love to all who are with you, of your own family and my warmest regards to my old friend Bishop Otey. I thought him too good and too pious to vote in any shape for acquittal and discharge of his *brother Doane*. It seems strange to the uninitiated, that in a court of Christian Bishops, one, who had contested every inch of ground, and denied jurisdiction, should suddenly confess breach of trust, fraud and other crimes, be dismissed wholly free upon the mere profession of an instantaneous penitence, and restored to full standing among his brethren. It was but a mere farce and mockery, and the cause upon which he was arraigned had better be expunged. Ask the *Bishop of Tennessee* to move to that effect in the Convention. As it stands, it is a dead letter, and the late proceedings under it a disgrace to the Court and the Church. Get him to tell you, where Doane was *tried!* He will find the answer a matter of difficulty.

I should be much pleased to get a letter from you at your leisure for writing. In the meantime, may God bless you my dear brother and watch over and protect forever you and yours is the earnest prayer of

Yours truly and Sincerely

JAS. H. RUFFIN.

Don't let Dr. Mason forget to call for his clothes at St. John, Raymond & Co. 311 Broadway N. Y.

From John K. Ruffin.

CHAPEL HILL Oct. 21st. 1853.

My dear Father

I have just finished the delightful occupation of washing out a gun, (a borrowed one of course) in preparation for a hunt I have in view to kill time tomorrow. That task done, I proceed to let you know what is going on in the old North State so far as my knowledge goes. I would have written before but for lack of news and ignorance of your address. The latter difficulty having been corrected by a trip to Mr. Cameron's I don't consider the former as furnishing an excuse for further delay, so here goes. As I presume *home* is uppermost in your thoughts I will commence with what I know of that. Well, I received a letter from Sal today from which I gather the following facts.

1st. Each and every one is enjoying all the health and prosperity heart could desire.

2nd. They are very lonesome and anxiously awaiting your return, sincerely desiring you all a safe and pleasant trip; as a proof of this they are as restless as sheep without a shepherd.

3rd. Uncle James, on account of a letter received from Cousin James informing him that the yellow fever is prevailing in Demopolis to some extent, is very uneasy about him, and does not intend going out till *very* hard frost.

4th. William Kirkland not only does not digest Blackstone, but he does not even chew any of him. He does nothing from morning till night but tease the children and hunt a *little*. (See the evil of not letting me have my gun and dog here).

The remainder of her letter contains comments upon the untimely deaths of our cousins and urges the necessity of our taking warning therefrom. She says, "Could they have that effect then could we kiss the hand that sent them." Sal is a good child and I believe as sincere a Christian as lives on earth. I pray God that I may yet be as good as she. She writes the best letter of any young lady of my acquaintance, and is decidedly the smartest one I know any where. She is my beautiful of a good wife and I shall have her for a model next year when I go wife-hunting. I shall now give you a little insight into the state of things about C. H. and the surrounding country. Nothing remarkable has occurred since your absence. We keep in the same old worn out track every day, the roughness of which is seldom diversified by strips of smooth ground. In short the field of science is as devoid of flowers as formerly and briars increasing.

Old Mike<sup>1</sup> has tired down all that oppose his ideas of the coal fields except Prof. Emons<sup>2</sup> who is still jogging him in the short ribs with a vengeance. Our old Prof., if he can't stand Emons a fair discussion,

<sup>1</sup>Professor Elisha Mitchell.

<sup>2</sup>Ebenezer Emmons, the state geologist.

still seems to well know the importance of the last speech and from appearances is determined to have the benefit thereof. I have been trying to believe Dr. Mitchell in the wrong all the time but I cant help acknowledging to myself that he is a hard *old hos* to manage.

A great many of the boys went down to Raleigh this week to the fair. Under the excitement of seeing so many go off I made up my mind to go too and got permission to that effect, but when I came to put the question "Go or not Go" to the test of reason and had examined it with an impartial eye I gave it out as being a wild goose chase. But from the glowing accounts given of it I have determined to go to the next one or burst wide open in the attempt. In fact I hope to exhibit some of the productions of my own farm at the next, for you must know I have become quite an enthusiast on the subject of agriculture. If too much of your time is not occupied by the convention I should like to hear an account of your travels and the sights you have seen—the Hipodrome, Crystal Palace and such other humbugs of the season.

Give my best love to all the travellers especially my Mammy and tell her to bring me a stick of candy or something to

Your affectionate son

[Address:

JNO. K. RUFFIN.

Care of Brown & DeRossett

New York.]

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*From Romulus M. Saunders.*

RALEIGH Oct. 25/53

I have not before found time to thank you for your highly interesting letter, the more gratifying as it sustains the views presented in the report from the Judiciary Committee which I had the honour to make. I am the more flattered by your letter, as I was the only member of the Committee who took the view you present—that the Executive had the right with the advice of the Council of State to consider the Legislature independent of the act of 36. This view is supported by the facts that the Journals show that Governor Caswell in 1778 called the Legislature under the advice of his Council and that before the Legislature had passed any act on the subject—See Iredells revisal pa 360—tho that does not show as the Journal does that the Gov. commenced it.

The first act authorizing the Governor to call the General Assembly with the advice of the Council of State, in anticipation of the appointed meeting, passed in 1780—see Iredells revisal page 399, ch. IX—The precedent is the more important from the term and the Governor by whom the Legislature was commenced. I should have been much pleased had you permitted me to use your very clear opinion by filing it as a part



of my report—But as you did not allow that, I felt at liberty to show it to a few friends who felt difficulties on the subject—all seem more satisfied whose opinions are worth anything. We are now going on with the regular business—but nothing has as yet transpired of any interest. We anticipate much trouble in the Congressional and Senatorial districts. They talk of another Judicial circuit. Bynums crazy scheme of making the Supreme Court perform circuit duties has but few friends.

We shall doubtless be here until after the first of January, so as to avoid the questions as to the Governors qualifications.

Hon Thos. Ruffin

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From B. F. Moore.

RALEIGH Nov. 10/53

I know that you will pardon me, as well because of our long continued friendship, as on account of the matter, for the liberty I take in asking your assistance about certain of the acts, now under revision.

1. Attachment—I cannot now learn, and have never learnt—nor have I seen any one who knew, what was meant by the 10th section.

The fifth section provides for replevy by the defendant, whose bond is a mere bail bond, and, on giving it, the property is discharged from custody, and the body secured in lien. In this case the bail stand as other bail, and on bail of the *defendant*. But by the 10th. section the person entering himself as special bail is not bail for the defendant, but, seemingly, a garnishee. I can not imagine a case where a garnishee replevies. If the property in one's hands, is levied on, or attached, it is *seized* by the sheriff, and so is not replevied, but may be claimed by an interpleader. If it is not seized, but the holder is summoned, he appears as garnishee, and either decrees or admits property. If he decrees, and issue is taken, there is no replevy of the property; and, of course, if he admits that he holds property of the defendant, there is no replevy.

These difficulties puzzle me, and I am not able to conjecture any case for the operation of sec. 10—and I am disposed to strike it out—what say you?

Again, I think the act has met with a uniform misconstruction upon the point, of the character and nature of the absence which will authorize an attachment. A judicial attachment may issue upon a simple *non est inventus*. Such absence does not imply an *absconding*; but because the ordinary process of law cannot reach the debtor, his estate is attached; and this is the mode of commencing suit in several of the States. It is worthy of remark too, that section 5 favors this interpretation for in that it is provided that an attachment may issue when the debtor "absents" himself;—and the proceedings are to be as on judicial attachments.

The language is changed in sec. 13, in relation to attachments issued by a justice of the peace, and the word *abscond* there found, I think a misprint, or misprision of the engrossing clerk. The act of 1777 uses the term "absconding or absent debtor"—

In a very recent case before the court, (not yet published) the court holds that an attachment will not lie against any one who goes abroad, without absconding; as a soldier who enlists for any length of time; the same doctrine applies to any other person who may go out of the State, on any kind of business, as the servant of the State or federal government, and for any length of time. This doctrine of course puts an end *at law*, to recovery of a debt out of such person, if he is fortunate enough to keep out of the reach of a summons, or the debt shall become due while he is gone. This must be the case although an abundance of property be left at home, and although he withdraws it from the very eye of the creditor.

In regard to federal officers and servants, as soldiers for instance, they are by congress exempt from arrest; but all the mischief might be prevented by holding that the attachment might issue where the ordinary process of law could not be served, and that the debtor might plead without replevy bond. In states where the original process is attachment, I do not suppose the right of collecting debts out of a soldier is suspended, because he is freed from arrest.

I have thought of this remedy—that an attachment may issue whenever the defendant cannot be served with process—and, in cases, where the party is free from arrest, he may plead without giving bail.

I see no good reason why any one should be able to withdraw both his person and property from the precepts of the law necessary to be used as preliminary steps to enforce the payment of his obligations.

I hope, my dear sir, that I do not trouble you overmuch, by asking your opinion and assistance on the several matters suggested, especially, as from your long experience all the difficulties which I have exhibited must have been made familiar to you and, likely, some fit remedy have been suggested.

Hon. Th. Ruffin

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*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE—Decmr. 10th 1853.

Being bent on having a *pump* in my ice house, which will keep out the water, I spoke to Mr. Waltering to make me a *copper* tube instead of the leaden one, and he promised to have it ready by this time. I send down the piece of the pump, to which the tube is to be soldered, and wish you to let him know, that the length of it ought to be just 20 feet, with the lower end closed and small holes made for about 6 inches at the lower end: this, in order to let in the water and keep out chaff and other

obstructions and, thus, prevent the choking of the pump. Mr. Waltering promised that he would solder on the head and put the whole up on a piece of timber so that the wagon can bring it without any battering or injury, and that, if he did not, it should be his loss. But of that I have no evidence, as no one was present but your Annie and I,—which is having no witness. Therefore, please see that he does put it up securely, and, if you can, get him to say the same thing—not alomode “Formy” however! He said, he would not detain Mr. Scott’s wagon 15 minutes, as he knows I wish it to bring the article.

One of my neighbours wishes me to get for him 2 bushels of Red Clover seed: so please add that quantity to my order.

The *omnibus* has not made its appearance, tho’ the turkeys, ducks, et cetera are all ready, and have been for several days.

I had expected to hear from you on the other parts of my letter before this; and my fear is, that I have not, because I imposed on you an onerous and irksome task and you are apprehensive that I should not be satisfied with your differing in opinion from me. You would be mistaken, if there were a clear and direct difference of opinion for few men are able to judge clearly for themselves in such emergencies, and the very purpose of appealing to a friend for aid is to have the benefit of a calm, clear and honest judgment. But in my case, you will recollect, that in the beginning I owned, that I did not know certainly, what to do; and therefore I begged you to *revise* and *correct* my judgment and my doings, being sure, that you would know, better than I could, what I ought to do, and be less liable to be led astray by disappointed or mortified feelings. Such, in all sincerity, were and still are my feelings: and I certainly would not have invoked your interposition, had I not been prepared to abide the result.

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[Address: Raleigh.]

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*From D. C. Ramseur and Others.*

DAVIDSON COLLEGE N. C.

Dec. 14th 1853—

Mr Ruffin;

Sir.

The undersigned were appointed a committee to inform you of your election by the Eumenean Society of D. College, as an Honorary Member of that Body.

The influence of superior wisdom is seen, and felt by all classes of mankind and in all ages of the world. It is the electric current which decomposes the impure and ill-becoming traits and principles of nations; and with the same ease and readiness, recomposes from the same elements (or others *created* by his power) a new order of things;—thus far ad-

vancing the world in morals, in importance and in learned dignity.—But to our point!—And we must say that it is *useless* to expatiate on the varied and important deeds of usefulness which you have bestowed upon our beloved “Old North State,” We will remember them with grateful hearts!—Then, considering such and so many acts of yours, we would gladly offer you the privilege of being enrolled with others who have won our esteem and admiration,—and we would, with great earnestness, ask of you to accept.—Be pleased to accept our individual respects, and through us, as representatives, the regards of the Eu. Society.—

With great respect,

We remain yours,

D. C. RAMSEUR	} Com,
W. G. WHITE	
S. N. THOMAS	

Hon, Thomas Ruffin

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*From Alfred M. Scales, Jr.*<sup>1</sup>

MADISON Dec the 16th 1853.

*Hon Thomas Ruffin*

*My Dear Sir*

Will you permit me to call your attention to Article IV Section IV of the Constitution of this State as amended in 1835, and to ask your opinion as to its interpretation in the following particular? Is the office of County Solicitor within the meaning of the Section and are Solicitors thereby prohibited from holding any other office or place of trust or profit or rendered ineligible to a seat in either house of the General Assembly? It has been for some time a mooted question with the members of the Bar, and we have had several instances of the county Sol.—holding at the same time another office or occupying a seat in the Legislature: but so far as I know, it has never been the occasion of any difficulty. These precedents however do not satisfy me, and amid such diversity of opinion when called upon to decide my mind is quite unsettled in regard to it. I have therefore taken the liberty of consulting you, hoping that the desire I have to act advisedly and conscientiously in this matter may be to you a sufficient apology. With sentiments of profound respect and esteem I am Sir your obdt Servt

A. M. SCALES, JR.

Hon Thomas Ruffin

Melville, N. C.

Please address me in Madison N. C.

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<sup>1</sup>Alfred M. Scales, Jr., 1827-1892, member of the House of Commons, 1852-1856; member of Congress, 1857-1859, 1875-1885; brigadier general, C. S. A., governor of North Carolina, 1885-1889.

*From Alfred M. Scales, Jr.*

MADISON Jan the 9th 1854.

*Hon. Thomas Ruffin.*

*My Dear Sir.*

Your kind and valued favor of the 31st Ult. has just reached me, for which I tender you my sincere thanks. My own reflections had brought me to the same conclusion indeed I could place no other interpretation upon the clause in question. But many of my warm friends, who were very desirous that I should again represent my country, seemed to think the two places not incompatible and to sustain themselves would point to distinguished precedents, men who were able and supposed to be conscientious, who had acted without regard to that clause. I determined then to have recourse to you and permit me to say Sir, that my course is settled. I would not for the most dazzling prize that wish could offer, let alone a seat in the Assembly, violate the constitution and thus compromise my honor; for I look upon it as nothing more or less than *perjury*. Permit me again, Sir, to thank you for the clear and unmistakable light in which you have set this question, as well as for the promptness and kindness with which you answered my letter. Your son Thomas is well. I saw him on Saturday last. With renewed assurances of my esteem and great respect I am Sir your

friend and obdt. Servt.

A. M. SCALES JR.

*From William F. Wickham.<sup>1</sup>*

NEAR HANOVER COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

23d. Jany. 1854

*My dear Sir,*

We were highly gratified by your kind remembrance of us and your most welcome letter. The vines have just arrived in excellent condition and shall receive the greatest attention. I have been unfortunate in my attempts to cultivate the grape, tho' many years ago I had an abundant crop of the White Chapelas. It was, however, only one season and after repeated failures, I gave them up. The Bland is the only grape to my taste, that succeeds with us, and that is uncertain. We have the Catawba, the Isabella and the Norton's Seedling, all good bearers, but none of which I esteem for the table. I fear there is something in my soil not favorable to the grape, though we have wild vines in plenty and very luxuriant. The flavor of the Catawba I ate in New York was much

<sup>1</sup>One of the noted Wickham family of Virginia, probably William Fanning Wickham who graduated at Princeton in 1812.

finer than of those from my garden. We shall do the best we can with the vines you have sent us, and my wife, who is more skilled in such things than I am, will bestow the greatest care on them, so I hope to be able to give a good account of your present. How do you employ your time now you have retired from the labors that so long and closely occupied you? Do you read law for amusement? I am sure I could do so had I access to modern books. I hope there is not such a mania for changing the laws in North Carolina as here. A short time ago a judge of the Court of Appeals could not tell me whether a deed might be acknowledged before one Justice, or if two were necessary. With your good health and active mind you must require constant employment—I should say you were too precipitate in adopting Horace's maxim "Solve senescentem mature" etc. History and Travels are my great resource. The Poets—I mean Tennyson, and I fear I must add Longfellow, and others I can make nothing of, nor can I read the novels, always excepting *Vanity fair*. I have a general knowledge of what is going on on the plantations, but the management belongs almost exclusively to my son—so if you can be tempted to come to Virginia, you shall find an idle man at your service, who will entertain you to the best of his ability, and go with you where you please. I was with your relation Edmund Ruffin, looking out for you at the Exchange the day you passed thro' Richmond, when Mrs. Broadnax told us you had gone on without stopping. I need not say to you how much your society added to the pleasure of our sojourn in New York—our visits to the Crystal palace etc. I wish we could have been longer together, and particularly so that the ladies under our care, might have become better acquainted with each other. Our nieces, who will be much flattered by your inquiries about them, are still with their brother in St Louis. We have letters constantly from them. They were to be at home before Christmas, but their return, chiefly for want of an escort, is postponed till the middle of next month, when we hope to see them notwithstanding the discomfort of a winter journey. I am sorry to tell you that no young gentleman from these parts has had taste enough to go to St Louis—as Col. Mayo said of his son "on the wings of love". Anne, who was quite captivated by you and Mrs. Ruffin, desires me to say to you that among the most agreeable recollections of her trip to the North is her having made the acquaintance of yourselves and your daughters. I hope you will never be in Virginia without coming to our house. There are a great many topics in which each of us takes an interest, so I am sure we could pass our time in pleasant converse, and who knows but we might form a plan for a tour on the other side of the water. Little temptation would be required to carry me again to the old countries, and I think we should suit each other as fellow travellers.

I am my dear sir

Very truly Your friend

WM. F. WICKHAM.

The hon Thos. Ruffin—

From James P. Graham.

NEWTON N. C. July 27, '54

Sir

As corresponding sec. of Athanean Society (Catawba College) I have the honor of informing you that you were unanimously elected an honorary member of said society at its regular meeting July 24<sup>th</sup> 54

I in behalf of the society solicit you to honor us with your membership

Respectfully Your

Obt. Svt

JAS. P. GRAHAM.

Hon, Thos Ruffin

P. S. Please favor me with a reply

Yours

J. P. G.

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To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.

ALAMANCE—Febru<sup>y</sup> 6th 1854.

On my return from Hillsborough last evening I received a message from Mr. Cameron, desiring to know whether I did not wish to take some of the State loan, and, if so, whether I would not join him and Mr. B. F. Moore in making a bid and at what price. Perhaps the fewer bidders the better, and I have no objection to your acting, on my behalf, in concert with them, if you should deem it best. As to the price: One per cent or even less might be very material to a speculator, bidding for the purpose of selling again, and obliged to sell again. But one per cent or even two, divided between thirty years, is of very little consequence to one, who wishes to purchase for a permanent investment, as in this instance I do on behalf of my ward. The great thing is to secure a stock for her, yielding 6 pr. ct. semi-annually for thirty years, and certain as the solvency of the State, and exempt from taxation. For such securities I would be willing to give on my own account, if not to be had lower, 6 or 7 pr ct. prm. and so I should think *those gentlemen* would; and therefore I feel at liberty, and, indeed, bound to do for my niece and ward. But, of course, I want to get the stock on the best terms.

\* \* \* \* \*

Will you allow me to remind you to enquire on your approaching visit to Bertie about the *Old Seine* to make me six nets, 20 feet square, to keep birds off my cherries and grapes. I want them very much, unless they cost *too* high, which I can hardly suppose they will.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Joseph B. G. Roulhac  
Raleigh, No. Ca

*From John K. Ruffin.*

CHAPEL HILL Feb'y 14th. 1854.

The energy with which our correspondence was kept up last session has been gradually diminishing until it has nearly ceased to exist; I now take the initiatory step in renewing it with the hope that it will be continued with renewed ardor. I shall not say upon whom the fault of the previous failure falls but I believe you have generosity enough not to attribute it to me. I have been absent from home now over four weeks and have heard from there only once!! Just think of it, will you, and you must come to the conclusion that I've been shockingly treated. I'll bet you what you dare Sisters Jane and Patty have been written to a dozen times; and what greater claims have they upon the writing propensities of the family than your humble servant? According to the logic I studied not half as much, for they are not "strangers in a strange land" without anyone to rejoice with them when they are happy and sigh with them when sad, and in whose veins their own blood courses. But poor me! I'll not trace the comparison further. Do it yourself, and if remorse does not fill your bosom for Sister Alice and Sal's negligence then you may take my hat.

Well, I have been doing not much of anything since I have been here this session for the reason that I've had not much of anything to do. When I arrived here Gov. Swain told my class that it would be divided into three departments; one of which would have the same studies as had heretofore been given to the Senior class; another would apply itself to engineering and another to Agricultural Chemistry. Each member was allowed the privilege of entering either department. I volunteered in the cause of Agricultural Chemistry for there I hope to learn something of the art of farming and the science of Chemistry, in the broad fields of one of which I expect hereafter to labor for my daily bread. Our Professor has been engaged nearly all the session in procuring his apparatus and fixing up his laboratory consequently he has yet scarcely got us under way. Our text books are Johnston's "Elements of Agricultural Chemistry and Geology" and "Noad's Chemical Analysis Qualitative and Quantitative". We will be engaged in the laboratory from fifteen to twenty hours a week, in which time we ought to learn something of the affair.

The Bishop preaches here next Sunday. There will be about a dozen confirmed and one ordained. Dr. Hawks will be here I understand about the same time; he is writing a history of the state and is travelling through it lecturing and collecting his facts. If you could come down at that time I think I can promise you quite a literary and religious feast. . . . The faculty are making some fuss about the boys keeping dogs which causes some merriment among those not concerned, and brings the dog boys to the conclusion that it's a doggish affair throughout.



I have not used any tobacco since New Year's day, the result of which is that I've fattened thirteen pounds, had two boils as large as your fist and am *getting* pretty lazy. I think I shall be able to hold out for the year at least.

\* \* \* \* \*

[Address: Graham NO. CA.]

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*From Rev. R. S. Mason to Rev. James B. Donnelly.*

RALEIGH Feby. 16. 54

*My dear Sir*

I received your letter on Monday, and feel greatly honoured by Judge Ruffin's reference to me, and your readiness to make it. I should have answered your letter before, but unfortunately in moving from the house I formerly occupied, I have mislaid the Journals of 1851 in which I think there are two forms of deeds or bequests the first founded on the law of which you speak. This act, however, had reference to each congregation as a distinct corporation. In 1844, (if I remember right) an act was passed allowing the church at large in this diocese to hold property which it could not before; and the second form of bequest is based on this act. It is with the first of these forms you are at present concerned, but whether it runs in the name of the vestry alone, or of the wardens and vestry I am not certain, nor do I think it of much consequence as the wardens in this diocese are chosen from the vestry and constitute a part of it. I think, however the rector ought to be joined with the vestry as forming part of the corporation. There is to my mind a serious defect in the omission in the first form of bequest and perhaps in the second of the name of our church as we have chosen to call it. "The Protestant Episcopal." Would it not be well to consult Judge Ruffin on the propriety of inserting these words. As the form is at present it seems to me to admit the possibility of the property of the church, (provided the name of the congregation was retained) being diverted to the maintenance of a sect. Suppose for instance a majority of this congregation were to become Presbyterians and elect a Presbyterian vestry what should prevent the property being alienated to the support of a Presbyterian congregation? The judge however, would know whether it could be so or not; and I must remember the adage "Ne sortor ultra crepidam."

With respect to the other matter I am always willing to do anything which may conciliate, provided there is by it no abandonment of principle, and considering how dreadfully families are in this state divided in religious opinions, it would occasion very serious difficulty to attempt the exclusive use of even our own burial-grounds. In St. Peter's ch. in Philada. it was allowable for persons belonging to the sects to be buried in the church yard, but the services must in that case be performed by

the rector or his assistant; whether that would be a wise regulation among us considering the difficulty of lay baptism, I am by no means prepared to say. The rule which I think perhaps would be best established would be to have none buried in our grave yards but such as were church people or the relatives of church people.

With sincere regard

Yr. friend and brother

Rev. J. B. Donnelly

R. S. MASON.

P. S. I am sorry you did not attend our consecration, had I known in time the cause of the difficulty I could easily have removed it.

*To Rev. John Holt.*

*My Dear Sir!*

[March 4, 1854]

I have a negro girl, about 12 or 13 years of age, who is extremely low with consumption, and, indeed, is expected daily to die. She is very desirous to be baptized, and, of course, I am anxious that she should be and feel it to be my duty to procure for her that sacrament, if I can. Accordingly, I spoke to the Revd. Mr. Donnelly, of Hillsborough, on the subject, and he promised to administer the rite. But the state of the waters and other indispensable engagements have prevented his coming up. I am not aware, that it is at all contrary to the doctrines or usages of the religious body, to which you are attached, that you should perform this office for this poor child; and, if it be not, I should be much obliged to you to do so. Her condition is such as to forbid all delay; and, if you can serve her at all, it must be done at once. I will thank you therefore, dear Sir, to come down this morning; or, if it be contrary to your principles or out of your power from any cause, to be kind enough to drop me a note by the boy, so that I may apply to some other minister at once.

I am, dear and Revd. Sir, with much respect

Your friend and Obt St.

March 4th 1854.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

*Judge Ruffin*

*From Rev. John Holt.*

*Dear Sir*

From an examination of this ordinance, I have been compelled to adopt immersion as the *mode* of administering as to myself. My people are divided upon the subject but *effusion* or even pouring does not fulfil the divine command. It would always please me to serve you in accordance with my own convictions.

Yours sincerely

J. R. HOLT.

[Address: Graham—]

From M. H. Pinnix.<sup>1</sup>

MASONIC INSTITUTE

GERMANTON N. C.

April 3rd, 1854.

Judge Ruffin

Sir;

I have the honor of informing you that at our last regular meeting you were unanimously elected as honorary member of the Adelphian Literary Society, now in session at the Masonic Institute Germanton, N. C.

Allow me to add my solicitations to the request of the society that you will accept.

Most respectfully your obt. Servant,

M. H. PINNIX *Sec.*

From Frank G. Ruffin<sup>2</sup> to Sterling Ruffin.

SHADWELL, ALBEMARLE CO. VA.

April 15, 1854.

My Dear Sir

Your sisters whom I had the pleasure of visiting at Mr. Edmund Ruffin's a few weeks since reminded me of a letter you had written me in 1853, which I had, culpably I admit, omitted to acknowledge either privately or by publishing it.

I have recently found that letter and think it as well it was not published at the time. If the subsequent product of successive seedings has borne out the reputation of the wheat you gave an account of, it will be well worth publishing now. If it has not, it has made no difference not to have published the letter.

Please give my love to my cousins, particularly to . . . . . but I shall not particularize. Present me also to your father and mother. Now that I shall go down to the lower county again, and live right upon the line of the great Rail Road thoroughfare I hope to be able to have you all at my house some time or other.

If you ever see my old Master Bingham give him my compliments and tell him that I remember him well. I believe no one that he ever flogged can forget him. He wept once when he flogged me, but it only made the whipping the more severe, from some cause I wept myself on the same occasion, and if anything more bitterly than Bingham himself. I had cursed him for a flogging he had given me when in a passion, an

<sup>1</sup>Marshall H. Pinnix, a graduate of the University in 1859, who served later in the House of Representatives from 1874 to 1878 and in the Senate in 1883.

<sup>2</sup>Frank Gildart Ruffin of Virginia, a first cousin of Judge Ruffin.

unjust flogging, of course, and his brother *Baldy*, who was monitor—I hope he gave up the plan of monitors afterwards; it is a miserable system of espionage—reported me. Another boy had also been heard to swear, but not at Bingham, so Baldy did not want to report him, but I threatened to have *him* whipped if he did not. Finally the boys persuaded me not to force him to get another boy whipped, and I consented to be sacrificed alone. I was consoled in my sufferings by the idea that I was to some extent a martyr to my magnanimity. The schoolmaster's tears I thought were of that character which, as I afterwards learned, crocodiles are said to shed. Heaven forgive me if I misjudge him, but I still think, without one particle of ill will however, that he wept not so much from cause as for effect.

I was reading "*Viri Romae*" at the time of which work, from some cause that Mr. Bingham perhaps can explain, the only words I remember are these "*I licitor, colliga fasces.*" Give him my compliments, as I said, and tell him that in the long run I do not count myself to have reed, a lick amiss.

Your Friend

FRANK G. RUFFIN.

Sterling Ruffin Esqr.

Haw River North Carolina.

[Address: Graham P. O.

Alamance Co.

North Carolina.]

*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE—April 24th, 1854.

By Mr. Turner and Mr. Patton I send thirty Blls of Flour, which you will be pleased to have delivered at the Depot, taking a receipt for it in my name, to be forwarded to Messrs Andrew Kevan and Brother, Petersburg, Va. I wish, I knew whether there is such a difference in freight and price—especially of common flour—between Petersburg and Norfolk, as would make it better to send to the latter than the former. If I did, I would consign this to Mr. McPheters. But as I do not, I will send this parcel to my old agents; and content myself with asking the favour of you to enquire and let me know, as a guide for the residue, I shall have for market.

Be pleased to inform Mr. Smedes, that Mrs. Ruffin will let him have her hams—tho' she says, they are worth more than he agrees to give, or, rather, than I asked. I cannot, however, send them, immediately, just now; but will in a short time. If, indeed, he is needing them, they shall be sent at once. But *he* loses nothing by waiting, as they are drying and will weigh less every day. Be so good as to tell him, they are as good

hams as he ever had, and let him know, how he may keep them so. That is, by laying them on a plank shelf in a dry place, with the skin side down and so as not to touch each other, and putting on the *flesh* side a double handful of *dry* ashes, so as to cover the flesh. The ashes must not be moist, nor ever have been; else they will combine with the oil of the meat and give it a soapy taste. Nor ought they to get to the skin side, as they are apt to corrode the *skin* and injure both the appearance and taste of the meat. Say to him, I think this information worth having and that it will be particularly valuable to him; as, by Mrs. R's experience, it is an effectual prevention of the *skipper*, and keeps the hams perfectly sweet, not only for one year, but from year to year. We have now hams two years old, perfectly sound and sweet, and as firm as a mummy from a pyramid of Egypt!

Having need of a little money I enclose a dft. on Mr. McNeill for \$60; for which I will thank you to enclose me the cash.

I will write again in a day or two, as I cannot say all I wish now—seeing that Mr. Covington has sent for my letter, for the waggons, which are at the mill.

[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

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To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.

ALAMANCE, June 16th 1854.

I received Mrs. Devereux's letter just after returning from Rockingham and the day before going to Chapel-hill; and I answered it the day after my return—the 5th Inst, as well as I recollect. I am surprised my letter had not reached her before her last to you, and I suppose she has certainly received it before this. To make sure, however, of furnishing the information she desires, I have, immediately on the receipt of yours, written to her again today.

My wife and I returned yesterday from our melancholy visit to Dan River: which can never be the same to me it has been; I have lost the oldest friend<sup>1</sup> I had in the world, and, I believe, the truest and best friend I ever had. I am sure I cherished for him, and that he merited the warmest affection. Well I might after an intimacy, a close intimacy of sixty years duration without a jar or a jealousy, and each ever ready by countenance, counsel, and all other means to serve and aid the other. The impression his death and, particularly, his sudden death, has made on me is very peculiar, and, I am apt to think, will be indelible. I ought, and, indeed, can not but remember, that we were born in the same year: that as he was *sixty-seven* in April, so I shall be in November, of this year. And I cannot shake it out my mind, that if very few others—

<sup>1</sup>Robert Brodnax.

Colo. Jones, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Cain, and my Brother and my dear wife—were taken, I should be *alone* in the world in respect of the friends and associates of my youth—a solitude the most profound and overwhelming that can befall man; which, I trust, will never be my lot! His sons, who are in these parts, and especially dear Mary, though left with everything that possessions in this world can contribute towards ease and happiness, are wondrously cast down, as, indeed, might be expected, as his society, advice, and example were of more value to them than money or land could be. Our visit to them seemed to be consolatory, and they urged us to extend it; which we would gladly have done if our duties here had not demanded our return. On getting back we had the misfortune to find Joe flat of his back with *Meazles*. I do not regret it much on his account, as he has been kept close and has done well—indeed, is nearly well. I shall see that he continues in the house and on *diet*, for a sufficient period to ensure no danger from exposure or indulgence. I am sorry, however, the little dog had not let it be known, that he had the disease or had been exposed to it, as in the midst of crop time it may produce some inconvenience to have many of my people laid up, and especially as he went to Graham and other places up to Saturday, and, I fear, may have spread the contagion through the neighbourhood. However there is no help now, and we must make the best of it; tho' I tell him, I am sorry he has got off so lightly. He says, however, that he thought, that after the *ninth* day, all danger was over; and that he would not have the disease, and did not know he had, until the eruption appeared and Dr. Ruffin told him he had meazles. My spite is somewhat increased, as he deprives us of the pleasure of seeing *Tocky* here, and, more, deprives Tocky of the pleasure of coming. Well: You must not consider this a visit or *broad*<sup>1</sup> for him, but send him next time. As Annie has had the meazles, I suppose she may keep on; and, if so, we will send for her, whenever she says the word.

I have not spirits to write more than I am obliged, and only add, that I hope to see you in two or three weeks. In the meanwhile the wagon will go down with Mr. Smedes' bacon—say, in a week or so.

P. S. Browne tells me a wagoner dropped two Bills of Fish at his store for me—which, doubtless, are Mr. Capehart's present. My wagon will come by for them on its way from Raleigh.

How is your friend, Mr. Bryan? When I saw him in Baltimore, he looked very well, and was very kind to me. I sincerely lament his illness, and earnestly hope for his restoration—which, at his age, is not hopeless.

[Address: Raleigh, No. Ca.]

<sup>1</sup>A slang term, derived from the word *abroad*, meaning an excursion or a lark.

*From Calvin Graves.*

LOCUST HILL, CASWELL COUNTY N. C.

July 20, 1854.

*Hon. Thomas Ruffin*

*Dear Sir*

Will you allow me as a member of the Board of Internal Improvements to Consult you in relation to the Construction of the Charter of the No. Carolina Rail Road Company?

It will become highly important that the N. C. R. R. Company should use a part of the last instalment of the State's subscription before the meeting of the General Assembly. And as the Company can not collect from individual Subscribers the whole of the last quarter Million, as seems to be contemplated by the Charter, the important question will arise, Can the Board of Int. Imps. by a fair Construction of the 36th Section of the Charter, Order the Payment by the State of less than half a million, so as to keep pace with the payments by individual Subscribers, in the ratio of *two to one*?

By reference to the Act to Amend the Charter passed at the last Session, (Sec. Chapter 139—page 523, Sec. 1.) you will find that the doubt which was entertained in regard to this matter, was intended to be removed.

But these Amendments were rejected at the late meeting in Hillsborough.

I learn that application will be made to the Board of Int. Imps. for a less sum than five hundred thousand dollars, and hence I should be pleased to have your opinion in regard to the authority of the Board to make the order.

I am very respectfully

Yr. Obdt. Servant

CALVIN GRAVES.

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*From W. L. McKay.*

FAYETTEVILLE, August 7, 1854.

*Dear Sir:*

At a Meeting in Salisbury, the undersigned was appointed to solicit the use of your name to call a State Convention for the purpose of adopting and recommending a general system of Rail Roads to the Legislature of the State. This Convention to meet in Salisbury early in the Fall.

Will you allow the use of your name for that purpose? An early reply is requested.

Most respectfully

Your ob't servant,

W. L. MCKAY, Sec'y.

[Address: Graham

Alamance Co. N. C.]

*From William M. Green to Joseph B. Huske.*

JACKSON MISS Aug 18th, 1854.

Rev Joseph B. Huske

*My dear Brother,*

I rejoice to hear that the Church is to be favored with a second edition of Bp. Ravenscroft's Sermons; and most gladly will I do all in my power to aid the enterprise.

Neither you nor any of my N. Ca. friends need be told how dear is the memory of that good and great man to my heart. Recollections of him form the burthen of my thoughts oftentimes as I pace my gallery by moonlight long after the family have retired to rest. And in nothing but *in talking about him* will I confess to the "garrulity of old age." Night before last I sat up until 1 o'clock reading over his "Memoirs" for the twentieth time, and running over at least a dozen of his Sermons, with which I was most familiar, from having heard from his own lips again and again. As I read, I seemed in the unbroken stillness of the midnight, to hear from his living tongue those stirring appeals, those heartfelt exclamations and those fervid bursts of unstudied eloquence as they once used to fall upon my admiring ears. But I must beware of entering on that tempting topic, else you would never receive an answer to the enquiries contained in yr letter.

First then—as to the (one or) two discourses which have by mistake been published along with the Bp's. own sermons I am sorry that I am not able to point them out to you.\* The discovery, I think was first made by Dr. Wainwright, (possibly Dr Berrien) who kindly superintended the printing of the work and corrected the proofs and was communicated to Dr Freeman. I am perfectly aware of the manner in which the thing came to be done. The Bp. while a candidate, acted as Lay Reader to one of the Churches in his neighborhood. There was then, as there is now in many minds a prejudice *against a Sermon read out of a book*. In order to do away with the feeling Mr. Ravenscroft put himself to the trouble of copying off with his own hand into the usual Sermon form a number of discourses which he used on these occasions. These became mixed up with his own Manuscripts: and owing to the almost dying condition of the Bp. when the selection was made, were unconsciously set apart among those which he bequeathed to the Miss. Society of his Diocese. I could enter more fully into this explanation if it were necessary.

By applying to Bp. Freeman you can readily ascertain which are the two discourses that are not genuine. If two others should be wanted to fill their places, and the Publishing Committee should think it right to give to the world any of the Bp's. Sermons beyond those which he himself "marked" for the purpose, I will simply say that I have among my

\*If I were to guess on the subject I would pitch upon Serm. X, Vol. 2nd.



precious relics of that dear man two of his manuscripts Sermons which were not in his possession at the time of his death. One is a Funeral Discourse preached at the interment of my first wife. Another from the words "Man is like to vanity his days are like a shadow that passeth away" (Ps cxliv 4) The other is from that striking exclamation of the apostle upon the (Rom vii :24) "Oh wretched man etc." In looking over the volumes I see a number of mistakes—chiefly verbal, but nevertheless affecting the sense as much as the force of the author. I have marked them in the margin, and will cheerfully point them out to the Publishers of the new edition. Thus the word "Sacramental" in the title of the xxv Ser. of Vol. 2nd should not be there. It was written on the face of the Sermon by the Author simply to remind him of its fitness for a Sacramental occasion—viz the administration of the Lord's Supper.

Before leaving N. Ca. I jotted down in short hand a number of anecdotes of Bp. R. which are highly illustrative of his character, and which I believe have rather more of the "authentic" about them than the most of our pastoral articles can boast of. Some of them would be familiar to those who were his contemporaries and co-laborers; others are taken from my own knowledge of him during seven years of unreserved and affectionate intercourse. I have for some time been thinking of bringing them out in our little "Church Herald". If you knew how frequently I have been asked "Where can I procure a copy of Bp. Ravenscroft's works"? you would hasten the publication.

How fitting is it that the works of that "Man of God" should be given to the Church on this occasion by one so like him in devotion of heart and life to their common Master. Of my Saintly friend and brother J. W. Wright I could not say one half of what I felt towards him on account of his truly christian walk and conversation. But I will say even at the risk of having it disputed by numbers of his friends who knew him better, that no man loved and revered him more than I did. Indeed so exalted was my opinion of the purity and blamelessness (and I had almost said holiness) of his character that with all my warm regard for him I felt uneasy in his presence because self rebuked by his superior love for God and his more complete victory over the world. If it were right to aim at any lower standard than that of Him who has commanded "Be ye holy, even as I am holy" I would be content with the knowledge that I was as good a man and Christian as was John W. Wright.

I must now close—by sending my very kindest regards to yr good mother and yr dear wife—also a kiss for the little ones. In all this Mrs G. joins me very heartily.

May God help you my dear brother, and make you not only as Ravenscroft and Wright, but even as Him who made them what they were, and in whose bonds I delight to call myself affectionately

Yr Fellow laborer,

W. M. GREEN.

*From Edmund Ruffin.*

MARLBORNE Aug. 27, 1854.

Dear Sir

I retract the advice I gave you *not* to use the deposit left by the river in your cowpens. I have since seen valuable results in Edgecombe from much poorer earthy material in compost—and they value especially the “brown deposit” left in the eddies by the floods of Tar river. But I still advise you to make the carriage of so heavy a material as short as possible. Could you not bring the pen to the earth, instead of hauling the latter far to the pens?

I saw in a late English review (printed in *Living Age*) of Mrs. Beecher Stowe’s last work, that some law lord in England had greatly eulogized a legal decision of yours, on the subject of slavery.<sup>1</sup> I am anxious to see the article which has gained the applause of this noble abolitionist (as of course every Englishman is), and by inference of Mrs. Stowe who repeats the eulogy, with apparent concurrence. If you have a surplus copy, please send it to me, or give it to Mildred for me.

Our corn has suffered with drought, and our work for several causes, has been getting on to disadvantage. All safe though I trust—and enough advanced for a safe preparation for the crop of wheat next year. The land offers good promise for a crop next year, unless the joint-worm should prevent.

Respy and truly Yours

ED: RUFFIN

[Address: Alamance.]

*From William J. Bingham.*<sup>2</sup>

OAKS, ORANGE Aug 29th, 1854.

In a note to you a few months ago I intimated my purpose to experiment with Osage orange, and my hope of proving the practicability of a

<sup>1</sup>The allusion is to the following passage in Mrs. Stowe’s *Sunny Memories of Foreign Lands*: “A very dignified gentleman dressed in black velvet, with a fine head, made his way through the throng, and sat down by me, introducing himself as Lord Chief Baron Pollock. He told me he had just been reading the legal part of the “Key to Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” and remarked especially on the opinion of Judge Ruffin in the case of State vs. Mann, as having made a deep impression on his mind. Of the character of the decision, considered as a legal and literary document, he spoke in terms of high admiration, said that nothing had ever given him so clear a view of the essential nature of slavery. We found that this document had produced the same impression on the minds of several others present. Mr. S. said that one or two distinguished legal gentlemen mentioned it to him in similar terms. The talent and force displayed in it, as well as the high spirit and scorn of dissimulation, appear to have created a strong interest in its author.” See Littell’s *Living Age*, XLIII, p. 371.

<sup>2</sup>William James Bingham, graduate of the University in 1825, principal of the Bingham School from 1826 to 1863.

live fence in our latitude. The end, tho' warranted by Mr. Pitkin, who spends the autumn in Texas for the purpose of getting a reliable article, turned out very badly, not one per cent coming up. I have a few trees which bloom, but do not bear fruit. You sent me some fruit twelve months or two years ago. Do your trees still bear? If so, do you propose planting the seed with a view to hedging, or do any of your friends look to you for them with the same view? In either event I do not solicit them. But if you do not design planting them yourself, and none of your friends having stronger claims on you desire to do so, I shall regard it no small kindness if you will save them for me. The oranges I mean. The trouble of extracting the seed I shall gladly take myself, and am not so unreasonable as to ask of you.

\* \* \* \* \*

The hail storm—9 p. m. 7th inst., was very destructive. Breadth about one mile. I happened to be in the center of its line of march. From its course I think it must have passed near you, but hope your corn was more advanced than mine, which was all late planted and fared very badly. It was melancholy to look at the corn, pumpkins, squashes, melons, peas etc. the next morning. To be sure I neither repine nor am discouraged by what I deem acts of a Providence both kind and wise; not one however

"That sees with equal eye, as God of all  
A hero perish or a Sparrow fall."

Did not Pope believe our Saviour's declaration

"Ye are of more value than many sparrows"? But he was thinking more of rhyme than orthodoxy. But I must forbear criticizing and moralizing too.

I have rec'd a peck of the 'Rescue' or 'Retrieve grass' seed, and expect to sow them to-morrow. Should this grass fulfil one fourth of its promises, it will be immensely valuable. I have also ordered four bushels of Dr. Battey's boasted potato from Rome, Georgia. You have probably seen notices of both in the agricultural papers.

I have 12000 lbs Mapes's Improved Super-phosphate of Lime in store at Raleigh, R. R. Depot. An experiment on a small scale convinces me that the first crop pays all expenses amply, should it be a good wheat year, tho' the fertilizer costs 3½ cts. per lb. here; nor have I any doubt of its improving the ground permanently. You may regard me enthusiastic and extravagant. Perhaps I am so: yet I think it but fair to return to mother earth the surplus proceeds of her gifts, after she has abundantly fed my family and stock, especially as she never fails most gratefully to acknowledge and richly to requite all the kindness shown her. 'If I were not Alexander' said the great Macedonian, 'I would be Diogenes'. If I were not a school-master, I would be a farmer. What a pity *one* can't be both. Well, I must beg you to pardon my freedom and folly. I am prone, too prone indeed, to forget the Chief Justice in the farmer and the *friend*.

*From E. Graves, Sr., and Others.*

Dear Sir,

YANCEYVILLE Sept 4th 1854

The undersigned appointed a committee of invitation on behalf of the people of Caswell, respectfully ask the pleasure of your company at a public dinner to be given to our representative in Congress the Hon John Kerr by his friends and neighbors at this place on the 28th inst, as a testimonial of their personal regard and in token of their approbation of his course in voting for the bill to organise the territories of Nebraska and Kansas at the late Session of Congress. Permit us to add that in casting over the State for men of distinguished ability, our eyes were turned to you Sir as one whose course has been characterised by consistancy and Steadfastness in the Support of those great conservative and republican principles which constitute the foundation of this great republic and an ardent supporter of Southern rights,—upon the maintenance of which depend the preservation of our glorious Constitution. The people of Caswell without distinction of party are ready to give their earnest support to the principle involved in the Nebraska and Kansas bill—a principle which in their judgments is identical with that for which our revolutionary sires fought and upon the recognition of which depends the restoration of peace and harmony in our councils.

We hope Sir that you will permit no Slight cause to deprive us of the pleasure of your company on the occasion referred to, as we trust at that time to accomplish the two fold object of testifying our respect for those who sustained our rights in Congress and of giving impulse to a movement to bring the Southern mind to bear on the momentous issues likely to grow out of the present agitation at the North of the question of Slavery. Our adversaries are united for our destruction; We must become so or we are ruined.

Very Respectfully

Yr obt. Sevts

E. GRAVES SENR  
A GUNN  
A C LINDSEY  
N M ROAN

Hon Thos. Ruffin

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*To Allen Gunn and Others.<sup>1</sup>*

ALAMANCE, Sep., 26th, 1854.

*Gentlemen:* I have delayed acknowledging your very kind and polite invitation to the dinner, to be given the day after tomorrow, in honor of

<sup>1</sup>From the *Weekly North Carolina Standard*, October 18, 1854.

my friend and your distinguished fellow-citizen, Mr. Kerr, in the hope and expectation that I should be able to make my acknowledgments in person and join in the social enjoyments of the occasion. But other engagements and duties put that entirely out of my power, and I am therefore compelled to ask you to excuse my absence. I assure you I regret my disappointment very much. Few things would afford me more satisfaction than to unite with the people of Caswell in tendering to Mr. Kerr the homage of our personal regards and high respect for his talents, his integrity and patriotism: sentiments, which I have long and sincerely entertained. Besides that, however, I should have been much gratified at meeting "the People of Caswell" upon this public occasion; as I know them to be an intelligent, industrious, prosperous and virtuous people, and I have long had and now have, I hope, many personal friends among them. Many years ago I had a general acquaintance with the citizens of Caswell, and knew them to be a population of whom, no county or counties, could boast of a better. I doubt not that the few of my contemporaries, who now survive, possess all their former merits, and that the sons and other successors of those who are gone, are the heirs of the virtues as well as the fortunes of their fathers. I should feel the greatest pleasure in renewing with them the intercourse I formerly enjoyed with their departed fathers—for whose memories I cherish a profound veneration. I may here be permitted, I hope, to say, that there lived *one man* among you in those days, who was pre-eminent in the respect and affections of the People of Caswell, and who for his mental and moral properties fully merited the esteem in which he was held. He was lost to you and the State long ago. But I am quite certain that those of you, who lived when he lived, will think, as I think, that his memory ought to be honored. His life made such an impression indeed on all around him, that even those of you, who have been born since he died are no strangers to his name and his fame, but are ready, with those of us whose heads are white, to record your admiration for his abilities, and your reverence for his virtues; at least I am sure, that the distinguished living gentleman, on whom you are on this occasion conferring honors, will not consider that I am detracting from them, but rather, that I am inciting him to further efforts to merit them, by recalling to your recollection the memory of your own excellent *Bartlett Yancey!* Few persons have the right to do so, which I have. We became acquainted just forty-seven years ago—in the dawn of our manhood; studied the elements of our profession together giving, the one to the other, all the aid in our power in the labour of learning the law; and afterwards diligently practiced together, while he lived, with an honorable, but harmonious, rivalry; and we united cordially in our political creed and in the effort to sustain our country through the trying war of 1812, and in the subsequent measures to promote the improvement and welfare of North-Carolina. In which, however, he bore the more distinguished part. I therefore knew him long and well; and I can truly affirm, that I and all who

knew him, may justly hold him up to the People of Caswell, whether old or young, as a bright example of a private, a professional and a public character; and I ask permission to offer as a sentiment to the assembled company:

*The memory of Bartlett Yancey*, of Caswell. He was a good and great man—faithful in his friendships, distinguished as a jurist, and eminent advocate, an able and patriotic statesman and a sound constitutional lawyer. The people of Caswell may be justly proud of him; and his name ought long to live among them.

I am, gentlemen, very truly,

Your obliged friend and obd't s't.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

To Messrs. Allen Gunn, and others.

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*From George W. Freeman to T. N. Stanford.*

*My Dear Friend,*

LITTLE ROCK Oct<sup>r</sup>. 12. 1854.

My son has shown me a memorandum, from you, relative to a supposed *discovery* of plagiarism in three of the sermons published in the second volume of Bishop Ravenscroft's works.

This to *me* is no *new* discovery. I detected the supposed plagiarism very soon after receiving that volume—which you may recollect was published before the *first*, the Memoir, which was to accompany the last named, not being ready—and immediately communicated the discovery to Dr. Wainwright, who had kindly undertaken to read and correct the manuscripts and see them through the Press, and also, I think, to prepare a Preface to the whole work. As I *knew not* but *other* similar discoveries *might* be made, I urged upon the Doctor the propriety and necessity of anticipating and staving off animadversion, by some allusion to the fact, and furnishing an apology by a statement of the peculiar circumstances of Bp. R's position as being at the same time both Parish Priest and Chief Missionary of his Diocese, and particularly of the fact that the consent of the Bishop, to the publication of *any* of his manuscript, was *reluctantly* granted, upon the urgent importunity of one of his clergy, while on his death-bed, and when he was unable to do more in making a selection, than hurriedly examine the titles and texts of his numerous manuscripts, relying solely on his memory, then enfeebled by disease, for the character of the respective discourse.

The Doctor replied that he did not consider it a matter of much moment, as nothing was likely to have passed from under Bp. R's hands without receiving the impress of his own powerful mind. Nevertheless he incorporated a small part of my letter, verbatim, into his preface,

in deference, doubtless to my apprehensions, rather than from any misgivings of his own. This will be found on page VI near the bottom, commencing "They were not originally intended for publication" etc., and ending with the words "manuscripts for preservation" on the top of the next page.

So much I have thought it worth while to say for your satisfaction, and my own vindication as one of the committee entrusted with the publication of Bishop Ravenscroft's works; who not having the time and not being able to bear the expense requisite for attending to the publication, felt perfectly satisfied when they were able to commit it to such safe hands as those of Dr. Wainwright.

The detection of the plagiarism, if such it be proper to call it, would scarcely have been made by me, had it not happened that the library of Bp. R. was, by his own direction, left in my charge. It contained a full set of Dr Samuel Clarke's sermons, which I had often heard the Bishop extol very highly. One remark of his, I remember; and that was, if the New Testament were to be lost, it could be almost recovered entire from Clarke's sermons; so extraordinarily full were they of quotations from that Book. I had thus been led to examine the work and had read many of the sermons. Hence, on looking over the newly published volume of Bp. R's. I was struck with some remarkable coincidences of texts and quotations which naturally led to a comparison, the result of which, as I said, I communicated to Dr. W.

To account for the occurrence of those sermons of Clarke's *among* the Bp's,\* it is sufficient to observe that it sometimes happened that he returned, from a fatiguing visitation, to his parochial duties at too late a period in the week to elaborate a discourse, and that he had no morbid sentiments on the subject of the allowableness of availing himself, in an emergency of the labours of others when they were a transcript of his own mind, and there could justly be no imputation upon him of seeking to *shine* with borrowed lustre. Indeed I have heard him say to young clergymen, that he deemed it allowable and proper, upon occasion and when there was a necessity, to transcribe and preach the sermon of some approved author, provided the selection were judiciously made, and strict care was taken that it was not, in style of composition and thought obviously superior to their own average ability.

Upon the whole, if I were permitted to make a suggestion, it would be that the *three* sermons noted by you, and any others of like character that may be found, should *be omitted* in the forth coming edition.

Andrew arrived safely yesterday, after much detention by the way—and a day's sickness at Napoleon (mouth of the Arkansas) where the

\*It is a fact that when a layreader, he usually transcribed the sermons he read. Many of these transcripts he retained, and no doubt occasionally preached. I have heard him relate having preached one of them in Philadelphia before he was Bp: I believe—and recd. the congratulations of his brethren for his excellent discourse.

Yellow Fever has lately been prevailing. We had become exceedingly anxious about him—God be praised for his mercy to him and us.

I am faithfully,

Your friend and Servt

GEO. W. FREEMAN

Mr. T. N. Stanford

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*To Joseph G. B. Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE, NOVEMR. 27th, 1854.

*My Dear Sir!*

The wagons take down 18 Blls flour, which you will oblige me by forwarding without delay by Rail Road to Messrs. Andrew Kevan and Brother, Petersburg, Va. There are also three small parcels of apple and peach trees, and a box with Scuppernong grape vines (mentioned in my last letter to you, as intended as a present to Mr. Julian C. Ruffin), which I wish forwarded to the same House with the flour—they will pay the freight. I do not know whether or not it be necessary to mark them further. But if it be, please, do so. I suppose they will go safe without further wrapping; but if you think otherwise, have the trees secured against rubbing. You will find a part of the load to consist of 6 old hams for Madam; some dried fruit and 2 turkeys, for the same; and two legs of mutton *for yourself*. The mutton was chosen by Old Henry, and is not to my mind; for, though it is fat enough, it is quite small. I hope, however, the Colo. (yourself) and friends will find it to eat sweet. There are also some red potatoes, intended to keep company down the road and on the table with the mutton; which, we hope, will be acceptable, as that vegetable is scarce this year.

There are in the Depot 5 sacks Liverpool Salt, and 5 sacks ground Alum, sent out to me by Messrs Andrew Kevan and Brother Octo 11th 1854, which I wish sent by the wagons. The Road owes me, you remember, for 5 sacks more of Liverpool Blown salt, which was lost at Raleigh or elsewhere three or four years ago. I wish they would send it now. But, if the salt is not to be had, get them to pay you \$9.50, being the cost, viz \$1.90 a sack, and also repay the R. R. freight from Petersburg. There is no good in further delay and the officers might as well pay at once, as, I think, Majr. Vass told you, he would. The loads will be made up of the things got for us in New York, according to the Memos in August and the tire-iron etc. Besides, Mama wants 2 pieces of "Long Cloth" for "Ladies shirts" and, of course, good; and I want 9 yards Welch flannel for drawers, and 6 yards of the same kind and somewhat finer, for flannel shirts.

I and all of us are obliged by the letters of yourself and my brother, received yesterday morning—in particular for the news, that all were well, and the promise, that Sally should keep well by keeping good hours,



that is early up and early to bed—as early as at home. The election news was in no respect unexpected, and in some respects very acceptable. I was not *surprised*, that Mr. Reid should be nominated, as he and many other wise workers in the small way have been doing their endeavours therefor a long time. I rather think no harm will come of it, as I am pretty sure, he will follow Mr. Douglas and Mr. Biggs, and that will do pretty well. I had also counted on the election of Mr. Biggs, as I have a good opinion of his talents and integrity, and, as men and things stand in No. Ca, I think he merits the place as much or more than any other one, who could be elected or desired to be elected. Above all I am most exceedingly gratified, that *I* was not handled or used, but let alone, on the occasion. I *want* to live privately and quietly the balance of my days, and was somewhat disquieted by hearing—not from, but of some persons, who professed to be unwilling to indulge me. I never, however, thought there was any danger, as such a thing as putting men in high office without consulting them and against their will, is not usual at the present day. If I had thought there was much danger of it, I would have run the risk of making myself ridiculous by declining the station before it was offered to me. For, an election would have been extremely embarrassing to me: to refuse all the service I could render to such a State as No. Ca., when called on by the Assembly, would have been equally ungracious, not to say ungrateful, and painful; while to accept it would have been a most reluctant act of pure patriotism upon constraint. To sever myself from my family and the friends I am used to, and at my time of life form new associations, enter on new studies, and wade into the dirty, corrupt, and loathsome pool of partizan, polemical, politics, would have soured my feelings, and deprived me of all my cherished enjoyments. I am, therefore, truly, most truly, pleased at being spared the trial; and I hope that every friend, I have, is willing now to allow me my desired repose and will accord with me in feeling on the occasion. The only boon I ask at the hands of the Legislature, after the election of Robert Strange, is to confirm Thomas in his appointment; and I would not ask that, if I were not sure that he is entirely deserving of the office and that his election would subserve the common weal. We hope to hear in a day or two, that he has been elected, and, indeed, to hear it from his own lips. In the mean while—whatever others may do—I am sure he will not descend to any unworthy means to obtain office or favour of any sort.

Wishing and expecting to hear often from you or your household and desiring for every one all that is good, I am, my dear sir,

Very truly your friend,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

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I forgot to tell the reason, why no *cabbages* are sent: which is, that there are not as many *hard-headed* in the garden as will make seed. All the rest are greens, tho' now growing very fast and likely to make cabbage in a short time, with good weather. I long to see the time when—

the rail-road being done—we can send you anything we have without any delay or trouble. There are no eggs hereabouts, and people ask as much or more for turkeys as you have to give in Raleigh.

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*From Samuel P. Hill.*<sup>1</sup>

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

RALEIGH 27th Novr. 1854.

*Dear Sir.*

You will I am sure pardon the liberty I take of writing you, when I say that a desire to arrive at the solution of a difficulty in which we are all involved is the leading motive. As perhaps you are already aware the Legislature has elected Gov. Reid to fill an unexpired term in the U. S. S; he will accept it forthwith as I understand, and the Speaker of the Senate<sup>2</sup> will by the 19th Sec of the Constitution become the acting Governor. Can the Speaker still preside in the Senate and perform the duties of Gov. or does his seat become vacant and he be known only as Gov. If the latter should there be an election to fill his place. I suppose there would be no necessity for this, if he is both Speaker and Governor. It has been suggested that the speaker remains Gov. only until the Legislature can elect a Govr. for the unexpired term of Gov. Reid, by virtue of the last clause of the 19th Sec. which our amended constitution does not repeal in so many words. I learn that Mr. Winslow the speaker of the Senate thinks he can execute both offices in opposition to both clauses of the 3d and 4th sec of the Bill of Rights. The true course to pursue is I believe, desired by all and many Gentlemen of the profession have been consulted in regard to the effect of the Govs. acceptance of a seat in the Senate upon the Speaker of the Senate. For if he executes the office of Gov. and goes out of the Senate and his Term of Gov. expiring on the 1st Jany can he then resume his seat if the Legislature should be in session?

I hope I am not trespassing too much upon your time and convenience to ask you to give me your opinion on the questions suggested, desiring it as much for my own enlightenment as well as to aid those with whom I am acting. It is a new question to us all and there is a difference of opinion and let me ask your learning and experience to aid us.

Very Respectfully

Your obt. Sert.

SAML. P. HILL.

[Address: Graham, N. C.]

<sup>1</sup>Samuel P. Hill, of Caswell, a member of the House of Commons, 1850-1856, 1860, speaker, 1854; senator, 1856.

<sup>2</sup>Warren Winslow.

To Samuel P. Hill.

ALAMANCE NOV. 29th 1854.

My dear Sir.

The points presented in your letter dated the 27th inst. are to some extent novel to me as well as to yourself, and I should therefore like to have due time to consider of them before venturing an opinion on them. But as I suppose the practical value of whatever I may have to say depends very much on its being said at once, I have concluded to reply immediately—begging you to make such allowance for the haste with which my work is done, as the difficulty of the questions and the difference in the opinions of others may fairly entitle me.

In the first place it is clear to my mind that the General Assembly cannot elect a Governor to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Reid. The provision of the 29th section of the Constitution of N. C. refers to the exercise of the general power of choosing a Governor, conferred on the two Houses by the previous provision in Sec. 15, and assumes as a matter of course, that it will be exercised at the first convenient opportunity by electing a Governor for the unexpired term: and, until that shall be done the Speakers of the two Houses are successively substituted “to exercise the powers of the Governor”. Now that *whole system of direct legislative election of Governor* is abrogated, by necessary implication, by the positive and affirmative declaration in article II of the amendments of 1835 that “The Governor *shall be* chosen by the qualified voters for the house of Commons at such Times and places as members of the General Assembly are elected—with the single exception of a tie in the popular vote for two or more: in which case *one* of them shall be chosen by joint vote of the Houses. The amendment, being thus plainly and alike incompatible with both the provisions in the 15th and 19th Sec. of 76 conferring on the legislature the powers of general and particular elections of the Governor, must be construed as superseding both of them by necessary implication. That is especially true when it is considered further that by the Constitution and the amendments other modes of designating an Executive are expressly prescribed—namely when there is a tie in the popular election by a vote of the two Houses between the persons tied, and, when the incumbent vacates the office by death, or by the office ipso facto devolving on the Speaker of one of the Houses. It is true these provisions do not certainly cover every possible case, so as at all times to secure an Executive (as both of the Speakers as well as the Governor may die or refuse) yet they are all we find, and must be supposed to have been deemed sufficient. At all events there is no authority in any branch of the Government to interpolate any other provision, similar, for example, to that contained in the act of Congress of 1792 in execution of the 6th Sec. of Art II. of the Constitution of the U. States. The question therefore, remains, who is Governor in case Mr. Reid enters on the duties of Senator? He certainly is not, for the

case is manifestly one of "inability and absence from the State" within the meaning of the Constitution. Then the express words of that instrument confer the powers of the Governor—if not the office—on the Speaker of the Senate for the time being. Upon that point I do not understand you to have much difficulty, but only the further inquiry as to the effect of his exercising the Executive powers on his rights to the office of Speaker of the Senate, or a seat in that body. I own I do not see that acting as Governor impairs the right of the representative or of the presiding officer in the Senate. There is nothing absolutely and essentially incompatible in the nature of the two positions. It is true the Bill of Rights S. 3 separates, or rather, declares that the legislative, executive and judicial powers of the Government ought to be separate and to some extent that principle is violated by the same person acting, even temporarily in the legislative and executive departments at the same time. Yet that does not establish the absolute incompetency of a person to discharge those functions. For, such qualifications to the general principle, announced, in the bill of Rights, must be admitted, as the Constitution in other parts of that instrument distinctly establishes. Thus, the power of impeachment, which is in its nature an executive attribute, is expressly conferred on the House of Commons, and the power to try impeachments, which is, beyond all question a judicial function, is vested in the Senate amendts. to Art. III. One provision in the Constitution is to be read with reference to all others, and general terms modified accordingly. Therefore the positive provision, that the Speaker of the Senate shall in certain contingencies exercise the powers of the Governor as enumerated in the Constitution, qualifies and overrides, in those particular instances, the general doctrine of the Bill of Rights. The Speaker therefore *may* act as Governor without constitutionally vacating the chair, or his seat in the Senate. And further, I am inclined to think that he *must* retain them, in order to his qualification to act as the Governor. As Speaker, *virtute officii*, he succeeds to the Executive authority—and when he ceases to be Speaker of the Senate, then the Speaker of the Commons in like manner succeeds "*virtute officii*" the acting Governor. It is true, the proper actual discharge of the duties of both places may be found in practice very inconvenient and the functions may be so conflicting in their demand on the incumbent's time and attention as to delay the public business and perhaps produce other detriment. But that is a consideration of inconvenience only, and cannot control the meaning of plain Terms in the Constitution. Besides, the inconvenience itself admits of palliation if not of being entirely obviated. If the duties of the Executive require the whole attention of the Speaker, he can easily signify the fact to the Senate, and that body may readily and will, no doubt, promptly provide a person to preside temporarily over its sittings in the stead of the Speaker, or allow that officer from time to time to call a member to sit for him. Those are known and habitual courses in all legislative bodies

in the necessary absence of the Speaker from any cause whatever. It may be said, however, that such a construction interferes with the inherent right of the House to appoint and change its Speaker at pleasure. Well, in this instance I suppose it does thus interfere. But admit it to do so, it is to be recollected that it is a constitutional interference: and it seems to have been necessarily so intended. It is apparent that the Executive office devolves upon the person who at the time happens to hold the station of Speaker, and the person thus designated and entering on the office, is to go on to discharge its duties without dependence for his powers, on either or both of the Houses of the Assembly. This must be so by all fair inference; since it is clear, that the Executive office is deemed in the Constitution a necessary and indispensable one, and if the persons entitled by designation to the office at the time of its falling in, were not absolutely entitled and held at the will of one of the legislative branches, it would be in the power of the two houses if they concurred, to subvert the government at once by removing their Speakers, and choosing others from day to day, or not at all. Hence; so far as remaining Speaker is a qualification for the Executive office, it follows that there is a restriction on the houses against removing a Speaker who has become Governor, or is in the exercise of the Governor's powers. Every construction is admissible, and indeed required, which is necessary to keep the department of the Government in esse—and the Constitution in full operation. An objection may be raised here that this construction exposes the State to the inconvenience of being without an executive in the interval between the expiration of one legislative term, and the meeting of the next assembly. But that objection strikes me as rather plausible than sound. In the first place, the Constitution itself provides that the term of the Governor shall be two years, "and until another shall be elected and qualified." And in order to keep the government in motion, it is fair to apply these words, not only to one elected Governor, but to *every person* coming lawfully and constitutionally into the office. But, if those words were not found in that instrument, the absolute necessity of the exigency requires, That he who was the last Speaker of the last Senate should act as Governor, as he would [be] usurping rights and powers belonging to or vested in no other person, and the exercise of which was indispensable to keep up the organization of the Government.

I conclude therefore that Mr. Winslow, being at the time of Mr. Reid's going out of office, Speaker of the Senate, enters on the Executive functions, and will be authorized to discharge them until another Governor comes in. Suppose, for example Mr. Bragg were to die, or refuse to qualify, are we to be without a Governor: or suppose he were to die after August 1856, would the State be deprived of an executive until the meeting of the Assembly, in November following. If not then it follows, that notwithstanding the want of express words in the constitution, the organization of the Government must be, preserved by such reasonable construction as the words and requirement of keeping on foot

the government may admit of or render necessary. It is to be regretted indeed that there had not been inserted in our Constitution, plain provisions similar to those in the 5th clause of S. 3 [torn] and the 6th clause of Sec. I Art 2 of the Constitution of the United States that would have [several words torn] But the want of such provisions is not to render our own constitution inefficient altogether, or even in any particular conjunction. Hence, neither the Senate has *power* to turn Mr. Winslow out of his chair nor the people of Cumberland a *right* to proceed to elect another Senator. Each body may find itself not as well served as it would have been had Mr. Winslow not been obliged to act as Governor. But the privation is one produced by the Constitution itself and therefore must be submitted to. I speak of the absolute and constitutional rights, and powers of those bodies and persons. Of course, I presume that any actual inconvenience will be obviated as far as practicable, by Mr. W's attendance in the Senate to preside and vote, when allowed by the Executive duties—and that when not thus allowed, the Senate will authorize him to call another member to the chair, or will itself select a member to act as Speaker, and in this last case, that it will be *expressly* to act *pro tempore*, by reason of the necessary absence of Mr. Speaker Winslow, and only during such absence.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

[Endorsed in pencil: Opinion of Judge Ruffin—as to the rights and duties of the Speaker of the Senate, on the occasion of the Resignation of Gov. Reid.]

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*From Edward A. Crudup.*

RALEIGH N. C. Nov. 30th 1854.

At a meeting of the Ex. Com. of the N. C. State Agri. Society just held in this city, I was directed to address you upon the subject of a call meeting of the Agricultural Society, to be held in this city at as early a day as can well be done, should the views of the committee meet your approbation. It was thought by the committee that perhaps this would be the best plan we could adopt by which to enlist the members of the legislature in behalf of the Agricultural interest of the State.

We think it essentially necessary to the success of this enterprise, that the State should aid us, by an annual appropriation or otherwise as the friends of the cause shall think most fit.

We submit the subject to your consideration. Should you think it advisable to call a meeting, please drop me a line, and I will have notice given through the press.

To Hon Thomas Ruffin

Alamance N. C.

*From Edward A. Crudup.*

FRANKLINTON N. C. Decr. 2nd 1854.

I have just been informed by our Treasurer, Mr. Hutchins, that the State Agricultural Society, will not be able to meet its liabilities by perhaps a thousand dollars, which deficit the Executive Committee is required by the Claimants to raise at an early day. This contingency was not provided for in our last annual meeting. And I find no clause in the Constitution or By-laws, authorizing us to borrow or otherwise raise money upon the faith or credit of the Association. I write you therefore Sir, to acquaint you with the fact, and to request that you will suggest to us the best mode of raising the above amount, by which to release us from this difficulty.

Last year, when we were under the necessity of borrowing a few hundred dollars, we did so upon our individual bond, a plan which I would not hesitate again to adopt, but at present it would be attended with a good deal of inconvenience.

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*To David L. Swain.*

ALAMANCE Decmr. 9th 1854.

*My Dear Sir.*

I have not yet heard from John, and therefore I am at a loss what to say in reply to your obliging note of the 2nd Inst, further than this: that, unless I hear from him today or tomorrow, I will go to see him on Monday, and immediately write you the result to Raleigh. That course I pursue on the supposition, that there will be several meetings of the Board and that my letter may not be too late to be so acted on as not to subject the Board or Faculty to any inconvenience. But if I should be mistaken in that, it is my request, as I am sure, it would be my son's desire, that the Board should proceed to make an appointment, as if he had never been thought of; since he certainly has the interests of the Institution too much at heart and that due sense of the good opinion of him evinced by yourself and the other Professors to allow him to be the willing cause of any detriment to his Alma Mater.

I will certainly write from Dr. Williamson's on monday or tuesday.  
I am, dr. Sir, with the greatest regard

Your obliged friend,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.

ALAMANCE—Decmr 9th 1854.

I expect Govr. Swain will be in Raleigh on monday, as that is the period of the annual meeting of the Trustees of the University. The enclosed note relates to a matter, which he may wish to bring before the Board; and I will therefore thank you to deliver it immediately after it shall have reached your hands—which, I hope, will be monday evening.

Will you allow me to trouble you once more with a commission to get for me and a neighbour our usual supply of Red Clover Seed from *Baltimore*—say Twelve (12) bushels, put up in bags of 2 bush each, and then enclosed in a hogshead. Let them be sent down the Bay to Portsmouth and then by R. Road to you at Raleigh. You know we always want the *best*: which is a good maxim in respect of all things, and of none, more than clover seed.

You obliged us very much by the early intelligence respecting Thomas, both in regard to his deportment and his election. I am sure, he merits the place: else I should not have wished it conferred on him. His honorable bearing satisfies me the more, that I was correct in my estimate of him, and makes me proud to find that he duly appreciates what is appropriate to the character of a *Gentleman*. He has been with us, but seems very *close* as to the incidents of the election.

I wish you had taken the State Bonds to the amount of what little money I have—about \$2000. I suppose, however, it is not very material, as there will, probably, not be much change in price before the 1st of Jany; and then I can lay out what I have and what I may then get for dividends etc. say five or six bonds.

I shall go to Caswell and Rockingham monday morning, and on my return will write you again, even should I not find a letter from you as I hope I may.

[P. S.] Mr. Cameron came up last evening and today he captured besides his own little Maggie and Buddy, our Jane, and left us this morning, in charge of his prisoners. We made the less resistance, as all hands here were busily engaged *in getting ice*, and were able to put up something over twenty wagon-loads, and but, for the coming of Sunday, could fill the house tomorrow, with the weather holding as it is. But, no doubt we shall have other opportunities; and, at all events, we ought to be thankful for the great blessing we have secured.

[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]



*To David L. Swain.*

CASWELL—Decmr. 12th 1854.

*My dear Sir.*

Agreeably to my promise I came up to see John yesterday! I find him distrustful of his ability to serve in the place of tutor of Mathematics to the satisfaction of the Faculty or himself, and the edification of his class, and, therefore, inclined not to undertake it. I have, however, persuaded him to keep the matter under consideration until my return here on thursday next. Then he will give a final answer, which I will communicate from Graham on friday, so that you will receive it by the Western Stage at Raleigh on Saturday evening. In the mean while, nevertheless, both he and I wish, that no uncertainty as to him may induce you to postpone acting on behalf of another and for the benefit of the University.

With great respect, Dear Sir,  
I am your friend and Obt. Sert.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

DR. WILLIAMSON'S, CASWELL, Decmr. 12th 1854.

I must trouble you once more to deliver a note to Govr. Swain. I expect to write him again by the Stage of friday from Graham. I will do so under cover to yourself and request you to call at the office after the arrival of the mail saturday evening, so as to deliver the letter to Govr. Swain that night. I have not time to communicate to you the subject of the correspondence, but have no objection that Govr. S. should.

I desired Mr. Baron to call on you for the sugar and Buckwheat etc. But yesterday morning I learned, that Wm. Covington would go down with my little wagon and be in town saturday morning. By him the things can be best sent, because without charge.

[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

*From Edward A. Crudup.*

FRANKLINTON N C Decr 14th 1854

*Dear Sir*

Your first note to me, on the subject of a called meeting of the State Agri Society I immediately forwarded to the Ex. com. at Raleigh, and requested that body to fix forthwith upon some suitable time for holding

said meeting, And give immediate notice through several of the Raleigh papers. The committee appointed next Wednesday, the 20th Inst as the time for holding the extra session of our Society.

Anxious that you should be with us on this occasion, And fearing, perhaps you may not see the notice given in the public prints, I have thought it best to drop you this note, stating the time of meeting, and the universal anxiety on the part of the friends of our association that you be present on that occasion.

I very much fear My Dear Sir, that we shall trouble you, yet I hope you will indulge us somewhat, for the improvement of Agriculture in N. C. is a subject in which we feel the deepest interest.

Very Sincerely

Your ob st

EDWD. A. CRUDUP

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*To David L. Swain.*

[Dec. 15. 1854.]

*My Dear Sir.*

The result of my son's consideration is, that he respectfully declines the appointment in the University. It is due to him and the Faculty, that I should mention his principal reasons. First of all is the want of confidence in himself: he thinking much more humbly of his qualifications than, apparently, the Professors do. Next, he fears to enter into a place of authority over so many young gentlemen, with whom he has so recently and so long associated on terms of equality; and, then, he has commenced the study of medicine—a profession he proposes permanently to pursue, under very favourable auspices, under the direction of an eminent physician and a kind friend, in whose family he finds a residence very agreeable. Those considerations, with some others having some, but not so much, influence, induce him not to change his occupation, although sensible of the great value of the station in the college, as the best school for himself, and sincerely proud of the estimation in which the Authorities of the Institution seem to hold him—for which and the kind regards exhibited by yourself towards him both he and I entertain all proper sentiments.—

I cannot but regret, for myself, this conclusion. Yet I have felt it to be proper to leave John to his own reflection and determination; and I own that I have the more respect for him, inasmuch as I feel the force of the grounds on which he has acted.

I am, Dear Sir, Your obliged friend,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Dr. James E. Williamson's  
Caswell County  
Decemr. 15th 1854.

*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE—Decmr. 19th, 1854.

I received last Sunday morning, a note from my friend Dr. Crudup, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Agricultural Society, saying that a meeting of the Society would be called for tomorrow, Wednesday, the 20th Inst, and requesting my attendance—especially as the chief purpose was to prepare and present a memorial to the Legislature asking for some endowment of the Society. Official duty required me to obey such a call; and, of course, it would have afforded me pleasure to do so. I, accordingly, wrote by the return stage to the Doctor, at Franklinton, that I would be with them at the appointed time. It was fully my intention to go down in the Stage which carries this note. But unfortunately I was taken on Sunday, during the afternoon, with one of *my bad colds*; producing severe cough, soreness of the chest and throat, and a smart fever, and it has continued to get worse and worse ever since. So that I am unwilling in such a state to adventure a travel in the stage by night, at this inclement season, and feel obliged to decline, or, rather, postpone my trip. Indeed, if I were willing, the ladies and every member of the family protest against such exposure, and it would be unpardonable in me to cause them so much uneasiness as they would experience during my absence. Now, my dear sir, can I get the favour of you to lay this matter before Dr. Crudup and request such consideration for my case as will form a good excuse for me in his mind and induce him to use his influence to produce the same result in the mind of others. In the hope that my personal presence will not be of material consequence, I confide fully in my duties at the meeting being properly performed by one of the Vice Presidents. Moreover, I have sometimes indulged the notion, that there is some mistake about the meeting, as The Standard and Register are taken in the house and a call for the meeting is not found in either. I shall, however, be in Raleigh as soon as I can suppose it safe for me to leave home, and I beg you to write me, whether there is in fact a meeting called, and for what day, so that I may get there if possible. You know, that, at any rate, I ought to be in Raleigh, on other business, the latter part of next week; and I propose going down, if well enough, immediately after Christmas.

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[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

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*From David L. Swain.*

RALEIGH, 19, Dec. 1854.

Tell John that his discovery of his incompetency to discharge the duties of Tutor of Mathematics, acceptably to the Faculty and himself

and usefully to the young men reached me at too late a day to enable me to spare his modesty, and that although I have great respect for his opinions generally, I differ from him very decidedly in this particular instance.

He was appointed Tutor of the Mathematics, by the unanimous vote of the Board on Monday the 11th. His non-acceptance was announced on Saturday evening, and his classmate Mr. W. R. Wetmore appointed in his stead.

I am here for the purpose of endeavoring to induce the General Assembly to restore Escheats to the University,<sup>1</sup> and entertain the opinion that if you were here, and I could command your active co-operation, for about two hours, I should succeed in accomplishing the objects of my mission.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

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*From Edward A. Crudup.*

FRANKLINTON N. C. Decr 26th 1854

Through your letter to Mr Roulhac I learned with much regret of your indisposition, I earnestly hope it will not be serious, or of long continuance.

I came out from Raleigh the 23rd. Inst. Upon consultation with the friends of our association, it was thought best to postpone the meeting which had been called for the 20th Inst. Until the 10th of January next

All things considered, I think it better for us, that we were disappointed in holding a meeting on the 20th. The weather was disagreeably cold, the legislature was upon the eve of adjourning for the Christmas holidays, and the members all seemed too intent on going home, to take any interest whatever in agricultural affairs.

I think it well for us to meet Sir; during the Session of the Legislature, for though we may not be able to get any efficient aid from that body, in the way of appropriation, We may, by well timed speeches from some prominent members of the legislature, and from other friends to N. Carolina's greatest interest, be able at least to excite in the members of the legislature, a degree of interest in this matter, which they will carry back with them, to their respective counties, and which will greatly redound to the advancement of this great interest of our State.

I spent all of last week in Raleigh; And I am happy to inform you that I succeeded, though not without much trouble in procuring, upon favorable terms, the necessary amount of money, by which to relieve the Agri: Society from its embarrassed condition.

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<sup>1</sup>By a law of 1798 escheats were bestowed upon the University. In 1852 they were diverted to the public schools but were soon thereafter restored.

I did not fail to use whatever influence I had, with the members of the legislature in behalf of our memorial, written by yourself, for the protection of the Sheep husbandry of our State.

I fear, my Dear Sir, I shall prove troublesome to you, I hope, however, you will excuse me.

To the  
 Hon Thomas Ruffin  
 Alamance  
 N C

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*From John K. Ruffin.*

PHIL. Jan. 1st. 1855.

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The medical lectures at the Univ. have not been suspended at all during the Christmas festivities; formerly there was an intermission of a week but the boys got into so many difficulties by excessive indulgencies of all kinds that by the common consent of students and faculty the custom has been discontinued. They keep us very busy indeed—we have six or seven lectures every day each an hour long; then at night I usually read over in the textbooks the subjects lectured on during the day, which together with the time spent in the dissecting rooms, over human carcasses will generally keep me busy the twelve hours. It is a hard life I lead here; I never worked as much before, but still I do so willingly because I shall never have such opportunities again, and because I find every day a greater charm in the profession I have chosen. I congratulate myself upon my choice and far from entertaining any wish to abandon it I will practice it if it shall yield me but a bare subsistence. There is a world within us of which low minds have no conception. The medical science is basely slandered when it is called a mere trade—a set of rules established by empiricism. It is true that as yet it is in its infancy,—that there are many phenomena presented that defy even the most skillful and experienced; still we have many truths established which are as unchangable as the course of nature itself, from which, laws and rules have been and will continue to be deduced until disease shall be so thoroughly under our controul that old age alone shall form the limit to life. I am fully convinced that it furnishes a field for a man to distinguish himself unequaled by any other profession.

There is a young man in my class, a mere youth from Georgia, named Jones<sup>1</sup> who has made such important discoveries in Anatomy and Physi-

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<sup>1</sup>Joseph Jones, 1833-1896, who had been educated at South Carolina College, Columbia, and Princeton, from the last of which he graduated in 1853. He received the doctor's degree from Pennsylvania in 1855 and served in succession as professor in several colleges, including the University of Georgia. He was a noted surgeon in the Confederate Army and after the war was a professor in Tulane and at the head of the Louisiana board of health. He was a well-known medical writer.

ology by the aid of the microscope as to have won already the attention of the whole profession in the United States. This morning Dr. Jackson publicly complimented him and quoted him in connection with the most distinguished European authorities. For such a compliment I would exchange nothing on earth, it is worth a lifetime of study.

It is getting late and I am almost at the end of my sheet so I will bid you good night. I wish you would write to me I think I may claim at least that much of your time.

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*From Asa Biggs.*

RALEIGH January 8, 1855.

*My dear Sir.*

I am in great difficulty about a question before a committee of which I am a member, and I hope you will pardon me for troubling you about it to respectfully ask your advice. I trust it may suit your convenience to answer me at an early day. It is more than probable that you are frequently annoyed in this way, but I venture to write because I cannot see my way clear and my time is so entirely occupied with my duties here that I have not time to examine authorities as I would desire.

At the last session a bill was passed according to the Constitution to divide the State into 50 senatorial Districts, which arrangement is to stand for 20 years. The Bill was introduced in the House of Commons and there was great excitement there about it, threatening at one time to leave the State without political organization. One of the points of disagreement between the parties was as to the 44th and 46th districts. The bill introduced made Ashe Surry and Yadkin the 44th and Burke, McDowell, Caldwell and Watauga the 46th District. After much controversy in the House it seems a Committee of two was appointed to whom it was referred. The Journal does not show who was the Committee except that it states Mr. Avery from the Committee reported and it is said Mr. Phillips was the other member. Neither does the Journal show what amendments Mr. Avery reported. Upon the examination of the original bill it appears that "Watauga" is interlined in writing so as to form part of 44th district, but it still remains not erased from the 46th district. The recollection of *all* from whom I have heard that were here, is, that the House made no alteration in these two districts as originally introduced; and in that way the bill went to the Senate. Upon examination of the engrossed bill it appears that it was so written out by the engrossing clerk. In the bill are two sections in which the counties composing the districts are named. In the first establishing the districts, and in the second, directing where the polls are to be compared. But on the engrossed bill, in the first section, "Watauga" is interlined *in pencil* and forms part of 44th district and is stricken out *in pencil* from

46th district—but no such alteration is made in the 2d section of the engrossed bill and that stands reciting the names of the counties composing each district correctly. The Journals of the Senate do not show that any amendment of any kind was moved there, and it is very certain that in fact no amendment was moved. The *enrolled bill* signed by the speakers, and on the back signed by 5 members of the Committee on Enrolled bills “Examined”, is a fair hand writing and in both sections where these districts are named Watauga is inserted in the 44th and left out of 46th. From these circumstances and the assurances of those deeply interested in the matter who watched the proceedings with care, I am now satisfied that a vile fraud has been committed. But can it *now* be corrected? and if so how? It certainly will be a great outrage if by a fraud the representation of a Senatorial district will be changed for 20 years; and still I cannot see how it is to be remedied. Suppose that the bill did not provide for representation in one of the districts, or that the name of one County in one of the districts had been left out by mistake or fraud, is there no way of correcting it? The Committee have directed the engrossing clerk to be summoned, and he is to appear before us tomorrow night, and if we can do no more we propose to ferret out the perpetrator of the fraud if possible, expose him and if practicable have him prosecuted in the courts of justice. From what I hear as to the concluding scenes of the last Assembly there is no doubt in my mind the Committee on Enrolled Bills signed the bill without having read or examined it, a course however very objectionable and censurable. The question is a very important one because it involves the purity of our legislation, equal in importance to the purity of the ballot box.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience I have the Honor

Very truly

Your friend

Hon: Thomas Ruffin  
Alamance Co. N. C.

ASA BIGGS.

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*From N. Price.*

*Dear Sir*

WHITE OAK GROVE N. C. 13 Jany 1855.

I understand that at our agricultural meeting on wednesday night the Editorial department of our State Agricultural Society was declared vacant, and the Executive Committee were required to select an Editor. As I shall not be at the meeting this evening I would ask the Society to rescind that order and appoint three or more persons to select an Editor. As the matter now stands it debars the Committee of the priviledge of Selecting a member from its own boddy and I think there is one member of the Executive Committee that would make an excellent Editor. I

allude to Dr. E. A. Crudup and I am certain that he would not accept the appointment were he selected as the matter now stands.

Yours very truly

[Address: Raleigh.]

N. PRICE.

*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE—Febry. 6th 1855.

Having written to you at large last night I should have no occasion to trouble you again but for the propriety of acknowledging the receipt today of your letter of the 3rd and expressing my thanks to you for your kind and successful attention to my affairs therein mentioned. All is right and as I could have wished.

I am happy to hear that all my children are safely through the measles—a disease not often dangerous in itself, but yet calling for much prudent precaution, as it is sometimes the foundation of other maladies seriously affecting the constitution. I think it therefore very wise to keep the youngsters within doors, tho' I cannot but feel with them in the privation of fresh air and free exercise—all, however, for their good.

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Like yourself, I have been and am a thorough internal improvement man and have regretted most earnestly, that it required so much *log-rolling* and combination to carry the proper measures of that character through the Assembly. It is only a natural consequence of such leagues, that useless and improper schemes should be taken up and carried thro also—often by the acts and solicitations of lobby-members and outside and dishonest pressure. I am sure that much of that sort of work must have been done at Raleigh this winter. By no other means is it possible, that the local, but heavy, projects could have passed, which have. I am very fearful, that the finances of the State will become embarrassed; and it is certain, that a publick debt will have been created, which will be very onerous—nay, more I fear than our people, who have have not been used to heavy taxes, will bear. My policy was to complete by the aid of the State the great main trunk of Rail Road from the ocean to our western limits, and then to allow any body the corporate faculty of making any other Roads for their own convenience and profit, which they would build with their own means, like the French Broad people have done. At all events, if other improvements should require the aid of a publick subscription or the State's credit, my opinion was, that they should wait until the State should have completed her own great work and be more at ease in respect to her pecuniary resources. My apprehension now is, that a popular odium will be aroused, which will be ruinous to the whole system and sacrifice our purest and ablest statesmen.



It will be found, I conjecture, that Mr. Biggs and Mr. Outlaw have been more sagacious and practically wise, as well as cautious, on these subjects than most of their associates. But as the thing has been done, it will be the part of a patriot to silence clamour, as far as practicable, and do all that is feasible towards the success of the measures and the credit of the State. Our credit is good now: But it is because, hitherto, we have kept out of debt. How it will be, when million after million is to be borrowed, beyond the means of our own citizens, is to be seen. My fear is, that the State can never raise the necessary money, if she limits her stocks to be sold *at par*, and that our citizens will never be satisfied with a heavy depreciation—a result that appears to me inevitable and greatly to be deplored. I think that few of our legislators can have much experience in stocks or have considered very much the theory of financiering for an agricultural community. I trust, however, that my views are too depending and that success in the works and in getting the means and in all things else may attend good and honest North-Carolina!

Love to all; and thus ends my homily.

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*From R. R. Bridgers and Others.*

TARBORO Feb 16th 1855.

*Hon. Thomas Ruffin*

*Sir*

The undersigned a committee of the North Carolina State Agricultural Society invite you to deliver an address at the next annual Fair.

They believe that an address from you would do much in arousing a proper Agricultural Spirit in giving permanency to the Society.

Very respectfully

R. R. BRIDGERS

H. K. BURGWYN

R. A. HAMILTON

P. S. H. K. Burgwyn Esq. requested me to say that he hopes to have the pleasure of meeting you in Washington City at the next meeting of the National Agricultural Society.

I have commenced the letter on burning ashes and making compost; it has been unavoidably delayed; hope to finish it next week as I have a respite from my courts.

Respectfully yours

R R BRIDGERS

From W. D. Cooke.

OFFICE OF "SOUTHERN WEEKLY POST,"  
RALEIGH, N. C. March 8, 1855.

Judge Thos. Ruffin  
Haw River,

Dear Sir

I have been requested by some of the members of the Executive Committee of the State Agricultural Society to write to you for some information in regard to the action proper to be had by them. We feel that it is highly important that the *Premium List* should be out as soon as possible. The Legislature having made an appropriation of \$1500 there is now no need for further delay, in making out the List. I am constantly applied to, for information on the subject. At the request of the members here, I have three times written to Dr. Crudup on the subject of a meeting of the Committee, but have received no reply. To-day we were informed that Dr. Crudup had resigned as Chairman of the Committee. If this is so, it is very important that this place should be filled immediately, as the Society is certainly suffering by the delay of the Premium List. I would respectfully suggest the propriety of having the Chairman of the Committee a resident of Raleigh, or else having some arrangement by which a meeting of the Committee can be obtained, without the presence of the Chairman. I am aware the office is one not easy to fill. If Gov. Manly would be willing to fill it, I think he would make a good Chairman, if not, there is Mr. Partridge, who would fill it as well as any other man in the State. I send with this letter the first number of the "Carolina Cultivator," the paper which I pledged myself to issue at the last meeting of the Ag. Society. The next number will be printed on entirely new type and will be an improvement on the first number. There not being time to procure a full meeting of the Ex. Com. it was suggested by members here to get a recommendation from those members who were in town, for the purpose of assuring those who do not know me that the "*Cultivator*" had their confidence. I should have preferred that the Committee as such, had taken formal action, but having waited with the "*Cultivator*" in type for two or three weeks for Dr. Crudup to call a meeting, without a reply from him, I could not wait any longer. Should you ever find leisure to write anything for the "*Cultivator*" it will afford me much pleasure to receive it. Hoping to hear from you at an early day I am

Very respectfully Yours.

W. D. COOKE,  
Secretary Ex. Com N. C. State Ag. Soc.

To W. D. Cooke.

[Copy]

ALAMANCE, March 1855.

*Sir.* Your letter was received by the mail of last night, and I reply to it without delay. I wish I could do so more satisfactorily to both, you and myself, than I can. I have no information respecting the resignation by Dr. Crudup of his place in the Executive Committee, save only the rumour thereof mentioned in your letter. I hope and believe the rumour to be unfounded. I think, if that gentleman entertained such an intention, he would most probably have communicated it directly to me; and the omission to do so almost satisfies me, that he has no such purpose. I should regret sincerely and exceedingly his resignation. He is so intelligent, zealous, active, and useful a member of the society and of the executive committee, and his services have been so acceptable to the society and the publick, that his loss would be greatly felt and generally regretted, and by no one more than myself; Until I hear further I shall indulge the hope, that he will now and for a long time retain his present position. I am somewhat surprised, that it should be supposed, he was not favourable to an early formation and publication of the Premium List for the next Fair, as he frequently and publicly declared his solicitude on that point during the special meeting in January and in several private conversations between us he expressed anxiously accordant sentiments. I am persuaded, therefore, that there must be some mistake as to his views in reference to that matter. At all events, I shall immediately write to him and ask an explanation and, as far as it may be permitted me, I shall endeavour to persuade him not to decline acting on the Executive Committee, and as its head; and I shall undertake to assure him, that, as far as I have had an opportunity of ascertaining the general inclination of the Society, the wish is very decided, that he should continue to act, as he has acted, as the efficient working Head of the Society. I think, if other friends would unite in that representation and expression of wishes, he could hardly withstand their urgency; and I am sure it may be safely done, consistently with the truth, as I have not heard hitherto a single suggestion from any quarter in opposition to him. If however it be true that Dr. Crudup hath resigned, or persists in doing so, I suppose it to be the established course, for the committee during the recess of the Society, to call another member of the committee to the chair. In that I may be mistaken as I have but little knowledge of the parliamentary course, or of the proceedings of similar publick bodies, and I should be obliged to any gentleman who would be kind enough to point me to any respectable precedent, or suggest any reasons, leading to a satisfactory conclusion.

I was not at all aware of your purpose to publish an Agricultural Paper until the day before yesterday the paragraphs in the Raleigh

Newspapers made known the appearance of "The Carolina Cultivator". I did not hear, or if I did, I did not comprehend, the pledge you speak of, as having been made at the last meeting. I heard, indeed, several gentlemen express a wish, that you should or could undertake it. But they all came to the conclusion that your other numerous, diversified, and important avocations and engagements would render it almost impossible for you to do so. Having no personal knowledge of your qualifications for the Editor of such a work, or of your leisure or want of leisure to devote to it, I acquiesced in what I supposed alike, your conclusion and that of your friends, and without busying myself in any way in the matter, I concurred with others in the wish that Mr. Lemay should proceed with the publication he proposed to make, and for which he soon after issued publick proposals. As a natural consequence of those incidents I deemed it incumbent on me to procure him such patronage as I could, and I have obtained subscribers to his "Arator", as opportunity offered. I presume he will go on with his Paper, should he have the sanction of a majority of the Executive Committee; and in that case I shall feel bound to sustain it as far as my patronage goes. But, if he should decline the publication, or fail to get the approval of the Committee, and it should be conferred on yourself, I shall with pleasure become one of your subscribers, and invite as many more as it may be in my power. It seems to me, certainly, the duty of the members of the Society to establish an Organ of the Society, and that the best means of doing so is to follow the lead of its own Executive Committee. I am, Sir, with much respect,

Your friend and Obt. Svt.

(Signed) THOMAS RUFFIN.

Mr. William D. Cooke  
Raleigh No. Ca.

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*From Charles Manly.*

RALEIGH 9th of March 1855.

*Dear Sir.*

At the late Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University, the following resolutions were adopted.

"Resolved that the Executive Committee appoint annually a Board of Visitors consisting of Five Members who shall be Trustees of the University, whose duty it shall be to attend the Examinations of all the College Classes immediately preceding Commencement.

Resolved that the Bursar be directed to pay the expenses of said Board of Visitors while travelling to and from Chapel Hill and while engaged in the performance of their duties: but no Member of said Board shall be paid his travelling expenses unless he attends the examinations, at least four days."

In pursuance of these resolutions the Executive Committee have appointed the following Members to constitute the special Board to attend the Examination at Chapel Hill, beginning the 28th day of May next viz:

Thomas Ruffin  
 Calvin Graves  
 Robert B. Gilliam  
 Lewis Thompson  
 John Gray Bynum.

I am very respectfully

Yr. Obt. Svt.

CHAS. MANLY.

*From W. D. Cooke.*

OFFICE OF "SOUTHERN WEEKLY POST,"  
 RALEIGH, N. C. March 10, 1855

Since writing to you two days since, I am pleased to learn that Mr. Partridge was misinformed in regard to the resignation of Dr. Crudup. He was here yesterday, we have appointed a full meeting of the Com. the first Monday of April, to adopt the Premium List.

*From Edward A. Crudup.*

FRANKLINTON N. C. Mar 13th 1855.

Your letter of the 10th Inst. with Mr. Cookes letter to you and your reply inclosed, came to my office this morning, and I hasten immediately to reply, and give you all the information I am in possession of upon the subject of your letter.

I cannot too strongly, My Dear Sir, express to you, my heartfelt thanks, and sincere gratitude for the kindly feelings which you entertain toward me, and my constant and earnest prayer is that my course through life shall ever be such as to merit a continuance of your confidence.

At the special session of the "Agri. Society" in Jany last, the "Farmers Journal" upon the statement of W. D. Cooke the publisher, was declared no longer to exist and therefore the society was without an "Organ". Whereupon Mr. Cooke introduced through some gentleman (Col Humphrey) a resolution authorizing the Ex. Com. to adopt an "Organ" for the Society the resolution passed. Upon this being known, two other

applicants besides Mr. Cooke came forward and presented their claims for that distinction, namely, Mr. Thos. J. Lemay of Raleigh and Mr. Kennedy of Goldsboro. (One of the editors of the "New Era".) Under these circumstances, after consulting with many prominent members of the Society and several members of the Ex. Com. all of whom concurred with me in opinion, I stated to these gentlemen, that inasmuch as there were three applicants for the recommendation of the Committee, I thought it best for the Com. to decline making a selection, and let the whole matter rest as it was, until fall, when the Society at its annual meeting in October, could adopt such a paper as it might think most suited to its wants. Two of the Gentlemen Mr. Lemay and Mr. Kenedy, acquiesced in this opinion. Mr. Cooke I thought seemed rather cross, and upon the Election of Mr. Lemay to the Secretaryship he remonstrated against it to me, said that he was wholly unfit for the position, and also that he was an applicant for the "Organ", and this would make him a much more formidable rival, and finally at the close of the conversation he told me "he should decline publishing at all."

I was in Raleigh frequently during the session of the Legislature using my every effort to secure the passage of the bill extending aid to the "Agri. Society of No. Ca." I heard nothing particularly from any of the applicants for the Organ. I next heard from Cooke through the note which I here enclose to you, (this is one of the three) I send also the title page to the "Cultivator" as first prepared. When this note came to hand, I was so closely engaged, professionally, with the case of a young Lady, on whom fond parents doted with the warmest affection and who subsequently died, that it was not in my power to answer Cooke's note. I however saw Mr. Whitaker of the Post Office department, one moment and requested him to say to Mr. Cooke not to publish his paper with that title page, if he did, it would demand, at my hands an explanation to the public, and the explanation would unavoidably greatly impair his future prospects for getting the position he seemed so much to desire.

The next I heard from Cooke, was a letter of complaint, that he had withheld his paper two weeks waiting for me to come and adopt it as the "Organ". Next constituting himself Secretary of the "Ex. Com". he writes me in relation to the premium list, and at the same time forwarded to me, in manuscript, prepared by Mr. Rayner the article which appeared in the "Cultivator" headed "Endorsement" requesting me to assign it. I sent it back to him immediately, perhaps a week after this by chance a copy of the "Cultivator" fell into my hands, and I was astonished to see the article alluded to, published in its columns. I went immediately to Raleigh and saw two of the gentlemen whose names were attached to the article "Endorsement", and they both expressed themselves as very much dissatisfied at the position they were made to assume by the publication of their names to the above article, and wished very much to have it corrected. Upon this I sent for Mr. Cooke and in the presence of Messrs. Jones, Patridge, Hutchins and Taylor, he agreed to correct the

false impression made upon the public mind by the publication of the article in question, If he does not, I will publish a card myself, explanatory of the whole matter.

Thus Sir, the matter rests at present, after seeing Cookes paper, with the names of four members of the "Ex. Com" attached to the article "endorsement" and before I knew the sentiments of those gentlemen, I said where I knew Cooke would hear it, "that before I would submit to see the great objects of the No. Ca. Agri. Society perverted, and the society be used as a tool to subserve the private ends of Cooke or any body else, I would not only resign my position in the Com. but would withdraw entirely from the association.

Cookes course in this business has evidently been of the most selfish character, and I wish it had been no worse, his whole object has been to forestall the Committee, and make it subserve his own private purposes. I could not be induced to pander to his wishes in this matter—he was therefore, delighted with the prospect of my resignation, his anxiety about the premium list, is all assumed. I anticipated perfectly Cookes design in his anxiety for a meeting of the Committee, his only care was to get something like a show of authority to his "endorsement" and I intended Sir, to thwart him, in his selfish design, in this I have thus far succeeded. I had not the most distant idea of resigning, and if I had, I certainly should not have done so without first consulting with you before taking such a step, and here let me assure you my Dear Sir that in this matter I certainly will not leave you, and again, could I be of service to you at any time in carrying out any matter in which you may feel interested you have only to direct and my efforts though feeble, shall ever be exerted in the desired channel.

I have given notice to the members of the "Ex. Com" to meet in the city of Raleigh on Monday the 2nd day of April. The business before the Committee will be to prepare the list of premiums to be offered at the next exhibition of the Society. And also, to select an "Organ," for the Society. This I would earnestly recommend as the best way of adjusting the difficulty with Cooke, and to adopt his paper I think, would greatly endanger the well being of the Society. Mr. Kennedy I have not heard from, but will write to him, and know whether he is still an applicant. "The Arator" is clearly the paper for us, and Mr. Lemay I think the most suitable editor we could possibly get. "The Arator" will be out shortly. The act granting to the Society \$1500 only provides that the Society shall raise a like sum before this can be drawn from the Treasury. I understand this to be the provision. I have not seen the bill, therefore cannot say positively that it is so.

I wish very much that you could make it convenient to be with us at Raleigh on the 2nd of April. You could greatly assist us and advance much the interest of the Society.

Cooke's letter to you and your reply I will return to you after a little. I have written this in a great hurry, and may have left some points unex-

plained, if so I would be glad to know it, when it will afford me pleasure to make any explanation that may be desired.

Please accept my best wishes, for your health and happiness, and the assurance of my highest regard.

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*From Edward A. Crudup.*

FRANKLINTON N. C. Mar. 16, 1855

Your note of the 14th enclosing one from Mr. Cooke to you, came to hand this morning. This renewed manifestation of your kind feelings places me under additional obligations which I heartily acknowledge.

Mr. Cooke's note is but a feeble atonement for the injury he would have done me as evinced by his letters to yourself and others. I however, accept it as sufficient.

I wrote you the day before yesterday and enclosed one of Cooke's "three" notes to me, on the subject of the premium list, and today I send you another one of the "three". There is still another of the same character, which has been misplaced, or I would send you that also. I send you these, that you may know how to estimate the zeal which he manifests in the cause of Agriculture. Notwithstanding his selfish designs he has been an efficient member of the Society and of the Executive Committee. My object has constantly been to make friends for the Society, therefore it was that I was opposed to Mr. Cooke's paper being adopted as the "organ" of the Society, it would have savoured of favoritism with which we had already been charged by some of the Editors.

I here again express the wish made in my former letter, "that if not too inconvenient for you you would meet us in Raleigh on the 2nd day of April and aid us in arranging the list of Premiums. Many of the Committee, I know, will not take that interest, and lend that aid, in this business which they ought to do. Last year I arranged the list myself. This year I must have assistance, because of the increased responsibility.

[P. S.] I earnestly hope you will respond favorably to the committee appointed to select a Speaker to deliver the annual address at the next "Fair".

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*From R. A. Hamilton and Others.*

*Hon Thomas Ruffin*

*Dear Sir*

We, the undersigned appointed a Committee at the last Annual Meeting of the North Carolina State Agricultural Society to invite a Speaker to deliver an address before the Society at the next Annual Fair, take much pleasure in hereby requesting you to perform that duty.



Permit us, sir to indulge the hope that you will yield to our Solicitations and thereby add another to the great benefits you have already conferred upon our cherished Society.

With Sentiments of profound respect and esteem, We are  
Your friends and obdt. Servts.

R. A. HAMILTON	} Com.
R. R. BRIDGERS	
R. C. PRITCHARD	

22nd March 1855.

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*From R. A. Hamilton.*

WILLIAMSBOROUGH GRANVILLE Co N. C.

*Hon. Thos. Ruffin*  
*Dear Sir*

22 March 1855.

I cannot refrain from adding a few words over my own signature in connection with the foregoing invitation. I take the liberty of begging that you will consent to deliver the address as requested. *Much* as you are aware sir, depends upon the exalted stand which our Society should occupy in every respect and I trust you will permit me to remark that no one thing will conduce more to its advancement and prosperity than your Complying with our invitation. But I will not permit myself to anticipate your declining.

With much respect Yours obt st

R. A. HAMILTON

It is proper, perhaps, that I should remark that I received a letter a few days ago from R R Bridgers, Esq. of Tarboro alluding to some error into which he had fallen and authorizing the use of his name by me in inviting a speaker.

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*To R. A. Hamilton and Others.*<sup>1</sup>

ALAMANCE, March 22nd, 1855.

*Gentlemen:* I received in due time your letter assigning to me the duty of delivering the address at the next annual meeting of the Agricultural Society. I had hoped and thought to be free from such tasks for the short remnant of my days, as I ought to be. For at no time of my life had I much turn for such things, and I have less now, being nearly without ambition, with a feeble and cracked voice, and a mind of less vivacity and vigor than formerly. Under those circumstances, your

<sup>1</sup>From the *Weekly North-Carolina Standard*, May 9, 1855.

letter really embarrassed me so as to prevent a prompt reply. To tell the plain truth, I kept it by me in hope I could summon resolution to say, No. I feel incompetent to rouse our people to exertion, or to guide their efforts. But as you seem to think I may do some good, and as I greatly desire to promote the welfare of Agriculture and the honor and usefulness of the Society, I do not find it in my heart to deny your application, but have concluded to make at least, an attempt to address my brother farmers—fearing, indeed, that you will regret your mistake in making the selection, and begging in advance, all proper allowance for an imperfect performance.

I am, Gentlemen, with great esteem, your friend and obedient servant.

(Signed) THOMAS RUFFIN.

To Messrs. R. A. Hamilton, }  
 R. R. Bridgers, } *Committee, etc.*  
 R. C. Pritchard, }

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*From John K. Ruffin.*

LOCUST HILL April 13th 1855.

It has been a long time since a letter has passed between us, so long, that I have forgotten which is debtor to the other. I dont know whose fault it is that our old correspondence should have ceased, if mine, my only excuse is that I have had nothing to write about. You I know will accept it as I believe it is quite a favorite apothegm with you never to write for the mere sake of saying, I have written.

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On Tuesday of last week I went to the Court House to hear Mr. Kerr address his constituents. He gave a pretty satisfactory account of his stewardship, bestowed high encomiums upon the political characters of Messrs. Badger and Douglas, declared himself a candidate for reelection and then thundered out his disapprobation of the Know-nothings, their principles and secret associations. He dealt in no invective or abuse but argued the question with more than usual calmness and certainty with a lenity much greater than it deserves. I'll declare it inspired my heart with more patriotism and with greater confidence in our religion, leaning as it does upon the arm of truth, to hear the grounds upon which he based his arguments, founded in christian principle and devotion to his country. I can't but applaud the character of a man who soars above party and self-interest to raise his voice against such an unholy organization. The Whigs to a man have deserted him thereby tasitly avowing that Whiggery, Know-nothingism and abolitionism are one and the

same. That speech won for him the approbation of every truehearted patriot together with many democratic votes but I fear it also signed his political death.

The cold winds we had two weeks ago sung the requiem of nearly all the tobacco plants in the country; every body has sown over but a good deal of apprehension is entertained about their coming in time. The Dr. I believe is absolutely afraid to go to his beds. By-the-by I expect he will call to see you in two or three weeks on his way to Chapel Hill to see John.

I am at present engaged in the dullest branch of the medical science, *Materia Medica*. It is so much on the dictionary order that I have been almost tempted to throw it down in disgust. My next book though, *Obstetrics*, will be interesting both on account of its novelty as well as of its importance.

You will doubtless be sorry to hear of the decease of the relict of your old friend and associate at the bar, Bartlet Yancey. I believe she had been declining for a long time, and on Sunday her disease terminated fatally. Brother Tom will have a capital case in this county also, a negro woman has been murdered. I understand three arrests have been made. I was sorry to hear William Kirkland's appointment had been withdrawn; it must have been a source of great mortification to him: to what fact is it attributed? I presume to his dismissal from West Point. The legal profession will doubtless reclaim its limb with great acclamations of joy.

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[P. S.] Dr. W. got \$2.25 a bushel for wheat in Petersburg the other day. Can you do better by grinding?

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*From Edward A. Crudup.*

RALEIGH, N. C. April 14th 1855.

As I apprehended, the meeting of the Ex. Com. of the Agri. Society which took place on the 2nd of April, was not attended by a majority of the members; consequently, no selection of an Organ for the Society was made.

We had Seven members in the meeting, three for the Cultivator, and four for the Arator; and we had also four proxies for the Arator.

When the subject was brought up for action, and the proxies of the absent members presented to the Committee, Mr. Cooke and his friends (Messrs Partridge and Whitaker) objected so strongly to their being allowed to vote on the question, that it was thought best to defer making a selection, until another meeting of the Com. could be had, which meeting will take place on Wednesday the 2nd day of May.

The friends of the 'Cultivator' finding a majority against them are now decidedly opposed to the adoption of any paper at all by the Committee, as an "Organ for the Society," but are anxious to refer the matter to the next annual meeting of the Society. This I think, would be very unjust to the other Competitors; Since; It was through Mr. Cooke that the power of selecting an Organ for the Society was conferred upon the "Ex. Com." And now after having used every means in his power to secure for his paper the recommendation of the Committee, as the Organ of the Society, and failing to get that distinction; to urge, that the Committee make no selection at all; is I think virtually saying to all other Competitors,—“If Mr. Cooke can not get it, no body shall have it”. I do sincerely hope that at the next meeting of the committee a selection will be made—; the Society and the country at large demand this of us.

I am here Sir hard at work on the premium list (alone as I apprehended). And I find it a much more serious job than I expected, Notwithstanding I was somewhat familiar with the business before I commenced it.

I am truly glad, My Dear Sir, to learn through Mr. Lemay, that you have accepted the invitation of the Committee appointed to “invite a speaker to deliver the next annual address before the Society at the “Fair” in Oct next. This will meet with universal approbation; and do more towards advancing the great interest we are laboring to promote, than any course which could possibly have been taken by the Committee.

We were somewhat unfortunate, in our two first selections of Speakers in getting them from the political ranks of the country.

A vacancy exists in the “Ex. Com.” of our Society, caused by the death of one of its members (Mr. Whiting). The power to fill that vacancy is vested by the Constitution in the President of the Society. And I would most respectfully suggest the name of Majr. Ashley Saunders of Johnston Co., whom you perhaps know, as a gentleman well qualified to fill the vacancy alluded to. He has been very highly recommended by Mr. Lemay and others as a gentleman of the proper spirit, and every way suited to the position.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

Alamance N. C.

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*From W. H. Jones.*

RALEIGH 20 Apl. 1855.

Do make it convenient to attend the meeting of the Executive Committee on the 2d May. The adoption of an Organ for the Society and the rules and regulations for the Fair will be two very important matters for our consideration. These and other vital matters have heretofore been left to a few of us here, though it was known we had as little or less experience in such matters than any members of the Committee.

From W. D. Cooke.

OFFICE OF "SOUTHERN WEEKLY POST"

RALEIGH N. C. Ap. 20th 1855

Dear Sir,

I had not intended troubling you with a reply to your favor of March 10th as I did not wish to appear to be seeking your interest in my publication after becoming aware that you had conferred with Mr Lemay in regard to his paper, but the extraordinary conduct of Dr Crudup in this matter which has developed itself since our correspondence induces me in justice to myself to trouble you with a plain statement of *facts* all of which I hold myself ready to prove at any time. I wish however, first to say, that the manner in which the report reached Raleigh, that Dr Crudup had resigned his position as Chairman of the Com. was as follows: Dr Crudup told a gentleman at Franklinton that "*by the next mail*" he should send his resignation to you. This can be proved. I merely mention this to shew that we had reason to suppose that the office was vacant.

Shortly after the close of the last Fair, when it was known here, that the Farmers Journal must stop, Dr. Crudup with other members of the Ex. Com. repeatedly and strongly urged me to continue the publication of an Agricultural paper, which should be adopted as the Organ of the State Society. There was not a meeting of the Ex. Committee for some time, at which this subject was not freely talked of as a matter that was settled and at a meeting of the Committee held on the 5th of November last, Dr Crudup drew up the following resolution which was unanimously adopted: viz: "Resolved, that a committee of of three be appointed members of the Ex. Com. of the N. C. State Ag. Soc. in connection with Mr. Wm. D. Cooke the publisher of the Farmer's Journal to confer with Dr. Tompkins, the editor of the same, upon the subject of making some certain and satisfactory arrangement in regard to the continuance of the publication of the said Journal as the organ of the society." The object of the resolution was, to bring the matter to a decision whether the "Journal" could go on, if not then to proceed with the other publication. At the interview of the Committee with Dr. Tompkins, he made the following proposition viz: that copies of a circular, which he had prepared, should be printed, and sent to about three hundred of his subscribers, urging them to procure at least 20 subscribers each, to commence with the year (April 1854) or to become responsible for 20 copies. Altho I was perfectly satisfied that this plan would not succeed, and altho Dr. Tompkins was then indebted to me, seventeen hundred and thirty dollars, I consented to publish the numbers of the "Journal" for November and December. These were published, but not a single subscriber was sent in as the result of the appeal, with the December number the "Farmers Journal" ceased to exist. About this time a mutual friend of Dr Crudup and myself, suggested to me that it would be a good plan to secure the

services of Dr Crudup as one of the editors (One having at that time been engaged). I was pleased with the suggestion and authorized the friend to communicate with Dr Crudup on the subject. He did so and the Dr. promptly expressed a willingness to accede to the proposition. We then had several conversations on the subject, at one of which Dr C. stated if he were connected with the "Cultivator" he could obtain 500 subscribers in Texas and that he would spend some time during the next summer in traveling through the western counties of this State, and procure subscribers, we went so far as to talk of the character of the contract we should make which was that the profits should be equally divided between the three interested. The matter was in this state when I wrote to Dr C. at Franklinton, requesting him to come to Raleigh that we might have a final understanding in regard to our copartnership and to draw up a contract. He came and in company with the other gentleman, engaged as editor, I waited upon him at the Treasurers office. Several gentlemen came in and remained during the evening, thus preventing our accomplishing the object of our meeting. As we retired Dr C. remarked that he would be up again shortly, when the matter could be attended to. The next time I saw him he remarked that as he was the Ch. of the Com. and I a member if his name appeared as interested in the new paper, Dr. Tompkins might think there had been some collusion between us for the purpose of breaking down his paper and therefore he thought it would be better for me to go on without him, and if hereafter it was thought best to make the proposed arrangement it could be done. Under these circumstances I went on with my preparations for the publication of the "Cultivator" with the understanding that a meeting would be called in January at which the necessary authority could be given to adopt it as the organ. At that meeting when the subject was brought up, Col. Humphrey requested me to draw up a resolution in regard to the adoption of my paper as the organ of the Soc. I then drew up the resolution which was passed with the exception of the last clause which was suggested by Mr. Rayner. After the resolution was offered Mr. Rayner called upon me in the meeting to know whether I would go on with the publication of a paper in place of the Journal. To this I replied that I would do so, and that I should supply this paper to all those who had paid for the "Farmer's Journal" to the end of the year, without further charge. The resolution was then adopted. It should be recollected that at this time no proposition had been made by any other person to publish an agricultural paper, at least that I had heard of, and Mr. Lemay's Prospectus did not appear until the Cultivator was in type. After the appearance of the Prospectus of the "Arator" I consulted with several prominent members of the State Ag. Society, and the advice of every one was that I should go on with the Cultivator. It was with much surprise that I heard after the Cultivator appeared that Dr. Crudup was using all his influences against the Cultivator and was advocating the adoption of the "Arator" instead of the Cultivator. At an

informal meeting of the Ex. Com. Dr. Crudup remarked that altho it was understood by all at the meeting of the society in January that the paper which I preposed to publish was to be the organ of the Society, but that as Mr. Lemay had subsequently issued a prospectus and had made application to have it adopted as the Organ, it altered the case, and that it would be advisable to adopt neither paper as the organ. To this course I was perfectly willing to accede as I was fully aware, that the simple fact of a paper being the *organ* of any society would not ensure its success but that it must have sufficient merit in itself to commend it to the public. Dr. Crudup has again changed his position and now advocates the adoption of Mr. Lemay's paper. His course has been very severely commented upon in Raleigh by those who have heretofore been his warm friends and who are acquainted with the facts in the case, not only on a breach of confidence but as calculated to do great injury to the Society.

Whether he will be able to carry his point at the meeting of the Committee on the 2nd day of May I do not know, but I am perfectly satisfied that under the circumstances, the adoption of either paper as the organ, would prove highly detrimental to the interests of the Society. What necessity can there be for an *Organ* when either of the two papers would as a matter of course publish all the proceedings of the Society, Premium Lists etc. I fear I have trespassed upon your patience by the length of my communication, but I felt it due to myself and important in other respect that you should know the facts in the case.

From a perusal of the first number of the Cultivator you will perceive that I do not edit the paper and that therefore it requires no more of my time than the publication of the "Farmers Journal." I however hope to be able to issue an Agricultural Journal equal at least to any in the country.

It would afford me very great pleasure if you could be present at the meeting of the Executive Committee on the 2nd day of May.

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*From Kenneth Rayner.*

RALEIGH No. CA. April 28th, 1855.

I returned to this place from Hertford on yesterday, and on reaching here I find considerable excitement and I fear bad feeling among those who have been our most effective men, in our great agricultural enterprise. It grows out of the question of adopting an *organ* for the Society. I shall not attempt to go into the merits of the controversy, between Messrs Lemay and Cooke. I know nothing about it, and I care nothing about it. I am the friend of the "Arator", and of the "Cultivator" too. I would be pleased to see both enterprises succeed. But so it is—there is

trouble among the respective friends of the two journals—and my honest opinion is, that if either is selected as the organ, the trouble will be greatly increased. Both of them have many strong, influential, and working friends; and if the Executive Committee discriminates between them, my fears are that we shall drive away from us, and lose the services of the friends of him who may be overlooked. There is a good deal of feeling aroused, and if either is made the organ a large number of the Executive Committee (as I am credibly informed) will immediately resign, this will produce confusion, and widen the breach still more—besides we cannot afford to lose the services of our effective and working men just at this time.

I know of no one who can settle this difficulty or come so near doing it as yourself. The Executive Committee meets here on Wednesday next 1st May. I think if you will by tomorrow's mail write a letter to Dr. Crudup, to this place, urging on him the impolicy of discriminating between them, and letting the matter go over for the action of the Society in October that the matter may be adjusted and time be afforded for passion and feeling to be allayed.

Let both Journals go on relying on their own intrinsic merits—and the competition and pride that will be incited will, I think it probable secure to us two good agricultural papers in the State.

Please pardon me for thus troubling you. I am actuated by no other purpose than to subserve the interests of agriculture in our State.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Orange Co. N. C.

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From W. H. Jones.

RALEIGH 4 May 1855.

The Executive Committee met here on the 2d., present E. A. Crudup, Thos. D. Meares, N. Price, W. R. Pool, W. W. Whitaker, W. D. Cooke, Jas. F. Taylor, W. A. Eaton and myself, we regretted your absence. The Prem. list was altered and adopted together with the Rules and Regulations for the next Fair, after which the question of an Organ came up, and on motion of Mr. Eaton, no Organ was adopted,—now under all the circumstances, which you understand, I think it due Mr. Lemay, that his paper should have a recommendation, as Mr. Cook has had the benefit of an *Endorsement*, though *obtained unfairly*, to say the least of it, to this end I enclose a paper for your signature, to which I propose getting the signatures of as many members of the Committee as I can.

I am not partial to the wording of the recommendation, so alter it to suit yourself if you feel disposed to sign it, I desire your signature first, because I know it will influence *some* who are afraid of responsibility.

Please sign as Prest.



*From Cadwallader Jones.*

Monday May 7/55

We had a meeting of the Vestry to-day, at which, you, Mr. Thos. B. Hill, E. D. McNair and myself were appointed delegates to the convention to be held at Warrenton on the 16th inst.

I very much hope you will find it convenient to go and I should be greatly pleased to revisit the scenes of our youth in the company of yourself and Edwards, the only intimates of my early and medieval days now remaining, but as I am looking for the return of my children home from Ten. about the last of this week or early next, I fear I may not find it either convenient or proper to leave, in a case where there is a great *necessity* for my going.

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*From George C. Patterson.*

WASHINGTON, May 31st, 1855.

I have lately been in correspondence with W. J. Bingham Esqr. of Orange County in your State, on the subject of engaging with him as manager of his farm. In the midst of our correspondence Mr. B. (by the advice of his physicians) has determined to retire, for a season, from his professional duties, at "Chappel Hill", and, as his salary will also cease upon his retirement, at the close of the present month, he does not feel warranted, at present, in incurring the expense and trouble of erecting the necessary buildings etc. for the accommodation of a manager. From the evidences of my agricultural skill and knowledge, (elicited during our correspondence), Mr. B. seems desirous that I should meet with some encouragement in that region of Country, and has therefore advised me to write to you, among other gentlemen of his acquaintance, on the subject. I, accordingly, did so, but, by an inadvertancy, the letter to you was directed to a gentleman of your name (your son as I am informed) residing at Goldsborough Wayne Co; finding my mistake, I now endeavor to repair it by addressing you at your proper post office.

I have, for some time, felt anxious to make an engagement in your State, by reason of the repeated evidences I have (from gentlemen residing there as well as from information derived from the public Papers and the various letters in the Patent Office Reports) that considerable improvement might be introduced in the mode of farming generally adopted in North Carolina, and that much of the delinquency now charged to its soil and climate, would, if a proper system was adopted, be found more properly attributable to the *farmers themselves*. To be brief, I will say that my whole theory of proper farming consists in

clover, the free use of concentrated manures, and a proper *rotation of crops*. I am aware that it is generally, if not universally received among your farmers that clover cannot be grown with any certainty on your lands. I am satisfied this opinion is a mistaken one, and have given Mr. Bingham my reasons for this belief; to be sure, much depends upon a *practical experience* in the "modus operandi" in any undertaking, and, as you are aware, we may be *told* how to do the simplest things, but never having *done it before*, we want that essential desideratum at last (experience) before we can count upon a successful effort. Mr. B. intends to follow my advice in growing clover, in all probability he will succeed, but however particular he may be in following my directions, yet there are a great many little minutia to be attended to, in carrying them out, which, though of importance, are impossible to be detailed intelligibly in a letter. I have also given Mr. B. my reasons for the frequent failure which farmers in your region encounter in growing wheat. I have likewise described to him the system of *Rotation of Crops*, which has wrought such wonderful effects in Western Maryland, and the adjoining portions of Pennsylvania and Virginia and have added my reasons why it has proven itself so preferable to all others.

As this is mere[ly] a letter of enquiry, I will not trouble you more than to add, that if I can get a situation as manager on a large estate, or allowed the charge of a small one upon which to "try my hand" I will accept either upon fair terms; Should the latter alternative be agreed upon I would need but few hands, say 1 good ploughman, and team of 3 good horses or mules, a boy and a pair of oxen, and a woman to cook, wash etc. for my family and the hands, after the present year I will agree to take a share of the crops as a full compensation—so that if I *make* nothing, I *get* nothing. It is immaterial to me how poor the land is, so that it has a dry, undulating surface, with a good clay *substratum*—and healthy. I feel confident that in the course of 2 or 3 years I could (if properly seconded by my employer) make such a change in the appearance of the premises as would attract the notice of the passer by.

I will only add that I am married and have 2 small children, was born and raised in, what is now, the most productive region of Maryland, have been accustomed to the management of negroes for 20 years and can furnish the most ample testimonials of my character from the highest sources in our State. My family name may not be unfamiliar to you, as farmers and stock raisers.

I shall be glad to answer any communication upon the more immediate subject of this letter as well as any other connected with that most engaging of all earthly pursuits, the culture of the soil.

P. S. I have sent an advertisement for publication in "The Carolina Cultivator", published in Raleigh, by Mr. Wm. D. Cooke, Esqr., and also have had one inserted in the "Daily Union" of this place, addressed to the Planters and Agriculturists of the South.

*From Elisha Mitchell.*

To Hon. Thomas Ruffin  
My Dear Sir

[June 1st, 1855]

I find no notice of the circumstances mentioned by you as connected with the fructification of the Pine in any of the books. Yet I think I understand them. It is with this tree as with the oak—the white oak. The fruit is produced on the young shoot of the present year—and the wedding takes place before the leaves are unfolded. I refer here to the oak; not the pine. The young shoot then pushes out, the leaves unfold and the little acorns begin to exhibit themselves along the tender branch. In the red and black oaks it is the same, only the acorns take 18 months to mature, passing over one fall and ripening the next.

Now for the pine. What we call the flowers are only the male part of the bloom which when it has accomplished the ends for which it was created falls off. In the mean time the female part of the flower, the young burr, which is very small at first has been impregnated just as in the case of the acorn and becomes large enough to attract attention only some time afterwards—furnishing matter for a busy mind to employ itself upon during a journey from Alamance to Chapel Hill.

E. MITCHELL

Signed sealed and delivered June 1st 1855.

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*From Joseph B. Batchelor.<sup>1</sup>*

WARRENTON June 9th, 1855.

It is with a feeling of great hesitancy that I address you this note, and I hope you will allow me to plead the peculiar circumstances of this case as my excuse for doing so.

By the 39th Section of the revenue law passed by the last Legislature, Chap. 37, it is enacted that a tax be laid on "Surgeon dentists, practicing physicians, practicing lawyers, and all other persons, whose practice salaries etc."

Ministers of the Gospel are alone excepted.

In the two preceding revenue acts, passed in 1848 and 1850, the Judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts and the Governor of the State were excepted, and these acts were construed to embrace all other persons. This act not containing the same exceptions, but the Legislature having stricken from the bill as reported the exception in favor of the Judge of

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<sup>1</sup>Joseph (John) Branch Batchelor, of Warren, who graduated from the University in 1845 and was attorney-general from 1855 to 1856.

the Supreme and Superior Courts, clearly embraces these officers, and must have been intended by the Legislature to impose a tax on their salaries.

Its constitutionality has, in this particular, been seriously questioned; and many persons of acknowledged ability hold that it violates that clause of the amended constitution, which provides that "The salaries of the Judges of the Supreme Court or of the Superior Courts shall not be diminished during their continuance in office". It will occur to you at once, that no case can be carried before the Supreme Court for their decision on this point, were it even probable that either of the Judges would resist the payment of the tax for the purpose of hearing it decided—the decision of which will not, in some degree, affect their own individual interests, and a feeling of delicacy will prevent them from deciding a question in which they may be said to be so immediately interested. This may cause a question which I regard as of great importance to the people of the State, to be left undecided, with a submission, on the part of the Judges, to an act which will soon be construed into a precedent for the exercise of a like power by the Legislature on other occasions.

The Judges of the Supreme Court actuated by this feeling of delicacy, and a desire to avoid the decision of a question so nearly involving their own interests, have called on me as the highest law officer of the State, for my opinion as to the constitutionality of the act in this part, expressing a determination to be governed by it whatever it may be. This places me in a position of much greater responsibility than I should otherwise occupy. If the point were to be left open, for the investigation and adjudication of the highest law tribunal in the State, I should form my opinion, after proper investigation and reflection, with a feeling that any error of mine would be corrected by the higher and abler authorities. But as it is now presented, the opinion which I may give, may have the effect of preventing any other decision. It is of the greatest importance then, that the question be settled in such a way as to secure a general concurrence of opinion, without—if possible—an appeal to the Supreme Court. I feel no doubt that any opinion which commands the concurrence of the legal talent of the State will be generally acquiesced in, and adopted by future Legislatures. The judiciary exercises none of its powers with so much hesitation as that of declaring an act of the legislative branch of the government unconstitutional; and, although the power to do so is now too firmly settled to be questioned, yet it is only in clear cases that it will be exercised. In doubtful cases respect for the Legislature demands a concurrence in their decision. In a case like this there would be much greater reasons for hesitation.

It is, I assure you, with no purpose or inclination to avoid any just responsibility which I should assume, that I ask your opinion in this matter. If the question was one where a decision by our courts could, with propriety, be had, I would not hesitate to express that opinion, to

which an investigation of the subject should lead me. I hope, therefore, that you will take the peculiar circumstances of this case as my excuse for intruding on that retirement which you have voluntarily chosen to the great loss of the State and regret of your numerous friends. But knowing that your desire to be of service to the State is still as strong with you as ever, though now vested in a different pursuit, and that there was no one whose opinion could do so much towards settling this question, I have overcome my reluctance to trouble you, and shall esteem it a great favor if you will send me your opinion on the constitutionality of the act in the part mentioned.

There is no decision in this State touching the question and it must be decided from general principles. The salaries of the Judges cannot be reduced during their continuance in office but the power to impose a tax on their salaries as part of a general revenue system, imposing a tax on all incomes, is claimed as not being a reduction of their salaries or not so intended. The point has once been decided in Pennsylvania in the case of Commonwealth ex relat. Hepburn vs Mann. 5 Watts and Sergt 403, referred to in 1 Kent's commes. Sect. 14, 294 and 295. This is the only decision which I have been able to find, after an examination of all the books in my reach. This decision having the approbation of Mr. Chancellor Kent would be high authority here, if it was decided directly on this point, and not on the point that the Legislature intended by the tax to reduce the salaries. Of this, however, I cannot decide as the reports of Pennsylvania are not in the public library. But from the way it is stated in Kent it appears to be an authority in point.

Allow me to ask an answer as early as your convenience will permit.

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*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE—June 18th 1855.

You will find herein a counterfeit note for \$50, purporting to have been issued by the Bank of the State of No. Ca. which John passed in Raleigh and you were kind enough to redeem for him. He, of course, returned it to me, and I should, also of course, with my thanks send you good money for it at once, did I not wish this Counterfeit affair to be settled at once: which it can be and ought to be between you and Thomas, who, I understand, is now in Raleigh. I say between you and him, because it is plain enough at a glance, that the note is counterfeit, and because it is absolutely certain, that I received it from one of you two. I think it is was from Thomas, but I am not certain. I am positive, however, that it was from one or the other of you. For in the beginning of May, I had no money—that is, not \$50 altogether. On the 16th of May you paid me \$200 on order from my brother and \$24.20 on my check on Bk. Cape Fear; and on the 22nd of May Thomas paid me

\$380 which he collected for me in Rockingham. Besides those sums I have received no other since the month of March, excepting only \$4 from four of Mr. Lemay's Subscribers. Moreover, I have had but the one note for \$50 for these many months. So there can be no possibility of mistake in saying, that either you or Thomas let me have this identical note; which of the two, you must settle between yourselves, as I have already said. I suppose, one or both of you can recollect, whether he did or did not pass a \$50 note to me as a part of the above mentioned, whichever passed such a note he passed this very one; for I had no other. Now, if you can remember, that there was a \$50 note in the parcel of money, you handed me, then this note belongs to you, and you are already paid for the money you advanced for John. If you did not pass such a note, then Thomas did; and if he can remember, that he let me have a note of that size, then he is the man to take this back, and give you good money in the place of it. Of course, I refer the matter to your good memories, and I have only to add the expression of my wish that there should be *no compromise* between you two on the ground, that neither can remember that he did or did not pass the note in question, or one of that amount. I prefer submitting to the loss, myself, in case it cannot, without danger of mistake, be put on the right man; since it was my folly not to examine the notes I received from either and my neglect not, by some mark or otherwise, to be able to identify the note as coming from the one, who in truth passed it. Besides, as both he and you received the money as a kindness to me, I would rather lose it, unless the one, who takes it back from me, can trace it to the person from whom, he got it, which I sincerely hope can be done.

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I shall finish my wheat harvest tomorrow—the good weather continuing. We have to thank God for a *good* harvest. Better wheat I never saw, that is, in quality of grain. It is heavy, plump and free from any disease whatever. The yield is also good—making, I think, from 7 to 20 bush to the acre through the crop, and probably averaging 14 or 15 bush. It is the best crop I ever made, and at present the oats promise an average, especially, if another rain should come within a few days. The corn and cotton are, however, very late and small, and the meadows below par, from the cold and drought. On the whole, though, we are wonderfully blessed in the possession and prospect of the staff of life. What a Country we have! To think that it should be spoiled by the infernal and detestable self-seeking politicians—cheats and dupes—plotting treason in secret dens and caverns. Out upon them, vile vultures. May they be driven from the society of all honest *Real-Americans*, whom they habitually libel, as the two corrupt parties, from whose ruins *they* have arisen; whereas *they* are the corrupt parts, pretending to be pure and american, like "*whited sepulchres full of all uncleanness*"! Blessed be God, they will rot and evaporate before long. May one of them never be heard of more!

[Address: Raleigh No. Ca.]

To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.

ALAMANCE—June 21st. 1855.

Since I wrote to you enclosing a \$50 counterfeit bank note, I have been thinking further about the matter, and the result is, that unless you or Thomas *can remember* letting me have a note of that denomination, I have to repeat my request, that neither of you will take the loss on himself, but leave it to me. My reason is, that on looking over my last account I find, that early in March I received from another gentleman, Mr. Edwin M. Holt, nearly \$400, and that up to the time I got the money from you I had not paid away the whole of that sum, but must have had on hand about \$150. I do not indeed, think I got this note from Mr. Holt, because, first, he is the best judge of bank notes in these parts—in fact, an excellent judge—and I do not believe he would have either received or passed such a note as that I had; and, secondly, I have no recollection of getting from him, such an one, but I am under the impression, he paid me all in small notes, for which he apologized. Still, it is possible this note may have come to me through his hands; and therefore it is not so absolutely certain, as I at first supposed, that it came from you or Thomas. Indeed, I suppose you to be as competent as Mr. Holt or any one to decide on the genuineness of our circulating paper. Hence I regard, at present, the *probability* is the greater, that poor Thomas was the victim or made me the victim of his want of skill and my confidence in him. But I cannot affirm peremptorily, that he is the man; for Mr. Holt or you may have been. All I can say is, that I have had but the one note for \$50 for half a year, or even a year, I think. Therefore it *must* have come from one [of] you three gentlemen: but from which one, in particular, I am unable to determine. Hence I conclude, that between us four *I* must be the loser, unless one of the three payers of money to me can recollect, that he paid me a \$50 note. In case of such a recollection, then certainly the recollector owes me this money—otherwise not.

Joe went up with John to Caswell and yesterday returned readily—finding the way back along a strange road of 28 miles. You see, he is earning his June apples, sure enough, and is gaining reputation, besides. You will be pleased, and all others with you, to learn, that our friends Mr. Cain, Mary, James and his joyous young bride are our guests: and that yesterday Anne Cameron and her five youngest bairns arrived upon an honest filial visit of a fortnight—so that we have a cheerful house and a pleasant time. We hope to have Katy and her youngsters before the summer is out—especially as we look certainly—that the rail road can bring them within five miles in all July, and, indeed, within a few days can deliver them at Mebane's, within eight miles. From either point we can muster carriages, buggies, and painted buggies enough to transport them with bag and baggage to the "old place" on Alamance, with its apples, peaches, grapes, and other good things!

N. B. Tell Thomas to work up "Hairston's will" bright and clear: to be modest, but calm, collected and firm. If he hath a good case, maintain it with what learning he can command—at all events with good common sense, and like a *man*, as he is.

[Address: Raleigh, No. Ca.]

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*From George W. Freeman.*

CIRCULAR LETTER.

LITTLE ROCK, July 7th, 1855.

*My Dear Friend.*

It has long been the anxious desire of my heart to establish in the State of Arkansas, in connection with, and under the auspices of the Church, an Institution of learning, which, besides advancing the much neglected cause of sound Christian education, should form a nursery for the training of pious young men, natives of the country, for the sacred ministry. Without such an auxiliary it seems vain to hope for an adequate supply of our spiritual and ecclesiastical wants, in this, comparatively, forsaken land.

An opportunity for the establishment of such an Institution, under favorable circumstances, is now afforded me; and, believing you to feel a deep interest in the work of diffusing Christian education and extending the influence of Christ's Religion and his Church, not only in your own immediate neighborhood, but every where throughout the length and breadth of our spacious country, I appeal to you personally for help.

The purchase of a piece of property, admirably suited for the purpose, lying in the north-western part of the State and near to the boundary of the Indian Territory, has been, in part, effected; and, I *hope*, by the aid of yourself and others to whom I shall apply, to be enabled to complete it. This property consists of about thirty acres of land, three miles from the town of Fayetteville, in Washington County, north and west of the range of Boston Mountains, on which there are already good and sufficient buildings for the accommodation of the proposed Institution. These buildings consist of a Hall of instruction, *fifty-four by twenty-four* feet, two stories high, built of brick, and containing four large rooms; a spacious dwelling house for the family of the head master and boarders, another dwelling containing six rooms, suitable for dormitories; and a small chapel, all of wood. There is on the premises, and at a convenient distance, a bold spring of pure water. The property has, for a number of years, been occupied as the site of a private school of high character, known as the "Osark Institute."

This whole property is offered to the Church for the moderate sum of five thousand dollars; five hundred of which are generously contrib-



uted by the proprietor, who, formerly a Methodist, has recently become a good and well informed Churchman, and who has, heretofore, conducted the "Osark Institute." Two thousand dollars more have been subscribed by the vestry, and members of the congregation of St. Paul's Church, Fayetteville. The sum now wanting to complete the purchase is *two thousand and five hundred dollars*.

The property, when acquired, is to be conveyed, without incumbrance, and inalienably, to trustees for and in behalf of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Arkansas, represented by the Missionary Bishop, or, the Bishop and annual convention, when organized into a Diocese. The Institution is to be of a strictly church character; and subject to the direction and control of the Bishop, or of the Bishop and the annual convention.

Relying upon the wished-for aid from the members and friends of our Communion, the school will go into operation, D. V. on the first day of September next, under the name of "The Diocesan School of Arkansas." Will you not, for the sake of Christ and his Church, give us your aid, in this our necessity, to the extent of your ability? Will you not do, for us and our good work in some good measure according "as the Lord hath prospered you?" I hope and trust so, and as you give, so will our prayers be offered for your prosperity and happiness, both temporal and spiritual, both now and forever.

Any sum you shall feel free to bestow upon this cherished object of my aspirations and prayers, may be remitted directly to me (by check or otherwise), or else may be deposited with T. N. Stanford, of New York; and whatever it be, rest assured it will be received with the grateful thanks of

Your faithful friend and Servt in Xt.

GEO. W. FREEMAN.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

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*From Robert R. Bridgers.*

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

TARBORO July 9th 1855.

Dear Sir.

The enclosed sheets have been written amid the interruptions of business.

I wrote the communication as I informed you some time ago, and have retained it for the purpose of re-writing, but have not had time.

When I write I find it necessary to complete the subject matter without having to give attention to business matters of a different sort, otherwise I brake the thread of my subject and make a knot where I resume, and get the matter in confusion.

I would not send you these sheets but I value my promises higher than my composition.

I send the sheets trusting you will make all proper allowances, considering the circumstances under which they were written.

Yours respectfully

R. R. BRIDGERS.

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[Enclosure]

In compliance with your request, I avail myself of my first leisure to write you about the improvement of agriculture in Edgecomb county; and more particularly of burning ashes, and making composts manures.

Ashes contain many of the properties of a good soil. They add to the compost heap many of the elements essential to vegetable production, and by their chemical action soil, change some of the inert and useless substances into active food for vegetation. If durability of improvement, and adaptation to variety of soils, and crops be considered, in sections of our country abounding in useless timbers, ashes are without a rival as a manure. Whether made from the wood of the oak or pine, hickory or gum, or any other wood, they act well in the improvement of soils of every description.

There is much less difference in the value of ashes of different wood than is supposed; the great question in burning is what quantity of ashes will the timber make, for if you can get the ashes you may rest assured that you have a good manure.

Many suppose that the capacity of ashes to make soap is a test of their value in agriculture; this is a mistake it is only the test of potash; and this is established by the fact that the spent ashes gathered from the ley gum make an excellent manure. Chemical analyses shows that a cord of soap boilers ashes after being leached or spent, contains fifty pounds of potash, one hundred and seventeen pounds of phosphate of lime and a ton and a half of Carbonate of lime—that is leached ashes have the active elements of marl, bone dust, and plaster of paris; three substances of great value in agriculture. The acids except phosphoric are lost in the process of leaching; but this with the lime contained, would make them of great value.

Ashes are concentrated vegetable mould, without the volatile elements of the latter; the former is the result of decomposition at a high heat and the latter at low heat.

If you can spare the wood; make the ashes; after the first season you will never debate the question whether this or that wood makes ashes of value for manure; the question will be, can the necessary quantity be procured.

The supply of ashes is collected from burning the dead and useless timbers of the farm new grounds, from husbanding the ashes made from the consumption of wood for domestic purposes, and the spent ashes of

the soap boiler. The two last appear very inconsiderable at first; but if closely attended too will on a large farm give the means of enriching several acres. In Eastern North Carolina are found, on every River creek, branch or swamp farm large quantities of useless and dead timbers. The latter in the opinion of physicians increase and greatly aggravate the fevers incidental to our climate, and any system that would pay the cost of destroying them would add greatly to the profit and pleasure of farming in the alluvial country by saving medical bills and encreasing health.

In dry seasons of the year, when not too windy or hot, the hands can make ashes of the dead timbers, if they or a part of them can be spared from the farm. It is most certain to secure a good supply to have hands whose business shall be the entire year to save and make manures. With us such hands make what is called an improving force and assist in the farm only in getting out the compost and in saving the crop/

If the weather is wet the wood is difficult to burn, the ashes become leached, the potash diminished, and the acids lost or greatly impaired; if it is windy the ashes are wafted on the wind and so scattered that a large proportion are lost and the quantity lessened or injured by the high heat generated by the fires increased by the wind; if too hot the excessive heat may make sick the hands who are unaccustomed to it; if too dry the woods may take fire and not only burn the dead timbers in such manner that the ashes will be lost, but destroy much of the green timber, and farm fences at a time of the year when the loss could not be easily repaired.

Small heaps yield a greater quantity of ashes in proportion to the wood burnt than large heaps. Large heaps, generate a high heat which diminishes the available quantity of ashes.

If the trees are standing it is usually best to cut them down, and be careful to save the the limbs and bark, which contain more potash than other parts of the tree. In the Fall, it sometimes happens that we have an atmosphere for days together, almost without wind; at such time trees in good condition can be burnt standing, by keeping the stump well filled with dirt to prevent the fire from burning into the ground making a hole in consuming the stump into which the ashes fall, and the heat becomes so great from the partial exclusion of the air, as to diminish the quantity of ashes, and from which the labor required to take them would be worth more than the ashes.

A high heat diminishes the quantity and quality of ashes; the more volatile elements are driven off; others less volatile become sublimated and in the condition of vapor rise in the exhausted column of rarified atmosphere, and are blown off by the currents of air that almost invariably rise near large fires.

There is however danger of getting the heaps too small. The rule is to take the middle course, between wasting timber and time with large and losing labor with small heaps.

Those who are beginning to burn ashes, would do well to burn both a large and small heap of wood at the same time; in the experiment the advantages will be so obvious that in the future no arguments will be necessary to prove the advantages of the one over the other. In 1847, when I made my first effort to burn dead wood to make ashes for manure, I made a very large pile, because when once fired, it required no further attention, except to push the chunks together and the ground being ill suited for carting occurred to me that I would secure a large quantity at one place. As soon as my pile of wood got in a fair way of burning the ashes ascended in the column of rarified air, and were blown off on the adjoining land, where they were least needed. When the wood was burnt, a very small quantity of ashes remained and these on the edge among the brush and chunks where the heap had diminished with the dying flowers. In the centre of the pile little else remained but earth that had the appearance of having been subjected to an intense heat, this remains or earth acts well as a manure, but it is not worth as much in my experiments as a bushel of ashes procured from a small heap of wood.

The majority of persons, in beginning to make ashes expend too much labor in getting the wood together. The least possible labor should be bestowed that will insure the burning.

If the trees are standing it is generally best to cut them down, save the limbs bark and brush that may be near to burn with; sometimes two or three trees may be so felled as to make the necessary heap; at other times it may be necessary to cut the trees into pieces and push them together.

After the ashes are cool, remove them to a shelter so as to keep them dry until wanted for use. Be careful not to place them in a house as embers and coals of fire often remain for days, and the building might take fire.

After burning ashes a season an estimate can be made, how long the dead timbers will furnish a supply. In anticipation of their consumption some four or five years in advance the useless trees or as many as may be found necessary ought to be deadened by belting in the months of June July or August. At this season of the year they die more easily.

In removing the useless trees you afford the timber trees an opportunity to grow much more rapidly than when crowded with a promiscuous growth.

Woodlands intended for clearing, may be prepared for cultivation with one fourth the labor by deadening four years in advance. The trees on swamp land die very slowly unless the water is sunk below the surface by ditching; and the more thoroughly drained, the more rapidly do the trees die. Swamp land, ditched, with trees deadened four years in advance, left unclosed, that stock may keep the seeds under, can be ploughed by cutting the roots loose from the trunk of the tree; the gum land can be ploughed without the use of the grubbing hoe. I have tried the experi-

ment faithfully, the lands can be cleared, by deadening the timbers in advance, at a cost of one fourth, and the lands are more productive, and more durable. Thus you save a large item of expense in clearing get a good supply of ashes and improve the soil land.

But if the planter will insist on clearing his in green timber he ought to cut it long enough to allow it to season before burning time; and then forbid the making of large heaps of logs and brush. Green timbers require a higher heat for burning than seasoned; consequently make less quantity of ashes. On farms in bad condition, clear fences and ditches long enough to allow the brush and briars to season, burn in small heaps, a handsome item of ashes may be saved. The quantity of ashes that can be procured from the sources enumerated are greatly underestimated.

A neighbor of mine commenced burning ashes in 1849, with the belief that his dead timber would be exhausted in two years. Large quantities have been made annually on the farm, and the point of exhaustion will be postponed several years to come. On many of the farms in eastern North Carolina, there are timbers enough to make ashes for the next quarter of a century and while the present stock are being consumed, a new growth is rapidly springing up.

In some sections of our country some persons seem to forget that timber grows. I once knew a respectable and intelligent planter who owned a tract of land of 1100 acres 500 acres of which were cleared, and the remainder well timbered with native long leaf pine. he was much troubled with the idea that his timber would get scarce. I know many farms on which it has been said for the last twenty years that there is not timber on them to make a fence; still the owners always keep good fences. In localities where it is desired to keep fire wood growing it may be easily done, by fencing stock off so as to protect the sprouts springing from the old stumps, after the second or third year trim them so as to have not more than one or two to the stump; by doing this you can have your fire wood to continue to grow in any place that is now abounding with it.

An entire new growth of good fire wood may be cultivated from the stump according to the tree and locality from twelve to twenty years.

In using ashes, I know of no particular rule for application; they always answer a good purpose if they are mixed with the soil or the roots of the growing crop can reach them. In the hill, or drill, broadcast, or compost heap, when used in sufficient quantities they ensure a good crop. Those who have been in the habit of using them prefer the compost heap if materials are near at hand; and although the results vary on different fields, they pay on all. I have yet to hear the first person who has tried them say they will not pay.

For compost use any soil or earth rich in vegetable mould. Marsh, swamp or branch land, rich headlands, bottoms scrapings of old fences, and ditch banks all make good compost material. Sometimes subsoils, of no value in appearance answer an admirable purpose. I have had

good success in the use of clay that had been thrown up and exposed for years. Some of the best compost I ever made, the chief ingredient was a coarse gravelly sand. The only certain method of finding all the good materials is to try every variety of soil on earth, or subsoil on the farm. Different materials minutely mixed or put in the compost heap often have a chemical action the one on the other. Substances thrown together, by the chemical action often make a valuable substance or compound for agriculture when the same result could not be had if the materials were applied separately to the soil. Experience shows us that mud and stable manure mixed in compost ashes and fine scrapings, cotton seed and ditch banks or any other materials do better in composts than when applied separately. Guano is the only material that ever did better for me out than in the compost heap.

Non productiveness on the most of our soils, results more from the want of one or two ingredients, than from a general deficiency; but still if we try to trace these deficiencies by chemical analysis we shall be lost in a labyrinth of confusion. Accurate experiments tried in every conceivable variation is the laboratory from which emanates the best practical farming. We are not opposed to book farming here. We say read all the agricultural books that can be had; read to reap from the experience of others; read to understand the reasons of facts drawn from our own experience; read to gain enlightened suggestions from the practice and theories of others that we may test them in experiment and add to our fund of Agricultural knowledges.

Bought experience has taught us to try all of our experiences on a small scale; however well any particular plan may seem fortified in reason never try it to the extent that a failure may be attended with a serious loss. Soon after I commenced planting an infatuated zeal produced by the success of making manure after a particular plan used on a different soil and crop, made me try it on cotton and cost me about twenty bales worth at that time about forty dollars a bale.

It is regarded here as an established fact that the same manure acts differently on different soils, and even on soils that appear to the eye to be the same different results are had. If this fact be admitted then the conclusion inevitably follows that all experiments should be on such a scale that a failure would not vary substantially the profits of the crop. Even if the action on every were the same, they ought to be conducted in a small way, that a practical knowledge may be acquired of the particular plow or system. Rediness in any of the ways of the sciences and arts is not acquired from a mere comprehension of the particular matter; practice and experience are necessary to the fullest appreciation and indispensable to a certain and full result. Thus it is in Agriculture.

But to return to my subject for I have wandered far away.

If the spot from which the compost material is to be taken, is in green timber or wet, kill the timber as soon as practicable, by chopping around the tree a belt from one to two inches in the tree, in a continuous circle

or ring so as to leave the bark no where united; ditch the land until the soil is dry enough to cultivate a wet year; the longer there it remains the better suited for compost material. Thus prepared it may be carted from the spot to the place of the compost heap on ditch banks of long standing or well drained land the earth may be carted to the place of immediate use, to the compost heap made on the spot. But as a general rule, such materials as are scraped up without any previous preparation of the grounds it is best to cart it out some months before the time for making heaps; if the earth mud or soil is taken from a wet or damp spot it is indispensably necessary to carry it to a dry spot for several months before use otherwise the full benefit of the materials will not be had. By digging up the material and placing in heaps, the green and undecomposed vegetable matter undergoes a slight fermentation, decomposition commences, the mass gets in better condition for feeding young plants—becomes loose and more friable, enabling the hands to shovel with more ease, and loses enough of weight to increase the number of bushels at a load.

To prepare an acre for a crop take one hundred loads of compost earth, twenty bushels of ashes and five loads of stable or farm yard manure, to a convenient place, make of the compost earth a bed 3 inches deep and twelve to fifteen feet in diameter, shovel on it a small quantity of Stable manure then a layer of the earth, then ashes, then earth again, and in like manner until the materials are mixed. I prefer to mix the materials thoroughly instead of alternate layers, if well done; but it requires considerable practice, to enable a hand to mix in proper proportions. I have known as high as forty bushels of ashes used to the acre; from this quantity down to a single bushel.

In cotton and marl sections add to the foregoing compost heap twenty bushels of cotton seed and ten loads of marl, mixed as directed in the first instance. Ordinary up land thus manured will yield a thousand pounds of seed cotton the first year, twelve hundred the second, fourteen the third and in like manner until eighteen hundred to two thousand pounds are reached. If the land is very poor the quantity of materials may be increased; and much less may be used to great advantage. I have often had fine results from a compost of ten to fifteen bushels of ashes—indeed, five bushels would pay well. I often compost with ashes, stable manure cotton seed and marl, using only one of these materials with the compost earth.

If the earth be carted to some point convenient to the wash shed and Kitchen, a bed be made, and the slop water from the Kitchen and the soap suds from the wash tub be poured on it and each day a thin layer of earth be spread on several valuable heaps will be made in the year. If the house sweepings and yard cleanings be composted, a valuable acre dressing may be made. The carcasses of dead animals if cut up in very small pieces, an mixed with earth makes a good manure. Any green vegetable matter mixed with clay or sand or both makes a good compost

material. If we visit the farm, it is evident that substances valuable for making manures are constantly wasting. Look in whatever direction we may and the eye rests on some substance which if properly prepared would assist the agriculturist in increasing his crops. The weeds that grow about the ditches and fences, the dead trees of the forests, the cleansing of our habitations and farm yards the droppings of animals, the miasmie deposits in our swamps rivers creeks branches and marshes are rich in the element of agricultural productiveness. Nature has opened her laboratory and invited us to examine her mineral treasures and take from her inexhaustible stores to increase the fruits of the earth. Besides the method of compositing already noticed, our farmers have been in the habit, as early in spring after the manure has been removed to the fields, to cart into the horse lot, of the material used for compost, enough to cover the lot six inches deep, which is covered with pine straw oak leaves or any vegetable matter we can command, to keep the lots dry and to prevent evaporation, and to act as absorbants. Where vegetable matter can not be procured, I think course gravelly sand, though I have never tried it, would keep the lot dry and absorb the liquid. In the marl region a dressing of marl has a good effect on the lot manure. When the first stratum of materials begins to be sufficiently saturated, which will be indicated by a change of color in the earth carted in, cart another Stratum of some material, and in like manner continue until the first of January when the manure for the purpose of getting clear of the excess of moisture and of more thoroughly mixing it, and of producing fermentation and increasing decomposition immediately preceding the time of taking it to the fields throw it in parallel ridges from eight to ten feet apart and fill the interval with compost material to depth of one or two feet, to absorb any substances that may be wasted from the ridges.

The cow lots should be treated in like manner, except the marl should be increased and a few ashes mixed or scattered over the material as carted in; the great difficulty, in managing cow lot manure is to prevent too rapid decomposition.

I have never succeeded with cow lots in a manner satisfactory to myself. I purpose to try two experiments the one is to take up the droppings every morning pile it under a shelter and dress it well with plaster of Paris, and cover with dry sand; the other is to increase the vegetable matter, and use coperas water, or Plaster of Paris,—and dress with a good sprinkling of salt once or twice a week. The cow lot manure need not be filled or ridged as early as the horse lot manure.

The hog if quantity and quality be considered furnishes the best supply of manure of the animals attached to the farm. If animals only for farm use are kept, the hog manure is worth more than that of all the other animals put together, yet few farmers turn it to use.

An intelligent neighbor when corn was worth \$2 per barrel, thought his hog manure worth more than the grain they had consumed.



Fill the fattening hog lot from two to three feet deep according to size of lot and number of hogs, with compost material, with a good supply of vegetable matter for bedding; and if it is intended to put the hogs in close pens before cool weather, an abundant supply of water ought to be near at hand, with a good shade for them. New bedding will have to be furnished often and although it adds to the trouble it increases the manure. In warm weather sprinkle plaster of Paris or copperas water over the lot twice a week. One or the other of these substances ought to be used with all animal manure. Each of them is a good deodoriser, and the foulest pen may be cleared of stench in a few minutes by the use of them. Those who have used them believe that they preserve some of the more volatile properties of the manure. I have used the Plaster much more than Copperas water, and much prefer it and of all the methods for cleaning lots of bad odors and preserving manures I think it best.

Kill the hogs on the spot when they have been fattened; then throw the manure in ridges, and cover it over with compost material for the purpose of protection; all animal manures when dug up for heaping ought to be well sprinkled with Plaster or Copperas water and after heaped covered over with earth.

The out hogs ought to have pens with compost materials and beds to sleep in each night of the year; with these the layers of material should be thin and repeated often and at the end of the season should be heaped as the other manures.

Some of our farmers make but little compost in their lots. They keep the lots well littered with vegetable matter, to act for bedding, and to absorb the liquid manures removing the solid manures to a pile under a shelter, and compost each week. For cow lots I am inclined to think it best—it may do as well for horse lots and better for the horses, but in hog lots the method first stated is preferable. The objection usually made to the weekly compost is that some of it has to stand so long before use as to become too much decomposed; this seems well in theory but in practice the old compost does best.

Before I conclude the subject of making manures let me remind you of the Poultry yard and privy. Clean out the poultry yard every morning place the sweepings in an hogshead or box, sprinkle over it plaster of Paris, then put on dry Sand, and keep it dry; thus can be raised a considerable quantity of manure that will stand next in a speedy abundant production of a crop to guano. Clean out the privies every day and sprinkle with plaster, preserve the clensings as from the poultry yard, making the thinnest layers of the ordure practicable—early in the spring compost them for the farm or if strong and concentrated manures be required apply without compost; neither of these manures have the same tendency to “fire” the crop as guano or stable manure.

But after the manure is made how shall it be applied? Some of our planters advocate the drill system and others the broadcast; but it is certain, that what ever may be the method of application, good crops result from good manuring.

In corn and cotton crops if the land is poor or dependent on annual manurings or the quantity of manure to be applied small I prefer to apply in the drill. Young plants like young animals require more care and attention than old ones. If thoroughly stunted when young they never recover from it. Manure applied to the drill requires more care in preparation than when broad cast in consequence of its proximity to the roots of the crop.

The drouths and rains injuring crops usually take place from the middle of June to the middle of August. Experience teaches us that, ordinarily the oldest or more advanced crop sustains least injury. In my experiments in the application of manure I find that when in the drill the crop takes an earlier start. The advantage of the drill is the roots of the young crop begin to get the benefit of the manure as soon as germination takes place, and not being liable to be turned by the plough; more uniform moisture is secured and there is less loss of the more volatile elements, the crop grows off sooner and is in better condition to resist the rains, storms or drouths which come on late in the summer. In addition to this compost manure well prepared retains moisture longer than upland and dry soils and when near the roots can give more assistance in dry weather.

When the manure is applied broadcast the young crop does not get the immediate benefits, a ramification of the roots through the entire mass of the soil is necessary, to get the full advantage. The roots are always most abundant in that part of the contiguous soil where the manure is most abundant, if a shovel full of rich compost be turned under in a place, a much larger quantity of young roots will be found in a cubic inch than in the same quantity of poor soil. It is impossible to get the manure thoroughly pulverised; and exceedingly difficult to spread it uniformly over the surface, and after the utmost care it be found in lumps and dabs on the surface which is increased in the process of ploughing. It being buried at different depths in the soil, and not thoroughly intermixed, the roots of the crop will be found in the greatest abundance where the greatest quantity of manure is found. The roots thus clustered, when the plough share comes along in the depth of the soil at the first and second ploughings are torn off, the manure thrown to the surface and exposed to the sun, to be diminished by the process of evaporation, while the crop is left chiefly to depend on the native strength of soil until new roots can be sent forth to suck sustenance from the manure.

After the second ploughing, the work is usually shallow enough not to disturb the manure.

After enough manure is applied in the drill to secure an early start of the crop, the remainder may be applied broadcast as it takes less labor; for which reason it is preferable in crops requiring but little use of the plough share. The true rule according to my experience is to concentrate enough manure at or near the root to secure an early start of the

young crop and apply the remainder so as best to protect the volatile gases and highly soluble salts; the former is best done by uniformity of moisture and temperature and the latter by draining the soil so as not to have an excess of moisture.

I regard it much more essential to pursue the drill system of manure in cotton than corn crop; in the latter, I have not in my experiments where the ground was of good productiveness had so great a difference of result of the two methods. Our seasons are short for the cotton crop, and it is of the highest importance to secure the earliest possible growth so as to give the longest time for maturing the crop which with us is stopped only by frost.

In guano I think it best to broadcast, it is so highly concentrated that when applied in the drill there is danger of retarding the crop by affording sustenance of too much strength, and when older, it fires in the same way as an excess of horse manure. I find it best to save the guano on dry soils when the land is broken, and I begin to have a strong suspicion that it would be an improvement to plough it under very deep the preceding fall. I shall try the experiment and then I will know. Guano turned under with a two horse plough will show sign of rising to the surface. It has acted better for me, when sown on the surface and ploughed under than when composted. I suppose when it is composted decomposition commences immediately, the component elements are unloosed, and there is not a sufficient chemical or mechanical force in the compost heap to retain the fleeing substances; when applied to the surface it has the entire soil, or many hundred loads to the acre instead of one or two hundred and scattered so very minutely over a large surface, has more material to act on. How it acts I do not know; but at present cost it will pay on all the crops we cultivate.

I will add a word on deep ploughing. Soils exhausted in a course of shallow cultivation have the crops shortened the first year by deep, or two horse ploughing. If it be desirable to secure a crop the soil should be a little deeper each year and keep stock off.

In some sections of Edgecomb lands that bear weeds have been much improved by rest.

I know it has been said that rest does not improve lands that it prolongs the evil day in order to secure more perfect exhaustion. However well this may work in theory it does not square with our experience. Lands producing what our farmers call grass, of any of the varieties from poverty to crab grass or broom sedge, do not improve by rest unless followed with an application of marl. Take an old field bearing poverty grass, add enough manure to get to producing a crop of hog or carrot weeds, cultivate each alternate year, and the intervening year keep all stock from grazing and in a few years you will have the land, producing from two thirds to three fourths the quantity of its notice capacity. Some of our weeds have a tap root extending deep in the soil and subsoil and from the results of rest and growing a crop of them

I suspect an action similar to that of clover; to secure a superior crop of weeds, it is best to brake the land in the spring—land that remains unbroken for several years ceases to make weeds. If deprived of the crop springing spontaneously from a resting soil I think marl would depreciate at least half. With us who are engaged in the cultivation of grain and cotton crops, experience is against grazing the refuse of the cotton or corn field. Strange as it may at first appear, cotton fields after the cotton is saved is injured more than corn fields.

The analysis of cotton lint shows a very small per cent of substances valuable in agriculture; of course then if the seed and other parts of the crop than the lint is restored to the soil, it would appear that a small quantity of manure and rest enough from tillage to prevent the disturbance of the natural organization of the soil would cause it to last for a very great length of time. In our corn and cotton growing country the day that registers the death of the old cows and bucks marks an era in the beginning of the improvement of the soil. If we were to grow the grasses for grazing and provender we should reap the same advantages that are desired in other sections of country from stock. When we rely on the tilled crops stock except for the table supplies of our families is a nuisance. According to my experience nothing exhausts land so rapidly as a total deprivation of vegetable matter. I believe that an annual ploughing with annual grazing will thoroughly exhaust the most productive land we have. Any of our best farmers would say cultivate my fields leaving a pea crop if in corn with the field ungrazed, instead of no crop with grazing. Cotton or corn fields will endure more than double the number of years of cultivation without grazing than with it. The planter is perfectly horror stricken with the idea of picking his field, and in lands rented it is very common to stipulate a protection from cattle. In the grain and cotton growing parts of our state we shall have to kill our cattle or grow grass, or kill our soils.

Air and heat is necessary to vegetable production; corn and cotton have comparatively but few roots, or but small part of their growth in the ground; if the surface is trampled and the growth above the surface is removed the soil is run together and the roads of heat and air are obstructed. One of the greatest advantages from the vegetable matter of the crop is the mechanical action on the soil in keeping it more pulverulent and opening the avenues of heat and air. To appreciate this take three small lots leave two without work during the summer, about the time of frost graze one of them thoroughly; during the summer let the third lot be kept bare of all vegetable matter, leaving the other to the hand of nature during the year; the ensuing season cultivate with or without manure; the several lots will faithfully tell the story of their treatment. I have sometimes heard it suggested that it was the exposure to the sun and wind that produced such bad effect; but in my opinion it is getting the soil in such condition as to effect a partial exclusion of air heat and moisture, without which no crop would grow.

Within a few years past I have been informed by several intelligent gentlemen of that portion of Alabama usually known as the new part that the same quality of land cleared and reduced to cultivation fifteen years after the first settlement would fall very short of the same product as the similar land did, when they were first cleared. They attributed to grazing and trampling. Water on land without vegetable matter sobs much worse than on lands with it.

I have come to the conclusion that cattle are as bad for cotton and corn planters as curs are to flocks of sheep.

With us we can grow clover only on moist and rich lands well dressed with calcareous manures. On our dry lands in North Carolina the usual drouths of July or August is apt to prove fatal to clover unless very great care is taken. Give me a little clover ground to feed my milk cattle; for hay give me crabb grass; for improvements peas or weeds and rest and; use marl or ashes, then away with clover.

In the east we have greater need of calcereous manures and we have marl. You have less need of them, you have ashes; but in either if the farmer will give the rest system a fair trial he will not abandon it unless for the want of land. In all the calcareous sections of the south I believe that it is practicable to restore the soil approximately to its native fertility by rests. The calcareous districts of the cotton growing country that has been reduced from two thousand to one thousand by constant cultivation will again approach their former productiveness by a system of rest.

Two hands with long handle shovels, if manure is course, a long handle fork, can apply more manure, with greater ease than three can with the old system of boxes.

Yours respectfully

R. R. BRIDGERS.

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*From Wade Keyes.*<sup>1</sup>

MONTGOMERY ALA: July 16 1855.

Dear Sir,

I shall send you by this mail a copy of my work on "Chattels" and a copy of my little work on "Realty".

Enclosed you will find a circular containing the opinions of some of our distinguished Jurists.

The "Realty" is my *pet*, but it is upon a branch of the law very much neglected in this country.

If upon examination you find that another of the works would be useful to the Profession, I should be much pleased if you would commend it through some paper or periodical generally read by the Bench and Bar of "the Old North State".

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<sup>1</sup>Wade Keyes, at this time chancellor for the southern district of Alabama. He was a noted lawyer and was later assistant attorney-general of the Confederacy.

Is it not strange that southern members of the Profession do not eagerly encourage attempts at legal literature when made by southern men? My experience is that, with very few exceptions, they take no practical interest in the success of such essays.

In the "Chattels" you will find the decisions of your state cited. I think I could improve that work a good deal if I had leisure and were encouraged to prepare a second edition.

I am very respectfully,

WADE KEYES.

*From M. A. Bledsoe.*

*Dear Sir.*

RALEIGH N. C. July 16th 1855.

There will be a Democratic and Anti-Know-Nothing Mass meeting in this place on Tuesday 31st Inst:

And as President of the Democratic Club of Wake and in accordance with their wishes, it affords me much pleasure to invite you to be present on that occasion; when your numerous friends will be gratified to see and hear from you on the important question at present agitating the public mind.

Most Respectfully

Yr. Obt. Servt.

M. A. BLEDSOE.

*From Edward A. Crudup.*

RALEIGH N. C. August 28th 1855.

When we were last together in this place, I promised to visit you early in July, and I did earnestly hope I should be able to do so, but since then circumstances over which I had no control, and duties imposed upon me, which I could not decline, have deprived me the pleasure which a compliance with that promise would have afforded me.

I would have written you some time ago in relation to matters connected with our Agricultural association, but I have continued to defer doing so, constantly hoping I would see you when I could explain to you so much better than I can by writing, more especially as I am a poor writer. After being appointed to the situation which I now occupy on the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, I thought and felt it my duty, to see you, or write you, on the subject of my further connection with the Agricultural Society. As "Chairman of the Ex. Com." the labors and responsibilities of the two positions are very great, and conflict very much with each other, at least will do so the week of the "Fair." I fear I should not be able to discharge the duties of both positions, with satisfaction to myself, and to others, and in such a manner as would promote

the interest of each. I must therefore my Dear Sir, beg you to accept my resignation as "Chairman" of the "Ex. Com." of the "N. C. State Agri. Society", and in tending this please allow me to assure you Sir that I never severed a tie with half so much reluctance. The more so, as I received that appointment at your hands, and by means of which I have formed so many social and friendly relations with the greatest and best men of our State.

I earnestly hope My Dear Sir that my resignation will produce no embarrassment to you or to the "Society". I would abundantly rather be sacrificed myself, than to impede by any act of mine the progress of the Society or the interest of Agriculture in our State. The Society has already done great good incalculable, and I would not for any consideration see it crippled. Should it languish and die I think the cause of agriculture would feel it throughout the entire State. It would be a sad blow indeed. Please let me hear from you soon.

To Judge Thomas Ruffin.

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*From Thomas P. Devereux.*

[September, 1855.]

*My Dear Sir*

I regret very much that the necessary routine of my business will deprive me of the pleasure of hearing your address at the State Fair. But there is one subject I pray to call to your attention and I do it the more readily with you, because you are not a popularity hunting individual, and I have found that mere politicians are rather shy of the subject. I allude to the fence laws, rightly considered they impose a dreadful tax on the agricultural community—a tax equal, it is said, to 16 $\frac{2}{3}$  per cent of the value of enclosed land to be divided into a series of seven years. I think this is Dr. Franklin's calculation but it is (the tax) exceedingly onerous and annually becoming more so. Some remedy must, in parts of the State, be adopted at not a remote future, and to begin the suggestion of the subject now may be wise, and I know no quarter from whence it can come more appropriately than yourself, simply to reverse our law, make the farmer fence up his stock, so as to keep them off his neighbours cultivated fields, instead of forcing him—the neighbour—to fence out the stock, would be sufficient—there may be some difficulty in applying such a law in some counties—the ranging counties of the west for instance—but it might be most beneficially applied in others—the advantage to the stock would be very great—we should probably have less of them, but of a much better quality, and with a great increase of fertility to the farms—and for myself I am clear that to free me from the onerous fence law would entirely compensate me for a great increase in the land tax. I think I might safely say I could afford to have it trebled.

Again there is another tax which bears very hardly upon the agriculturalist—and although I am by no means unwilling to pay that tax, yet the mode of payment is wasteful in the extreme. I mean the road law—tax the people of North Carolina—those liable to road work, the value in cash, of the days they work upon the roads and they would rebel—if you will take the census and estimate the usual number of days they are called out, and put the labor, not at the present high rates, but at very moderate ones, and the sum is enormous, but the waste is greater, for the enormous taxation produces little of beneficial result. Would it not be better to authorise the counties to lay a road tax and put the maintenance of the high ways out upon contract, and in connexion with this would it not be fair and just to authorise the county courts to tax monied income as well as land and slaves. Being very unwilling to do any thing which looks, however remotely demagogical, and moreover being satisfied that all taxation comes either directly or indirectly from labor, I am not very anxious as to this but in all countries the larger the class from which revenue is raised the better because it makes all sensitive of the waste of means. I have done. All I intended was to give you *hints* which if you can, consistently with your idea of truth and equity, elaborate into a paragraph of your address I have done you a service—since it is very easy for a man of sense to write, if he has any thing to write about.

The report is that we have fine crops below and I am glad to hear you are equally well off above. Be pleased to make my respects acceptable to Mrs. Ruffin and those members of your family with whom I have the pleasure of an acquaintance and with my wishes for a just and happy conception and an easy delivery in your approaching labor.

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*From J. T. Williamson.*

CASWELL COTY Sept. 6th, 1855.

Mr. Burch leaves this morning and I write you by him. I was sorry to hear of the indisposition of your family, more especially when I heard that you had Typhoid Fever in the family. I hope however that the disease may not spread to any extent. We are all well here, I was at brother's on last week and he informed me that that he was going to your house on some day this week, but have not heard what day he would go. John Ruffin is quite well and is doing well; he is very studious, and is progressing very well in his studies. Owing to the fact that I have been very much engaged in attending to my plantation, and the rebuilding of my saw mill I have not devoted as much attention to him as I could have wished, but I found on such examinations as I gave him that he was comprehending what he read. I have kept him mostly confined



at Anatomy Physiology, materia medica, obstetricks and surgery. He will have to leave for Philad. about the 1st October, and I think he will be very well prepared to appreciate the lectures. I am at a loss to know what school to advise him to enter. In the University of Pennsylvania Messrs Wood, Jackson, and Hodge I regard as the first medical men of the age. The other professors I know but little about, but suppose them to be men of talents. In the Jefferson School they have likewise a good Faculty, and no doubt are well prepared to impart medical knowledge to any young man, who feels disposed to receive instruction. My advice to him is not decide positively until he reaches there and sees and hears for himself. My own predilections are in favour of the University. This may possibly arise from my having attended that school myself.

He is going with me this morning to assist in taking off a finger for Old Mr. Thos. Mullins in Rockingham. I have procured your chairs and have them ready for you. I hope it may be convenient for you to come up soon as I wish to see you very much. Dont rebuild your saw mill until you see mine cut as I am satisfied you will never have another up and down saw.

Please present my best respects to the family and accept from us of my warmest regard.

[Address: Alamance N. Ca.]

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*From Edward A. Crudup.*

RALEIGH N. CAROLINA Sept—10th, 1855.

Your very kind letter came to hand just as I was about leaving home on a visit to my plantation, where I had not been for more than three months. I regret that I have not been able, to return you, an earlier answer, than this, but I have just returned, and during my absence had no opportunity of writing.

Please allow me, Sir, to thank you kindly, for the high appreciation of me, so fully expressed in your letter. I cannot but think my Dear Sir,—that you greatly over-estimate my ability and my services in the "No. Car. State Agri. Soc", but let that be Sir as it may. I cannot find it in my heart to resist or to turn a deaf ear to your kind entreaties, and I must therefore, in accordance with your expressed wish, withdraw my letter of resignation, and again devote myself to the duties of the high office which I have the honor to hold in our association. I know full well, Sir, its many responsibilities and the immense amount of mental and physical labor which awaits me. I know Sir, and deeply feel the weight of responsibility resting on my position, as chief of the "Ex Com", add to this, Sir, the duty of presiding over the diversified and dangerous affairs of a Railroad, and I declare sir, it almost makes me decline the heavy obligations. I look forward with any other than emo-

tions of pleasure, to me the future is full of *care* and *intense anxiety*, and I quite despair of managing successfully so much business crowded into so short a time, and in so much confusion. Yet, Sir, I can not retrace—I must advance, and discharge to the best of my ability any duty which you may think fit to assign me.

I hope you will allow me to condole with you on your irreparable loss. The dispensations of Providence are ever kind and just. Heaven never yet did anything wrong, or ever yet committed an error. Your loss is but the gain—the inestimable gain of her we mourn.

We are making arrangements for the “Fair”, by whitewashing, repairing etc., etc. the buildings of the “Society”.

I would be glad to have a strong appeal made to those gentlemen who have been appointed “Judges” for the next “Fair” and the propriety of their coming to Raleigh and discharging promptly the duties which have been assigned them by the “Ex Com”, urged upon them. If they will do this, I will answer for the proper management of everything else connected with the coming “Fair”. Without the energetic cooperation of the members of the Society, it will be utterly impossible for me to manage this business with any prospect of success.

We meet again Wednesday the 12th inst. for the purpose of completing arrangements for the “Fair”. Any suggestion which you wish to make I shall be happy to receive and order executed.

To Hon. Thomas Ruffin

Graham Alamance N. C.

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To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.

ALAMANCE—Sepr. 10th 1855.

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With all our patients, however, the fever, tho’ abating more or less in each, is never off, but continued, and increasing after midday. Osborn, we still fear and think, must die. There is no amendment in him, but he gets gradually lower. For the last four days his tongue has been partially *paralyzed* and his articulation is very indistinct. Jesse seems sometime to be convalescent and we have hoped the same of Peter. But, somehow, cold feet return, notwithstanding every precaution, and there follows a paroxism of low fever—the pulse ranging from 75 to 95. That takes place sometimes, once, and sometimes, twice during the day and night. Upon the whole, therefore, no one can say definitely, what is to be the result: only, in poor Osborne’s case it is pretty certain, that it is impossible for him to live much longer. Nothing but the most assiduous attention and careful nursing could have kept him thus long.

I wanted to send you our usual memo. for New-York ; but really Mrs. Ruffin and I have not found leisure to sit down long enough to make out one. She says, all she can do, is to ask you to get for her a *large* box of the best loaf sugar, and three pair of good large and thick bed blankets. The sugar you can order to Raleigh with your things, and thence send by R. R. to *Graham Station*. The blankets will, of course, come in your parcels and we can get them by safe opportunities any time.

I go the rounds of the sick every hour in the day nearly, and late at night, and can now write no more, except to commend us all to the remembrance of Annie, who, I hope, will enjoy her trip to the full and whom I heartily bless with a father's love.

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*From Edward A. Crudup.*

RALEIGH N. C. Sept. 22nd 1855

I have not heard from you except through Mr Cameron, (for I never fail to enquire after you, whenever opportunity offers) since my last letter to you withdrawing my letter of resignation.

We are doing everything we can for the coming Fair. I hope it will be well attended and conducted, yet I have some serious apprehensions with regard to the management, there is such total apathy, here on the part of the citizens in regard to the Fair, nothing done, and nothing likely to be done, for the accommodation of visitors, that I really fear this will be our last "Fair" yet I hope not.

Between the Railroad and the Fair my time is wholly occupied, but if I can by any possible means get off, I will run up, and spend one day with you, either the coming or succeeding week. My advertisement of the Fair will be out in a few days it should have been published before this, but until now I have not been able to complete the arrangements with the other Railroads which I wished, for the transportation of articles intended for exhibition, I saw Mr Hamilton the other day, and he spoke of writing to you, and soliciting your presence at the "Union Fair" at Henderson. Should you conclude to go please let me know.

To Hon Thomas Ruffin

Alamance

*From Thomas Ruffin, Jr., to Anne M. Ruffin.*<sup>1</sup>

ASHBORO Sept 26th 1855.

*My dear Mother,*

Remembering my promise, I avail myself of this, the first good, opportunity to write you.

Thus far our circuit has been a pleasant one, with a plenty to do, and no very hard work; and the judge is very kind and indulgent to me.

I had time to have gone home from Chatham, and would have done so, but that the Judge requested me to stay with him—he was not very well and objected to being left to travel alone.

I earnestly hope, the sick ones are all well, or improving, by this; and that you and my good father, are relieved from your anxiety on their account.

I feared greatly that both you and he render yourselves sick, by such constant watching, and excitement.

I shall go from this place to Lexington, tomorrow, perhaps, and my dear Mother, if it is in your power, please contrive that I may have a line then, to say how all are.

I hope Jane is herself sufficiently recovered, to write, but in case she is not, ask papa or aunt Susan to write me.

To aunt Susan say that I feel already under many obligations to her for her letters, and that I shall not soon forget her kindness. I almost fear to ask how poor Osborne is! he was so very ill, that all hope of recovery, in his case seemed to be gone: it would however afford me the highest gratification, to hear that he is improving and likely to get well.

Please remember me kindly to all the sick servants, and especially to Peter and Jesse.

I suppose Uncle James and the girls will be returning now soon. We have almost had frost here once or twice, and the probability is, that it has become a common thing where they are. Make Patty or Sally write me as soon as they reach home, and let me know whether they have been benefitted by their trip! as to their having had a pleasant time of it; I take that for granted, and shall expect to hear a great deal of what they saw, heard and did.

Please say to Uncle James, that I fear it will be out of my power to go to Alabama this next winter, as I promised to do, for I have lately been retained in a case or two, that will need all the attention, which it will be in my power to bestow, during the next vacation. I am sorry that it has so happened, for I have been looking forward to such a trip for a long time, and had hoped to spend my next Christmas with him and his wife.

I suppose John will be leaving home now shortly for the North. I trust he goes determined to make the most of his time and opportuni-

<sup>1</sup>Annotated in Ruffin's hand: For Mr. Roulhac & Katy to read in conjunction with John—T. R.

ties. I have seen very little of him, for the last several years,—so little indeed, that I fear he feels towards me, too much like a stranger. I wish you would assure him, that I feel a deep, very deep interest in his welfare, and that it would give me great pleasure to hear from, and to write to him.

I have not much fear, as to his success in life, for I hear, from others, and have myself observed, that he is a young man, of good sense, and correct principles. All that he needs, is close application to his studies, and an active, energetic, practice of his profession.

I have heard nothing from Mr. Cameron's since I left Hillsborough, but hope they have all recovered there. If any one writes to me, at Lexington, please let me know what your last intelligence from him is.

Be pleased to give my best love to all—particularly to papa and Jane, and, my dear Mother, believe me to be, with the most sincere love and affection

Your son

T. RUFFIN JR.

*To John K. Ruffin.<sup>1</sup>*

*My Dear John!*

The within letter was received today after you left us, and, as it contains a testimonial of your brother's affection for you and interest in your welfare, it is sent to you, both because we suppose it will be something of a cordial to your feelings in your separation from your family, and because it may be an incentive to diligence in study and the preservation of your moral probity. I hardly suppose, indeed, that you need any assurance of the sincere love of all your family for you and, consequently, the deep concern of every one of us, that you should make yourself, a useful and eminent man in your profession and an estimable one in private life. May the blessing of God be with you, my son!

I wish you would ask of your sister Catherine a letter of introduction to *Mrs. Hays*, whom she justly esteems as a friend and a lady of the greatest moral and mental worth, a Jewess tho' she be.

I take the liberty of now supplying an omission of a duty I intended to have performed in our ride today. It is to advise and request you to make an acquaintance in some respectable Episcopal family under whose auspices you can regularly attend the services of your Church every Sunday—once at least, if not morning and afternoon. At all events you can, even as a stranger, have admission into some one of the numerous churches in the City, and I hope you will do so, and unite in the service as at home: For it is one of the excellencies of the Church, that its services are the same at all times and every where; so that one, is in reality no stranger anywhere, and ought to feel so, although he

<sup>1</sup>Written on the same sheet.

may not be entitled to admission into particular pews. Remember this: That is, remember your Father, Heavenly and earthly.

\* \* \* \* \*

Most affeely your Father,  
 THOMAS RUFFIN,  
 Saturday night.

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*From R. A. Hamilton.*

[WILLIAMSBORO N. C. Oct. 2, 1855]

*My Dear Sir*

The object of this note is to request that you will favour us with yr. company at our Fair to be held at Henderson on 10, 11 and 12th October. Allow me to express the hope that the health of your family is entirely restored. I heard through my friend Dr. Crudup that it had been bad and that you had the misfortune to lose a very interesting grand child.

Be pleased to accept my sincere regrets for yr. loss and my best respects for yourself personally.

I have the honour to be Yr. Obt. St.

R. A. HAMILTON  
 Prest. Granville Co. Agl. Soc.

To Judge Ruffin.

2d Octo: 1855.  
 (near) Williamsboro, N. C.

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*From Edward A. Crudup.*

RALEIGH N. C. Oct. 3rd 1855.

Your note of the 24th Ultimo came duly to hand. Should no unforeseen circumstance prevent I will come up on Friday the 5th inst, (day after tomorrow).

I endeavored to get a Town Meeting yesterday, but failed. I am making another effort to-night. Think I shall perhaps succeed in this,—last effort. I am anxious that Raleigh should show to the citizens of the State, and particularly to the members of the "Agri-Society" that some interest in this matter is felt by her citizens. I have engaged the Hons. A. W. Venable and L. O'B. Branch to address the meeting to-night.

The prospect for the "Fair" brightens considerably Sir; and if the weather should be favorable we shall succeed to our entire satisfaction.

To Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

*From John W. Norwood.*

HILLSBOROUGH Oct. 9. 1855.

The members of the Agricultural Society of Orange County, subscribed between \$800 and \$1000 last fall for the purpose of providing the society with a permanent fair ground. But we have been unable to get a suitable piece of ground.

We are therefore again compelled to tax your kindness, and ask your permission to use your grounds for the purpose.

We will see that no injury is done.

Hon. T. Ruffin

Graham N. C.

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*From T. S. Pleasants.*

PETERSBURG, VA. October 12, 1855.

*Sir.*

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Union Agricultural Society of Virginia and No. Carolina, I have the honor to invite you, and through you the members of the Ex. Committee of the Agricultural Society of North Carolina, to attend the second annual Fair and Exhibition of the Union Society to be held in this city on the 23d of the present month, and to be continued until the 26th.

Your presence on that occasion will afford the Committee, and the Society at large, a high degree of gratification; and you will be welcomed by all classes with the cordiality due to you, as well on account of your personal merit as for the position you occupy as the representative of the Agricultural Society of North Carolina.

I have the honor to be

Most respectfully

Your obt. Servant

T. S. PLEASANTS

Cor. Secretary.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

Prest. Agl. Society of N. C.

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*To Joseph B. G. Roulhac.*

ALAMANCE, Novr. 1st. 1855.

I am very much obliged by your last letter, tho' the kindness and attention displayed therein do not seem likely to do either of us much good. In the first place, I have to return the worsted shirts, as they are

too long and otherwise do not fit me as well as some Browne sent by orders of one of his Sisters, for my use. In the next place, I am afraid the *cider* will hardly be worth having,—for, relying on getting the Blls in due time, I had the apples ground and thrown into H[ogs]h[ea]ds, to be ready for the press, a week ago, and as yet the Blls have not come! There must be something very wrong either at Raleigh or on the way as to forwarding freight, for, it is hardly ever received as soon as it ought, and often perishable articles are ruined. Those Blls ought to have been sent on Monday, so as to be here in the evening. They did not come then, not in a train since, and I am without them, tho' I have had to send my wagon to the depot three times for them in vain, and may, possibly, lose my *cider* after all. But such as it may be, you shall have your share, either for drinking or vinegar!

[Address: Raleigh, No. Ca.]

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*From James C. Smyth.*

MORGANTON 10th Novr. 1855.

*My Dear Sir.*

Sometime during the last Spring whilst the persons appointed by the Act of Assembly were endeavouring to raise funds to build the Western N. C. Rail-road I authorized an attorney to subscribe \$5,000 in my name, but subsequently to that, not knowing whether I would remain in this County or not, and before my name was transferred by the attorney to the books of subscription I made known by letter to a public meeting of the friends of the Road held at Statesville that I revoked the power given to the attorney, and that I did not intend to pay the amt. I had authorized him to subscribe, I said nothing, however to said Attorney, and he afterwards in pursuance of the power I had invested him with transferred my name to the books of the company with a subscription of five thousand dollars. I am not willing to pay this subscription unless I am bound to do so and have refused to pay the five per cent authorized by the charter to be collected from the subscriber to the capital stock, in consequence of this refusal I am threatened by the company with a suit and I have agreed with them to take your opinion as final in the matter, if you will say that I am bound for the payment I will pay without suit and should you think otherwise I will not. You will see from the charter that I was appointed a County Commissioner to open books. Please give me your opinion at your earliest convenience and as I do not wish to put you to trouble on my account I hope you will make a charge which I will cheerfully pay.

With high regard

Yours truly

JAMES C. SMYTH

Honl. Tho. Ruffin  
Graham, N. C.



*From Waightstill W. Avery.*

MORGANTON Nov. 11th, 1855.

*My dear Sir,*

I take the liberty of addressing you for the purpose of asking your opinion on a question of Law, and my apology for thus troubling you consists in the fact that the point of Law arises from the construction of a clause of the Charter of the Wes' N. C. R. Road Co', and the public being interested in the matter, I hoped you would not decline giving me the benefit of your opinion, especially as the parties concerned are willing that their rights in the premises should abide by your opinion of the Law.

The facts are as follows:

The Commissioners appointed to open Books at the Town of Morganton for the subscription of Stock to said Road, proceeded to do so, pursuant to the Charter, and among other subscribers, Major James C. Smyth subscribed 50 shares (\$5000) but did not pay in 5 per cent on his subscription: the local or County Commissioners, towit four of the five chose to consider said subscription as valid and so returned it with the Books according to the charter, and have directed that the five per cent be collected by suit. Major Smyth was intended to be one of the County Commissioners, but is mentioned as James M. Smith, though he has acted as one of the Commissioners, the other four have demanded of him the 5 pr. cent on his subscription, which he has refused to pay. I am Atto. for the Corporation, and was about bringing suit, when Major Smith suggested that if *you* would say he was liable under the charter that he would pay up without a word; As we do not wish the delay of a law suit, I concluded to write to you and I hope most sincerely that you will not feel any delicacy in giving your opinion on the points indicated.

The third section of the Charter appoints certain persons general commissioners; and also names certain local commissioners, at certain County Towns, under whose directions the Books are to be opened: The fourth section has the following provision relating to the point at issue. "And that all subscriptions of stock shall be in shares of one hundred dollars, the subscribers paying at the time of making such subscription, the am't of five per cent on the same, to the person or persons authorised to receive such subscriptions, and in case of failure to pay said sum all such subscriptions shall be void *if* the commissioners choose so to declare it, or *they may direct it to be recovered by suit or otherwise.*

I would be glad if you would get the charter itself, and examine the 3d and 4th Sections entire; some doubts have been expressed as to the persons or Party Plaintiff in whose names suit should be brought against delinquent subscribers for the 5 per cent, and especially as to the form of action, or nature of proceeding in a case like this, where one acts as Commissioner, and is really the person intended, but there is a mis-

nomer in the act of Assembly making the appointment—is he really a commissioner? I fear I trespass upon you too far in submitting so many questions.

The County Commissioners have bound themselves for the 5 per cent in the above case, and it is the only case of delinquency, except in the County of Alexander; there, the County Commissioners opened Books agreeably to Law, and procured subscriptions to the amount of \$5700, and had the Books before the General Commissioners at Salisbury, when the last Convention was held, at which the last stock was subscribed securing the Charter; said Commissioners became dissatisfied, took the books home, and now refuse to surrender the books which have been demanded by the General Commissioners, and also refuse to proceed to collect the 5 per cent; The question has presented itself whether the Company has any remedy against them or whether the General Commissioners should or can proceed against them: other persons guaranteed the stock if it could not be collected, so as to enable us to organize. Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience, I remain

Yours most sincerely

W. W. AVERY.

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*From William S. Long.*

N. C. R. Road Nov 15<sup>t</sup> 55

If it were at all convenient to do so, in season, I would much prefer seeing you face to face. I have determined to make application to the Directors of the R. Road, for the situation as assistant superintendent of the Road from the Company shops towards Charlotte, as Capt. Allen will be from the shops towards Goldsboro, and in pursuance of this, I request you, as a friend to young men, who are trying to help themselves, to recommend my name to the favorable consideration of Mr. Cameron as a Director, and such others as you may think proper, either by letter or otherwise; before the meeting in Raleigh on the 30<sup>t</sup> inst. I do this believing that you are somewhat acquainted with the manner, and by whom I was raised, and the course that I have pursued. You sir are aware of the humble situation that I commenced with on the road, and you know too well the proper course for a young man, and of the importance of becoming fully acquainted with the details of business, to believe that a humble beginning denoted low asperation. It has ever been my determination to become a thorough going business man; if the most untiring perseverance could accomplish anything. And upon the purest principles of honest policy as I believed, I determined to throw myself upon my own resources among business men and depend upon my own energy to raise me higher, And now sir I call upon you to give me a lift by recommending me to a situation, where that untire-

ing energy and ardent zeal for success, may have play, upon which and upon which *alone* I depend for success and by which I assure you that you shall never have cause to regret having spoken in my favor.

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*From David L. Swain to Peter Force.*<sup>1</sup>

[Copy]<sup>2</sup>

CHAPEL HILL, 23 Nov. 1855.

*My dear Sir;*

I send you by the present mail a copy of the University Magazine for September. The leading article "Carolina in 1710" presents a reprint of a scarce pamphlet which I suppose you will be willing to add to your extensive collections.

On pages 326-7 of this Magazine you will find a letter from me to Dr. Gibbes of South Carolina to which I beg leave to call your attention. You will learn from it, that I have accepted an agency created by the last General Assembly of this State, to collect documentary information in relation to the history of North Carolina, and that I am authorized in case I shall deem it necessary to visit the mother country for this purpose. I do not desire to go of course, unless I can more effectually subserve the liberal and wise purposes of the General Assembly, by doing so, than through the medium of the American Legation in London entering into correspondence, with the public offices and with public and private persons in Great Britain. I suppose that there is no person in the United States whose range of information, on all the subjects, necessary to a correct conclusion on this point, is as extensive and accurate as yours, and I therefore beg leave to submit it to your consideration, and to ask the favour of as early a reply as your convenience will admit.

In a letter written yesterday to the Hon. J. C. Dobbin upon this subject I mentioned that if he could not find the volume in the Congressional Library, that there were among your collection printed and manuscript copies of "Index to Documents relative to North Carolina during the colonial existence of said State now on file in the offices of Board of Trade and State paper offices in London, transmitted in 1827" etc.

A reference to this volume will shew that there are in these offices very copious sources of information throughout the entire existence of the Colonial government, beginning with 1729, and coming down to the Revolution. It is easy enough with the aid of these indexes to make

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<sup>1</sup>Peter Force, 1790-1868, the historian and archivist, was a native of New Jersey. His best known work is his American Archives. His wonderful collection was bought by Congress for \$100,000.

<sup>2</sup>Found in Ruffin's papers and evidently sent to him by Swain, in whose handwriting it is.

a selection of the papers which may seem necessary to the purposes of history, so far as the Colonial government is concerned. The obscure periods in our history, however, in relation to which comparatively very little is known, are the era of settlement (somewhere) about 1650, and the entire existence of the Proprietary Government during the 56 years intervening 1663 and 1729.

With reference to documentary evidence in relation to these periods, Mr. Gallatin remarks p. 4 "There will be found amongst the Records of the Board, under the heads of "Carolina" and "Properties", documents of a date prior to the year 1729, that relate to North Carolina, and are not included in the Index. I have no doubt that copies of these may be obtained, but the selection will require some time and must be left to the Agent." On pages 7 and 8 you will find a List of Books and Papers, relative to North Carolina in the State Paper Office, beginning with 1663 and closing with 1757, the last item is "Letters from the Governors etc. in Carolina, to the Secretaries of State, 1711 to 1745" Vols 3. Is there any American Historian whose works affords evidence, that these sources of information in relation to the Proprietary Government have ever been scrutinized? I find no traces of them in Bancroft whose range and minuteness of research so greatly transcend those of all his predecessors.

Turn to the 2d vol. of the Hist. Col. of S. C. p. 327 to p. 345, to which I refer not happening to have a copy of Chalmers at hand, and run over the list of authorities, on which he relies as the foundation of the Annals of the Carolinas and inform me, where they are to be found. Williamson (Hist. N. C. p. IX. Pref) states that he applied to Chalmers for permission to take copies from his collections, but was discourteously refused. Grahame (Col. Hist. U. S. Vol. I XIII. Am. edit. Mr. Quincy's Mem) seems to have had free access to the "library of that distinguished American annalist". He adds little however, if any thing to our previous stock of information in relation to the Proprietary Government and I suppose that the records must have passed from the Secretary to other hands, before the visit of Mr. Grahame to London. If so they may possibly be found among the papers referred to in general terms by Mr. Gallatin under the heads of "Carolina and Properties" in the office of the Board of Trade or in the "List of Books and Papers", in the State-Paper office, which seem not to have been methodically arranged in 1827, and of which for this reason, indexes were not supplied.

You are aware that three orders of nobility were created by the Fundamental Constitution, the *Palatine*, (the oldest of the Lords Proprietors for the time being), *Caziques* and *Landgraves*. The Supreme executive authority was vested in the *Palatine*. Is it not probable that important materials for history exist among the archives of the descendants of the *Palatines*, and especially of the Earl of Granville, who retained the right of soil to his magnificent domain, extending from the Southern boundary of Virginia, a degree of latitude in width, and from

the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, until the Revolution and contested the title in the Circuit Court of the U. S. during the early years of the present century? If so would not these noble families receive with favour an application for copies of documents and papers which would serve to illustrate, and connect their own history with the annals of North-Carolina.

Mr. Sparks in a letter of the 6th June, gives the following account of Governor Tryons Letter-Book—"I have examined the volume. It consists 1st of Governor Tryons letters (apparently official) from October 1764 to June 1771. 2d The Minutes of the Council from April 1765 to June 1771. It was sold to the College by Mr. Stevens of London who found it there in the hands of a book-seller. It was then in two separate volumes, one containing Letters, the other the Minutes of the Council. He had them bound together in one. The two have all the appearance of having been the original record-books kept by Governor Tryon, while he was in office". The copy made for the State under the direction of Mr. Sparks is ready for me.

The *recovery* of this Letter-Book, (I say recovery for it is really a muniment of our executive department) suggests the enquiry whether the correspondence of Gov. Martin the successor of Governor Tryon may not be obtained from some source, and thus put us in possession, at this late day, of the contemporaneous English official account of all the leading incidents connected with the Revolution in North Carolina.

There was probably no single loyalist who throughout the entire period of the American Revolution rendered such efficient services to the British cause as Col. John Hamilton. He commanded a regiment of tories, raised by him in this state, during the memorable invasion of Cornwallis in 1780 and 1781, and was for some years His Brittanic Majestys Consul at Norfolk. He was a gentleman of ability and attainments, and his papers if they could be obtained would probably reflect much light, upon some of the most interesting events in our revolutionary history.

The papers and correspondence of Sir James Henry Craig Governor-General of Canada in 1812, who when a Major in the British service in 1781, 82 occupied Wilmington, overran the eastern section of the State, and made Governor Burke his prisoner, would probably be found of still deeper interest. Can you give me any information, with respect to the descendants of these three gentlemen, Gov. Martin, Col. Hamilton and Sir James H. Craig?

Mr. Sparks has kindly undertaken to obtain from Nova-Scotia, the manuscript account of the revolution in N. C. which the great marauder Col. David Fanning, is said to have left behind him, and I am not without hopes, that we will be able to obtain more finished memorials of the career of his more polished and distinguished name-sake Genl. Edmund Fanning, subsequently Governor of Prince Edwards Island, and Lieut Governor of Nova-Scotia. In 1774 he received the degree of L.L.D. from the University of Oxford, and the same distinction was conferred

upon him by Yale, Columbia, Dartmouth and Harvard, on our side of the Atlantic, quite as much I suspect for distinguished loyalty at that early period of his life, as for his attainments in the Republic of Letters.

The only apology, my dear Sir, that I can offer for proposing to you the task of replying to the several points of enquiry proposed, and intimated, in this communication, is that I know of no one else so well qualified to perform it.

I am with great respect and esteem,

Your obt. servt.

Col. Peter Force.

D. L. SWAIN.

*From Frederick FitzGerald.*

GOLDSBORO, WAYNE Co. N. C. Dec. 8, 1855.

*For the Hon. Thomas Ruffin Sr.*

*Dear Sir.*

In my new sphere of labour, in this the most active and growing place in the State, I am straining every nerve to collect funds for the erection of a church in this town. I have obtained all in my power within my parish, and still have need of more before I can begin the work. I propose therefore to seek aid from without, by a plan often found successful in England and in Ireland, of writing letters to both clergy and laity, and asking of them a *small* definite sum, which is *one dollar* (\$1.00). Will *you* not give me that amount for the love that you have to the Church Universal, and out of consideration to one whose labours are hard indeed. For Christ's sake give it, and He will bless you for it. It will be a large sum for us, if all will give to whom I intend to write. With the greatest respect I remain

Your Servant in Christ

FREDERICK FITZGERALD.

*From Junius I. Scales.*

INGLE SIDE Feb 7 1856

It is my intention to start to Macon Georgia in a few days, with a view of entering upon the legal profession there. I trust Dear Sir that I am not proving too troublesome in venturing to request your advice as to what books I shall first purchase as most useful to me in my profession; and in soliciting any other suggestions you may deem calculated to aid one just starting in life, with no experience whatever, but little knowledge of any kind, and yet whose success must depend upon his own exertions. Any such suggestions coming from you, will be most gratefully received and duly appreciated.

Please direct to me at Thompsonville, Rockingham Co:

*From Paul C. Cameron.*

FAIRNTOSH Saturday Feby 8th 1856.

*My Dear Sir!*

I learn by a letter received this day from our Sister Jean, that not until yesterday, could you leave the bereaved family and household at Raleigh. We suppose from Jeans letter that Mrs. Ruffin and Alice are yet with the family at R. tho' she fails to name either in her letter. The death of our excellent friend<sup>1</sup> and the condition of his family are constantly before my mind, and I can in no way reconcile myself to this unlooked for state of things. Such is Gods will is all that I can see or say about it. I received a week ago your letter informing me that no will had been found and that you would take the administration, and requesting me to meet you at Raleigh on the 3rd Monday of the month.

Nothing but the serious indisposition of myself or some member of my Household shall hinder me from meeting you.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Cad. Jones was much in want of money the day I parted with you—and paid him \$1000 and yesterday I had a letter requesting to close our business. I have requested that he come down here this afternoon and that I will pay him off. I would not like to expose myself or I would have gone to Hillsboro to day. Your Matters shall be all brought in. Of late I have been engaged in cleaning all my wells. On yesterday the man cut a vein of coal on the hill near the kitchen at the Stagville. This is about the only item of news that I have to give—and has caused some amusement in the family—read it in vindication of Prof. Jacksons report “that I was in the midst of the N. C. Coal fields”. I learn from my overseers that they are parting with the fruits of the last harvest with fearful rapidity and as yet nothing but little pigs have been lost, and with them I fear it will be a clear sweep. Of wheat it is said we have a plenty above the ground, and as yet no lambs.

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*Petition to Alamance County Court.*

NORTH CAROLINA }  
ALAMANCE COUNTY }

COURT OF PLEAS AND QUARTER  
SESSIONS March Term 1856.

*“To the Worshipful Justices of said Court.”*

The Petition of the following Citizens of Graham and the surrounding neighborhood is most respectfully submitted to your Worships; which we Humbly request may be received, entertained, and granted.

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<sup>1</sup>Joseph B. G. Roulhac had died very suddenly a short time before.

We would most respectfully shew unto your Worships, that it is the fond desire of our hearts to see the Town of Graham take that stand among her Sister Towns; which will make her respectable; and further desire to see a high standard of Morality and Education erected in our midst. And since the use of intoxicating liquors is exceedingly injurious to good morals and by no means calculated to advance the cause of Education; we would most humbly and respectfully beg and request of your Worships not to grant a License to any person, to retail Liquors in this place.

If your Worships should suppose that it is presumptuous in us to make the above request; we hereby declare that we make it with the utmost deference to your better Judgements. Knowing as we do that you are the Conservators of the peace and dignity of the County. We have no desire to injure the pecuniary interests of any person; and consequently make the request for the good of our Citizens, and not for the injury of any person.

And we further make the request hoping that you will assist us in saving our children from becoming *drunkards*.

And as in duty bound we will ever pray etc.

#### NAMES OF PETITIONERS

A. Apple	Wm. G. Clendenin
Lane F. Apple	Sarah H. Vanderford
Austin Whitsett	Robert Rountrey
P. P. Isley	Sarah Longest
Rebeca Grayson	Jno. Faucett
Sarah J. Grayson	Parthenia Faucett
P. R. Harden	Baker Greyson
John W. Harden	Angeletta Ray
Wm. B. Vanderford	D. C. Harden
Thomas Sellars Jr.	J. G. McLean
W. F. Grayson	John L. Kirkman Jr.
Jamès A. Turrentine	H. A. Wiley
J. M. Pogh	John Scott
Jas. G. Moore	James S. Scott
John T. Taylor	John Carfield
James V. Moore	J. L. Scott
Anna Morton	John W. Wiggins
Richard Crittenden	John W. Ballard
G. M. Fuller	A. Davis
A. D. Jones	M. Richmond
C. Crittenden	Joshua A. Gant
G. G. Walker	P. Tuck
Mary Walker	Alfred Isley
A. G. Anderson	S. E. Harden
Wm. A. Jones	E. C. Harden



Fanny Anderson	James N. Morton
Manley C. Jones	James C. Rawls
J. Tapscott	Thomas R. Moore
Samuel M. White	William McAdams
A. V. White	John F. Freeland
James P. Bradshaw	Joseph H. Morrow
Thos. J. Fowler	Thomas S. Cain
Aurilia D. Fowler	Joseph Thomas Foler Cummins
M. O. Fowler	Levi H. Walker
J. M. Moring	C. C. McMurray
John H. Fowler	Quinten T. Anderson
James K. Fowler	[Several illegible names]
Elizabeth A. E. Fowler	Michl. W. Holt
Calisha Massy	D. L. Ray
Rebecca O. Fowler	Alfred A. Holt
Thomas H. Fowler	Thorn Digue
Mary E. Fowler	Stephen S. Moffett
James G. Murray	Edwin W. Bates
W. F. Strowd	J. W. Wellons
W. H. Guthrie	R. M. Foust
T. B. S. Rubey	John R. Holt
T. M. Richmond	Catherine Holt
Chas. C. Rawls	Elizabeth T. Holt
W. H. Moore	

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*From John K. Ruffin.*

No 24. GIRARD ST. PHIL. March 7th 1856.

I have been anxiously expecting a letter from you for sometime, but up to the present I have been doomed to disappointment. By the want of regularity in your correspondence you set me a bad example and then attach blame to me for following it. I would however, write oftener if I had subjects to write about. Anything with reference to my associations and the things that engage my attention here would be devoid of interest to my friends in No. Carolina because they know nothing of them; so I am thrown entirely upon the resources furnished by my letters from home out of which to construct a letter. The scarcity of these then must furnish an excuse for the *uninteresting character* of my letter.

With the first of April will commence my summer course. I do not intend to take tickets in any of the "summer schools", for I am tired of *lectures* and want time to *digest* what I have already heard—but I will enter the office of an association of medical gentlemen here who have a private class that they examine regularly on the different branches and allow the members to see their private practice. This I think is the

best course I can adopt, for the schools furnish but a recapitulation, and that but a superficial one, of what I have already heard, without allowing me the opportunity to read up and ground myself in the text books; while the course I propose will embrace the same advantages and at the same time involve the *necessity* of my reading closely. It simply resolves itself into the question whether it is more expedient to do one's own work or leave another person to do it for us.

I will also take an additional ticket on obstetrics a branch to which I am particularly partial. The gentleman with whom I will connect myself has an extensive practise in that way and furnishes those of his students whom he deems sufficiently advanced with bona fide patients on whom to exercise practically what he has taught theoretically. I hope therefore by the close of the summer to announce to you my experience as an accoucheur.

But to carry into execution my plans will require another remittance from you. I have money enough to last me till April when I shall need an additional supply. I shall be here till August, and I think my expenses for the four months will amount to three hundred and fifty dollars. This may seem rather extravagant, but were you aware of the numerous contingencies that effect the purse of a medical student I am sure you would not think so.

I will be much obliged to you then, if it is convenient if you will send me that amount, or at least, part of it, by the first of April.

The lectures close on the 13th of this month. I am sorry that I cannot pay a visit to Carolina, but my time is so limited that I don't think it would justify the expense; and besides, were I to go home I am sure I should be unwilling to return so soon. My affairs in Petersburg, progress as smoothly as I could wish; and as I know of no pleasanter way of spending part of my leasure time than with my friends there I have promised to give them the benefit of my company for a few days. If nothing prevents then I will be in Petersburg on the 12th where I shall be glad to hear from you as I am very anxious to know what is going on at home.

\* \* \* \* \*

I perceive from the papers that you have taken the management of Mr. Roulhae's estate. As I feel the deepest interest in the prospects of my sister and her children I dont think you will deem it an unwarrantable curiosity on my part to enquire how he has provided for them. Does Sister Kate still remain in Raleigh and how does she submit to her loss? I have written to her but once, yet hardly an hour has passed over my head without my having thought of her in her distress. I should have written again but the words of consolation sound so cold and effect their object in such a small degree in the first moments of such deep bereavement that I have thought it better to wait till time has tempered the blow. When you see her give my best love to her if you please.

I wonder if anybody at Haw River remembered that the 6th day of March was my twenty second birthday. The longer I live the quicker do the years seem to roll by. How short has been the past one, and how much to be regretted are some of the changes it has produced among us! Yet at the same time we have cause to be thankful for its many blessings.

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*From Paul C. Cameron.*

FAIRTOSH Saturday March 15th, 56.

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God grant that all will go well and that I shall very soon have the pleasure to report the safe arrival of *our* Thomas Ruffin—a perfect boy—and in time to make a *Man*. With a Duncan Cameron and a Thomas Ruffin, if they bear any resemblance to their grandfathers in love of work and capacity for usefulness, I will in my old age (should I live to be old) sit in the corner and smoke my pipe, and point with some satisfaction to my boys in the field; for to the field of usefulness and labour they shall go.

My brother is steadily tho' slowly regaining his lost health, as yet confined to his room. We have some very ill negroes, both in Orange and Person, inflammation of the lungs.

Today I commence ploughing up a part of my crop of wheat. The Wheat is so badly hurt by the winter that it cant make a half crop, a rich coat of Guano lost unless it gives itself to the oats! Such is the luck of the Farmer.

I was in Hillsboro one day this week, found Thomas engaged in the prosecution of young Read of Ala, for killing Cheek at Chapel Hill—he stands up to his work manfully—it is a case of Manslaughter but the indications I thought favourable for an acquittal.

Our Rail Road Bridge over the little Creek in Norwoods field burnt on thursday morning by the night train down. This will bring all freight to a dead halt at Hillsboro! We shall have other bridges burnt if they are permitted to remain long in this present condition. The bridges constitute the great feature of the Road, and I know *no where* so large and valuable a property as badly protected! They should be covered at once with tin and painted.

Nichols I was told had sold his Hotel at Hillsboro for \$4500! it cost him 20 years ago 6000, has cost him fully \$9000! This is certainly no progress, he was under no necessity to sell, it is said is to go to take charge of Trollingers Hotel on Haw River.

Letters from Haw River, by the mail of yesterday report "all well" as I am told.

Suppose you come through Washington and take a look at Congress. I think you have never seen it in session!

With the best wishes of our United household for the accomplishment of all your wishes in the matter that takes you to Baltimore and for your safe and comfortable return to home and friends.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Baltimore, Md.

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*From W. S. Long.*

NEW BERN N. C. March 24th/56

Believing, sir, that you take an interest in my welfare, from the fact that you have troubled yourself so much to recommend my name to the favorable consideration of different men of business, it occurs to me that I owe this much to you, at least, which is due to say, that I am pleased with my situation here and think I am connected with a man who is an intelligent thorough-going business man, and have now before me an opportunity of learning a great deal about business of every description, and especially Rail Roding, and allow me to assure you, sir, I shall spare no pains however tedious, no labor however arduous to avail myself to the utmost of that opportunity and prove myself if *possible*, not unworthy the attention you have showed me. Mr. Fisher's conduct towards me proved clearly that your letter to him had a good effect. Mr. E. R. Stanly who contracted to build the road from here to Kinston take it in the woods and deliver it in running condition, having the use of the engine, in the meantime, has made me his general superintendent. Remember me to your Lady and family with the greatest respect, and believe me I shall ever feel under many obligations to you and remain,

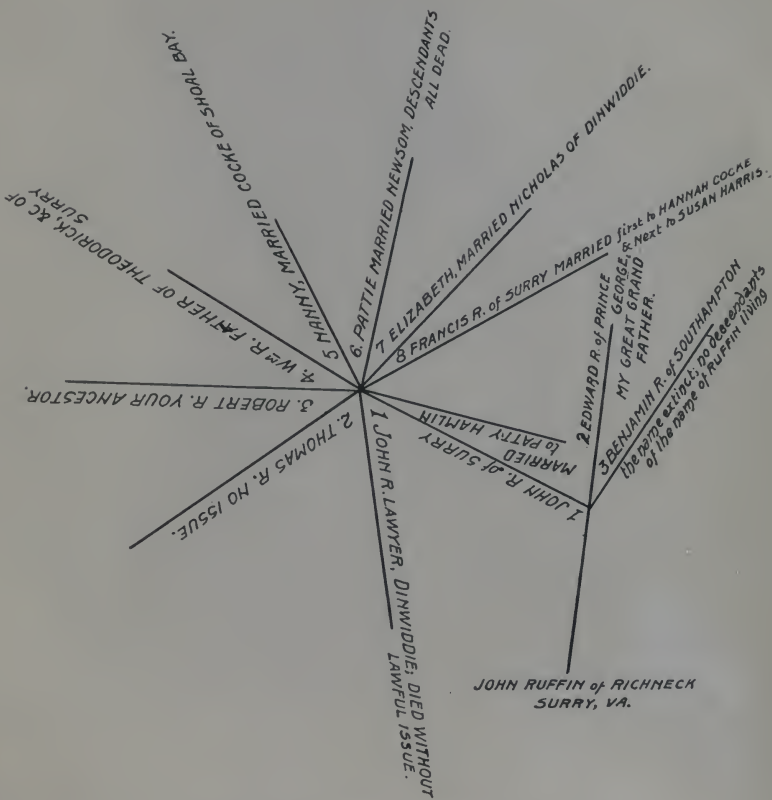
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*From Junius I. Scales.*

RICHMOND HILL, April 6, 1856.

Various circumstances together with a very sore thumb for the last two or three weeks have prevented an earlier acknowledgement of the receipt of your kind letter. Will you now permit me to return you my sincere thanks for the advice it contained. Believe me my Dear Sir I feel truly grateful for your kindness and am determined to prove my high appreciation of it by a faithful endeavor to pursue the course you have marked out, confident that I could not render a more acceptable return for the trouble I have given you. I almost feared that it was presumption in me to address you as I did and am therefore the more





GENEALOGICAL TABLE OF RUFFIN FAMILY  
 (See letter of Edmund Ruffin to Thomas Ruffin, p. 511)

highly gratified at the result. Please allow me to say that I shall carefully treasure up your letter and frequently consult its pages. I have come to the determination to remain in No. Ca. and in consequence of that determination am endeavoring to fit myself for the Bar at Judge Pearson's school. I must not omit, in obedience to their requests, to present the kindest regards of my father and mother and to express their deep sense of their obligations to you.

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*From Edmund Ruffin.*

*Dear Sir.*

RICHMOND, April 18, 1856.

At different times, as occasions offered, since we were together, I have endeavoured to obtain information as to the gaps in our family tree—and without any success until very lately. Mrs. Seward (daughter of Francis Ruffin of Surry), has supplied the links necessary to connect the three branches of the family—hers, yours, and mine. My doubt is whether she has not forgotten and omitted some one generation, or placed a father where his son should be. But I will give you the early stocks as she informed me and if there are errors, you may thus be enabled to separate them, and to perfect the true portion. She gives as the oldest progenitor known, John Ruffin, a merchant and especially an Indian trader, who lived at Richneck, Surry, where Wm. E. B. Ruffin still lives.

According to this, your grandfather, Robert (of Mayfield?) was the elder brother of Francis (first of Mecklenburg and afterwards of Surry), Mrs. Seward's father. If this is so, it is strange that you did not know a connexion so near, and so little removed. If there is any error on this head, please inform me, with its correction.

Yesterday I had the records and lists of wills etc. of the General Court examined, for Surry and Southampton. I found only two Ruffins, of one, William, of Surry, the will was proved in 1773, and Robert R. of Surry, with Elizabeth his wife late widow of John Lightfoot of Brunswick, refused to stand to her first husband's will. I noted the date as "Nov. 1, 1851" by mistake, of course. I suppose it must have been 1751—as it could scarcely have been as far back as 1651.

With such corrections and additions as you may furnish me, I will make out a full genealogy, and give you a copy. It will be a useful and important addition to give the dates of birth, or death, of every head of a family, so far as known, or *about* either. Supply as many as you can—also their latest residences.

I have seen all of my family in Prince George very lately, and heard from Marlbourne yesterday. All well, except Elizabeth, and she is

much better of late. I have sold out, (or given up) my farm, and the bulk of all my estate to my children and have left Marlbourne, to allow the new government to be established, without any hindrance by my presence. That will be considered my home—and the place to direct my letters. But I shall be generally elsewhere.

Pryor,<sup>1</sup> chief (and ablest) editor of the Enquirer, today asked my opinion of a *contingent* scheme of his, which I heartily and eagerly expressed my approbation of. But I have no faith in any such result, because I do not believe that any truly capable, talented, and honest man ever will be again chosen for the office of President. Pryor's scheme is in the event (as has occurred twice before) that no one of the now prominent candidates for the presidency can be nominated by the Convention at Cincinnati, and that it shall be necessary to substitute a new man, that he will try to have your name adopted. We agree that if desert and fitness for the place, were to direct the selection, none yet named could compete with you, and still less likely for any new man. But for my own part, though I think it very probable that there will be a necessity for dropping off the present candidates, I also think that the new man would be some one of the Polk and Pierce order and that you would stand no chance. Even if having the support of all the honest members of the Convention, you would still be supported but by a small majority.

\* \* \* \* \*

Respectfully and truly yours

EDMUND RUFFIN.

P. S. I wrote to Thos. Ruffin, M.C. to ask about his ancestry, of others in Franklin, Edgecombe, and Bertie, formerly or now. But he knows nothing except that the family came from Va. I inferred that the emigration was very far back, and from Southampton. Probably it was a very poor and obscure member, leaving earlier than John the Indian trader's sons.

[Address: Graham, N. C.]

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<sup>1</sup>Roger A. Pryor, a graduate of Hampden-Sidney College and the University of Virginia, who was successively editor of the Petersburg *Southside Democrat*, Washington *Union*, and the Richmond *Examiner*. Later he was a brigadier general in the Confederate Army, a member of the Confederate Congress, and, after the war, a lawyer and judge in New York. In a letter to the editor he says that he has no recollection of the political events of this period and is thus unable to say why no further action was taken.



*From Joseph S. Egan to Frank G. Ruffin.*

RICHMOND, Apl. 19 '56.

*My dear Sir.*

There was a Capt. Thomas Ruffin, who was an officer of the Va. line in the war of the Revolution, and who died or was killed in the service. Can you give me any information of his heirs?

Very Resptly

Yo. Mo. Obt.

Jos. S. EGAN.

Frank G. Ruffin Esq.

Please write to Hampton.

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*From John Y. Bryant.*

WASHINGTON CITY April 26th 1856.

I have been referred to you by the Hon. Burton Craig, as one likely to have some information relative to the Revolutionary services of Col Alexander Martin of N. Carolina, and with the suggestion that, such may be found among the papers of the late "Judge Murphy".

You will confer a very great favor upon the heirs of Col Martin, as well the undersigned by early attention to the foregoing.

If there should be any expense for procuring copies to be made of any papers bearing on this case, I will most cheerfully remit it, when advised thereof.

Judge Thomas Ruffin

Graham Alamance Co

N. Carolina.

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*From James Webb.*

HILLSBORO' May 8th 1856.

*Hon. Thomas Ruffin*

*Dr. Sir.*

I am requested by the Vestry of St. Matthews Church to inform you that you were elected a vestryman, and also a member of the next convention from this church, and they hope you will find it convenient to attend convention. They also request your donation for last year for Mr. Donnelly's Salary \$ .00 also donation towards paying his debts say \$20.00

Very Respectfully

Yours etc.

JAMES WEBB,

Secretary of Vestry.

*From A. N. Gibbon.*

NEW YORK May 24, 1856.

The price of North Carolina six per cent Bonds are about ninety eight per cent. including interest from the first of January. I suppose they might be bought at about that price. There are very few on Market. What they will be on the first of June is uncertain, but I do not believe there will be much change.

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*From John R. Lee.*

LEAKSVILLE Friday night, May 30th 1856.

You will probably be a little surprised, if not displeased, at seeing the time and place of the date of this letter. But I will give you a history of the day's proceedings—and hope you will not think that I am altogether void of “mercy to a beast”. We came jogging along very quietly and steadily—making about 4 miles the hour. For several miles before we reached High Rock, the horse limped a good deal. His halt seemed to increase, insomuch that I began to fear it would be wrong to continue the journey. However, we reached High Rock about 12. by my watch—stopped—took off the harness and fed him. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past one o'clock I had him put in the buggy, and we set off. To my surprise and joy, he gave not the least sign of lameness afterwards. He travelled with so much ease and life that I concluded to come on to the Court House. When we got to the fork of the road, where the sign board said 2 miles to the C. H. and 8 to Leaksville, I got down and examined the horse closely—and could see no symptom of fatigue, or even of weariness about him; and up to that point, he had shown no diminution of liveliness and activity in his movements. I asked Manuel what he thought of our going on to Leaksville. He said: “Do as you please.” I asked him, if he thought it would be hurtful to the horse. He replied, that he did not know: but would do just what I said. I tried him by other questions. But I found he had made up his mind to take upon himself no share of the responsibility. Even a strong negative leading question could not draw from him the shadow of an opinion. However as the horse seemed so fresh and free from flagging I concluded to come home. As we were approaching the river, on a smooth piece of road, he trotted along so nimbly, that I expressed surprise. Manuel said “He seems quite fresh, and looks as if he could go 10 miles further, without being tired.” So we arrived here about  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 o'clock, being nearly 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours on the road exclusive of the time we stopped at High Rock.

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The roads are as good and smooth as possible, and the day was very cool and pleasant. I never made a day's travel of the same distance, with so much ease and comfort in my life. For which I beg you will accept my hearty thanks.

Saturday morning, May 31st: 'Manuel says the horse eat heartily last night and this morning and seems quite well in all respects. I have been out to see him and he looks as well as he did yesterday morning.

I hope all will get back safe and sound, after a good night's sleep. I am quite well this morning.

[Address: Alamance N. C.]

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*From W. Hooper.<sup>1</sup>*

MURFREESBORO' N. C. June 4/56

The young men conducting the University Magazine, think it the peculiar business or at least a main design of that Periodical to rescue from oblivion our State Antiquities and to pay due respect to the memory of our public men whose share in national affairs was not sufficient to give them a national reputation. In pursuance of this design they (the Editors) have urged me to furnish a biographical notice of the late Col. Jones<sup>2</sup> my-father-in-law. I tried to waive the task as thinking my relationship a disqualification and recommended yourself. But my plea was not accepted but rather thought a recommendation as opening to me materials that might not be accessible to those out of the family. The members of the family have added their request that I would undertake it, and I have at length consented to try and furnish the article for the Magazine. I have postponed till our approaching vacation commencing in July my sitting down to the composition of the sketch and, in the mean time I want to collect from his contemporaries and friends any particular facts or remarks which they might be disposed to communicate. Your having been so long a friend and intimate of the family and having seen a good deal of Mr. Jones in his professional and social career, will I hope be an argument with you to assist my design with a letter embracing such facts and characteristic as you may think fit

<sup>1</sup>William Hooper, 1782-1876, a graduate of the University in 1809, who was professor from 1817 to 1822, and from 1825 to 1837. He began life as an Episcopal minister but later became a Baptist. After leaving the University he was acting president of South Carolina College, president of Wake Forest College, and, at the time this letter was written, was president of Chowan Collegiate Institute at Murfreesboro.

<sup>2</sup>Edward Jones, of Chatham, 1762-1841, was a native of Ireland and a descendant of Jeremy Taylor. He came to Wilmington in 1786 after failing in his profession in Philadelphia. He served in the legislature from 1788 to 1791. He married Miss Mary E. Mallett and moved to Rock Rest, Chatham County, where he spent the rest of his life. He was solicitor general of the State from 1797 to 1824. Johnston Blakeney was a protege of his and received his appointment to the navy through his influence.

for insertion in such a sketch. You are now, I think, enjoying in the opinion of all your fellow-citizens, the *otium cum dignitate* which you have well earned; and I cannot but think that *otium* not *invaded* but legitimately and pleasantly *tasked* with such contributions as I now solicit.

I shall send this under cover to the Postmaster at Hillsboro as I am unacquainted with the name of your Post-office—unless I were to choose to compliment you by addressing “Thos Ruffin N. Carolina”, as Dr. Franklin once did Sir Wm. Jones, endorsing his letter: “Sir Wm. Jones Great Britian” to which Sir Wm, determined not to be out-done, replied: “Ben Franklin, The World” I presume you have seen the anecdote.

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*From William Alexander Kirkland.<sup>1</sup>*

Dear Uncle:—

WEST RIVER MARYLAND, June 30th, 1856.

I have passed my examination and am now waiting for a Masters Warrant. I've been up to see Mr. Dobbin and he has promised to order me to sea within less than a month.

If he orders any of my class who passed above me to the same vessell the highest will be Master, and any others will have to be Passed Mid-[shipme]n until Congress Confirms the new Commissions. I stand now about half way on the list of Masters, but the Secretary will not give out the warrants until these Confirmations have taken place and I am as likely to be ordered as Passed Mid[shipma]n which will make not only a striking diff. in my position but will effect my pay to the tune of about \$250 per annum.

If you would write to the Secretary on the subject I would have no difficulty in being ordered as Master. Give best love to all and believe me to remain, Very Sincerely,

Your Nephew

WM. A. KIRKLAND.

Passd. Midn., U. S. N.

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<sup>1</sup>William Alexander Kirkland had been appointed midshipman in 1850. He was made master and lieutenant in 1858. He did not resign when North Carolina seceded and became lieutenant-commander in 1862, commander in 1869, captain in 1880, commodore in 1893, and rear admiral in 1895. He died in 1898.

*From J. S. Perry.*

RALEIGH, July 2nd, 1856.

I am requested to ask of you, as Chairman of the Executive Comm. of the State Agricultural Society, the privilege of our 4th of July Marshals wearing the capason etc. of the marshals of the State Fair. We promise to take good care of it and to return it as good as recd, besides being thousands of times obliged to you, should you be so kind as to let us have it—: please answer forthwith and oblige.

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*From Andrew Mickle<sup>1</sup> to Sterling Ruffin.*

CHAPEL HILL 1st Aug. 1856.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Candidates were here Yesterday, Mr. Cameron's speech gave great satisfaction, his is a plain Straightforward Course and ought to insure his election.<sup>2</sup> Mr. C. Seemed greatly surprised when I told him I should vote for him, so much for having mixed up in politics in years gone by, I have kept aloof from such things since I came to the Hill, and now claim the priviledge of following my inclination in such matters.

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*From Thomas Ruffin.<sup>3</sup>*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

August the 28th 1856.

Your much esteemed favor of Aug: 21st, inclosing a letter postmarked at Rocky Mount, came safely to hand. The Rocky Mount letter was beyond a doubt intended for me, and though I have no knowledge of the writer of it, I have learned that there is a man bearing the name of the writer in that vicinity, and the letter itself is of a kind with which I have become very familiar within the past three years.

We have been in the midst of very great excitement here, since the commencement of the called session. There seems at present to be no

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<sup>1</sup>A merchant of Chapel Hill.

<sup>2</sup>Mr. Cameron was a candidate for the Senate from Orange.

<sup>3</sup>Thomas Ruffin, of Wayne, a native of Edgecombe and a distant cousin of Judge Ruffin, who graduated from the University, 1841, and was a member of Congress from 1853 to 1861. He was mortally wounded at Fairfax Court House in 1863.

prospect of settling the difficulty. We have taken two test votes to day, and been each time defeated. The Black Republicans continue to adhere, to the proviso to the Army bill, even more pertinaciously than heretofore. We had hoped that some of them would give way and permit us to pass the Army bill, but there seems at this time to be no prospect whatever of this. We have about despaired of ever being able to pass the bill. The House has agreed to adjourn today at three o'clock, but the Senate has not yet acted on the resolution and the concurrence of that body is doubtful. The President for want of means to carry on operations, has directed the armories at Springfield, Harper's Ferry etc. to be closed. In this he was unquestionably right and could not act otherwise. This will throw a great number of persons out of employment and create great excitement in some localities.

The salvation of the country seems at this time to depend on the election of Mr. Buchanan. Our friends here though not to say sanguine are tolerably confident of his election. The friends of Fremont profess to be very confident of his election, and it really seems that some of them are sincere. I cannot think it possible that the people of the North have become so demented as to elect such a man as Fremont under existing circumstances. The general opinion prevalent among Democrats here is that Mr. Buchanan's chances are decidedly best for California, Illinois, New Jersey, Indiana, Pennsylvania and New York, and that they are equal for some of the other Northern States. It is conceded that Mr. Buchanan will carry the entire South.

There does not seem to be as much enthusiasm for Mr. Buchanan in Pennsylvania as was expected, and our friends have serious fears of the result, in that State. They are much more sanguine of a favorable result in the four States first named above.

The result of the late election in Iowa was much more unfavorable than had been anticipated—it was thought the Black Republicans would carry the State, but not by so great a majority.

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*From Josiah Collins to R. A. Hamilton.*

SOMERSET PLACE!  
LAKE SCUPPERNONG N. CA.

R. A. Hamilton; Esqr.

August 30th, 1856.

Dear Sir;

Your favour of August 20th was received by last mail, and I answer it immediately as requested.

On the 28th of June, I addressed an answer to "the Chairman Dr. Edward A. Crudup at Franklin", as requested by Mr. H. K. Burgwyn of which the following is a copy:

"SOMERSET PLACE  
LAKE SCUPPERNONG, N. CA.  
28th June 1856!

Messrs Edward A. Crudup M. D.  
R. A. Hamilton,  
H. K. Burgwyn,  
Gentlemen,

Your letter informing me that I had been selected by you, a Committee on behalf of the Nor. Ca. Agricultural Society to deliver an address at the next annual State Fair, is just received; I shall necessarily be absent from the State at the period when the Fair takes place; and am therefore obliged to decline the appointment which you have conferred upon me in so complimentary a manner.

I remain very Respectfully  
Your Obt. Servant  
(signed) JOSIAH COLLINS."

On the 8th of August without delay of Mail I addressed to H. K. Burgwyn Esqr, whose letter to me was an Enquiry like your own, on the part of the Committee of the State Agricultural Society of which the following is a Copy: by the same Mail transmitting to Dr. Crudup a copy of my letter to him of the 28th of June:

"SOMERSET PLACE  
LAKE SCUPPERNONG, N. CA.

Henry K. Burgwyn Esqr.  
Dear Sir

August 8th, 1856:

Your letter of 26 July reached me by last Mail. The delay is accounted for by the fact that it was directed to Plymouth instead of Scuppernong: Your favour of 21 June enclosing the request of the Committee of the Agricultural Society was answered immediately on its receipt, and a copy of the answer is now enclosed. The letter was directed to "the Chairman, Dr. Crudup, at Franklin", as you requested, to whom I sent by this Mail a copy of the letter. Regretting that any inconvenience should result from an accident beyond my control, but in which I am interested, I remain Very respectfully

Yr. Obt. Servant,  
(signed) JOSIAH COLLINS".

By these it will be perceived that there has been no remissness on my part in responding to the Committee without loss of Mail!

I cannot too much regret the concurrence of circumstances that has prevented the Committee from receiving my answers!

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt. Svt.

JOSIAH COLLINS.

*From Jarvis Buxton.*<sup>1</sup>

ASHEVILLE N. C. Aug 30th 1856.

At our last convention held in Washington I took occasion to make a statement before the friends of the Church concerning the Church School at Asheville. There were but few present on the occasion, and the statement was not generally known. In response, however, the following subscriptions were made on the spot, most of which have been paid.

Mr. Thompson .....	\$100.00
Rev. Mr. Cheshire .....	100.00
Josiah Collins, Esq. ....	125.00
Mr. Wm. Eaton .....	50.00
Vestry of Edenton .....	200.00 or more
Rev. Mr. Hines .....	100.00
Rev. Mr. Burison .....	100.00
Rev. Mr. Buxton .....	100.00

There remain about \$1500.00 yet to be made up. The property is made responsible for this sum, and until paid the Diocese cannot come into possession. The actual cost thus far has been \$6900 a good part of which was labouriously collected by myself in small sums during a two months tour, and without charge to the funds contributed in any way.

I could never go through that process again, and the present is the last effort for aid that I shall make abroad; which I confess to be made, not generally, but after a deliberate selection throughout the Diocese of those whom I judge most likely to feel an interest in and to respond generously to this appeal.

The importance of securing this property for the uses of the Church in this Diocese, cannot in my judgment be too highly estimated. Delay will only increase the difficulty of doing so, however, since half of the above mentioned sum (\$1500.) is drawing interest and the other half must be paid down.

There are 13½ acres attached to the premises near the Parish Church and centre of the town affording an unrivalled position for the purposes in view, which are not only to furnish facilities for raising up a native ministry, but for educating the boys of the Church under the auspices of its Ministry.

This is the last effort, the undersigned will make, to secure this property to the diocese free of debt if it fail, others must hereafter undertake that task.

Meanwhile he makes bold to beg his Brethren of the Laity, to whom this appeal may come not to lay it aside as an ordinary one, or without considering whether it be not worthy of a liberal response, this once for all.

<sup>1</sup>Jarvis Buxton, 1820-1902, a graduate of the University in 1829, at this time a prominent Episcopal clergyman.



From William J. Bingham.

LEXINGTON VA. 2nd. Sep. 1856.

Dear Sir:

At Col. Smith's, Pres. of the Va. Mil. Ins. I had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Garnett, a college friend of yours, at Princeton, who desires his most affectionate remembrances to you, Wm., if I mistake not, is his christian name. He spoke of a twin brother, Muscoe, still living. He is a very pleasant gentleman of seventy, says he is a *little* your senior, hale, and evidently of "sound and disposing mind and memory." I was not aware before of the romantic turn of your youthful mind. He thinks he has about a bushel of your letters. You wrote *voluminously* for a while preceding your marriage etc. etc. It afforded me much pleasure to be able to add *my mature* testimony to the correctness of what your friend might then have supposed extravagant fancies. Mr. G. resides in this town (with his son-in-law, Major Williamson, who is connected with the Institute, and holds high standing,) "a very estimable retired gentleman, who has acquitted himself very creditably in every department of life". All this is perhaps no news to you. Yet you can't but appreciate his most affectionate remembrances.

I heard a very interesting lecture on education this morning from Col. Smith, the accomplished President of the Va. Mil. Ins. "A christian gentlemen—the highest style of man"—All this by the way. Now to my purpose. I once addressed you on the subject of Osage Orange seed. If your trees have fruit this season, and you do not design planting the seed yourself, and no one having more claims on your kindness than myself should desire to plant them, I beg that the Oranges when mature be thrown into some place where cattle and hogs can't get at them, and kept for me.

The humidity of the air at the Alum Springs seeming in my daughter Robina's case to counteract the healing effect of the waters, I brought her to this place ten days ago, after spending five weeks at the Springs, bringing the water with me. In this comparatively dry and elastic air she rides out every day and is improving delightfully. So long as she continues to improve, just so long shall we breathe the air of this wonderful mountain region—"The Valley of Va."—Then I must spend not less than three weeks in one of the cities of our seaboard. The time of my return is therefore very uncertain.

Everything seems to flourish here but peaches. There is a striking identity in the habits, feelings, and manners of Va. and N. Ca. gentlemen and ladies. Everything conduces to render our time here pleasant. With very kind regards to the "Queen bee, and all the working bees," in which my daughters Robina and Eliza unite, I am, dear sir, very respectfully and truly yours

W. J. BINGHAM

Hon. Thos. Ruffin  
Alamance. N. C.

Please present my special regards to Sterling. Will you tell him why you once wrote your name Thomas C. Ruffin? Excuse so young a man for taking such freedoms. The fact is I am as young in *feelings* as I was thirty years ago: And why should the heart ever grow old? I would not dare play the boy thus, were I not sure there is a chord in your bosom which responds in juvenile symphony to mine. I am ambitious of your "green old age"—May it long be green—should my life last so long.

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*From William Hooper.*

*My dear Sir*

RALEIGH Sept. 4th, [1856]

Some time ago I wrote to you informing you that I had at the request of the Eds. of the University Magazine agreed to furnish them an article on the life etc. of the late Col. Ed. Jones of Chatham. As you were a particular friend of the family and a fellow laborer of Mr. Jones at the bar, I ventured to request of you to furnish me, (in a letter) with such information, or such characteristic sketches, as you might be willing to communicate for said memoir. Not knowing your P. Office, I inclosed the letter to the P.M. at Hillsboro requesting him to give it the right direction.

As I have had no reply, I know not whether your silence be due to a reluctance to furnish such a communication or to press of multifarious business in which, I hear, you have, of late, been much involved. In this second letter I by no means wish to press the request upon you, if you have any objections which might arise in your mind . . . . But . . . . if my letter did not reach you or has been overlooked in the hurry of business, I venture again to ask the contribution above alluded to. It would be the more acceptable because, as I have such a letter from Gov. Manly and Judge Nash, the absence of *your* notice of him might seem strange or *ominous* in such testimonials.

As I am about to put the memoir in the press for the Univ. Mag. of next month, I should be obliged by a short letter directed to Raleigh containing your views of Mr. J. as a man and a lawyer with liberty to insert the letter or such part as you may choose to designate. Unless I hear from you within a week, or ten days, it will be too late, tho' if time should forbid an earlier communn. it could be appended.

With best respects to Mrs. Ruffin, I remain

very respy

W. HOOPER.

*From R. A. Hamilton.*

RALEIGH 10 Sepr. 7 o'clk. P.M, [1856]

I have this moment recd. the Enclosed letter from Mr. Edwards from which you will perceive that he declines delivering the address.

In accordance with an understanding with Dr. Crudup (Mr. Burgwin as we learned being out of the State) I shall to morrow address a note to William Eaton Jun<sup>r</sup>., Esqr. of Warren. If he does not accept I know not what we shall do.

I will also write Crudup tomorrow.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin }  
Alamance }

[Enclosure]

*From Weldon N. Edwards to Messrs. R. A. Hamilton and  
Ed. A. Crudup.*

POPLAR MOUNT, NEAR RIDGEWAY, N. C.

10th Sepr. 1856.

*Messrs. R. A. Hamilton }  
and Ed. A. Crudup } Committee etc.  
Gentl.*

Your favor of the 8th Instant, "on behalf of the N. C. Agri: Society" advising me that I had been selected "to deliver the next annual address at the State Fair in October" and asking my compliance, was received yesterday.

Highly appreciating the distinguished compliment conveyed in the selection, I exceedingly regret my inability to comply. I returned only last Saturday from an excursion to the Mountain Springs of Virginia, and brought with me a severe Catarrh attended with much cough and hoarsness—which utterly disqualifies me for making the preparation due to a subject so full of Interest, and so full of instruction. And I am without hope, I shall be relieved in time to digest an address, suitable to the occasion and the expectations it must naturally excite.

The cause of Agriculture earnestly commends itself to every lover of the prosperity and Happiness of man, and would cheerfully receive my humble contribution at the time proposed, but for the state of my health. It is already the highest and noblest pursuit of man, and is destined to become, at no distant day, by the exertions of the state and other kindred societies, *first* among the *professions* of the age.

May your labors, and those of the society you represent, so eminently calculated to produce such a result, be crowned with success, is the ardent prayer of

Very Respectfully and truly Yrs.

W. N. EDWARDS.

*From R. A. Hamilton.*

RALEIGH 16 Sept. 1856.

I am this morning favoured with yours of the 15th in response to my two letters. I thank you for your sympathising in our difficulties, (for we are, indeed, in rather an embarrassing situation,) and particularly for your suggestion of Prest. Mitchell's name.

On yesterday, however, in accordance with our Conversation (Dr. C. and Myself) I addressed a letter to George Davis esqr. of Wilmington, inviting him to be the orator on the occasion, having the previous day (Sunday night) received a letter from Wm. Eaton Jr. Esqr. declining for satisfactory reasons, (I enclose his letter). Mr. Davis's *location* and his having made addresses of the kind, suggested his name. If he is not at his Courts out of Wilmington, I presume we shall hear from him by Wednesday or thursday—if out of Wilmington, I am apprehensive of a farther delay of a few days. Should Mr. D. also decline, We shall immediately write Prof. Mitchell and feel entirely satisfied that no more fortunate selection could be made. If Mr. D. declines, I will write you immediately and beg you to use your influence with Dr. M. to accept. Our friend Dr. C. would do well, his being on the Com. would be urged by him as a reason why he should not be the orator, but if Profr. M. will not consent, we must give him his "orders" and insist upon it.

To Judge Ruffin,  
Alamance.

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[Enclosure]

*From William Eaton, Jr., to Messrs. Crudup, Burgwynn and Hamilton.*

WARRENTON Sept. 14th 1856.

I have received your letter of the 12th inst in which you inform me that I have been selected by yourselves as a committee, to deliver the next annual address, before the N. C. Agricultural Society, at the State Fair in October next. I am much obliged to you for the high, and to me entirely unexpected honor, which you have conferred upon me by this selection, and I deeply regret my inability to accept the appointment. Warren Superior Court will commence its Fall Term on the 13th of October, and will probably continue its session for four or five days. I have some suits in that Court of very great importance to my clients, which will require my presence. Franklin Superior Court will meet on the 6th of October and I appear in several important cases in that Court which will require a good deal of attending. In fact an unusual

press of business both private and professional will occupy nearly my whole time until after the fair. For these reasons I am compelled to decline the honor of delivering the next annual address.

With great respect

Your obedient servant

WM. EATON, JR.

To Messrs. E. A. Crudup	}	Committee.
H. T. Burgwyn		
R. A. Hamilton		

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*From Thomas H. Wright.<sup>1</sup>*

WILMINGTON N. C. Sept. 19, /56.

I learned from my daughter Mrs. Strange, on her return from her very pleasant visit to your family, that you had expressed much doubt if it would be in your power to attend the General Convention which meets in Philadelphia on the 1st proxo. I hope, my dear sir, you will allow nothing which can be postponed or dispensed with, to interfere with your attendance, as matters of deep interest to the church will come before the Convention. If, however, you have concluded not to be present, the duty devolves upon me, as first alternate, to supply your place, and I should be glad to learn your intention at your earliest convenience—particularly as I am a member of the Missionary Committee which meets in Phila. the day previous to the Convention, and at which I would like to be present, if I have to attend the Convention.

It may be that you have conferred with some other alternate to act as your substitute, if so I shall be happy to hear it, and will most cheerfully decline in his favour. I should have to leave home, with no little sacrifice.

Mrs. Strange desires to be kindly remembered to yourself and family, and to say to Mr. Tucker Ruffin who was so kind as to send her the most elegant and delicious peaches we have seen this season, that she has been remiss in not returning him her thanks, and regrets that the letter, which she intended sending him to day, was unfortunately left at the Sound.

\* \* \* \* \*

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

Graham, Alamance Co., N. C.

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<sup>1</sup>Dr. Thomas Henry Wright, 1800-1861, a graduate of the University in 1820, at this time a prominent business man of Wilmington.

*From R. A. Hamilton.*

RALEIGH 20 Sept, [1856]

Apologising for being so troublesome (which I know under the circumstances you will pardon) I take the liberty of enclosing to you an invitation to Profr. Mitchell feeling assured that he will not decline if you will write him a few lines and add your solicitations to ours.

I have just recd. a reply from Mr. Davis, whose courts compel him to decline.

I have not seen Dr. Crudup and as the time is so short, I have taken the responsibility of acting without consultation with my colleagues.

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*From Elisha Mitchell.*

CHAPEL HILL Sept. 25th 1856.

*To His Honor Judge Ruffin*

*My Dear Sir.*

When Marie Antoinette wanted some new arrangement and extra expenditures at Versailles and applied to the Minister, the Comte de Vergennes to meet her wishes in that particular, his reply is reported to have been—"Madam, if the thing is possible, it is done already; if it is impossible, it shall be done".

I hold myself bound to return the same answer to Judge Ruffin and therefore transmit to Raleigh to day the letter copied on the third page. I bid you adieu and turn to the pages of the "Scriptores rei rusticae, Veteres Latini, Cato, Vano," "Columella, Calladius" and some others with which Prof. Hubbard has furnished me, and have found out already that in the time of the Romans, Arcadia was regarded as furnishing the best asses, especially to breed from, and the country of old Sapines the next best.

Respectfully yours

E. MITCHELL.

To Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

[Enclosure.]

*From Elisha Mitchell to R. A. Hamilton and Others.*

CHAPEL HILL Sept 25th 1855.

To Messrs. *E. A. Crudup*  
*H. K. Burgwinn* } *Committee of the N. Ca.*  
*and R. A. Hamilton* } *Agricult. Society.*

Gentlemen.

I received yesterday under cover from his Honor Chief Justice Ruffin yours of the 20th tendering to me the honor of delivering the address before the N. Ca. Agricultural Society on the 14th of the next month. He informs me somewhat at large what the circumstances are which render it necessary to look out for, and if possible, find, an orator at so late an hour.

It is of course a sudden as well as an unexpected warning that I receive to get ready; but it seems very desirable that something shall be done, however brief the notice, It will not be in my power to bring forward anything that will be worthy of the place and the occasion, but I may be able to prepare what, without any claims to excellence shall perhaps escape contempt. I will therefore in proof of the interest I feel in the business that is given you in charge undertake the task you assign me.

His Honor informs me that Professor William H. McGuffey of the University of Virginia is to deliver the address before the Agricultural Society of the State, this fall. If convenient, I shall be glad (whenever and wherever you announce the arrangements that are made here) to have this fact stated; so that if I shall be regarded by any persons as stepping out of my proper sphere, it may be seen that the employment of recluse scholars, instead of practical farmers to whom it properly belongs, to discharge this duty, is for once the order of the day.

I am Gentlemen

Very Respectfully Yours

E. MITCHELL.

Messrs *E. A. Crudup*  
*H. K. Burgwinn* } *Committee.*  
*R. A. Hamilton* }

*From Elisha Mitchell.*

CHAPEL HILL Sept. 27th 1856.

It is my purpose not to neglect anything that you may write to me or say to me. Your uniform kindness to me requires this at my hands.

Your letter came to me on Tuesday and I was obliged to delay one day in sending an answer. On Thursday I put into the office *in good time as they told me for the Mail* three letters, one addressed to yourself at Gráham, a second to R. A. Hamilton at Raleigh and a third to John W. Norwood at Raleigh, from whom there had come on Wednesday the tender of the annual address before the Orange Co. Agricultural Society, in all of which my purpose to prepare what should at least by courtesy be called a speech or oration or address for the 14th of October, was announced.

I am exceedingly busy and if the hand of Hon. Thomas Ruffin whose commands are to me at least somewhat of the nature of law had not been in the business I think I should even now regret having acceded to the proposals that were made me.

To Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

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*From R. A. Hamilton.*

[Sept 27, 1856]

I have the pleasure to inform you that I rec<sup>d</sup>. last night a letter from Profr Mitchell accepting our invitation.

As you will, I learn, be back to Raleigh tomorrow or Monday morning, I will await your return so as to arrange about making the proper announcement through the papers.

I write this as you will (I know,) be desirous of hearing the result of our application to Prof. M. at the earliest moment.

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*From John K. Ruffin.*

PHILADELPHIA Oct. 24th, 1856.

The last accounts I had of you, you were in Raleigh engaged in effecting Mr. Roulhac's sale, and with your engagements at the State fair; I suppose as the fair is now over that you are again in Alamance congratulating yourself upon once more enjoying the quiet and comforts of home.

I have been anxious to hear something of the proceedings of the Agricultural Society in Raleigh and have been looking for the reception of the number of the Standard, of late my only chance of communication with Carolina, containing them with more than ordinary pleasure; but the provoking editor has failed to send the very one I wished to see, so that I am entirely without intelligence with reference to it. Considering that the exhibitions have in a great degree lost their novelty and that the weather was so inclement on the occasion I am inclined to suspect



it was rather a failure. I have seen an extract in one of the papers of this City in which it was stated that there was an arrangement among all the Southern governors to meet in Raleigh on the occasion and concoct some plan for disunion. Of course I don't believe there is any truth in this, yet I only wish it were so, for I am tired living in political fellowship with a people that feel towards us more as enemies and rivals than as brothers. I believe disunion is soon inevitable, and the sooner it comes the better chance the South will have to weather the storm. Acting on this conviction, if I thought my vote would elect Fremont, he should have it most cheerfully. By-the-by I see that he is not without admirers and avowed friends in North Carolina. What does Hedrick of the University mean by the course he is pursuing? The man in entertaining such opinions is a traitor and a scoundrel; yet I should think it would require great moral courage to express his opinions so boldly in our State, unless he is seeking advancement here at the North by operating upon the fanatical sympathies of the freesoilers. If that is his motive I think it will prove a successful stroke of policy for already has his letter been produced in all the northern papers and his name held up as a martyr to freedom of speech.

The regular lectures of the winter course commenced last Monday and I have gone to work "with my coat off and sleeves rolled up". I trust by the time the examinations come off in the spring I shall be able to pass without difficulty. If I should fail it would mortify me to death, so that I would be ashamed to show my face at home again. I have been thinking of coming before the navy board for the place of assistant surgeon. Levick says he thinks I can pass the examinations; and it seems to me that such a life for a few years would be both agreeable and improving. Of course I have not come to any conclusion on the subject, but some of my friends who intend applying have been persuading me to do so too, and I merely make the suggestion that I may have your opinion on the subject.

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The convention adjourned last Tuesday; I hear of nothing of interest that was done except the restoration of Bishop Onderdonk to his ministerial duties. Judge Battle left here the day it closed; although he was very regular in his attendance yet he seemed to enjoy his visit here very much. He has a son who is attending lectures at the University this winter: and Kemp is also here purchasing his furniture preparatory to going to housekeeping this winter. It is getting late and I feel very tired, so I must bid you good night.

[Address: Graham

Alamance No. Carolina.]

*From Ashbel G. Brown.*<sup>1</sup>

CHAPEL HILL, Nov 1st. 1856

*Hon Thomas Ruffin,*

*Dear Sir,*

The Faculty of the University of Georgia will be reorganized on the 10th December next, and I expect to become a candidate for the department of Ancient Languages in that institution. My reputation as an instructor can be but little known in that State; since we have but few Alumni within its borders; but my friends here have flattered me with the suggestion, that the names and sentiments of those to whom I may look for credentials, will make a favourable presentation in my behalf. The Faculty and Judge Battle have kindly offered me their testimonials, and I am at liberty to refer to other gentlemen well known without the State, members of the Board of Trustees and others; but I should be particularly gratified to obtain the honour of a recommendation from you. I fear, you may think that my slight personal acquaintance with you, hardly warrants this presumption; and if so, you will please to excuse me as best you can, and say nothing. But if, as an eminent Trustee, you should think me worthy of such a favor, a certificate of my standing personally and officially, in our University, from under your hands, might be of invaluable service to me on this occasion, and would always be most gratefully remembered hereafter.

With the highest respect, sir,

Your obedient servant

A. G. BROWN.

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*From W. E. Taylor.*

NORFOLK Nov 1st, 1856.

*Gentlemen,*

I have the honor to inform you that at a meeting, this day, of the Executive Committee of the Seaboard Agricultural Society of Virginia and North Carolina, I was directed to invite you to attend, as the guests of this Society, the Fair soon to be held near this city.

The Exhibition will commence on Tuesday 11th inst. and continue for four days.

Believing that a cordial union of all engaged in the good cause must conduce to the common benefit, and that no means can be found more

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<sup>1</sup>Ashbel Green Brown, 1821-1906, a native of Granville who, after graduating from the University in 1843, was a member of the faculty for thirteen years. He did not secure the position in Georgia, but nevertheless resigned and was for the rest of his life a rolling-stone.

effectual for that purpose, than personal communication, and exchange of courtesies, the Committee trust that you will find it convenient to attend this Fair.

I have the honor to remain Gentleman

Your obt. svt.

W. E. TAYLOR,  
Correspg. Secty S. A. S.V.

To The President and Executive Committee of the North Carolina State Agricultural Society.

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*From A. A. Hoke to Sterling Ruffin.*

[November, 1856]

All the news we have this morning we find in the Wilmington Herald as follows

Petersburg Telegraphic Dispatch Fremont has certainly carried New York Maine Connecticut Vermont New Hampshire Rhode Island Massachusetts Ohio Michigan. Fillmore has carried Maryland and Louisiana. Buchanan Pennsylvania Virginia N. Carolina S. Carolina Georgia Delaware N. Jersey Indiana. Tennessee doubtful. The above is all the dispatches hird from. Alabama is supposed to have gon for Buch. Mr. Buchanan no doubt elected as Fremont receives no Southern support. What a pittty that Southern men could not see there one interest and have gon unanimously for Mr. Buchanan.

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*From William L. Scott.<sup>1</sup>*

LA GRANGE, GA., Nov. 15th '56.

*Judge Ruffin*

*Dear Sir:—*

Perhaps you may not remember that, in the summer of '54 when your son John and myself graduated, Gov. Morehead and yourself advised me to teach before going to the Bar. Believing your advice to be good, I took it, found a situation in Gov. Morehead's excellent Female Seminary, Edgeworth, in Greensborough, and shall never regret that I so spent the two years which have elapsed since my graduation.

Today I am in Georgia, and here I expect to reside for several years to come, if my life is spared. I regretted to leave my native State, a

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<sup>1</sup>William LaFayette Scott, of Guilford, 1828-1872, who became a lawyer and was lieutenant colonel in the Confederate Army.

State which I love better *now* than *when* or *before* I left it; but cruel necessity drove me to the unpleasant task of parting with my beloved relations, and the cherished associates of my boyhood and early manhood.

Having hitherto profited so much by your advice, you will pardon me for troubling you a second time for counsel. I desire you to give me a course of legal reading and such advice as you think will be of service to me in my entrance on any legal career. Give my compliments to your son John.

With the highest regard,

I am your obedient servant

W. L. SCOTT.

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*From Kenneth Rayner.*

RALEIGH, N. C. Decr. 4th, 1856.

You will please pardon me for calling to your attention, the accompanying pamphlet on the long-mooted question of protection. It is a review of an article in the "Texas State Gazette"—and is from the pen of one of the ablest political economists of this or any other country. He is no *politician*—he is no *abolitionist*. So far from being the latter, he has lately written a book, which he has done me the honor of sending to me which is one of the ablest vindications of the South, and of Southern Slavery, I have ever read.

This pamphlet is short—it is plain, and eminently practical.

I commenced public life a decided "Free Trade" man. My opinions gave way gradually and in becoming a "protectionist", I have been forced to that conclusion, against all my previous convictions, and associations. I believe protection to be not only the true policy of the American Government, but as a Southern man I believe it to be the only policy to make us independent, not only of the North but of the workshops of Europe. The South needs concentration of population and diversification of the pursuits of labor. The tendency of these is to make *land* more valuable—as the home market is encouraged, and exchanges of the products of labor prevail all around us locally, as they prevail among nations, on a more extended scale. As land becomes more valuable, agriculture is fostered, and becomes more respected as a calling, and more cultivated as a science. But the theme is a great and endless one. I merely glance at it. The *present* high price of cotton is an artificial one, growing out of the shortness of crops, and the sudden conversion of labor to the pursuits of peace, after a bloody war in Europe.

Please pardon me for troubling you with this matter. I know your strong and consistent opposition to the principle of protection; and I have so much respect for your opinion that I am pleased to be able to

bring to your notice, any calm and dispassionate argument to prove that this is a subject on which honest and patriotic men may differ in judgment.

There is nothing new here. I believe the Legislature is engaged on mere routine business. I propose leaving for Arkansas in about ten days.  
Hon Thos. Ruffin.

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*From R. A. Hamilton.*

RALEIGH 5 Dec., 1856.

Pardon me for troubling you with a note from me on a matter purely personal to myself.

I have resigned the Presidency of the Raleigh and Gaston R. R. Co and shall return to Burnside with as much pleasure as a Scotch Highlander after a long absence, visits again his native hills. After the conversation which at my request you did me the honour to hold with me, this may strike you with some surprise. Believe me Sir, when I say, that my private interests my *health*, and the *interests of my family demanded* that I should surrender the trust with which I was honoured into the hands of those who had deemed me competent to discharge the duties of the office and which, allow me to say, I have endeavoured *faithfully honestly zealously* to discharge. I found Sir that my health suffered from the anxiety, (to my view) inseparable from this office, my private Interests *unquestionably*. The only *anxiety* I feel is in regard to those Gentn. who from a regard to my father or from a too kind view of my own qualifications for the office, might deem me fickle or otherwise diminished in the kind opinion which they have been pleased to feel towards me. It is almost unnecessary for me to say, Sir that amongst those whose good opinion I most value, you are amongst the first.

A sense of duty to myself and family have induced me to pursue the course I did.

With much respect and veneration

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*From Edward J. Hale.*<sup>1</sup>

FAYETTEVILLE, Dec. 8. 1856.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin,

Dr. Sir:

I have received from Rev. Dr. Hawks, a small quantity of the seed of the Chinese Sugar Cane, of which he directs me to "send some, with my best regards, to Judge Ruffin, Prest. of our Agricultural Society, with a request that he will experiment with them".

I enclose, accordingly, the half of what he sent me, intending to give the remainder, in small quantities, to applicants, after notice through the Observer.

I think it likely that you have already had the seeds; but if so, these can be given to others. They were grown in a garden in Providence, R. I.

With great respect,

Yours etc.

E. J. HALE.

*From Edward Cantwell.*<sup>2</sup>

/Ho/[USE] C[OMMONS], RALEIGH 9th December, 1856.

Mr Turner is about to publish in the form of a brief Circular, some of the commendatory letters which have been received concerning "Cantwells Justice."

I propose to include with the letters of Mr. Edward Everett, Prof Joel Parker' of Cambridge Hon David L Swain, and Judge Pearson, now in my hands, whatever commendation, you shall be pleased to bestow upon my labour, and to add to them only the notices of the Charleston Mercury" and the "N C. Standard".

Beyond the desire and ambition to advance the reputation of my profession, and to contribute what little I may to the common-wealth of North Carolina I had and now have no interest in an undertaking whose accomplishment you can see has cost me no small labour.

The gentlemen I have named; hardly less revered and honoured than yourself in America and Europe have already after a careful examination, as they say, of my "Magistrate" been pleased—the latter two more especially, to speak to its plan and the merits of its execution in terms of warm and grateful eulogy, and I am therefore emboldened now to repeat the request that I have already had the honor to make that I may have the satisfaction of your countenance also in this my first effort.

<sup>1</sup>Editor of the *Fayetteville Observer*, one of the leading Whig papers in the State.

<sup>2</sup>At this time clerk of the House of Commons.

To seek the applause of those whose good opinion constitute all, that in this life, is really valuable, has ever been esteemed an honourable ambition, and this is the purpose of the present communication.

Judge Ruffin

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*From Paul C. Cameron.*

RALEIGH, Monday night Dec. 22nd, 56.

I find in my room a package with a letter for you, and my servant tells me that it was sent to my room by a Mr. Gilliam of the House of Com. with whom I have no acquaintance—with the request that I would put it on its way to you.

I will in the morning have it placed in the hands of the Conductor of the mail train and request that he deposit it with Scott the agent at your Station, where I hope you will find it. I suppose it to be a package of cuttings either of vines or fruit trees sent you by some of your eastern friends.

I shall go hence on Wednesday and will return here on Friday or Saturday. We have now hardly a quorum—and I now fear a very protracted session—perhaps to the first of February. I think the State debt will not be very much enlarged—but I fear, we shall have some foolish legislation in regard to Banks and Banking. The Peoples Bank—Caldwell's—has passed the House its 2nd reading. Gov. Morehead has been here and openly advocated it by a speech in the Ho. Com. at night.

I had an opportunity the other day of paying a compliment to Col. Gwynn<sup>1</sup>—a proposition was made to me to go as a member of a joint Committee to visit the boats on Deep River and report to the Legislature the condition of the boats etc. I said to the Gentlemen that I should undertake no such office, but that if they desired to accomplish any good, to obtain a report that would *command* the confidence of the public—to instruct the Governor to invite Col. G. to the service that he report at the earliest day, and make him satisfactory compensation. And in less than two hours the resolution was put through both houses and was in the hands of the Governor. Col. Gwynn arrived here on Saturday night he was in my room today and will leave here on Friday, for Deep River.

I should not be much surprised if this Legislature appointed a Superintendent of Public lands to overlook all the work of the State and correct the Estimates or rather not to permit any work to be put to Contract the estimates on which had not been *approved* by the States Superintendent.

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<sup>1</sup>Colonel Walter Gwynn was chief engineer of the North Carolina Railroad. His son married Ruffin's daughter.

If so Co. G. will fill it. We *all* feel the need of more reliable information than is furnished by the officers on the roads.

I hope you will receive the oysters as contracted for with Mr. Parker, and that you will find them very nice.

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*From George McNeill Jr.*<sup>1</sup>

FAYETTEVILLE, N. CAROLINA, Dec. 27th, 1856.

Your very kind letter of the 25th was received yesterday, and I would be doing injustice to my feelings if I were to forbear or delay the sincere expression of my thanks for what you have written. Whether the result of my application for the Professorship be successful or otherwise, I shall always feel indebted to you for the generous and kinsman-like offer of your influence.

I have used little exertion as yet to ensure success. Besides writing to you, I have written only to Gov. Bragg, Prest. Swain, Judge Nash, J. Worth Esq., and Dr. Chalmers; Mr. Speaker Shepherd, who has some influence at Raleigh, will exert it for me. I am not acquainted with any of the Executive Committee, except the Governor. The gentlemen whom I have named will probably support me in the Board and I know of eight or ten other Trustees, who will sustain my application if they are present.

Gov. Swain very kindly offered to place my name before the Trustees, as a Candidate, if I desired it, and I would prefer that either you or he should do it. Will you consult him on this point? I regret that Mr. Dobbin, who is perhaps better acquainted with the character of my studies and qualifications than any other Trustee, will not be present at the meeting.

There is, however, no other Candidate. At any rate, I know of none, and I presume that Gov. Swain or Prof. C. Phillips would have mentioned the fact, if there had been others. My father and his family desire to be remembered, and my wife joins me in love to Aunt A. and yourself.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

Alamance N. Carolina.

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<sup>1</sup>Thomas Ruffin's nephew.



From Charles Manly.

RALEIGH Dec 27. 56.

My Dear Judge,

'Tis not worth while to say "some pumpkins" any longer. It should be "some Turnip." The one you have sent me is a rouzer and no mistake. My wife is clear for placing it in a conspicuous spot as a *parlour ornament*.

And the Cabbage too. They are magnificent.

My wife regrets very much that she has nothing to send Mrs. Ruffin—by way of showing how truly we estimate these kind civilities and social courtesies. I beg to remind you that your room (in my office) is ready for you, *swept* but not very finely garnished.

There shall be blankets enough this cold weather. The wood is already on the andirons and a plenty "o' kindlin truck" lying by.

When you come down we shall expect you to drive straight to it and take possession.

Wishing you and your Household a merry Christmas and happy New Year, exemption from troubles and sorrows and work enough to keep you out of mischief,

I am Dear Sir

Yours truly

CHAS. MANLY.

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From John K. Ruffin.

PHILADELPHIA Jany 3rd 1857.

The usual festivities and holidays of the season are at a close, and we are all falling into the traces and renewing our ordinary duties with a good will increased by the recreation of a few days. I feel much better from the suspension of duties, short as it was. Indeed a slight relaxation was imperatively demanded by those who have been availing themselves of their opportunities in order to allow their flagging energies to recuperate from the effects of three months *hard labor*. Perhaps you may feel inclined to smile at my idea of hard labor; but I assure you such steady confinement and mental exertion for so long a time wear out not only our spirits and seats of our pants but are the fruitful sources of disease and death to many who seek the means of protecting others from their ravages. Dr. Jackson in his lecture on the phisical and mechanical actions of the organism says that every man has a capital and an interest; and that in the degree that he lives beyond his interest and draws upon his capital in the same degree is he chargable with the crime of suicide and an attempt to defraud nature of her dues. This doctrine is a very convenient one to those who would like to dodge the responsibilities of this life and use it as an excuse for idle habits; but at the same time

there are many many men to whom it will apply and to the physician it furnishes a key to the treatment of many diseases that have resisted the whole list of medicines furnished by the *materia medica*.

Your old friend, Dr. Jackson, I dont think relies half so much upon the actions of medicines in the cure of disease as he does upon the hygienic treatment, the regulation of the diet, exercise and the respiration of pure, fresh air. He exhibits in his own person the beneficial effects of the latter plan, and with a hearty laugh of vigorous health pats his stomach and says that his mastery over that organ has brought him to the good old age he enjoys. The old gentleman looks better and is livelier this winter than he was last; and although he totters in his walk and occasionally neuralgic pains, shooting through him, make him swear hard oaths, yet I trust it will be many years before failing health and enfeebled intellect force him to resign his chair.

But two months and a half remain before I make application for the degree of Doctor of Medicine. My graduation I look forward to with much interest, with more perhaps than to any other event of my life. It is natural for every one of proper sensibility to feel that he has within himself a means for his own support, and to long for its development and exercise. Although my knowledge of the medical science is exceeding limited yet, were it impossible to regain it, no inducement on earth would make me relinquish it. I consider my choice of medicine as a profession the most fortunate act of my life; and each day as I accumulate new facts I become more and more attached to it. Its stores of knowledge and amusement are inexhaustible, each of its seven grand departments furnishing fields for the study and admiration of a lifetime.

Before a student is allowed to present himself as a candidate for graduation he is required to write a thesis on some medical subject. I have just finished mine, an article of twenty pages upon "The Anatomy and Physiology of the Pancreas". I can claim but little originality in its composition and scarcely suppose that it will set the world on fire. Levick pays me a very equivocal compliment by saying that "it is well written and reads very like a book."

I have been thinking about my proposed trip to Europe and have concluded, if you still desire me to go, that it will be more advantageous to me after I have had the experience of a few months in the actual practice of the profession. Under this impression I think that a situation in one of the hospitals in this City, by the number and variety of the diseases that will be presented, will be a very desirable one and will enable me to appreciate more highly the instructions of the foreign schools. Should such a course meet your approbation I scarcely doubt that I will be able to get a place in either St. Joseph's, Will's Hospital, or the Pennsylvania hospital for the Insane. I prefer St. Joseph's Hospital for there all kinds of diseases are met with; while in the others they are limited, in Will's to the Eye, and in the other to the Insane. I

hope you will let me know at an early day what you think of such an arrangement for if you approve of it I shall be obliged to take some immediate steps to procure the place.

I cannot forbear expressing my sincere gratification of an article that appeared in the Standard sometime ago about Brother Tom, in connection with his appointment to the Bench. The Knowledge that he is winning for himself such honourable distinction fills my heart with unalloyed pleasure, and I trust that the predictions of the writer may be fully realized, as I feel fully convinced that his compliments were deserved. Give my best love to my dear Mother as also to each member of the family, and say that I longed to be one of the happy group that collected at the old homestead during the Christmas holidays.

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*From Asa Biggs.*

WASHINGTON Jan'y, 8, 1857

Your favor of 1st is received. I have forwarded to you several papers of the Chinese Sugar Cane which has been sent to me from the Patent office. I presume this is the article about which you write but if it is not, or the quantity sent is not sufficient to make a fair experiment with, advise me at once and it shall be attended to. Mr. Mason requests that the result of experiments shall be communicated to the Patent office and I should be glad [if] you would inform him the result of *your* experiment, It is spoken of very highly in the newspapers and a gentleman from Florida a few days ago informed me that he had cultivated two or three acres of it and it was excellent provender for cattle, particularly milch cows, and for mules, in the green state; and it might be cut several times during the season. If there is any other seed or cuttings in the Patent office that you desire write me and they shall be sent,

There is much speculation as to composition of Mr. Buchanan's cabinet but so far as I am informed there is no certainty about any of the speculations. My own opinion is that Toucey of Conn. and Cobb of Georgia will be in the cabinet but beyond these I have formed no opinion. I do hope we shall be able to reduce the Tariff this session, I think this ought to have been *the* question of this Congress, The large accumulation of surplus is a fruitful source of corruption and extravagance, and I can assure you that corruption and extravagance are becoming alarming.

Hon Thomas Ruffin

Graham

Alamance Co N C

*From Stephen Nichols.*

HILLSBORO Jany— 10th 1857.

I wish you if you please to write a letter of recommendation in behalf of myself to the Hon. J. C. Dobbin for an appointment in the U. S. Army—I have been recommended by the following gentlemen, by private letters from each—to-wit—Hon<sup>le</sup> Thos Bragg F. Nash Reid Biggs Branch and Cad'. Jones Jr Esq. I also received a recommendation through the influence of Paul C. Cameron Esq. from the Speakers and a portion of the Members of our State Legislature.

I hope you will do me the favour to add your name to the list in my behalf.

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*From Paul C. Cameron.*

RALEIGH. Tuesday night. [Jan. 13, 1857]

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The Bank of the State passed the Senate to day in such a shape as the Stockholders cannot take it. With all the objectionable features of the charter of the last session, it is a fight between the local banks and the old banks—and we have realized the old fable of the bundle of rods—one can be easily broken—but 10 cannot be harmed.

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*From James C. Dobbin.*

WASHINGTON, Jany 19. 1857

I trust ere this, you have safely received the Sugar cane seed and that you may realize sugar and syrup enough to sweeten the balance of your life. I sent you three packages each containing four papers of the seed.

Your kind remarks about me personally touched my heart. I knew they were *sincere* and that they came from one, whose approbation is worth a thousand newspapers puffs. You are right about Mr Pierce. He has made a faithful President. I pray that the next Administration may prove as true to our rights and the Constitution. I retire most gladly I want to see some frank and open countenances: to breathe a

little air that I know is not poisoned by the breath of trading politicians—corrupt office seekers; and to shake off the manacles of public station.

I return however with a broken constitution—the result partly of excessive labour.<sup>1</sup>

Hon Mr Ruffin

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*From David L. Swain.*

[Circular]

CHAPEL HILL, Jan. 20, 1857.

*Dear Sir:*

The General Assembly have resolved that the agent appointed to procure documentary evidence in relation to the history of North-Carolina, may, in case he shall deem it necessary to do so, examine the public archives and other sources of information of our sister States, as well as the mother country, in the accomplishment of the object designed in the creation of a Historical Agency.

There is, no doubt, much interesting material for the construction of our history, in the public and private depositories of records in England, which cannot be obtained in this country; many interesting papers in the archives of our sister States, not to be found elsewhere, and perhaps not less important information, if it can be gleaned, collected and arranged, within our own borders.

It is my purpose to secure the possession, as nearly as may be practicable, of every species of documentary evidence essential to the true and full development of our history, which has been preserved in our own, in our sister States, and in the mother country.

To the accomplishment of this design, so far as relates to the necessary researches in North-Carolina, the earnest co-operation of one or more enlightened and patriotic citizens in every county is indispensable. May I not invoke your aid, with the assurance that it will be promptly and zealously rendered.

I desire to obtain all the information within your reach which may serve to illustrate the history of the State, or your own county, viz:—Accounts of the various Indian tribes, which have, at any time, inhabited our territory, their wars among themselves, and their contests with the white people;—records of associations and accounts of other proceedings to resist the execution of the Stamp Act;—records of town, county and district associations organized under the Articles of American Association, adopted in 1774;—of revolutionary Committees of Safety;—Journals of Provincial and Revolutionary Conventions, Congresses and Assemblies, either printed or in manuscript;—Court records, especially

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<sup>1</sup>Dobbin died August 4, 1857.

of trials for treason;—Parish and Church Registers;—records of births, deaths and marriages:—files and single numbers of ancient newspapers, pamphlets, books;—accounts of early settlements, discoveries and inventions;—accounts of battles, descriptions of battle-fields and fortifications;—epistolary correspondence, and in fine, every thing which, in your estimation, may possess historical value.

Let me entreat you, moreover, in addition to the early collections indicated in the foregoing paragraph, to prepare or secure the services of a competent person, to prepare a sketch of the history of your county.

To attain uniformity in the series of county histories which I hope to obtain through the intervention of my friends throughout the State, perhaps a better plan cannot be suggested, than to make Wheeler's Sketches of North-Carolina available to the purpose. Take his account of your county, and re-write it, correcting errors, supplying omissions, and enlarging or retrenching as you may deem best calculated to present your views of the past and the present, fully and fairly, to the consideration of the historian.

I venture the hope that I shall receive such assistance from personal friends, and patriotic and intelligent gentlemen, with whom I have not the advantage of personal acquaintance, as will enable me to place in the possession of the historian materials not less extensive and authentic than those at the command of any of our sister States.

Do me the favor to reply to this communication with as little delay as practicable,

And believe me, very sincerely and truly,

Your friend and servant,

D. L. SWAIN.

[Address: Hillsboro N. C.]

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*From David L. Swain.*

CHAPEL HILL, 28 Jan 1857.

Your favor of the 23rd did not reach me until yesterday.

There is almost as much difference in the evidence given by thermometers in relation to temperatures, as in witnesses in their efforts to state the facts connected with assaults, and riots. My thermometer at sunrise on the 22 stood at 2°, Dr. Mitchell and Prof. Fetters at 4°. While two at Dr Phillips did not fall below zero. Gov Manly writes me that the temperature at the N. C. Rail Road Station was 6° below zero. I think 5 inches about the average depth of snow fall and do not suppose that there has been a greater snow storm or greater average intensity of cold since the winter of 1800-1801:<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The winter of 1856-1857 was one of such extreme severity as to make it long remembered.

I will avail myself of the first fair opportunity to draw Mr. Mitchell out, in relation to *married* monks and perhaps tease him into a written defence. I suppose, however, he used the term to illustrate the idea entertained by many persons, that the Faculty have little to do, live secluded from the world, and though they may acquire knowledge of books, know little of men, and are as eminently wanting in common sense, as monks are frequently supposed to be.

The term "Wishy Washy" is not to be found in Bartlett and I was surprised on turning to Webster and Goodrich to find it omitted. Worcester in his Universal and Critical Dictionary, gives it as follows "Wish'y Wash'y a. weak, feeble, not solid. *Brockett*. (Colloquial)" "Wish'y Wash'y n. any sort of thin, weak drink. *Jamison*"

*Graysons* catalogue of English and American Books No. 12 for 1856 (sold at 178 Fulton Street New York) p. 20 under the head Lexicography, uses "Bailey N. An universal Etymological English Dictionary. 2 vol. 8 vo. \$5. *Very scarce*. London 1745."<sup>1</sup> "Another. The last edition by Scott. Very large folio \$25. London 1755". The latter edition I have. It belonged formerly to Peter Brown, who sold it to Mr. Boylan. The late John Randolph sold it in the possession of the former, and after Mr. Brown had sold the library wrote to him, to purchase or exchange other books for it. Mr. Boylan declined selling it but lent it to Mr. R. for his life. After his death Judge Leigh the executor of Mr. R. returned it, and thereupon Mr. Boylan presented it to me.

Your Resolution,<sup>2</sup> was referred to the last regular meeting of the Faculty (Tuesday night last) to a Committee consisting of the 3 oldest members of the Faculty, Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Philips and Prof. Fetter. I am very much obliged to you for the extended expression of your views, and will state them fully to the Committee and to the Faculty at our next meeting. We have had a great deal of discussion on all the points embraced in your resolution, during the two last years, and I think you will be amused on examining the copy of our last catalogue, to find how nearly we arrived in May last, to the precise opinions which you entertain. By turning to p. 25 you will perceive that the requisites for

<sup>1</sup>This was the standard English dictionary until the appearance of Johnson's. It was first published in 1721 and went through twenty-four editions.

<sup>2</sup>At a meeting of the Faculty, held Friday, January 23, 1857, the following extract from the minutes of the Trustees was entered upon the minutes:

On motion of Judge Ruffin:

Resolved,

That the President of the University and the other members of the Faculty be requested to review the course of studies at present established in the Institution and to consider whether it be not too extended for the Term now allotted for the Four Classes; and if it shall be so in their opinion, to consider further whether as a proper remedy therefor, the studies should be curtailed, and which should be retained and which discontinued; or whether the collegiate Term should not be enlarged by another year, and the studies appropriately distributed through the enlarged Term; or whether the grade of scholarship should not be raised for admission into the Freshman Class upon the present scheme of studies, and that they be requested to report their opinion to the Board at the meeting to be held at the next Commencement.

admission into the Freshman Class, were increased by the addition of Algebraic Equations of the first degree. P. 31 exhibits the course pursued at present in the Mathematical Department. The courses are arranged to suit the capacity of the pupils, and qualify them for the certified Schools. Not more than a third of the whole number attempt to grapple with Analytical Geometry and the Calculus and the majority devote more time and attention than hitherto to Geometry, surveying, navigation etc. About half the present senior class will substitute 4 recitations a week during the present term in Analytical and Agricultural Chemistry, for International and Constitutional Law. Young men who expect to study medicine, or devote themselves to Agricultural pursuits, will generally leave mine for the Chemical Department, and all who connect themselves with the Engineering Department are permitted to do so. On p. 36 you will find the inducements offered to enter upon a five years course. You will add very greatly to the obligations conferred upon us by your Resolution and the exposition with which you have favored me, by a critical examination of our whole scheme of studies as presented in the catalogue, and the suggestion of all the changes you may consider advisable. Lord Bacon tells us that Time the greatest is the most gradual of all innovators.

With our narrow resources, prudence requires us to proceed with great caution,—we must not be content to remain stationary, nevertheless, in an age of progress.

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*From John K. Ruffin.*

24 GERARD ST. PHILADELPHIA

January 31st 1857.

Your letter of the 17th was not received till yesterday, having been twelve days on the road. The mail by which it came was the first one we have had south of Washington since the heavy fall of snow. The weather is always a trite subject but when it is so extraordinary as it has been of late it certainly deserves a passing notice; nothing seems ever to have equaled it even in the memory of the oldest people; for two weeks the thermometer was at Zero vacillating from ten degrees below to a very few above, and this was accom[panied] by a fall of snow that in the City averaged about two feet. It has been the cause of most extreme suffering among the poor here, so much so that the most liberal charities have not prevented many from freezing. I see from the Raleigh papers that even so far south active steps have been taken to supply the poor with food and fuel.

I thank you most sincerely for your letter and assure you that I value it most highly as being one of the many proofs of your fond affection and of the interest you feel in all that concerns my success and happi-



ness in life. It is my humble prayer that I may be able for your gratification as well as for my own to win that position of usefulness in my profession that will command the confidence of all good and worthy men.

I am glad your opinion concurs with mine with reference to my spending a few months here in a hospital. I prefer "St. Joseph's" to the "Alms House" altho it is conducted on a much smaller scale, because from the manner in which the latter is now managed unpleasant difficulties are constantly occurring between the principal physician and the resident physicians and the board of managers; and besides, by leaving a situation at Blockly before the expiration of twelve months there is a forfeiture of two hundred dollars. I think there will be no difficulty about my getting a place at St. Joseph's; although there are several other applicants and examinations are required. I should not fear much to let my election rest upon their result. But you know most men in this world can be influenced by "outside pressure", and particularly is this the case in Philadelphia. I think I can bring enough of this kind of influence to bear upon the board of managers to secure the appointment.

My plans then are these, to spend six months, say till October at St. Joseph's and then go to Paris.

Gwynn's letter was also received yesterday containing a check for one hundred dollars. On account of the irregularity of the mails it did not reach me before I was obliged to borrow some necessary funds from a friend. I shall be here two months and a half before I return home and shall need \$200 for that time. My diploma fee is \$30 and I want to get a suit of clothes. If it is convenient please send me a part of it next month.

I was introduced the other day to an old gentleman of this City Judge Rogers,<sup>1</sup> who told me that he was a student at Princeton, at the same time you were. He seemed glad to see me and spoke very feelingly about his school-boy days.

I have received some very kind invitations lately from Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. McCauley to visit their houses, but which other engagements have forced me [to] decline. They seem anxious to show some courtesies to the son of an old friend of their father. Mr. Taggart and I should be most happy to cultivate their acquaintance if consistant with my other duties.

Give my best love to my dear Mother, and say now that she has her ice-house and pork off her hands I hope she will indulge me with that long promised letter. My best love to each member of the family if you please; and believe me to be ever, your attached Son.

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<sup>1</sup>Molton Cropper Rogers, a graduate of Princeton in the class of 1806, secretary of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1823-1826; judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, 1826-1851. He died in 1863.

*From Quentin Busbee.<sup>1</sup>*

RALEIGH No. CA. 2nd. Feb'y—57.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin,  
Graham N. Ca.—

*Dear Sir*—A sinking Fund has been created by the present General Assembly and yourself, together with Gov. Swain, and Hon. Weldon N Edwards, are the Commissioners appointed to manage it. You are to appoint a Secretary, and it is concerning this post that I now address you. I desire the place myself, not so much for the pay, (\$3.00 per day) as for the opportunity it will afford me of becoming familiar with our State finances.—a subject that I am fond of studying.

Of course, if the Board upon its organization, think it best to engage the services of any of the gentlemen already employed in some of the departments, I shall have nothing to say. The Gov's Secretary, and the clerk in the office of the Treasurer are both competent, efficient officers, and either would no doubt give the Board perfect satisfaction. If however, the Commissioners conclude to appoint an 'outsider', by bearing this application in mind, and giving it a favorable consideration, you will very much oblige.

Yours truly and Respectfully,

QUENT BUSBEE.

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*From R. A. Hamilton.*

(NEAR) WILLIAMSBORO 12 Feb, 1857.

I shall make no apology for troubling you with another of my egotistical letters, having heretofore had such kind and flattering proofs of the indulgence extended towards me by you.

Your letter of the 6th of December in reply to mine, I have read over upwards of twenty times—for the considerate kindness towards my humble Self throughout the whole letter made it appear to me in very much the same light as it would have done, had my Father's name been appended to it. I still view it in that light and shall, if you you will pardon me continue to do so. I honor you sir for your kindness to me, in addition to all those other qualities which Command the admiration and respect of the whole State. Having nothing to gain expatriating my-self to some extent for what I deem the good of my family—severing to a certain degree, ties of friendship with which I have been indeed honored—resigning my Several Posts and destroying or at least weakening that Community of interest and association, which has been my delight heretofore—I may speak *freely* without any risk of being thought to disregard a delicate propriety.

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<sup>1</sup>A lawyer of Raleigh.

The absence of School facilities in this neighborhood, the unfrequent and interrupted church Services the Ennui caused by an absence of business occupation in which I have been brought up, and a regard also for my pecuniary interests have caused me to avail myself of a (generally considered) very flattering opening in business, which I was much urged to do. I am still, however, in, I may say the same community, having the same interest and associations and only seperated from my former friends in my inability to participate in acts and Counsels conducive to the welfare of my good old native State.

I must beg however to be allowed to keep up, undiminished as much as may be my connection with the State Agl. Society of N. C. and at the same time that I resign as I now do my posts as a member of the Ex. Com. and of the Com. to invite a speaker—I ask the favor of being allowed to continue a life-member of the Society. I enclose \$20 for that purpose for the Treasurer.

Allow me, my Dear Sir, to wish you all health and happiness and a long life to be a benefit to the State and to Society. I shall expect to carry my family to Petersburg in about ten days. It is needless for me to say what pleasure it would afford me to have you under my roof.

[Address: Graham N. C.]

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*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT NEAR RIDGEWAY, N. C.

16th Feby—1857.

A few days before the Adj. of the Leg: I sent to Mr. Cameron by the Conductor of the Train to Raleigh, some scions of Fruit Trees for you—which I hope reached you without injury. I sent the kind you wanted—and *more*—thus exceeding your request and violating what I deem a sound rule of action—"not to do more than is required or commanded"—for of the two—I know not which is worse—to *overdo*—or *underdo*, but as the supernumeraries are of choice fruit the exceeding my authority will doubtless be pardoned by a C. Justice—especially as there is no "damnum".

I almost daily think of the arrangement between yourself—Col. Jones and myself—the preliminaries of which were settled when we met casually at Hillsboro. I now propose something more practical—that the first meeting take place at my house—and that you and he be and appear at Poplar Mount on some day after the good weather of the spring shall have fairly opened—of which it shall be my pleasure to give you and him *due notice*. When we look back at our time of life—we find many of the friends and associates of "Auld lang syne" gone to their long homes—and the few left to us are prized the more highly. The pleasures then of such meetings cannot be overrated and may be well set down as among

the most valuable perquisites of old age. And I hold that any agreement which leads to them is irrevocable, except with the consent of each and all concerned—and now give due notice that mine can never be had. Make these things known to our good friend Col. Jones.—and assure him that I am your and his early and old friend.

[Address: near Graham,  
Alamance Cty. N. C.]

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*From Thomas Atkinson.*<sup>1</sup>

*My Dear Sir.*

RALEIGH, Feb 22nd 1857

I am much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken in obtaining information for me as to the state of things at Greensborough, and I feel encouraged by its tenour. I have determined to station Mr Hines,<sup>2</sup> a young man now tutor at Chapel Hill, whom I ordained last Sunday, at Greensborough, as soon as the term of his service at the University expires which will be by the 1st of June. He is a young man of good talents, and considerable zeal and energy, and I trust by God's blessing will be useful. With regard to the cemetery at Hillsborough,<sup>3</sup> let me first express my gratification that something is about to be done towards the more solemn and reverent disposal of the bodies of the dead in at least one locality among us, for I see nothing in this state more evincive of neglect than the condition of the cemeteries, unconsecrated, dilapidated, and many times unprotected, so that the living may see the beasts trampling on the graves of the dead. I thank you for doing your part, to introduce a state of things more consistent with the Christian view of Death, as not annihilation and of the Body as the Eternal companion of the Soul. As your gift will be to the Parish, not the Diocese, I should suppose that the deed should be made to the Rector and Vestry. You are aware that two forms were drawn up by a Committee of the Convention and approved by that body, some years ago, for conveying property for Diocesan and Parochial purposes respectively. But these are subjects you understand so much better than I do, that I shall not take up more of your time about them. With regard to the provision that the property shall revert to you and your heirs, in case it should be disused as a cemetery, I think it would tend to preserve it for that use, more

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Atkinson, 1807-1881, bishop of North Carolina from 1853 to 1881. He was a native of Virginia who, after graduating from Hampden-Sidney College, had practiced law for eight years before he entered the ministry. He was an intimate friend of Judge Ruffin.

<sup>2</sup>Richard Hines, of Raleigh, a graduate of the University in 1850; tutor, 1852-1854.

<sup>3</sup>Judge Ruffin, a short time afterwards, gave to St. Matthew's Church land adjoining it for a cemetery.

effectually than if given absolutely. It does not however seem to me advisable to prevent the burial of any persons, except according to our ritual. Never are the feelings of friends so susceptible as immediately upon the death of one they have loved and honoured, and to refuse burial to a Dissenter, because in conformity to his wishes expressed or supposed, our service was not to be used at his grave, might do the good cause more harm, than a serious offence against duty or charity might inflict. And if of a married couple, one were a churchman and the other not, if the former died first and were buried in our cemetery and burial by the side of a husband were refused an affectionate and pious widow, because of her non-conformity to our principles, it would I think be considered, something like persecution even after Death. I know all this is as remote from your objects, character and feelings as any thing can be, but it might be the view taken by persons, not wilfully uncandid. I see the evil you wish to guard against, but it seems to me not so great as the other. If any precaution is necessary to prevent the ground being indiscriminately occupied, and thus speedily filled up, perhaps it might answer to exact a consideration in the nature of purchase-money of a lot and to give authority to the vestry to remit this when they saw fit, and thereby to provide that none of our own people should be excluded.

I hope you will be at the Convention, though I know it will be an effort to go so far, but it seems to me that the church now needs the wisdom and zeal of her most approved members in a very peculiar degree.

I remain

very truly

Your friend

THOMAS ATKINSON

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

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*From Paul C. Cameron.*

PLANTATION HOUSE, TUNICA Co, MISS.

Saturday March 21st 1857.

Here I am quartered as my old neighbor James Ferrell would say at my new home "in these low grounds of sorrow"—Had a comfortable ride out but for the halting of the Train for the night at Chatanooga and Tuscumbia. The R. R. connection will be perfect by the first of April and the ride to Hillsboro should be made in less than 3 days. I find all well here and all matters going on as prosperously as I had expected on so new a place. My overseer Jeter a man about 28 full of energy and quite equal as far as I can yet judge to his position says that he has never had such a time in laying up and burning, the heavy rains having brought down so much of the belted timber. Will put 300 to crop—100 acres in cotton and 200 in Corn—and from this expect to gather 100 bales of cotton—10,000 bushels of corn as yet only 35 slaves on the place

of whom 28 are out hands. All of yesterday we were kept at hard work to save our Houses from being burnt up. My neighbor a mile to the south of me got his place on fire and the wind being pretty strong he lost the controul of it, swept his fencing burnt a large new Cotton Gin his well filled cribs of corn stables and crossed into my place and the fencing we saved by pulling it down and brought the fire to a halt by cutting down the trees as fast as they caught, but for the energy of the overseer and negroes, I should have lost my Houses as did my neighbor *Winston*.

I shall remain here some days longer and then go by the way of Memphis Chattanooga Atlanta and Montgomery to my place in Ala. where I hope a visit of a week will suffice and unless I go to Mobile to purchase clothing and supplies and to N. Orleans for a like object and to establish an agency for this place I shall very soon be at Home after my visit to Greene Co. . . . I found Mr. Tate, Pres. of the Mem-[phis] & Charleston R. R. at Huntsville Ala. (from him I made this purchase) I expect to make him a payment when I go up and to get my Deed. My debt for the land some \$27,000 for tools stock corn say 4,000—have paid by remittances from home \$16,000 and will pay now say \$10,000. I hope to be out by the close of the year.

I need here *very much* a blacksmith of any sort (for we have none) tried to purchase one at any price—and I must have one by fall. Will you see if you can get my boy Freeland with either Hunter Thomson or Mr. Holloway at Hillsboro at *once* and see if they cannot by great diligence and attention perfect his education so as to make him meet my needs here. I shall be very much obliged if you will.

I have A. J. Polk as a neighbor and shall go over there to night and pass the day tomorrow Sunday—his wife and 3 children with him—he is on the River, and very comfortably quartered and it is a relief to be with such people.

[Address: Graham  
Alemance Co. No. Carolina.]

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*From Walter Gwynn.*

RALEIGH March 25/57

I take the liberty of sending you herewith a draft of a will which I propose executing. It is my most anxious desire to divide my property equally among my children—and *their* heirs, and to provide for my wife, free of claims, except such as her feelings and the wants of my family may dictate. May I ask the favour of you to give me your opinion as to whether I have effected this object?

You will please speak freely and unreservedly, whatever you may think proper to say, if any thing, will be regarded (if needs be) as confidential.

I am inclined to think I may be too liberal towards my wife. Should her life be prolonged she would probably have more than she would absolutely need, and my children would be kept out their portions, that might be of great service to them, and perhaps come too late at her death. Then again she might take better care of the principal, and lend them a helping hand out of any surplus income she might have. I see many contingencies which it is impossible to provide for. Your helping hand will be of great service to me.

\* \* \* \* \*

If time permitted it would afford me great pleasure to make you a visit. I shall move my family to Columbia as soon as I can sell my place here—which I have this day advertised. Whenever any of your family visit this place I beg you will [make] my house your home—and when I move to Columbia if not here, I hope we may be honored with special visits.

P. S. Will my *will* provide for the *posthumous* births of one of my *children's children*, or one of my own children? If not please give me a clear [statement?] to that effect. I also wish to provide for any one of my children's *wives* or *husbands*, though they may not have issue. I would not care however to give them so much as I would their issues—please help me in this particular, and in other points which you may think of importance. I am very anxious to do what is right and proper in the premises. I have worked hard for what I possess, if I live a few years longer I expect to add a great deal to my possessions, and I wish to distribute it *fairly, liberally, freely* and *honestly*, so that there can be no complaint of any one claiming under me. In accordance with my custom, though not often extended to me I enclose stamps, as this subject is entirely personal and relating to myself.

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*From James W. Osborne and Others.*

[Circular]

Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence  
20th May  
1775.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., April 4th, 1857.

*Sir:* The people of Mecklenburg County have resolved to celebrate the approaching Anniversary of the MECKLENBURG DECLARA-

TION OF INDEPENDENCE. On their behalf we respectfully solicit your presence at Charlotte on the 20th of May, to participate with us in the ceremonies of the occasion.

Respectfully,  
 JAS. W. OSBORNE,  
 C. J. FOX,  
 J. A. YOUNG,  
 W. R. MYERS,  
 G. W. CALDWELL,  
 WM. JOHNSTON,  
 WM. J. YATES.

[Address: Graham, N. C.]

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*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT NEAR RIDGEWAY, N. C.

8th April 1857.

*My dear Ruffin.*

Many thanks for your very kind and highly valued letter by Dr. Hawkins. I wish I could tell you how much gratification it afforded me. Besides the pleasure of being assured that I should soon see you and Jones at my House—it carried me back to the days of my boyhood—it put me upon a train of thought that fairly cheated old time—it would have taught me, had not experience before told me—that the attachments of youth are stronger and more lasting than those contracted after the great battle of life is begun—that they are the offspring of disinterestedness and social sympathy and free from the alloy which riper years too often throw into the latter. You know not what delight I felt in being recalled to our first union at school under “old Marcus” (as we boys called him) in the pastimes of vacation and especially as *Class-mates*—then to another in 1814 and 1815 as members of the H. Commons—when we were both mere learners—swearing allegiance to the same cause—advocating the same principles—and now when a few months will make us Septuagenarians—the Period when the good Book tells us labor and trouble begin, I am permitted to congratulate myself upon our reunion in the Commission of the Sinking Fund. I think I am not superstitious—yet I am enough the slave of Fancy—to think there is something of Destiny in all this—not a bad destiny—I am sure—for neither of us can say—that he has not been most propitiously dealt with. The being associated with *you* is almost the only consideration that renders this latter service acceptable—for I find myself getting sluggish—and instinctively shrink from almost every kind of labor, living in quiet upon the Principal tho’ it be getting less every day. And my good friend! permit me to say—you ask too much of me—when you seek to honor me with the Presidency of the Ag. Society—as your suc-



cessor—I could neither imitate your industrious example nor approach the standard of your very meritorious administration. Old Time, by his incursions, has plundered me too much, for me to undertake new responsibilities and new duties. I have I confess the *purpose*—but want that other great essential to performance—the *physical ability to work*. I intreat you, therefore, rather desire to leave me in culture of the domestic duties—for which I am better fitted, and in which I find real delight.

The weakest specimens of human nature are, in my opinion—to be found among those who complain of the inroads of age—I would not have you then infer from aught I have said that I am growling either at the *world* or at *old age*—it is far otherwise—the former, I gratefully confess was a large credit leaf against me—whilst the latter brings with it nothing of Gloom or discomfort—I take no note, I never did, of the *mishaps* of life, and make it a point to go around all I can, in that way, avoiding and as to *blunders*, I endeavor to convert them to profit—by setting them up as *Guide Posts* on the Pathway of life.

And now for the precious purpose of this letter—which is to say—that next week is our S. Court—which I have to attend—and that Wednesday of the following week, *the 22d of this month*, I will have conveyances at Ridgeway to meet the morning's Train from Raleigh to take you and your good friend, Cad, and I hope your good wives to my house, you reach Ridgeway at 8 or 9 Oclk. and in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour be here. Do persuade Mrs. R. to come with you, commend Mrs. E. and myself kindly to her and assure her that her company will add greatly to the pleasure of your visit.

I have written to day to Jones also, and hope that you and he will write me at an *early day*, whether I shall look for you on the 22d. Come *you must*, for I cannot consent, under any circumstances, to lose the treat I promise myself from our meeting.

All happiness to you and yours is the sincere prayer of

Yr. sincere friend ever

W. N. EDWARDS.

N. B. I will show you when you come, in what way I make preparation for a crop.

[Address: Graham

Alamance Cty. N. C.]

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*From C. S. Ellis.*

WAKE FOREST COLLEGE N. C.

April 14th 1857.

Knowing your ardent enthusiasm for every North Carolina work, however small in its conception or in its results, I make bold to ask a

favour of you. I am trying to get a *perfect* collection of North Carolina *Autographs*, and I can not succeed without your name. My collection would be so imperfect—leaving the whole judiciary department almost a blank—that the most careless observer would notice it. Your great talents have impelled you along the path to fame, while your integrity, your North Carolina integrity of character has kept you in the *straight* and *narrow* way. I love to think of Nathaniel Macon, Wm. Gaston and yourself as the true *Representative* men of the old North State. Will you oblige me then by sending your autograph. I ought to have my favorites.

If you are aware of any other North Carolina or American autographs which I could obtain, it is needless to say I would thank you heartily for the information. Probably you have some which you can spare.

[Address: Graham N. C.]

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*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT NEAR RIDGEWAY, N. C.

25th April 1857.

Well! the days are gone on which I promised myself so much pleasure. To say that I was greatly disappointed would leave almost all untold. I was truly grieved at the loss of an entertainment which but few at our time of life are permitted to enjoy. I had already in imagination seated you, Jones and myself around the cheerful Hearth; calling up reminiscences of other and better days—rehearsing the pleasant scenes of “Auld Lang Syne” and regaling upon the cordial laugh—and above all renewing the chords of friendships contracted in the unadulterated days of boyhood, and which a lapse of more than half a century have not dissolved. While indulging in this dreamy foretaste, a letter from Jones came on Monday and another from you on Tuesday, bearing the unwelcome tidings, that all my schemes of happiness, for that week at least, were frustrated, that you were both unable, from the state of your healths, to get here. To complain of this would be to complain of the infirmities of age—they are mere appendages, and come they will—despite all our prudence, and all our careful self-husbandry. In our case, a good offset to them may be found on the other side of the account, a long life, a fair share of Health, and as many of the good things of this world as we can in reason enjoy—and more probably than we make a proper use of—to which may be fairly added, that we are still spared as supports to each other in the winter of life, with the privilege of meeting together whenever our ailments do not amount to a prohibition. Yes, my friend! *we three must meet again*, and to guard against mishaps, I now propose that you and our excellent friend Jones shall fix upon a time, when most convenient to both *in all regards*, and notify me

long enough before hand to send to the Depot for you, and bring you and any of your connections you may have with you, to my house, which I will make your happy home, as long as you will tarry with me. I feel that I am becoming every day more dependent upon others for entertainment and who can I tax in this way, if not *you* and *Jones*? the only two old friends left to me. The loss of you two would leave me friendless. 'Tis not *friends*, but companions only that are picked up in advanced life.

Remember me to Mrs. R. in your best manner and be assured that you and she and all yours and hers have my sincere prayers for your and their Health and Happiness.

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*From Edward Lee Winslow.<sup>1</sup>*

DIocese of NORTH CAROLINA,  
CONVENTION OF THE CHURCH  
SALISBURY, May 30, 1857.

This is to certify, that Thomas Ruffin, was elected a delegate to the Meeting of the friends of a "Southern University," to be held on the 4th July 1857.

From the Records of the Convention

EDWD. LEE WINSLOW, Secy etc. of  
the Convention of N. Ca.

Thomas Ruffin Esq.

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*From Thomas S. Ashe.*

HILLSBORO June 6, 1857.

I must beg you to excuse me for proposing to put you to a little more trouble in regard to the subject of our conversation this morning, but it is a matter of great importance to the parties concerned and I am not sure, upon reflection, that I exactly understand the "modus operandi" of the course to be pursued to avoid the difficulty. I understood you to say that you gave the debtor credit for the excessive interest. I do not understand whether this credit was given upon the books of the Bank, to be checked out by the debtors or was allowed by deducting it from the amount of the new notes when offered for renewal; if the former, ought not the sums credited to be actually checked out before the renewal

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<sup>1</sup>An Episcopal clergyman, a native of Cumberland and the brother of Warren Winslow.

and if the latter how is the suspicion of the debtors to be prevented from being aroused when their notes for renewal are presented with the blanks for the sums already filled up?

I should feel very much obliged to you if you could find time to address me a few lines at Wadesboro, and relieve me from my misapprehension. I regret that you are not in the habit of taking fees for counsel for I know that the Bank would be willing to pay you a liberal one in this case. I can therefore but hope that upon consideration, you may be willing to make this case an exception.

\* \* \* \* \*

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

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*From Matthew P. Taylor.*

RALEIGH June 13 /57.

*Hon: Thomas Ruffin;*

*"Haw River,"*

*Dear Sir:*

The Committee appointed by the Citizens of this place, to make suitable arrangements for celebrating the approaching anniversary of our National independence, have appointed me their Chief Marshal on the occasion. Will you allow me to use the horse equipments belonging to the Agricultural Society. I will take the best possible care of them, and return them immediately after the celebration. Gov. Manly informed me that the Society had the necessary equipments, and advised me to write to you.

I am, Sir, Very Resptly Your

Obedient Servt,

MATTHEW P. TAYLOR.

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*From W. R. Leak.*

BANK OF WADESBORO'

WADESBORO' N. C. June 15th, 1857.

In the transaction of the business of this Bank it appears that we have unexpectedly and unintentionally gotten into a difficulty, and we are anxious, in the next place, to know how to get out of it.

We do not desire, by any means, to trouble you;—the less so, as we learn that you refuse compensation.

It was at our request that Mr. Ashe called on you in reference to our manner of taking discounts etc.,—and not understanding Mr. Ashe as fully as we wished to, is our excuse for troubling you again.

*From Thomas Bragg.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
RALEIGH, June 24th, 1857.

*My dear Sir.*

There is to be a meeting soon of the Stockholders of the North Ca. Rail Road Company and I shall call the Board of Int. Improvements together in a few days, for the purpose among other things, of appointing a proxy to represent the State at that meeting. Would you not serve if appointed. Contrary to expectation, I learn that no Dividend will be made on the preferred Stock. I hope you will consent to serve as the meeting is likely to be an important one. Will you let me hear from you on the subject.

Very truly yours,  
THOS. BRAGG.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

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*From Charles F. Fisher.<sup>1</sup>*

SALISBURY, June 27th /57.

*My dear Sir*

On investigation in the Office I found that the Treasurer had not filled up the \$2500 Bond, your last bid, (before the \$1000 delivered), which was good reason why you never received them;—and I have delayed writing you expecting daily to be able to send them along. He has not, however, had time this week to sign the coupons. As soon as ready I will send them to you myself.

As respects the stock vote of the Genl. Meeting, there seems to be the prospect of so many candidates that I shall most probably prefer to take no part in the voting even on my own stock—for really, I am wholly at a loss to decide who had better be selected—and besides, it will perhaps be as well for me to keep out of the way altogether.

I hope Mr. Cameron will be able to be at the meeting, but if he should not, and you can find no better proxy, if you will send a blank form up, I would try to find a representative.

I am, Very truly,  
Your friend and Servant  
CHAS. F. FISHER.

Hon Thos Ruffin.

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<sup>1</sup>Charles F. Fisher, member of the state Senate in 1854, president of the North Carolina Railroad, 1855-1861. When the war broke out he was made colonel of the 6th North Carolina and was killed at Manassas.

Our notes are all dated on Monday,—drawn payable ninety days after date, and the interest taken for 93 days.

These notes fall due, as you will perceive, on Sunday, but if renewed it is done on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, but dated on Monday as stated before. We learn from Mr. Ashe, that in your opinion this is wrong. Will you do us the favor to inform us how to manage to get it right? What excess, in days, have we taken? Mr. Ashe informs us that you say the matter may be set right by estimating the excess and placing the amount to the credit of each person. Should this amt. be placed on the Teller's Book as a deposite to his credit as other funds would be? Or should the entry explain what it is for?

And when they check it out will it be necessary to tell them what it is for?

When one person has several notes, falling due at different times, can the excess be reckoned on all and placed to his credit and checked out when he renews the first due? Or should it be done on each note separately at the renewal?

If any other matter suggests itself to you which would be important for us to know, please give us the information.

In conclusion we would insist on your receiving compensation, and would be glad to know what amount you would be pleased to receive.

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*From Nicholas L. Williams to Sterling Ruffin.*

PANTHER CREEK 21st June 1857

When I was at the Episcopal Convention I requested Nat Boyden to forward the barrel of whiskey to you and your Uncle James as soon as he returned home, but from some cause or other he neglected it, until a few days since when it was sent to the Lexington Depot, and I hope it has reached you before this. You and my old friend James Ruffin will please accept it as a present etc. I hope you will find it good. You may be assured of one thing there is no strychnine or any other poisonous drug in it. As well as I love a drink of whiskey, I never take a drop from home, unless I know who made it. Nearly all the whiskey made these days is drugged to a considerable extent. What do you say to spending some weeks with me in Ashe this summer? I expect to have a *right jolly crowd* there this summer, and I know you would have a much more pleasant time of it, than you had before. We would be pleased to have your Sisters along too. I expect to go about the first of August.

[Address: Graham N. C.]

*From Thomas Bragg.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
RALEIGH July 1.<sup>st</sup> 1857.

Understanding from Mr. Cameron that your trip to the South will not be made at the time stated by you, I hope you will allow me to nominate you to the Board of Int. Improvements as State Proxy as heretofore proposed—

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

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*From Thomas Bragg.*

RALEIGH, July 6th, 1857.

*Sir.*

I have the honor to enclose herewith a Commission to you as proxy of the State in the next meeting of the Stockholders of the No. Ca. Rail Road Company.

The Board prefers to leave you without instructions—first because it is not sufficiently informed as to the affairs of the Company—but in the second place, because it has implicit confidence that you will best represent the State, untrammelled by anything of the kind.

With much respect,

Your Obt. Servt.

Hon. Thos Ruffin.

THOS. BRAGG.

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*From William R. Pool.*

RALEIGH 9th. July 1857

I regret to inform you that the Executive committee failed to have a quorum to do business—Messrs. Jones, Whitaker Eaton and myself present—The secretary absent no papers or records of the Society present.

The Gentlemen present have taken the responsibility of informing Mr. R. R. Bridgers that he is one of the committee to select an Orator to deliver the address before the Sety:

Mr. Basquine was in town also and was informed that he is also one of the committee. We have likewise suggested the 21st. of the present month for the next meeting of the society believing an early day advisable.

Thos. Ruffin Esqr

*From R. C. Pearson.*

[MORGANTON, N. C., 10th July '57]

We have just heard of the death of our Friend Professor Mitchell of the University of N. C.—the information I am sorry to say comes in a shape that there can be no mistake about.

He was as you are perhaps aware engaged making explorations, calculations etc. relative to the height of some of the Mtn. tops near the "Black," and whilst traveling alone is supposed to have fell and died from the fall or possibly was drowned as his body was found in water some 12 ft. deep. I write in much haste as the Stage is just leaving and regret that I have such sad intelligence to communicate.

Morganton N. C.

10th July '57

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*From George McNeill, Jr.*

FAYETTEVILLE N. Carolina, July 14th 1857.

Your favor from Raleigh informing me of the result of the meeting of the Board was received in due time.

I am exceedingly obliged to you for what you did on my behalf, though my application was not successful.

I was not aware till the receipt of your letter that the Faculty had determined to advise or recommend the trustees to abolish the Assistant Professorship of Language. If I had known this I certainly would not have used my efforts to obtain the place, or put my friends to the trouble of endeavoring to elect me.

I do not presume to charge Governor Swain with a want of candor, but if he had been more explicit, the misapprehension would not have arisen.

Gov. Bragg first wrote to me that the chair was vacant by the resignation of Prof. Brown, and would be filled at the meeting on the 5th inst. He said nothing about its being discontinued or abolished but mentioned that he heard Prof. B. desired a reappointment. I then wrote to Gov Swain for information and he replied briefly that it was uncertain whether the board would fill the chair—but that if they determined to do so, he would put my name in nomination. If he had stated that the faculty had determined to recommend its discontinuance that would have ended the matter, so far as I was concerned. I supposed that the Board would take cognizance of the whole question and, as such a professorship is needed and exists in other colleges of the same rank and standing with our University, that they would determine to elect an incumbent.



It was far from my intention to give you wrong information and you now see how the case stands.

I repeat, dear Uncle, that I feel under very great obligations to you for the kindness you have shown me.

Hon Thomas Ruffin L. L. D.

Alamance, N. Carolina.

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*From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.*

WENTWORTH July 17th /57

It was not in my power to see Mr. Abbot before today. Today however I have seen him and proceed to give you the result of our interview:

He is a married man with two children and certainly is a man of good sense.

His terms are \$225 yearly and 500 lbs of meat. I told him I thought you would hardly give so much, but could not tell until I heard from you.

He says that he would not be willing to make any engagement without having first seen you and knowing something of the plantation; and he begs that you will let him know when you will be at the plantation.

He has two other offers, and has postponed his answer until he can see you. He hopes therefore that he may do so before long; not however under two weeks, as he says he should dislike to leave his business, even for a day, until he had finished his oat harvest.

I promised him that he should learn, through me, when you would be at the plantation.

Browder Whittemore and Mr. Dillard bid me say to you that they have no doubt Abbott will suit you, and that you can afford to take him upon his terms. Browder says he knows of no such man in all this country. I hear a good report of him from all quarters, and have been very much pleased with his deportment, whenever I have seen him.

I learn that he pays good attention to stock, and is careful of the health of all about him.

I think he will suit you, and hope you may think so too, as that will then be one care of yours mended:

[P. S.] Fine rains within the last few days.

*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT, NEAR RIDGEWAY, N. C.

21st, July, 1857.

*My dear Ruffin.*

Many, many thanks to you for your kind and most welcome letter of the 16th Inst., and more for the assurance that I shall soon have the pleasure of welcoming you to my quiet Home.

I cannot tell you how much I want to see you and talk with you, and need not say how much I regret I cannot be with you today at Raleigh. To avoid my usual trip to the Virga. Springs this summer for the relief of a vesicular affection of the Head and face of long standing, I have put myself upon a course of Rockbridge Alum Water procured in its pure and limpid state in Bottles directly from the fountain. Its good effects so far exceed my expectations and give promise of full and entire relief. Repose and shade are essential to a fair trial, and a trip to Raleigh would expose me both to the sun and fatigue. You thus see and will no doubt commend my prudent care of the remnant of life spared to me. Do not understand from this that I am sick—far from it—my general health and strength are good and improving—my spirits, you know, are always good and I thank God for so tempering and conducting me that their buoyancy remains to me as a solace and medicine even in old age.

I shall take great pride next month in openly testifying to my opposition to the F. Suffrage Bill, and am truly gratified in knowing that you are animated by the same spirit—it is the spirit of older and better times, under whose happy influence it was your and my good fortunes to be bred and raised, and to which our institutions owe all their excellence. That the projectors of this piece of empiricism—for it is nothing else—will succeed I have no doubts—but I fear such success will be traceable to causes not very creditable to poor Humanity. Is it not difficult to resist the conviction that there are too many Esaus in our midst? They do not part with their Birth-right for a mess of Potage—but find their price in that which is alike worthless—in public Honors stealthily obtained—and in the adulations and Hurras of the multitude won under the cloak of guile. I am not yet willing to concur with Walpole that “every man has his price”. Do the exceptions prove the rule? The idea of the republican system is fast becoming obsolete, and we are rapidly drifting into a pure democracy—and it is a melancholy reflection that the proposed change will leave property without Guarantees and without defence against legislative encroachment—and place the Govt. of N. C. in closer approximation to a sheer democracy than that of any of her sister States. *They* profess to have some Guarantees—it is true they are only paper Guarantees, in which I have but little, if any faith, for all the past tells us that they oppose no barriers

to the incursion of ambition and self-Interest. My principle is—"make it the interest of man to do right" and he will eschew wrong—and a system organized by the practical application of this principle will endure longer than any other. Our modern scheme is too fruitful of temptations, but, tho' deformed, we may, as you say, get along under it better than many other People, yet it will be but for a time and no thanks to the system—but to the circumstances of education and habits acquired under our old Regime. But the brood of ills with which it is pregnant will be to be met perhaps not in your day and mine—yet come they will. Property thrown upon its own resources will work out its own salvation—it can and will defend itself, and History informs us, that its world-wide influence will be exerted whenever it is left without governmental protection. In this country *the Ballot Box will tell the story of its deeds*. How lamentable will that day be, when the security of Persons and Property can only be obtained at the cost of public virtue and the consequent overthrow of the best and freest govt. in the world?

I sat down to write you an old fashioned letter, and find I am betrayed into a kind of essay, and if writing it over was not too irksome would prune it down to my original purpose, but whatever it may prove to you, remember you provoked it by talking about that irreconcilable thing F. S. All I ask is that you do not impute to me uncharitableness, for it is no part of my nature. I know every generation will govern itself, perhaps it is right, it should be so—certain I am I have no right to complain or say nay.

"It is enough for me to know  
I've faults of my own  
I'll on them my care bestow  
And let other's faults alone"

In one of my former letters I said I would show you when you visited me, my preparation for a crop. When you now come, and I beg you not to delay, I will show you the dilapidation of that crop. Last friday night, a week ago, we were visited by an unprecedented Thunder storm and rain which washed down and nearly ruined about 30 acres of flat-land corn—swept off 6 or 8 hundred bushells of wheat in shocks on low Grounds, and wellnigh destroyed 60 acres of oats in low Grounds. Of this loss, as is my habit, I take no note, as it may be repaired by diligence and Industry, but the great injury to my land I do care for as it is, I fear, irreparable.

Commend me, in your best manner, to my old acquaintance (she must permit me to call her so) Mrs. Ruffin—and assure her that it is the prayer of your and her friend—that the cup of blessings and enjoyment to you and her may ever overflow.

God Bless you

Yr. old Friend

W. N. EDWARDS.

From Upton Bruce Gwynn.<sup>1</sup>

RALEIGH August 13/57

As I leave town tomorrow and may not have it in my power to see you for some time, I will make you acquainted with my movements and plans, as I feel assured that anything, relating to myself will not prove uninteresting. I will repair first to Warren—remain there a few days, and proceed from thence to Newberne. It is my intention not to return until I have succeeded in finding a desirable place, desirable at least, so far as the quality of the land will admit; of course I will have to submit to the climate. You may perhaps be surprised at this sudden determination; it has been brought about by a change in my fathers plans who has concluded his trip to Pennsylvania, in case he succeeds in obtaining the property, to make a different disposition of it from what he had at first contemplated. He is convinced that he would make a great sacrifice by disposing of it soon after he has gained possession, so he has decided to retain it for a year or two. This determination frustrates for the present our Mississippi scheme. Although I am somewhat disappointed in not being able to go to work upon a *large* scale, yet I am consoled, to some extent, in the reflection, that things are *definitely* arranged, and that farming it in a small way will give me, at any rate, employment, and serve to relieve my mind of the anxiety and solicitude attending a profitless expenditure of time in “masterly inactivity”. Within the period of one or two years, three at least, my father will be enabled to give me a lift, one that will, I trust, prove a safe and lucrative investment to him, and a source of profit to me. During the interim, as mentioned above, I will have, at least, some fixed, settled plan of action.

My father bids me to thank you for the loan of the two North Carolina State bonds. As it may not be in his power to return the bonds for several months, he wishes you hold, in the mean time, two bonds of the South Side Rail Road Company, which he has requested me to hand you. As he can pay you the amount of the semi-annual coupons, should it become necessary, I have assumed the responsibility of not complying with his request, as I look upon it as running a business transaction in the ground by too *much* business in short I consider it supererogatory.

Mr. Price and all concerned entertain no doubt as to the result of matters in Pennsylvania. The Judge will deliver his opinion on the 15th instant. The known and almost proverbial integrity of the Judge, insures at least, an unprejudiced decision. This gives us more than half the battle, for, unlike the Irishman who was justly condemned, we ask for nothing but justice. If every thing works right my father will be in possession of an incalculable fortune. A distinguished geologist has pronounced the coal vein the thickest, the most accessible, and

<sup>1</sup>A son of Colonel Walter Gwynn, who had married Sallie Nash, Judge Ruffin's fourteenth child.

the most valuable, in every respect, in the United States. Everything has conspired to induce my father to the sanguine belief that it would be suicidal to dispose of the property until time has developed its real value and created a competition amongst capitalists to purchase.

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Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

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*From W. J. Long.<sup>1</sup>*

LONGS MILLS August 15th 1857.

I suppose ere this you have heard of the death of our lamented Father, which took place on Tuesday morning last about 1 o'clock. I left him on Sunday morning about 8 o'clock sitting in his Piazza in usual health. On Monday as I learn he walked over his plantation and to his mill. He ate a hearty dinner and walked out again upon the plantation and returned to his house about 4 o'clock. He then left the house and walked about Six hundred yards North of it and returned in about one hour. As he came into the door he said he had fallen from the fence and a rail had fell upon him and hurt him very much. He then immediately lay upon the bed and asked Mother to bind his head up very tight as the pain was so severe which were the last words he uttered and soon became unconscious and so continued until he expired. My Brother Wesley saw him in about an hour after he reached the house and he was then in an apoplectic state and we suppose he was seized with a fit of apoplexy while crossing the fence, and as he fell he pulled the rail upon him, as his left arm and the side of his face were much bruised.

My brother and myself desire an appropriate obituary and we respectfully ask this kind favour of you as there is no one we could prefer to yourself, Knowing as we do that our beloved Parent held no individual in higher esteem than yourself.

As soon therefore as your convenience will permit please to prepare a suitable notice of his death and send it to the Hillsborough Recorder with a request that some other papers copy.

John Long (for that is his only name) was born in Loudon County Virginia on the 26th day of February 1785. At the age of six months his parents removed to Orange County N. C. where he remained until after his marriage with Labra Shepherd Ramsay of Fayetteville. Soon thereafter he settled in the North-East Corner of Randolph where he resided at his death. He was appointed a Magistrate soon after which office he continued to hold and was chairman of the special Court of Randolph for the three past years ending in February when he resigned. He was a member of the Legislature in the House of Commons for the years

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<sup>1</sup>William John Long, 1808-1864, of Randolph, who graduated from the University in 1829 and later received the degree of M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

1811-1812, was a member of the Senate for the years 1814, and 1815. Was elected to Congress in 1821 and served until 1829 (8 years), from the District comprising the Counties of Chatham Davidson Randolph and Rowan.

I have stated a few facts concerning him. But I leave the matter entirely with yourself and shall be entirely satisfied with whatever you may think proper to write. He was married May 6th 1807 and had five sons, four of whom are still living, the second is dead. By his industry he graduated four at Chapel Hill, the second Edwin R. was graduated at West Point and died while in the United States service and left three children.

I have been this particular in making these statements more for your own satisfaction than for any desire I have that they should all appear in an obituary notice, leaving it to yourself to omit what you may think proper.

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*From David F. Caldwell.*

SALISBURY August 22nd /57

I send you, according to promise, the August N<sup>o</sup> of the American Cotton planter. I am sorry to say that you will not find in it a continuation of the article commenced in the last, still you will find in it some good reading.

I should have been pleased to have spent a couple of days with you, and the same with my friend Mr Cameron, but the demand for my services at home during my very short vacation, has put it out of my power. The absence of my children is a serious matter. I spent two days with them, the past week, at the Allum springs. My son is improving slowly, and is sanguine of recovery. My daughter was not improved, and I sent her to the White Sulphur, in charge of her kinsmen the Messrs Alexander of Virginia.

Our season is dry, and the corn crop suffering. In the main I think a fair crop will be made, but some of us, who have suffered more than our neighbors, will not make over two thirds of a crop, and I am one of them, save only in the low grounds.

The news from Alabama is far from favourable. I am advised, that in my region there was rain, every day for two weeks,—that the creek low grounds were flooded, and the farms on the whole crop falling off. The flux continues to rage here with a good deal of violence. The mortality is confined to children mostly. I have it among my black people. Our leading Doctor says he has never had as much to do. My respectful remembrance to Mrs Ruffin and the family.

*From Paul C. Cameron.*

NAHANT, MASS. Friday Aug. 28th. 57.

A letter from Jean, to Anne, the only letter from Haw River since we left our home; I doubt not that others have been written and hope we may find them at the office on our return to Boston, as I requested all letters for us to be sent to us from N. Port and New York. A letter received from Mr. Curtis at New Port to some extent relieved our anxiety in regard to our old neighbor and friend Mr. Cain. I was afraid from the report made of his condition by Browne in Philada. that poor Mary would hardly find her father with the liveing and I fear at his age and with his disease he will hardly be able to get up again. The good old man and his children have the united and affectionate sympathy of us all; and let his death come when it will, I shall feel it with sincere sorrow.

Leaving Phila'd'a we halted only for one night in N. Y. and going by St. Boat, direct to New Port we remained there only 6 days, and then by Steamer to Providence, and then by R. R. 40 miles to Boston, and halting there for a night, next day taking a little St. Boat we ran over here in about one hour, and obtained very comfortable quarters at the "Nahant House".

I wished to remain longer, at Cape May, because Dr. Jackson assured me that I could *not better myself* and because I thought it best for Rebecca to be quiet until the weather was cooler and she had more capacity for travel, and I was only induced to leave it because my children seemed so very anxious "to move on". Nor have I ceased to regret it. New Port we found to be the summer home of the rival nobbs of New York and Boston, and all very desirous of being regarded as Millionairs—a place of fast horses, fast women and faster men, all for the well, nothing for the sick, with poor accomodations at very high prices and at a great distance from the beach—with a tax on any help or comfort that you desired. But wealth and art have indeed made it a most bewitching spot; no where in our country such a costly exhibition of Cottage architecture—with such an out spread of well kept grounds. But you care but little for this and would much rather hear what I have to say in regard to the progress made by your grand child towards good health.

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I get good reports as to health and crops both in Ala. and Miss. and hope we shall again rejoice in plenty in *Orange*. But for the hope of accomplishing much for Rebecca, I should soon set my face towards home—and be at work—instead of playing the idler and paying away my money at a rate that is perfect robbery. I do not know how much longer we shall halt here, but hardly longer than tuesday or wednesday of next week. Nor have we settled with certainty our rout after leaving this. But suppose it will be back to Boston, then by the White Mountains, to Quebec, Montreal and the Falls—then back by the Hudson River to the City and reporting ourselves to Dr. Jackson at

Philadelphia ask for additional instructions if we should be so unfortunate as to require it.

We shall move only in day light, and at no time so as to cause Rebecca to make an effort—resolved if we can to put her on her feet before winter sets in. I see here only two persons that I ever saw before, Winthrope of Boston—and Meminger of So. Ca.—very few of the Southern people North—“they have staid away and for a purpose. Here I see nothing but grass—no crops of any sort, and what I have seen in the way of farming tells me very plainly that the farmers here are *short of labour*. What think you of seeing 90 negro men in one Hotel as servants nearly every one a runaway from the South!

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*From Leonidas Polk.<sup>1</sup>*

*To The Honbl. T. Ruffin.*

ASHWOOD TENNESSEE Sept 21, 1857.

After consultation I have thought it expedient as Chairman of the locating Com. of the proposed Southern University to organize a commission of men of science to examine the several sites presented. The Enquiries we deem it advisable to have answered by such a commission, as covering the whole ground, I have had printed for distribution to the members of the Board of Trustees, to parties presenting sites for our consideration, and to the commission. A copy of these you will please find annexed.

This proceeding was deemed expedient for the purpose of fixing the facts required to be known under an authority which would be satisfactory to the public as well as the Board. The commission is headed by Col. Walter Gwynn late in Charge of the public works of N. C. and now of those of So. Ca.

It will commence its labours during the current week at Huntsville Alabama, and will have it completed in ample time for the uniting of the Committee and the Board in November.

The places to be examined are Huntsville Ala, Atlanta Geo; Knoxville, Cleveland, Chattanooga, McMinnville and a place on the mountain near a spot at which the Nashville and Chattanooga R. Rd. pierces the Cumberland range, in Tenn.<sup>2</sup> Hoping we shall have the advantage of your presence and counsel at the meeting at Montgomery in Novr. next

I remain

Respectfully your obt. srt.

LEONIDAS POLK.

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<sup>1</sup>Leonidas Polk, 1806-1864, an alumnus of the University, who, after graduating from West Point, entered the Episcopal ministry and was bishop of Louisiana and Arkansas from 1838 to 1864. He was the founder of the University of the South. In the Civil War he became a lieutenant general in the Confederate Army and was killed at Pine Mountain.

<sup>2</sup>Sewanee, the site chosen and the present location of the University.



## ENQUIRIES

To BE Answered By The Commission Appointed By The Committee On Location Of The Proposed Southern University.

1. What is the elevation of the site indicated above the surrounding country, and above the sea?

2. What extent of surface can be had at that elevation? and of that, what proportion is available for our purposes?

3. Are there any subordinate elevations which may be advantageously used, in connection with the highest elevation, for building or agricultural purposes?

4. What is the nature of the soil of the sites indicated, and of that of the surrounding country for fifteen or twenty miles at least?

5. What is the nature and extent of the timber on those sites, and its availability for building purposes?

6. At what rate could it be delivered?

7. Is there an abundance of stone for building material accessible? and of what nature?

8. At what prices can it be delivered at the sites indicated?

9. At what rate can lime and sand be delivered at the same sites?

10. Can an adequate supply of water be obtained? and how?

11. Is there soil adapted to making brick? and at what rate could they be delivered at the respective sites?

12. Is coal accessible? and of what nature and quantity?

13. At what price per ton can it probably be delivered at the respective sites?

14. What is the range of the thermometer, barometer, and hygrometer, during the year, at the elevation of the sites indicated?

15. What are the facilities of access to the town or depot nearest these respective sites, from the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Tennessee?

16. What is the easiest grade at which a road—railroad or turnpike—can be constructed from these towns or depots to the respective sites? and at what expense per mile severally?

17. Is there a river or other stream contiguous to these respective sites, which may be used for rowing and other aquatic exercises?

18. Are there mineral springs on or near the sites indicated? If so, of what description?

Please give a sketch of the general features of the several localities, with their surroundings.

LEONIDAS POLK,

Chairman of the Committee on Location.

BEERSHEBA SPRINGS, July 24, 1857.

*From Kenneth Rayner.*

RALEIGH—Oct. 9th.—1857.

As the time for our State Fair is approaching—and as I take it for granted you will be here—this is to say to you, that I shall be very happy to have you as my guest, during the time of your stay here.

We shall expect you to stay with us; and on reaching here, come directly with your baggage to my house, and *make yourself at home.*

Hon Thos. Ruffin

Graham, N. C.

*From Rowland & Bros.<sup>1</sup>*

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Graham N. Ca.

NORFOLK Oct. 27, 1857

*Dr. Sir.* Yours 25th to hand and contents noted your draft shall have due honor on appearance—we have and will have a considerable balance in Raleigh and if you are in want of more can forward a check.

Of recent and present affairs in the money and business world and the complete sudden and destructive revolution you are doubtless acquainted and we have never before been so much at fault to form opinions how matters would turn and what is applicable one day proves the reverse the next because of influences that bear first one way then another, the prices of everything are greatly reduced wheat and flour among them by the extreme tightness of money if this continues till spring we can expect nothing but low prices—our quotations today are \$625 Superfine and \$675 Extra tho in some instances a little more has been gotten—our market is comparatively bare because very little has been coming in by R. Road for past few weeks we are informed the reason is scarcity of water among country mill streams—our market now rises above most others and sales are readily made.

While we are unable to venture a decided opinion on this subject must confess are more disposed to lean to present sales because we believe if any reaction at all occurs it will not be much and then may be late in the season—we fear too western supplies if held back and then forced on unless met with a heavy demand will cause dullness, if you conclude to grind up and send in, we can hold or sell—at this season it will keep with perfect safety and being on the spot we then can avail of any opportunity—we shall from time to time forward you such items of information we can get possession of

Yours truly

ROWLAND & BROS.

<sup>1</sup>A commission firm in Norfolk with which Ruffin had extensive dealings.

*From Richard H. Smith.*<sup>1</sup>

SCOTLAND NECK NOV. 28/57.

My Son in law, Dr. Jas: M. Johnson<sup>2</sup> will be an applicant for the vacant professorship of Chemistry etc.<sup>3</sup> in the University of the State at the meeting of the trustees on the 10th of Decr.

Your assistance in aiding his appointment, if you think it consistant with the interest of the institution will be gratifying to me. His qualifications are I think, ample, he graduated at the University of the State and at the Medical University of Pennsylvania and was distinguished in both institutions for his knowledge of Chemistry—much of his leisure since that time has been devoted to the study of Chemistry and the Mechanic arts, whilst his morals are ridgedly correct.

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*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT, 30th, Nov. 1857.

I leave to you to expound the law and settle preliminaries.

The Dividend coming to the sinking fund, from the State's stock in the R. and G. Rail Road is payable the 12th Prox:—I suppose it is the duty of the Treasurer to apply and receive it. The law creating the fund fixes no time for the first meeting of the Commissioners. Shall they wait for notification from the Govr? or act under the general law in regard to Corp.<sup>s</sup> (26th Ch. Rev. St:) and convene at their own convenience? Under that one member may call the Board. Should you be of this opinion and deem a meeting necessary, as the Holidays are so near, would it be amiss for *you* to say to Govr. Swain and myself that the Board assemble on the 13th Proxo? We could then organize, and take such farther action as may seem expedient. Govr. Swain will be in attendance on the Board of Trustees about that time (I can be there the 12th at night) and if we must meet before some days after New Year's day, no time will suit me as well or I presume you.

But I submit all this to you and Govr. Swain and will not be wanting in every desire to consult your own and his convenience.

In your best manner pray offer my best Respects to Mrs. R. and assure her I desire to be numbered among yr. and her best friends.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

<sup>1</sup>Richard Henry Smith, of Halifax, 1810-1893, a graduate of the University, 1829; a lawyer and farmer. He was active in politics and was a member of the Commons in 1852 and 1854, and of the conventions of 1861 and 1865-1866.

<sup>2</sup>James Madison Johnson, a graduate of the University in the class of 1849, who was a brilliant student.

<sup>3</sup>To succeed Dr. Elisha Mitchell. William J. Martin was elected.

*To David L. Swain.*

ALAMANCE Decm. 7th 1857.

I have received a letter from Mr. Edwards proposing an early meeting of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, with a view of investing the Dividend on the State's Stock in the Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road—which is payable on the 12th Inst. As you will be in Raleigh at the meeting of the Trustees on the 10th Inst. I presume it will be convenient to you that our meeting should take place on the 15th or 12th; and under that impression, I propose those days to you, and have advised Mr. Edwards of it.

I presume the name of Dr. Charles S. Garnett, of Philadelphia, has been before you for the Professorship of Chemistry. It may be possible that I shall be unable to reach Raleigh on the 10th, and therefore I think it my duty to transmit to you the enclosed testimonial to his qualifications from Dr. Samuel Jackson,<sup>1</sup> of the University of Pennsylvania: whose judgment and candour in such matters are entitled to much confidence, in my opinion.

I have been quite unwell for several days, and still am, as you perceive from my writing. But I hope to be able to attend both meetings by thursday and friday; and if I can, I will.

President Swain.

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*To David L. Swain.*

ALAMANCE Decmr. 9th 1857.

*My Dear Sir.*

I do not think I can go to Raleigh tomorrow; as I have not been free of fever since last friday evening, though I am more nearly without any this afternoon than I have been, by reason of keeping in bed 'till 1 O'clk. still I am pretty sure that I can not take the road tomorrow: which I regret much, as I wished to hear your Report and to understand all the pretensions of applicants for the succession and to give my vote to the great Master, Mitchell. Not that I have any preconceived partiality for any particular gentleman; but I wish to unite in putting in the best man, upon the principle, that Science knows no distinction of State, party, or religion, according to my notions. If there should be a respectable Board in attendance in point of numbers I mean of course, so as to afford a reasonable presumption, that the decision made would command the general assent of the Body of Trustees and the Public, I do not see any sufficient reason for postponing the appointment. But it

<sup>1</sup>Samuel Jackson, 1787-1872, professor of the Institutes of medicine in the University of Pennsylvania.

seems to be of much consequence, that the approbation of both the Community and the bulk of our associates should be secured, and therefore, in case you should have a sparse meeting, and according to your experience, there should seem a fair probability of one more numerous in the early part of the approaching term of the Supreme Co. I take the liberty of suggesting to you the propriety of laying over the subject—say to the 4th of January next. If you should concur in these views, I wish you would make that motion; and if you should not like, from your relations to the question and parties, to assume a personal responsibility of the kind, be pleased to make it at my request and on my responsibility.—

I yet have strong hopes of being able to travel by Friday noon; and if I possibly can, I will. For, in reference to this sinking Fund Commission, while I am one of the last men that would be looking to the saving of cheese-pairings and candle-ends for the Publick Treasury I am of opinion, and believe that we are all three of opinion, that, in the present state of the publick Debt of No. Ca. the funds in the treasury, and the general currency, this is not a time for allowing a day's delay, unnecessarily, in putting all the fund as received upon interest by buying in the Bonds of the State, and taking so much out of the market here or elsewhere. So, if able to crawl, I will be at Raleigh on Friday: certainly, on Saturday. Say so to Edwards, who, I am sure, will be in as hot haste as either you or I.—

With great respect and consideration, Dear Sir, I am  
Very truly your friend and Obt. Sert.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

I am sure you can read this without much difficulty, badly as it is indited; for any one, who can read your manuscript, can gallop through mine, written in what state I may be!

T. R.

Hon. David L. Swain,  
Raleigh, No. Ca.

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*From John H. Bryan, Jr.<sup>1</sup>*

RALEIGH N. C. Dec. 10. 57.

Mr. Patridge replies to my letter that "the Records and papers of the Agl. Socy. were left in his office: that Mr. Cooke was informed of the fact and that he supposes they are or have been in his hands."

Here my inquiries have stopped. Mr. Cooke has possession of a large number of books belonging to the Society and if it is yr. will that he should keep them, of course, I submit. But I would respectfully suggest as I have the honor to be the "Secretary of the Society" and all the books were directed to that officer they ought to be in my possession "virtute

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<sup>1</sup>John Heritage Bryan, Jr., a lawyer of Raleigh.

officiii". It was my intention to make out a catalogue of the books in our possession and the names of the donors; for I have always entertained and cherished the idea that we could establish a Farmers Library and that it wd. be not only a valuable addition to our Fairs but of exceeding value to our Farmers. But if I am not to have the books, of course I have nothing more to say or to do.

The Wake Co. Agl. Soc'y is completely defunct, leaving some \$50 in the hands of their Treasr. On consulting several of the members I find they are willing that this sum should be paid over to the State Society. This might readily be accomplished, if proper steps were taken and I think ought by all means to be done.

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*From A. M. Gorman.*<sup>1</sup>

RALEIGH, Dec. 21, 1857.

Please excuse me for the liberty I have taken in thus addressing you, and enclosing a copy of a Prospectus of an Agricultural paper which I shall commence next month. The two Agricultural journals we have had, seeming to prove a failure, I have undertaken the publication of such a periodical, believing it will not only prove successful, but of great value to the Industrial interests of our State, if it be prosecuted with industry, energy and enterprise. But to make it acceptable, I am sensible that I must have the aid and cooperation of my fellow-citizens who can give such practical and scientific information as our people need. I therefore address you, as the head of our State Agricultural Society, and also as a private citizen having a deep and abiding interest in every thing calculated to develop the resources of our State, advance her interests, and scatter information among her people calculated to "cause two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before". I therefore solicit a communication from your pen, if you please, with which to grace the columns of the N. C. Planter in its first No. of such nature as you may please to discourse upon. I shall esteem it a great favor if you will thus oblige me, and I know you will be "doing the state some service", by thus contributing of your wisdom and experience, to the noble science of Agriculture.

I will be under many obligations if you will speak of the Prospectus among your neighbors, and for any aid you may be able to give me in the way of procuring subscribers.

I will also be very thankful for the address of any gentlemen or Ladies, who would be able to help me in the Agricultural Departments of the N. C. Planter.

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<sup>1</sup>A newspaper editor and publisher in Raleigh.

*From R. J. Ashe.*<sup>1</sup>

CHAPEL HILL Dec. 28/57.

I trust you will pardon me for intruding upon you again about Dr. Mitchell's library. But as it is a matter of no small importance to Mrs. Mitchell that it should be disposed of in a lump and as soon as possible I make free to ask your influence at the meeting of the trustees. At the meeting of the Trustees, they appointed Judges Battle and Saunders, and Gov. Manly a committee to Audit and settle the Bursar acc. and also negotiate for the library. The settlement was quickly and I believe satisfactorily finished. But when they got to library the Hon. Committee came to a dead halt. They thought the price too high and finally came to the conclusion that they did not know what books were wanted—and left Messrs. Hubbard, Kimberly and Fetter to say what books were necessary and they would buy them. Now I do not know what they cost the Dr. Gov. Swain says \$20,000. The family think \$15,000. I have offered them at \$4000. Now as *Professor* they have paid Dr. Mitchell \$1250 pr. annum—if Gov. Swain's opinion be correct, he has expended nearly half in the purchase of books which the university has paid—as Professor, and a very large proportion of these books such as the University ought to have supplied him with from their own library, and as they have had the use and benefit of them now from one to forty years without interest, it does seem to me that they might afford to buy them at one fourth or fifth of their cost.

But it seems that Gov. Swain was under the impression that Dr. Mitchell's estate would fall in debt to the Trustees some \$6000. and his idea was to square off and take library apparatus lot and all.

But it turned out that he owed them only about \$2100—and that is a different matter. I have talked with Mr. Hubbard about the matter and he says that he would prefer that they should be all bought in a lump that they are books there which he would not go into a book store and buy but he does not think the library will be hurt by them and that they will do to count, Mr. Kimberly is not here and will not be here before the beginning of the session so that they can not report to the meeting of the board as was expected. If they will not agree to \$4000. and you think proper to do so I will authorize you to offer the books at \$3000.

In conclusion My dear Sir I must plead the sincere friendship which Dr. Mitchell entertained for you and the kind words both by word and letter which you have uttered of him as an excuse for asking your aid to procure but what I think by simple justice for his widow.

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<sup>1</sup>Richard James Ashe, a graduate of the University in 1842, Dr. Mitchell's son-in-law, a practicing lawyer of Chapel Hill.

*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT NEAR RIDGEWAY N. C.

28th Decr. 1857.

You will see from the inclosed that the Pres. of the R. and G. Rail Road is not unmindful of his duty to those who are engaged in nursing the ways and means to meet the debt contracted for his work.

Upon the announcement of the death of Judge Potter I wrote to the President in behalf of our friend Eaton. The materials before me gave matter for a very strong letter. I wait for your kind commendation—as soon as to hand will forward it.

I hope you are relieved from your bad cold and cough, am sure you are, if you delid. my message to Mrs. R., and she has exercised the *rightful* authority she possesses in restraining you within doors. You must not forget that old age is a little prudish and demands more attention and care than youth, which can not only venture more, but stand more.

[P. S.] I shall meet you on 5th Prox. at Raleigh. You will be there before me. I shall want to come in the same Room with you—Cough or no cough.

*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT, NEAR RIDGEWAY, N. C.

18th Jany, 1858.

Two letters from you in one day and they to *me*—how industrious you are—despite my admonitions to take rest in your old age. I am thankful you are so in this regard and do not complain—but rather take leave to modify my advice. Let it be then in future—“take rest except when writing to me”. I wish I could tell you how much pleasure your letters afford me, and how much they serve to rub off the rust of time. How happy to have the memories of other times revived and to be regaled by the recollection of scenes stamped by all the freshness of young life! The mind is thus unbridled and turned into green fields to pasture on. Yes—my old friend—continue your kindness. My Heart will repay you if whatever else I may offer be insufficient.

I once thought with you, that a trip to Washington might do good. My reflections since far otherwise incline me. It might inspirit the opposition (my business would not rest upon conjecture) and savor by implication of a busy spirit of exaction in a friend. Besides personal appliances would probably weaken the chances by impairing the strength of the hand upon which Eaton stands—while they would be in conflict with a rule I have ever considered the safe one in the bestowal of public places and Honors—“generally to withhold them from those who seek



them with restless and ceaseless importunities"—for in such cases, it may be suspected that there is something behind not exactly in unison with the public weal. Under these impressions and with a plausible inducement—growing out of the opportunity, afforded me by my trip to Raleigh—of hearing there the loud testimony borne to the merits of Eaton—I did not hesitate yesterday—tho' the Sabbath—to write another letter to Mr. Bu[chana]n, indulging in more freedom and throwing off all those restraints which might possibly obtrude in a hurried personal interview—it *was untainted* by ceremony, and concluded by telling him "whatever you may think of my persistive nature, you will allow me the Credit of sticking to my word in "besieging you". It will reach him tomorrow morning, and if in time, will, I think, tell.

The Chances brighten—Branch who takes no part, there being three Richmonds in the field from his District—writes Dr. Pritchard the 14th that "it is very doubtful who will be appointed. Biggs has had the inside track, but to day the impression prevailed with several of our Delegation, that Eaton stood foremost." *He must succeed—if he fail*, it will be a *sin* against the fullest evidence, a *sin* against public duty, and against the Country. Mr. B. should remember the words of David to Solomon—"Be thou strong, and show thyself a man", and illustrate their wisdom by his example.

I fear nothing but Politicians. Times have so changed, that there is no calculating results from those causes which operated so healthfully in former times. The tendency of the age is to widen daily the separation between the Rep. and Constituent Bodies—and old as you and I are, we may yet live to see the identity between them, which is as the *life-blood* of our system entirely obliterated. I am for the Country Party—or rather the *Party of the Country*. The Constitution should be amended if Congress will not take the initiative, let the States at once set about the good work, but more of this anon.

If I write all I intended, I should not be in time for the mail today. So only add I shall meet you at Ridgeway on yr. way to Court, as you *may appoint*, and shall, with a steady hand, *stand sponsor for you in all things at Court*.

[Address: Alamance.]

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*From Henry K. Burgwyn.*

THORNBURY PLANTATION

NEAR GARYSBURG N. C.

Jan'y 18th '58.

*Hon Thos. Ruffin*

My Dr. Sir. By accident I learnt to day that Mr. Gwynn your Son in Law, was in search of a Plantation to settle on. I determined at

once to write you and beg you will induce him to visit us *before* he purchases elsewhere, this can do no harm at least, and from my extensive experience, I am convinced that no where in the eastern portion of the U. States are lands so low in price in proportion to their real value as Roanoke *second* Low Grounds. I mean those lands *not* subject to overflow. these lands in Virga and Maryland are worth from 75 to 100\$ pr acre, here but little over 1/3d that sum while ours possess the great advantage of being able to raise *Cotton*, in addition to all the products of Va. and Md.

It is quite useless for me to enlarge on the qualities of our soil etc., etc. I will only say that the objection to our lands heretofore justly made, is rapidly being removed by the construction of the Albemarle and Cheasapeake Canal. The President and Contractors of which work assured me last week, would be opened for navigation by *next fall*, this will open a safe *internal* communication by Steam Boats with New York, and place us nearly on a par with the James River.

As to the health of the Country, I can only say it has undergone a complete change during the past 15 years, by clearing draining and liming; no stagnant water is now to be found in the whole of Occoneechee Neck 25,000 acres except one round hole of about the 8th of an acre. I make no difference in the time of my residence or that of my family here they were with me till 19th Augt. and I was only 6 days absent during the fall. I have raised a family of six strong healthy children, in fact we fear the winter much more than the fall diseases.

I have a body of near 6000 acres which is far more than I need and would sell to a good neighbour, who is capable by his intelligence etc., etc. to continue the system of agricultural improvement I have begun and will be an assistance—rather than a draw-back, as so many are—to me in this particular. The Estate I offer is my one half of 2037 acres known as the “Level”, it has deservedly the highest reputation of any Estate I know of, I will quote the opinion of my friend the Hon. Jas. A. Seddon<sup>1</sup> of Va. himself a large owner of Jas. River lands in Goochland Co., contained in a letter recently recd from him. “Your Cypress Plantation must however have continued to gain in favour with you, since the desire of more rapidly developing it leads you to contemplate parting with so valuable and beautiful a part of your domain as the Level. With that portion of your Estate I was particularly struck, and really think, from the quality of the Land, their admirable *lie*, and the happy combination of uplands (or seconds) and low grounds it would constitute one of the most valuable and as attractive an Estate of its size as I have ever known”.

Should Mr. G. think of purchasing I hope you will both come down and take a look at this Estate and if he intends residing on his Estate

<sup>1</sup>James Alexander Seddon, of Virginia, 1815-1880, member of Congress, 1845-1847, 1849-1851. He was a Confederate secretary of war from 1862 to 1865.

I should be willing to sell it on reasonable terms, if he does not propose living here, I would not sell. Do me the kindness to let me hear from you, at your earliest leisure.

I have just returned from the annual meeting of the U. States Agricultural So. at Washington, where I heard a most interesting and valuable discussion between Mr. Leonard Wray, the introducer of the Imphee from Africa and Mr. Brown of the Patent office, the former has promised me some seeds of the true Imphee for our experiment.

In haste yours Very Respecty and truly

H. K. BURGWIN.

*From Nicholas L. Williams.*

PANTHER CREEK 22d. Jan 1858

Your letter of the 15th inst has been reed. You will please accept many thanks for your kindness in giving me your opinion, in regard to the bill of sale I sent you. I hope I may some day have an opportunity of convincing you how highly I appreciate your kindness.

Mr. Boyden changed his opinion shortly after I wrote to you, He found a case in point in the decissions of the Supreme Court. The opinion of the Court was delivered by Chief Justice Ruffin, he seemed delighted that he had found the decision before your letter came to hand—I wish very much that I could have been with you at Govr. Manlys *blow out*, No one enjoys such things more than myself. The Govr. always does such things handsomely, and every person feels free, and every where partaking of his hospitality. I wish very much that we could get you and the Govr. together with Mrs. Ruffin, and Mrs. Manly here next Summer—we would have a jolly time of it—I really think I have a right to complain of you both. I go to see each of you at least once a year (for many years past) and never but once has either of you been here. Gove. Manly was here a short time when he was canvassing the State, but you have not. Cant you, and he fix on some time next summer to come up? I will have carriages in Lexington to bring you on here the same evening you reach that place.

I am not acquainted with your Tennessee Professor, but I am with Judge Reese, he stands very high in Tennessee as a Lawyer. I see that a correspondent in the newspapers *is down* on the Trustees for going out of the State for a Professor. I know of no one in State qualified for that appointment who desired it.

Please remember me kindly to Mrs. Ruffin, and the young Ladies, also to Sterling and your Bro. James if he is with you.

*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT, NEAR RIDGEWAY N. C.

29th Jany. 1858.

Your very good and kind letter of the 26th is just to hand. All thanks for it: it is needful the answer should go by the return mail today. I have only time therefore to give you such scraps of news from Washington as have reached me since my last—and must wait a more convenient season to write you a letter.

First then, the unwritten news. Eaton was with me Sunday—he was told by a friend who met with Wm. S. Ashe on his return from Washington, that the latter told him he had seen Mr. B[uchana]n, and that E's prospects were the best, and that he thought he would succeed. Ashe also said that E. was presented by Ruffin and Edwards. This he must have got at Washington, so you see we occupy some prominence at that point. We should be proud of the distinction in so good a work.

The within is a letter of the 20th to E. from Joyner of Franklin, now Clerk in the Treasury Dep., a *reliable* man, in which he says he *hears* that Biggs gives it up, but that the most active efforts were made to defeat E. On the 21st Branch writes me—"the belief of those who have most recently conversed with the President on the subject is that Mr. Eaton will be appointed". J. Thompson,<sup>1</sup> Sec. of Int. in a letter of the 25th, acknowledges the receipt of my inclosures to him—adds "who the P[resident]t will finally appoint I cannot yet say. I wish I could serve you and my old friend E., but I fear the question will be presented in such a shape that the President will be constrained to appoint another". Yesterday I replied, but very *softly*, with a view to draw him farther out. I took care to say, "I could not perceive how Mr. E's case can be complicated with any considerations calculated to produce "constraint" to *his* prejudice. His friends would feel much regret (in which he would doubtless unite) if, in their respectful endeavor to place *truly* before the P - t his unexceptionable merits—they had given cause for embarrassment." I hope Mr. B - n will see this.

I have thus given you the whole ground as I see it. What a spectacle! An appointment of importance cannot be made in the City—unless it takes Rank among the common topics of the day—and untill it is as fully canvassed as a Precinct election at the X Roads. I cannot but think that Mr. B - n is right. In the Cabinet it seems to be a conflict between a sense of duty and the promptings of Policy—which tho' sometimes found in unison, in this instance are far asunder. The decision of a *sound* man upon such a case is so plain, and my confidence in Mr.

<sup>1</sup>Jacob Thompson, 1810-1885, a native of Caswell County, who graduated from the University in 1831, studied law, and soon thereafter moved to Mississippi, which he represented in Congress from 1835 to 1851. He was at this time secretary of the Interior of the United States. During the civil war he was governor of Mississippi.

B - n so great that I cannot but hope a favorable result. The outside pressure *there* is only to be feared. Can it not be counteracted by a similar pressure from the *Country*—in which the People and not the City Magnates are heard? You ask, can anything farther be done?—Yes—by and thro' Branch—I think there is but one of his constituents now in Court, and if he will stand up for his District and insist upon *fair play*, the game is safe. Eaton's strong friends from hereabouts have already made this appeal. But from your quarter most can be done, and you are the very man to do it. Would not a letter to Branch from Nash, Col. C. Jones, and P. C. Cameron, or any other prominent man do *great, very great good*? And my good friend! will you allow me to say, a *modest and soft* letter from you to A. V. Brown<sup>1</sup> and J. Thompson, *both of the Cabinet*, would do equal, if not *more good*.

My own resources, I believe are exhausted. I wish I had more, they should all be most speedily in requisition, to sustain and uphold the cause of right.

I have not space or time to answer your inquiries about Bone-dust, indeed my experience in its use is too limited to constitute a *safe* guide to you. I am, as far as I have tried it,\* delighted with it, and but for its cost would be a constant dealer in it. My land wants lime and its application in the State of Phosphates I much prefer. Should you conclude to make an experiment upon your dry meadow, which I have no doubt will be thus benefited—it will be time enough to apply it after we meet, and you can in the mean time make the purchase of the article. It costs in Bal. 66 Cents, of best quality, ground fine, and will be furnished you by Messrs. Saml. Land and Worthington, or, it would give me *very great* pleasure to order it for you, 9 or 10 Bus, to the Acre sufficient, the freight to Graham would be 5 or 6 cents, I suppose. I use the article quoted in the Enq. for sale in Richmond at \$32.50 pr. ton, it will weigh, I guess, 50 lb or 56lb. We will talk all about the manner of applying it when you come to our Court. I know you will be pleased with it—every thing is *economy* at your and my time of life which may contribute, tho' but slightly, to our occupation and rational amusement.

To be a doing, I should now be hauling upon the dry meadow charcoal or the refuse of Coal-kilns-scattered on the surface—Bone dust would afterwards be a fine adjustment.

Remember me *most kindly* to my good friend Mrs. R. I had liked to have said *old* friend, but was afraid. God Bless her and you and all that you and she desire to be blessed.

Thos. Ruffin Senr. Esqr.

Graham.

\*Called "Crushed Bones."

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<sup>1</sup>Aaron V. Brown, of Tennessee, 1795-1859, a native of Virginia and a graduate of the University of North Carolina. He had been the law partner of James K. Polk and was now postmaster general of the United States.

*From Paul C. Cameron.*

TUNICA Co. MISS. Tuesday, Feby 1st, 58.

But for my previous agreement with Mr. Caldwell and Dr. Cain to take the road South with them and to keep it with them to Atlanta as I did—I should have gone up with Tom or Peter to pass a day or two at your House and to greet John and his bride. But I had lost so much time that I was obliged to make my inclination yield to duty and that too not of the most pleasant character. I saw John and his bride and Sisters Jean and Patty a little while at the Raleigh Station and here again I was strongly tempted to turn back—and be up “at the reception” here another trial and triumph. Leaving Raleigh at 5 o’clock on Monday—I arrived in Memphis at 8 o’clock on Thursday afternoon or night—3 days and 3 nights from R. to M.—bright sun light by day and bright moon light by night, and the weather mild. After parting with Caldwell and Cain, saw no acquaintance until I entered the tea room at Memphis where I encountered the Dr. who attends my slaves at this place, and who made his home on the plantation of A. J. Polk. The next day finding a letter from my overseer (as I had ordered) in the hands of Mr. Wright, with a list of the articles most needed at this place, the forenoon of Friday was devoted to selection and purchase of the articles needed and shipment by the same St. Boat on which I left M. at 2 o’clock that day. I arrived at Mr. Polks place on the River accompanied by the Dr. where I quartered that night and taking Mr. Polks saddle Horse rode here the next morning—find all pretty well with but little exception—and my hands engaged in cutting cane, bolting timber and building cabins—the corn and cotton crops saved—and pork killed—of corn a plenty is made, of Cotton but a little—not yet packed for the want of Rope and Baging—none here—but it will not exceed 35 bales. This is a poor beginning: cotton stalks higher than my head on horse back—late planting—wet season—new land—and early frost caused so short a crop—of pork I shall make a little more than half a supply—So you see that I shall have to draw largely for *Cash* at some other point to supply wants here. This letter will be taken to Memphis by two young men who arrived here to night from Memphis (by land) with 10 mules purchased for me by my friend Mr. Wright and which cost me \$1750. dollars cash—all branded with the initials of my name—So when we are all out I shall have 64 Hands 25 Mules and 10 oxen to do the work of the place. I am at this time engaged in building 6 double Cabins for the New Comers from N. C.—and hope soon to have them comfortable or as much so as I can make them. I find my slaves quite satisfied and well disposed to take hold of things with a strong hand. During the past year, all suffered much from chills—no death on the place—and only two births in a family of 35! I have said thus much in regard to my affairs because I know you take

an *interest* in all that concerns me and mine. With the large additions to my force I hope to make head way on the forest and enlarge my crops rapidly. My nearest neighbor Watkins makes 10 balcs to the hand—and has purchased 2 sections adjoining me at \$30 per acre—400 of it open land. I hear of sales below me at \$90 per acre! I wish my lands in Miss. and Ala. with the slaves here all in N. C. 6 per cent Bonds and I was with my good wife and little ones at my Dear old home. It is a dull life here, and the more so as Mr. Polk and his family are not now here—and I stick close to Overseer and the negroes. Yesterday we had a snow *all* day and I gave the entire day to the "Private Correspondence of Daniel Webster" which I have in 2 vols—large. At home I should have given the day to Wife and little ones—here to books.

I shall be very glad to hear from you at Mobile Care of Stewart and Co. I hope to be at Home some *time* in March—it shall be as early as I can make it. . . .

[Address: Graham,  
Alemance Co. No. Carolina.]

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*From Cadwallader Jones.*

HOME, Feb. 2nd, 1858.

*My dear Sir,*

Your letter of 30th Jan. did not reach my hands until yesterday. We are not in the habit of sending to the office on Sunday and yesterday being rainy no communication with town was had in the morning, so it was late before I was apprised of your wishes, too late for my letter to Mr. Branch to go by yesterdays mail. I prepared it immediately and it goes today—I have all along been quite solicitous about Mr. Eatons getting the appointment and am truly glad in furthering my own wishes and convictions of right, to do any thing which you and Edwards desire. If I had no convictions nor no wishes on the subject, I should feel myself safe in such company as Edwards and yourself and relying upon your judgement should be most happy to do anything you desired of me.

I am pained to hear of your continued suffering from cough, and should feel disposed to scold you for imprudent exposure of yourself, if I were not hacked so much myself on the same score. My rheumatism is better tho' I still suffer from it. I look to the recurrence of warm weather for ultimate relief. We surely are not young, but I fancy we are both pretty tough and may last some time yet. I have confidence in the powers of endurance, as well as other powers in the old Virginia stock, except always, Venable, his power is *singular*, has a special

locality between the lungs and the lips. I shall think the worse of Mr. Buchanan all the days of my life, if he makes a judge out of such windy materials—but enough of this.

Your business frequently brings you this way—you pass by my door, yet you rarely call to see me and never eat or drink with me; this should not be so if business brought me so near you I should make a point of stopping with you. May I not hope you will do likewise and in doing so, do better?

\* \* \* \* \*

Believe me yours affectionately

and sincerely

CADR. JONES.

[Address: Graham, N. C.]

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*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MT. NEAR RIDGEWAY

2d. Feby, 1858.

I have this moment recd. yours of the 30th ult. covering a check on Balt: for four hundred dollars—which I will most cheerfully indorse to Dr. Hawkins as you request. I have not seen him for some time, but suppose he will *soon* go on to Balt. I congratulate you upon the addition your son has made to your and his family. I doubt not being “right-raised” the union is agreeable to you and his good Mother, and sincerely hope it will ever prove the fruitful source of happiness to both of you.

Nothing yet from Washington. Wrote to Branch yesterday to give me the speculations of the day about the Judgeship.

I saw Eaton yesterday—he bid me with much earnestness say that you must dine with him when in Warrenton, and I pledged that we would do so. Write me what day to meet you at the Depot and take you down in my conveyance.

This must be sent *directly* to the office, that you may be advised of the receipt of the check. . . . .

Thos. Ruffin Senr.



*From R. J. Ashe.*

CHAPEL HILL Feb. 23/58.

I have delayed for some time answering your very kind letter partly because I have been pressed with business matters and further I wished to announce to the complete success of your kind efforts in our behalf. A few days ago I sent Messrs Hubbard's and Kimberly's receipt to his Excellency Gov. Manly and on Friday last recd a check in full for the bal after deducting the amt due the Trustees. As to the forty feet if I had not been so disposed before I assure you that your suggestion to give the Trustees the refusal of it, would be as binding as any written obligation which the most accomplished conveyances with the shrewd President to assist could draw. We feel particularly bound by your request for we do not think, but for your timely support, that we would have been able to procure anything like so favourable terms for the Library. Nor do I think that there is any other Gentlemen who was in that meeting, unless perhaps Gov. Graham, would have made the President take the course he did. So that we all feel especially indebted to your kindness and friendship for the whole result. As to Gov. Swains kind feeling towards Dr. Mitchells family generally I have not the least doubt but he did not intend that I should sell that Library without the lot accompanying it. And he had prevaricated and placed himself in such a position that he could not face an honest opposition. He failed and the lot is still in the possession of your old friends family who will always be happy to treat you or yours whenever you may pass this way with whatever fruit it will afford. As there is to be an extraordinary amt of ceremonies performed here next commencement, I suppose we will have of course a fair representation of Ruffins and if so we shall be very glad to entertain them. We have made considerable additions and have room both in the heart and the house for a goodly number. The Ladies join me in sincere regards to you and your family.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

[Address: Graham  
North Carolina.]

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*From Upton Bruce Gwynn.*

CHUCKATUCK P. O. NANSEMOND CO. VA.

March 21/58.

About three weeks ago I wrote you a letter, in which I requested you to make an exchange of Bonds with me. As I was quite urgent for an immediate reply, and as sufficient time has elapsed for me to receive

one, I have concluded that my letter did not reach you. I stated in my letter that I was anxious for an exchange to avoid the enormous sacrifice that must attend the sale of South Side R. R. Bonds at the present time. I received a letter from Mr. Baskerville of Petersburg soon after my arrival here, in which he informed me that it would be a hard matter to effect an advantageous sale of the Bonds. He told me though, if I was willing, he could dispose of them at 80; indeed, he was doubtful whether he could even get that much for them. So you perceive, sir, in order to make the first payment of \$2500. I will have to submit to a very considerable loss if I depend upon the sale of the S.S.R.R. Bonds to raise the money. If you can conveniently exchange three North Carolina State bonds for three of mine, I may be enabled at some later period when mine will bring a higher price, to repay you back with State bonds. I am sorry, Judge, that circumstances compel me, after having received so much of your hands, to ask for more, but sir, two hundred dollars on the thousand is a loss that would drive me to almost any *honest* extremity to avoid.

Taking everything into consideration I am getting along quite briskly at farming. I have sowed fifty Bushels of oats, made ready ten acres of land for sweet potatoes, and broken and partly harrowed nearly 100 acres of land that I intend for corn. This is getting along brisk with a vengeance, in fact, so brisk that I find myself in a dilemma that I have all along been foreseeing with some concern and apprehension. We have literally over cropped ourselves. Six hands and six horses have been constantly at work ever since the 15th January, engaged, unremittingly, during that time flushing the land principally for corn; the consequence is, that, now, the horses which were too numerous in proportion to the number of hands, have *pulled*, the plow through more land than it is possible for the hands to tend. This is one of the evils arising from having the number of hands disproportioned to the number of horses. The little experience I have had proves conclusively that two hands to the horse is the proper proportion that should be adopted upon a soil possessing characteristics similar to those that exist on my land, which is, chiefly, what, for the want of a more expressive term, I designate silicious loam. Stiff clayey soil, in which a horse cannot work to half the advantage he could in a light sandy one, may justify the employment of more horses to the hand, but, the character of the land here is such, that, as I said above, two hands to the horse would be the most economical and effectual system of farming that could be pursued. I find myself indulging in a great long dissertation that cannot possibly interest you. Excuse me, Judge, for my head is so full of farming that I bore every one I write to.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

*From A. M. Gorman.*

RALEIGH, April 1st 1858.

*Gentlemen of The Executive Committee:*

It is well known to you, I presume, that in the beginning of this year, I commenced the publication of a State Agricultural journal, under the name of "The North Carolina Planter." The "Cultivator" and "Arator" having been discontinued, I was appealed to by some of the members of the Executive Committee and other friends of Agriculture, to publish an Agricultural paper—believing that *one* good paper would be well sustained.

I have issued four numbers—the January, February, March and April numbers:—copies of the latter I herewith send you. I am aware that it is not all that you would have such a work to be—nor is it what I intend to make it, if its patronage be such as to justify the expense which the required improvements will involve;—and this I am satisfied I shall procure, if I can receive the endorsement and recommendation of the Executive Committee of the State Society.

Th ill-success of the previous Agricultural journals of the State, made me fearful to incur too much expense in the enterprise, until I should see how it would be received by those interested in it. I have about 500 subscribers who have sent in the money for the current volume, and the daily accessions to my list are quite encouraging. Believing, therefore, that the "Planter" will be sustained, I shall issue it hereafter on much better and thicker paper, and if the prospects continue encouraging; with a handsome cover to each No.

There are several gentlemen who contribute to its Editorial columns, who are practical Farmers, none of whom, however, will yet consent to the publication of their names as Editors, yet awhile. S. W. Westbrook Esqr. has charge of the Horticultural Department—a gentleman known all over the State as being well qualified to impart instruction on this important branch. Quite a number of gentlemen have furnished interesting and valuable papers on the various Agricultural interests of the State; and I have no doubt the quantity and quality of original matter will hereafter be increased and improved. I have already some excellent papers for the May No.

I have received numerous complimentary letters, concerning the excellent character of the matter given in the previous numbers of the Planter—its adaption to home interests—the climate, soil, etc. of our own State. I need not say, I shall strive to improve the Planter in every respect in each succeeding issue.

And now, with these remarks, I respectfully submit The N. C. Planter to you. If deemed worthy, I would feel greatly encouraged if you would adopt it as the Organ of the State Society, and give it your endorsement and influence. Such a step I have no doubt would contri-

bute greatly to its success, and to the permanent establishment of an Agricultural paper in the State—a consummation which I know all most devoutly wish.

Very respectfully, your obt. ser't.

A. M. GORMAN,  
Pub. N. C. Planter.

*From H. B. S. Williams.*

HICKORY SPRINGS  
FAYETTE CO. TENNESSEE.

April 7th, 1858.

You are apprised that our Mutual and valued friend James Alexander Rogers, placed in my hands your and Mr. Kirkland's long-neglected business touching your lands situate in my neighbouring county of Tipton.

Before I treat however of this business, let me indulge in the personal allusion to myself in the gratification of pride that I am a native North Carolinian of a family well known and attached to you; and that I bear the honored seal of the Supreme Court of my native State to my qualification as a lawyer and practising attorney. I studied law under my uncle Judge Seawell in the years 1833 and 4 and in July 1835 obtained Supr. court license and returned to Tennessee where my parents lived.

I remember an incident during my last examination in reference to yourself, which excuse my allusion to. Recognizing me as the nephew of *Mrs. Doctor Simons J. Baker*, you remarked that you would like to try me under the title of Descent as my family was remarkable for tracing kinship. Well do I remember how troubled I was, for I had rather skipt over the chapter of John Stiles and Betsy Baker. You closed the examination however with the remark that I was a chip of the old block which implied a compliment I have never forgotten. Ashamed that I have so little honored you, and sustained the reputation and hopes of my late uncle who so often flattered me with his opinion of my capacity and ability to succeed in the profession, I will say in conclusion of this digression that after practising twelve or thirteen years profitably but without high distinction, I settled here upon my rich and beautiful lands aspiring simply to the unobtrusive position of a countryman, but in spite of my inclination and wish, business of all sorts, have followed me, and especially that involving land-titles.

Now, as to your and Mr. K's lands in Tipton. I have to inform you that a close and thorough inquiry and investigation has been just made by me of their condition. I paid a special visit to Tipton upon that subject and believe I was as well prepared to determine my course for

you as I could ever be. I was in possession of all the facts and circumstances, think I saw through the case and had set the wedge for the best possible arrangement for you. A suit at law would not in my opinion avail. Time has doubtless barred you and matured a little in the adverse claimants by possession under tax deeds of 7 years: and indeed, I am of the opinion 20 years possession could be established which would by presumption be a good title. There was a settlement made upon the tract more than 20 years ago by a Squatter as we term it, who sold and conveyed to the party holding by tax-title. Dr. Bracken instituted suit against this Squatter but the same was dismissed, or lost by a failure to prosecute. The 5000 acre tract is carved up into 8 or 10 tracts and occupied by as many settlers, most all of whom under colour of title, have been in uninterrupted possession. There remains in the party who held claims to the whole tract about 2500 acres, or half the original tract. He feared a Suit on account of the trouble with those to whom he had sold. I notified him that suit at any rate would be brought by you or Mr. Kirkland. A proposition from me was solicited, and fearing that delay might result in consultation with lawyers and a determination to abide a Suit, I proposed to take 2139 acres—1139 in one tract and 1000 in the other—excluding the parts of course he had deeded away. The land from information, is in value not quite but very near an average. Mr. Rogers having made to me a sub-power of atto' I acted upon my best judgment and closed the matter as Stated. So well satisfied am I that you have *made* the 2139 acres I congratulate you upon the success after *twenty odd years of neglect*; and feel that my agency in the matter has been singularly fortunate. My experience and knowledge of men have convinced me that the *best* arrangement under such circumstances is to be obtained at the first blush. I feared a Suit because it is known well to me that a great difficulty interposes in deraigning title to these River lands. I have had a trial of this. There is no deed on record for these lands to any one in forma. The title resulted from transfer, originally of equitable interests by John Reis in his lifetime and unauthorized sales to pay debts by his brothers. The Deed of partition among the claimants to these lands under these transfers and sales, has never been proved and reduced to record, and it would now be difficult to do. I think, it would have been a most doubtful Suit upon this ground. At any rate, it would have been a long and expensive law-suit, and in view of the bar of limitation defeat would have been certain. Dr. Bracken as you remember sold 585 acres of the land, recd. payment in part and sued for the balance purchase money, which was restrained in chancery, and finally a decree of sale more than 7 years ago, of the same land upon the ground of failure of title. The lands were sold for the *amount paid* over, and title drawn in the purchasers long since. So that part of the lands is lost or was lost anyhow to the remaining tract unsold by the party who claimed by limitation under tax-deeds.

I trust my honored Sir, that my agency in the matter will meet with an approval etc. Mr. Rogers left me to my own judgment and discretion, which I have exercised faithfully and truly for your interests.

My Postoffice is "Hickory Wythe"—the caption of this letter giving the name of my residence. I hold myself ready to continue in your service.

H. B. S. W.

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*From James A. Rogers.*

BROWNSVILLE TENN. 13 April 1858.

*Dear Judge,*

I have no doubt, you have thought strange in not hearing from me, before this time concerning the Kirkland land in Tipton county. I desired to know as much about the situation or condition of the land as I possibly could before I wrote, hence the delay. I examined in all the offices in the adjoining counties, and could find no deed upon record to Judge Murphey from Jno Rice or any of his assignees for that 5000 acres of land. Upon diligent enquiry and minute investigation I ascertained that the whole of the 5000 acres has been in *actual* possession upwards of 20 years, which of itself would presume a good title. This possession of such long standing was by the squatters or trespassers, whom Dr. Bracken sued and *utterly failed* to oust, for want of title in W. Kirkland, this possession of theirs was transferred to the holder of tax deeds more than 8 years ago; in addition to this, more than 1200 acres of the tract, in parcels, were sold to several actual settlers, who have had possession more than 7 years, then in view of all these opposing difficulties I could see no chance or way how the title could be deraigned back to Jno Rice—indeed to bring suit, with such a basis as we would have had seemed the height of folly, yet to the occupants I held out the idea that suit would be brought *instanter* in the U. S. Court and I held "Judge Ruffin" *in terrorem* over them. The prospect of success in such a case seemed only a forlorn hope. I have no idea that at law, a single acre could have been recovered and I thought it best to take the first advantage that could be obtained, under the fear, thus created, before time was given for consultation with lawyers, and at once, called to my aid H. B. S. Williams and employed his services in the matter and much is due to him for the *material aid* he rendered in accomplishing as much as has been done. He I suppose knows as much about land law as any atto in Tennessee, indeed I would rather have his opinion than any one I know, he has been a very successful prosecutor in land suits and the people dread him—R. W. Sandford was the owner of the land by tax purchase many years ago—he is a gentleman of large means and in a contest would be indefatigable in his efforts to succeed, We could see no sort of chance for recovery, and hence the great propriety

of the *early* settlement of terms, we well knew that a little delay would be sure to develop the advantages Mr. Sandford possessed, and at the same time *expose* our weakness which would most unquestionably have resulted in a bootless effort on our part, we closed in with Mr. Sandford for 2139 acres of the land being the unsold part, lying in 2 tracts 1139 and 1000 acres in good form and of about average value. I have not been able to ascertain what it can be sold for, but will avail myself of the earliest opportunity to find out. I consider that we have made this much land clear, for I do assure you I never knew such palpable neglect about a tract of land in my life. There was no chance under the sun to get back one acre. You may think I have hurried things too fast, but I am sure, if you had been here and seen how utterly hopeless the prospect seemed to be for success, that you would, at once, have advised us to take any thing we could get. The land which Dr. Bracken sold on which part consideration was paid, and the balance of purchase money *enjoined*, was sold by a decree of the Chancery Court, for the advanced payments and the purchasers have a good title 585 acres in the several tracts, this was lost forever. I hope what has been done may prove satisfactory, for I assure you I acted as though I were acting for myself, and it has been no little trouble to Mr. Williams and myself to accomplish as much as has been done. Please let me hear from you. Mrs. Rogers desires to be particularly remembered to you and family. My kind regards to all. Believe me ever your sincere

Friend

JAMES A. ROGERS.

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*From Haywood W. Guion.*<sup>1</sup>

LINCOLNTON Apl. 17, '58.

As one of the Board appointed on behalf of the State to take charge of the Public Sinking Fund, and keep the same invested, I take the liberty of calling to your notice, The Bonds of the Town of Wilmington, issued to aid in the Construction of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Rail Road. They bear Six per centum per annum, with coupons for the interest payable Semi-annually at the Commercial Bank in Wilmington. Some of them run ten, the remainder twenty years from date. The whole issue is two hundred Thousand dollars. And these with a few others are the only Bonds upon which the town is liable for interest. The resources of the town no doubt, you are well acquainted with.

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<sup>1</sup>Haywood Williams Guion, of Lincoln, 1826-1874, a graduate of the University, who, in addition to being a prominent lawyer, was active in railroad development.

As our road will divert from South Carolina, a large portion of the trade, that must inevitably go to Charleston unless it is built, it is an important one for us. In the single item of Cotton, our exchanges will be increased at least one million of dollars—and if I am right in my views, it must serve to sustain our State Bonds and public credit in general. By investing your funds therefore in the Town Bonds, you will be at once sustaining the credit of the State, by increasing our exchange fund, and also contributing to a public work, that will enhance the Taxable property of the State, and thus enlarge her Coffers. This Road is the true Chinese Wall, so long and earnestly prayed for by the patriotic fathers of our Commonwealth and deserves every encouragement. I trust you will earnestly consider the matter, and give us a helping hand. The bonds will be sold below par, but at what figure I cannot yet say. They belong to the Rail Road Company and I would be glad to hear from you.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin  
Graham, N. C.

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*From John Trolinger and Others.*<sup>1</sup>

GRAHAM, N. C., May 5, 1858.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin:

Dear Sir:

The undersigned, a committee appointed in behalf of the Democratic Convention held for Alamance County, take pleasure in informing you that you have been selected by a very large majority of the delegates composing that body as a candidate to represent our County in the next House of Commons of our Legislature. We are aware that the imposition of such a burden on one of your age and high position is asking a sacrifice at your hands. But we hope the crisis of the times, the importance to our State of having her councils guided by matured statesmanship and cautious prudence will cause you to lend your influence, at the earnest solicitation of your Countymen. We feel that we need your services to guide our Legislature safely through the perplexing difficulties of our present financial condition. We do not ask you to attend the popular assemblies of our people and engage in a political canvass for office. We do not ask you to go even beyond the limits of your own family circle, but consent to serve us and we will elect you. We do hope that the importance of your services to your County will induce you to respond favorably to our appeal.

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<sup>1</sup>From the *Raleigh Standard*, June 9, 1858.



Permit us to add our personal solicitation to that to that of the Convention in urging your acceptance of this voluntary tender of office at the hands of your neighbors and fellow-citizens.

With sentiments of high regard, we are your friends and fellow-citizens,

JOHN TROLINGER  
J. H. GANT,  
J. TAPSCOTT  
JOHN ROGERS.

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*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT NEAR RIDGEWAY, N. C.

7th May 1858.

I have not, my old friend, any thing to offer you but *good-will*, earnest benedictions and the affectionate remembrances of a warm heart, and write only to remind you of your promise to be with me on your way to our Court in this month (4th Monday) and to ask you what day I shall meet you at Ridgeway and take you to Warrenton or to my House, as you may elect. As the cars do not get to Ridgeway till 11 A. M. I suggest that you come down Monday, stay at my house till next day, when I will take you early to Court, but *only hint to me your own convenience* and I will conform.

The whole spring circuit has lapsed and yet no Judge. I suppose Mr. B—n had rather neglect the administration of justice than interfere with the Representation of the State in the Sen: U. S. neither can be tolerated consistently with the Theory of our Government. By the way our practice should strictly conform to theory or the purity of our institutions is gone. But I am not going into this thing. I know old age, is both garrulous and querulous and I will not be betrayed into the impropriety of indulging either propensity—but rough it or venture I must say that my good friend, Mr. B. has not *precisely toed the mark*.

Very backward with my crop. The frequent rains have retarded work, plenty of Plants, manured from Farm Pens fully fifty acres. Wheat very promising—tho' Chintz-bug has commenced its ravages.

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*From James C. Johnston.*

*Dear Sir*

HAYES, 15th May, 1858.

I send you a copy of *The Life and Correspondence of Judge Iredell* which you will please accept with my high esteem and respect. Also a Chart of the Chesapeake and Albermarle Canal, Enveloped in which you will find the Lythograph for which you did me the honor to ask.

With highest respect

Yr. Obt. Sert.

J. A. C. JOHNSTON.

Honble. Judge Ruffin.

[Address: Edenton.]

*To John Trolinger and others.*<sup>1</sup>

*Gentlemen:*

ALAMANCE, May 24, 1858.

Your letter informing me that I had been selected by a convention of my fellow-citizens as a candidate to represent this County in the next House of Commons was received shortly after its date. It would have been answered at once but for the reluctance which I have sincerely felt at declining the station thus honorably proffered in my absence and without the slightest knowledge or expectation on my part. There is nothing nearer my heart than the honor and welfare of North Carolina; and I truly desire to serve and oblige my friends and neighbors. It has, therefore, proved a hard task to give a negative answer to a people among whom I have spent, between manhood and this period, fifty years and from whom I have experienced so many honors and kindnesses; especially as the important questions of Currency, Banking, Revenue, Internal Improvements, and particularly those improvements which concern the development of our rich mineral deposits of Coal and Iron ought, and I doubt not will engage the attention of the Legislature; and I entertain on those questions very decided opinions which I should like to see prevail. Yet, gentlemen, after much reflection I have not been able to persuade myself that it is a duty to emerge from the retirement which I have been enjoying for the last few years. In resigning the judicial position in which the Legislature placed me, I sought with unaffected sincerity, the social intercourse, freedom, and repose of private life; and I thought that after so long a service, all would have considered me entitled to them. Those enjoyments have on trial proved dearer and dearer to me, and more necessary to my comfort. In the calm of home and the good will of my neighbors I find more content and

<sup>1</sup>From the *Raleigh Standard*, June 9, 1853.

real happiness than any political distinctions, with their unavoidable anxieties and responsibilities could confer. The truth is, I have no ambition left; but in place of it, I cherish a love for rest and quietness, and the good offices of kindness and friendship in private life. It has, indeed, been a fixed purpose with me not to engage in anything incompatible with that frame of mind. If anything could unsettle that purpose, the application of my fellow-citizens of my own County, to become their representative, especially tendered upon the terms and in the manner it was, would have done so. But the more I considered the subject, the less I desire to change; and it is less fit I should at the age of seventy change my habits and embark in the troubles of politics.

I must, therefore, request you, gentlemen, to communicate to the Body of which you are the organs, with the expression of my deep sense of the distinguished honor they have done me, my earnest desire to be excused from this service; and to make it generally known so that at our approaching Court, due consultation may be had for selecting some gentleman in my stead.

I am, Gentlemen,

With great respect and sincerity,

Your obliged friend and ob't Serv't

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Messrs Jno Trolinger, J. H. Gant, J. Tapscott, John Foster.

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*From W. O. Whitford.*

NEWBERN May 26/58.

Yours of the 20th at hand the 31 Barrels also at hand, which will be disposed of as soon as in our power. And send amt a/c sales as directed by you, expected long before to had the pleasure of returning a/c Sales of first lot flour placed in my hands by my brother, but there has been so much sent forward, with the supplies already on hand it is Slow Sale, our merchants though now, have stoped importing from the North, and I think after the thing is regulated we shall be able to make quick Sales. I would rather you would send invoice with flour, or name in your Letter the least price you are willing to sell at, it would be a guide for me. I might sometime hold it when it should be sold or sell it when I should not, and should perhaps not return Satisfactory a/c Sales; the packages containing the flour when could be should be bright, and I think 12 hoops on the Bbls would be an improvement. Shall endeavour to serve you with our best ability. My Grand Father sends his kindest regards

*From John Trolinger and others to Editors of the Standard.*<sup>1</sup>

GRAHAM, N. C., May 30, 1858.

*Editors of the Standard:*

*Gentlemen:*

As, in your last issue you refer to Judge Ruffin's declension of the candidacy for the House of Commons, proffered him by his fellow-citizens of Alamance County, and that the motives by which our esteemed and distinguished fellow countryman was influenced in coming to this conclusion, may be fully understood and appreciated, we take the liberty of forwarding for publication, both the letter of the committee and his in response. While we deeply regret that the State and County will not have the benefit of Judge Ruffin's services, we cannot but entertain the highest respect for the considerations by which he has been guided and beg to assure him that the sincere affection and best wishes of his fellow-citizens will follow him in his retirement and through life.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

JNO. TROLINGER,

J. H. GANT,

J. TAPSCOTT,

JNO. FOSTER.

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*To David L. Swain.*

ALAMANCE May 31st 1858.

*My Dear Sir,*

I regret the necessity for writing this note and would fain think, you will also regret receiving it, instead of myself in person. It has been my intention to attend Commencement and witness all its interesting Exhibitions and am sincerely sorry, that I cannot. My son John has now been confined to his bed in my house for nearly three weeks with typhoid fever—with which he has been a good deal in the course of his practice for the last six months. We have been quite uneasy about him, and become more so under the long and unyielding continuance of this most unmanageable disease: so that I am unwilling to leave him as much as a day at the time. But it is necessary I should write you, for the sake of delivering the enclosed "Free Pass", as you will probably wish to make some use of it during your approaching vacation. You will remember, that I promised to get Edwards and yourself placed on the same footing with myself, or, else, I would put myself back with you. When I saw Mr. Fisher I, accordingly, mentioned to him, that I was not aware

<sup>1</sup>From Raleigh *Standard*, June 9, 1858.

of any personal claim on the Road, that could entitle me to its privileges, and therefore I supposed, that it was given to me as "Commissioner of the Sinking Fund" and then reminded him, that there were two others, who held the same trust. He seemed surprised, that Mr. Edwards and you had not received a Pass, as he was sure he intended sending them and thought he had done so, and begged me so to explain the case to you. Some weeks ago he forwarded to me the Tickets for both of you, and last week I had the pleasure of *handing* Edwards' to him, and hoped this week to have done the same by you and yours.

How and where do you spend the vacation? Will it be in your power to be in Raleigh the 1st of July, or would you prefer a later day and what one? I believe I shall have to be in Tennessee the 3rd of July, and shall not be able to get back earlier than the 12th or 15th of the month. I wish you would let me know your wishes and arrangements.

Hoping you a pleasant Commencement, I remain, Dear Sir, most respectfully and sincerely

Your friend and Obt. Sert.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Governor Swain,  
Chapel-hill No. Ca.

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*From J. J. Martin.*

WILLIAMSTON May 31st, 1858.

*Hon. Thomas Ruffin*

*Dear Sir.*

The Democracy of Martin County assembled in Convention two weeks since and nominated as their Standard bearer, a young Gentleman who, though talented, and amply able to represent the county with credit perhaps to himself and constituents, yet he is not 21 years old, and will not be until Just before the Legislature adjourns. Now Sir in view of this state of facts and with a patriotic desire to keep up our party organization and as a member of the Legal Bar, permit me to ask you that if he is elected can he take his seat if contested.

I have presumed to get your opinion on this point thinking in my humble Judgement that if he continues to run it will inevitably cause a disorganization of our glorious party. Hoping you will pardon me for thus assuming and giving me the desired information in order to keep our party organization,

I subscribe myself Your Most Obt.

J. J. MARTIN.

P. S. Please answer this at your earliest convenience.

*From David L. Swain.*

CHAPEL HILL 7. June 1858.

Your letter of Mch 31 ulto by Rev. Dr. Curtis was duly received.

I regret very much your inability to attend our Commencement exercises, and still more deeply the cause of your detention. I trust that by this time John for whom I cherish feelings of affection as well as sentiments of respect, has passed his crisis and regaining strength and health.

Commencement week was a more than usual interesting season more so I think in all respects than any I have attended during the last twenty years. Dr. Curtis, Dr. Wheat and Dr. Hawks all acquitted themselves well and Mr. Cameron's address upon so short a notice was admirable. The senior speeches considering the number (20) were in some instances too long, but they were generally well written, well delivered, and made a more favorable impression upon those best able to appreciate them, than those of any previous class within my recollection. The attendance of Trustees was rather thin, but of the community generally and especially the ladies, quite as great as when President Polk was with us in 1847.

"The Free Pass" is very welcome. I leave home tomorrow for Buncombe on business of the Trustees, and will be enabled to save that portion of my expenses for them, and thereafter for a long time to come. I anticipate no other dividend upon rather an inconvenient amount of stock in the road.

With respect to the present meeting of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, I cannot speak very definitely at present, and may take occasion to write you again. I will probably return in time to meet you at Raleigh between the 10 and 15—July, but cannot hope to be able to do so by the 3rd.

Hon. T. Ruffin.

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*From Charles B. Williams.*

OFFICE VA. STATE AGL SOCIETY

RICHMOND JUNE 10 1858

I have just had the pleasure of a visit from the President of our Society, who requested me to advise you of the certainty of the time fixed for holding our annual Fair at Petersburg, as he had spoken to you about the matter with some doubt in respect to the correctness of his recollection as to the date agreed upon.

The decision of the Executive Committee is to hold the Fair on the 2nd 3rd 4th and 5th days of November next. It will be very gratifying to the officers and members of our Society to welcome you on the occasion if you can visit us, and it will also be gratifying to receive a delegation from your Society.

*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT, NEAR RIDGEWAY

14th June 1858.

The Rust is doing so much mischief to my wheat, that I cannot say with any certainty when my harvest will commence. I may be forced to anticipate the usual time—some days—think now I shall be obliged to begin Thursday or Friday next at any rate I shall be making full way next Monday, the 21st, and have both reapers in fine condition to make a demonstration should you and our very good friend Jones—one or both—come down. The labors of the day will dwindle into nothing, if you and he be with me. . . . .

How graciously as well as gracefully did your friends respond to your letter declining the Candidacy for Alamance.<sup>1</sup> In honoring you they have honored themselves. I wish to God the same public views and the same spirit pervaded the people of every County. The mad and reckless Career of young America would soon be arrested.

I think it was appointed that the S. Fund Board should be in Raleigh the 6 July at night—the meeting the next day—to avoid the Hurly-burly of the 4th which will be on the 5th.

If any other day will better suit you and Gov. Swain—say so—unless otherwise advised by you I shall reach Raleigh in the Evening Train of the 6th.

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*From Pulaski Cowper.<sup>2</sup>*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

RALEIGH June 22nd 1858

Gov. Bragg is now absent from the City, and will not return in two or three weeks. He requested me to send you the enclosed comn. and desired me to express the hope on his part, that you would accept the commission, inasmuch as the meeting is to be held in Hillsboro, which will not subject you to long travel, and he hopes no inconvenience.

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<sup>1</sup>See *supra*, Trolinger to Ruffin, dated May 5, 1858; Ruffin to Trolinger, dated May 24, 1858; and Trolinger to the Editors of the *Standard*, dated May 30, 1858.

<sup>2</sup>Private secretary to Governor Bragg.

*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT 28th June 1858.

I write in the hope that this will reach you before you set out for Tennessee—it will however be in good time should you get it before you fix a day for the meeting of our Board. Mr. Martin of Richmond, for reasons seeming good to him, has fixed the 21st instead of the 27th of July for the sale of my Tob<sup>c</sup>. so that on the 21st I shall be in Richd.—any day after that agreeable to Swain and yourself, which will not throw me upon Raleigh on the Sabbath, or call me from the Election, will suit me for our meeting. Since you left me Mrs. Joyner, Mark Alexander and wife and Wm. Plummer have been with me, and much regretted they failed to see you.

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N. B. You asked me why I used Envelopes. Why it *saves* a half-sheet of Paper.

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*From Charles B. Williams.*

OFFICE VA STATE AGL. SOCIETY.

RICHMOND July 8th 1858.

*Judge Thomas Ruffin*

*Dear Sir*

I duly received your esteemed favor of the 5th and immediately informed Wilson W. Whitaker Esq. by letter to Raleigh that the United States Agricultural Fair would be held here, commencing on the 26th and ending on the 29th October. It is to be regretted that the Maryland State Society has appointed the same time for holding its exhibition. The acknowledgments of our Executive Committee are due to the Committee of your Society for the comity they have exercised towards us in changing the time of their exhibition—a change which I hope will enable you and them to be present with our Society in Petersburg on the 2nd. With the hope that you will honor us with your presence I enclose a circular informing you of your appointment on one of the committees of award.

Very truly and faithfully yours

CH. B. WILLIAMS, Secty.



[Enclosure]

*Circular*

OFFICE OF THE VIRGINIA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, }  
 RICHMOND, June 1858. }

*Sir:*

You have been appointed one of the Judges to award premiums on the most extensive and valuable collection of useful Agricultural Machines and implements made and exhibited by one Manufacturer, No. 458, at the sixth Annual Exhibition of the Virginia State Agricultural Society, to be held in PETERSBURG on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th of November next. The Executive Committee are fully aware of the burden they impose on gentlemen selected as Judges of Award; but the office is one of indispensable necessity, on the faithful discharge of the duties of which depends not only much of the interest of the Society's Exhibitions, but of its success and usefulness, as an instrument of Agricultural improvement and progress. They appeal, therefore, to the patriotism and public spirit of those who are called to bear an honorable share in this beneficent work, to make a generous sacrifice of private ease and personal convenience, to the claims of public duty, and to devote to the adjudication of the subjects submitted for their awards, the time and attention necessary to enable them to render such equitable decisions as shall challenge general approbation.

You are requested to be in attendance on Tuesday morning, the 2nd of November, and to report yourself to the Chief Marshal on the Fair Grounds.

The favor of an early answer is requested, and in the event of your inability to act, be pleased to suggest the names of two or more persons willing to serve, that vacancies may be seasonably filled.

Yours, Respectfully,

CH. B. WILLIAMS Sec'y

Judge Thomas Ruffin  
 Alamance N. C.

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*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT 8th July 1858.

*My dear Ruffin*

I did not receive your highly valued letter of 5th until last Evening—and must reply to day—to be in time for the Treasurer's proposals—which, by the way, he permits to trench upon the Sabbath.

Notwithstanding your compliment to my "sagacity and wisdom" I cannot perceive any objection to a bid to the amt. of the \$100,000—promised by the Treasurer in Octr.—provided it be put beyond all cavil

and in *expressed* terms, that "in case of failure from any cause or to any extent, he will allow the bid *pro tanto* to be withdrawn." This would avoid all complication—and give it more the Character of a Cash transaction—the only kind, with which I submit, our Board should have any thing to do. I say the same of the expected dividend from the N. C. Rail Road. I am not sure I am right in this view—but you and our friend Swain's concurrence in opinion is authority enough for me. If upon farther consideration, I find you and he and I are wrong—I promise not to do so again. As to the coupons due us—all will be well of course—"here's one there's the other."

I need not say I would be delighted with a trip to see you and S. but I leave home in 15 or 18 days—and wish every thing duly arranged for my absence. Say to S. I should be quite happy in a visit from him—and have a surplus of time *always* for him. He, like you, is of the last Century—and with such I feel a much stronger affiliation, than with those imbued with all the modernisms of the age.

I find myself with but a half sheet of paper—and am too lazy to transcribe—or would write you a long letter and tell you what a compliment The Standard pays me in telling the Country that I killed Free-Suffrage. I wish to God, the question could be resuscitated and its fate was in my hands. It would fare no better.

The chickens for Ginny went on in the Train to Graham yesterday. Every good word to Swain, nobody wishes him better. God Bless you—and be assured of the love and constant remembrance of

Yr. old friend

W. N. EDWARDS.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin  
Raleigh.

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*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT 12th July 1858.

I can now see my way so clear that I can say I will return from Richmond the 23d Inst. and, if it suit you and Govr. Swain, can most conveniently attend the meeting of our board the Wednesday or Thursday following (28th or 29th Instant), and will be at Raleigh the evening *before* the day *you* may designate. The week after is our election, and God willing, I should be glad to visit the Va. Springs about the 10th Prox: if business will allow.

I am persuaded we ought to meet at an early day, and in view of the large powers conferred on the board, we cannot escape the duty of embracing in our Report, to be made at a subsequent meeting, matters of grave moment, as it will doubtless be expected of us. When we meet we can talk over the points for consideration in advance.

I may as well add, that I wish to buy three or four large State Bonds, and N. York being the best market, I think it very probable,

that I shall, when I see you, so far conquer my reluctance at troubling others as to ask you to make the purchase, unless you can point out an equally successful plan. My apology would be, not only that you could do it better than any other, but that from habitude these things are familiar to you, and it would be but an every day's business, and of *easy performance*.

[P. S.] Write me so that I get yr letter before or just after my trip to Richd., so that I may know your and Swain's wishes as to the day.

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*From N. A. Ramsey.*<sup>1</sup>

PITTSBORO', 12 July '58.

Will you do me the very special favor to give me your opinion as to the meaning of "pastoral function" in 31 Sec. of the Constitution of North Carolina.

Is a *Local Preacher* eligible to a seat in the Legislature? By *Local Preacher* I mean, one who has charge of no congregation or church.

Wm. P. Taylor<sup>2</sup> who is such a Preacher is a candidate for the Legislature in this County, and it is contended by some that he is ineligible.

Will you please give us your opinion by return mail and oblige many of yr. friends here.

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*From Thomas L. Clingman.*

ASHEVILLE July 13th 1858.

I hope you will oblige me by sending me if you have it to spare, a copy of your address some years since before Agricultural Society at Raleigh. I ought to have a copy of it some where as I remember putting it away for preservation but I cannot now find it. My reason for wishing it particularly now, is that I have been requested to address the Society in November next and while I do not hope to be able to advance anything new of interest, Yet I wish to avoid repeating what has been better said by others at the same place. While therefor I recollected

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<sup>1</sup>Nathan Alexander Ramsey, of Chatham, a graduate of the University in 1848, a farmer who was active in politics but held no office.

<sup>2</sup>William P. Taylor was elected to the House of Commons at this election. His seat was contested on the ground that he was ineligible, but he showed legal opinions of George E. Badger and Samuel F. Phillips, agreeing that he was not debarred and the attempt to oust him failed. He was re-elected in 1860, and was a member of the Senate in 1862.

well some things that you had stated on that occasion, there are many others that have escaped my recollection and I should like therefore preparing anything to reread your very interesting address.

Some time ago when Mr. Benjamin Hamilton was telling me the number of native grape cuttings he had set out last winter, he spoke of a grape which I knew to be the same one you had received from Mr. Bynum as a very good one. I told him that you said a *pig* would not eat it on account of its sourness. We immediately began to laugh and said Bynum must have gotten you the *wrong one* that there were two vines growing together so mingled that it was only when they were bearing that the twigs of each would be distinguished from the other and added that while one was excellent the other was intolerably bad. He also said that the roots of the two vines were entwined together, but that he had by working them when in bearing condition, obtained cuttings of the good one.

I mention this as a circumstance to show that possibly the grape intended to have been sent was really a good one.

If you can spare me a copy of your address, it will be a great favor to me.

Hon Thos. Ruffin.

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*To David L. Swain.*

ALAMANCE July 22nd 1858.

I am advised by Mr. Edwards, that his health requires a visit to the Virginia Springs early next month, and, in consequence thereof, he proposes a meeting of the Commissioners etc. at Raleigh on the morning of thursday the 29th. Instant. To that, I have, of course, acceded, and lose no time to advise you of it, that you may make the necessary preparation for two days absence from home. I shall hope to have the pleasure of seeing you and having the benefit of a consultation on our duties.

\* \* \* \* \*

President Swain,  
Chapel Hill, No. Ca.

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*From Wilson W. Whitaker.*

RALEIGH July 23rd /58.

In looking over the Journal of the last North Carolina State Agricultural Society, the following resolution stands recorded (Oct. 23rd 1857) of which, it was deemed my duty to apprise you: to wit

“On motion of Richard H. Smith. It was also resolved That the *Executive Committee* be authorized to have two hundred copies of the Constitution and Journal of this meeting printed for distribution at the next Fair in 1858”.

I understand from Mr. Bryan, that Mr. Bridgers' address delivered at the last Fair will be sent up in a few days for publication. Would it not be well to include that, and also the Essays in *Hill Side Ditching*, in the publication authorized by the above resolution, and thus make a highly valuable and creditable volume of transactions to exchange with other Agricultural Societies in our neighboring States.

Whatever action you deem necessary to be taken under the above resolution, it will afford me pleasure to have carried into effect.

Mr. Chas. B. Williams of Richmond informs me by letter, that the Virginia State Agr. Society will hold a fair on Tuesday 2nd Nov. at Petersburg—and that the United States Agr. Society will hold a Fair at Richmond and the Maryland State Agr. So. a Fair at Baltimore (both at same time) i. e. 26th-27, 28th October.

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*From James H. Ruffin.*

HILLSBORO, July 26th, 1858.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Mr. Cameron” requests me to say, that so far as the campaign has progressed,<sup>1</sup> his friends, assure him, that there is no danger of defeat. It is impossible to tell, however, what is to be the result of an unlimited use or *abuse* of liquor and the utterance of the wildest radicalism in politics and morals—whether successful or otherwise, he will “possess his soul in quiet” and express, as he shall feel, no mortification. Of course you will say nothing of the influence which liquor is likely to exert on this election, as if it be known that he makes the charge, it may injure his own prospects.

\* \* \* \* \*

[Address: Graham  
Alamance County  
North Carolina.]

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<sup>1</sup>Mr. Cameron had been a member of the Senate in 1856 and was at this time a candidate for re-election. He was defeated by Josiah Turner, Jr.

*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT, 8th Aug. 1858.

Since I parted with you I have determined to forego my trip to the Springs—preferring to incur all the Hazards of this hot climate, rather than surrender the comforts of Home. I give you this early notice that you may make up your mind to come to my house some days in advance of our Court. I shall take pride in showing you as fine a crop of Corn as you ever saw upon such old land, surpassing, I think, any I ever made—it is spotted with the Bug—but I do not fear serious injury. My Tobc. has improved vastly—and, if I can get rain of which there is now a fair prospect, shall make a good crop. My China Corn is comely to look upon. You shall see all these things when you come—and, if *there be time*, I may tax you to do some writing for me.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Heat is so oppressive, it is irksome to write—my hand is unsteady, and it is too early for ale. . . . .

[P. S.] Hall 694—Drake 680. Bachelor 466.

*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT 17th Aug. 1858.

\* \* \* \* \*

Shame to me! that I should have forgot the “Bennet” Plough, and had to be reminded of my promise, but my refuge is, that a certain discount is always charitably allowed to the memory, at three score and ten. But be assured you shall carry it home with you next week, and my word for it, tho’ late, you will be much pleased with its performance.

The drought of which you complain seems to have been quite general. I learn by letter just recd. from Richd. that everything there is “parched up”. Hereabouts we are sorely afflicted, some more than others. My Tob<sup>c</sup> suffers much, and I fear no seasons can bring it out. My corn is forward and cannot be so much injured—the growth is very fine—and good seasons now will make me a large crop. I hope you will be able to bear the loss of a third and not be driven to a substitute like peas—they are fine with a plenty of corn—but the place of the latter cannot be supplied by them. I have sown about 3 acres in Turnips—not yet up, nearly thrashed out my wheat, the yield not what the straw indicated.

I am pleased you will stay a day with me—*longer* I hope—my brief is ready for you—As it is uncertain what day you will be in Warrenton, I presume, as before you will be there Monday, and shall go down on that day—(unless I hear from you) to bring you home with me.

\* \* \* \* \*

Hon. Thos. Ruffin  
Alamance.

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N. B. I cannot tell you how much I regret the Defeat of Cameron. I considered him one of the most valuable—if not the most valuable, public man in N. C. F. Suffrage begins quite early to gnash her Teeth at us—and there is, I fear, no help in us.

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*From John H. Bryan, Jr.*

RALEIGH NO. CA. Aug. 21, 58.

I have the pleasure to inform you that I have received Mr. Bridgers' Mss of his address; the records are also ready for the printer. And we desire to know what we shall do in the premises or will you come down yourself and take such steps as may be necessary? We shall be very glad to see you and besides it is necessary for the Printer to go to work without delay, in order to have the pamphlet ready by the Fair. Will you please inform me when you will come and what we must do?

Hon

Thos. Ruffin Pr Etc.,  
Graham No. Ca.

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*From Frederick Nash.*

HILLSBORO' Aug 30th, [1858]

Since my return from the Springs, it has several times occurred to me, that my old, no my earliest friend Thomas Ruffin, would be gratified in learning my entire restoration to health. Such is the fact. I went on my pilgrimage with much reluctance, believing it would [be] an unnecessary expense both of time and money—that at my advanced age, if my health were restored, it could in the course of nature, be but for a short space of time, and the play would not be worth the candle. My good old wife would hear of no excuse, and I found her quiet required I should go. Well Sir, I went, feeble and diseased I now return hearty and strong—entire free from the attack upon my lungs—and with an appetite which has enabled me to relish the fine fruit, You and

Mrs. Ruffin (to whom I desire to return my warm thanks for all her kindness sent us by Miss Maggie. The Springs to which I was directed to go in the first instance, are in my estimation, the most valuable in Virginia. By the By I have only tried the warm springs and the Healing—at any rate the latter acted like a charm upon me. When I left home, I could not walk across the room without assistance—after a week at the Healing, I walked on one day five miles—one and a half directly after breakfast and in the afternoon four without resting or stoping—pretty good for an old man. I feel, under a kind providence, free from all disease, and as capable of working as I ever was. But I am perfectly sensible that my lease is at sufferance, and well I know that if my days, by reason of strength, be four-score years, yet will their strength be labour and sorrow—may I have grace given to me equal to my days.

With sincere regard your friend

F. NASH.

Maria and I are contemplating a visit, but I do not know when to find you at home.

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*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT, 4th Sept, 1858.

The account you give of your health in your last of the 27th ult. fills me with deep concern. I cannot longer delay enquiring after it and you. Should have done so before this, but for the company of friends who have just left me. I hope your attack proved to be but slight and that you are again entirely yourself.

My good friend! it is time for you to take rest under the privilege of age. Your labors, both of Body and Mind, are too great and constant for your and my time of life. Whatever may be our inclination to work, we too soon find our faculties, not as formerly, obedient, to *the will*, but often in open rebellion to it. They partake of the infirmities which are inseperable from old age, and never fail to shirk when overtaxed. Besides are they not entitled to be placed on the list of exempts by you and me. We have, I hope, worked as we should. From you, I am sure, the smallest modicum of labor, I had liked to have said *duty*, cannot be claimed. Moreover you have raised up around you those who are not only able, but are bound, and, I am sure, willing to undertake all the hard-work. Command them then, and set apart for yourself only such things as will serve to amuse and fill up the little vacuities in the pathway of life. This is my philosophy, and that I am sincere in it is proved by my practice. Since I saw you my occupations have been as variant as the whims of the mind of an old man could



suggest. One moment riding in the cool of the morning to look over the Corn and Tobc. Now inspecting the straitening and deepening of a Creek, which has been before at least twenty times worked upon, then my workmen being thro' all indispensable jobs, *assisting* and directing them how to build me a Pigeon house. Sometimes feeding my game chickens, then giving all due care to my Pigeons etc., etc. So you see I am never without a Hobby. But they are my refuge only when Books become "dull and tedious companions".

The effects of the drought hereabouts have been very disastrous. My crop is sadly injured by it. On the 27th ulto. in the day and the 2d Inst. in the night I had fine rains—the first for many weeks. My Tobc. very much improved, and my low-ground corn most promising—it being just of the age to take benefit from the season. My upland corn, being forward and early laid by will yield better than I once thought. If no disaster visit my flat land shall, I think, make more than enough. My wheat nearly all in market, 1922 Bus. for sale 310 for seed and flour. The yield therefore not as good as you thought, and a little better than I anticipated—tho' not so good as it would have been but for casualties. The greatest failure was upon my corn and Pea fallow. The Lots yielded about 20 Bus. pr. Acre. The other not more than 8 or 9, it has generally given me from 13 to 15 Bus.

That terrible disease, called the black tongue, but known to veterinarians as the "*Blain*" is among my Cattle. Have lost two from not detecting it in time—fifteen have been on the sick list at once—it is reported to me this morning that they are all very nearly cured. In a Book I have, published by an association of Gentl. in London "for the diffusion of useful knowledge", the treatment is simple. R. Be sure to *lance thoroughly at the outset* the little vesicles or bladders that appear on the sides and under the Tongue in the early stages of the disease—swab afterwards night and morning with equal parts of Copperas and Allum or saltpetre in Vinegar—give in Drink a plenty of Common salt with meal mixed, as food—Pasture *bare*. I think all may be saved by this course *carefully* observed.

In the political world, nothing is so much needed at this time as that public opinion should make a spirited and united resistance to the intrigues of public men—and by open and manly avowal rescue the public Press from the slough of suppleness into which it has of late years sunk. The conspiracy of the two is almost complete, and without a remedy, the people will become only servile instruments in the hands of political Pedlars. I pray for defeat to all political combinations—I mean of *Politicians*, and I stand ready to commission any one, altho' his escutcheon may be tarnished by the stain of that miserable Humbug "free suffrage", as it is called—who will assist to accomplish so desirable an end. The efforts to squeeze Reid out will I fear, succeed. The conspiracy is deeply laid and general in its influence Since the

loss of Cameron I give up all hope of arresting the runmaddism of the times and preventing the overthrow of conservatism. We may boast, my friend! that our lot is cast in the best days of the Republic.

Amid all changes and chances, my fervent prayer is that you and all yours may safely and in Peace ride out every storm.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin  
Alamance N. C.

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*From Murdock J. McSween.*<sup>1</sup>

*Respected Sir,*

CHAPEL HILL, N. C. Sept. 27th 1858.

I hope you will pardon the liberty I take in addressing you this communication. I am an entire stranger to you, but I assure you that I am induced from right motives.

I wish you to write in relation to any subject or matter you think proper, and, at such times as you may have leisure and send the manuscript to me, or leave it for me. You are now, I presume, past the three score and ten allotted to man and it is reasonable to suppose that you cannot remain much longer among us. Your intimate connection with public men and things for a considerable portion of your life, enables you to give much valuable information, historical and otherwise, that might never be transmitted to posterity in any other manner; and further, your long and valuable experience and correct observation, entitles your opinions to great weight and enables you to give sound instruction and advice. From these remarks you can form some idea of the character of the work I want. I do not care how large a volume you will make—the more of it the better.

I wish you to prepare it entirely at your own discretion, but I hope it will [be] as plain and simple as possible—no fancy paper nor gaudy covering, but every thing perfectly natural and original—blots, re-lining and all. I would like to receive, at least a part of it in the course of a year from this time. If it cannot be gotten ready then it would be very desirable to get it in two or three years any how, and if I should leave the University before it could be delivered it could be left with Gov. Swain directed to me if not otherwise advised. Of course I want to have it entirely at my disposal at least after your death. In consideration of the very worthy manner in which you have so often performed your duty as a public man and private citizen, I make this request. When these mighty responsibilities will devolve upon the rising generation, it will nerve the energies and brighten their hopes to contemplate the character of the illustrious dead, and par-

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<sup>1</sup>Murdock J. McSween, of Richmond County, at this time a student in the University. He was later a newspaper man, served in the Confederate army, and died in 1880.

ticularly, to point to the relics of one whose pure and unpretending life ornamented the society in which he lived and whose name will live in the hearts of his countrymen for many generations to come. Can one, who, though he did not seek emolument, yet never refused at his country's call, deny what will be a source of so much pleasure to me and benefit to posterity?

Please write to me upon reception of this.

Yours very respectfully,

Hon. Thomas Ruffin,  
Graham, N. C.

M. J. McSWEEN.

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*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT 8th Oct., 1858.

I have duly received your very kind letter from Raleigh. Tho' it gave no agreeable tidings concerning your Health, it was, I assure you, a most welcome visitor, as it relieved me from much anxiety about it. From your previous letters, long silence and not travelling thitherward, I had feared that your trip to Rockingham and habits of constant toil had made you seriously sick, and so indeed it turned out. I am happy, however, to find you were able to travel to Raleigh, which, allow me to say, you should not have done, business or no business—for I am sure there can be no demand upon you which you have not the *right* at your pleasure to lay upon the shelf, and bid "be still".

My old Friend, it is time to rest from your Labors—both mind and Body need repose in old age, at that period which Alexr. Pope calls the sickness of long life—they instinctively recoil from Labor, and it is our duty not to overtask them. I would not have you rust out, no—there must be action, but without *hard work*. Pet-employments, that give exercise while they amuse and entertain, are the proper pursuits of old age. For my own part, the diligence formerly given to active business I now devote to hunting after such employments, and to opening an avenue to ease and repose. I could make you laugh at the variety of my inventions. But you will ask why this lecture? I will tell you when I see you, and make all the "amende" you may demand.

There was no occasion, I hope, for so much precision about the Bonds (for your trouble about which you know you have my thanks). We shall, I hope, meet again and often. But, I confess, I should have no wish to visit Raleigh, if it were not to meet you and Swain, and especially you. We appointed no particular day—supposing each would attend the Fair Thursday Forenoon of the Fair, would suit me if agreeable to you and Swain. But fix the day most agreeable to yourself and *if before Thursday, notify me* of it. I wish to be at our Court Tuesday, no business—but custom has almost made it a law. Will readily however obey yr. summons.

Finished cutting Tobc. yesterday—not an average crop—will make more than enough corn—saved a fine crop of Fodder and Tops. My fattening hogs are doing well—very well upon the Chinese Corn, stalk and all.

I have had your Plough in the Library since August Court—will bring it to Raleigh. Writing irksome. I have to raise my Pen at every single letter. . . . .

[P. S.] Have prepared the Paper we talked about and will submit it to you when we meet.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin Senr.

Alamance.

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*From Thomas S. Gholson and others.*

*Dear Sir*

PETERSBURG Octo 23d. 1858.

The undersigned, a committee on the part of the Petersburg Library Association, have the honour to invite you to deliver a lecture before the Association, at such time as may suit your convenience during the ensuing winter.

They indulge the hope that you will accept this invitation, and thus give your aid and countenance to an effort to advance literary taste and culture. We have a handsome Library, are now erecting an imposing and costly Library Building. The Lecture system has been entirely successful.

Very Respectfully

THOS. S. GHOLSON	} Committee
R. D. McILWAIN	
J. P. MAY	

Judge Thos. Ruffin.

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*From Thomas S. Ashe.*

WILMINGTON N. C. October 24th 1858.

*Hon-ble Thomas Ruffin:*

*Dear Sir,*

I was desirous of having a conversation with you while at the Fair on one or two subjects, but seeing your attention much occupied will trouble you with a letter. My mind had been for some time past directed to a reorganization of our Judicial System, but I must confess that the more I have thought of it the more confused my thoughts have become.

Our Supreme Court (if its Practioners report correctly) has of late undergone a complete change in character. One of its members taking advantage of the physical weakness of our most excellent friend the Chief Justice, and the good, easy disposition of the Associate Judge has usurped the high perogative of legislation and in the uncertain fitfulness of his mind declares what shall or shall not be law according to his drunken humors. This should not be so. It should not be so *even in appearance*. North Carolina should not have her judicial ermine blemished by a suspicion. But if such be the case what is our remedy? Impeachment? That is impracticable and so, I have been informed he has declared. He does not stand in the fear of this punishment. What other remedy have we? Nothing has ocured to me but a reorganization of the Courts, making it to consist of five instead of three members thereby diminishing his capacity to do mischief. I futhermore understand that in the case of the resignation of the Chief Justice he aspires to that position. My soul rebels against the degradation. Could not this disgraceful misfortune be prevented by the Legislature assuming the designation of this officer?

What bad consequences would result from its doing so?

These questions, My Dear Sir, I take the liberty of submitting to you for your consideration well knowing that you must be as sensitive on this subject as any other man in North Carolina and that your well informed and experienced mind can bring forward the proper course for the Legislature to take in the premises.

Conceiving that this communication relates to a matter of high public concernment you are at entire liberty to consult with any one you may think proper about its contents, but at the same time any reply you may make me will be retained as confidential.

Do accept of my best wishes for a lengthened enjoyment of health and happiness

Yours with high esteem

THOS. S. ASHE.

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*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT 16 NOV. 1858.

For the last 12 days I have been confined to my Room, thank God! not to my bed, by my old complaint—an eruption of the Head and face—with much pain and inflammation of the eyes. The pain is now subdued and the inflammation fast abating—but I fear I cannot get to Court. Should I not my Boy and Rockaway will be down Tuesday morning for you. Keep them as long as you wish and for what you

wish. Eaton stay'd with me a day and night last week. I told him we would be with him Monday, he was much pleased. So consider he expects you.

I write with difficulty, with but little help from my eyes as you will perceive from the irregularities in words and letters.

[P. S.] Good writing for a blind man?

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*From B. F. Roney.<sup>1</sup>*

RALEIGH Novem 23rd /58

*Mr. Thomas Ruffin senr.*

*Dear Sir.*

this day we have Elected Senators Judges and solicitors. Clingman for the short term Brag For the long term. Heath and Shepperd the present incumbent for the Judgship Houston and Strong as solicitors, as to our District that Election is postponed for the present your son Thomas is in nomination<sup>2</sup> but we wish to hear from him first.

there is already a great deal of Business now before the house and refered to the respective committees. It seems to be universally acceeded that it will be a long session but I am inclined to think that most of the members is for retrenchment and reform Rail Road bills seems to meet with cool reception. As to the proceedings of the house I no you are well posted, as all of the bills of any importance is printed, and would be glad of your instruction at any time. Yours, etc.,

B. F. RONEY.

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*From John S. Dancy.<sup>3</sup>*

HOUSE OF COMMONS

RALEIGH Nov. 23rd 1858

I enclose you a Bill presented to the Consideration of the Legislature, in relation to the free persons of color in our State and I wish to know your opinion as to its constitutionality at as early a day as you can conveniently give it.

By the way have you thought of and prepared that memorial in behalf of the Ex. Com. of State Ag. Soc, asking for additional means to offer premiums worthy of our State.

When will you be down?

Judge Thos Ruffin<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Member of the House of Commons from Alamance.

<sup>2</sup>Thomas Ruffin, Jr., had been solicitor since 1854 and was re-elected December 4, 1858.

<sup>3</sup>Member of the House of Commons from Edgecombe at this and the preceding session of the legislature.

[Enclosure]

## IMPORTANT BILLS.

The following important bills have been introduced into the Senate by Col. Humphrey, of Onslow. In introducing the first Col. Humphrey said:

The bill proposes to remove the free negro population from the limits of the State, after two years' notice, or, *if they will remain*, to reduce them to the same condition as slaves. The bill was prepared and introduced at the request of many of his constituents, as well as at the request of many citizens of other portions of the State, who had suffered long and severely from the evil influences which the free negroes exercise over the slave population. But a change so radical and important in our municipal law, as the one proposed by that bill, deserved well, he thought, the serious consideration of the Legislature; and while the change proposed met the views and wishes of those at whose instance it was framed, he had a doubt that some of its provisions might conflict with the constitution. In his own opinion some legislation upon the subject was demanded of this Legislature. He moved, therefore, that the bill be printed and referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

## A BILL CONCERNING FREE PERSONS OF COLOR.

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That from and after the passage of this act, it shall not be lawful for any free person of color to emigrate to this State.

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That if any free person of color shall emigrate to this State, it shall be the duty of the Sheriff, or any one of the Constables of the County to which such emigration shall be made, to arrest such free person of color, after giving him ten days' notice, and bring him before the Chairman of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, before whom such free person of color may be brought, to receive the bond of such free person of color in the sum of one thousand dollars, with the security of a citizen, to be approved by him, conditioned for the removal of such free person of color out of the limits of the State.

Sec. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That if any free person of color should be brought before the Chairman of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of any county, and shall not be able to give the bond as prescribed in the second section of this act, such Chairman of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, shall commit such free person of color to the public jail, with an order to the Sheriff to expose him to public sale, to the highest bidder, at the Court-house door, of his county, after giving four weeks' notice of the same, in the nearest public journal,

and at least four public places in his county, and the said purchaser shall and may exercise all the rights of ownership over said free person of color, for one year from such sale.

Sec. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That if any such free person of color, shall during the year of such slavery, be able to give his bond as contemplated in the second section of this act, to take effect at the end of his slavery, he shall be permitted to do so; but if he shall fail to render the bond, until after the expiration of his slavery, it shall be the duty of the purchaser to return him into the hands of the Sheriff.

Sec. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Sheriff, upon the return of any such free person of color, upon giving six weeks' notice in some public journal, and at least four public places in his county, to expose the free person of color, so returned, at public sale, to the highest bidder, and such free person of color so sold, shall remain a slave for life; *Provided* that if any person of color so sold should be the property of any individual, he shall have his right of recovery by due course of law.

Sec. 6. *Be it further enacted*, All monies arising from the sale of such free persons of color, shall be paid over to the Chairman of the board of Superintendents, to be appropriated by him to the use of Common Schools, in his county, in the same manner as county taxes for school purposes.

Sec. 7. *Be it further enacted*, That upon the forfeiture of the bond of any free person of color, the same shall be placed in the hands of the County Solicitor for collection, who shall prosecute the same against the securities only; and the amount of sale, if such shall have been made, of the free person of color shall, in all cases, be subtracted from the amount adjudged against the securities, and the remainder only shall be recovered of them.

Sec. 8. *Be it further enacted*, That two years shall be allowed, from and after the passage of this act, to all free persons of color who now are in this State, to remove out of the same; and all those who shall be found here after that time, without the permission of the General Assembly, shall be arrested and sold as provided in this act.

Sec. 9. *Be it further enacted*, That it shall not be lawful for any master of a vessel, or owner thereof, nor for any other person or persons whatsoever, to bring, import, induce, aid or assist in the bringing, importing, or inducing any free person of color within the limits of this State, directly or indirectly; and any person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be fined, in a sum of not less than five hundred nor more than five thousand dollars: *Provided*, That cooks and other hands employed on board of vessels shall not be considered as coming within the provisions of this act.

Sec. 10. *Be it further enacted*, That the Governor of the State do issue his proclamation, commanding all free persons of color who now



are in the State, to remove from the same before the 1st day of January, 1860, and the Secretary of State publish this act a number of times in all the journals of this State.

Sec. 11. *Be it further enacted*, That all laws contrary to the meaning and spirit of this act, are hereby repealed.

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*From Francis Fries.*<sup>1</sup>

RALEIGH N. C. Nov. 24, 1858.

To my astonishment I find myself at the head of the Committee of Finance, and it is expected that I should suggest the manner in which a sufficient revenue should be raised. It does appear to me that a large increase of the sinking fund should be contemplated. But no action can be taken in this, before the commissioners of the Sinking Fund shall have reported, or before at least the views of the Commissioners shall have been ascertained. I trust you will not consider it presumptuous in me to ask the favor, that you give me some intimation, whether an increase of the fund under their care and that by taxation will be recommended.

Indeed I will be much obliged to you, if you would give me your views on the subject of taxation. The *advalorem* principle is strongly advocated by many, whilst others fear it would soon lead to an alteration of our constitution.

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*From Weldon N. Edwards.*

POPLAR MOUNT NOV 25<sup>th</sup> 1858

The inflammation of my eyes continues, but with some abatement. It is now doubtful whether I shall be able to meet you at Raleigh on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Dr Howard thinks it probable I may do so, but is not certain. From your not being at Warren Court, you must also be sick. And we may suppose that, one or the other of us will be absent. What then? I suggest that you write forthwith to some member of the Legislature, as I will also do, in case you concur, asking that a law may be passed *right away*, changing the Act, establishing the Sinking Fund, so as to allow two Commissioners to Act, in the absence of the third. This is the better rule, and no doubt the law will be at once passed. As to the report to the Legislature, it requires no full meeting to make it,—and I will endorse anything you and Swain may suggest, and you may sign my name to the report. This should be at as early a day as we

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<sup>1</sup>Member of the House of Commons from Forsyth County.

can make it. As to the business of investment, I do not know that any serious loss will be sustained by postponing it to the 1st Jan, at which time we shall have to meet again. This will answer without any new law. Indeed I would wish you to postpone to the 15th our meeting of the 13th, as it will allow me two more days to recruit. Pray, answer this immediately, and if you cannot write, tell Jinny to write for you. A neighbor Friend writes thus for me.

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*Proceedings in the House of Commons, December 11, 1858;  
Election of Judge Ruffin.<sup>1</sup>*

On motion of Mr. Dargan a message was sent to the Senate proposing to go into the election of a Supreme Court Judge; he at the same time stating that he should put in nomination for that office Hon. Thomas Ruffin of Alamance. The Senate concurred, saying that Hon. M. E. Manly, William Eaton, Jr., Hon. R. S. Donnell, H. L. Holmes, G. E. Badger, and W. B. Rodman had been nominated there. Mr. Scales wished to make a few remarks in relation to the nomination of Judge Ruffin. He knew the high opinion which every member of the House entertained of the distinguished man. Some of the members had remarked that he was far above any man in the State as to legal knowledge, and he believed such was the general opinion. Many remarks had been made as to whether he would accept the office or not; coming from Judge Ruffin's county, it might be expected of him to speak knowingly. But all he could say was that judging from what he knew of Judge Ruffin, it was his opinion that he would not decline so great an honor if tendered to him by the legislature. He thought there was a probability of his accepting the position. In any event, whether he accepted, or not, there would be no harm in paying so richly deserved a compliment to the first jurist of North Carolina, one who had for so many years reflected the greatest credit upon our Judiciary.

Mr. Dortch thought that this was a matter in which party ties should bind no man. that party prejudice and feeling should be put aside. It was an office which should be given to the man of the greatest legal talent, and as he thought Judge Ruffin would not accept, he would nominate one who was at least his second in legal attainments, --- B. F. Moore.

Mr. Norwood nominated William A. Graham.

Mr. D. F. Caldwell was glad to see there was to be no party feeling in this matter. He thought that the gentlemen had no right to assume that Judge Ruffin would not accept. If elected, he should accept it; it would be his duty to do so.

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<sup>1</sup>From the *Raleigh Register*, December 15, 1858.

Mr. Gatling nominated W. N. H. Smith.

Mr. Watson nominated R. M. Saunders.

Mr. Smith hoped the gentlemen would withdraw his name as he wished every vote of the House to be cast for Judge Ruffin.<sup>1</sup>

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*From W. J. Houston<sup>2</sup> and others.*

RALEIGH, N. C. Dec. 11th, 1858.

In obedience to a joint Resolution passed by the Senate and House of Commons this morning, we beg leave to inform you, that on yesterday you were again elected a Judge of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, by an almost unanimous vote of both Houses of the General Assembly.

We are now instructed to request you to accept that high post of honor and duty, to which your State with one view has called you, and to add another to the long list of eminent services which it has been your fortune to render to your country.

May we be permitted to say that though you can not increase the measure of your fame, your State hopes that you will continue and prolong the period of your usefulness.

We cannot conclude this note without an assurance of our happiness at the course which the Legislature has thought proper to pursue and an earnest appeal that you will not decline the honor, which it has sought to bestow.

We are, sincerely, your friends,

W. J. HOUSTON	} Committee.
M. C. WHITAKER <sup>3</sup>	
JOHN KERR <sup>4</sup>	
W. N. H. SMITH <sup>5</sup>	
M. W. RANSOM <sup>6</sup>	

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<sup>1</sup>When the balloting came Ruffin had 76, Badger 14, and the rest all less than 6. A second ballot was taken at which a number of the names were withdrawn and Judge Ruffin received the almost unanimous vote of the House.

In the Senate on the first ballot nine were voted for. Eaton received 12, Badger 8, Donnell 7, Holmes 6, and Ruffin 5. The others got still fewer votes. On the second ballot Ruffin received a unanimous vote.

<sup>2</sup>Member of the Senate from Duplin. He had served in the Senate in 1856 and in the House in 1854. He was later a member of the convention of 1861 and captain in the 1st N. C. Cavalry, C. S. A. He was killed in January, 1865.

<sup>3</sup>State senator from Halifax at this and the succeeding session. He had served in the House in 1846.

<sup>4</sup>Member of the House of Commons for Caswell in this and the succeeding legislature.

<sup>5</sup>Member of the Commons from Hertford.

<sup>6</sup>Member of the Commons from Northampton at this and the succeeding session.

*From Henry W. Miller.<sup>1</sup>*

RALEIGH Decr: 11, 1858

My Dear Sr: Permit me to express my most earnest hope that you will accept the Judgeship tendered you by the Legislature with so much unanimity. I am convinced, if your willingness to accept, had been *certain* the vote would have been *unanimous*. As it is, the State and Country are honored, and although a return to the bench, can add nothing to your exalted reputation as a jurist and patriot, yet every body is looking with anxiety to your decision, because on it so much of honor and good to the State depends.— It needs your services—and may life and health be long extended to you.

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*From John A. Gilmer and others.<sup>2</sup>*

WASHINGTON, D. C. December 13, 1858.

*Judge Ruffin:*

Dear Sir: We have been highly gratified by the intelligence that the Legislature has, in the most flattering and complimentary manner, again assigned you a place on the Supreme Court Bench of our State.

For reasons we will give on sight we beg you to accept the position. We know we ask you to make a great sacrifice, but we ask in the name of the best interests of North Carolina that you make it.

With assurances of our very high regard and esteem

Truly

JOHN A. GILMER  
DAVID S. REID  
A. M. SCALES JR.

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*To W. J. Houston and others.*

RALEIGH Dec. 15th 1858.

*Gentlemen:*

I left home before your letter informing me officially, that I had been elected a Judge of the Supreme Court, and requesting me to accept the high trust, had arrived there, and I have just received it.

No event could have been more unexpected by me, or have created more surprise. When, at an advanced age and after long service, I heretofore resigned a seat in that Court, it was with the sincere desire of enjoying the repose and quietness of private life; and I thought I

<sup>1</sup>A noted lawyer and Whig leader of Wake County.

<sup>2</sup>David S. Reid was United States senator and Gilmer and Scales were members of the House of Representatives.

had then laid down the cares and responsibilities of office forever. It would not be sincere if I were to conceal, that it is painful to find myself disappointed. To give up my retirement is against my feelings and breaks up all my plans for the short remnant of my life; and, after abandoning for six years the study of the law, I feel, and I fear others will feel, that, at the age of seventy-one, it is an act of rashness, unsuitable to that age, to undertake again the labors of the judicial station, to which I am called.

But it has pleased the General Assembly to tender this renewed expression of confidence in my diligence and fidelity, and in a manner which touches my sensibilities most deeply; so that I am led to believe that, in their opinion and in that of the country, it is my duty to enter once more into the public service. Under the circumstances I also supposed it to be obligatory on me to obey the commands of the Legislature. Therefore, as a duty, I forego my own inclinations and accept the office bestowed on me; and will endeavor with what impaired ability I retain, to execute with my associates, its functions. I return to the General Assembly, the most unfeigned thanks and acknowledgments for the honor conferred on me; but, at the same time, I undertake the task with very great diffidence and entirely in deference to the authority of the public will.

The manner in which, gentlemen, you have made the communication to me, and the kind terms in which you have expressed your hopes and wishes for my usefulness in office, lay me under great and lasting obligation to each of you individually.

With high consideration, I am, gentlemen,

Your faithful friend and servant,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

To Messrs. W. J. Houston, M. C. Whitaker, and others, Committee.

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*Editorial from the Raleigh Register, December 15, 1858, on the Re-election of Judge Ruffin to the Supreme Bench.*

The election of Judge Ruffin to the Supreme Court Bench will give great satisfaction to all quarters of the State, and is *one* item to be set down to the credit of this Democratic Legislature. It is true that it is doubtful whether Judge Ruffin will accept, but that circumstance does not deprive the Legislature of the credit of making an effort to secure to the State the services as a member of her highest judicial tribunal of one of the most profound lawyers in the Union.

Since the above was written we have received information which we are gratified to say warrants the belief that Judge Ruffin will accept the office to which he has been elected under circumstances so creditable alike to the party elected and the body electing.

*From Nicholas L. Williams.*

PANTHER CREEK 15th Dec, 1858.

I have just this morning had the pleasure of seeing that the Legislature have elected you by almost an unanimous vote to the Supreme Court Bench.

Allow me my dear Sir to congratulate you upon the sincere confidence which the people of N. Carolina have in you,

When you resigned every gentleman I heard speak of it, considered your resignation a great State calamity. If you knew the estimation in which you are held, as well as I do, I know you cannot feel any hesitation in again accepting the appointment. Since your resignation the Supreme Court has been upon the decline in public estimation, and if you refuse the appointment, it never will recover the standing it once had, and I shall not be surprised if the Court was abolished altogether. If you will accept, it will give the State an exalted position abroad.

I sincerely hope after another election, you will for the sake of your friends, if nothing else accept the appointment.

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*From William H. Battle.*

CHAPEL HILL, Dec. 15th 1858.

You must permit me to congratulate you upon the handsome manner in which the members of the General Assembly have shown their appreciation of your former services by electing you again by a vote almost unanimous to the Bench of the Supreme Court. I will take the liberty of congratulating myself upon the prospect of having your valuable assistance in the great responsibility of deciding the law in the last resort for I am happy to be informed through a letter from my son Kemp, that you have signified your acceptance of the appointment tendered to you in a manner so flattering.

Having experienced your kindness on former occasions, I look forward with pleasure to a renewal of our connection in the labours of the Supreme Court, and I sincerely hope that all the members of the court may work together cordially, zealously and faithfully for the good of our beloved State which has so highly honored us.

To

Hon. Thomas Ruffin  
Graham N. C.

From John W. Brodnax.<sup>1</sup>

DANVILLE 16th December, 1858.

My Dear Sir

Your letter informing me of your election to the Supreme Court Bench, would have brought to me very unexpected news, but for my having read it that morning through the Richmond papers. At the same time that it is a gratifying compliment to yourself as well as your friends—it is not more than what every one would be ready to admit you richly deserved, for by universal consent you are placed in the estimation of the community at the head of the Jurists in North Carolina. I for one think that the Legislature has done itself more honor than even you. That in these times of party Trickery and party drill, that it should have thrown all aside and elected the person above all others best qualified for the situation and who would do most honor and credit to the State. Yet I do hope that you may be able to decline without giving any offence to the creating body. I think they might allow you to do so. In consideration of the very much service done the State, I might say without the fear of contradiction, more than any man in it, I do hope in consideration of the much hard work done for the State they will not feel it their duty to insist on your accepting the appointment. As a North Carolinian I should rejoice to see you on the Bench again as one of your children (and I feel that I have a right to that claim) I hope to find you when I get down still the Presiding Justice of Alamance County Court. I am sorry that I cant be in Raleigh next week and I need not tell you that nothing but an impossibility would prevent. I shall move all my people away from here next week and it will be *absolutely* necessary for me to be here. Should you be able to spare the time I would take it as a special favor if you would get Dr. John G. Brodnax to ride with you over the Land. My overseer can show it to you and when I go down we can talk over the matter together. I thank you most sincerely for your first letter as you gave me your views without hesitation and as I have more faith in your judgment about such things than any one else I shall be guided entirely by it.

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And now sir if it should turn out so that you feel it your duty to go back on the Bench again, you have the sincere wishes that your health may be preserved to do the duties of the office as you only would be satisfied with doing them

of Yours most Truly and sincerely

JOHN W. BRODNAX.

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<sup>1</sup>John W. Brodnax, 1821-1911, a son of Ruffin's friend, Robert Brodnax, who married Susan Mary Ruffin, Judge Ruffin's tenth child.

From George McNeill, Jr.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. CAROLINA,

Dec. 22nd, 1858.

An editorial in the "Raleigh Standard" a week or two ago stated that sundry vacant Professorships at Chapel Hill would be filled at a meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held in Raleigh, January 5th.

I wrote to Gov. Bragg, inquiring what Professorships were vacant, and especially if there was any vacancy in the department of Languages. He replied that there were three vacancies—Agricultural Chemistry—*Adjunct Professorship of Languages* and French, and that the Board would meet at the time stated to fill these vacancies.

You are aware that a *bronchial* difficulty has for two or three years past disabled me from performing the duties of my profession, and though my health has greatly improved of late, it is still considered imprudent for me to resume pastoral and pulpit duties. I have determined to devote some years of my life—if it is spared—to teaching, and have already acquired some experience—having been Superintendent of the State Institution in Florida, and being now engaged as Principal of a flourishing Classical Academy.

The position of Adjunct Professor of Languages, now vacant at Chapel Hill, would suit my tastes, and perhaps not exceed my abilities.

It does not become me to speak of my qualifications further than to say that my father afforded me the highest advantages in the Country, and that during my collegiate and theological course, I was a diligent student, and since my entrance upon professional life, I have not altogether neglected classical pursuits.

I wish to ask your advice in regard to the propriety and expediency of my becoming a Candidate for the Prof. of Languages—and if you think it advisable, to solicit your influence as a Trustee. If you cannot attend the meeting of the Board, may I take the liberty of referring them to you for information in regard to my fitness?

I shall also name as references Hon. J. C. Dobbin, Mr. Speaker Shepherd, Judge Potter, Mr. Jonathan Worth, Dr. Chalmers, and perhaps others of the Board.

Hon. Tho. Ruffin—

Graham N. Carolina.

[P. S.] If I conclude to become a candidate for the vacancy, I would prefer to have a few names of influence as references—rather than a great many not known to the Board and the world. I should be very grateful if you see proper to exert your influence on my behalf.



*From Junius I. Scales.*

YARBORO HOUSE—[RALEIGH N. C.]

Dec. 24, 1858.

*My dear Sir*

Yours of the 21st reached me only this evening tho I doubt not like a good many of my letters, it has lain in the P. O. for several days.

I will take it for granted that you use the term "troublesome constituent" in a spirit of pleasantry, since I trust I need not assure you, My Dear Sir that it will always be highly gratifying to me to execute any commission with which you may be kind enough to intrust me.

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It is impossible to say whether the Legislature will place another Judge upon the Supreme Court bench. If they do, however I think the most prominent men for the position or rather those who are most apt to get it are Messrs B. Moore, Manly and Wm. Eaton.

Some of the Democrats are disposed to support Mr. Moore and by uniting with the opposition *may* elect him, tho' it is hardly probable.

Trusting that you may not be put to any inconvenience by the detention of your letter, and desiring my kindest regards to each one of your family, with my best wishes for many happy "New Years" to you and to them.

I remain, Very respectfully,

and Truly Yours,

J. I. SCALES.

*From Peter W. Hairston.*

COOLEEMEE HILL 27 Dec. 1858.

*My Dear Sir.*

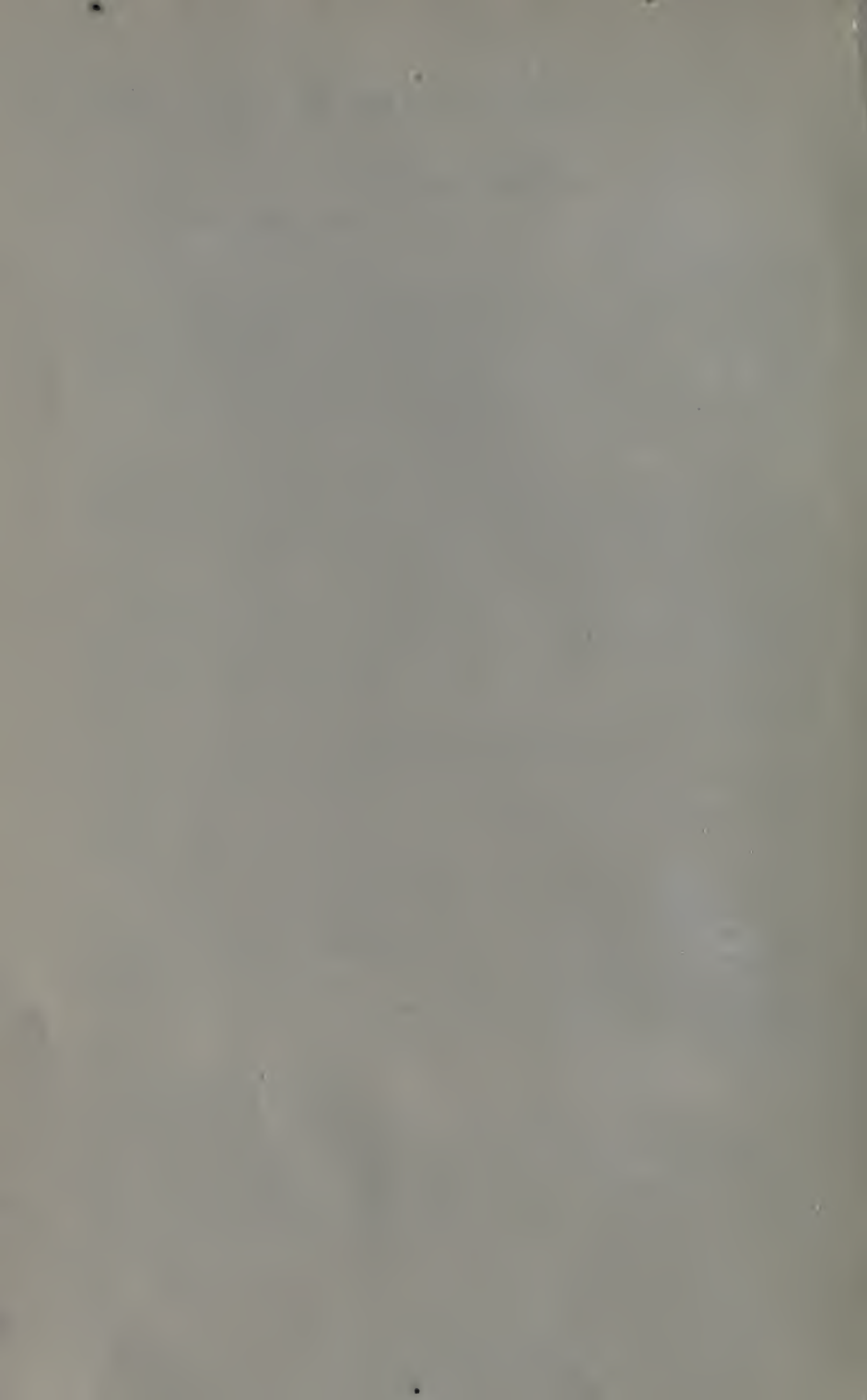
I hope you will allow me to express my gratification at your acceptance of the office of Judge of the Supreme Court of the State. Now, every one will have confidence in its decisions.

Yours Truly

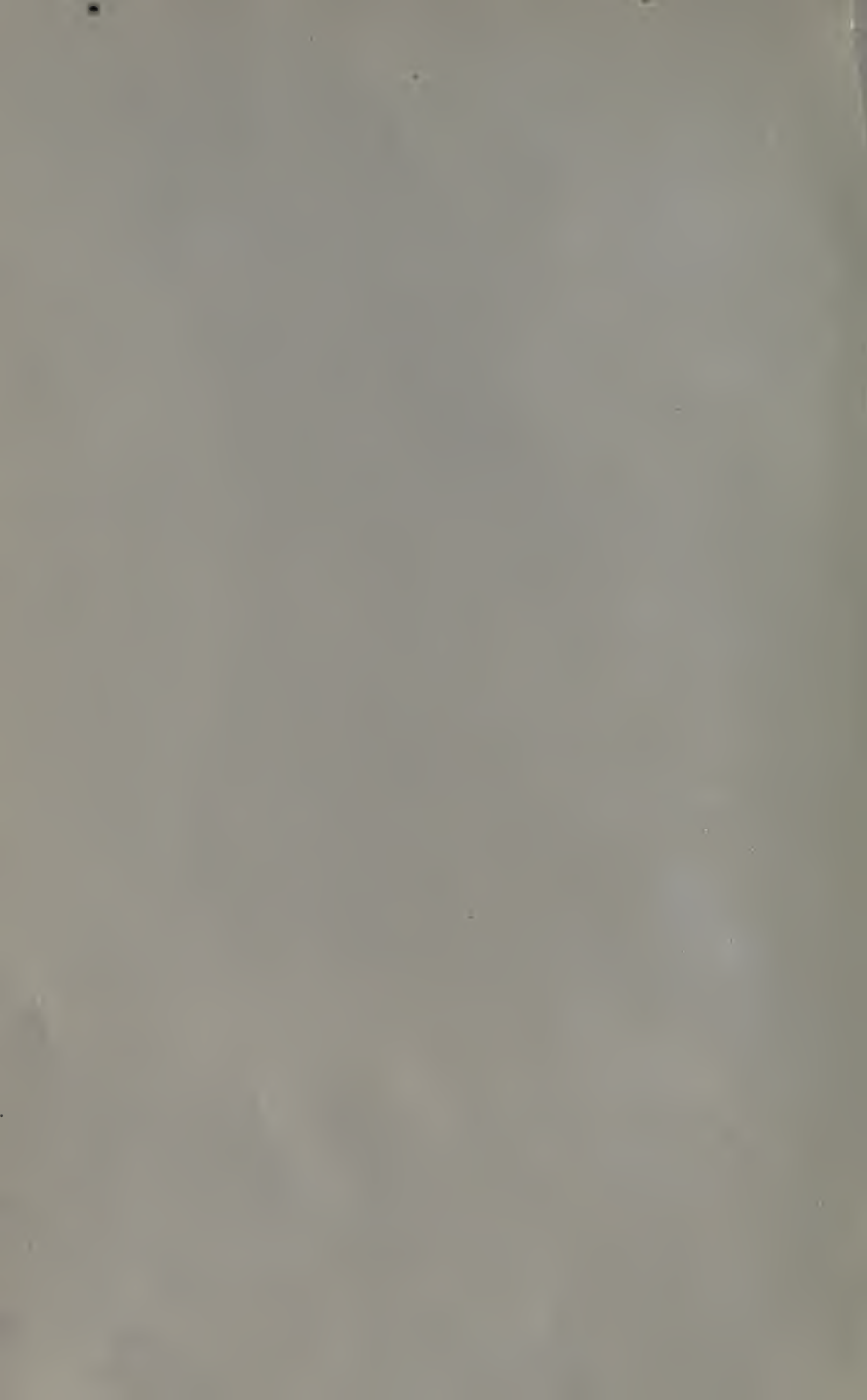
PETER W. HAIRSTON

Fulton P. O. Davie Co. N. C.

Judge Ruffin.

















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