Augusta Dec 15th 1865

General

What is written on the other pages was
with the expectation that you would pay Augusta,
when I promised myself the satisfaction of calling
on you in person. Hearing by the papers that you
had printed Savannah & New Orleans, I fear you
might think it material to return by this way, de-
siring that it proves so. I would have been a gratifica-
tion to invite you to visit and inspect what is called
here a "pen" for the comfort of the poor negroes who have
left their former masters. They admit that they
were well cared for at home, that they were told they
were free and they seemed to be enjoying the prac-
tical benefits of such liberty. About 100 men, women
& children are gathered in a building in space 100 by
30 ft. You can make your own calculation how much
room that gives for each. Made a room cover the price
of the building, a lofty but light roof, protects them
from the rain & keeps the wind has free access. The clear-
ness for each family are the fillings from pens they hang
about them. Of course pros fines can be made in a house
without chimney. Did not discover a fire even out of
the house and my first visit was a morning
upon a hill and asked what business was made for
them. Was told that prison had charge of them.
each principle of nature. They were free.
I am willing to think that your benevolent heart
would bleed to pity and suffering and still I fear
it is not the most aggravated instance of the misery of
these enslaved people. I have heard of worse from
several quarters. If it was the grand object of your
people to destroy the happy relation existing between
the master and slave, why happy? There was no peacable
motive. You know it well. You have accomplished your
purpose most effectually. The negro prostrate rolling on
the ground has no unique claim for protection
and care; in any way. And the oft-repeated boast
of your licensed inhumanities has paid its
bills. If you licentious persecutors have taught him to be more
and respectful, you abolish slavery once and for
all negro that he is the equal of the white man, and can
enjoy the liberty as well. You know all of you that that
is simply a lie. You must and do know that the negro
power has never been able to civilize without
the influence and example of the white man. You do
know that in a state of slavery he has been elevated for
the brute to civilization. And now that you have destroyed
one of the most benevolent of God's appointed institutions
has the existence, to gratify a fiendish impulse, you know
we could believe that it is for a holy purpose. Do you
people believe in a hereafter, that there is a place of hear
that there is an eternity - a Hell. It is a pity that you
philanthropists is to partially, I might have begun nearer
home. Why have you put yourself to the waste after
drill on your factory project? To the colliery mining pit,
some of the operators, who never see the light. The sun,
are they as well off as the most diligent slave? They may
lay the blame to crush the capitalist? I think, however,
you are seeing the element in your own eye, while you
cast out the motive. Suppose we had sent amongst you
encourancers like Thaddeus—
Thomas, what a name
He was Christian, I?) in blood.
Once his path was the same—

Do change your labor system, how long would you
have endured such interference?

By the time you have returned to Washington, can wise, I hope, have partook yourself with
the prospect of the new state of things. It will gratify
me to hear your honest, private, honest, opinion,
whether the thinkers, Christianity, civilization & the
Negroes have been advanced by the convulsions and
re-arrangement of affairs.

The promptings of duty influence me to print my famous home, and to inquire
into the welfare of those who were once my slaves, and
who I left in comfort at my plantation. As I have
heard, every plantation belonging has been burned,
including those at my residence. A perfect desola-
tion exists, where cheerful, and industry once exis-
ted to the Mastick and slave. A clay ride from
This place thought me the back of Shenandoah March. I learned that you commanded the wing of that great army. It may be that we shall never find another army on this continent, or revengeful passions had turned to murder a peaceful happy people. All to pacify a nation, 

Trust. Down through two entire days, nothing but chimneys crested alone, buildings burned, all burned. And you tell me to pray for the enemy? My puny human nature revolts at the thought.

I speak of Beautiful Hilton Head, where my people (175) had been forcibly carried. I left them on the 15th.; they were unhappy for a year a two. Their houses were so comfortable with blankets and clothes which as the time could afford, in abundance - all all. I have been taken from them, and they were forced to leave their home. I have some of them in another Beautiful, but the most of them at Hilton Head. Some were so ragged, poor clothes but I want that I did not know them. All approach me and greet me most kindly. They informed me that they were living in cabins, in contrast to their roomy wooden houses. They told me that the pay from twice that had been assigned them, had just enabled them to make provision, but for a year or so with some food to carry them the winter. They told me that in instance where the White Yankee's have
in a measure to their benefit, they were stimulated
from the sale of cotton, to return to their homes. As most of
them had grown up under me, and the rights of property
prolonged a close connection between us, I claim that it dis-
covered the benefit prompted one to advance their purpose.
Accordingly, I applied to the agent at Beaufort.
Mr. Johnson, representing to him the circumstances
under which these people had been removed from
their main home in Tell's Island, and those obliging
leave their provisions, clothes, and comfortable
house. That they were now anxious to return
with the little provisions they had made, and to
prepare for a better life the next year, and to occupy their
comfortable homes, all of which had not been burned.
He has told I have put the means to assist them,
The answer to the reasonable request that he would
afford me the use of Tell's for the removal, was, that
the house and land I did not consider himself respon-
sible to aid in their removal although the estate granted
it to others. In this point, I hastened to
Hilton Head, and applied to Capt. Heneage at Near
Port to grant me transportation by steamboat. The view
of removing those suffering people representing what
steam might do once result in in two days. The same
was even more expensive than the...
In battles with their wounds not arrived at Savannah I represented the matter to Col. Sickle for his opinion relating to him. The circumstances of his removal. The punishment of the other officers in their decision. Consequently I now appeal to you the highest authority to fulfill the assurance you have made to the freedmen that you are their best friends.

At Beaufort I found the negroes all quite civil and expecting the arrival of their old masters, but none of them were willing to contract for work the next year, at least not before the fall, when they were expecting some event. All were pleased desirous to plant their own land and as they chose. They seemed quite to expect that lands were to be appropriated to them. They had plantations of 160 acres in their conception. The idea of the 10th Oct. Circular N. 21 had not been promulgated to them. Many of our planters were anxiously waiting under all the discouraging circumstances to embark under the new order of things. All were repulsed at every point. No planters are to be had for actual work by the fall, it will be a topsy-turvy attempt for any but a very small crop. The panic has left having turned every house on the plantations. The earth remains only dreams.
They could not master the conscience that also. More fellish friends over-masted any country, and see for that, among their slaves, for reason that we were proper. Now, that the need is done, we can observe that there is a necessity on the part of those in authority to shift the responsibility of those punished on theire or Masters, who can ill afford to suffer such although the feeling is strong to close to. I submitted to M. Indoe the following question — Suppose as an extreme alternative, a plan for in case of means to the slave the freedmen, in order to engage with them in the use of their lands, to take a certain amount of the produce and that when the period arrives to be paid, in more than the quantity agreed on has been made. How am I to be paid? Take what you can find, was the answer. What? Take all? He was pleased. Yes, take all. He will then learn that he must work. It gave me any opening for remarks, but I refrained.

From what I observed while at Beaufort, I am inclined to think that the trade with the slave traders generally in the Town, are most thorough cotton-dealers, and I am credibly informed that the freedmen are cheated and cheated in every possible manner and all by northern traders. But that the slaves are nearly consumed and the planters are about to leave. In its place I mailed to give you the
evidence, however, Dandridge had suffered. Well it
is a surprise to see you living in 9 months from the 15th Jan
1879. I feel of mine. You have, and I can tell you of an
instance of much greater mortality in the Brethren at
New York where a formerly well conducted planters
150 Negroes had died out of 340, and that in about
11 months. I think Gen. Pendleton was for some time
when I said that they were a docile people. They
are God's hapless made us the instruments of such cruel
work. They have trained in their trade to undo you work. Can
think the motive of such cruel! It is no wonder that
the continuance of the Bureac when public
officials are the duphants.
Mr. Tappan and justice to you how completely
private as well as public property has been destroyed
But I will point to the impregnable mountain of
earth which have been fortified for the safety of
our beloved country. They can prove be leveled by
my consent. Let them remain as memorials, confirming
history and tradition. That when 'slavery was killed
Where liberty was trod, her graves were rooted and furnished with tombs. Thousands of our Martyrs flourish. The mound where the laurel once bloomed in all its beauty, will again yield to the storied emblem, and may that period be just for that land.

If you ever take the trouble to read what I have written, I shall solicit you to make me some acknowledgment, if it is only in these lines. I have the kindest feelings towards you because I believe that you are sincere, honest, but I cannot excuse me for the freedom of the expression. But if I am in any way persecuted for this effusion — God may be certain that I must hate more cheerfully, more than ever the falsehood than I hate. Even Stephen, in all his glory, could eclipse me.

I have the honor to be your respectfully,

Jim Heslode

of South Carolina