Washington, April 22nd, 1861

Dear Sir,

Peace of the 16th inst. is now at hand, and I am pleased to learn from you again. This leaves it all in normal health. I hoping this will find you and family enjoying the same blessing.

Your predictions, concerning our state, I am ashamed to confess, are come to be realized, for the dishonest have, as about to jeopardize our good old state into this unholy war against our wishes and better judgment, it is hard for us to fight against the Star Spangled Banner, that which our fathers suffered, died, and
and soon for our enjoyment.

I say it is hard for me to fight for the destruction of the best government that ever existed and against our friends' rights. But it must be so. I cannot fight against the South, I would prefer to be neutral, but I cannot and I have not the means to get away with my mother and family. This state, I fear will link their destiny with the rest of the Southern States, the most of our people think, and say, that Lincoln has acted too harshly towards the South, he has led us to believe he was going to evacuate Fort Sumter, and afterwords tried to rein it in, you see I think he had the right to hold and protect the public

scrappy path, but I do not think it was honorable to satisfy his word, besides the Northern people say, they will march into every town and village, they honor our ladies, put arms into the hands of our slaves and let them to fight for their freedom, but they will be somewhat mistaken in that, for the Negroes are volunteering their services all over the state to fight against the South, they are not made to do so, for they say the abolition does them more harm than they do good, you say are strengthening the chains of bondage on them all the time, for they once and may be happy now for they have someone to care for them in sickness and old age, they have enough
to eat, drink, and to store, and we can on those minds. That is all that any of us can have or at least enjoy. It is true they have to work, but those tasks are easy, and they are not made to work when they are sick.

I have not the heart to write more for our whole community is all excitement. I have done all that I could to evade the fatal blow, but all to no purpose. I have got to put on the secession harrow. It will chafe hard, but I will kick it off when I can. But I must wear it—so long as I am in this state the family joins me in love to you and family.

Respectfully

E. Barnett Espy
P. J. Corna