

January 1st 1868

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I will begin the New year by going to Henderson
The day was warm and pleasant although the ground
was covered with snow there was but few ^{white} people
in town from the country but the place was
alive with negroes Sambo has at last attained
the great Elevation of a Free man he can stand
all day on the street corners and none dare
molest or make him afraid he can roll in luxury
of rags and Laziness while short cries ruin the
Country as for hiring out that's played and is
now confined to a few who are afraid of starving
or have never realized the great boon of Freedom
in its true sense they will crop with the farmer
but they are such miserable Farmers that I fear
they will ruin them unless he has capital enough
to run until times are better than at present
there was but little selling on the streets
to day and in fact nothing to remind one
that it was New years day but the groups of negroes
on the street

Money matters are very close and the Farmers
during the past year I fear have not made expe-
nces and unless money becomes more plentiful
we will have to spend less money and contract
our whole business to correspond with the changed
state of affairs as a people we have been too extrava-
gant and I fear some of us will find experience
a dead school

I begin the New year with a large Indebtedness
and but little money and I fear before the
end of the year I will have to receive vice
from unwelcome sources but I am not discouraged
though the prospect is not a bright one for I
have health and an unbounded confidence in
the future for the darkest beginning often ends
the brightest and if the law will give me one year
more I will promise at least to do my best
I begin the New year with a firm reliance on
a great and good god believing whether this
life be one of prosperity or Misfortune that all will
work for good to those who love the Lord