

~~Dear~~

My Dear Doctor -

I send you a Christmas gift for Mrs. Anderson which is like Peter's gift to the cripple in being neither silver nor gold and unlike it in being without general or specific value.

She probably thought I had forgotten my promise to contribute to her album of similar curiosities but I have only been waiting to complete the collection - and have not done it yet. Indeed the very gem of it all - a \$1000 - bill of Feb. 6. 1865 - I have somehow entirely lost - I doubt if its duplicate can now be obtained though I may find this again - I stumbled on it by accident and may have only taken a little too good care of it. I have done such things before - ~~The earlier~~

The earlier issues are also hard to obtain - I have never seen any of the June 1861 - issue - You may remember that in March 1863 an act was passed requiring all old issues to be surrendered and funded in a new issue under penalty of a discount of 8 & 8 per cent for failure - This in addition to the fragile nature of the

bills themselves renders it difficult to obtain them at this time -

I will add to the collection from time to time as I am able to ~~do~~ obtain other denominations and issues - The Southern people are a little sore about Confederate money going into museums &c yet but I have just adopted a plan which will - I think give me the pick of a large amount - which is in pretty good condition -

The lines I send with it are intended to exemplify my idea of a good Confederate's feelings were he in my place - Taken in connection with the Confed. Money, they will probably impress you very much like a cipher on the left of a very small significant figure -

I have not written to you this long time because I have been in "a heap of trouble"; Immediately upon my recovery, after the operation on my visual organ last ~~Jan~~ Fall - the "panic" came on - as you are aware - It caught me bad - "swiftly, but" as we say here - with rapidly maturing liabilities amounting to \$30,000 - and only ~~but~~ debts and a big lot of unsalable stock to meet it with - It was not a pleasant prospect and for a time I felt like giving up - I should if it

Seller to Dr. Anderson with Christmas Gift for

despite the panic I have been fulltime like I hardly know myself -
 wife enjoys that good health and enjoyable faith in the future which
 is uniformly hers - while our little one (the young and lovely) grows brighter and finer
 and cheerful - quite as fast as any one could with

I consider remarkable - unless things turn worse than we can reasonably expect I will be on my legs again presently and make up what I have lost before people find out precisely how badly I am hurt.

I have the consolation too of knowing that I did not hold money and let it rust and cumber but so used it that others received good from it though I have lost. I can sit by my window and see scores of my buildings homes that would never have been built but for the aid which steady work and good wages which their owners derived from my enterprise -

~~Of course~~ I killed my literary venture ^{though} dead - It required an advance of \$500 - dollars which I was just on the point of sending when the crash came. Even then I might have done it but

for \$500 - more or less was a slight matter, but I did not feel justified in risking what really belonged to my creditors - So I withdrew my manuscript from Sheldon's and assigned it to what one of our public legislators denominated - not so badly either - "the ^{de} archives of grants" - meaning, the silence of oblivion, I suppose -

Our physical status is the very best - The operation of last summer seemed to remove an incubus from my health and

had not been that some friends were
 security for me ~~to~~ some small amounts
 and I could not bear to see them lose -
 You know how it was - no sale, no
 payments - values shrinking to zero -
 "dog turned loose and stones tied down"
 as the Irishman said when the ground was
 frozen -

Will I have got through it after a
 fashion but terribly shrank. Something
 like a well dressed woman who
 has got an unexpected dose - or
 Falstaff after a hard run of fever -
 I have saved my securities whole and
 and myself out from \$8,000 to 10,000.
 This I have worked into mortgages
 upon ^{real estate} ~~property~~ which will "pay out"
 about double that, if it does not keep
 on shrinking, - and if money gets
 easy enough so that I am not
 forced on the liens -

I have just got it covered up ready
 for the new year and will start again
 now at initia very nearly - It is so
 much better than I feared that I am much
 inclined to felicitate myself upon it,
 though it seems no laughing matter -
 I feel confident that I shall come out a little
 ahead which under the circumstances

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