Liverpool August 8th 1861

Genl. C. J. McRae

An opportunity offers and I have ten minutes to write you a line and give you some slips from Papers here in relation to American affairs. Had I known two hours sooner Mr. Pringle Bearer of this was going to the Confederate States, would like to have sent you much that would interest. With this you have most of Dubell's letter; then the Leader of London Times of yesterday and Leader of Liverpool Mercury of to-day. I have been through Ireland and am now here about ten

days, in Ireland by a chance I had an opportunity to learn the silent feelings of all the most intelligent Gentlemen were with the South before the Manassas Battle: and here the Southern cause is daily gaining friends and strength. The Northern Papers had almost convinced all, that the Southern cause was hopeless until this battle: but their lies are now so apparent, that the cause of the South has gained and is gaining daily in spite of the thick coat of Slavery prejudice which has been so hard to penetrate here

But cotton's influence is beginning to work in the price of middling Orleans at 8 3/4 and the conviction of all minds that ~~unless~~ the supply from next crop cannot come forward unless France or England interfere. If our troops can only succeed in the next conflict Recognition at least is then certain. I came over with Belmonte who is here to negotiate a loan for the N.S. But this news is just in time to prevent his success it is thought by all. In England there is no chance for N.S. to get loan: this Battle sent N.S. Securities rattling down in London Stock Exchange. Have not a moment to write more or send more will try to send or write you again soon if opportunity

I shall open business here
cannot live North as I
intended before Secession;
you know I was opposed
to Secession, that was quiet:
But I am loud against
Coercion, and if I dare
go through N. York in
October shall be in Mobile

Haste Truly
M. F. Smith

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Aug 8th