

[?] 5 Batt S.C.R.
Prison near Florence, SC
January 3rd 1865

Governor McGraw—Dear Sir

I have the honor to draft a few lines to you to inform you that I belong to the reserve forces of the State Co. E. 5 Batt. That I am the owner of several slaves planting in Lancaster Dist. S.C. That my family consists of a mother [?] seventy five years old and six small children (My wife having died two years ago) when I went into service last September. I had a man employed who belonged to the supporting forces to attend to my plantation and a protector to my infirm mother and small children and who had always been exempted by medical board as unfit for military service. He is a splendid manager among slaves. My plantation is surrounded by several large plantations of slaves upon which are very few white persons. I could have “greased out” myself. But that I declined to do from the fact that our struggling and bleeding country needed every effective man that could be brought to the field. If your honor thinks it will not be incompatible with the cause we espouse. I respectfully ask you to have this man Mr. A.T. Hebbert [?] exempted from the supporting forces. I think he will not only be of value to me individually; But to the surrounding neighborhood at large. If you can and will have this lad [?] A.T. Hebbert exempted for the purpose above mentioned you will please forward the papers to me at Florence Company E. 5th Batt. S.C.R.

Thanks the honor to be your humble servant [?]
Joseph A. Cunningham