

Cutaw. Ala. Sept. 21st 1859

To His Excellency
Gov. Andrew B. Moore.

Sir:

At the last term of the Circuit Court of this (Green) County, Mr. Martin the Solicitor of this Circuit being absent, I was appointed by the Court act as Solicitor for the term. During the term Mr. James G. Y. Raynes was tried and convicted on two indictments for selling or giving liquor to a slave. In one case he was fined \$75.⁰⁰ and in the other \$95.⁰⁰. Since then facts have come to my knowledge which induced me to fear lest injustice may have been done to Mr. Raynes, and I feel it to be my duty to ~~the~~ lay the matter before you who alone has the power to relieve him.

The facts of both cases are these: There was but one witness against him, & from his own testimony it appears that he was unfriendly to the Defendant. He testified that he saw Defendant give a negro named Adam, then under the control of Mrs. Smartman, on two occasions a glass, or drink of whiskey. On the trial the Defendant introduced in evidence a written order from Mrs. Smartman to him authorizing him to let Adam the slave have liquor in quantities from a quart to a gallon from the 1st of July to the 1st of January. Mrs. Smartman lived within a short distance of Defendant's store, & this man Adam was permitted by her to do small

jobs for Defendant. The giving as testified by the witness
was within the times specified by the order. Of course the
order was insufficient in law to protect him; but he drew
the order himself at Mr. P.'s request & thought he was acting
in conformity to law to let the slave have liquor under
it. The Defendant tells me that the witness never did
see him give the liquor; but he admits that he has at
various times given him, but never sold him, spirits
& that he did it without concealment & with the full knowl-
edge & approbation of his mistress, & under the honest
impression that he was violating no law.

I enclose a letter from J. P. Dinecor
Esq. the attorney of Mr. Raynes, & a respectable gentleman,
& also a letter from ~~James Collins~~ ~~James Collins~~ ~~James Collins~~ ~~James Collins~~
of revenue in this County, & a gentleman of the highest
character endorsing the veracity & character of Mr. Raynes.
Both of these gentlemen are slaveholders & near neigh-
bors of Mr. Raynes.

If these facts commend Mr. Raynes
to your clemency, the exercise of it in his case would
excite no dissatisfaction.

The fines will have to be paid by the
1st Monday of October.

I have the honor to be
Your Obedt. Servt.
Thos. W. Hendon