

(Private)

Charleston Sept. 1st/58

Honorable James Buchanan  
President of the U. S.

Dear Sir,

Although the Marshal and Dist. Attorney of the U. S. have kept you advised of all matters relating to the case of the Slaver captured by the Dolphin and sent into our port I have thought that it might not be uninteresting to you to learn from other sources something of the state of public feeling and sentiment in Charleston touching the affair. I send you copies of all the daily newspapers published hereby which you will see that notwithstanding the fuss and excitement attempted to be created by a few "fillibustering" [sic] and, for the most part, not very responsible individuals, the tone of the whole community is conservative and entirely on the side of law and order. I have conversed with very many of our citizens and am perfectly sure that there is no likelihood of any collision with the U. S. Officers having custody of the captured ship and cargo, nor indeed of any trouble whatever. Still it would be well to remove the Africans as soon as possible and rid us of a topic of discussion which in these dull times leads to incessant and fruitless argumentation and speculation. The negroes seem bright, cheerful and docile – (with the exception of a few still sick from the effects of the confinement on board ship and are very unwilling, the interpreters say, to be carried back home. No wonder poor things! For they have been so well fed and supplied with tobacco, which they all, even the little children are passionately fond of smoking, that they seem perfectly happy! I forward the newspapers alluded to by the same mail with this.

Very respectfully yr obt Servt  
Wm. Porcher Miles

[On back in a different hand: Wm. Porcher Miles Private/ Charleston Sept. 1 1858]

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