Copy

Wilmington, N. C. Nov. 3 1831

To the Police of Mobile

Gents. A letter from Mr Reide of your town to a gentleman of this place has recently made me acquainted with the fact, that a negro fellow banished from our town a year ago for seditious conduct, has found his way to Mobile, and is now the property of the above named person. I feel it a duty to make known to your board the circumstances under which the said negro was banished from our town, that you may be on your guard against a renewal on his part of the attempt which drove him from his family. While acting as Magistrate of Police of this place last August my ~~attention~~ my attention was called to the circulation of the infamous Walker pamphlet among our negroes, and on investigation traced the book to the above named negro Jacob Cowan, who acknowledged that he had received 20 of said pamphlets from the author for the purpose of being distributed among the slaves of this place. The fact was also proved, that with these books he received a letter of instructions from Walker or the agent who had shipped the pamphlets to him from New York. Having at that time no law in our State by which to punish the offence of distributing seditious publications, our board of Commissioners shipped the said Jacob to Charleston with instructions to have him sold into the interior of some of the southern states, where he would be deprived of the opportunities afforded by a seaport town to receive & distribute such books — the agent to whose care he was consigned was made fully aware of the circum=

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stances under which he was sold, and also instructed to make known the same to others. The Superior Court of our County now in session here have just sentenced 7 negroes to be executed for a conspiracy, the origin of which may without much presumption be traced to the seditious Walker pamphlet

Respectly Yr obt Servt

(Signd) James F. McKee

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