

Huntsville July 20 1868

W.M. Rice

Dear Sir:

I presume you are aware that the present Supreme Court of the State are deciding against the validity of all contracts founded on Confederate money considerations, in view of that fact I think it advisable not to press the collection of those notes of yours given for loaned Confederate money. If the parties will give other notes or pay in claims or lands or other property would it not be the safest plan. You have ~~an~~^a claim against Wm Bidwell and others. Bidwell is dead and I am his administrator and do not wish to take any risks of personal responsibility, and yet I do not wish to take any course that would interfere with the collection of the other claims of a similar character. I will forward the note to you to be authenticated against the estate where I have where to send it and suggest that you send it to Messrs J. & S. Gibbs & have it to their their discussion as to the manner

of disposing of it. I have little hope
of collecting any of the claims within
any reasonable time without suit unless
it is done by arrangements. Do you wish
me to sue where I think it necessary?

The claim against Bowden and wife
secured by mortgage on negroes is I fear
entirely worthless. Also the claim against
Randolph & Son. All the others in this county
I think solvent. There are suits pending in
Montgomery to subject property conveyed by
Guil Lewis in his time, to the payment of his
debts; if these succeed, his estate may pay
his debts. The claim against W. B. and
G. M. Wood I fear is worthless. I have
called on Mr G. M. Wood for proposition
of settlement but he makes none, and
I think contemplates Bankruptcy, the other
Wood he informs me is wholly insolvent.
I had a proposition some time since to
purchase the little tract of land in this
county purchased by you of Archer. The
proposition was \$200 cash per acre, one
half down the other in ~~two~~ ^{one} year. I told

The gentleman I would repeat the prop-
osition to you. Please let me ~~you~~
know what you think of it.

I direct this letter to Hauston, expecting
it to be forwarded to you if you are
not there. Very respectfully
J. H. Bantou