



Ashland 5 Mar 61

Dear Sir

Capt R W Swann of my County
requested me to pay to you at our last
Court thirty dollars \$30⁰⁰ as you can
not then I could not attend to it, I will
find an order on W Parvish for \$28 - I will
hand you the bal on sight. W Mitchell
told me he had left the money with W
P. if it is not p.^d let me know at once
& I will attend to it

Yours friend

C M Blackfriday
Smythburg
Va



I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the above named matter. I have the honor to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Yours, very truly,
 J. J. [Signature]

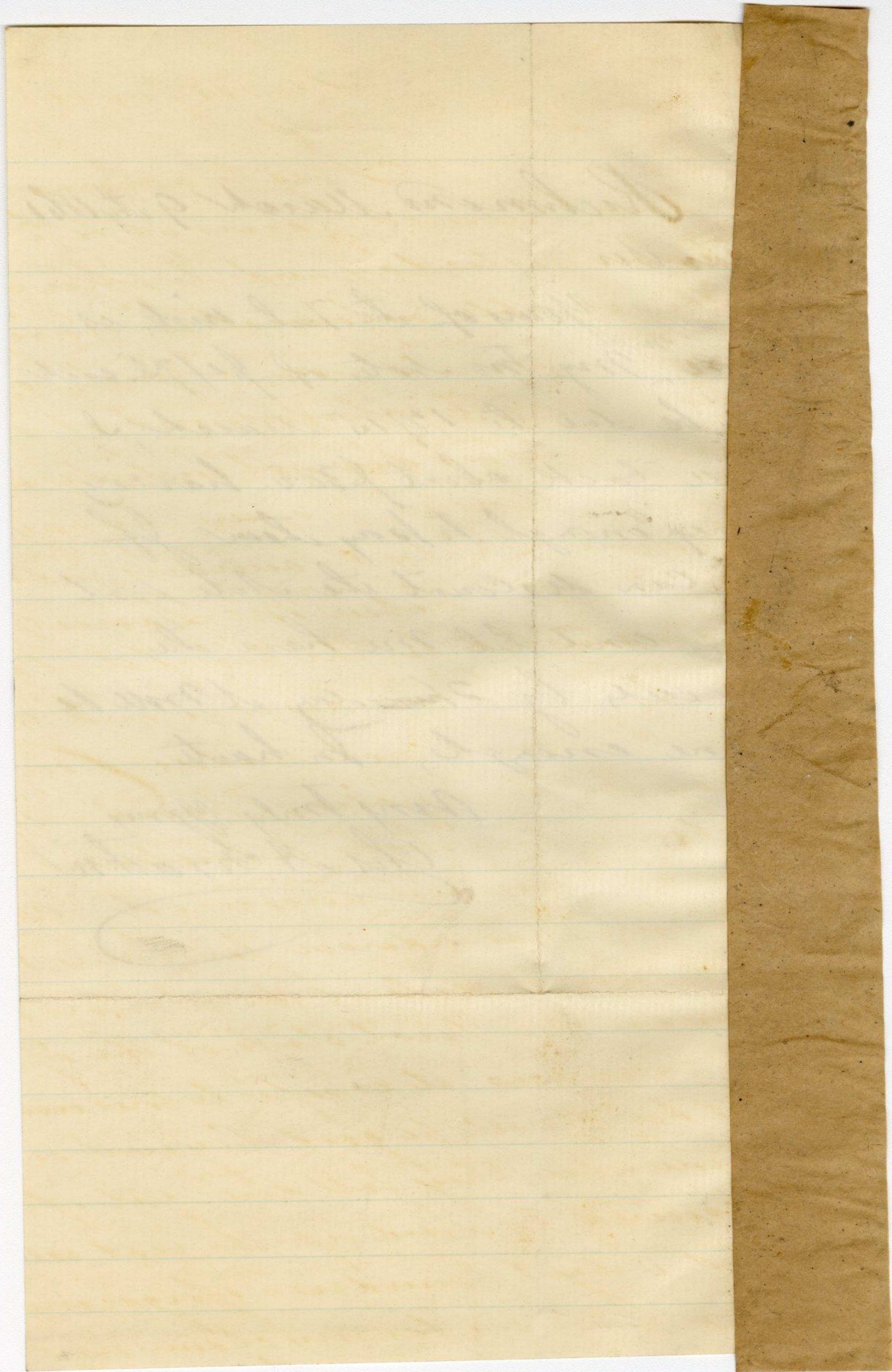
I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Yours, very truly,
 J. J. [Signature]

Richmond March 9th 1861

Dear Sir

Yours of the 7th inst is
before ^{me}. My two notes of \$475 each
will be due the 12/15 March, I
shall lack about \$300. having
money enough to pay them, If
you can discount the note sent
you and let me have the
proceeds by Thursday it will be
time enough, In haste

Very truly yours
Chas. A. Swartz



New York 9th March 1800

Chas M Blackford Esq

Lynchburg Va

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favours of 4th Decr. and of the date before yesterday and to offer you my thanks for the valuable information conveyed therein.

I am, I trust, correct in the presumption, that the assignment of Dr. Saunders cannot and therefore does not include the real estate, conveyed to you as trustee, to secure the payment of the 3 notes of hand of Trby & Saunders, endorsed by Jas Chalmers, Chas Scott, Robin Mc Daniel and myself, and which I discounted for the benefit of the makers.

If this is so and the real estate on being sold, should not produce a sufficient amount to pay the three notes of hand, Scott, Mc Daniel and I should have ^{to} look to Chalmers for whatever balance might remain uncovered. And as Chalmers is secured as endorser for Trby & Saunders, under the second class of the Doctor's assignment and under the first class of the assignment of Trby & Saunders, it is safe to presume, that the 3 notes of hand will be good beyond question, if not at the time when they fall due, yet after a reasonable lapse, required to wind up the real estate and the Doctor's and Trby & Saunders's assignments.

As far as my claim on a prior account against Trby & Saunders, I shall have to look in the first place, to the balance, if any, which may arise from the sale of the real estate, held by you as trustee after

after the 3rd notes of Erby & Saunders
fully liquidated. And in this case my
claim on open account should not be satisfied
or only partially so. I would have to rely on the
dividend, which may arise under the assignment
of Erby & Saunders for the 2^d class creditors.

Thirdly, whatever funds may be found
due by me to D^r Saunders individually, will also
be applied to the liquidation of my open claim
against Erby & Saunders.

Under these circumstances my only
reliance can be on the real estate which you hold
in trust, because it is more than doubtful, whether
the 2^d class creditors of Erby & Saunders will ever
receive the first cent and because it is just as
likely, that I may finally have a claim against
D^r Saunders individually, as that he will have one
against me.

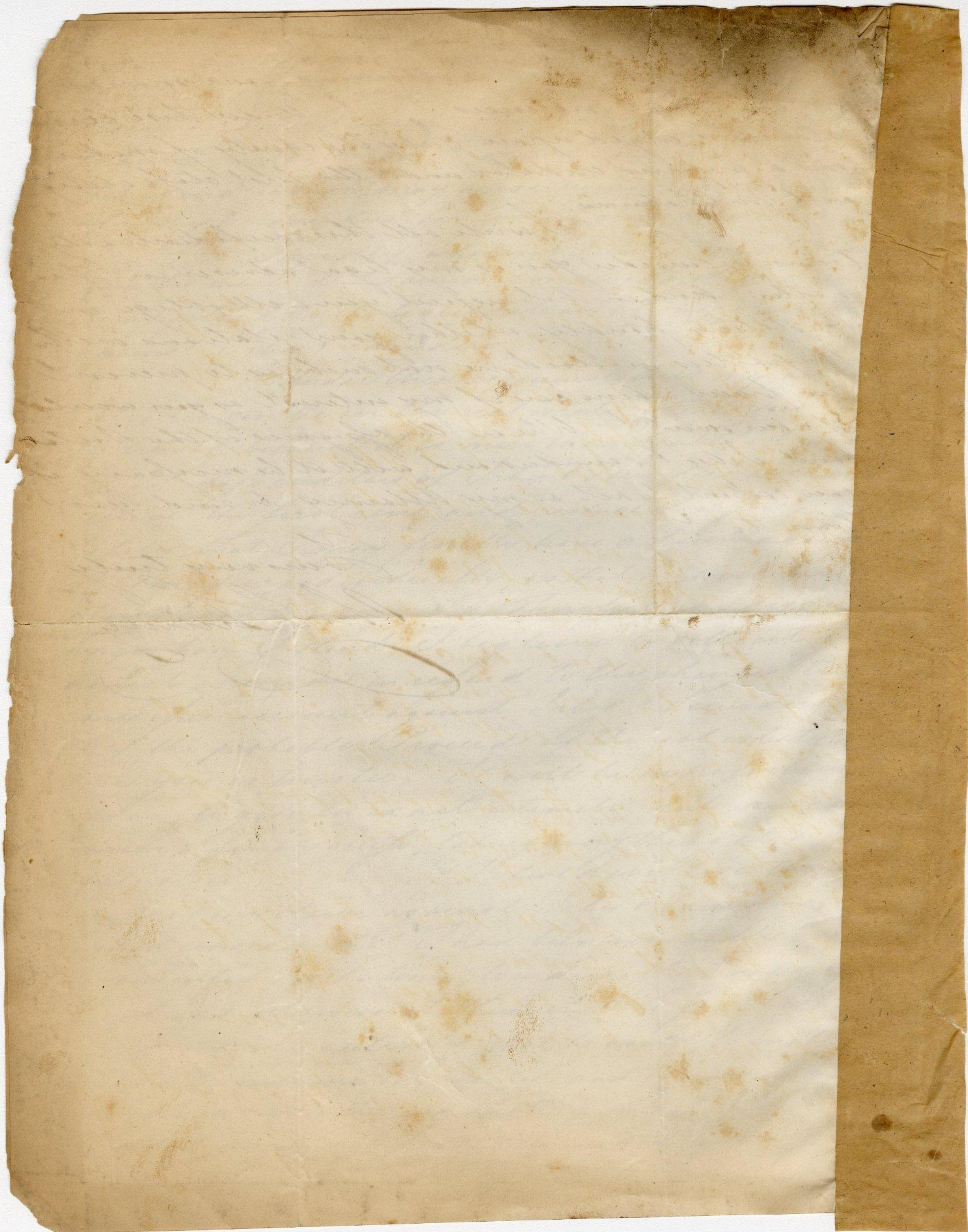
Therefore, as I desire to
know how I stand, I beg leave to solicit your
honest opinion in regard to the chances, to cover
my open account against Erby & Saunders, out
of the probable Proceeds of the real estate held
by you as trustee. It will be impossible, I
know, to give an exact estimate, but you can
make a rough guess, taking everything at a low
valuation.

If I should ever lose the first
cent of my claim against Erby & Saunders, I
would consider, that I had been very badly used.
I consented at the time, to endorse the 3rd notes of
Erby and to discount them at 6% p.a. because
Erby told me positively, that he would be enabled
to continue the business and to pay in full
he acknowledges this and wrote to me on 3^d January
and if you are not paid you might justly proceed

be taken against us for obtaining your money
under false pretences. Under these circum-
stances, I urged upon Trby the equity of making
me a preferred creditor under the first class along
with Mr Cholmondeley.

I write all this confidentially
because I consider you as my legal adviser in this
matter. And in that respect, you will oblige me
by stating frankly, whether your relations with
the parties involved, are not such, as to prevent
you from taking care of my interest, as you would
of your own. Where are the assignees of the Doctor
and Trby & Saunders and will it be necessary if
you consent to act as my Attorney, to send your
Power etc. ?

Yours very truly
Chas. Trilby



Richmond Feby. 21. 1861

Chas M Blackford Esq

Synobly Va

Dear Sir

On the 12th Inst I answered
you asking for a deed of Release on the
House in this city. I have waited this long
without any reply a party here
agreed to lend me about \$6000. as soon
as I would release the property taking
some security which I can make
available as Cash I cannot control
this money until I give my house as
security, without encumbrance
and the parties say unless I comply
immediately they will be disinclined
to make the arrangement

My object is not this money to pay off
the note which yourself & Master are on
unless I can make the arrangement
very quick I shall have to try and
get the note renewed for a short
time days say now elapsed since I
wrote you let me hear from you
immediately

Very truly Yrs

Chas A. Watkins

looking fellows walked in and announced
that he had been authorized by a com-
pany, just organized about five miles
hence, to offer me the Captaincy
would consent to take charge of them.
How they ^{learned} heard of me I cannot imagine.
I was of course flattered by the proposal
but declined the honor most respectfully,
consenting however to drill them one
week for some time. They are there
to send for me every Saturday morning
until I get them well under way.
Fortunately I know the U.S.A. regulations
by heart, and have already organized
two Companies - so I shall find
difficulty.

I do not know what can have been
of the keys to which you allude - I have
some odd ones lying in my trunk but
not think that they are those required.
They have been there for a long time.
As to the books I am sure they were
in the library when I left home, I am
certain that The Family Journal was -

Clayton Ala. 29th January 1861

My dear Mother.

Your last letter was received
on the 22nd ult. - I am also in receipt
of one from Pa dated Jan. 20th. I hope
no one will fail to write, because they fear
that their letters will not reach me - There
is much ground for the apprehension, 'tis
true, but so far I have not been able
to discover any irregularities in the car-
rying of letters, at least from Lynchburg.
I have not received any letters from other
parts of the state for a long time. The papers
come thro' only occasionally - Sometimes I
receive an armful of them at one time.
The P.O. here is managed in a very sin-
gular manner; the regular P.M. is away
with the Company, so whenever the Mail
boy comes, which is whenever he has enough
to make the trip worth while, some of the

Citizens, who have stood hard by, receive the mail and distribute it on the spot.

I do not suppose that any record is kept of the amount received, or any returns made to the Department in Washington City. I was very much alarmed one day last week by hearing that orders had been issued from Head Quarters to discontinue all mail routes in this State, it proved to be groundless to my great relief. I will stand that as long as I can, but it will not be very long. I should come home within a month.

Pa asks why I have not mentioned Mr. Clay too lately. Tell him that he has not abated one whit in his attentions to me, but that he is has been absent in Montgomery ever since Xmas, attending the extra session of the Legislature, whereof he is a member. Since he has been there I have received several documents, pamphlets &c, from him sent merely to show me attention. During his absence I have called frequently

at his house, to see Mrs. C., and his bro. I have been very uneasy, ever since the receipt of Pa's letter, about the small-pox. I can't get it out of my head, I am very much in hopes that I shall receive a letter to-morrow giving me further information. We all expect the mail boy to come down to-morrow evening, as the weather has been fine for a day or two past. A propos of this subject the sun shone out bright and clear last Sunday morning for the first time this year. It is now as warm as June, and the spring may be said to have begun. I consider myself excusable for introducing this topic into my letters, as I am constantly reminded of the difference between the climate here and that at home. I am provided with a shawl, and two Overcoats, and save to keep off the rain once or twice I have need none of them. Last Saturday as I was sitting in my room after dinner, a rough

a faint approximation to it would be
is awful enough to contemplate.

I did not know until I saw it in the pa-
pers the Bro. Lewis had dissolved partne-
ship with Mr Payne. - I never heard a word
of it from any one at home. Tell him
from me to stay in his own State
unless he goes to Europe, at least never
let him come in a Cotton State. If the
revolution is effected without bloodshed, I
I have serious ~~not~~ notions of going to Eu-
rope - if the wherewithal, can be raised.
I mention it now for the first time, but the
idea has been a favorite one here since
the work of disintegration began.

Please remember how uneasy I must be
in regard to the small-pox, and get some-
one to write to me frequently. What has be-
come of Emma Mary. Give my love to her, &
remind her of the letter she owes me. Did
Emma's Nannie ever receive the box? Pa must
have sent it. As I have not received the book
Pa sent, but hope to do so tomorrow. Love to all at home,
A. B. W. Lewis

Wrote by a do to Mr. Payne and all the Swab. You aff. Am. Eugene Blacking

***** I had almost determined to
no more, as I feel so badly, but I
send off one little sheet to take so
a journey by itself. I have had a
fatiguing day work, caused by the
trance of several boys to fill up some
the vacancies caused by the absence
those who have gone to the wars. I
I get them broken in they give me
or no trouble, which is all owing to
military authority, which I possess over
for half an hour each day. They al-
ways have that confidence in, and
for me, which such authority when
ly administered, is obliged to beget.
I feel very much flattered by it some-
It puts it in my power, by the way, to
them some good; for instance, today,
occasion to give them my views about
camping of concealed weapons, which
kinds are violent. I am in hopes the

will have some effect. The discipline is as rigid as I know how to make it. I never receive any excuse whatever, if one turns his head in ranks, and repeats the offence, after being once cautioned. I have him out of ranks in a moment. The severest punishment that I have yet resorted to was that of making the offender mark time during the whole drill (he will explain the manoeuvre, which is simple enough). To this I have not come but once. The result of the system, wh. of course would not do except with young men, is wonderful - this drill is really remarkable, and attracts much attention.

I can readily imagine how much you much suffer at seeing the great Republic going to pieces before your eyes. I know what it must be from my own feelings. I feel as if I had no country, but I am now getting somewhat over it, and my patriotism is turning towards Virginia, which shall alone be my country hereafter. They say that

a man loves really but once in a lifetime, therefore if so be that my old love is taken from me, I shall never care for another, I do not feel as if I should care to live ⁱⁿ the Southern Confederacy, where capital would be at Montgomery Ala, and whose official organ would be the Montgomery Mail - which sheet I daily consign to the flames as soon as it is handed to me. It always rouses my indignation to the utmost to read it, so I have stopped doing so. One of its subscribers, when he went off to the wars, ^{directed} caused it to be put into my box, whence I take it to keep some one else from reading it. These melancholy thoughts have not been much soothed, as you may readily imagine by reading the history of the French Revolution of '93, as I have been lately doing in a life of Napoleon I. I do not suppose that anything so awful could occur in the middle of the 17th century, but even

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but it has given me more pleasure than
 thing which has happened since I have
 been here, saving always the receipt of
 letters. There are no services held here
 by the Episcopalian. For want of a church.
 But Mrs Clayton has a subscription
 \$1200 now, towards the construction of a
 Mr Clayton said, that it had been
 aim rather of the other trustees, who
 Baptists to secure a teacher of that per-
 sion, and that he being in the major-
 ity had not interfered, and so he
 leived it to be a judgement against
 them, that matters have so resulted
 are at a loss to know what party
 good the circumstance is going to
 them, but I suppose they know.
 On Monday morning two of the trustees
 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 tree
 100 yds. which renders it not terribly

I am writing this to let you know that I have never heard of your letter & fear she has never received it.

(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

(2)

a great measure gone off, but the
speaking towards home, and every
thing that is Virginia is increasing
day by day. I set about making new
friends at once, as the best means of
ridding myself of painful thoughts, and
before night knew almost every one
who boarded at the hotel, and a
motley crowd they are, - tho' I shall
hardly be able to post 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 pleas-

(2)

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
Leobbs, 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. o.). I having
heard that he was a Baptist modestly replied
no, that we were in the habit of attending
the Epis. 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 ghint, 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,

(8)
tracted oil of meal, I won't call it supper
and accordingly obliged to eat a great
deal of supper which has made me ill
regularly - these remarkable hours are
not peculiar to the hotel but are usual
here - I have known the dinner at our
to be ready at 20 min. to twelve, owing
to the great rivalry bet. the two hotels.
They are just opposite to one another. I read
my extreme satisfaction in a copy of
'Columbus (Ga) Sun' that the Home Guard
had won the prize - but that the Greys
excelled it in Company manoeuvres, the
surely be some mistake in this - how is it
I did not think that Lewis would have
the drill for Miss Lucy - Was I uncer-
considerate in Mrs Pique to ask him
to accompany her home. Ask him to
to me, and to send me occasionally
some papers Magazines &c, after he has
them, such things are unknown here
acc. I pine for something of the kind
Please send me some copies of the 'Herald'
immediately succeeding the election -
no Northern papers here at all - so

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in the summer. I found 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
saw tell them to cut off their right hands"
and that if there was ever a word of
complaint from one of their behav-
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 of 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

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better advanced than I had expected to find them, have been sadly 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. Joe. 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 plastered nor ceiled, and altogether was not fit for habitation; upon learning however that I would not be permitted

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to occupy even that alone during the coming Court, wh. sits ^{from} the 1st Monday in Nov. to Xmas. I was incited 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 Mont gomery & does not intend to return until the 1st of Jan. the room is tolerably comfortable, tho' much littered with his trunks. After the Court is over I am to have a small office, wh. is owned by the Bufala lawyers, and is only used during Court. I shall then be fixed 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

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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 S 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