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Taladega September 24, 1846

Son William

Your favor of the 20th is at hand but not untill after Mr. Taylor & the Boys had started as it came in the evening after they started. I am sattisfied that, the Boys that I sent you came in good time to you, as you have cotten [cotton] to pick & a (?) of plowing to do - you can put them at what ever may be in your judgement the most proffitable. Zanow (?) I don't think will be proffitable in picking cotten. Britton & Henry is the best cotten pickers or in fact I don't think will be proffitable at any thing else. This you will find when you get them at work you will find that Britton talks & sings too much is apt to draw the attention of the other hands from their work you must not be meally mouthed with them you must tell them what they have to do and have their tools and all in reddyness so that they will have nothing to fin(d?) for if you (?) let them they (?) fin(d?) all day wedging the Howes? patching their britches or shoes – appon(?) the hol [whole]? or (hoe?) (protamuch?) I(?) servents, as they have allways bin [been] cep [kept] under an overseer. I have finished Burning my Bricks & lime or will at dinner as it is yet on fire, after giving of me(?) none(?) trouble then all the kills [kilns] that I even have Burner(?), I have had to stop (?) times & let them coal [cool] as the (dent?) won't stand the fire, (besides?) All this it is all most imposable [impossible] to prop it up so that it will (Steiner?) (Burning, or Banning?), our hole [whole] Broad? side fell yesterday when I was within 6 ours [hours] of being don [done] (Burning or Banning?) I then had to shut up let the Bricks coo [cool] & put them up again as the [they] fell in to my oil & (?) Bricks & they (?) not have bin [been] Burned had I not have put them up & under all the circumstances I think I have made a (good?) (Burn?) – I shall commence laying Monday morning and cold ure? abe? to a good advantage but I think it is better to use him in your brickyard I can do without him if that will enable? you to

get your bricks made. I can get along hear [here] without him & can do with Makerley to cook but if Matilda was hear [here] Makerley can pick you 100 pounds cotten per day. Cotten is now worth 8 cts if you was in the market it wold [would] do well – did (?) Moore ask you to (Ellenor's?) wedding. She is to married the 29 if so will you be hear [here], if you come you must be in time for I wont [want] Miss Armstrong to seen you & see her – for I wold [would] not object to have to call her my daughter and I think she is worthy that place – (?) has don[e] me but little good – Bill is sound again. Tell Abe that I want 60 thousand brick for your house & smoak house then if he can make brick enough he can Build all you [your] negro cabbins out of bricks like this [drawing inserted] and if they can not make the bricks they will have to move down their oald [old?] houses – I stick chimneys, tell him to just make all he can & (hack?) them up for he can kill [kiln?] them when he can't mold Bricks – I will try and come up on Saturday or Sunday week & and see how you are coming on – this Mr. is in good helth [health]. I hope it will find you the same if you wish. Old(?) Man Taylor will plow for you & he is a good hand quite (?).

It is now after dinner & my kill [kiln] is don [done] burnt(?) two hand if anything.

Your father

Thos. Crutchfield