At my plantation near Sparta Ga
July 23rd/63.

Dear Bolling:

Your letter dated the 17th inst did not reach me until yesterday - after a lapse of five days. I was in Sparta myself when I received it (I have access to the Post Office every day) and there being a number of gentlemen present from different sections of the county I at once instituted extensive inquiry to ascertain if there was a place of the size - or approximating designated in your letter for sale in the county. They far I can hear of none. There was I understand a refugee from Savannah in Sparta a few days ago inquiring for land and he could hear of none for sale. For years there have been but few places for sale here of the size you mention. Such places are in the hands of a comparatively few who regarding themselves as fixtures here refuse to sell. There is almost all the time a number of small places from one to two or three hundred acres for sale owned by the poorer class who for different reasons wish to sell. The difficulty to get a place of the size you wish is greater now than ~~than~~ heretofore because land is the last property that owners wish to sell. I heard a gentleman say who lives

a few miles from me a few days ago that if he could get fifteen dollars per acre for his land he would sell. He has between 900 and 1000 acres and it is a capital place for this country much the largest portion of it being fresh. Such land would have sold before the war for eight or nine dollars per acre readily. I would have given that or more for it if I had wanted it then. I am to see him to morrow and I will then ascertain whether he is in the same mind in regard to the sale and price of his land. I think it almost certain however that he will back out for not of course at that time accepting your plan. I told him at the time he made the statement of his willingness to sell at that price that he would act unwisely to sell. I shall see him however providence permitting tomorrow and if he is still in the same mind I will promptly inform you. I would regard his place cheap for these times at $15 and it is near your minimum limit containing I think about 950 acres.

You did not state your object in desiring to make such a transaction. I infer that you design to secure the

land as a place of refuge in a given contingency.

I will make every effort to find out what can be done in furtherance of your views. I have requested several of my friends living in different parts of the county to make inquiry and report to me in a day or two. I think there would be no difficulty in getting a small place of three or four hundred acres - the difficulty is in finding any one holding as much or near as much as a thousand acres willing to sell, for such owners are the moneied men of this country. The lands here are in the hands of a comparatively few men.

You must write me again at once and be assured I will do my very best to further your plans. How delighted we all would be to have you in this country. My family are delighted with the idea already.

You ask me in regard to my faith as to our ultimate success in this national contest. I have never wavered from the first in my conviction that the Divine Providence was in this struggle and

that it was favorable to our success. I felt it at first; I feel it as much as ever to day.

Since writing the above I have seen the man alluded to above. He will I think not sell at $15 per acre but would perhaps at a higher figure. I have also seen a man near me who will sell a ~~thousand~~ thousand acres at a fair price I think though he has not yet informed me at what price. This thousand acres joins me. It is very much worn - much of it was originally strong land. There is some fine bottom on it now and some pretty good upland. It has a good house a number of Negro Houses stables and cribs and has ample accomodations in that respect - you could make a support for your negroes on it - it is however very much worn. It is a healthy place. What do you say? Can't you make a flying trip and see what you can do. I will do all I can for you and am subject to your commands. Write me or come forthwith. Yours truly and in haste

W. J. Samett

P. S. My family are all well.

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