

Thos. N. Battle,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

Rocky Mount, N. C., Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 1889

Elias Carr Esq.

Old Sparta, N. C.

Dear Colonel:

I enclose three more notes for the Mills. It takes so long to get the notes round to the directors that we thought best to have these fixed up in readiness. Please sign and get Mr. Farrar to sign and send to me. The other notes certainly looked well with Mr. Cameron's name. Allen Ruffin thought best not to ask him to sign these which will be discounted at 6% but hold him in reserve for

5% which rate we think we  
can get when the market  
gets a little easier.

I have received the card  
inviting me to be present at the  
meeting to be held Wednesday, but  
I am sorry to say that I cannot  
attend. I will have to be at  
Wash Court Monday and Tuesday  
and important matters are so  
pressing that I cannot possibly  
leave Wednesday. I feel the  
deepest interest in the movement  
and wish very much I could be  
present. Words cannot express  
my feelings in regard to the  
crisis that seems to be impending.  
This seems to be a blight and a  
curse inflicted on us by the  
powers above and what the  
outcome is to be Heaven only  
knows.

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The winter of '89 will go down  
through the next generation as  
a time of general ruin and destruction  
— the equal of which was never  
known. No one knows ~~for~~ how  
fully I realize the situation and  
how fervently I hope and pray  
that our farmers and our business  
men and our institutions may succeed  
in weathering the storm.

I look forward with interest to  
the result of the meeting and  
trust that it will be productive  
of much good. If my name  
is mentioned as manager of our  
Bank I wish you would say  
that my heart is with the

people of Edgercombe in this our  
hour of great affliction and I  
would it were in my power  
to help. So far as (in me lies  
I will do all I can to ease our  
people over the coming year  
And I speak from the bottom  
of my heart for, as you know,  
all my own little accumulations,  
all my interests, and all my  
future and all the property  
of my family are right here  
and are suffering as much as  
any one. It will require all  
my energies and skill, and  
more too I fear, to attend  
to the various interests I am  
responsible for. Some might think  
that I might induce Mr. Westray  
to take the lead in coming to  
the people's relief but you  
know him well enough to

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understand that such is not possible. ~~We wish~~ You know his peculiarities, his excessive caution and distrust and I know that his confidence in me is due largely to the fact that I never try to involve him in anything.

My own matters require my constant presence and care or I would be with you at the meeting. Every moment I am away I feel that the gaps are down in my fence and some danger is stealing in.

With the best of wishes,  
Thos. H. Battle