

Columbia
March 6th 1865
To His Excellency Gov. A.G. Magrath
Governor State South Carolina
Governor

I arrived here last night and after conversing with several gentlemen I have concluded that the disturbance among the negroes in the Fork has pretty much subsided—I saw Mr. Albert Elmore who is company with several other young men had visited the Fork for the purpose doing what they could to bring the negro to proper subjections—In every instance they found them easily intimidated and no serious disturbance among them—In fact from all that I can gather no worse state of things exist than in my past experience I have observed other states whilst the enemy were near at hand—Col Goodwin thinks that it is highly important for one company to visit Mr Trenholms place and says there will be no difficulty about porage for the horses, which I had apprehended would be a serious matter—I hear that Capt Percevals company is at Aiken I will start for that point in a few moments and will send him on immediately—I can not hear of Capt Brabhams company but will hunt them up & send them either to Orangeburg or Barnwell or Beaufort district as they may be most-needed—I learn there has been some trouble in St. Mathews Parish but not amounting to any thing serious so far as I have been informed—If the owners of hundreds of negroes that I see strolling through the streets here could be induced to make some disposition of them or if they could be employed it would benefit the idlus and induce these who are now compelled to serve those owners to do so more cheerfully—The idlus here are quiet but I expect very much in the way—I have not a doubt that in every neighborhood such citizens as are at home can assist a great deal in restoring order & discipline among the slaves and such as are away could be at this time very useful if it is in their power to return to their plantations—I will endeavor to carry out your wishes as quickly as possible—Very respectfully

J.V. Marbre [?]

N.B

I think the greatest difficulty with Mr Trenholms negroes is that they don't want to go to work again