

"Buxton Place"

11<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1874.

Dr. Elias

I have <sup>been</sup> anxious to write to you for some time to acknowledge the receipt of the highly prized Xmas present, and to thank you for the same. They were surely appreciated and enjoyed, and particularly at that time, for just before then, my right fore finger, from a cause so slight, that I cannot remember, became inflamed, and one of the <sup>most</sup> painful sores, imaginable, for weeks I suffered awfully, ~~for days~~ could take no rest - night or day - poulticing almost every hour. It is now nearly well, and this is among the first letters I have written since the middle of Dec. - you may be sure, I feel thankful to be freed from poultices, and to resume the use of my right hand - But enough of this -

Hope by this time, you have made your arrangements for the year. and have gone regularly to work, very little has been done in this neighborhood, negroes very indifferent about bargaining, and not disposed to work after they do bargain - but you know we are slow people - I learned through Mr. Parker that you made a good crop which I was pleased to learn - but knowing your plantation and management might <sup>have</sup> reasonably calculated upon such a result - for I hold, that in any avocation of life, if a man is at all suited to his business, and prosecutes it with energy and determination, he will almost invariably succeed.

Gov. Alfred Atton, came in while we were at supper to-night from Warrington - I mentioned that I intended to write to-night - He says "tell Elias W. Kearney <sup>health</sup> is better, also tell him I don't know what I would have done, without that Coat he gave, it is true, it was a little small, but it does first rate" - That brings to mind my suits they fitted admirably well - must thank you for the part you performed both in

giving and measuring - don't think, I would <sup>have</sup> secured a better "fit" had I been measured by the Sailor himself

I intended to visit James ~~Mason~~ this month. but was prevented by my hands until this time, and now can't leave home with any kind of convenience, if I go at all it will <sup>be</sup> after my crop is made, in the summer, a very unpleasant time - I am anxious to see him, and his children, and besides having some old claims due me out there, might possibly secure something - Without going, there is no possibility of ever getting a cent -

The Bonds are out of date, if I get no money, might make a compromise, and after a long time, might get something, could I, by any means get 1/20. should be amply compensated for the Trip - My kindest regards to you wife & tell her, that her sisters & families in this neighborhood are all well -

My wife desires to be remembered to you and Ell, not forgetting the Boys. I remain your affectionate Uncle J. Buxton Williams