

Evergreen June 23^d 1852

My dear Sir -

Since I last had the pleasure of communication with you, your business here has not gone on as smoothly as it had for a short time before. Old Sam has behaved very badly and is now a runaway.

Your negroes have for a long time enjoyed the reputation of being hard to manage yet I believed until now that I could control them. I am now satisfied that I cannot and being so satisfied I wish to resign my trust. There is a man living at Mr Hamiltons old place on Cedar Bayou that I believe to be a correct man and who is in all other respects much better qualified for the business of an overseer than I am, who is willing to come and live with you. His name is Jerry. I wish you would write to me immediately on the receipt of this and authorize me to employ him till you come.

I was born the owner of slaves and have been so during my whole life - I have always lived amongst slaves and have never been for thirty days in my life beyond the dominion of slavery, yet I have never in my life seen a set of negroes that were more unmanageable than yours. My life is a continued scene of vexation and ill humour and if I could do so with propriety I would not remain on your place an hour. As you are absent I deem it my duty to give you notice of my intention and for this

reason I will remain here thirty days (unless I can
be sooner relieved) and no longer.

If it is not your wish to return by that time I
am sure your interest will not suffer in the hands
of Mr Terry. If I were not well satisfied of both
~~both~~ the competency and integrity of Mr Terry I would
not thus recommend him.

Your crop looks very well, but owing to the
fact that we had hard rain every day from the 23rd to
the 29th May and have had five days rain in this month
(and the appearance of it today) the crop has grown as
fast as we could plow it up. This will make it necessary
to run the plows the most if not the whole of next month.

Some of the negroes are sick occasionally but nothing
serious. We have no medicines except salts and opium.

Very Respectfully &c

Benj E Roper