

[Elias Carr Jr. Old Sparta, NC.]

W. K. CARR,  
1008 F St., N. W.

Washington, D. C., Dec 21 1899

Dear Elias:

Yours duly recd. Am glad to hear that Wash has settled for the peanuts, went to see Wade, he had sold all the pine, at least 3 boxes of it were still on hand, these two had been sold, but the man had not yet called for it, In answer to my repeated inquiries if the business at home is being straightened out they answer "no", & add that they know nothing whatever about it, This, I imagine, is perfectly true, You, up to this time, have

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managed affairs, so far as I know exclusively, you therefore know the true status, & therefore I have appealed to you to aid them. Suppose, for instance, you left tomorrow, would the books show to what extent every hand in the place had been paid up, & suppose they did, would father or any body in the house understand it? If they did not, you can see in what a position you would place them. You stated in one of your letters some time ago that you would give them all the information you could, & you might have done so, but evidently they have not understood it. The whole thing has worried me beyond measure, but I release as a

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sensible man, & so must you,  
that every business matter or  
series of business matters  
must be settled sooner or later,  
& the longer they are deferred  
the more serious the complica-  
tions, I can see at first to  
spare the time & go to B., &  
try to straighten things out,  
but I see no other course  
open, I have certainly tried  
hard to be perfectly open  
& candid with you & I want  
you to do likewise with me.  
What then is the trouble, are  
the books in such a state  
that you can not understand

them? If so, let me know, & I will bring out Mr Member an expert accountant, & we will go over them together, you must realize, as I said before, that things have got to <sup>be</sup> put in shape, if not, they will put themselves in shape, & the sooner we set to work the better, advise me therefore if you can unfasten the books, if not, then as I said, I will take Member out with me, & you, he & I can scrub less straighten them out, & if they show no record of outstanding accts, & they are not recalled, I can insert an advertisement in the county paper calling for them, & the circumstances under which they were contacted, if these two

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can not be recalled. Advise  
me immediately, in regard  
to this, because as you will  
see there is much to be done,  
if the various checks, orders etc  
can not be found at home,  
then we can get a receipt  
of many of them from the  
bank & by advertising, but this  
will require some time, there-  
fore the sooner we can get  
at it the better,

Mattie & Bruce join me in love  
affly.

Button.

This is the best plan I know

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of, & the one usually pursued,  
but if you can suggest a  
better one, do so & I will  
gladly follow it, I know  
you are as anxious to put  
them straight as I am, & there-  
fore any plan that you will  
suggest which will short cut  
the work or lighten the labor  
in the least will be duly  
appreciated & acted upon.