Outaw Ala
Aug 23rd 1861

Col. L. W. Garrott
Dear Sir

I was very much surprised this morning when the "Whig & Observer" a newspaper published in this place, came out, ~~this~~ to print a notice of Capt. Watkins' Company in which it is stated "be understand that ten Companies had been offered on the same terms to be armed - before the Goys but were refused". From whom the Editor could understand such a thing I am at a loss to know. I immediately called on the Editor and told him that he had by this, placed you & Judge Pettus in a very awkard position before such of the Companies as had not been received and had placed me in very bad light before Col. Garrott & Judge Pettus. That he had by this stated what was untrue and I would like to know from whom he received his information. He stated that it was rumor and could not give any particular person. When I returned home I stated to the Company that there were about ten or fifteen Companies tendered without arms

before ours and that Judge Pettus refused to receive us at all without arms and that I afterwards through the kindness and influence of yourself & Judge Pettus succeeded in getting a promise from Gov Moore that he would give the Rifles which were at Cahaba to Judge Pettus and that I immediately went to Cahaba to see the Judge and he gave me an order in favor of Capt Watkins on the Governor for the Rifles and thereupon I tendered the Company to Moore and were received. I have written a note to the Editor which will appear in the next paper in which I have explained this matter. I am exceedingly mortified that such a thing should appear in a paper from this place and being very much out of humor, I told the Editor that I wished every Country Editor & Newspaper was sunk in the Ocean for they are the greatest curses that afflict a community. Every time this paper has in any way noticed our Company he has done something to injure us. He first called us the "Cant Getaways". I will write you again on the subject. Please write us what you are doing about terms for the other companies. I see that Col Watts from Montgomery is raising a regiment to be armed by the Confederate States. How is this? Your friend

T. S. Clark