

Columbia S.C.
20 April 1865.

My Dear Sir

I wrote you from Newberry that I would leave yesterday for this place which I reached last evening expecting to start for Sumter this morning. On going to Col Rudlers office I was advised that the Flats had been burned, so that it was impossible to cross the River and that fighting was then going on and it was impossible to get there. This morning I have again been to Genl Butler who informs me that any Expedition thither is useless - that a telegram has just been received by Genl Lovell from Genl Beauregard announcing the surrender of Genl Lees Army and the cessation of hostilities, not to be resumed on either side without forty eight hours notice, & Couriers are now being despatched to that effect. We have no particulars - I shall now go on to my children & report to you again as soon as I can -

Very Respectfully &c
J. G. Magrath

His Excellency
J. G. Magrath -

I write at the RR Office. WJ with me & well.