Univ. of Va.
Saturday night Jany. 5. 61.

My dear father,

Milton intends leaving here tomorrow for Montgomery & I propose ~~sending this letter by him as by that~~ means you will get it much earlier than otherwise. I have tried to persuade him to remain and study but he seems bent on leaving and going home. I dont know that the change will benefit him. I told him he must go over & see you as soon as he gets home. He says he is more afraid to see you than any of them.

Tom told me in his letter that your election turned out unsuccessfully and certainly no one could have felt as mortified at the result as I have done. I have no doubt that the reason he gave was the true one; viz. that Douglas men didnt stand up to you as they should have done. It is a perfect shame I think that they should have acted so. My opinion is that the Confederation has thrown you off in this canvass. Perhaps you were too busy to notice it, but that paper has never given a single Editorial in your favor; and the one in which it announced your defeat I considered it made a <u>decided</u>, <u>uncalled</u> for, and <u>unfriendly</u> cut at you.

Tom says Cousin Lyd Sopon took no interest at all in the election and seemed not to care whether you were beaten or not. This was just what I expected of him. I expect Mr Townsend did all he could for you for I really believe he is a warm friend of yours. He was defending you last Summer I know, from being inconsistent on the Squatter Question.

Well, all that can be done now is to wait for better times. I really believe the Consultation men had the true ground to stand upon. It was the Southern ground and the opposite was merely the selfish policy of Yancy and Co. When the next turn in the Government takes place I hope the Conservatives will again band together and with a little marshalling of their ranks and a common understanding among themselves I hope and believe they will yet be successful. Yancy and his crowd are going first and foremost for the slave trade and there will be a fight on that point when they go to form a new constitution. I believe this State is perfectly ready to secede. The Marylanders are, I understand perfectly enraged at the action of their Governor in not calling the legislature together. They say that in Baltimore there are not

fifteen hundred (1,500) stand of arms.
We just heard today that the Government forts arsenal & property in Alabama has all been taken possession of by the state. This I suppose was caused by the infidelity of the Government towards S. C. in the case of Maj. Anderson. I fear now that nothing will avert a civil war. The students just from Washington say that the general opinion there is that war is inevitable.

I see also that there have been troubles in Autangville & Prattville among the negroes. I was glad to learn that no difficulties had occurred in our neighborhood. I think that in the country by skillful management every thing can be kept quiet. I suppose the neighbors have had Roses plantation put under proper surveillance.

I see that Montgomery is being spoken of as the Capital of the Southern Confederacy. I hope they will make it so, though in such a case I should prefer living a little farther from it. Tell me what you think of its chances. It certainly has one of the most centre positions and with the exception of Atalanta is the most accessible. Had it already finished its projected Rail Roads even Atalanta would have no advantage of it. I suppose the greatest difficulty

will be in its not lying on the boundary line of two states. Of course Selma would try to give it to Montgomery so as to get a chance for herself at the Capital of the State.

Some one showed me the Montgomery Advertiser the other day in which was a tremendous falsehood against yourself. He made it out that you were an utter Union Man. I think you ought to take some occasion to address the people of Chestnut Creek and perhaps Prattville too to set them on the right track as to your position. Stick up for old Chestnut for they stuck up for you.

I am glad to be able to tell you that I am at this time getting on better than usual with my studies. But as a general thing I haven't got on as well as I ought lately. The reason is that I feel in such an excited state all the time about the events of the day that I find great difficulty in studying with any success. However I appreciate most fully the value of my time here — how soon I may be obliged to leave and am endeavoring to make the most of the advantages now before me. Write soon and give all the family my love

Yr affc. Son

Balling Hall Jr.

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