(4)

but it has given me more pleasure than
thing which has happened since I ha
been here, saving always the receipt of
letters. There are no services held he
by the Episcopalians for want of a co
But Mrs Clayton has a subscription
$1200 now, towards the construction of
Mr Clayton said that it had been
aim rather of the other trustees, who
Baptists to secure a teacher of that pe
sion, and that he being in the m
ity had not interfered, and so he
lieved it to be a judgement agains
them, that matters have so resulted
am at a loss to know what parti
good the circumstance is going to
them, but I suppose they know -
On Monday morning two of the tru
called and drove me out to the "Se
School House" as it is called, having
built for the purpose last year. It
a small house perched on a consid
ble elevation above the town - having
very large windows, and not a tre
100 yds. Which renders it intolerably

(1)

Clayton Ala. Nov 3rd 1860

My dear Father.

I was just thinking this morning that surely my friends in Virginia had forgotten that I was a stranger in a strange land, when two letters were handed me, one from Mother, and the other from Dobbin. I had become pretty much reconciled to my position, but Mother's letter threw me back for half a day or more. I was forced to take my gun and take a long walk alone in the woods, which restored my former equanimity - It is no easy matter for one to go into a County where he does not know one soul - There came a feeling of loneliness over me when I first arrived here wh. I cannot describe, this has now in

of the coming difficulties at home as I have heard
received the letter. Top

a great measure gone off, but the yearning towards home, and every thing that is Virginian is increasing day by day. I set about making new friends at once, as the best means of ridding myself of painful thought, and before night knew almost every one who boarded at the hotel, and a motley crowd they are, – tho' I shall have to postpone a description of them for a-nother letter. I have already told you how much pleased I was with Mr Henry Clayton – and I mentioned also that he invited me out to his house to spend Saturday night and Sunday – Accordingly he called for me in his carriage about sunset Sat. evening, and drove me out to his place, about a mile hence. I there met his wife a very pleasing lady indeed, and his bro. Mr Joe Clayton who is even more attractive than Mr Henry Clayton – I spent the evening very plea-

antly; after Mrs Clayton had retired from the room, we began talking about books &c and commenced looking over the library, in wh. I saw something written by Bishop Cobbs, whereat I seemed interested, which Mr C. noticed and asked me if I knew any thing about him, and then if you & Mother were not Baptists (D. a. v.) – I having heard that he was a Baptist modestly replied no, that we were in the habit of attending the Episc. Church – he asked me then if I were not a Baptist, and finding that I had ~~no~~ no sort of inclination that way both the brothers raised a shout, and insisted upon calling in Mrs Clayton, who came at once, and appeared no less pleased than her husband, to find that I was an Episcopalian – All three of them are members of our church, and compose three of the seven communicants of that church in the village – this may seem to you a most trivial incident, and indeed it is,

twelve o'clock meal, I won't call it supper
am accordingly obliged to eat a great
deal of supper which has made me ei
regularly- these remarkable hours are
not peculiar to the hotel but are unive
here- I have known the dinner at our
to be ready at 20 min. to twelve, owi
to the great rivalry bet. the two hotels.
are just opposite to one another- I ca
my extreme satisfaction in a copy of
'Columbus (Ga) Sun' that the 'Home Gu
had won the prize- but that the 'Gre
excelled it in Company manoeuvres, the
surely be some mistake in this- how is i
I did not think that Louisiana have a
the drill for miss Lucy- twas sincere
considerate in Mrs Pague to ask hi
accompany her home. Ask him to
to me, and to send me occasiona
some papers Magazines &c, after he has
them, such things are unknown her
acc. I pine for something of the kind
Please send me some copies of the 'He
immediately succeeding the electio
no Northern papers here at all- s

in the summer. I formed 10 Boys assembled
of all sizes, some six footers, in the lot-
most of them however being from 12 to 16 yrs
old- The Trustees who had each 2 chil-
dren in the Crowd told them that "they
were to do what I told them, if I should
even tell them to cut off their right hands"
and that if there was ever a word of
complaint from me of their behavior
they should every one be thrashed se-
verely- So you see at once that I have
the right sort of men to teach for- As soon
as they were gone I made the boys a
set speech the longest I ever made by
the way- whereat they appeared to be high-
ly edified, and I have since learned
from one of the parents that they were won-
derfully taken with the system of teach-
ing which I therein unfolded. They
have been taught all their lives by an
old field schoolmaster, and although

better advanced than I had expected to find them, have been easily neglected. To this there are two exceptions, in the persons of two young men who are preparing for the University next year, and for whom I have to study every night. I was very much pleased yesterday evening by a visit from his father, who informed me that his son was now trying to study for the first time in his life, and asked me what I had done to incite him.

I am but just now in any thing like a comfortable place. All my efforts, (& those of Mr Geo. Clayton, who devoted most kindly, the best part of this week to the search) to secure a boarding house have failed. and I was compelled to stay in one of the rooms in the hotel, which was not plaistered nor ceiled, and altogether was not fit for habitation; upon learning however that I would not be permitted

to occupy even that alone during the coming Court, wh. sits from the 1st Monday in Nov. to Xmas. I was instigated to renewed efforts to obtain a room at least out of the hotel, and finally succeeded in getting the use of the office of a young lawyer who is at present in Montgomery & does not intend to return until the 1st of Jan. the room is tolerably comfortable, tho' much littered with his papers. after the Court is over I am to have a small office, wh. is owned by the Mobile lawyers, and is only used during Court. I shall then be forced until May when I shall again have to look for quarters.

Board here at the Hotel, every thing included except washing, is $15 per month which is low enough apparently, tho' enough considering the style of viands. Breakfast is ready here at 8 o'clock, dinner at twelve!, and supper at 7 o'clock. the result is I have no appetite for the

the 'Charleston Mercury' is the text book for all parties - Mr Clayton subscribes to 'Debow'. what do you think I saw in the Oct. number In an Article on Southey Byron & Milton, the author remarked that the "Paradise Lost" was the most impious & obscene production he had ever read.

I regret exceedingly that I am so far from any telegraph station, we won't know who is elected for ten days after it is settled in Virginia, I was eight days in receiving Mother's letter - I look upon a dissolution of the Union as a fixed fact - this State will go out if none others follow, I have never yet seen one who was not in favor of it - I had no idea, nor would it be possible for you in ~~our~~ to conceive the hatred which these people regard the Northern People, the Blue Cockade is universally worn by old and young, and all the papers

which I see have "A Southern Confederacy", a
their motto. Some few have "Immedia
Disunion". It does me good to see th
in which every one looks up to Virgi
they dont believe that she can do
in any thing. Wherever I am introd
as a Virginian I am overwhelmed
questions as to what my state will
which I cannot well answer, seein
no papers at all. I think I shall
scribe to the 'Whig.' Please send m
by mail a copy of the "Volunteers Hand
and ~~the~~ of Mr Yorkee's Speech. the
is for Mr Clayton, and the latter for a
bor of mine who has been long anxious to
There are several copies about the house
sig to me. Best love to all at home, p
make some of them write to me.
to Bro. Chas & Sister Eve. Tell the form
that I shall write to him in a day or
I will answer Mother's letter next mail
Your aff. Son. Eugene Blackford

Richmond March 28th 1861.

Chas M Blackford Esq
Dear Sir

Your valued favour of the 16th inst. has been recd, covering check for $169.10/100 amt of Mgs Note, protest &c. of J F Hawkins left your Consn for Collection. for which you will please accept our thanks.

We have no doubt but that you will collect the other Note if not paid at Maturity. as your prompt[illegible] and attention we take as a guarantee almost for the debt.

Very truly yours
S Hartman Agt

Richmond Mch 22d 1861.

Chas: M. Blackford Esq.
Atty: at Law.
Lynchburg. — Dear Sir.

Enclosed we send an apc & note of J. J. Onchundro who lives at Rock Creek appomator Co. We send you this matter more to frighten Mr O. than for you to sue. Do not sue unless you think absolutely necessary. He is an honest correct man but wants <u>much experience</u> in business. Please write him to come & see you (we have written him) & he can give you security no doubt. & maybe will pay. You can make him believe you intend to play the — with him & he will come up to the mark.

Yours Truly
Johnson Younger & Orig.

Note for $322.05 11th Sept. 4 Mos. Lynchburg.

Richmond March 22d 1861.

Chas: M. Blackford Esq.

Dear Sir.

Enclosed find protested note W. P. & Wm. Percival favor N. Marsh Nov 16 4 mos for $85.10 & protest charges. Please the Messrs Percival & make the money at once out of them or N. Marsh. Dont wait unless the Messrs Percival give security.

Yours Truly
Johnson Hounge & Co.

Sent you a pc J. J. Omohundro today.

after enclosing this we thought best to send the Omohundro & this by Express therefore the note above is useless.

[illegible] E.E. Barrington Esq.

New York March 18th 1861

Chas M. Blackford Esq
Lynchburg Va

Dear Sir,

Had this pleasure on Saturday and now come to say that we today rec'd from Mr Ely a copy of Templins Decd — you will therefore not trouble yourself about it,

Which for mail

Yours &c

Thos A Ball

Richmond Va:
March 22/61

C. M. Blackford Esq:
Lynchburg Va:

Dear Sir — Your order for Law Books read "1 Robinson's Practice (New)" ~~[illegible]~~ we thought you wanted the 4 vols: — you will please hand the vols: you do not want to Messrs. Pagan & Blackford of your city — we enclose to you a correct bill of your purchase — awaiting your further order —

Very Truly &c:
Wash & Wheeler

New York, April 6th, 1861.

Chas. M. Blackford Esq

Lynchburg, Va.

Dear Sir!

Your valued favor of 3d inst. was duly received, and for the information which you kindly afford me, I beg to tender you my best thanks.

Enclosed I hand you copy of a document in my possession from which you will observe that on 10th June 1858 I advanced the money to Dr James Saunders against his note at 4 months from same date for Seven Thousand Dollars, and that at maturity of said note I exchanged it for another due 3 months later. This latter has never been paid. You will also see that as security for the payment of said note, the Doctor deposited with me:

Certificate	No 220	for	39	shares	$3,900.—
Do	" 134	"	60	do	" 6,000.—

of the Stock of the Va & Tenn R.R. Co, guaranteed by the corporation of Lynchburg.

These certificates stood then & still stand in the name of the Doctor.

When Mr. Liling was in Lynchburg, he obtained from the Doctor another power of attorney, copy of which I also enclose, intended to cover the whole ground in relation to the above mentioned Stock as well as some other Bonds which were likewise deposited with me as collateral security for another loan not paid at maturity.

Before his departure for Havana, Mr. Liling, fearing that some other creditors of the Doctor might become acquainted with the fact of this Stock still standing in the Doctor's name, inquired of him whether it would not be advisable to have it transferred to him (Liling), since, if remaining as it was an injunction against transferring it, might be obtained by some other creditor or other difficulties raised in regard to it.

To this the Doctor replied on 2d inst. that he earnestly approved of the suggestion, and advised that it be transferred at once, by all means, as soon as it could be done.

I therefore beg leave to inquire

1st. Whether or not you share the opinion of the Doctor in regard to the advisability of having the Stock transferred at once?

2d. Whether, if you agree with him, it would not be the best plan under the circum-

circumstances, to let the Doctor personally transfer this Stock to me?

3d Would such a transfer made at the present time, after the assignment, be valid? Or, would you advise me to let the matter rest until the return of Mr. Liling, which will be about the middle of May?

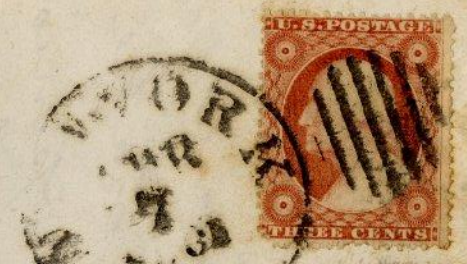
I, for my part, think that a transaction like this would be legal if made voluntarily by a person in the position of Doctor Saunders, who could be compelled in a court of justice to make the transfer.

But my opinion is of course no account. Your's, coming fr[illegible] a lawyer and my counsellor, must gu[illegible] in this matter, and requesting same

I am

Your's Respectfully

Chas Liling
by W. Ford Jr



Chas. M. Blackford Esq

Lynchburg
Va