

Pennistone Jan'y 11 1861

Dear Thomas:

The very great necessity for money induces me to request you as a personal favor of no little magnitude, to try to make some arrangement by which, I can, at an early day, get the amt. of my claim as part. of the D. T. W. T. Co. - upon examination of my acct. & by reference to your books, I find the Company indebted to me the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. about \$302 - and I do assure<sup>you</sup> it would be doing me a very great kindness to procure me the amt - Surely, that much can be paid - I have no idea there will be any contracts made this year for the construction of any more of our road, & of course there will be no call for the money, and as I have received but a very small proportion of my very small



Salary, I am sure you will agree with me  
that I ought to have it - and will confi-  
-dently trust to your friendship to pro-  
-cure it for me -

We have nothing of interest transpi-  
-ring in our vision - all are awaiting with  
painful anxiety the developments of  
each bulletin of news - I most cordi-  
-ally endorse Gov. Stephens message - think  
he occupies the true ground - yet if among  
possible good can result from a conver-  
-sation, let us by all means, have one - I  
however, greatly fear, that it is but a  
scheme of designing demagogues to  
pitch us on to the mad career of So. Co.

I am for Southern rights - Southern honor  
and Southern institutions - my feeling of  
my heart is for my own section - but I can-  
-not see how we in So. can better our con-  
-dition - how we are the better to preserve  
our rights - interests of the Union - and surely



every patriotic heart in the world exhaust  
the last hope in diplomacy, before we  
would precipitate our State into all the  
horrors of a civil war - and he who can  
now do most to save us from this terrible  
calamity, will richly deserve to be stood  
along side with Washington in the hearts  
of the American people - but if all should  
fail, then let us be united - there should  
be no traitor in the borders of the old Domini-  
-on, and I dare say it is the sentiment of  
all, that the State should be immediately  
placed in a condition of defense - yes - if  
needs be, let the market be placed in the hands  
of every man, who is able to carry one &  
let not our very necessities, provoke the jeers  
and contempt of the adversary -

I shall be glad to hear from you, your views  
Ho. of the State of things which now exist in  
our Country - and what you think will be  
done by our State - Very truly, your friend  
Wm Staples

