

Gadsden Ala

Dec 15th 76

Dear John H. Caldwell

Washington D.C.

Dear Friend

I write to acknowledge the receipt of the Record of 5th 78th 79th for which I am under renewed obligations to you - The situation appears to me to be so threatening of the peace & perpetuity of this Government that I am at a loss to know how or what to write to you about. I have become satisfied that neither Honor justice Law Constitutional Supreme Court, of public sentiment even of the North is ~~not~~ going to restrain Grant & his fellow conspirators from robbing the Mass of the people of the U.S. of the President, that they have elicited fairly & constitutionally, & I look at it in the light of a Government like that of Mexico when the party in power sets the example of disregard in the will of the people when it is constitutionally expressed then if they maintain it the foundation on which this Govt rests is gone, & there never will be again

any force given to any Mans claim to
an office by having received a maj^{ty} of the
of the votes, if the opponent has the pow-
er to hold on to the office by force,
& for these reasons I conclude that if Tilden
is not inaugurated President in March next
that every thing is gone of this Republican
Government that is worth a cent, & then
when it is gone twenty years will not
establish any other kind, or reestablish
this one permanently again
There is a general feeling among the people
in this country of hope that there will be
by the Northern people a serious earnest
determined resistance to their nefarious
plans & schemes even of carrying the war
into Africa, ^{if necessary} but we realize that the South
should stand in the back ground until
she was needed, I am aware that you know ten
times as much about these things as I do, & have
the capacity and opportunity to penetrate the
future far more intelligently than I can, and
I should be happy to hear from ^{you} & know what
you think of the prospect ahead & especially if
you can see any prospect of a peaceable -

Settlement of the question, anyway I want
to hear from you privately on the situation
I suppose that you will probably be at home
during the holidays & should you Mr Wood
be more than pleased to have you & Mrs
C. Come over & spend a few days or at
least a day or two with us, It would
be an opportune time,
My family are all well & all join
in expressing kindest regards for you
& yours.

I remain your friend

Truly

F. D. Woodliff

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to



Mr H Caldwell M C
Washington
D C