



This transcription is property of the Chattanooga History Center.

2011.036.004 transcription

Washington City

8th January 1845

My Dear Brother

Your form(?) of the 29th (???) has been received, and as I desire to encourage you correspondence, I have determined to give you an early reply. I am sorry to see that you are so disheartened(?) on the results of the late Presidential election__ you are certainly mistaken as to the effect ^that will be (???) ^ on our (???) trail interest__ The country will grow, enlarge + (???) under any and all administrations, (???) if I am not to deceive myself, more lasting, substantial, and permanent prosperity , will be the result of the adoption of all the measures proposed by the Democratic party__ We are opposed (???) toa all (???) of Debts public and private, and consequently are opposed to the Bankrupt Law , a violating the Constitution and the right of (???) under private contracts. We oppose National Banks, because it is a monopoly, authorizing(?) a few(?) individuals to barrow(?) their (???) , (???) (???), and (???) large profits from the labor and industry of the mass of the community--- it stimulates and encourages reckless speculation, and renders(?) honest labor and industry disreputable and (???) as (???) It gives to a few individuals the power(?) of making the price(?) of property high or low as suits their own(?) interest and convenience, and annihilate every vestige of solid prosperity__ This bloated credit system will not do, it may for a time sustain its (???) and families(?), but the day of settlement will arrive at last, and when that day does arrive, happy the man who may be able to stand the shock__ I sheak(?) from(?) some(?) little(?) experience(?), and I know and feel that this is an erroneous system , and such it is the hobey(?) of whig measures(?) to promote__ you would not contract (?) debts and (???) (???) in (???) and (???), and uncertain speculation, and yet you give your support to that party in the country who encourages all these things you are engaged in the Culture of cotton and are interested in the South with those who follow planting as a business , whether you should cultivate it yourself or not. The direct effect of a tariff of protection, is to diminish the price of cotton, the(?) article which we know only(?) make for sale, and to increase the price of sugar, (???)

Cotton bagging salt and in short every article we as a class have to buy__ but you may ask me how it is, that this tariff has the effect on the price of cotton—the manufactures of England are the financial purchasers (?) of this article, and it is open the manufactured articles that they make for sale, that our duties (Protective Tariffs duties I mean) (???) operates(?)—they cannot afford to buy our cotton, unless we in exchange take from them the manufactured (???) or articles—in order that this may be done, may compel us to take less for our cotton. Such(?) in the same proposition(?) (???) we (???) (???) the price of foreign manufactured articles by the (???) of high protective tariff duties—the burden of these duties is (???) made to fall(?) in fact(?) open(?) the grower of cotton in the diminished price of their (???)—sad in part(?) in the consumer of the manufactured (???), and this (???) not to (???) support the Government, both to enable a portion of our (???) and the worth(?) who are engaged in manufactures to enjoy. (???) (???) they make for sale. It is this system, that is supported by the Whig party, that I think is unjust to the south, the Cotton planting interest of the country burdensome to that large (???) of consumers of manufactured goods in all sections of + that will ultimately make (???) of one (???), and paupers of the great masses—The election of Mr. Polk and the democratic majority in both houses of Congress, will ultimately correct this system, and as a southern man I rejoice that it will be so—I support no man for high official station on account of his splendid abilities, but because in support a particular(?) man (???), I shall but carry out those measures that I think the interest of the country requires—I have no personal bitterness(?) or hostility to Mr. Clay—so far from it, I believe him a distinguished (???), and one of the ablest men in the country, but this very ability is in opposition to my views of correct policy, would be more dangerous—neither do I yield to Col. Polk my support on account of his public(?) (???) (???), (???) yet because he was the nominee of the Democratic party in Convention, But because of election I believed him capable of performing all the duties of the station however high, and he would use his influence to promote that system of measures, in my opinion best calculated to promote (???), independence(?) and prosperity of the great body of the people and the (???) and stability of our republican institutions—I have written you this letter because I think from(?) yours (???) you have misconceived the principles of the party with which both act, and have consequently done injustice(?) to yourself and the Col Polk, who has been called by a majority of the people of the United States to occupy the highest station on earth—This leaves your sister in excellent health, and she (???) me to remember(?) her to you especially(?) We were at a large party together last night and Mr. Blains(?), who is the Editor of the Globe, (???) (???) has just (???) to Washington from (???) city, and says she will never forget the “hunting (???) boy” but hopes that she may see him again when she reaches(?) home in Georgia—Texas I think will be annexed on this (???)

Your Friend

John H. Lumpkin