

Falls of the Tuskaloosa 12th September 1818.

Friend Sam

I promised to write to thee soon after I should arrive in this land of promise, & I have had several opportunities of doing so, but was prevented either by the shortness of the notice, or because the spirit did not move me at the time. Suffice it to say I reached this place on the 18th ult. after a tedious journey, rendered more disagreeable in consequence of having no other company than that of my servant, until I arrived within ~~a day~~ a short distance of this Town. With the exception of a thunder storm, I encountered ^{hardly} no ~~bread~~ ^{bread} escapes or strange adventures with the relation of which I might render this letter particularly interesting. There was generally a dull uniformity of scenes consisting for the most part of poor lands, & occasionally variegated with a rapid succession of steep hills, for many miles.

I am better pleased with this country than I anticipated. This Town makes an indifferent appearance with respect to buildings, but it contains some very respectable inhabitants, & I have suspect more retail trade than St. Stephen, & Jackson put together. The population of the Town is about six hundred & ~~very~~ probably will not increase until the lands are sold. Choice lots here will sell for \$3000 at the sale, without

doubt, at all events, some merchants of the place are willing to give that price. The neighborhood affords some beautiful tracts of high land well calculated for corn & cotton, & I should be content to own them at a fair price, but there are capitalists who will give forty dollars per acre for them. The best highland here can be rated only as ~~the~~ second quality, but they certainly are much more productive than their appearance would indicate. Upon the whole this section of the ~~territory~~^{country} promises to be very agreeable & is as healthy as any part of the Territory.

With the exception of a severe cold occasioned by the sudden change in the weather a few days since, I have enjoyed good health.

I have not received a single letter or newspaper since I left you. I hope you will transmit to me by the first private conveyance such as you may find in the Jackson Post Office directed to me. Perhaps it will be advisable to leave them in St. Stephens with a friend who will there meet with more frequent opportunities of sending them to me.

Remember me with great respect to Col. Walton & family, Mr. Cannon, Doctor Harwell & their families, & our old friend Mr. Potter. I hope to have

The pleasure of writing to Col. Wallow, Mr. Potter & some other of my
friends in your quarters as soon as an other opportunity offers.

You will give my best wishes to Messrs. Carney, Kimball
& Hughes. I am thy well-wisher.

Sam^l. B. Bidgood Esq
Jackson Clarke County

Joseph Noble

N. B. Write to me soon - I should be glad to know your
prospects, & particularly whether you still find it necessary
to keep your spirits up by pouring spirits down.

Presented to the
Historical Society, Ala.
by
Jas. Edw. Webb
July 17th, 1885

Samuel B. Bidgood Esq.

Merchant

Jackson

Politeness of
Mr. Strong

8 1/2

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