

March 30th. 1896.

J. O. M. Gordon Esq.,

Wilmington, Ga.,

Dear Sir:-

Your second request for letter to Mr. H. K. Gardner, makes it embarrassing for me and must make it doubly so for you. You should not have referred to me without first informing me that you so intended. The fact that no answer being obtained to the first request should have been accepted without further pressing the matter.

My position as a public officer and yours as a private citizen are entirely different. Should I endorse you I am to a certain extent saying to the people of Georgia, "here is a man you can put implicit trust in, he will take care of any thing you may see fit to intrust him with". Now, you have been away from North Carolina, if my memory serves me correctly, about 15 years. Men can and do change in that length of time, and if I was contemplating forming a business connection with you, before doing so I should certainly make inquiry into your Georgia antecedents. Hence, before recommending you, now, I should first require recommendation myself.

Without further comment I must, as much as I dislike not to be accommodating, decline to write the letter to Mr. Gardner. Very truly yours,

*Chas. L. ...*