

B. B. Ainsley

To J. C. A. S. R.

4 May 1863

Camp at Kings Mill  
Near Austin May 4<sup>th</sup> 1863

Brother Collins Esq.

My Sir

It has been  
about two weeks since I was down  
in Washington County. While down  
there I saw your overseer George  
Spurill and he told me to say  
to you that the gangster had been  
down at the Lake and had taken  
everything and told the negroes that  
they were all free and that they  
were working for themselves and  
that he could not have any control  
over them and that in speaking

if you they call you 'Old Collins'.  
They say that if ever you go or send  
down there for them they intend  
to leave. All went around with  
the gangster and should have

where the things were ~~hid~~ concealed.  
I never thought he would act in  
this way. Things look very gloomy  
in Washington County the yankees  
and buffaloes have striped every-  
body of all their property.

If you wish  
to write to anyone down there send  
your letter to me and I can send  
it down for you. I should have  
written you before but I have  
been on the march ever since  
I returned. Remember me kindly  
to Major George and Lt. Arthur.

Believe me Sir to be

Yours Very Respectfully  
B. B. Ainsley

Direct to Kinston

Care of Capt. Norman Co. 4<sup>th</sup> Regt  
I. C. Troop