

Richmond April 17th 1865.

My dear Wotton - Your very kind & welcome letter by Dr. Fisher, reached me yesterday, in the midst of the gloom caused by that act of atrocious crime & folly that has thrilled a Continent with horror. No words can depict the grief & consternation that this foul murder has produced here. We were beginning to hope for speedy tranquillity, & knew that in Mr. Lincoln we had a man whose policy w^d. certainly secure it, & all classes seemed ready to bow, & many to welcome his authority with joy. We felt that in him we had a wise, true & humane ruler, whom we c^d. trust. And now in the mysterious Providence of God he is struck down by the hand of the assassin. Oh it is unspeakably sad & fearful, & we can only gaze in silence on this new act of sorrow & mystery that opens up. I believe that at no time for two years past w^d. the assassination of Davis have caused

a hundredth part of the grief here that
this has done, for he has long been losing
the love & confidence of the people which
Mr. Lincoln was with unexampled ease-
-sly gaining it. What the effect will
be on this awful struggle, God only knows.
Perhaps as a martyr to his principles
it may canonize them & induce the
continuance of his policy, by wh. to an-
-quillity w. so soon have been restored,
perhaps it may be otherwise, & then
who can foretell the end. Oh it is
a time for good men to pray as they
never prayed before. May God have
mercy on our poor, distracted country.

I wish very much I could see you,
& have a long talk with you. Can't
you come down & see me? I had
the most sanguine hopes of a
speedy settlement until this sad
event happened, & will still cher-
-ish them. Most of the people of Va.
I think regarded the war as ended
with Lee's surrender, & wanted peace

& was willing to come back on Mr.
Lincoln's terms. I hope still that the
policy will be such as to keep up
this feeling, & make Va. once more
a loyal State. But that is yet to be seen.
For myself I am sick & weary of
war, secession & tumult, & long
for some quiet spot where I can
live & work in peace. Whether I
can remain here is doubtful, as my
Congregation is harassed by the fire,
& I fear cannot support me.
I will, if permitted, stay as long as
I can, & share their struggles. In a
few years all will be restored again,
but in the interim there must be
much suffering. — The money
I referred to was this, I have been
for several years in the habit of
doing what I could for the U. S. pris-
oners here, giving & loaning them
money, amounting in the aggregate
to between 5 or 6000 dollars (Confed.)
I took from Officers an obligation

to defend, at their convenience,
in different ways. Some few have done it,
I learned some to a Genl. Kloppenburg,
1st Lieut, 4th N. Y. Cavalry, a Dane, who
said he was on Sheridan's Staff, I told
him to defend to you. I know not
why he has not, nor do I care much,
I did then act not on speculation, but
as a M^o; believing that my Master wd
repay me, if the prisoners did not,
& I don't expect to live in the long run,
for the Cup of Cold water has its reward.

Mr. Rutcliffe has gone to Wash^g & will
tell you about us all. Judge Scarborough
is in Halifax Co. I think, Judge Campbell
& family here. Baseter I reckon has
gone with the for^{ts}. Dr. H. Wood I reckon
is in Albemarle with his friends,
his family are in Lukeville S. C. Pugh
was with the army, but had gone home
on a visit, & may be there still. Dr.
Lynchburn goes to Washington to-morrow
& I may send this by him. - Give my
kindest remembrances to Mrs. Sibley
& your daughter if with you - I hope
soon to see you here. I live in the same
place (Lynch b. 4th & 5th) & if you come
come right here, & we will find a place
for you, with a hearty welcome -
Dr. Emily very truly yours, J. W. Moore