

[Tarboro, N. C.]

Memphis July 8th 1867

Dear Saml Esq.

Dear Sir

As I am entirely out of money, and in need of several things, I cannot get without paying Cash. I am in much ⁱⁿ need of some summer clothing, shoes, sugar & coffee & such like, you ^{will} please send me one hundred dollars, as that will square us on the Board line. I would not ask you for it, but stern necessity compels me, you ^{will} please get Mr Parker, to send me a check on Planting Richmond or Baltimore, please give this your earliest attention and you will greatly oblige me.

We have had awfully hot times, and we are now having a pretty wet spell. Cotton is my backbone, and small, and a good deal lost by frosts. I have never seen any thing like it. My cotton crop is pretty fair one for the season. I am now getting out of the grove, but if it was not for the height of the cotton I do not think I could save it. About 3/4 of my crop is a good stand the balance, very bad. I have only 130 acres. I have a plenty of blooms, the first I saw was on the 1st of July. The cotton crop as far as I have seen is about the poorest I ever saw.

The Corn like it has been worked is fine. My corn is late and small, all bottom, and it kept so wet I could not plant early, but if we have the season I am not afraid of not making corn.

Memphis is a dull place, little or no business doing, god May hours shut up, and a plenty

of Hares for seed. Corn is pretty high for this place
1.15 to 1.20 p. Bushel, in my neighborhood. It is
made in plenty & cheap.

Called the Scrapper in Do you use the plow
called the Scrapper in your County. It is the greatest
plow I ever saw for Grass. Does beautiful work.
This is one patented this year. That is meeting with
great success. If they are not using them in your
County I have a notion of buying the rights for two or three Counties.
It is exactly the plow for your County. They use
a Cotton planter in this County. That does its work
splendidly and easily managed. and can be fixed
to plant Corn from 18 inches to 4 feet apart in drill
or drill it. and plants precisely in drill.

Write me what you think I could do with
them in your section of County. I can buy the
rights very cheap. My hands are working tolerable
well. My health is good. I should like very much
to come out this summer but could not be able
to do so. as I have no person living with me. so I am
almost compelled to stay at home. Write soon.

Remember me to all and all the family

I am Yours Truly
W. A. Stearns