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CHAPEL HILL, N. C., Jan. 29 1891.

Dear Col. Carr:

I have just discovered that a letter which I sent you near two weeks since was allowed by mistake to go to Sparta (Ashe Co.) instead of Old Sparta. However it contained nothing of importance - and was written only to tell you of my safe return to Chapel Hill, and to say that many a time since I left your pleasant home have

I wished that I might find such a place for a few days rest on all my geological excursions.

Since I returned to Chapel Hill I have had occasion to look into the work that other states are now doing in the way of having their mineral resources explored & developed, and how as a result capital is pouring into these states. and in this connection I have taken occasion to look into what North Carolina is neglecting to do, and how as a result capital is passing around & across her borders

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into other states.

So deeply impressed am I  
by these facts that I have felt  
it my duty to go to Raleigh  
to talk with prominent mem-  
bers of the legislature about  
the importance of reestablish-  
ing on a substantial basis  
the state biological survey.  
I am led to think that there  
is ground for encourage-  
ment as some other peo-  
ple seem to take my view  
of the matter as correct;  
and in a week or ten days

I am to appear before  
 The Senate & House Committees  
 by invitation, and lay before  
 them my opinion & the  
 facts upon which it is  
 based. Tomorrow night  
 I am going to Washington, to  
 see to what extent The U.S.  
 Geological Survey will coope-  
 rate with the state survey,  
 should the latter be estab-  
 lished.

There can be no doubt  
 but that Prof. Norris's survey  
 brought several millions of  
 dollars into the state in the  
 way of investments in mineral  
 lands & farms &c.; and these



is no doubt in my mind but  
that a new more thor-  
ough survey of our agri-  
cultural & mineral resour-  
ces, with the results pub-  
lished in annual state  
reports, will bring, in  
the near future, an equal  
amount or even a larger  
amount of capital into the  
state. In the general  
movement of capital south-  
ward. North Carolina need  
never expect to get her share,  
however, unless she explores

advertises her resources more thoroughly.

Prof. Kern's work was done as best it could be under the circumstances; but he undertook so much, that the geological part of his work was necessarily superficial. And consequently while we can now say to investors, we have kaolin, iron ores, here there, marble & limestone, & slate &c &c, ~~but~~ when we are asked as to the depth & breadth, and quantity of the material we are unable to say. In other words our information is

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inadequate for the purpose,  
and beside the reports are  
out of print, not to be  
had for love nor money.  
Hence the reestablish-  
ment of the Geological sur-  
vey with a view to a  
more thorough examina-  
tion of the Mineral wealth  
of the Western & Midland counties,  
and of the soils (or agricultural  
resources) of the eastern (and  
also the other-mid & Western)  
regions seems to me a

measure of great importance <sup>(5)</sup>  
to the state.

If you agree with <sup>me</sup> as to  
this I will glad to have the  
benefit of your cooperation  
in trying to get the legislature  
to see the importance of the  
matter. I believe the meas-  
ure will go through, and  
will be a popular one in  
the state, but the passage  
of the measure may be  
defeated by the fact that  
there are many members  
who do not appreciate its  
importance in full, and now  
hesitate because nothing was



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said about the measure before or after the election, by the people at home. Several of the farmers Alliance members spoke quite favorably about the measure - as one in which every land holder would take an interest.

Now I will only add that I must beg to offer the importance of the measure as my apology for this long letter with which I am to trouble you, knowing that you take a deep interest in everything

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pertaining to the industrial  
development of our state.

With compliments to your-  
self & household, I remain,

Yours very truly  
J. Holmes