

Transcription

"I am a secessionist per se"

Cottage Home Jan 21st 1861.

My very dear friend,

Your kind letter was received in due time, and would have been replied to immediately, had I have had anything worth three cents to communicate, don't think from this that I have anything worth telling now, if you do, you will be disappointed. I have just come up from listening to Papa read the letter of ex-President Tyler, it is very patriotic, but will do no good. The B Republicans will not listen to reason. I am a secessionist per se, and as you, am tired of hearing them talk about "trying Lincoln," to wait for "some overt act." G. Bagby (editor of the Southern Literary Messenger) says "there will be no overt act. Will Lincoln be so foolhardy, as to insult an already enraged people?" By the way have you read his two last editorials?, if you have not I recommend you to do so by all means. Dr. B. is one of the bright stars of the Old Dominion, Virginia must and will be proud of him, he thinks and speaks as each and all of her sons should think and speak—as every true Virginian will. He gives it to the submissionists, he says, "every appeal of (I will not say submissionists—Virginians do not submit—they who do are bastard dastards) every appeal of the Delayers has been addressed not to the courage and honour of Virginians, but to their fears, their love of money." Good, isn't it? Have you read the soul-stirring and patriotic letter of ex-Governor Wise? I think Virginia has only two sons, who are worthy of her, and they are Dr. B. and the ex-Governor. So tell me what you think of Virginia's position? I think, she is acting shamefully, nay! disgracefully—The old blood has utterly died out. She seems to censure South Carolina more than she does the North—instead of thanking her for urging her to resent the many insults she (Virginia) has received. Old Buchanan, General Scott, Lincoln, Seward and the whole lot of B. Republicans [*illegible*] busy. With Sen. Toombs, I wish the 'Star of the West' together with Scott had been sunk in the "mighty deep". I read an extract from Benjamin's speech, would like much to see the whole. I think there is but one alternative left the South, that is to defend her rights by force of arms. We have truly fallen upon "evil days, and evil tongues". Pardon me for thus boring you, but I'm so much interested in politics, that I forget myself when ever I get on the subject.

I need scarcely say, that I was very sorry that I could not visit you xmas. I had rather a quiet time, went only to one party, and I usually spend the time in frolicing. I am no man hater on the contrary, I am the warmest of their admirers, and think a good intelligent man about



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Transcription

prime. I have not heard from [*two words obscured*] in a long, long time, don't understand the way she way she treats me, however you know something of this. I hear from Sallie occasionally. I think Sallie a good, smart, interesting girl, and I love her very much.

My kindest and best regards to your Pa and Ma, I wish much to know them for I know they must be good, kind and warmhearted, as you Callie possess these traits in an eminent degree. Please write very soon, as I am exceedingly anxious to hear from you.

Remain my darling Callie as ever,

Yours, SUE RAGSDALE

Citation: Sue Ragsdale to Callie Anthony, January 21, 1861, Anthony Family Papers, 1785–1952, Acc. 35647, 35648, Library of Virginia.