

Greenville Ct
March 8th '63

Genl Magrath,
Spartanburg
My dear Sir,

I arrived here last night for the purpose of advising with Col Baze on a plan of procuring & shipping supplies to Newberry consigned to Mr. Robson.

Edging has been placed in charge of Abbeville Dist & is doing well, there are now provisions along the RR waiting transportation. It is impossible for us to get wagons & haul from Newberry to the River. If we have to depend on that means of transportation, the unfortunate people of Columbia must starve.

The Greenville Road can only go to Columbia but Mr. Perrin the Recd says if he can get from you the authority to impress fifty hands he will so repair the Road in two weeks, as he sends his trains down to

bank of Broad River. The repair of this Road is essential, for we must rely on the River transportation to supply Columbia & cut loose from wagons & mules. I trust this view will meet your approval & the authority be given Mr. Penn to carry out his plan of reconstructing that short distance.

I wish it clearly known that supplies are on hand for the people of Columbia, if they are not rec'd. The Dept charged with the transportation should use every effort to ship it once, & to bear in mind our efforts are paralyzed by want of carriage.

Another point to which I would direct your attention is, that which we have on hand now has been given, we must ^{not} go before the people ~~other~~ with promises, for no money has been placed at our disposal. The day of appeals & receipts to be paid on presentation has passed, & the money should be given out when the supplies are turned over to ensure

the confidence of the community - There
is, I am sorry to say, in some cases invec-
tive used that all work being done for
those desolated by Sherman's marches, & the
importance of this great public demand
on private charity is so essential, that
if coin could be had with which to
purchase supplies, much greater success
may be met with - The farmers know
there is nothing in the country to be bought
in that case money has no exchangeable
value, & its purpose as money destroyed, so
the result must be had of gold if we
can get it; the Banks turned over some
(I heard) to purchase horses, this could
be much more judiciously used in
feeding seven thousand people -

It would not be a bad idea if Col:
Stonewall ordered at least ten substantial
boats to be built up once, & have two
 crews detailed, & his transportation in
perfect order -

The general direction I have given Col:
Caldwell if carried out there can be
no excuse for Columbia's suffering

I have sent an agent to Sumter, & will go myself to Columbia the early part of next week on my way to the neighborhood of Charleston, but I see clearly we can only rely on the Railways & the districts along these lines. I will establish an agency in Laurens.

I have spoken freely with Capt. Chase about my plans, & I think that my hurried writing has escaped me, he will supply.

I am glad to see Col. Caldwell & Col. Howe are to be at Newberry, for being at a central point, I can be more easily confer with them. I will be there myself on Friday & Saturday -

with great respect

John H. Mitchell
Major & C.