

January 14th 1864

Wm M. Rice & Co  
Houston

Dr Sirs - Yours of yesterday at hand.

I would like to sell you 50 or 100 bales at specis rates to be credited as you propose. But I am 7 negro fellows and 8 of my plow-train out. I cannot gin & plow both at once consequently. Nor can I haul & plow at the same time, because oxen must take the plows of the absent mules. I have no bagging or rope.

In short I would like to make the trade provided I could or had time to gin, press & haul, without injuring the prospect for a covering crop.

But what will the "Cotton Bureau" say & will it allow me to sell without letting it have its first half? Or has not the proposition of that bureau gone into effect yet?

I really think, that with the means left me by the government, it would be summer, after my crop is laid by, before I could, gin, press, haul & deliver 100 bales of cotton.

I have no use for my cotton & am anxious to get clear of it

Yours Respectfully  
W. Bains