



Smithsonian Institution

Freedmen's Bureau

Registers and Letters Received by the Commissioner, Letters Received, Entered in Register 5, R, Mar.–May 1866

Extracted on May-27-2022 03:55:46

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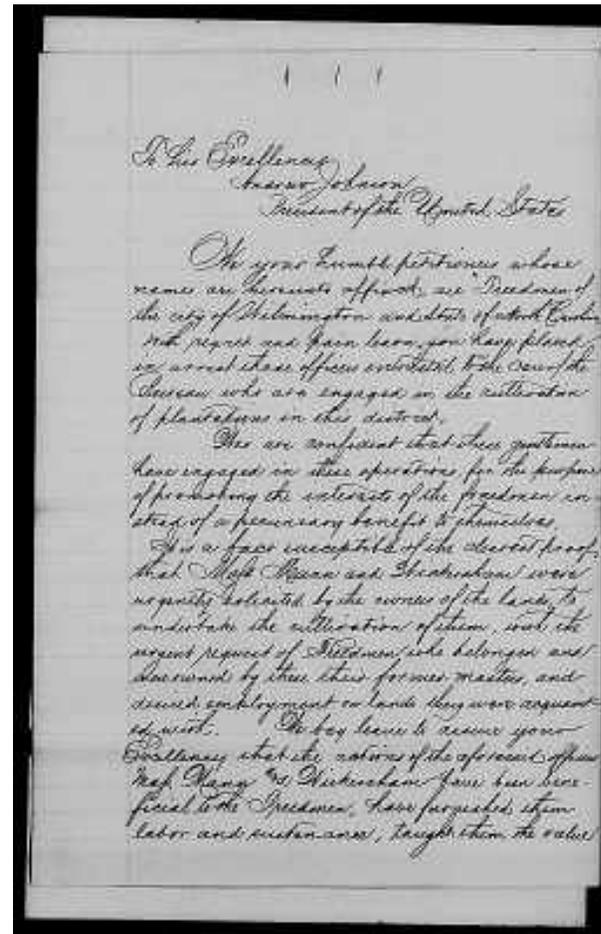
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To his Excellency
Andrew Johnson
President of the United States

We your humble petitioners whose names are hereunto affixed, are Freedmen of the city of Wilmington and State of North Carolina, with regret and pain learn you have placed in arrest those officers entrusted to the care of the Bureau who are engaged in the cultivation of plantations in this district.

We are confident that these gentlemen have engaged in these operations for the purpose of promoting the interests of the freedmen instead of a pecuniary benefit to themselves. It is a fact susceptible of the clearest proof, that Maj. Mann and Wickersham were urgently solicited by the owners of the lands, to undertake the cultivation of them, with the urgent request of Freedmen who belonged and were owned by these their former masters, and desired employment on lands they were acquainted with. We beg leave to assure your Excellency that the actions of the aforesaid officers Maj. Mann and Wickersham have been beneficial to the Freedmen, have furnished them labor and sustenance, taught them the value



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