Brookhill. Oct. 30st 1860

My dear Charles,

I have directed a bundle, intended for my son Charles at Pattonsburg, to your care Lynchburg, by Express. Will you do me the favor to forward it by Packet to its destination? The Express, it seems, would not carry it nearer than Bonsack's.

Lucy Ridgway, I presume, will have left you before this reaches you. I hope she has fattened a little, & has been refreshed for renewed work. I hope also, that Sue is restored to health. Our kindest regards to you both, & to the little folks. Remember me to your father & mother & the ladies.

Pardon me for the trouble I give you, and I am, most truly yours,

Ch. Minor.

Louisville Ky.
November 24. 1860.

Charles. M Blackford Esq.

My dear Sir. At the suggestion of the Rev D. F. Sprigg a dear brother in the ministry who has forwarded me your letter to him of the 18th I drop you this line. It may seem exceedingly premature & I hardly know what to say. I should be very happy to hear from you in reference to the parish of which you are a vestryman. I am at present in charge of St Andrews church in this city but may be compelled to resign ere long because of a failure in my support. My church is a missionary enterprise & the Miss Society is suffering in its funds. In every other respect I have been very highly prospered. If you think

best
a few words in reference to Lynchburg & St Johns will prove of interest to me, sympathizing heartily, as I do, with the evangelical views prevalent in the diocese of Virginia, & having my antecedents with Dr Tyng's parish New York & with a three years course at the Alexandria Seminary.

Truly Yours.
Robert W. Sears.

Alexandria Nov 30th
1860

My Dear Sir

I have heard within the last few hours, of enquiries having been made in reference to a Pastor for the new congregation in Lynchburg. I do not know that you are connected with this movement. But have thus written at a venture, and upon the score of old acquaintance in the hope that some such connection exists. And my object is to suggest the name of a very worthy Rev Mr Sheild clergyman, whose services I am sure can be obtained, & who I think will prove a faithful & efficient Pastor. I have known him

for seven or eight years
& known him to be improving man in all respects.
He is a native of this state
& therefore perfectly at home
with all classes of our
Virginia people. If you
are disposed to use what
I have written or are
in the position to feel
inclined to do so it is
at your service. Or if
you will communicate
this to Mr Thos Jellis &
let him know who I
am, it will equally
serve my purpose
With my kind regards
to my Slaughter & ma-
ny pleasant recollections
of Amherst I am, my
Dear Sir, very Truly Yours

Rev Charles R. Slaughter. C Walker.

Mr Shield's address is

Rev Chas H. Shield.
Piedmont Depot
Fauquier Co
Va

Balto Dec 1. 1860

My dear Sir:

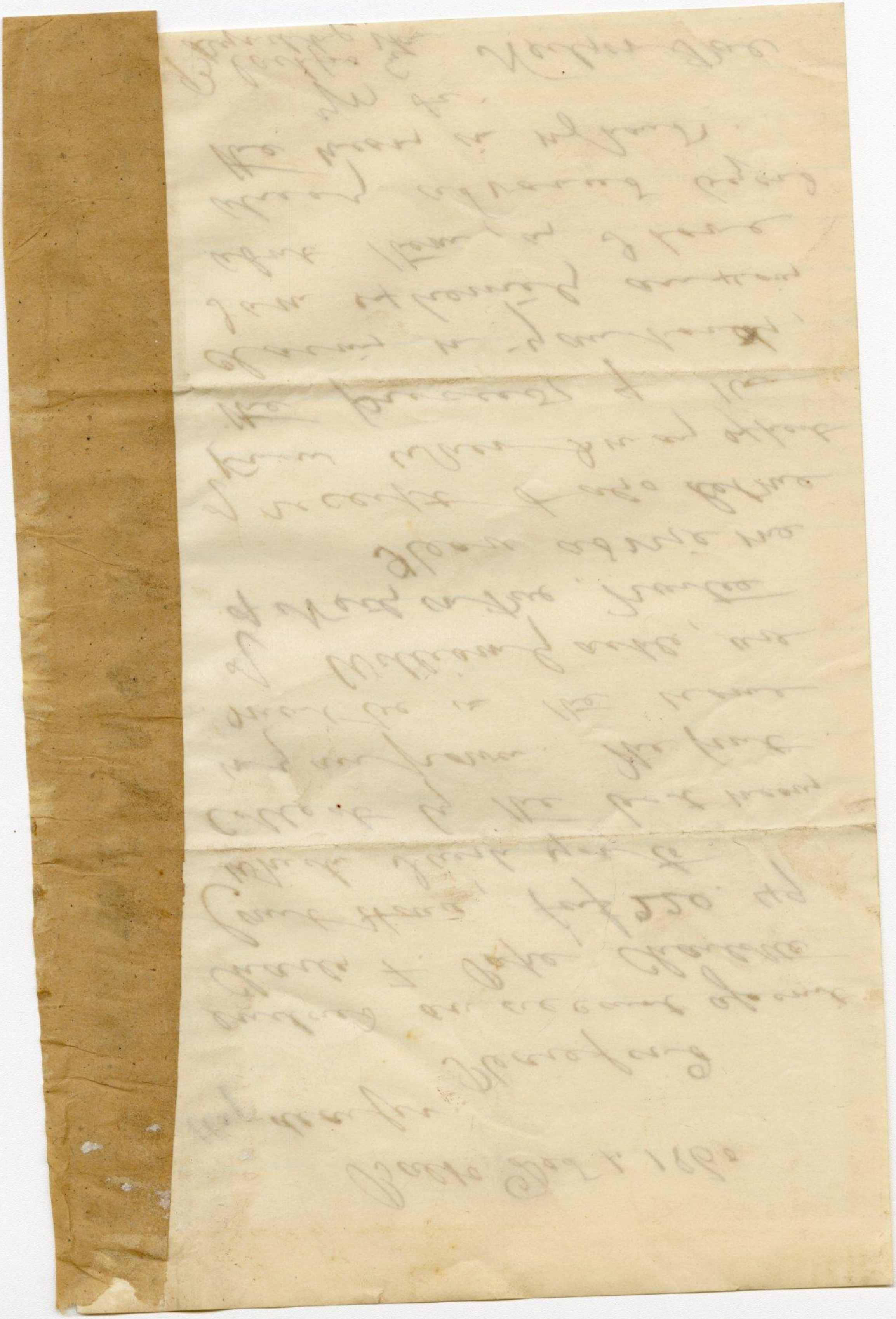
Please find enclosed an account against Charles F. Pope, Charlotte Court House, for $220.49 which I wish you to collect by the best means in your power. The first must be in the name of Williams & Cable, use of Nelson Poe, Trustee

Please advise me of receipt & also let me know when I may expect the proceeds of the claim in your hands, I am extremely anxious about them, as I have already advanced beyond the means in my hands.

Yrs &c.

Nelson Poe

C M Blackford Esq
Lynchburg Va



all I have that which causes Bea
in my belief to differ from Bell — h
the hope of returning home next sum
I already have begun to count the
to the close of the session — tis all v
ish perhaps but it serves to pass away
time — for they certainly seem to pass
when I reckon them in this manner
Besides my salary ($1000) I shall m
about $100, by a class which I ha
a Female College here; this adds
hours a week to my other labours,
makes it fall very heavy upon m
three days in the week. I do not
the work, it keeps my thoughts eng
and I am the happier for it. Th
in the week I teach from breakfast
night, with an intermission of only 3
utes for dinner. The days are fort
rapidly becoming longer, and I ha
time for exercise, and recreation, or
might injure me.

Clayton Ala. February 8th 1861.

My dear Brother.

Both of your letters were received today, and gave me such pleasure as a stranger in a strange land alone can feel, when reminded that there are those both near and dear, who are thinking of him, tho' a thousand miles away.

Capt. Garland's letter came by the same mail; it may be of great service to me, for if the Guard is ordered out into active service I shall join it, tho' not unless war is actually declared. I have now brought myself to look the matter fully in the face, and fully realize that we are on the brink of an awful civil war. For a long time the idea disturbed me very much — I could not sleep sometimes at all — but it is over now; what little I could do to avert the Catastrophe, I have done, and

stand prepared to do my part in defending my native State, for whom my affections has been redoubled since my removal into a distant Country. This sojourn of mine among the Philistines, as I am wont to think it, has had many good effects upon me, mingled with the bad, not the least of which is a most radical cure of any desire I may have entertained of making my way in another State — I am determined, if we all live thro' the war, to settle near my own family; — always a believer in the old adage that, 'blood is thicker than water', I am now thoroughly convinced of it. How I have longed to have some one on whom I might depend, and with whom I might confide my troubles, and take counsel how to meet them. But I have none such — not one. I do not know, but that those with whom I am most thrown, and who seek my company most frequently, are little better than spies — It has proved so in one instance already — so that I fear that I am growing suspicious, which character I much dread. I steer a continual course between Scylla and Charybdis, and with tolerable success so far. I do not proclaim myself a Unionist — there you must have misunderstood my letters — though there have been my sentiments, I never proclaimed them here, if I had I would have been sent out of the County immediately.

Did Pa show you a letter I wrote him on the 22nd January? The difficulty which I mentioned there remains exactly in status quo — I shall be annoyed by the same man again, I can readily see, but there is no knowing what he may do — But I defy him — In the mean time with all of the inconveniencies of my situation here, I have the satisfaction of knowing that I am doing my duty, and making money very fast in a place where it is impossible to spend it in any quantity — but above

Dominion has not tended at all to
diminish my pride in her, but I pro
keep quiet on that scene. But judge fr
wrath when I was informed some ti
ago that I was looked upon as a s
pected person - having said that I
my allegiance to Virginia, and no
Alas. As if I would sell my birth
for such a mess of pottage!
It was done by some one here to injure
me and my school, but it was too
sund to take - it has the effect of p
ting me on my guard, and shows m
those with whom I have to deal.
Much love to Sister Sue, and a kiss
little Nannie. With the hope that
may meet soon, not soon to separ
I remain your very affectionate Bro
Eugene Blackf

Chas. M. Blackford.

P.S. I rejoice to hear of your flattering suc
at the bar, but I am not surprised -

I now receive the Whig with tolerable reg-
ularity - For a long time, in spite of re-
peated remonstrances from me, they per
sisted in sending them to Barbour Co
Virginia, so that I did not receive them
at all unless the P.M made the change
in direction which was sometimes done.
I am not in need of any funds at pre-
sent, tho' I have not received a cent from
my employers, simply because I have not
asked for it - The bargain was that I was
to receive the bulk of the salary at the end
of the term, but that I should receive
such sums as I should need for present
use. I have not yet felt obliged to call
upon them, but shall do so very soon, as
my first quarter's board is due. One good
feature about this place is that there is
no way of spending money here. I came
out with $ 65. of which I spent $ 40
in travelling ~~expenses~~, and have

yet some fifteen dollars on hand.
They are firing anvils out in front of my house now in honour of the Secession of Texas of which event the news reached us today. This is the invariable practice here. The noise is extremely disagreeable, and as it is, as I have said, in the public Square in front of my little house, I am very much annoyed by it. On these occasions it is the custom that every citizen who was born in the State thus honored, should make a speech, I can hear one poor fellow at work now. Nothing here strikes a stranger more forcibly, than the very large proportion of the inhabitants who ~~are~~ were not born in Alabama. Not one half of the adult population of this village were born in this state, fully one third were born in Ga, a large number from S. C. and Texas, and four from Virginia. The company which went to Pensacola from this place as volunteers, have much against their will been cajoled into enlisting in the regular army for twelve months. They are therefore no longer volunteers but complete regulars. Poor fellows! they feel the change immediately and severely. Several desertions occured in consequence of this step. One of them came back home and suffered himself to be seen, he was seized by the Committee of Safety, and ordered to leave the County. These Committees seem to rule the towns in these states. They are a sort of Vigilance Committees, and execute justice very much in the same way. Please let me know something about the volunteer movement in Va. If you have any documents stating the numerical force of the Volunteer Corps I should be glad to see it. Our State appears to be far ahead of any in military matters, she is looked upon with much respect in all that pertains to military defence. The evident respect which all exhibit towards the Old

**Bank of the Republic,**

New York May 27 1861

Col. Blackford Esq

Dear Sir

Hand you no 5.

Suit

Bring the suit in the name of Gazaway B. Lamar President Bank of the Republic

Our board think the case a very plain one and decline employing other counsel

Very truly

R. H. Lowndes

To Messrs E. H Stokes and S. C. Woodroof.

Take notice that I shall on Thursday the 21st of March 1861 at the Law Office of Trible & Goodson in Lynchburg between the hours of Sunrise and Sunset proceed to take the deposition of John J. Reynolds and others to be read in evidence in a Case in Chancery pending in the Circuit Court of Amherst in which I am pltff and you are defendants. If from any Cause the foregoing depositions shouldnot be taken on the above named day. or if commenced & not completed. They will be continued from day to day until completed.

March. 16th 1861.

Jno L. Harrison
by Counsel,

Wood Lawn Nelson March 18th 1861

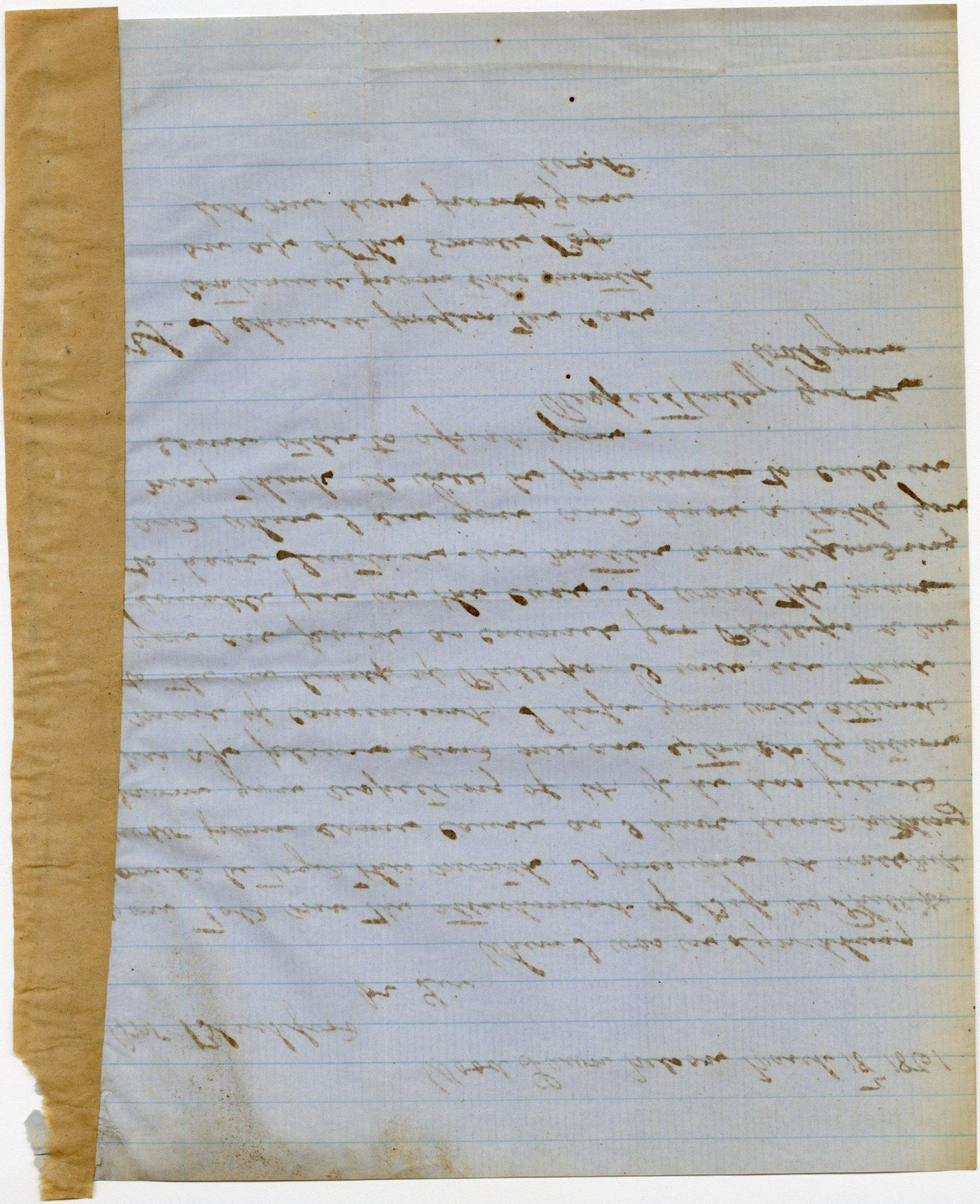
Mr Blackford

Dr Sir

When I was in Lynchburg you told me the attachment of Bass vs Phillips would be tryed this month, I presume it will not now from some cause as I have heard nothing from you respecting of it, if he has filed his affs please send me an extract by return mail if convenient, I hope you will attend to the in behalf of Phillips - I will see that you are paid as counsel for Phillips a reasonable fee in the case. I want the man to have Justice - in matter now depending and when I see you and have a talk you may think it will be prudent to call in some other to assist you -

Respectfully your
obt Servt
W A Payne

P.S. I should prefer the case continued from this month on affs of the small Pox
let me hear from you
WAP



the village - I had heard much abou
the Southern Swamps and Canebrakes - a
was very curious to see one. I am now c
pletely cured of any such desire -, hav
spent the whole day jumping from o
thing to another, or wading from ~~one~~ o
to island - We went thro' a canebrake
which we effected by following the p
made by the cattle, when the cane w
young - the canes were so thick that
would be utterly impossible for one to
his way thro' them - We were hunting
ducks, and squirels which abound
in the Swamp - we bagged a great ma
the spent would be very fine if locomotion
was more rapid and less fatiguing.
The Swamp was full of Magnolia trees,
which even now are beautiful, I pro-
mise myself frequent trips after their
flowers in the Spring - Speaking of flow-
ers I wish you could see the Cape Jes-
simines that I have seen here, the
shrub grows very large, and luxuriant,

Clayton Barbour Co Ala. 29th Nov. /60

My dear Brother.

I received your letter on the 25th ult., seven days after date, which is a shorter time than usually is required: by one route, that via Macon Ga, they require 8 or nine days, by the other, via Columbus Ga - they can come in seven days. I received the first copy of the Whig, on the day after your letter came to hand - I am very much obliged for it, you could not have sent a more acceptable paper - I had just come to the Conclusion that I must have a paper from Virginia, I could not answer the questions that are constantly put to me, for want of information from the way I am pumped about matters there, you would think that they thought Virginia to be a city only,

and consequently I, being a resident, should know every thing that goes on. The people here evidently look up to Virginia, with perfect reverence - I hear constantly the question, "What is Va. going to do" I have heard this very often lately while at meals at the village hotel, where I board - There are great crowds there now owing to the session of the Court, which seems to attract ten times the attention here that it does with us.

Politics of course has been the universal topic - from a paper which I sent to Pa you can judge of the style of the politics patronized by the good people here - Still with all their violence it is impossible to tell what they are going to do, certainly not stay in the Union, tho' much may be done by Va. yet, all eyes being turned towards her, as I have said. Do you ever see the 'Charleston Mercury'? it voices my indignation as much as any of the Abolition Sheets; in a late issue it mentions three things which South C. must insist on in the new Confederation. Also it has the design which S.C. has chosen for the flag of the New Republic, an in fact has arranged every thing to suit S.C. and the S. Carolinians - I am like the Memphis paper wh. says that if there must be a Dissolution, it is in for 3 new Republics not two - it adds further that it will never consent to be led by the nose by S.C. &c &c

I received a large packet of papers from you yesterday, they were very acceptable indeed, as I had heard no local news for some time. I was not prepared to hear of the acquittal of the Hardwickes, I should think it would create a very unfavorable impression of us abroad. I brought my gun out with me and find it a great resource; to day, being Thanksgiving's day, I of course had holiday, and spent it hunting in the swamps near