

The State of South Carolina
Executive Department
Spartanburg C.H. Feb. 27.1865

My dear Sir

Since the intelligence I have received of the condition of Columbia and of its inhabitants I have sent you several messages for the purpose of ascertaining precisely the extent of the damage to the City; the nature of the suffering of the people; and the kind and extent of the relief which I could afford.

I now avail myself of the services of Mr. Kerrisson who proposes to visit Columbia; to make there inquiries more directly: and to his assistance I much confide in the suggestion of the most practical modes by which such relief as can be administered to present suffering, can be at once secured.

If I have been rightly informed there is now a large amount of present suffering which must be relieved. Under no circumstances can it be permitted to continue. I feel I should but indifferently represent the wishes of the State or the duties of Humanity, if any and all proven which I could control, would not be actively and immediately exercised, to alleviate the sufferings of those, whose wretchedness has been occasioned by their devotion to their State.

As soon as the present and immediate suffering has been relieved, we will then be able to adopt a system under which permanent & I hope adequate relief from want of food be afforded.

Before however I can begin that work, it will be necessary for me to know the number of those who will need such aid, and the extent of such aid which will be required by them.

Upon these points and such other matters as it may be necessary for me to know accurately I will be glad if you will without delay communicate with me.

Repeating to you and my fellow citizens of Columbia, the earnest sympathies I feel with their misfortunes: & with the assurance of my very earnest efforts in all & every manner to alleviate their sufferings: and with the expression to you of my appreciation of the painful duties which have devolved upon you, I am.

My dear Sir
Yours very truly.

Hon. R.H. Goodwyn
Mayor of Columbia, S.C.