

Leatherwood V. January 28 1861

Dear Christopher

I have intended for several weeks to write to you, but there being nothing of interest transpiring in this section I have deferred it to this time, not however without several hints from your sister that I ought to do so,

About the time you left home, the weather commenced pretty bad and since, it has been the most disagreeable weather I ever experienced in January. yet the health of the people of this neighborhood has been unusually good. Your mother and family are well, also. Uncle Peyton's and my own family are quite well at this time.

We are having quite an active canvass in this County for the Convention. Mr. Wootton and immediate secession on the one side, Mr. Peyton Gravely Sr. and Union with the rights of V. on the other. The opinion of those who know better than I do is that the Union Candidate will be elected by a large majority.

It gives me great pleasure to state that your course in the Senate meets with the approbation of every one I have seen of all parties. Your mother was kind enough to show me your letters to her. I endorse fully every word of them. They express my views as well as the views of nearly all of the people of this County. Mr. Wootton lately, ground





against referring the action of the ~~question~~ Convention  
 to the People. He admits in his address that S.C.  
 did not secede on account of the election of Lincoln  
 and that her object is free trade, direct tax and  
 the reopening of the African Slave trade. Still he  
 says the Cause of S.C. is the Cause of V.  
 chiefly committing V. to free trade direct tax and  
 the African Slave trade. I concurred fully with  
 you in the hope that sober and discreet men  
 may be elected to the Convention and its action  
 referred to the People. There are no party  
 questions, they rise above party and every  
 selfish political feeling. I notice that your  
 views are gaining strength in the Legislature,  
 the votes being much larger on your side in the  
 recent votes than they were early in the Session.  
 The present indications are that the Convention  
 will be composed of some of the best men in  
 Virginia. There is but one opinion in this  
 vicinity as to the propriety and necessity of the passage  
 of a Stay law by the Legislature, what would  
 be its effects. I am not prepared to say. Certainly  
 if the collection of debts is attempted by law, there  
 will be a great sacrifice of property. There has  
 been no Sheriff or Constable sales in this section  
 of our County. There has been some sales of  
 snow, creek at various rates. I name this  
 to you not as an advocate of a Stay law, but





to assure you that, you would, in going forward  
represent a large majority of constituents, in fact  
it would be acquiesced in by every body as the only  
thing to save the people's property.

While the people of many are much cast down  
by the political surroundings, yet the action of  
the V. Legislature, in appointing Commissioners to meet  
others, in Washington, has caused them to cheer up  
considerably. If the people could be allowed  
to vote on the preservation of the government.  
It would not be broken up.

I received a letter from Mrs. Ruth Shadd a few days  
ago in which she said that your family were  
getting on very well, and alluded to the  
fine daughter, as a 'very pretty baby'.  
Tommy sends his love and many thanks to Uncle  
Kit for the nice paper you sent him. Julia  
sends her love to you and says she will  
write to you. She indorses very fully your  
course, and is much encouraged at the expression  
in your letter to your mother that there would  
be no 'war'. She is decidedly against war.  
Please write me and give me your views  
fully as to the probabilities of a settlement of  
our National troubles.

In haste  
Very truly yr. bro.

B. F. March

present my respects to  
Martin & Helen;