

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

June 9th

Pro. W. Mearns Esq -
Gen. Fozh Cast

Dear Sir:

The tariff of
freights which has lately been adopted on our line
of goods will result most disastrously to all
Southern manufacturers of Spikes, Handles &c.
The competition with Northern manufacturers even
under the old rates was very close indeed and
with the present ones utterly ruinous -

If these rates are forced and enforced we
ought no well clear out business at any
rate increase of this amount on goods of
equal weight, compared with their value,
as now, is a burden which cannot be
borne. We think that, as heavy and regular
shippers as we are should not be struck
with so small a loss -