

Raleigh March 11 1863

Josiah Collins Sr Esqr

Dear Sir

I am in rec't of your favor of the 10th. You suggest that you can buy a Dft on one of the Banks here, with the money in your possession, & that it will be more safe. I will be obliged to you, to purchase the Dft, & enclose it to me: Deduct the premium.

I have but little information from our county. I saw Jos B Griffin, a few days ago. There are contradictory reports about the number of forces, garrisoning Plymouth. There is, doubtless, a Regiment there. They have attempted to destroy the bridges across Welches Creek, cut trees, across the fording place at Nicholls mill, & took up the floor of the mill so as to prevent any ----- . Mr. Griffin said, that the forces made a sally, out of Town, with the intention of going up & attacking Col Martin, they arrested all the men on the Acre- & ridge roads (those who had taken the oath), they marched up the Ridge Road, about 10 miles, to the place where the creek is fordable and after a days consultation, marched back to Plymouth carrying their prisoners with them. After they returned the prisoners were discharged. Mr. Griffin says it is quiet there now. They don't permit any goods to be kept in Plymouth. I learn that there is a brisk trade, going on between Washington & Tarboro, & such an amount of goods have been got thro the lines. I hear, that young Wm Adkinson, has got possession of my carriage & buggy and has a pair of your best mules, and is driving

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over the county. He has furnished his house with Mr C. L. Pettigrews furniture, I -- him that the day of retribution would come, & he might prepare himself for it.

Within the last month, there has been about 500 --- Bacon, brought across the Chowan River, from north counties, & trade is going on. The bold course of the rangers there has alarmed the Buffaloes, & they are afraid to go out. A general has visited E. City & Edenton. At the former place, he had, a Bluff. Capt & --- arrested & sent to Newbern, for the murder of young --- White, whom they shot, in E. city. He took all command away from the Buffaloes. Called in all the negroes & disarmed them, gave them 3 days to go in the country & get work on such terms as they chose, published a proclamation, urging the people to be quiet & attend to their business, that they should not be interfered with, stopped the Buffs from moving over the county, & directed information on any pillage by negroes or others, to be given that the parties committing offences should be tried & shot. He repudiated these oaths, & said he had more confidence in those who refused to take them. This I have from Mr. Norfleet. He has gone to Richmond to effect an exchange of Edwd Wood, for ---- ----. Wood was arrested, for no cause that he knew of & has been parolled, until 1 Apl, to effect an exchange. I have heard of no further depredations on your farm, except the mules taken by Adkinsons.

Very Resy
H. G. Spruill