

Newbern, N. C.
January 14th 1895.

Dear Governor;

Time in its rapid flight has placed four weeks between us since we said to you, advised, though to me it, even, seems longer as I have drifted about some since then - away from home -

But, permit ^{me} to say, & I would have said it before if I had been in Newbern, that I read Your Excellency's Message to the Legislature with the greatest interest & satisfaction. However, the reflections, the inclusions, the statements, the morals, the patriotism, of this admirable paper was just what I anticipated would come from the lips of your fingers; and I am only too sorry there is not much probability of its reaching a Legislature that is sufficiently just & elevated to take the advantage of the knowledge imparted & follow your advice & suggestions.

I like the style its simplicity makes the message so plain that the poorest & Citizen could understand it - Yes, it proves to our people generally, whether it does to the Legislature or not, that your mind is richly stored with every species of information that could in every possible way benefit them - Excuse me, will you? & I will promise not to soon trespass in this way again, nor if you please, a word for the Madam - Be assured it pleased me much to receive her very kind note on the subject of the Oysters, though in fact, I do not think as to quality, the size I mean, would do for a Newbern Man to boast of - Having seen Charlie Bruce Cox in view, when the order was given, Crabs were the chief object in the selection; and, let me tell you, they are found, miserably, as those in the natural beds in Salt water

for instance I have about Portmouth
 N. B. my daughter Bessie, Mrs. Clara
 packed them & her husband, if her father
 does not, brings in her skill in that way.
 Be that as it may, the boys did not suit
 me, & when the selection is made again
 I will do it myself & move to Yonkers
 & Mrs. Carr what we can do in the
 Oyster line: And, if the salt water
 will produce them, Miss Annie Bruce
 shall have the Crows, & Miss Eleanor -
 well, never mind, I have a handsome
 Oyster young scuttum on hand it is not
 Martin Dalton "You bet" - though the
 latter died with us to-day & after words
 left to attend a party, Miss Annie Bruce
 listen, at Miss Mary Mayters, do he is
 not "kicked" yet, and he unites with me
 in presenting our best respects to Mrs. Carr,
 Miss Carr, Miss Annie Bruce Carr, & Mr. Carr;
 and my own individual & separate love to Miss
 Mary Davis, if with you & if not you are the lover

by it, which I know you are to fallant
to deny, and be assured of the
constant esteem & regard of your
friend and most obedient servant,
John D. Whifford,

His Excellency,
Gov. Connor,
Raleigh, N.C.,

John D. Whifford