

Columbia March 2nd 1868

Gov Magrath

My Dear Sir

I This day receive yours of the 26th of Feb, It is with great grief that I communicate our terrible calamity, at least four fifths of our City is in ashes, very little of the valuable part left, with the destruction of ^{our} houses, the vandals destroyed ^{near} all the furniture & nearly all the provisions, they could not carry off. — When the enemy left us, with a view to white wash their savageness, they left us five hundred head of Cattle, the Cattle was so poor that they could not drive them off. They are dying daily on our hands, what wheat that was left in one Mill that was not burnt, we are grinding & dividing amongst our people (with the poor Cattle) — We are building flats on the Congaree & broad rivers & look to the up Country people to help us, — The negroes of our City are now brought to tolerable subordination by rigid discipline but there is great complaint of them in the Country particularly in the fork of this district, we want a Cavalry force to scour through this district, & shoot a few negroes & put them to work, on some plantations they refuse to go to work, I am told that there is a Cavalry force of 52 men on the other side of the river, if so, as soon as we can get them across, we will send them out through the
District

Thank you that when you heard of our distress
that you ~~would~~^{would} from your heart sympathize with
us, we have been truly badly & cruelly treated, by a lying
& savage foe, they promised perfect protection ^{to} ~~to~~
to all private property & persons, - when it can be proved
that they contemplated our utter destruction weeks
before they came here, excuse my nervous & hurried
letter & believe me yours truly
with great respect
T. D. Gordon
Major

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We are now feeding seven thousand people by daily
rations that have nothing themselves, I have just been
notified by the Physician of the Asylum that he
will have to draw tomorrow for that Institution
T. D. G.