

My dear Sir

The arrival of the slaver Echo in our Bay has created considerable excitement in the city of Charleston. The question is, what shall be done with them. Many years ago, the same questions arose are the illegal importation of some slaves into Florida, and the Government determined that humanity and duty required that they should be left in the country in the hands of [?]. Mr. [?] of Georgia and Mr. White of Florida were opposed [commissioners?]. Now if we later [?] to pursue this course, they [?] to suggest the appointment of Mr. Colcock our Port Collector and myself as fit for [?] to receive the appointment of commissioners to take care of the slaves. What ? of a ?? in taking care of many slaves, ? ? to refer you to the Rev. Mr. [Kershaw?], a minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church now in Washington who last was a missionary to them on the Altamaha River in Georgia. I have written to Mr. Cobb, the [?] of Mr. [?]. Please before you act read over the letter I have written to him, and

Believe me [?]
Ever your obedient
Servant
P. B. Rhett

His Excellency
James Buchanan

Charleston Aug 30 1858

[On back of letter in a different hand: P B. Rhett/ Charleston S. C. Aug 30 '58/ The arrival of the Slaver has created considerable excitement_The question is what shall be done with them. The same case arose many years ago in Florida – the Govt [sic] decided to leave them in the Country & appointed commissioners to take care of them. If it should do so now, he suggests Mr. Colcock the Collector & himself as proper persons to be appointed Commissioners. Asks you to read his letter to Hon. Mr. Cobb on this Subject/ Sep 3. Answ^d/ [?] copy within]

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