

Notes and Documents

LETTERS OF JOHN FLOYD, 1813-1838

John Floyd was a son of Charles Floyd, a Virginian who in colonial times moved to Beaufort District, South Carolina, where John, an only child, was born in 1769. About a decade after the Revolution, in which Charles Floyd had fought as one of the staunchest Patriots, the family moved first to McIntosh County and later to Camden County, Georgia. Here John progressed to affluence largely through the business of building boats, so necessary for the navigation of the inland waterways along the Georgia coast. He soon became a great landholder with many slaves. He married Isabella Maria Hazzard of South Carolina, and to this union were born twelve children.

Partaking of the same zeal for his country that had characterized his father, John Floyd as major general of Georgia militia in the War of 1812 led a force of about 3,600 troops against the Indians and engaged in two fierce conflicts with them at Autossee and Callabee (Calibee). He received a serious wound which long troubled him. Soon after his expedition against the Indians, which he had led into Alabama, he recovered sufficiently to command an army at Savannah designed to defend that city against a possible British attack. From 1820 to 1827 he represented Camden County in the state house of representatives and immediately thereafter was elected to the Twentieth Congress, serving from 1827 to 1829. Floyd County, Georgia, was named for him.

Floyd was a man of great strength of character and convictions, with an aptitude and vigor in expressing his opinions, which well appears in some of the following letters. He died in 1839.

The originals of the letters which follow are in the possession of Miss Laura Blackshear of Athens, Georgia, a descendant of General Floyd, and to her the thanks of the *Quarterly* are due for being allowed to publish them. It is her intention later to present them to the University of Georgia Library. All of these letters were written by General Floyd with the exception of two, whose authors were the General's sons. Floyd's will is included for the light it throws on his possessions and his family.¹

1. For information on Floyd, see George White, *Historical Collections of Georgia* . . . (New York, 1854), 289-92; Lucian L. Knight, *A Standard History of Georgia and Georgians* (Chicago, 1917), I, 514; *Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1927* (Washington, 1928), 975; Mrs. Mary Floyd Ham-

MAT. GEN. JOHN FLOYD GA. MILITIA
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John Floyd to Miss Mary H. Floyd, St. Mary's, Ga.

Head Quarters, Camp Hope, September 19th, 1813.

You may easily imagine, my beloved child, how much I was gratified by the receipt of your affectionate letter of the 4th inst, which I received on the 16th. It gave me much concern to learn that your Dear Mother was then unwell. I hope ere this that she has recovered her wonted health, and that my little *Pud* and all the rest of my children and friends are in the full enjoyment of the inestimable blessing of health. I have been, and am still in very good health.

I arrived at Fort Hawkins on the evening of the 8th, on the day following reviewed the two regiments of infantry cantoned in the neighborhood of that place. I soon discovered that it would be all important to concentrate the whole force for a better subordination, and discipline of the camp. I consequently delivered a general order for the troops to be put in motion on the 14th, having previously taken a view of the surrounding country; determined on the ground of encampment, and directed the Quartermaster General to mark out the line of encampment. On the 14th, as above mentioned, we entered the new camp. The troops are now [—?] embedded, which amounting to nearly 3000, 500 of which are cavalry. Our lines are each $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long, which makes no small show in these woods. Our position is a handsome one. I have not left the camp since I entered it with the main body. I had proceeded this far with my letter when I was obliged to quit and attend to other business of which I have as much as I can possibly turn my hands and mind to. I have been again interrupted, and am now endeavoring to scribble you a line or two after *tattoo*, the only time which I have. I before wrote your mother giving her an account of my journey as far as Milledgeville, when I was very cordially received by his Excellency, and many of my old up-country acquaintances. My appointment to the command of the army has met very general approbation, and I am proud to have it in my power to say that my appearance and conduct since I have assumed the command has not diminished the expectation entertained from the very flattering manner which I had been represented by my friends. Since my arrival here I have been visited by many of the first characters in the State. Indeed you can scarcely form any idea of the course of the people, which an occasion so novel has excited. For this is the largest body of men ever assembled in this State, and a finer body of men was never produced in any country. They only want

Hilton, *A Little Family History* (Savannah, 1908), 11 ff.; Mrs. Howard H. McCall, comp., *Roster of Revolutionary Soldiers in Georgia* (Atlanta, 1941), 69. A few additional letters by and to Floyd are printed in Stephen F. Miller, *Memoir of Gen. David Blackshear* . . . (Philadelphia, 1838), 446, 456-58, 459, 460-65. This work is a reprint, with a few additions, of the appendix of Stephen F. Miller, *The Bench and Bar of Georgia: Memoirs and Sketches* (Philadelphia, 1858), I, 355-483.

discipline, and may be viewed as the flower of Georgia. There are a great many men of the first respectability; men of fortune, and education; have left ease and domestic comfort for a *tentless* field, in support of their country's rights.

Think what an arduous task I am drawing from the walks of private life to perform; and you may readily figure to yourself the high responsibility which hovers over me, when I tell you that the honor, character, and vital interests of the State depends upon the fate of the campaign committed to my care. Should it be successful, I shall gain celebrity as a reward, but should it turn out otherwise, I shall perhaps be only remembered to be abused. . . .

John Floyd to Miss Mary H. Floyd, St. Mary's, Ga.

Camp Hope,

October 7th, 1813.

MY BELOVED CHILD: You may easily imagine my anxiety was to hear from you, after seeing the account of the distressing effects of the late hurricane in the latitude which every thing dear to me was embraced. I was at Milledgeville yesterday, whither it was necessary for me to go to obtain an interview with his Excellency, whose ill health prevented his affording it here. I was extremely anxious to hear from you, altho I dreaded the receipt of the melancholy intelligence. I accordingly stayed a day longer in Milledgeville than I otherwise should have done, for the arrival of the Savannah mail hoping that it might bring me something from my bereft friends. I waited at his Excellency's until the arrival of his letters, knowing that any thing from your quarter would be directed to his care, but to my great mortification nothing from you accompanied his packets. I returned to my lodgings with perplexed uncertainty, when I was informed there was a letter in the office which I lost no time in obtaining; which I opened in haste and perused with fearful anxiety. I was much relieved when I got to the end of the chapter to find that you had all been spared, to add to my comfort, when we shall again be embraced in the arms of Peace. You can more easily imagine than I can describe what my feelings for you were. You know my uniform tenderness for you all have been. The happiness of your dear Mother and my promising flock has always occupied my whole desire for the preservation of existence, which I conceived necessary for the promotion of your interest and happiness until by mature age you should be able and capable of encountering the vicissitude of this chequered life. The fates have at length decreed our separation, which I trust will not be final. My country claims my services—you know my uniform sentiment on political matters—I deplore the necessity which causes this separation! and I trust that your good sense will not allow you to attribute any want of attention to those tender feelings

which always bears a conspicuous share in my heart for an affectionate wife, children and friends. I must beg you to be persuaded that by discharging the duties of an American patriot that I shall reflect an honor on your name. Let me stand, or fall in the cause that will not be unimportant to either my family or my memory.

At this moment the doleful music announcing the death of a fellow soldier is just passing, which, with the solemn platoon, adds to the melancholy mode which the subject in which I am engrossed invites. This, however is the only occurrence of death in our camp since its establishment, which is very extraordinary when we consider the number assembled and the unfavorable season at which they have been called into the field, and what is still more singular, not an accident has occurred, altho we have had two alarms, which in less than thirty minutes each time produced near 3000 men in arms, and in the night; the first was designed, the other accidental.

The provisions for the army [for] thirty days are now collected, and we only wait the arrangement of the Quartermaster's Department to put the army in motion for Chattahoochee, where it is probable the forces from Tennessee and the 3rd Regt. will centre, and from which point our warlike operations will commence. I do not apprehend that the army will leave this under three weeks, in the meantime I shall be able to write you more particularly. I have not a leisure moment, and am always obliged to write surrounded with company, and such are the repeated interruptions for business, that I cannot write a sentence without being called on to answer some question, frivolous or important. I am frequently beset with old and young, men, *women* and children, claiming indulgences for some son, brother, or husband to attend their sick wife, child, or parent. I have never heard of so many sick folks in 40 years. Some real, and some feigned, I have no doubt. At all events, this country, in point of health, is not to be compared with ours!

A great many respectable characters have called on me since I have been here; among them two Senators of Congress; Old Jarid, and many other respectable characters, so that between business and company I have no respite. I wrote to your Mother yesterday by the Savannah mail. This will go by the Darien mail, which I presume will be received the same time.

I am a little surprized that you have not acknowledged the receipt of my letters written at Milledgeville on my arrival at that place. The mail before this to Darien could not proceed in consequence of the obstructions produced by the storm. I hope to hear from you regularly. I shall next write to your Grand Papa, in the meantime remember me affectionately to him and your dear Mother, and all my dear children, not forgetting Dick and little Pud, who, I suppose, begins

to speak very plain. I suppose she has nearly forgot me. I regret, among the loss of other enjoyments, her little gambols. Tell Charles and Sarah they are very lazy. Had I as much idle time as they have I should not have suffered so much time to have passed without shedding a little ink for their amusement. They very well know how much I should be gratified by a line from them. John would never write to me when at school, and I hardly look for it now, but if he thought of me as often as I do of him, he would not neglect it. Present my best respects to Mrs. Waight, and Mr. Hazzard. Tell him he must now and then shoot an old buck for me. Tell Miss Bailey, in your next letter, that I am obliged by her recollection of me, and that I love her because she is *your friend*. Remember me to Mr. & Mrs. Mac, and all who may enquire after me. I received a letter from Major Clark by the same mail which brought me your much esteemed favor. I have written to him. It was very natural for you to wish for me in the hour of danger, a time when I should always wish to be with you, for had it pleased the Almighty to have consigned you all to the silent tomb, I should have had no desire to survive such an affliction. Yours affectionately,

P. S. It would be uncharitable not to excuse any error which I may inadvertently make; writing in a crowd and answering questions, and at the same time entertaining those who call on me. I must request you to remember me to Eliza Hazard. Tell William F. to send me word who of the little fry was most scared during your distress. Ask Susan and Caroline how they employ their time. I suppose that Charles had enough to attend to since the storm. What has become of the fleet? John, I suppose will be a great fisherman [—] unwilling I am to give up this [—?] at and how anxious I am to have something to say to you all. I presume that you have written to [—?] informing him of my absence. I must bid you good night, as it is one o'clock at night. Kiss your mother for me and remember, Yours affectionately,

John Floyd to an unnamed person.

Camp South of Flint River, Nov. 8th, 1813.

It is always a pleasure to me when I can find time to drop you a line because I know your solicitude for my welfare and consequently a pleasure to you to know how time glides in this wilderness. You will have heard ere this reaches you of the army having arrived at this place on the second Inst., since which nothing of importance has transpired. I had sometime ago sent a detachment out in order to erect suitable works of defense for the protection of provisions which would necessarily be deposited for the supply of the army. Since my arrival I have had the work nearly finished, which is a strong stockade defended by two block courses, within the works a hospital and suitable provision houses are erected. The situation is a handsome

one, indeed, if the upper country can be considered handsome. This part of it is not without its claim. The river is about 40 yards wide, and a handsome ford just about it the water murmurs over a bed of irregular rocks. This stream, you will perceive by the map, enters into the Gulf of Mexico. The country above this, and off from the river, is very uneven. Some of the hills are handsome, and it is not uncommon to see very handsome brooks and deep ravines. A few miles below this the land becomes level and, with the exception of about 12 miles, which affords a rock layer ground 5 or six miles wide. The river winds thro a level pine basin to its mouth, without any streams making out to the North. Foxes are here found in great abundance, and deer and turkeys are frequently brought in by the Indians who are here every day.

Nothing detains the army here but the want of provisions. The contractors and Quartermaster Department are badly managed. They have been a dead weight on the movements of the army. As soon as the necessary supplies can be obtained a regiment will move on to the Chattahoochee, where it will be necessary to throw up some strong works, as all our operations will be carried on from that point. I have not yet received anything from the War Department, consequently I am kept unapprised of the extent of the news of the Government. It has just been reported here that the Indians have very recently done some mischief on the frontier of Morgan County, and I am inclined to believe it is too true. This will be forwarded by Major Crawford of Milledgeville whither I have sent him with a communication to the new Governor. You will, by the time this reaches you, have seen the Milledgeville papers which will give you the Legislative news. Colonel Newman has again joined the army and will continue with it. Colonel Jenkins, who commanded one of the regiments, died of a relapse which he took in returning too soon to camp. I find by the papers that the inhabitants of Camden are in a state of alarm, but I can hardly imagine that an attack will be made from Florida.

I shall continue to write as often as circumstances will permit and hope that you will do the same. The mail comes regularly to the agency from whence a communication will be kept open with the army. I must now conclude with my affectionate love to your Mother, Sisters & Brothers & grand-father, and respects to enquiring friends. You will readily excuse this scrawl when I tell you that it is written by candle light in the open field. I shall next write your Mother & Grand P. Tell Sarah and John I was much pleas'd to hear from them. Adieu. Yours affectionately.

John Floyd to Miss Mary. H. Floyd, St. Mary's, Ga.

Camp five miles S. West of Flint River.

November 18th, 1813.

Unwilling, my Dear Mary that you should suppose for a moment that any situation in which I may be placed will render the recollection of you and your Dear Mother and family otherwise than dear to me, I have in these wild woods, over hills and far from you, taken up my pen, to communicate to you the movement of the army which I am convinced you feel a lively interest for the fate of. This morning we broke up our camp near Flint River, and are this far on our march to Coweta, where on our arrival, and very probably before we reach that place, we shall measure strength with our savage enemy, who are represented as being in force on the Chattahoochee. Since I last wrote runners have repeatedly arrived from the chiefs of the friendly Indians, deploring this situation, and soliciting immediate aid, stating the hostile Indians to be within half a mile of Coweta, I had but proceeded this far when a gun fired on our out-posts. I was much rejoiced, hoping that the enemy meant to save us some trouble by giving us battle nearer home. The lines were formed in two minutes, but the alarm was produced by the accidental discharge of a musket. The men are eager for battle, and I am equally desirous of seeing them tried, altho our force is much reduced from casualties. I am inclined to believe that if the friendly Indians are sincere in their profession of friendship, that the parties are nearly equally divided, a little time will prove facts, and I think it very probable that when you next hear from me the subject will be more interesting.

We have about 80 wagons taking on about 20 days provisions, the means and risk of regular supplies is my greatest dread. On this subject you will see in the Argus my letter to the Governor, which I find has been published, but with a typographical error: for *never*, read *ever*.

Your newspapers give you all the Northern and European news. Therefore I shall not recapitulate. The weather has been very cold, and is now rainy, the men are sickly; 256 I have been obliged to leave at Fort Lawrence, who were unable to travel. Your Brother is very well. I have a very bad cold which I hope will wear off in a few days.

It has been reported that Genl. Pinckney was to take command of this army, and reports state also that Genl. Williams was ordered on. How true this may be I am at a loss to determine, not having heard anything from the Secretary of War.

Give my best love to your Mother, grand papa, and all my little flock, as well as best compliments to enquiring friends to whom I have not time to write. I cannot account for not having heard from any of you since your Brother came away. I hope no misfortune has

been the cause of your silence. I am convinced of your attention and am unwilling to believe that you have neglected to write to me. With the hope of soon hearing from you, I must request you to accept my affectionate regards, and believe me to be unalterably your Loving Father.

[P. S.] My compliments to Miss Baillie and our St. Simons friends.

John Floyd to Miss Mary H. Floyd, Fairfield, Camden County, Ga.
Camp, South Chattahoochee, December 5th, 1813.

MY DEAR MARY: I was much relieved from the anxiety which I felt for you all at home, by the receipt of a number of letters by the day-before-yesterday's mail. You were not wrong in your conjecture that the next information you received would be of a severe battle with the Indians; such a one has never before been fought with the Creeks. The scene was truly interesting; the morning was calm, clear, and intensely cold; the fields appeared covered with snow from the excessive frost. At day light we were in sight of the enemy, who it seems, has been apprized of our approach, and from the order of our movements calculated that we would not reach their town before the middle of the day, not presuming that we would move at night. The serenity of the morning, the yells of the savages, the firing of our artillery and the incessant prattling of the musketry and rifles; the dead laying promiscuously over the field, and the rolling pillars of smoke issued by the devouring flames preying on the savages' dwellings, in addition to the columns produced by the repeated discharge of our artillery, and the lighter sheets, produced by the discharge of small arms, were in various figures fantastically floating in air. The old Talesee King, the greatest conjuror of all the fanatics, was killed by a cannon shot. The Autosse King also was killed. We have not been able to ascertain what became of McQueen. There is no doubt of his having been there, as many of his effects were taken, but I rather suspect that he sought refuge below the bank of the river among the women and children. The attack upon this town was a daring undertaking when it is known to be situated in the heart of the war party! Strength, where in a few hours they could collect from all accounts 2,000 warriors, and such was the situation of the place, that had we stayed long they could have surrounded us under cover of rivers, creeks, swamps, etc.

(It was not my object to make any halt, therefore we carried no tools, and when we stormed the town we had but two days rations, for everything was consumed in the town, dogs, cats, and some of the savage tenants fell victims to the devouring flames. Nature seems to have intended the bank of the river for their protection. The bluff was highest near the first break towards the river, which made a

sudden descent of about six or seven feet, which formed again a level of some yards, and another similar fall went to the water's edge. This kind of amphitheatre was covered with reed and small bushes, together with some trees where the savages crouched in, and our men could not see them until they looked down the first bluff. When they were approached in this last position, the fire on both sides was tremendous; many were killed. It is a principle with the Indians never to leave their dead, and as they were shot in the field they were dragged down the bluff and afterwards into the edge of the river in heaps, insomuch that the water of the river near the shore was crimsoned with their blood. Some swam over the river and they were killed in the act, but there were, notwithstanding, many who were still in caverns under the bank which were not completely dislodged, nor would the circumstances which I have before mentioned admit of much delay. The object was accomplished. We had many wounded, and the first consideration to my mind was to occupy such ground as would enable me to defy their strength, as soon as the wounded were dressed. I had the army formed and marched a few miles when we formed and buried our dead. The friendly Indians would not come off with us, but remained to pillage. A party of Indians came up from Hothlewaulee, and attacked them; cut off their retreat, and killed several of them, two of which I regret the death of very much; The Mad Dog's son (Alias), the far-off Warrior, and the long Lieutenant. The Mad Dog's son was a shrewd, stout, portly, well-disposed, enterprising man.

As soon as these new recruits came in contact with our rear guard, our riflemen and cavalry killed four or five of them, after which they never followed us a foot. Had we got possession of the lower banks of the river all their women and children would have fallen into our hands, and what to have done with them would have been a question, as we could not have fed them, and I had placed restraints on the friendly Indians from destroying them. They were as thick below the bank as fiddlers, of all sizes, perfectly naked, scampering, and screeching, in every direction. There is no doubt, from the scalps of the whites, and many other articles which we found at Autossee, that they were the murderers of the Garrison at Mimms' Fort. I have seen friends and enemies bite the dust. How I escaped with my life is a wonder. I was constantly on the lines, and constantly fired at. The balls whistled as thick as hail. Both my aids had their horses shot under them. These Indians are stout-made, thick set, and well limbed, wear no clothes, are painted, but neither the savage appearance nor their war whoop can possibly produce any unusual feeling to a reflecting mind. I cannot be persuaded that the Devil, if he was mortal, ought to be dreaded more than any other ordinary animal possessing deadly weapons. I

have heard much of the terrific appearance of savages and the clang of war, but the man who, at such an hour, deals in such calculations, must be a coward.

Your brother appeared not the least concerned. I presume that nearly as soon as this reaches you you will see published the official account. I required the reports from different officers so as to obtain their collected opinions, and from these materials, and what came within my own view, the statement has been made, but I fear not well written, for I had given the heads, but the report was so little, to my mind, that I had to alter, revise and amend so often that it cost me as much trouble and more perplexity than if I had done it all together, altho I was, as I am yet, unable to get out of bed and in much pain, and harassed on every side by questions, or business, or about my health. You see, my dear Girl, that no situation can alienate my regard from you, and this long, long letter under the circumstances which it is written, you may consider as a proof of it. I received my wound early in the action, but never left my horses until after it was over. I suffered very much with it that day and considerably since. I, however, got a good night's rest last night and am clear today of fever.

I am afraid that I shall tire you as much with so much of one thing, as I have fatigued myself giving it, but I have gone into minutiae because I know your solicitude for my welfare. Give my kind love to your dear Mother, and tell her that I am provoked with the ingratitude of this world. I never endeavored to render a service to some people but they abuse it, perverted my intentions, and insulted my family. If ever I live to return there will soon be an end to their illiberal insinuations. I can never reconcile it to myself to divide my hard earnings from friendly motives with those who are so mean as to seek every opportunity to abuse me for it. I thank no visitor for inviting company to my house; at their own expense—they may do as they please, the Brown loaf under such circumstances cannot be exhibited too soon.

This letter will be forwarded by Mr. Dancey, who has promised to hire some one to carry it down immediately on his arrival at Jefferson. He will return directly after the January Court. By him you write me freely. Give my best love to your good Grand Father; tell him I regret to hear that he has volunteered a tour of duty on the front. He ought to recollect that his age does not authorize such fatigue and exposure, that all your hopes of protection in my absence depend on him. Give my love to Sarah; tell her I hope she will have a plenty of bacon against I come home; to John, that I am pleased to hear that he means to defend his mother; to Susan, that I am quite pleased with the work she did for me and the letter she wrote me; to Eliza,

that I hope soon to get a letter from her. Tell William that he must raise me some hounds and keep my guns clean. Tell Dick I hope he will have a plenty of provisions for me against my return; and tell Miss Pud she must learn a song and sing it for me.

Accept the tender of my affectionate regards and best wishes for the health and happiness of you all. Make my best respects to my two attentive inquirers; Miss Baillie and Page, as well as to Mr. Wm. Hazzard and all other inquiring friends, and believe me to be as usual, Your affectionate Father,

P. S. Tell the negroes howdy, and that I hope they will all behave so well that I shall meet them all in a good humor when I return. I think before this affair is over that Florida and the Indian country will be swept.

I send you a draft of the road as far as I have been or expect to go; embracing the neighboring country, which when compared with the map, will give you a correct idea of our position.

John Floyd to Miss Mary H. Floyd, St. Mary's, Ga.

Christmas Day in a wilderness west of Chattahoochee

8 P. M. 1813.

MY DEAR MARY: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your affectionate favor of the 4th ult. It gave me much pleasure to hear that your Mamma and all my Fairfield friends were well. I am also very well except the lameness occasioned by my visit to Autossee. The wound is entirely healed up; but the joint is so much affected that I have hardly any strength in that knee. Tell your Mamma I wrote her a long letter by the last mail, which I presume she will receive ere this reaches you. I am very glad to hear that she is so well, and calculates so largely on the wheel of fortune to supply our wants by lottery. I predict that it will be a blank; *fortune teller*, and coffee *grounds* to the contrary notwithstanding. One thing however affords me singular consolation, and that is that you can never suffer while you have so good and kind a Father near you. I hope he may live many years to receive all your gratitude for his affection, and tenderness toward you. None of you have as yet any reason to be unhappy. We must receive patiently the adversities of this life which are so sure to make inroads on our prospects of happiness.

Tell your Mamma that I hope she has not failed to procure a good nurse, and that on my return she will be able to introduce me to a new acquaintance. I will write to her and Sarah next. I wish very much for Sarah to go to Savannah to finish her education. It is high time it should be done, and it is certainly true that she still has much to learn. I am also very desirous for John to get to school somewhere. He is losing the most valuable part of his life for the procurement of

an education. I think it probable that he and Charles will be obliged to go to Savannah.

The mail is just closing, so that I must conclude this much or send you nothing. Give my affectionate love to your mother, Grand Father, Sisters, and Brothers, and respect to enquiring friends, particularly my favorites, Miss B & P. Accept yourself my love and believe me to be very affectionately your loving Father,

P. S. J. Hobkirk is laid up by a wound from a blow gun in some of his projects, *not serious*. Charles is well. I will write to Mr. Hazzard soon. Make my best respects to him and Mrs. W.

John Floyd to Miss Mary H. Floyd, St. Mary's, Ga.

White Hotel, Savannah, Ga.

November 1st, 1814.

MY DEAR MARY: I have just snatched a moment from hurry of business, with which I am much pressed, to scribble you a few lines in answer of your esteemed favor of the 21st ult., by which I was both distressed and rejoiced; distressed to hear of the general indisposition of my dear children, and rejoiced to learn from your postscript that hopes were entertained of their getting better, and flatter myself that that day's mail will bring me the pleasing news of your all being as well as I am, at this time, having had since my arrival at this place a good appetite, and no return of fever.

I have received instructions from General Pinckney, who was not apprized of my arrival here until I wrote to him. I am authorized both by him, and the Governor in the event of the enemy's appearing in force to call out the Militia en masse. This arrangement will place at my disposal a considerable force. So if it can be procured in time, will bid defiance to the enemy, the works progress but slowly, indeed Savannah covers so much ground that it will require very extensive lines to embrace the city. One of the regiments of militia is encamped at a position between this and Costin Bluff, and the arrival of the other is due today or tomorrow, when the brigade of 2000 men will be formed and soon be ready to measure strength with the minions of Johny Bull. In consequence of the powers given me, I have issued orders to the first brigade which is placed under my control; this order has broke in upon the arrangements of two gentlemen of the *militaire*. Colonel Harden of the 35th Regiment was half elected to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Representative Pettibone, when he received orders which would not admit of his absence from his command, he consequently resigned his pretensions as a candidate for the Legislature, when the election was about half over, it being the day on which the election was ordered. Harden had no opponent. New candidates sprang up, and perhaps produced one of the most novel elections ever held here. Lambken out polled Charlton, and Har-

den is accused of design. Major Page, who is the Commandant of Scott's regiment received orders at the moment of his arrival, and on his way home to make arrangements to move his family and property off immediately. This order disconcerts his private schemes. He looks badly, has been ill, and does not appear to have profited by the change.

I have met with many of my compatriots who were very glad to see me. It was like the renewal of the old schools. I am still here at considerable expense, and am impatient to get into camp, which I shall certainly do in a day or two, whether my baggage arrives or not. Many reasons urge its propriety. There are waggons now on the way to St. Mary's, which will be at Jefferson on their return about the 14th inst. by which my baggage can be sent, if it has not been done before. If Jim can be spared, his services will be important to me. I am strongly inclined to purchase a waggon and team, and enter it in the service, by which means it will pay for itself in the course of the campaign, unless its use should be required for the removal of our family and property, which is the principal inducement for having one at command. Time will not allow me to write to you all, therefore you must consider this as addressed to you all, which will entitle me to hear from each of you. The enemies' vessels are still hovering on the coast. Two Carthaginian privateers arrived here a few days ago. One of them alleges that she was chased into Osabaw by the enemy, and proceeded from thence [by] the inland passage. They are in my opinion suspicious, having motly crews and are strongly suspected of being from Barataria, [—?] New Orleans, where so much piracy is carried on.

The regard which I have for Captain Hazzard's honor will certainly induce me to urge his return. The tempest of war will ere long howl in this quarter, when the conduct of individuals, much less officers, will be observed with a scrutinizing eye. If the enemy waits until we can get a little prepared, death will stalk over the battle field the day they approach us, and will afford passports to many a gallant spirit, for the regions of Eternity. They will not triumph without bloodshed. Adieu my Child for a while. Give my love to your Mother, Grand Father, sisters, and brothers, and best respects to enquiring friends. Believe me to be as usual. Your affectionate father,

P. S. Major Hamilton presents his respects to you all.

John Floyd to Miss Mary Floyd

Camp Covington, November 30th, 1814.

I was much disappointed My Dear Mary in not hearing from you last night, in consequence of the late arrival of the Southern mail. I sent Boston early this morning to the office, and he has just re-

turned with the family budget which relieved me from much anxiety as it brings me the pleasing intelligence of the family's being in a fair way to recover their wonted health, and I am happy to have it in my power to add that my own health is much improved.

I am yet sheltered by a tent, and have not slept a night out of quarters since I joined the camp, altho I have had many pressing invitations, and my situation really required greater exemption from the weather. I have, however, a log dwelling under way, and I shall shortly be much more comfortably settled for the winter.

I am sorry that I cannot render my communication an interesting one as thro the papers you receive all the news of a public nature in circulation.

I very unexpectedly met Nat Greene a few days ago in the streets of Savannah—just arrived with his family from the North. Mr. & Mrs. Shaw has also arrived in town. The latter, it seems, is recovering his health.

I have just received a letter from Major Page of the 27th giving me an account of the enemy in St. Andrews, and that they took Captain Dubignon's boat and six or seven hands opposite Retreat after passing thro Wallis Creek. They set the boat adrift but took off the negroes. The Major was very whimsical when he parted with me in Savannah. His determination appeared fixed to move into the up country, but since his return to St. Simons he appears to have subscribed to the intentions of his neighbors to risk everything. It is difficult to know what he will do ultimately. The little squall that has arisen in the latitude of the cottage has been anticipated. Every day's experience proves more clearly the fact of making enemies when we ought to be entitled at least to good will, and what is provoking, these people are the first to exclaim against ingratitude.

Privateering seems to be the order of the day. Boston and New York are entertaining into this species of warfare with great spirit—46 from the former and 16 from the latter, soars out, and the greater part ready for sea; armed chiefly by Federalists. Those from New York contemplate cruising in squadron for the purpose of making havock among the fleets of merchantmen. They will out-sail heavy vessels of war, and his majesty's sloops of war will not be very anxious to overhaul them.

I am anxious about the establishment of our National bank. Without some mode is adopted to obtain money (which is the nerve, and sinew of war), we shall be in a bad way—this essential requisite secured, and we shall bother Mr. Jonney a little. I am provoked with the extravagance of the enemy's rejoicing in England for the destruction of Washington. The city was illuminated three nights and not only the tower guns, but every other was fired. I have been a little disappointed.

I had hoped that they would have burned London on the occasion. They really think the nation half conquered, and that their ambitious views to recolonize us will be fulfilled; but stop, there are hosts of heroes, who will make liberty their last entrenchment. The enemy have only met with a few scattering wasps, and hornets, who have stung them lustily, and returned to their hives *when they beset the swarm*. Death will stalk over the land, and the minions of tyrants will tremble. The whole seacoast to the northward of this are bristling with American bayonets. Beware Mr. Jonny, you may obtain some victories, and occasion many sacrifices, but you cannot triumph over free men.

There seems to be mischief brewing in the wigwam of Europe. The Grand Congress at Vienna, which was to assemble on the 8th Inst. will be productive of some change. It is believed that an effort will be made to establish neutral rights, and that the blockade of the American coast will be remonstrated against. Peter Ceazar of our captured coastry has arrived here and report that there are on the coast 4 frigates, that two launches, and ten boats entered the inlets, and some the inland passage from bar to bar. Altho I feel no concern for the loss of an illicit trade, yet boats ought to be on their guard.

I have this moment heard by accounts just received that the American privateer Decatur has captured the British Channel, a store ship, laden with arms for Canada, worth \$60,000 which prize safely arrived at Ocricoke. The acct. seems to be authentic. I wish it may prove true. I have some doubt of the practicability of such a vessel getting in at that bar.

I shall next write to your mother and Charles whose kind letter I have recd. Adieu. My love to all. In haste. Yours affectionately,

John Floyd to Miss Mary H. Floyd

Camp Covington, December 13th, 1814.

I have the pleasure, My Dear Mary, to acknowledge the receipt of your affectionate letters, which has contributed no little to ameliorate the unpleasant emotions occasioned by indispensable absence from the enjoyment and society of my family. I feel much concerned about your defenseless situation, and, as the feeble means of security are rather decreasing than otherwise, I am the more anxious for the safety of our property; the desertion of which would increase your embarrassment. I understand that the Commodore and his Gun Boat Flotilla are about leaving the St. Mary's Station for Savannah, altho they have never rendered any essential service in that quarter. The circumstance of such a force being in that neighborhood had some tendency to deter the enemy from marauding in small parties. Nor is much to be expected from the militia of our neighborhood under such officers as

the country unfortunately confides in. I should, under existing circumstances, be much pleased if the family could get on to Savannah, until something can be ascertained of the character to be given to the next campaign.

If it were certain that our domestics could be relied on for their fidelity; their removal would not be so material, because they could be removed from the Seaboard and could always have timely notice of the approach of an enemy to enable them to get out of their way: As I shall, in all probability remain here until March next, I could wish that the family were here, where the children could be put to school and in the spring we could all return to the old mansion, or remove into the interior as the times, and circumstances should then warrant.

I think an obstinate war in the European Continent more than probable, in which event, if the war continues with us, its burdens will be less felt, altho exposed situations on the Sea board may not promise uninterrupted security to property.

The ambitious views of the British Cabinet to re-colonize *these United States*, is, I presume, pretty much at an end. The opposition to the war in our own country is fast declining, altho the war with its concomitant consequences may impose many sacrifices and privations; its result will strengthen our independence, and raise the American character to an exalted station among the nations of the earth. Indeed it would be difficult to subjugate a people who so well know how to appreciate their liberty. The clang of the galling chains of tyranny under which our ancestors groaned, and at length so gallantly threw off, have scarcely ceased to jingle in the ears of the present generation. At all events a very lively recollection is entertained of them, which will be transmitted to posterity in their true colors. The enemy may boast of the conquest of Washington; the Londoners may express their idle joy by noise, bon fires, and illuminations, but our country is, nor will not be conquered. National indignation is just kindling. The physical strength of the country is not yet called forth. Our greatest difficulty is to organize our abundant resources, suited to a war establishment; but a continuance of the war will teach this art, as it has that of learning us to defend our liberties, and to vanquish the chosen troops of Europe. The enemy will soon discover one important fact; that "the Soul of an empire is its people, and where ever they are, there is the Capitol." As long as an army exists (and it will exist as long as an American is alive to defend his country); that "the loss of a Capitol is not the loss of National Independence."

You will see by the papers the official account of the taking of Pensacola, and that after driving the British out, the place was left in possession of the Spaniards, who appeared angry with the British for

blowing up their fortifications, which became expedient for the preservation of their shipping in the harbor. How the enigmatical conduct so long practiced between our Government and the Dons will terminate is difficult to foresee; they have acted with much duplicity towards us, and our intentions towards them have been wrapped in mystery; which places but little to our credit, whatever it may ultimately do to our interest.

It appears that general McIntosh has ordered the building of boats on the Chattahoochee for the purpose of descending that river against the Seminole Indians before he marches to Mobile. I am in hopes that measure will preserve tranquility on our frontiers.

I went to Savannah yesterday for the purpose of seeing Captain Hazzard, who was to have reached that place on his way to the Southward, but he had not arrived.

The great concourse of waggons from Savannah to St. Marys have rendered the roads very difficult. Ogeechee Causeway is nearly impassable.

There have been several riots in Savannah between the lower class and the Military of the regular army. They have generally originated in bad company, where they, according to the strength of the party of the opponents vanquished, and in some instances those not concerned have been maltreated. A settled enmity seems to exist between the parties which will end in the death of some if it is not checked, which will be difficult to accomplish. I have succeeded in getting the militia within proper bounds, who consequently are not included.

John Floyd to Mary H. Floyd, St. Marys, Ga.

Camp Covington, December 28th, 1814.

I have just received, My Dear Mary, your affectionate letter of the 23rd Inst. by which I am happy to learn that you are all getting restored to your wonted health. You have accounted very properly for not hearing from me by the mail preceding the last, as my letters, which you have ere this received, will more fully explain. I was aware that Captain Hazzard would have a tedious journey, and that he would be able to realize the difficulties which I portrayed to him, which he, however, appeared to regard with indifference. I wrote to his father by Ansell, who arrived at my quarters a day or two after the Captain's departure without money, and on a horse that appeared death-struck with poverty. I have since received a letter from the Major expressing his extreme uneasiness that his son should, under existing circumstances, have gone on, as he had requested him to consult me and to be governed entirely by my advise on the subject; and I regret that no account enables me to relieve his anxiety on the occasion. I presume, however, that he has before this reached his place of destination.

I am rather at a loss to know what to advise your mother to do at this moment. Should the Indian alarms not continue to disturb the tranquillity of the frontier inhabitants, I think it would be more to our interest for you to remain yet longer where you are. The enemy will hardly, in small parties, penetrate far enough into the country to endanger your safety; on the other hand should they attack this place, as some people of the best information imagine, then your situation in Savannah would be extremely awkward, as a scene of confusion will precede their attack by the flying of the defenseless part of the inhabitants from the City. As to the Indians, I apprehend but little from them for some time to come where you are; as General Blackshear has certainly marched against them, and should his expedition be crowned with success, nothing need be apprehended from them for some time, if ever, in your neighborhood. Genl. McIntosh has also marched from Fort Hawkins, and Colonel Hawkins is to head one thousand friendly Indians who are taken into the pay of the U. S. and are clothed for the service; they are to act in concert with Genl. Blackshear. It is reported that the British are in force at Apalachicola. Various conjectures are afloat as to their destination. For my own part, I can see nothing to justify the belief that Georgia is their object at present.

The British Commissioners have lowered their tone very much. The object of difference is now brought to very narrow limits, and from the probability of a rupture with some of the continental powers, a *pause* before spring is not among the number of improbable things. The enemy, in the mean time, on our coast will endeavor to gather all the spoil they can.

Were the family to remove to Savannah it would be impracticable to bring the necessary articles for housekeeping; to purchase would cost considerable; all of which would perhaps be lost in the event of an attack on the place.

I have just received a very polite letter from Governor Kindelaw [?] in answer to mine written some time since. He informs me that he has ordered the negroes to be delivered to the Mayor of St. Marys and makes no other charge than for their rations. I am surprised that I have heard nothing from Major Clark on the subject. I think some inquiry has been made concerning them. On their delivery have the express promptly paid.

I am glad to see that the brevet rank of major has been conferred on Captain Sevier.

The Commodore and the fleet arrived safe with ten days passage—saw no enemy. The duties on the goods which they brought to Savannah amounted to \$100,000 dollars.

I have seen many old acquaintances, among them, George Cheney

and James West. They both desire to be remembered very kindly to the family. The latter is on his way with cotton for the Amelia market. I have at length regained my usual health. Hamilton is also much better. My affectionate love to all and believe me to be very truly, Your affectionate Father,

John Floyd to Colonel Everard Hamilton, Darien, Ga.

Fairfield, November 22nd, 1821.
 DEAR COLONEL: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favor of the 17th Inst. by Doctor Delarocheaution—who very unexpectedly beat upon our quarters on Sunday last. My fears are realized, and hopes blasted as regards the Governor's election. I shall not be surprised if Georgia in a few years becomes as depraved, vicious, and *Torrijed* as any state in the union. We shall next have every conspicuous appointment filled with Federalists.

On an examination of my affairs I find the three bales of cotton sold by McNish was of the crop of 1819. Why he had not earlier rendered me an account of this sale I know not. They have no connection with the twelve bales, and was the last of the crop, more than enough for two heavy bales, and were made into three, which accounts for their weights. Major Clark has triumphed over the machinations of Henry, and has received his reappointment from headquarters. We have had some good hunting. John has done wonders. I refer you to the Doctor for particulars who we had out all day yesterday. The whole of poor Fitch's family have become extinct, not a single individual of it has survived the dreadful calamity at Augustine.

I feel extremely solicitous for the arrival of the ensuing mail by which I hope to hear of my dear Mary's safe recovery, and that I may have the happiness of congratulating you and her on my arrival at Darien. It was not until late that I heard Doctor's determination to start early in the morning, hence this hurried letter. Present me affectionately to my dear Mary, kiss Charles for me, accept my esteem, and believe me to be very truly yours, Sincerely,

John F. Floyd, Jr. to Colonel Everard Hamilton, Darien, Ga.

April 6th, 1822.

DEAR COLONEL: I received your letter by last mail and the opportunity now presented affords me pleasure in replying to it. Your account of the holy war was amazing. The example of dissenation exhibited by the St. Maryans appears to have been very readily followed. The arrival of Mr. Pratt, he having been thro' the campaign, will be a formidable General against the shop keepers. They will, I presume, be under the necessity of recruiting Bell, the former opponent of Pratt. I have been keeping bachelor's hall ever since the weddings, and with truth inform you that I've not spent a lonesome hour—in truth,

My dear Mary: I wrote Colonel Hamilton by the last mail giving him a history of recent occurrences, since which nothing worthy of notice has transpired. Susan is now here while their household effects are journeying to Woodville, where they will be established in a few days. Williams, Edward, and Charles Hopkins and Hudson, left here on Tuesday, on their way back to Darien, or rather McIntosh County. I should not be surprised if they are all implicated in the affair at Darien on the 3rd Inst. Dexter was so much alarmed on his return he did not stop at St. Marys, but went to Amelia and inclosed the warrant to the sheriff of this county by mail. It still remains in the post office, the sheriff not considering it his duty to receive it in such manner. Thomas H. Miller has been elected the successor of Kean as high sheriff. He has not yet qualified. Public opinion here is indignant at the secret manner in which Lumpkin has encouraged the villainous conduct of Taylor. There is but one opinion entertained of him in Florida and Georgia, except in the esteem of Toney, and his private Secretary, who is believed to be the Governor in act, and supposed to be at the bottom of this business. In truth we ought not to wonder at kindred feeling when it is believed that Taylor's infamy is not more notorious than their respect for the exercise of impartial justice. The recent occurrences to the south seems to have completely robbed sheriffs of their influence over the posse in McIntosh. The sheriff called upon them in vain; not a man obeyed, altho it was one of those contingencies that authorized him to demand their assistance. I have no doubt but the sheriff will report to the Executive, from which source the writs originated, that resistance has been made to the law, and that his *Puritanical Excellency*, will cogitate a proclamation (under the rays of a dark lantern) of outlawing and offer a reward of the people's money in support of vice, because he is at variance with political honesty. Notwithstanding his *pietyism* in his inaugural

John Floyd to Mrs. Mary H. Hamilton, *Willedgeville, Ga.*
 Belle View,
 January 13th, 1832.

ways value it on your account.
 which accept my sincere thanks. I admire it very much, and shall al-
 [P. S.] I have just this moment recd. the present you sent me, for
 It is nearly time for Capt. G. to depart. Love to all. Your friend,
 bucks who have been very impudent of late.
 my father's sickness, but he speaks of sailing forth against some old
 which there is no cause at the former place. I have not hunted since
 appearing now almost deserted, brings to mind melancholly ideas, for
 Fairfield, a place once gay by the number of its inhabitants, and
 my spirits are better than when at the Hermitage. For whenever I visit

address: "That he had no prejudices to gratify nor animosities to avenge." I expect next to hear that his most Christian majesty, and *John of Gant* will give a new exhibition of their swordsmanship, speed, and want of breath, in their flight thro' the country; crying to *arms*, that treason was on its march. *Poor devils*, if their heads were cut off they would not bleed a drop. I have always observed that those who pretend to be the most sanctified are most in dread of the king of terrors. Major Clark seems to have assumed a new character of late, or that his real one has just developed itself. He is a complete apostate to the politics he formerly professed, and is not only ram-punctious but *pugnacious*. The congregation of the church are more furiously than ever by the ears. He Clark, and Mr. McIntosh are at open variance, and armed against each other. Both talk about the field of honor, and I expect it will be talked of as long as the Indian hallowed. The intendant has also fallen out with *Smoked Hog* and threatened to cane his Peach Orchard Highness. He has also had the address to force Duglass Gibson into the ranks of his enemies.

There are several matches made up in St. Marys and its vicinity. James Holzendorf to be married on Monday next to Miss Delworth of the Berry Concern. O'Neal, the widower of Miss Baird that was, will soon take the fat Miss Gundy to himself. Young John Dufour, and Miss Shraman, have settled the preliminaries for a co-partnership for life. Edward Hopkins, it is said, will in March next relieve Miss Ewellina Dufour of the horrors of *Blessed Singleness*. Miss Smille expressed her astonishment that Miss Dufour would permit such a fellow to enter the house, from which she herself has been excluded. I forgot to tell you that Billy Kolly, *the hater of snakes*, was married the other day to a Miss McDorman, an old maid of about 50. It seemed to be the last chance to secure the possession of the long sought secret!

You have perhaps heard of the sudden death of Mrs. Hall of Darten and her child. There is a species of influenza very prevalent which has been very fatal in the northern states. I have been extremely unwell with it for a week past, and nearly as bad off as when in Milledgeville, and in bad trim for writing, as you will perceive.

A week ago the Reverend McPratt had his cotton house, cotton barn, and gin house destroyed by fire, together with horse, gin, etc. together with thirty-two bales of cotton.

I cannot see what could justify the Governor in ordering the arrest and surrender of Hopkins to a foreign tribunal, when if he had himself taken the negroes it would have been no felony, in as much as the claim of them was in the bank as the sale of them the other day under the bank judgment clearly proves. Why did not his Excellency, in the plenitude of his power and readiness to shed the light of his countenance in favor of a swindling scoundrel who had arrogated to

himself the possession, with a view not only to swindle Hopkins, but to defraud the bank of their just claim. Why did he not order their delivery to Taylor? Surely, if the negroes had been Taylor's property, the bank could not have sold them under the nose of Taylor's agent? If the property was not in Taylor's what offence has Hopkins committed *Toney, Toney*. Verily I say unto you, thou art not yet the King of America, nor will you always be receiving \$25,000 of the people's money.

I am sure, my dear Mary, you must be anxious to see the end of this long-winded epistle. I must therefore conclude with joint affection of all here, to you, Colonel Hamilton, and children, severally and individually, wishing you the compliments of the season, and every blessing you desire, and believe me as always, Your affectionate Father.

P. S. Make my respects to Doctor Boykin and other inquiring friends. When in Milledgeville some person inquired of me whether I know anything of John Jones, an orphan at the time of giving in for the lottery. His name was entered in Camden County and drew a prize. Pray ask Colonel Hamilton to enquire at the S. General's office, the County District No. 1 and probable value of it. I saw the man himself the other day from Thomas.

John Floyd to Mrs. Mary H. Hamilton, Milledgeville, Ga.

Jeffersonton, Ga.

February 1st, 1833

MY DEAR MARY: I have had the pleasure to receive Colonel Hamilton's letter of the 20th ult., by which I am happy to learn that you are all well. We went to St. Marys on the 22nd, where we spent a week, agreeably. On our return we passed an hour or two at Dungeness, to afford Anne an opportunity to see the low country style of hedging—and gardening—and the rural and picturesque scenery, from the summit of Castle Miller. We returned here on Tuesday last in the afternoon, and found a son of Nathaniel Greene of Rhode Island, with a letter of introduction from his father, with a special request that he would call here. He is a pleasant and married man; he left here yesterday much pleased with his visit, and reception, and more especially with chase, danger and conquest by himself and Richard over a furious wild bull. I expect all Rhode Island will hear of it, not excepting *Burgess*, *Dutee*, *G. Pierce*, their Representatives in Congress so hostile to Southern rights. The missionaries are out. I wish they had been *hanged* under Gilmer's administration, for which popular opinion would not have treated him worse than it has done by turning him out of the gubernatorial chair. I have long since known the understanding that existed between the *powers that be*; and that these

1. Sometimes spelled simply Jefferson, the county seat of Camden County. Now a dead town.

faratics would be enlarged, to which I have no objections, in as much as they can do us no further harm.

King [—?] is beginning to learn how to steer clear of the quick sands of indifference, and if he does not keep a bright lookout he will crawl out of the little end of the horn of fame, his past victories, (for which I give him credit), and his *Northern-Eastern* and Western friends to the contrary notwithstanding.

The interruption of company prevents me from troubling you with particulars!

More anon. We are strong through *Mercy* and hope this will find you all in the full enjoyment of the inestimable blessing of health. With the offer of love to you all, and kind remembrances to enquiring friends, not forgetting Miss C., I am as always yours truly,

John Floyd to Mrs. Mary H. Hamilton

Belle Vue, November 20th, 1835.

My dear Mary: I have generally deferred writing to you until the last of the week, in order to communicate the latest domestic occurrence, but I have often been interrupted, even after I commenced writing, hence my letters are not as frequent as intended.

I read your letter to your Mother of the 25th Ut. from which I am glad to learn, that Charles' wonted health was returning, and sincerely hope that ere this Marmaduke's has been restored, and also that all the rest of your family and friends are in the enjoyment of that inestimable blessing.

We have had 112 or fourteen cases of measles, and about a dozen more subjects, but one death as yet, tho' some have come very nigh making peace with this world.

Richard's Melinda has been at the verge of the grave from a severe illness, followed by the measles. His other daughter, Anna Maria, and Catharine, are, I trust, out of danger from the onset, and relics of that insidious disease. Henry is the only one of our white family susceptible to it that has not taken it. The intense cold of the last winter destroyed so much more of vegetable matter, not supposed susceptible to the vengeance of the icy God, that the decomposition produced by heat and moisture, under a vertical sun, no doubt sowed the seeds of fever in our atmosphere, aided by a wide spread contagion (measles), which have produced fevers incident to this latitude, more general, more obstinate in their character, and more fatal than I have known since my residence here (yellow fever excepted), which did extend its ravages in the country generally.

I wrote to Colonel Hamilton by the last week's mail. I hope that I have not offended him by my frank replies to his admonitions. I take it kind in him to have my Salvation so much at heart; but you

Some of the Romans owned 4,000 slaves with their life, and death, and perpetual. The Jewish Theocracy as regards slavery was absolute and perpetual. Creditors sold their insolvent debtors, together with their children & Ca. Individuals sold themselves thro poverty. They were reduced to slavery. They were authorized to be sold who could not pay their fines. The same men were bought and sold as slaves (not Ethiopians). Cap-tives in war were reduced to slavery. That under the Jewish theocracy men were born slaves, that under the same men were bought and sold as slaves (not Ethiopians). Cap-tives in war were reduced to slavery. They were authorized to be sold who could not pay their fines. Individuals sold themselves thro poverty. Creditors sold their insolvent debtors, together with their children & Ca. The Jewish Theocracy as regards slavery was absolute and perpetual.

The venerable patriarchs were slave holders. Abraham, the founder of the Jewish laws and the beloved servant of God, led to the field of battle 300 men, slaves born in his own household. That under the Jewish theocracy men were born slaves, that under the same men were bought and sold as slaves (not Ethiopians). Cap-tives in war were reduced to slavery. They were authorized to be sold who could not pay their fines. Individuals sold themselves thro poverty. Creditors sold their insolvent debtors, together with their children & Ca. The Jewish Theocracy as regards slavery was absolute and perpetual.

The Jews were permitted to enslave their own children. The slave is mentioned as the absolute property of the master (he is his money). See Exodus, Nehemiah. The venerable patriarchs were slave holders. Abraham, the founder of the Jewish laws and the beloved servant of God, led to the field of battle 300 men, slaves born in his own household.

You may imagine that I am a stranger to the contents of the Old and New Testaments?—had I not read I might have believed *any* or *everything*. But my Child, I will refer you to the first Book of Genesis to the end of Revelations, and tell me if you can, that slavery was not tolerated from the earliest ages that we know of in the world. The Jews were permitted to enslave their own children. The slave is mentioned as the absolute property of the master (he is his money). See Exodus, Nehemiah.

Much excitement has been produced on the abolition question, and not without apprehension of danger. Concealed in Europe, cherished at the North, and countenanced amongst some of our own people. Vigilance, and not *faith alone* can avert a cut-throat undertaking sanctioned and encouraged under the *cloak* of Religion. No signs of refractory conduct has exhibited itself, on the Seaboard, but that the *mania* exists I cannot doubt. Liberty, the name of which possesses a charm, whether provoked by oppression or an abstract principles, listens not to reason when inflamed by design.

But I abhor the assumption of the sacerdotal cloak assumed by bad men; not the *vicegerent of heaven* to bring misery, and bloodshed under the cloak of religion, under which plea oceans of blood have been shed, and more intended. They are engines in the hands of designing men, for the accomplishment of political purposes—the history of the world will prove it.

know my Dear, that after mature age, and religious opinions are formed they are less liable to apostasy than those of *politicks*. No man deserved Heaven that will not secure the approbation of his own conscience. I condemn no one for their religious belief. I beg you to remember that I am no enemy to what I consider true religion. It is all important and indispensable for the Government and happiness of the human family; without which we should not be better than *heathens; barbarians, and savages*. Do away with the belief of future *rewards and punishments*, and there would be an end to *civil* and *refined society*, and the security to *life, and property*.

My DEAR MARY: I have for a long time intended myself this pleasure, but some unexpected interruptions suspended my good intentions, and now, you must excuse a short and hurried letter. Especially when I have nothing of more interest to communicate than the health of your friends here. Hopkins' family have recovered their wonted health. From the last accounts both the Doctor and Sarah were sick. Fevers are now common, though of a light-intermittant type, with but few exceptions. The mother-in-law of Noble Hardee, and her family, fled from the Indians in Florida and took quarters at his domicile. His wife's sister, a girl of 15 or 16 was seized with fever, and died in a few days. The rest of their family are all sick. Richard and family are in ordinary health. Their little Anne Maria has been in the jaws of death. She has been here for some months, and is now as frolicksome as a little kid. Your Mother has become a fat woman, and I myself weigh more than I ever have. I know enough of human character to have fathomed your ideas when we last parted. I shall live

September 2nd, 1836.
 Belle Vue, near Jefferson.

John Floyd to Mrs. Mary H. Hamilton, Macon, Ga.

The arrival of the mail hour, compels me to conclude, with regards from all here to yourself, husband and children, and believe me as always Your affectionate father, Jno. Floyd.

I believe that there are many pious men and women too, such will always have my veneration, but let not hypocrites come near me. The difficulty is how to discriminate, unless from a knowledge of imprudence. If one of these straggling itinerants were to ask the rights of hospitality, I would double lock my stable, keep my portmanteau and spoons, even irons, ovens out of the way. I think them the veriest set of tolerated miscreants that ever imposed on the ignorance of an enlightened age. - Tell me no more about the march of intellect. That foreign missionary so styled since he came here and turned parson in disguise, whose due was Botany bay, and Garrison and Tappan who would delight to see the flow of the blood of "innocent women and children of the South" in order to remove the obstacles to amalgamation.

in his own hands without responsibility. Christ when upon earth nor his disciples after him, never preached up such nefarious doctrines. See the decalogue. All admonish the servant to be obedient to his master. I could write you a book on this subject and give chapter and verse to prove it, and why these wolves in sheeps clothing talking about their love of God, and humanity, they are friends that deserve what they will get, if they come here, the elevation that will translate them to the republic, of dust and ashes.

I highly appreciate the goodness of your heart. Your Mother goes to St. Marys in a few days to bring little Rosalee from thence, who is in bad health and left there when her Mother returned to the country. Henry did not return to us until the 24th Oct. He has had several attacks of intermittent fevers since, but is getting the better of them. Genl. Blackshear's family were all sick. James came within an ace of dying, which prevented their contemplated visit to you. Henry was very sick while in Laurens. We have had much rain and warm weather. The thermometer ranging from 92 to 95. Our crops are injured by the excess of rain. I hope soon to hear that you are all well. Say to Colonel Hamilton that I will write him a long letter ere long.

Much love to you all, and believe as always, Your affectionate Father,

John Floyd to Colonel Everard Hamilton, Macon, Ga.

Belle View,

May 26th, 1837.

DEAR COLONEL: I hasten to reply to your letter of the 13th inst, by which, I am grieved to learn the indisposition of your family. God grant, that you, and our anxiety may be relieved ere this reaches you. We are impatient to hear the best of an All wise Providence. Pray do not keep us in suspense by the delay of intelligence. Your letters have made your friends here unhappy on several considerations. We your lower country friends participate with you in kindred feelings; how could it be otherwise?

I care nothing about speculations, or moneyed matters. I was born poor and may possibly die so. I owe nothing, I hope I fear nothing, and am willing to resign myself to that Deity who forced me into the world for purposes best known to Himself, which I cannot contravene. But there is one paragraph of your letter I think unkind—as regards Henry's letter to Charles. I gave you a hint, in the sincerity of my heart, that it was a mere jest, and that no offense was intended. I am sorry, however, to find myself censored for an unintended offense. I repeat that nothing of the kind was meant, as I believe I before told you, to the contrary. Henry has on all occasions extolled Charles as one of the best young men of his acquaintance. I will not comment on the word *blasphemy*, or want of *Christianity*, nor will I dilate on the sacrifice that I have heard uttered from the pulpit. Do not believe that I have not read the Bible, and it would be a poor compliment to my understanding to say that I do not comprehend it. Enough on this subject—with this concluding remark, that illiberal constructions upon innocent meanings, are calculated to check friendly intercourse. The quarrel in this neighborhood between the cow thief has been

made more wide. Cowardice and lies are their shields. They have proved themselves recreant. Ben, the best of the name, has been beaten by the *second* of C.R.F. I will not, however, go into detail. The whole proceedings will be soon published in pamphlet form, and will endeavor to send you a copy.

Much love to Mary, and your Children, hoping soon to hear, that you are all as well as this leaves us. Say to Belle that I will write to her soon. Accept for yourself my unaltered regards, and believe me as always,
Yours truly,

John Floyd, to Mrs. Mary H. Hamilton, Macon, Bibb County, Ga.

Belle Vue, September 8th, 1837.

My dear Mary: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your long expected letter of the 5th Ult, which came to hand nearly a month after date. I am much gratified by the information it conveys. I was concerned about your long silence, (fearing from any knowledge of your ready attentions to the duties of friendship, that some unpleasant cause had interrupted a correspondence to me, always welcome.

I am sorry to hear that your ill health produced by fatigue and anxiety for the indisposition of some of your children, and particularly Charles, has caused a suspension of our epistolary intercourse. I am however gratified in the belief that the causes being removed the usual regularity of social intercourse will be restored; making allowances on *my part*, for bad glasses and *worse eyes*.

I believe that I recommended a sea voyage, and a change of scenery for the restoration of Charles health: I am glad that the experiment has been salutary.

On the first and second of August we had a severe north easter; on the Friday before Richard had gone in my Isabella boat to St. Marys for his family who had been there some eight or ten days. The weather was good which continued until Monday. On Tuesday, he attempted to return, but the wind suddenly sprang up for North east, and after continuing against wind and weather to Point Petre, he was obliged to rush back to St. Marys. In the evening at supper where there were ten ladies and as many gentlemen boarders, Capt. Day said that Doctor Church's brother (the old Doctor present) could buy half of St. Marys, having so many ships at sea. Sam'l inadvertently said that he must have a navy. Day indignantly said that it was no navy and that he, Samuel, was in the habit of exaggeration, and Sam'l considered this remark an insult, went into the piazza, sent for Capt. Day, and demanded to know whether he meant to insult him? Day placing himself in a hostile attitude, placing his arm a kimbo and raising himself on his toes; with a scornful curl of his mouth, said that he was account-

able, or responsible, for anything that he said or might do. The reply was a blow. A scuffle ensued, and a roll and tumble thro the piazza until they went down the steps into the streets which separated them for the moment. Day was never in the navy. Richard was present but permitted no interference. Day strutted into the parlor, in the presence of all the boarders, and sent for Sam'l who supposed he wished to explain. As soon as Sam'l came within reach Day, in a ferocious manner, collared him, but the strap of his cravat being trail, it gave way and to the astonishment of all present, Sam'l gave him a blow that cap-sized and broke the table and everything on it to the tune of about \$30 dollars. The room was for a short time in darkness, the ladies screamed, by which the confusion was increased. The room was soon re-lighted when a regular set-took place. The result of which was that Day got a tremendous beating. He was too brave to give in, and continued until he was unable to resist.

Your Brother Sam'l is a small man, but strong and active, a good pugilist, and of interminable courage, not more than half the weight of Captain Day.

Day could never evade a blow, not attempt one that was not parried, consequently he was covered with blood when Sam'l received no other injury but a cut on the knuckle of the second finger of the right hand, by the dislodgement of four of his adversary's teeth.

In the mean time Mrs. Day ran screaming murder through the streets, kicking up the sand 19 inches in the rear; calling for Genl. Clinch, saying that the Floyds were murdering her husband. Clinch said, "Madam if the Floyds are concerned they will not act dishonorably." I went to St. Marys some days thereafter. Sam'l went with me. We were at the supper table, Sam'l within a few feet of Capt. Day. I did not recognize him, being engaged in conversation with others. Soon came Mrs. Day's servant with love and compliments. I returned the civility. Presently came one of my servants with gin toddy [—?] I would speak to him he would make the advance. I said, Yes, I had no quarrel with him. The next morning Day came down to breakfast. Spoke to me. I received him as usual. Soon after Mrs. Day made her appearance, ran to me in the presence of the *boarders*, embraced and kissed me like a long absent child. What think you of such duplicity? The want of time will not allow me to say more, I hope that your your mother, has told you the rest. Your mother is much larger and more fat than you have ever seen her.

Love to all. I will write to the Colonel ere long. Believe me as always, Your affectionate Father.

John Floyd to Mrs. Mary H. Hamilton, Macon, Ga.

Belle Vue, November 30th, 1837.

My dear Mary: I will write you a short letter to inform you of the condition of the health of your friends in the neighborhood.

You have been informed of the departure of your Brother Richard in quest of health. His brother Saml. accompanied him. He set out with the intention of going to the West Indies. On his arrival at Charleston he was advised to change his route for the Sweet Springs or Virginia, and again for the west, but the unstable state of the currency anchored him every where. By his last letters his health has been much improved. His return here is expected today. Henry, and your brother Charles have had severe attacks of fever. They are both better. Henry is now on Jekyll, and looked for every day. Julia Floyd is in St. Marys. She has added to your original name a fine black eyed boy, the day after Mrs. Judson's death! On Sunday last an express arrived here informing of Mrs. Floyd's extreme illness. Doctor Delaroché was immediately sent for. The messenger (Mr. Rossignote) who volunteered his service, rode all night. Your Mother went to St. Marys on Tuesday. Doctor Delaroché arrived at St. Marys on Wednesday. Julia's recovery is doubtful from application of drastic mediums.

Doctor Delaroché left here today. He and his family are well. He says that Mrs. F. may recover by extreme good management, but that the least error will consign her to the tomb.

Mrs. Catherine Sadler has kindly taken charge of the infant whose mother could not administer to its comforts. You may have heard of the death of Doctor Frances Miller (*so called*) of Glynn. There have been several deaths in St. Marys.

Major B. Hopkins and his whole family, black and white, have been much indisposed. Doctor D. will stop there today.

Your mother on her return passed a night with Mrs. McIntosh, whom she left well.

Your mother is more fat than you have ever seen her; who together with myself and our Catherine are well; as I hope this will find you and every member of your family to whom present my affectionate regards.

Say to Colonel Hamilton that I will shortly acknowledge the receipt of his last favor. Adieu, My Dear Mary, until you hear from me again. Pray let me hear from you soon, and believe me to be as always, Your affectionate Father,

P. S. Kiss your children for me, and tell them not to forget me.

John Floyd to Colonel Edward Hamilton

Belle Vue,

May 18th, 1838.

DEAR COLONEL: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of

your friendly and acceptable favor of the 22nd Ul., by which I was gratified to learn that you were all well except John, for whom I feel much concern. I cannot account for the silence that has kept me so long ignorant of his affliction. By what means was he poisoned? It must have been external, and if from the cow itch, I never before knew that its effects were periodical.

You have better send him to us. A change of climate, aided by the efforts of nature and a growing constitution, may restore him. Tell him not to be discouraged, but come to his friends that will do every thing they can for him. I am glad to find that my anticipations, that your son Charles would be a business man, so well conformed. Ask him why he does not write to me.

Inform him that I never will interfere with his opinions as to the nearest roads to Heaven, he has as much right to his belief as I have, which ought not estrange our affections.

By the bye, there came here a Catholic priest to whom I was introduced, Father O'Neal! This common place civilities was barely exchanged before he accosted me on the subject of religion, which, by the bye, I thought rude, and relieved me from that courtesy that I ought deferentially [to] have shown to his opinions. I asked first if he had ever read the Bible? He said "Yes." He knew it by heart, chapter and verse. "Then Sir, I presume you understand it?" "Yes." "Do you believe in it historically or morally?" He said in "Both." "Do you believe in the immortality of Soul?" "Yes." "From what emanated this spirit that inhabits our earthly tabernacles?" "From Heaven?" "Can't be extinguished." "No." "Whence comes sin?" "No answer. Question: "When Cain was driven out of the Garden of Eden for the murder of his brother when there were but four human beings in the world, where did he go?" "The Land of Nodd." "Where did he get a wife? For if you understand the Bible you must know that Eve's only daughter Sarah was born many years thereafter?" He said that God could make a wife for a man at any time; and do you suppose that God would have created a wife for Cain as a reward for his perty? *Humm.* I put many to the old Irish priest that he could not reasonably answer. I will not trouble you with a detail of them and I only mention so much for your amusement. O'Neal, an Irishman by birth, and a scholar by education, and with all a gentleman in manner, when he took leave, told me that he never again would trouble me on the subject of religion. I believe that he thought that I had no Bible, and if I had, I had never read it, and if I had, that I did not understand it. To his astonishment I called for the Bible, referred him to many chapters in it suited to my argument, which he would not look at.

Thru the medium of the Public Prints you have been informed of the results of the Boat Sun at Savannah between the Georgia and

New York row boats. There never has been so gala a time in Savannah. Thousands of people witnessed it and tens of thousands of dollars changed hands. Some mortgaged their town property to raise money, including their wives pocket money, to bet on the New York Star, a beautiful specimen of mechanism, like a piece of cabinet work, all would not do. She is now safe on Camden as safe as a bug "in the proverbial rug." The difference of opinion between plank and canoe boats is for the present settled. They may not be willing to stay beaten, but if she comes out again they will find that the Lizard is not our fastest boat. There is a great mania for boat rowing. Many new clubs have been founded. A race was to have taken place yesterday at Brunswick, "The Henry" and "Floyd" against any boat that could be started of any length or dimension. 2 canoe boats against two oar for 100 dollars. The boat is not now owned by Henry, nor do I believe that he is concerned in the boat. He won \$200 on the Savannah river.

I am glad to say that Henry has given a wide berth to Jekyl with all its charms. He has become steady and industrious, and considered the most efficient manager on the Canal, for which his wages have been raised to 1000 dollars. Genl. Charles left here on the 9th to take command of the Georgia troops in aid of Scott and other troops against the Cherokees if they show their teeth! I have much more to say but neither time nor space will allow. We are all well who send much love to you and yours, and believe me. Yours truly

Richard F. Floyd to Marmaduke Hamilton

St. Augustine, April 27th, 1856.

MY DEAR DUKE: I returned here last evening, after dark, from the St. Johns River, and found your esteemed letter, with its enclosures, awaiting me here. The subjects contained in your letter interested me very much, and I am gratified to find that your views respecting Mr. Fillmore's nomination, and Kansas affairs, correspond so identically with my own. I am ready at any moment to endorse the opinions which you express, and to act up to them. But as regards the Florida Indians, and prompt action by the Genl. Government for their subjugation, I entertain great doubt. The events connected with the last Indian War here, are still fresh in my recollection, and I will remember that the newspapers were filled with "Prompt and decisive measures by the Government to end the war at once," and were crowded with Government intentions; but all this, instead of being carried into effect, and accomplishing benefits, only lulled the apprehensions of the people and thereby got an extra number of them under the scalp-ing knife. This, I apprehend, is but a second series of the old work. The old war wore itself out, and expired by its own natural limitation: 2. This was, no doubt, the Brunswick and Altamaha Canal.

I took my wife and little Dick with me when I visited the St. Johns River the other day. I slew some tremendous alligators with my rifle. I must tell you of one adventure with an alligator, of immense size and great ferocity, which made things look pretty squally at one time. I had Mary and little Dick in a small plank boat, and two negroes rowing, and went cruising down the river in the afternoon, carrying my rifle and a double barrel gun. Discovered a large alligator which

dated.
different section of the country from that in which Drysdale is situated. I read a long letter from Mr. Jno. Drysdale yesterday, dated March 7th, Fort Oxford, Oregon. He and his small garrison were expecting hourly to be attacked by a band of about 300 well armed and very warlike Indians. These Indians have been murdering and burning indiscriminately all round the post. Drysdale had been ordered out at the head of his company and marched a great distance through dreadful weather. He says it rained and stormed almost incessantly. He was about going out upon another expedition in the mountains. He says the troops are so few in number, that he has great misgivings about the result of a battle, and that the news we heard of the defeat of 70 regulars and 250 volunteers by the 300 Indians was all true—only that there were 70, instead of 300 Indians. That occurred in a

on either side.
detail them. It seems to have been "so good and so good"—no victory Indians down South, and it is therefore unnecessary that I should newspaper account, of the late fights between the Troops and the in the Cabinet, so far as salary goes. I presume you have seen the a crusade myself, and I really believe I could do better than if I was ward was offered I would shoulder my old Constable rifle and make obsolete thing, and would rank among those that had been. If this re- to sneak hunting, and then, Indians in Florida would soon become an be reaped, every one of these poor fellows would devote his entire time when such a golden harvest as a "five hundred dollar shoot" was to humanity that a wolf does; and this long preamble goes to prove that these poor fellows regard an "Injin" as occupying the same scale in poor fellows see but little money accruing from their hard labors. Then their rifle to add an occasional turkey or haunch of venison; but these "crap" seldom does more than to give bread to the little ones, and powder horn slung thereto—and a few charges in each. Their whole many poor wire grass fellows who own but one wife, twelve children, six acres of cleared pine land, and a rifle, racoon skin pouch, and a months would have been sufficient to clear the country. There are have inserted the stronger clause of "dead or alive," and then three instead of offering a reward for "live Indians," the Government should and unless very different measures are taken, this will likewise. In-

appeared shy and inclined to dive, so I took the rifle and fired at 75 yards. A tremendous flouncing and then his claws spread above the surface, showing that my ball had travelled true to the mark. We rowed up to him (nearly a half mile from the shore) and, as it was impossible to take him into our little boat, I pulled alongside of him, and having only a drum line and hook to secure him, I reached over and hooked him in the side and put out for shore, towing him by the line, but had to do it cautiously, as he was very heavy. As soon as we got near the shore where the alligator grounded, the water being about knee deep, the gator began to revive, *turned right side up*, saw the boat, and came right for it with his horrid jaws wide open and right towards the stern where Mary and Dick were sitting. Both the negroes jumped overboard and ran towards the land, the boat rocked violently and I had not time to pick up the double barrel. So I seized and car and ran it down his throat; he shook it with the most furious energy and actually *bit the blade off* as easily as I could have broken a reed. But this gave the boat an impetus and widened the distance, giving me a chance to get my double barrel. I did so and at the distance of 12 feet, discharged 14 troop shot into his head, carrying the whole scullcap off, and quieting him instantly. To add to the confusion, two of my dogs ran in from the shore and tried to get into the boat. Mary behaved well on the occasion, and did not scream as ladies are apt to do in such cases. But this had learned me that I shall not take ladies and children again in a small boat to hunt alligators.

This alligator measured thirteen feet six inches in length, and was very stout. I had him cut up, and extracted the oil by process of fire, and I got 1 1/2 gallons of clear and beautiful oil—as sweet as hog's lard. I had much of the balance barbecue for my dogs and they feasted well. I landed Mary and Dick at the point where the alligator was vanquished, and walked with them home, sending the alligator around in the boat with another which I went out after and killed, after I had put Mary on shore. I had ordered a pair of grapes made before I went to the River, but they were not done, else I should have managed this alligator much better. I shall be all right the next time.

I enclose \$6.00, my dear Duke, in payment of the balance I am due you—and let me here reiterate my sincere thanks for your many and prompt attentions to my numerous requests. The cards reached me while I was at my place on the River. You did not tell me whether you had distributed any for me or put up any of them in steam boats or hotels. I should be glad to do this. I have so many applications to do land business for others that I have had these cards in self-defense—or so as to give me a better right to compensation. When I got home last night I found three letters to me to buy land, and the mail previous brought me two letters on the same business. If you have not dis-

tributed any, will you be good enough to tell me to whom I would do

well to send them in Savannah.

Do give our united love to Sister, and to Zoe, and John, and receive

it for yourself. I would have gone to hear Ole Bull, if I had known

in time. Always, if you please, My dear Duke, remember me to Charles

Hamilton and to his family, for there is no man on earth that holds

a higher place in my esteem and affection than your brother Charles.

There is much alarm felt about the Indians even on the river near

where I live, and some people have moved into town.

Do write me often and tell John that I will acknowledge his welcome

letter soon. Sincerely and affectionately yours,

General John Floyd's Will

In the name of God, Amen!

I, John Floyd of Bellevue place, in the County of Camden and State

of Georgia, being of sound mind and health, but aware of the uncer-

tainty of life, doth make, ordain and declare this instrument, which

is written with my own hand and subscribed by the same to be my

last Will and Testament, revoking all others, and the following in-

structions to my Executrix and Executors or Administrators, are in-

tended to be so explicit and clearly expressed, as to avoid all forced

constructions or misapprehension of the equitable intention of the

distribution of my property, not specially otherwise conveyed or dis-

posed of previous to my decease. It is therefore confidently expected,

and earnestly requested that my executors hereafter named (or repre-

sentatives), will in good faith conform to the following directions,

to-wit:

In primis — All my just debts are to be paid as soon as practicable,

and the legacies hereinafter bequeathed (if any), are to be discharged

as soon as circumstances will permit.

Item — To my dearly beloved wife, Isabella Maria Floyd, I give

and bequeath the following named property in land and negroes in

lieu of dower or any other claim upon my estate, to-wit: Bellevue

plantation, upon which I now reside (being part of a tract of land

originally granted to Roger Kellissal, and bounded on the east by a

partition line separating Fairfield tract from it, which dividing line

was at my request run in the year 1830 by William Ashley, Esquire,

then the County Surveyor. The other boundary of the Bellevue tract

so designated from Fairfield are shown by the plat of the whole sur-

vey), with all the lands, tenements, tenants, buildings, improvements

and appurtenances thereunto belonging, with all and singular my house-

hold and kitchen furniture, all my books, boats and one-sixth part of

my stocks of every description, and also my property in the town of

St. Mary's, in the County and State aforesaid, consisting of two im-

proved lots joining each other, and known by the plat of the town by the number —, with all the buildings, fences and improvements appertaining thereto, together with all my household and kitchen furniture belonging to same, and the following negro slaves by name, to-wit: old black Sally, her sons Jack and George, Isaac (Carpenter), Sylvia, Celia, Emmanuel, Sally, Neptune, Jennet, Abegail, Isaac (Jim) and Jonas (the last mentioned seven are the children of Carpenter Isaac and his wife Sylvia). Flora and Samilla, colored girls, and the children of Rose, deceased, Euphemia and Wabby (the children of the above named Celia), Betty and her two children, Jack and Julia, Quash (Driver), his wife Harriet and their children, Frederick, Cyrus, Quash and Arley, Rosina, a colored French woman and mulatto, Sally, house servant and seamstress, being thirty in number, together with the future increase of the females, and I hereby confirm the claim of my beloved wife to the woman Venus and her children Hobbs, Charlotte, March, Fanny and Selina, they being property given her by my father in his life time, she has at all times the right to do with as she pleases. The negroes contained in both gifts are in number thirty-five (35).

Item — The property hereby bequeathed by me to my beloved wife is for her own benefit during her natural life, during which time she may lease, rent or hire the whole, or any part of it from year to year as she may deem to her advantage, but no part of either lands, tenements or negroes derived from me are to be sold during her lifetime, unless it be for debts of her own contracting, and in such case her chattels only may be made liable, but lands are in no wise to be subject to the payment of her debts, as they are specially and only given for her benefit during her lifetime, and immediately after her demise, the lands so loaned reverts to my estate, and becomes a part of it to be disposed of by my executors or representatives as shall be hereafter directed.

Item — My beloved wife is authorized by this instrument to dispose of her chattels bequeathed to her by me by her will or deed to any of her children or grandchildren at her option and discretion to take effect after her death, but in the event of her not making any formal disposition of her goods and chattels during her lifetime, then in that case, all such property, as well as lands, reverts to my estate and becomes a part of it.

Item — Nothing given by my father in his lifetime to my wife or her children is mentioned here other than to identify the property so given in order to prevent any misunderstanding among my heirs, executors or representatives, who may not be intimately acquainted with facts: Therefore, be it known to all whom it may concern, that my father, Charles Floyd, in his lifetime gave as a memento of his

proved lots joining each other, and known by the plat of the town appertaining thereto, together with all my household and kitchen furniture belonging to same, and the following negro slaves by name, Sylvia, Celia, Emmanuel, Sally, Neptune, Jennet, Abegail, Isaac (Jim) and Jonas (the last mentioned seven are the children of Carpenter Isaac and his wife Sylvia). Flora and Samilla, colored girls, and the children of Rose, deceased, Euphemia and Wabby (the children of the above named Celia), Betty and her two children, Jack and Julia, Quash (Driver), his wife Harriet and their children, Frederick, Cyrus, Quash and Arley, Rosina, a colored French woman and mulatto, Sally, house servant and seamstress, being thirty in number, together with the future increase of the females, and I hereby confirm the claim of my beloved wife to the woman Venus and her children Hobbs, Charlotte, March, Fanny and Selina, they being property given her by my father in his life time, she has at all times the right to do with as she pleases. The negroes contained in both gifts are in number thirty-five (35).

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affection for his daughter-in-law and his grandchildren the following negro slaves, to-wit: To my wife, Isabella Maria Floyd, he gave a girl named Venus, the daughter of Elvira. To Mary Hazzard Floyd (now the wife of Everard Hamilton), he gave another girl, named Venus (the daughter of Rose). To my son Charles Renaldo Floyd, he gave a boy named Wabby. To my daughter, Sarah Catherine Wigg Floyd, now Mrs. De La Roche, he gave a girl named Jenny. To my son, John Fender Floyd, he gave a boy named Pompey. To my daughters, Susan Dixon Ludoriska Floyd (now Mrs. Benjamin Hopkins), he gave a colored girl called Eliza, which said girl several years after his, Benjamin Hopkins, intermarriage with my daughter, sold me for a valuable consideration in money, as the Records of the Superior Courts of McIntosh County will show, and is now no part of my estate nor subject to my heirs or representatives in any manner whatever. To my daughter Caroline Eliza Louisa Floyd (now Mrs. James Blackshear), he gave a colored girl named Edith. To my son, Richard Ferdinand Floyd, he gave a boy named Jim. To my daughter Melinda Isabella Floyd, (late Mrs. William Hopkins), he gave a colored girl named Lucretia. To Samuel Augustus Floyd he gave a boy named Dandy, and to Henry Hamilton Floyd he gave a boy named Hector.

Item — All the property given by me to my children after their arrival at mature age or previous to my demise, whether in money or in other property of equal value, is to be considered and estimated as so much of their proportion of the whole of my disposable estate, which may be ascertained by the appraisement of what may remain at my death, which added to that which has been given will show the aggregate amount of the whole, and it may not be improper here to state for the information of my executors or representatives what each of my children have received since their arrival at mature age; nothing advanced to them during their minority are embraced in these calculations.

Item — Know then that on the marriage of my daughter Mary to Colonel Everard Hamilton, I gave her in money Fifteen Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) and five negroes worth Fifteen Hundred Dollars more, equal to Three Thousand Dollars, and in January, 1831, gave her eight negroes more, supposed to be worth Two Thousand Four Hundred (\$2,400) Dollars, making the whole of what she has received Five Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$5,400).

Item — To my son, Charles Renaldo Floyd I have advanced to him in money since his arrival at mature age, as my memorandum will show, Two Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars, and have given him thirteen negroes up to January, 1831, considered worth Three Thousand Dollars, and Fairfield place, estimated at One Thousand Dollars, the whole equal to Six Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$6,800)

Item.— To my daughter, Sarah, on her marriage with Dr. De La Roche, I gave in money One Thousand Three Hundred Dollars and four negroes, considered worth One Thousand Four Hundred Dollars, and in January, 1831, I gave in addition to the above eight negroes more, supposed to be worth Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars, which in the aggregate is equal to \$5,100.

Item.— To my son, John Fendin Floyd, I have advanced on his account since he has been of age One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Dollars, and at the distribution of part of my property among my children in January, 1831, I reserved and set apart for the use and benefit of his widow, my beloved daughter-in-law, Ann Hunt Alston Floyd, the following negroes, to-wit: Charles, Podydore, Jenny, her children, Bett and Ione, Caesar, Mary, old Isaac, Dinah, her children, Jacob, Esau, Boston, Sampson and Chloe, being thirteen in number and supposed to be worth Three Thousand Dollars, which in addition to Nineteen Hundred and Seventy before stated, gives on the aggregate the amount of Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Dollars (\$4,970).

Item.— The above named fourteen negroes I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter-in-law, Ann Hunt Alston Floyd, for her own use and behoof forever unencumbered by any claim upon them by or from any person or persons whatever, and are given free of all claim or expectation from my estate in any future division of property which may take place.

Item.— That after the marriage of my daughter Susan to Mr. Benjamin Hopkins, I gave her in cash One Thousand Dollars and three negroes, worth Eight Hundred Dollars, and at the distribution of a part of my property among my children in January, 1831, I authorized my son-in-law, Mr. Benjamin Hopkins, to secure to himself, on my account, to the amount of Three Thousand Dollars worth of negroes formerly belonging to the estate of his father, for which I now hold a firm title, as the Records in McIntosh County show, by my purchase of hands and negroes from George Atkinson, who had purchased them under the execution of a judgment of the Bank of Darien against the estate of Hopkins, which makes in the aggregate Four Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$4,800).

Item.— To my daughter, Caroline, after the marriage with Mr. James H. Blackshear, I gave her at the distribution of a part of my property in January, 1831, thirteen negro slaves, which with other trifling allowances are in the aggregate equal to Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500).

Item.— To my son Richard, since he has arrived at mature age I have advanced on his account from time to time Five Hundred Dollars and at the distribution of a part of my property in January,

1831, I gave him twelve negroes, worth Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars, which in addition to Five Hundred Dollars is \$4,000.

Item — In due time after my demise, and this my Will shall be proven and recorded, my executors or representatives are hereby required to proceed on legal form to have the whole of my estate previously appropiated valued by appraisal, and when its value shall be thereby ascertained, to add the amount of that which had been previously given according to the preceding estimates, except the portion herein bequeathed to my beloved wife, which will have no connection with this arrangement unless events shall subject it to the conditions previously specified (of her dying intestate before such appraisal takes place). The total amount of my property having been thus ascertained, divide it by the present number of my surviving children, deducting from each the amount which each has received and the inequalities of previous distributions will appear for correction. My children are all equally dear to me, and my desire and intention is to make the fruits of my worldly tolls equitable in the distribution among them. Should any of my children who have a right to claim under this Will die before the final division of my property, the lawful issue, if any, such will hereby be entitled to the parent's portion to be received.

Item — My two minor sons, Samuel Augustus Floyd and Henry Hamilton Floyd, are to receive their maintenance and education out of my estate until they arrive at mature age without any deduction or charge from their full portion of my estate. Should each or either of them die under age, his or their portion to which he or they would have been entitled, will be divided among my surviving children.

Item — My lands are not to be divided until my youngest son, Henry, arrives at mature age, and the whole of them not previously disposed of, including those in McIntosh County (hereafter described), are required to be resurveyed designating their qualities by which their proportions and probable values may be ascertained when my executors or representatives will proceed to divide the lands into as many lots (having regard to soil and location) as I may at the time have surviving children, or the lawful issue of such as may die after the record of this Will and before a division of these lands can take place, in which case no such issue to claim more than what would have been its or their parent's part under this Will. The mode of distribution to be conducted agreeably to the following directions, viz: The number of lots to be equal to the number of heirs, regularly numbered and put into a hat, and the names of the heirs (corresponding with the number of lots), written on separate pieces of paper and put into another hat. Two disinterested persons will proceed to draw from one hat

containing the names, and other from the hat containing the number of lots, and the number of the lot following the name shall establish the right of claim to the same, and the same order to be pursued until the drawing shall be finished.

Item — My lands in McIntosh consists of two tracts, one of seven hundred acres, known by the name of the Howard tract, and one other tract adjoining thereto, containing three hundred acres, as the plats, titles on record in McIntosh County and my tax returns will show, these lands together with one hundred and twenty-two negroes, was purchased by me from George Atkinson, Esquire, of Darien, as the Title Deed and Records of McIntosh County will show. A part of the negroes I have conveyed to certain individuals for valuable considerations to relieve the estate of Gen. Francis Hopkins, deceased, from embarrassments, for which I had assumed the responsibility. And as before stated, I authorized my son-in-law, Mr. Benjamin Hopkins, to appropriate Three Thousand Dollars worth of said negroes (to which I hold a firm title) for the sole use of himself and his family as an equivalent to the portions given to my other children on the distribution of property to them in January, 1831. The balance of these negroes are in the hands of the heirs of Gen. Francis Hopkins, deceased, who have been permitted to retain them, under their promise to work out the debt due by the estate to the Bank of Darien, and also to pay me for advances which I have made from my individual fund to pay the debts of that estate.

Item — From an examination of my books of account with that estate on the 7th day of April, in the year 1831, by Levi S. Delyon, Esquire, the Legal Attorney for the said estate, and Maj. William Hopkins, one of the heirs, it appears that the estate of Hopkins aforesaid owed me a balance of Two Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Dollars (\$2,580), entitled to lawful interest from the above mentioned date. This sum divided between ten heirs of that estate shows that each of them are indebted to me Two Hundred and Fifty-eight Dollars (\$258), as Levi S. Delyon's certificate will prove.

Item — In the event of my lands in McIntosh County (as before described) not being sold in my lifetime, my executors or representatives are hereby authorized by the consent of a majority of my heirs to either sell them or partition them out as before directed, as they in their judgment may deem most conducive to the interest of said heirs. But my lands in Camden County are not to be sold until a division of them takes place, which will be when my youngest surviving son becomes of age.

Item — When the whole value of my estate shall have been ascertained by appraisement as directed, added to that which has been

Given as shown by the preceding statement, divide the Grand total between the number of my present surviving children (i.e., eight at the time, which will give the amount to which each is entitled of the whole, from which deduct the amount that has been received from each dividend, and it will be seen what may be due each on a final division, which may be in the early part of the month of the first January after my death, or as soon thereafter as circumstances will permit.

Item — Samuel and Henry Floyd are each to receive their full portion of my whole estate without any deduction. If a division of my property after my death takes place before my two youngest sons are of the age twenty-one years, my executors or representatives are authorized to proceed to a division of my property according to its appraised valuation. The lots of negroes set apart for Samuel and Henry Floyd are to be of equal value with other lots that have been or may be distributed, taking care that each of them have a just proportion of working valuable hands with other heirs. If, however, these lots are determined for them, I mean Samuel and Henry, before their arrival at mature age, their property is to remain under the superintendence of my executors or representatives as a part of my estate, and the proceeds of the labor of these slaves are to be applied to the disbursement of the expenses of the estate, until their age entitles them to the control of it. The choice of the lots of negroes set apart for these two young members of my family to be decided by lot between them.

Item — My warlike and sporting weapons of every kind are to be distributed among my sons in just proportion to their value, or be sold for their benefit if they prefer.

Item — To my driver, Ansel, for his faithful services and fidelity during the late war, I give from the proceeds of my estate an extra suit of cheap broadcloth, a hat and a pair of shoes and Ten Dollars per annum (and his provisions so long as he lives).
Item — The five-sixths (5-6) of my stock of every kind I give and bequeath to be equally divided among my children now residing in Camden County.

Item — All receipts, either of money or value of any description which may be due to my estate and received, recovered or coming into the hands of my executors or administrators having no connection with the previous distribution of property mentioned in any of the items directing the manner of such distributions — I mean any money that may be due to my estate and recovered until after my demise — shall be applied to the payment of my debts; if none at that time to be equally divided between my wife and children, and should it so happen that such avails are inadequate to the payment of such debt, then, and in such case the property

subject to a division after my death must be kept together until all such debts are paid before such division as heretofore directed can take place, except the portion to Samuel and Henry Floyd, who will pay their proportion of such debts.

Item — Should my beloved wife, Isabella, choose to withdraw her property from the management or superintendence of my executors or representatives, she is hereby authorized to do so at any time at her discretion. On the other hand, should she desire to entrust her interests to their care and management, it is my particular request, that it may be diligently and particularly attended to, and the proceeds of the labor of her negroes to which she may be entitled to receive to be paid to her without unnecessary delay. That all reasonable means will be used to contribute to her comfort, and that in all cases and under all circumstances, I solicit and trust that due respect will be paid to her feelings and a kind attention shown to her wants by which the concomitant infirmities incident to age may be softened and the evening of her life rendered as tranquil as the fates will permit. These considerations have governed me in the selection and appointment of executors to this my last Will, to whose care, management and protection I commit the sacred trust of worldly endearments, consoling as I am with the belief that my confidence warrants the reasonable expectation of the fulfillment of the duties due to friendship, strengthened by the ties of consanguinity.

Item — Should contrary to my wishes or intentions any difference of opinion arise from the inadvertency or ambiguity of expression or from the absence of legal or technical terms, none of which having been studied or deemed necessary for the plain and unvarnished expression of my Will, in any such case it is my request that such misunderstanding or difference of opinion as to the construction or wording of this instrument of writing shall be settled by impartial and disinterested men whose probity and intelligence can be relied upon, each of the disagreeing parties choosing one, and the two so chosen to call in an umpire, if necessary, whose award shall determine the testator's intention and meaning, and their decision shall be to all intents and purposes, as binding as any other form could make it.

And lastly, I hereby constitute and appoint my beloved wife, Isabella Maria Floyd, my executrix and my son, Charles Renaldo Floyd, my son-in-law, Everard Hamilton, and my son Richard Ferdinand Floyd, my true and lawful executrix and executors to this, my last Will and Testament.

In witness of all and each of the matters and things contained in this instrument of writing denominated a Will, I have set my hand and seal, this 16th day of October, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the fifty-seventh year.