

Baltimore N. C.

May 25<sup>th</sup> 1892

Col. Elias, Rear

Old Sparta

N. C.

Dear Sir,

No

don't you have received many  
letters of congratulation in  
the past few days and I  
am pretty well assured that  
you are, to a very great extent  
acquainted with the whole thing,  
but I will try and soften down  
your feelings a little, at least  
I will make the attempt. If  
I could control the pen like  
Dorsey Bull or our friend  
Blount of Wilson, I could

fill up this letter with a lot of stuff that might fool you or make me think that I had accomplished something, but I feel that I know you so well that you would like to read something that is "home spun" & comes from "old Joe" well I think this will do for the preliminary, so 'here goes':

The news we received from Raleigh last week was very gratifying to us, yes, it was even more so, from the fact, that this departure from the old custom was something new to us, I believe, sir, that this is the first time I ever knew the office of Governor to go to the man, entirely unthought, by him

and I want to tender you  
 the congratulations of an old  
 friend, I believe <sup>it</sup> ~~is~~ is useless to  
 tell you this for you already  
 know it. but I think the people  
 of N. C. ought to congratulate  
 themselves in having selected  
 such a man to lead them  
 & direct the affairs of state  
 for them. none of this is intend-  
 ed for flattery but is the  
 solid truth for I intend it  
 as such. I am satisfied  
 that many of <sup>the</sup> letters that you  
 are daily receiving are filled  
 up with Burcombe & other  
 want Office or your influence  
 for some thing. Still so I don't  
 want anything in that line.  
 A few years ago my political  
 ambition aimed such a set  
 back that I have scarcely

rescued from it, I will re-  
 late the circumstance to you  
 The great and honorable  
 Board of Road supervisors  
 of Township No 7 of Edgemoor  
 Co. called me from my fire  
side to run my county in  
 the capacity of road overseer.  
 I did not seek the office &  
 it was a little surprise to  
 me when the officer handed  
 me my commission. I, like  
 you, felt that any man  
 could something to the public  
 so I accepted the trust,  
 & told them that I would  
 supercede the Banner & carry  
 it to the front or I would  
 lay out in the attempt.

A few months rolled over my  
 head & the same officer  
 called upon me & requested

my presence before that  
 "August Assemblage". I  
 can imagine my surprise, after  
 having so faithfully promised  
 to discharge my duty, to  
 be told that I had failed.  
 The old saying "that missing  
 law company" was fully justified  
 as there was a dozen more  
 in the same predicament.  
 They charge me, as well as  
 the rest of the poor devils,  
 with having failed to make  
 a full written report of my  
 work twice a year as the law  
 requires, we all pleaded guilty  
 to the charge. They "jerked us  
 around" to the tune of \$13<sup>00</sup>  
 apiece and requested us to

disposit that amount with the  
 proper officer, since that occur-  
 red I have not had any  
 saying for officer, my patriot-  
 ism his kind of cool down  
 I make this explanation to  
 convince you that my  
 wishes for you success is  
 purely sincere, and truly  
 it will probably answer you  
 to read this at least for  
 the time being. I have written  
 enough nonsense & will close  
 my letter by wishing you  
 all the success you desire &  
 it will give me very great  
 pleasure to vote for you  
 early & late and as often  
 as the law will allow.  
 Accept this letter as it is  
 intended, to congratulate you and  
 at the same time to answer you.

Yours friend

Joe W Powell