

[To: Handy Mitchell, New Bern]

Middleton N.C.

April 14 1896

My friend, I am glad to hear from you  
a few lines of your letter to let  
me hear from you I am glad at  
present and I hope when this  
few lines reach you they may  
find you well and doing the same  
I receive your kind and welcome  
letter and was glad to hear from you  
that you was so well and fat as  
you are my most Rec. of course  
I hope to hear so much as you do  
I do not suppose that I can get my arms  
around your shoulders now to give a

Pissone  
a long  
man  
gives  
so fast  
all this  
time  
Rat  
and  
found  
to hear  
that

my a so good of in health and are all  
right now I am a slave to tell you  
what I do pay Bill tell me just  
the same I was a 190 left I lost  
of each I mean that you have felt  
me of and run a way with me now  
I am still here in Middle town I met  
a while Rat it is a bit lonely here and  
hot as if it was June and dry and  
sandy and dusty as if I were  
with the red clay till I hate to  
go out any place unless I ride  
out I don't like Perry and Pit  
my friend I will be glad to see  
the photograph as you think it will  
surprise me I don't think that I will  
leave you so well as if you had my  
master long I like it Peter that  
I think I think Rat don't you self and  
I will be pleased with it all day  
Rat send it soon as you get it



I think I would like to see you  
 man my self I'm sure my love to  
 all you said that you thought you  
 would give of have a given you did not  
 whether you was given this <sup>any</sup> and  
~~not~~ perhaps you will like it all  
 right man what did you give  
 with the horse that you bought  
 at Kemper, I will have to close  
 now I will have to say like you  
 said I would like to see you very  
 much man Rat I don't want what  
 to say a Rat it hardly so I will  
 say it over till the next time  
 I have lots to say to you Rat I don't  
 I say things just now so this is  
 all now from a true friend  
 until death Susan & Jane  
 to hands Mitchell Pitt Sam  
 to you lovely Darling send you  
 letters to Elizabeth & I Box No  
 2 the Douglass Street

