Washington City
January 15 1850

My Dear Sir

Had your letter been received before Gov. Collier had appointed the Directors in the Mobile Bank, I would not have hesitated in accordance with your wish to present to him the name of your friend Smith as a proper person to be selected; and I would have done so with pleasure because he is the husband of a most interesting Lady, for whom, although my acquaintance with her was limited, I entertain the highest respect. The Slavery question is the all absorbing subject here, and how it is to terminate God only knows. All my efforts shall (as they have been) be unremittedly exerted to compromise if possible this dangerous question, so as to maintain the honor & constitutional rights of the Slave holding States. If this can be effected, no man will feel more heart felt gratification than myself; but I am free to declare that devotedly attached as I am to the Union, proud as I am of ~~the~~ my country and the high destinies to which it must attain

if we can but prostrate this fanatical spirit and preserve the Union as framed by our Fathers. Yet I stand prepared, should these aggressions upon our rights continue, to resist, at every hazard and at every ~~hazard~~ sacrifice. I must say however that I still cling to the hope of an adjustment provided it is made apparent that the South, the whole South without division, stand together as one man. This alone will cause the Fanatics and unprincipled aspirants for political power to pause, and thus enable the patriotic men of every section to meet upon grounds of compromise, and thus settle this agitating question. God grant that such may be the result. My health has greatly improved. Present me respectfully to Mrs Gayle.

Your friend sincerely

William R King

Col. G. W. Gayle