

Jacksonville Fla Jan^y 22nd / 64

G. H. Watts Gov. of Ala

Dear sir

I appeal to you for help in a difficulty which perplexes & troubles me verry much. It is about sending a negro to Mobile. The one that I sent last year took the measles & died there & now every negro I have firmly believes that the one ^{that} goes this year will die in the same way. I have five men one of them is too old & another had Rheumatism & they other three have not had the Measels. & neither of the other three are willing to go because they think they would be sure to take the measles & die like their fellow servant last year - Now I believe the last of one of them will run away & perhaps go ^{to} the yankees if I attempt to force them to go to Mobile - And now I want to beg of you to allow me to pay something & be relieved from sending one - Does it not look very hard after I have sacrificed so much for Mobile, in losing there one of my best men, now to be made to lose all, or at least run the risk of losing all, for the same place, & be brought to the plow in my old age? And if I lose my negroes

I believe it will be a misfortune not only to my self but to my neighborhood for by the blessing of Providence upon my crops I have been enabled to supply a number of families with corn - In this portion of the State where there are so many destitute women & children & comparatively so few negro laborers we can but poorly afford to spare any of them. If I could hire a negro at any price to go to Mobile or if one of mine were willing to go I would not trouble ^{you} with this appeal - Please be so kind as to write to ^{me} immediately & let me know if I cannot be allowed to pay an equivalent in money -

Yours Respectfully
David Atkins

Jacksonville Ala
Calhoun County

David Atkins

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Ans. 26th no copy

The State is making
no impressments.

In case they are
being made by Conf-
ederate Authority the
Governor does not
interfere - He thinks
more hands are
needed in Mobile,

Ingenue into the justice
of the case, see that
it is made according
to law, and refer
your grievances to Conf-
ederate Authority
