

Greenville N.C.

Nov 25th 1889.

Elias Law Esq.

Spauld N.C.

My Dear Sir.

I hasten to express my regret that I was disappointed yesterday in making you the contemplated visit. It was indeed a great disappointment to both Col Skinner and myself; and we tried to overcome the difficulties in the way but failed. One of Col Skinner's horses was away but we confidently expected him back on Saturday and because of this expectation we made no arrangement to supply his place. When we found yesterday morning that he had not returned we

went to all the livery stables in town to try to get one but they were all engaged or unfit for service. We finally got a young horse and put him to the carriage and started but we soon found it was impossible to drive him and we had to take him out to keep from being torn up. So we had to abandon the effort and give up the pleasure of the visit. I was disappointed not only on account of being cut off from the social enjoyment but also account of being deprived of having a comparison of views with you on the situation in eastern North Carolina.

If eastern North Carolina ever has any prosperity it must be dug out of the soil by those engaged in tilling the soil. We

have no mineral wealth and our factory interest, though important in itself, is of little consequence when considered in connection with the great mass of people or in comparison with Agriculture. The land is worth nothing without labor to cultivate it. Then the men who dig in the soil are important factors in the prosperity of our sections of the state and this is true whether the digger be a black man or a white man. The white man, as a general thing, is the land owner and the black man is the digger. Then the white man, the land owner, and the black man, the laborer, must work together or our section of the state can never prosper. I made a study of this question in the winter of 78-79. when the gran responsibilities

The Governor Office fell upon me.
and I did all in my power to
make the negroes contented and
good Citizens. I tried to bring the
two races nearer together in the
confidence and good will that
must exist between landlord
and tenant if there is to be
prosperity and contentment.
As to social equality that ~~is~~
has never given me any con-
cern because I did not and do
not believe it possible. Nor
have I believed that the man
was acting for the best interest
of the State whose course tended
to break down the good will
and confidence between the
White man and the Negro,
between the land owner and

The laborer. Every year of my
observation convinces me that
I was right in the course
I pursued while Governor al-
though there are many who
differ with me and some who
denounce me for it. Our lands
have not received that amount
of labor and attention necessary
to keep them up and when
a year like this comes they
yield nothing. The negro
having been driven further away
from the white man tries to see
how little work he can do on
the white man's land. Of course
there are many exceptions to this
but in many cases it is true.
The land owner is deeply interested
in the contentment and comfort of

of the tenants. Can it be truthfully said that all of our land owners have done their full duty in looking after the morals, the comfort, the habits and the general welfare of their tenants. I fear not.

Could the Farmers Alliance, the great farmers organization of which you are the head, take hold of a more important question than this. Land and Labor, according to my notion, is the burning question with the people of eastern North Carolina. It is the question with which the farmer must deal day by day and as he prospers so the rest of us will prosper, and we are all to be affected by his solution of this burning question. I believe the farmers have

some confidence in my good will if not in my judgment and I sometimes feel half inclined to address them on this subject. My speech at Edenton was on this line but it was, like all speeches delivered at Fairs, delivered to a crowd that want to see and not to hear. I have had, however, many pleasant words said about it. I have an earnest desire to see my section of the State prosper and I have strong convictions as to the sources to which we are to ~~look~~ ^{look} for that prosperity.

All which I am sure I only intended to write a brief note of regret and here I am going on with a long letter. I must ask your pardon and to ask you to attribute it to my zeal for the good of our section.

of our dear old State.

I shall hope to have the
pleasure of a chat with you
at no distant day.

I am with high regards
Most truly Yours
J. A. J. Jarvis