



Martinsville Va
Mar 18th 1861

Mr P Gravely

Dear Sir

There was a large turn out of our people at Court on Monday last. I made a speech of an hour and a half. explanatory of my course in the Legislature upon the important national questions now before the Country. I think my speech was well received. When I closed, a few secessionists, called on Stephen Dillard who readily took the stand, and delivered one of those harangues for which he is so famous. He labored hard to get up some secession feeling - tried to make all sorts of issues. He finally said that the issue was - "free negroes



and Lincoln on the one side -
and white men and the South on
the other." upon this issue he
called for a show of hands,
asking all in favor of white men
and the South, and opposed to Lincoln
and free negroes, to hold up their
hands. Although the C House was
crowded, only about 12 or 15 held
up their hands. Thus showing their
utter disregard for all such pre-
tense. After he had exhausted
himself - he sat down, when I
replied about 20 minutes, when
the crowd dispersed - being unwill-
ing to hear him any more, although
he got up and commenced.

Some of the secessionists admit that
he injured their cause.

I conversed freely with the people
from all parts of the County, &
am satisfied that the Union Party
is ~~now~~ stronger now than it was



when you were elected. The general feeling seems to be, to give Mr Lincoln a trial - and if he does nothing wrong - well & good - and if he should - to make that the ground of complaint and the point of resistance. but not to overturn the government upon idle speculations of what he intends to do - which will never take place.

Mr Wootton is ultra secession now. He thinks that the success of the Union men is the death knell of slavery in Virginia - and that the whole state will soon be abolished.

You may rest assured, that the Union feeling never was stronger in the County than now - and that you will be sustained by an overwhelming majority, in opposing all secession measures.

We are all well. There is no news in the County. The people



are gradually calming down
and resuming the regular business.

Give my respects to my friends
and my love to sister Matilda if
she still be with you

I will be pleased to hear from
at any time

Truly your Bro
C. Y. Thomas

