

Transcription

"The hope that sober and discreet men may be elected to the Convention"

Leatherwood Va. Januy. 28th 1861.

Dear Christopher

I have intended for several weeks to write to you, but there being nothing of interest transpiring in this section I have defered it to this time, not however without several hints from your sister that I ought to do so,

About the time you left home, the weather commenced pretty bad and since, it has been the most disagreeable weather I ever experienced in January. yet the health of the people of this neighborhood has been unusually good. Your Mother and family are well also. Uncle Peyton's and my own family are quite well at this time.

We are having quite an active Canvass in this County for the Convention. Mr. Wootton and immediate Secession on the one side, Mr Peyton Gravely sr. and union with the rights of Va. on the other, The opinion of those who know better than I do is that the Union Candidate will be elected by a large Majority.

It gives me great pleasure to state that your Course in the Senate meets with the approbation of every one I have seen of all parties,

Your mother was kind enough to show me your letters to her, I endorse fully every word of them. They express my views as well as the views of nine tenths of the people of this County, Mr. Wootton takes ground against refering the action of the ~~question~~ Convention to the People, He admits in his address that S. C did not secede on account of the election of Lincoln and that her object is free trade, direct taxes and the reopening of the African Slave trade, Still he says the cause of S. C. is the cause of Va. thereby Committing Va. to free trade direct Taxes and the African slave trade. I concur fully with you in the hope that sober and discreet men may be elected to the Convention and its action refered to the people, there are no party questions, they rise above party and every selfish, political feeling. I notice that your views are gaining strength in the Legislature, the votes being much larger on your side in the recent votes than they were early in the session The present indications are that, the Convention will be Composed of some of the first men in Virginia—There is but one opinion in this Vicinity as to the propriety and necssity of the passage of a Stay law by the Legislature, that would be its effects, I am not



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prepared to say. Certainly if the Collections of debts is attempted by law, there will be a great sacrifice of property; there has been no shereffs or Constables sales in this section of our County—there has been some sales on Snow Creek at ruinous rates, I name this to you not as an advocate of a stay law, but to assure you that, you would in going for one represent a large Majority of yr Constituents, in fact it would be acquiesced in by every body as the only thing to save the peoples property.

While the people of Henry are much cast down by the political surroundings, yet the action of the Va. Legislature, in appointing Commissioners to meet others, in Washington, has caused them to cheer up Considerably. If the people could be allowed to vote on the preservation of the government It would not be broken up.

I received a letter from Mrs Ruth P. Redd a few days ago, in which she, said that your family are getting on very well, and alluded to the fine daughter, as a very pretty baby—

Tommie sends his love and many thanks to Uncle Kit. for the nice paper you sent him. Julia sends her love to you, and says she will write to you she, endorses very fully your course, and is much encouraged at the expression in your letter to your Mother that there would be no "War" she is decidedly against War, Please Write me and give me your views fully as to the probabilities of a Settlement of our National troubles.

In haste
Very truly yr bro.
B F GRAVELY

Present my respects to Martin & Keen.

Citation: Benjamin Franklin Gravely to Christopher Yancy Thomas, January 28, 1861, Gravely Family Papers, Acc. 34126, Library of Virginia