

His Excellency

Chillicothe Station, Ala. Aug 6, 1864

G. H. Walls, Montgomery

Dear Sir, Altho' an exile from my home, on Big Black in  
Hills Co Miss, Edwards Depot N. O., yet I deemed it a duty  
to report myself to you on call, but I was unable. I have  
been a sufferer from Rheumatism since Oct 1823, at times  
not able to use my hands, again unable to start myself,  
again not able to walk, depending where the attack is. For  
the past 6 weeks or near it, I have suffered more to pain  
the pain in left hand, arm & shoulder, with my back at  
times, brought on by night land when I went to Miss, to  
& get out my logs that were saved from the Yankee <sup>troops</sup>  
The raid to Jackson can run off. I am as willing to do <sup>but</sup>  
as any man, but it would be nonsense for me to attempt  
making much exertion at any thing. I have to resort to some  
remedy sometimes daily. Have had to have plaster to  
my foot for 2 days this week & yesterday I was unable to  
ride in any thing. Any extra exertion or even an excite  
ment puts me flat on my back. In 61 I came to Mont  
going on a visit to an Priest, I am intimately acquainted  
with him, and offered myself & two or four good negro men  
or if he would let me go in a Hospital & act nurse, tho'  
I have a diploma as M.D. from the University of Bern, yet  
I did not dare think of any thing higher than nurse, as  
for 30 yrs I had been only a planter. I never I am unfit  
for any thing but to give directions on a farm, & to visit  
at my leisure my hands. This I have tried to do & never  
sold any thing - except brood stock - to any but an army  
of my products & never asked price before delivery.

I was one of the first advocates for Secession. Raised in  
So Carolina & my old schoolmates, & those of my associates  
there, such as —

Hannover, Haynes, Stilliard, Maxey Gugg &c &c were taught  
in the same school, tho' I am perhaps 2 yrs older than the  
eldest, may now near 59.

I have lost a little by this war, but Respected Sir, tho' I  
am too old to ever make another start, yet I glory in being  
able to say, I am willing to do all I can, tho' I am a Refu-  
gee I did not run from fight. I lived near Big Black  
Road bridge & my neighbors, were all pretty much  
ruined. No human can feel without seeing for himself  
what the the thieving war can do. In a condition not to  
bear up against misfortune, I have suffered more than when  
went to my home in 1831, poor & almost penniless.

My general health has improved, because I have been  
in house nearly all the time, not exposed, but I have suf-  
fered long from this attack than ever before.

I have often 2 or 3 times a week have to undergo a rub-  
bing in the man before I can get my clothes on & I have  
no doubt, that cold water every man is all that keeps me  
up now. One of my College mates is one of your citizens  
John A. Edmore, tho' I have called at his office 2 or 3 times  
have not seen him in over 30 yrs. George Hark & Dr Thos  
Tayler are boy friends. Dr Jos Tayler my Senior, I have  
known for 50 yrs. Gov Mann of Ga is down on Refugees  
I hope there are no Mississippians among them. I would pre-  
fer to go in front on hands & feet than have my adopted  
state be under ban, by my being recant.

If I can serve our glorious cause at all, it is at hand,  
& I am trying all I know how. I have no disposition, but  
to feed & clothe those in my care, with Great Respect  
I am profoundly Yrs. M. W. Phillips.

Perhaps you may have read of me } of Edwards Miss  
& Long Hill, Miss. will give you remembrance.