

A. W. SHAFFER,
Register in Bankruptcy,
U. S. Commissioner,
Chief Supervisor, E. D. N. C.

Raleigh, N. C., April 14, 1889.

Dear Mrs. Sawyer—

Many thanks for the Opie Forum, which you or the Judge must have sent me. I had purchased it before to see what all the row was about, but everybody here wants to read it, and I gave my own copy away.

I don't think that husband of yours ought to complain if he ever to get exasperated by all the Chivalrous (white) sons of the South, as indeed, I believe he has been by every democratic newspaper, for salting the poor spots beneath their armor of proof. They wiggle and squirm like a basket of snakes, and it is no wonder, that such at the comparative value of a box of matches was enough to make the hair rise and the flesh creep.

We will lose in the neighborhood of 10,000 negroes going west and south from N.C. this year. Several train loads have left this immediate vicinity alone, mainly for Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Poor creatures. Half starved and half naked, they don't have any idea of their destination. They flee from hunger and nakedness, upon promise of plenty. God only knows what the harvest will be.

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I expect to leave here Tuesday night for a few days at Washington. The Collectors'hip is yet unsettled. Young has taken a suite of rooms at or about the Ebbitt, parades his white and black supporters and daily visits the Com & Secy with great pomp and regularity, while Mrs J. J. Young is said to be denouncing him for having stolen her husband's will and rifled his strong box. Whether this is so, I know not, but she is there.

Hawkins and the R & R R are now operating a still hunt, led, of course, by A. B. Andrews. How they keep Hawkins mouth shut is a mystery. Why they hope to obtain the Collectors'hip, and on what ground - is the mystery of mysteries. Neither of these will ever be appointed - in my opinion. It would be akin to infamous. Negroes would dominate everything in Young's case, and Democrats in Hawkins. The supporters of these may concentrate upon W. Jenkins, son of the old Treasurer - now of Wake Forest - or upon J. W. Hardin of Alamance, but I believe I could beat them there. My danger lies with White, unless I am egregiously in error. Anyway, if I could be clear of him I would be

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willing to take a book with all the rest together.

I suppose the Judge is on the road. He sent me a strong letter - but I do not know whether he did more. Do you know how he stands with Mr. Winlow? Possibly a letter to Mr. Wauwatom might be useful at the pinch. I do not know a single Senator, and scarcely a member. In fact, now, except that I have been introduced to Brown, and seen all I want to of Cheatham. Jim Young is tied to him, without whom he is not permitted to move, speak, eat or sleep. Is it not nice?

Everybody and their relations are at Washington, and all but white have been, ever since about the first of March. Of course I will sit down and bark with them such words, and see what comes of it. We are all over here, except that Mrs. S. is so troubled with her feet as to be almost unable to get about. Kindest remembrance to the Judge, if with you - and Godie, anyway.

Very truly & Sincerely

A. W. Shaffer