

Dunham Hall, Dunstable Co^{ty}
August 21/1871

My dear friend -

I delayed answering your letter of the 7th May, hoping to be able to procure for you some autographs and letters of Genl. Sherman with Confederate Armies; and from time to time postponed replying until at length I became so heartily ashamed of my neglect of your kind and flattering request that I would furnish you with some what in order that I really shrink from acknowledging my ill treatment of you and my neglect of a valued friend by testifying to it under my own signature. I can not now ever venture to hope that you will excuse this inexcusable conduct. I can only with all my heart say peccavi.

I had the misfortune to lose many of my papers some very valuable, when the men engaged in the great Towing Campaign in the Croixes were ascending the fall of Charleston - and hence have only a few letters of Genl. Sherman of a private character. - All of the reports of the operations.

of the troops under my command whilst I serving
with the Army in Virginia, now published with the
reports of the Officer in Chief Command, & the Volume
published by order of the Confederate Congress.

I have all the reports of the operations of my
Command near Charleston, but they are altogether
too long for the purpose you require -

I send you a report written in the field
very hastily of the part taken by my Division
at the Battle of Avery's Cross, N.C. which was
forwarded to Genl. Hardee at the time, and which
of course as was the case with the ^{report of the} preceding battle
of Bentonville, never reached the office of the
Adjutant General of the Confederate Army - owing to the
close of the struggle - I send in testimony of these two
fights than any that occurred during the war
and which I select this - You will however I think
find it brief as it is for an official report, still
much too long for insertion in your book, and should
you think so I shall not feel the slightest mortifi-
cation if you reject it, or select the shortest extract
from it. Of course you know, that I desire that you
will not hesitate to do as you please with it -

I find a little scrap of an order issued
by me when I took command at Kettle, N.C.

I enclose it and if you think the report too long
and the order is not too unfavorable, you can then
use it -

With regard to my promotion to be Major General -

I had frequently been notified by my friends in Bel-
mond of my promotion, but it had not actually
been received at the battle of Appomattox, and
I did not receive the official appointment until
the post reached Charlotte N.C. It was based
upon the application of Gen. Hardee, and dated
back or rank was awarded from the 1st of June
1865. I do not know that I have a right
to sign my name officially at the date of the
act as Major General, although the division was
always called and known as "Tobinson's division".

I thank you very sincerely for your kind
wishes for my welfare and success in life -

I am not swimming much, but I hope I am
not sinking. Not to sink is doing well, in these
times and in an old and slow country like this -

I have a small home a large family and a num-
ber of friends, and I certainly enjoy life restrained.
= my the troubles of the times, wonderfully - Nothing
I can really think would give me more pleasure
than to have you with me, and I trust you will

is no very long time to elapse to see you in the
happened of showing you this very old Virginia
Country —

Believe me very sincerely your
friend

Wm. B. Ruffalo

Col. Charles G. Smith & Co.

N.Y.

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New York

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