

Mr. Sumner Esq.

London

Dear Sir

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My Dear Wife

Monday 9th Dec. 1842

I arrived here the 5th very much fatigued and out of sorts by the voyage, and I am far from being well now. During the passage, at all the principal places of stopping, crowds assembled around the Boat and the Wharves to greet & welcome my arrival; but an indescribable state of feeling prevented my having any agreeable excitement by these demonstrations. At this place arrangements were made to entertain me, free of expense, at a public hotel; but I preferred lodging at the house of Mr. Elliott, where I am comfortably situated, and where Mr. & Mrs. Fenton are.

I have found the depression in every department of business, and the reduction of prices of every thing greater than I anticipated. Owing to these causes, the low price of Cotton, the low price of Bagging & Rope, and the uncertainty of the future, I shall not be able to make any contracts for those articles. I have had interviews with Dr. Duncan and other planters, and I am finding them unwilling to contract. The Louisville Co. has offered to deliver bagging at a price to be fixed by the N. C. market between now & the first of July, but what was in no way to exceed 15 Cents and the offer has not been accepted. I have therefore relinquished all hope of making any contracts. And I lament that I see no alternative but the sale of Thomas's property as was understood before I left home. Indeed, if such contracts could be made here, the sale would be still necessary.

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