

Transcription

"What is to prevent me from Voting for Lincoln"

Giles, Court House Virginia

September 23. 1860

Sir

As the Presidential election is approaching I would like to Know from you what is to prevent me from Voting for Lincoln. as he is the man I prefer. the reason of this letter is that there is a great deal of threatenng on the part of Slave holders in regard to poor men excerciseng the elective franchise and as I am a law abideng citizen and has paid my taxes to the commonwealth of Virginia every year and performed all the duties and complied with all the obligations imposed on me I think it hard if I should be prevented from excersiseing the wright of suffrage that other men do in selecting any one of the four candidates before the people for the office of President of the United states as my choice. and if I go to the Ballot Box and present my ticke in a peacably way whether it will be received as the tickets of the other three men I hope you will direct the commissioners through out the Stat to receive all peacable citizens votes that may be offered please answer this soon as I wish to have no difficulty now nor on the day of the election I wish merly to have the privilege of casting my vote for the man I prefer and nothing more

Yours

JOHN M SMITH

Citation: John M. Smith to Governor John Letcher, September 23, 1860, Executive Papers of John Letcher, Acc. 36787, State Government Records Collection, Record Group 3, Library of Virginia.