

Harvey Garrison
to G. B. Jr

Justoro, N. C. March 27th 1863

Josiah Collins Esq

My dear Sir,

I left here about a month ago, expecting to return in a short time, but did not do so until a few days ago. I wrote to you some time ago giving you the unpleasant information of the robberies committed on your property, they continued this until they have removed nearly every thing from your house, some of the heavy furniture such as the book cases, sideboard, a few large beds, &c. &c. Still remain: The Yankee Major, Burdick, now went down to the Lake in February & told the negroes they were all free but he advised them to stay, where they were & to support themselves. Williams son Jim went to Plymouth & stayed a few weeks then ran away from the Yankees and returned to the Lake, he says he had enough of the Yankees, they made him work very hard and fed him badly - Mr Spruill says the other negroes behave much better since Jim's return: they have all gone to work on the farm, he encourage them to raise a crop, he hopes he may be encouraging them keep them at home & if peace should come they might be saved, I do not remember whether I wrote you that the Yankees and buffaloes gathered all the corn from the fields, & carried it off; they have not taken much old corn, Spruill has sold some of this, he is not so loth whether to sell all but barely enough for the negroes to buy, or keep it as it were, he much needed in the south of the war ending - I did not know how to advise him, he cannot sell much more because the Yankees told him he must keep enough for the negroes; I think Spruill holds one thousand about 300. hands on hand, this I think is old corn, if the war should end this year we shall have a famine down there next year, as but few persons will raise a crop, the negroes all being away - Some negroes are all at home now as yet left but some & he advised - Your Oxen were all carried off, but I think most of the other cattle are there, they carried off 250. large fat hogs, & 150. small, the other hogs, have not been disturbed;

Mr. Spier consulted me as to the propriety of trying to save your Library by purchasing the books of the Sankers, I told him it would be very hard to do so if he could save them but as this was so uncertain, I hardly knew how to advise, he told me afterwards that ^{he} had bought the books for \$200, (I think this is the sum) in N.C. More, he has them at his own home, he said he knew John Kolnea. Your books are highly & would wish this for you, he also had.

Some of the portraits, most of them I think, he paid down a small sum for them & will try & take care of them for you.

Leon Spruill has acted as well as any man could under the circumstances, he has quite a number of small things left from the house, trying to save them, he gave me \$500. Confederate money for you, which is at your disposal please tell me how I shall get it to you.

Rev. Mr. Patterson gave me an order on you dated Oct 8th 1862 for \$91.76 being the amount I paid my car and for him, ~~could~~ & request me to have a settlement in a few days, I suppose it will be all right, between you & me, there is no necessity on my part that you pay this order at present, if it is any sort of accommodation to you not to do so, let it stand, but please say you accept it - that is if Mr P. has any thing in your hands - I shall not return to Sepp. among, unless Plymouth should be held by our forces so that I can get some things out, I have some idea of going to the neighbor hood of Palmyra in Martin County to practise medicine I must do something, Very soon, for a support, I could do a very good business at home as there is no physicians there, but I am determined not to carry my family there as long as the place is held by the Sankers, my great trouble is that I have no furniture up here, I cannot get any out but I think I can borrow a little where I am going I fear Palmyra (8 miles above Hamlet) may not be a safe place - please write me how my paper is out, my kindest regards, with Mrs. Hardsin's best love to Mrs. Collins, I am very yours, Hardsin, Nandison