



Mayo Henry County Va.
January 25th, 1861

Mr C. Y. Thomas

Dear Sir,

I received your letter in due time. It would be to me, a source of satisfaction at any time, to have your views upon important subjects; But at this particular juncture, of affairs your letter gave me great pleasure. I have read your letter carefully, and reflected seriously upon its contents; and more doubtless than I should have if my views had coincided with yours fully; Had it been any opinion against yours I should likely have readily yielded, but as it is a question upon which

The most comprehensive minds differ and, it being a conflict of your opinion and theirs it caused me to seriously reflect and weigh all the testimony in the case, without coming to a satisfactory conclusion.

That your letter to some extent moderated my views I readily confess; that coolness and calmness and moderation should govern the councils of Va^m is my honest conviction. They should, at least assume that position until they are satisfied they are right; then go ahead.

But I must dissent from your views about what may be the result of this confusion and probable separation of Va^m from the federal government; I cannot for one moment believe that anarchical or



despotick government could
be formed, with the generations
now living (south) in america,
we know too well the value of liberty
we prize it too high, we have lived
under such a government too
long to ever subject the people
to such rule, every man would
~~would~~ sooner welcome his grave
proudly meet death, before submit
a force might be brought strong
enough to exterminate us and
a generation might be raised up
with fear, and faith in such a
government and then and not
until then, can such a govern-
ment live for one day upon
southern soil.

As for saving the union, that I
look upon as and absurdity as
language without meaning, that the
present union is now among the



things that were; and the only hope
now is to ^{re}construct to remodel, upon
such a fair and equitable basis
as will induce the southern states
to reunite upon it. Which I
must confess is from all the in-
formation I can gather is utterly
hopeless at this time. All I should
ask of a representative at this time
is to attempt to avoid civil war,
if that can by any fair and
honorable means, ^{be} avoided it should
be done but that is my only
hope. I readily endorse the
proposition known as the
Prayer proposition; But is
there even a hope for such
and adjustment,
I shall vote against the prop-
osition to submit the proceedings
of the convention to the
people; simply for the reason
the delay of time ^{now} should do what
she intends to do before Lincoln's inauguration.



No. 2. You will doubtless tire on
any long communication; but
as I have failed to give any country
news, I will now give you a short
sketch. — You doubtless have heard
from our proceedings at Court,
Jack Wootton, was nominated,
by acclamation, to represent us
in the coming convention;
The meetings was composed,
principally of men that have
heretofore, belonged to the
democratick party. His views
you are, doubtless acquainted
with. He will I think get a
large majority of this Mayo
country. There was I learn on
Monday last to have been a meeting
at H. C. House, to nominate, a
candidate, to oppose Wootton,
I have not heard from it, Wootton
speaks at H. P. Store, tomorrow when



I will hear, and will leave my
letter open and inform
you. Jack East died a
few days ago, it is said killed
himself drinking.
Money matters are said to be
very stringent, scarcer than
it was ever known here before.
If people in Henry were forced
to wind up and pay up at
this time, I would say fare
well, vain world. We farmers
though are making preparations
to make Tobacco just as if it
was as high and ready sale as
it was 12 months ago. in fact
I am trying to make a little
more, so if I have to take a small
price, I will have the more to sell,
Say to Mr John Staples
his mother's family are well,
give him and Mr Martin



Dr. Seales and, my respects
and, that we would like to
hear from them. Dr. Seales
also request me to give his best
respects. you are a great
favorite, of his; and, in a
carrvass he, could, do you as
much good, as any man in
the country!

Horse Pasture
 Peyton Gravely opposes
Lack Wootton Horse Pasture
will vote for Wootton. It
is snowing and raining
nobody is here,

Your Friend
Sincerely
Samuel J. Mullins