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Jacksonville Fla 12<sup>th</sup> November 1864

Mr H. C. Mitchell

Resd - I received your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> this morning. You are undoubtedly labouring under some Misapprehensions in regard to my position and wishes, - my father intended to provide for the comfortable support of his widow during her life, and this, I desired him to do, - he supposed that the family and home would pay for her Board, looking to, and that the hire of the slaves would pay for other necessities, and this looked reasonable, ~~reasonable~~ -

In preparing the papers, the only suggestion that I made to him, was, to increase the provision made for Mother, I did not then believe, nor did he, that slave property would become worthless in Kentucky, - The reason why I expressed the hope to you, that you would be able to account for the personal property was this, - in the progress of the suit my brother may require you to yourself to answer on oath, and furnish an inventory of the personal property, and I wanted you to be in a situation to do this satisfactorily to yourself. I had no fears of your misusing the property or hiding or concealing, I am glad to know that things are in good shape, - the note that

that you gave for personal property  
Will of course, be turned over to mother, - you do  
not say who it was ~~given to~~, made payable to,  
if to me, and delivered to Mr. Mulleghans, I will  
direct him to hand it over, - you say nothing  
about any debt or claims against the estate  
nor about administration, - I suppose no  
administration is necessary, and that there  
is no debt or claims to be paid, if there are  
any, I will pay them, whenever I obtain funds,  
or if mother pays any thing I will refund the  
contribution, - I was willing before father died, to place  
the property in any situation that he desired,  
so far as I could, but I was advised by Mr. Underwood  
that I could not charge the deeds, or the Trusts,  
without making myself personally responsible,  
and was then, leaving the property to pass by the deeds,  
the personal responsibility I would have incurred,  
if that had been all, - but this was unless, ~~unless~~  
unless the property could be charged, -

I have written Mr. Underwood to know, if we cannot  
obtain a decree abating from the abatement  
to my brothers and their families in consequence  
of the loss of the slaves, but have received no  
answer, I have nothing to abate from, as I get  
nothing until mother dies, or I would very  
cheerfully divide or surrender the whole.

I am glad that you are in the House, and hope  
that you will consent to remain, I do not  
know what next mother will expect or demand

She has the right to fire this, until the court orders  
otherwise, - but so far as I have the right to  
speak, you can have the whole matter for  
the Board of Mother and the Servant Girl, -  
you cannot be involved in any difficulty of  
remaining in possession of the property,  
I cannot now visit Kentucky, nor do I know  
that I can this winter, I have hopes to settle  
every thing there without having to return.  
As soon as you hear from mother what  
disposition she desires to make of herself  
let me hear from you. Your friend for

W. M. Thomas