5 St Helens Place London March 3d/66

My Dear Sister

On my return a few days since from the Eastern part of Europe where I have been for three months I found your letter of the 31st Dec & 1st January. Truly a great change has come on our fortunes since you wrote a twelve months before. But our People made a gallant struggle some that will be renowned to the ending of the world. I have no idea of our returning to our country except in the event of another conflict between the North & the South, which I fear will not come in my day, though come it certainly will. and for this reason I wrote in my last letter to Brother John that I wished one of Elizabeth's Boys some of Isabella's to be sent to a Military School ~~School~~ to have a first rate Military education. The expenses of which I would defray. Isabella does not seem disposed to send one of her Boys away from home & possibly she is right about it. You will see the letter which I have written her today on this subject. It was my intention to have left Europe for South America before this but I am detained here on account of Mr Davis confinement, and I shall not leave Europe until he is tried & if

liberated as I trust he will be, not until I can put myself in communication with him and learn his views for the future. Brother John continues to urge me to come back, but it is useless, I could not do so if I would, & I would not if I could. There are reasons which I cannot explain why I would not be pardoned even if I were to sue for it - which I shall never do. And if I had the means & Mother was willing to join me I would bring all of you who would come, away from the country, which can never again be a Home to us, such as it once was. But Mother's age would prevent her from coming even if she were willing & I do not wish any of you to leave her. At least not until she is again well fixed at Pascagoula, which I hope soon to hear that she is. I have today caused a credit to be opened for her with Mess A J Ingersoll Co for £131-19-1, which with the £200 last sent her & a like sum sent Taylor to enable him to join his Uncle James in the Lumber business, will enable brother James to put the place in good order & send Pink to School. In reference to the goods sent you by the "New Brunswick", I learn from a letter rec'd from Brother John that the ship had arrived

& ask Elizabeth to do the same. Copy

in the Bay on the 26th January, but that the goods had not at the date of his letter, 3 Feby, been delivered. From your letter as well as from Isabella's I infer that ~~that~~ the proposed business of Dress making &c is not at all agreeable to you & at which I am not surprised. But I was surprised when I learned from Elizabeth's letters which you sent me as well as one from her self that you had ever agreed to go into the business. I think I said in the letter where I sent you the invoices of the goods, "That if I were with you I should have objected to the business." And I do hope that you have not gone into anything evidently so disagreeable to you as this business, because you thought it might please me. My advice is that you should sell out your interest to Elizabeth or any other party who may be agreeable to her, but in selling be sure you sell to people that will pay you, as I shall be unable to help you any more for a long time to come. The goods were well selected & if they had arrived there towards the end of December instead of January, they ought to have paid a fine profit. After the duties are all paid and the goods are in Store send me a statement of what they stand in in Currency. Mr Armor can make up the acct for you. Isabella wrote me to make you a title for the House

When you write about the goods, be sure to send thanks to Mrs Brown for her trouble in selecting them

and Lot on the back side of the square on which she lives, which was then rented to a Mr Agnor But I have thought it - but that Isabella hereby should have this property & have instructed brother Tom to convey it to her - which I am sure you will prefer to having it yourself -

I have also sent Isabella a credit for £100 - This is the last money I can send to any of you for a long time - The next I send will be for Sister Mary to whom I am indebted about $4000 - I should have sent her some money before this, but I thought she was not so much in need of it as other members of the Family - But I have not forgotten her & was glad to receive her letter to brother John of the 20th Dec - which you sent me -

I note what you said about Capt Simms. he is a gallant strong man & one that I admire greatly - The story about his having money is ridiculous, I am sure he has nothing & greatly fear that his family will suffer while he is held in durance, I do not believe however, that he will be convicted - With much love to all of you am your brother C. J. McRae

To Catharine L McRae Esq