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A. W. FILES, PRESIDENT.

H. C. HINTON, SECRETARY.

## Peach Cutter Company.

J. H. SMITH, GENERAL MANAGER

OFFICE: 707 BROADWAY.

Little Rock, Ark. Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> 1893

Judge Fougere.

Dear sir,

I noticed in your communication of Thursday of this week, these words: "I believe, though, that if a petition were drawn up asking that a realistic picture of a southern lynching be shown it would receive some hundreds of thousands of signatures." I have been induced to write you for advice along that line. I have been in the South since the fire of 1871 in Chicago. I have kept up with a great many of the lynchings and murders. Have several faithful sketches taken on the spot where men were lynched. I am prepared to paint in oil any number of scenes of these outrages. It has been my intention at some time to paint 15 or 20  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  size scenes and contract with some person to either exhibit or sell them. It would take about 18 months to finish up the

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number I had in mind. (20.)  
The questions which I <sup>have</sup> put to myself  
and to which I can give no satisfactory  
answer are these.

What real good  
would such scenes do for my people.  
(I am a colored man you understand)  
Next how could I manage to put  
these pictures before the world and  
not expose myself to the danger of  
being killed were I known as the  
author of them. Again, could I  
realize enough ~~from the work to~~ to  
warrant me in devoting 18 or 20  
months to the work. I did not know  
who I could safely take into my  
confidence for advice until I noted  
what you said in Thursday's paper.  
I would be willing to go into written  
agreement to paint 20 or more of  
these scenes, say  $\frac{1}{2}$  size on canvas  
10 x 15 ft. provided I would not be  
known as a party to the scheme.  
I mean not to be known to the public.

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Of course should I paint pictures representing the lawless violence of the south, it would <sup>not</sup> be my intention to bring reproach upon the better class of white people, to whom I shall always feel indebted for their patronage and kind treatment to me. Again, I would <sup>not</sup> paint any scene which has not been made public by the papers of the south. Yet the southern people would construe my meaning as that of slandering the whole people; therefore I must not be known. Should I agree to do the work, I would move north as a first step.

Dear sir: I consider my life in your hands. Please destroy <sup>this</sup> letter as soon as read, and if you feel it deserves an answer, be sure to direct

Mr. J. H. Smith

707 Broadway

Little Rock.

The reason I give till is that <sup>Over</sup>

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there <sup>are</sup> three (3) J. N. Smith's here  
who often get my letters ~~mis~~  
directed as suggested.

Please advise  
me.

Very Respectfully J. N. Smith

I do not see how I could  
give you any advice upon the  
subject of which you write. I have  
no interest in any such work  
and know of no one who has.

Respectfully

W. W. Louger