



Houston July 31. 1866

Mr. Wm M. Rice  
New York.

Dear Sir,

We were favored by your Letter  
of 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> inst. The correction has been  
made charging draft favor Paulletyne to Billy Reble.

Mr. Stevenson does not recollect amount but will  
produce your Letter stating same - Dr. Wm

McCraven has been spoken to, and notified of his  
authority to draw on us - The Letter was handed

to Mr Goldthwaite on his return to Houston as  
directed by you, but Mr. G. seemed to be hurried  
and anxious to leave for N.Y. - The direct Tax

was paid by but few, the majority of persons not  
being inclined to do so - Mr. Craigor is making

all efforts to collect, but almost fruitless owing to hard  
times; has been advised of your claim on George Scott  
and no doubt long ere this the measures of Fred's  
Rooms have reached you - The Memorandum

written for in yours of 19<sup>th</sup> inst. we enclose - Ahrens  
& Perkins have never responded, - I enclose Note re

Placed in hands of S. F. Cooby - Mr Oliver  
we can not see at present, being confined by severe  
illness - Mr. Tab: & Messrs J. D. Johnson & Co we  
have notified of expiration of leases and requested them  
to vacate the Store rooms. have done so in writing & sent  
it through a third party - Mr Stewart's Letter was  
delivered on his return from Wardsly. - This we  
believe comprises all points in your Letters and hope  
may prove satisfactory answered -

Mr. S. W. Ferris writes in answer to our Letter  
with regard to Notes due Waldron Robb & Co by Pickett  
& Bro. - that "they are broke up" and "propose nothing in  
the way of a settlement" nor does he "know of no property  
they have of which money could be made" - So please  
inform us what course to pursue - Business is  
exceedingly dull, no money coming in, and payments  
on part of some Firms almost suspended - in fact harder  
times than anyone anticipated - Cotton doing well  
so far, Worms only here and there in small quantities  
some planters already picking some <sup>Cotton</sup> and we base hopes  
upon it, think that money will soon begin to circulate  
again - Mr. Hamblin has not paid the \$300<sup>00</sup> debt  
yet, - We are looking for Mr. Wells this week, are  
taking Inventory, and will write you again soon  
Your Friends E. R. Wells & Co