

Hardy Hardison
To J C Sr
Tarboro NC 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 everything from your house Some of the heavy furniture such as the bookcases, side board, a few large bedsteads _____ still remain The Yankee Major Bartholomew went down to the lake in February & told the negroes they wose all free. but he advised them to stay where they were & try to support themselves William's son Jim went to Plymouth & stayed a few _____ then ranaway from the Yankees and returned to the Lake he says has 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 Tim's return They have all gone to work on the farm he encourage them to raise a crop he hopes may _____ 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 and Sold Some of This he is as a _____ whether to Sell all but barely enough for the negroes & hogs _____ Keep it as it would be much needed in the event of the wars 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 told me there were about 300 barrels on hand this I think is old corn. if the was Should end this year we shall have a famine down there next year so _____ few persons will raise a crop the negroes all being away. _____ negroes are all at home mine even left but Tim & he returned. ---Your oxen were all carried off but I think most of the other cattle are those the carried of 25 _____ hogs weighing 3 or 400 each the _____ hogs have not been disturbed. (Pg2) Mr. Spier consulted me as to the propriety of try to Save your Library by purchasing The books of the Yankees, I told him it would be very well to do so if he could save them but as this was so uncertain. I hardly knew hot to advise he told me afterwards that he had bought the book for \$200 (I think this is the sum) _____ NC _____, he has them at this own house, he says he knew your _____ books very highly & would _____ this for you he also had Some of the Portraits moss of them I Think he paid Some Small Sum for them & will try & take care of them for you.

George Spruill has acted as well as any man could under the circumstances he has quite a number of Small Things 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 You _____.

Rev. Mr Patterson gave me an order on You dated Oct 8th 1862 for \$91.76c being the amount I paid my coin and for him Coward and myself are 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 your paying 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 anything in your hands – I shall not return to Scuppernong unless Plymouth should be held by our forces so that I can get Some Things out I have Some idea of going to the neighborhood of Palmyra in Martin County to practice medicine I must do Something very soon for a support I could do a very good business at home as there is no physician There but I am determined not to carry my family there as long as the place is held by the Yankees. 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 Hamilton) may not be a safe place please write me here my paper is out my Kindness regard with Mrs Hardison's Best love to Mrs Collins

I am truly yours Hardy Hardison