

Siluria, Shelby Co. Ala.
March 20. 76

Dear Colonel,

Since I last saw you I have been a great sufferer. You will perhaps remember that I was suffering with a sore eye. I came here last summer for treatment by a Philadelphia oculist who was sojourning here. I have been at considerable expense, exhausted what little money I had and got in debt besides, and received little benefit as my left eye is so injured in the sight as to be of no use. I am teaching a school here for a few months to pay up what I still owe for board and treatment. And this brings

me to the object of this letter.

As soon as my little school is out I shall have nothing to do. At home, Cross Plains, the school field will have been already occupied, besides my health demands a change and as you doubtless know, teaching don't pay now. I have been thinking that you and the other members from Alabama, most of whom are my friends, might be able to get me a situation of some kind, either in Washington or elsewhere in some one of the departments whereby I could earn something to support myself and mother's family. I would rather have something that would require traveling round, but will be glad to get anything by which I can make something. You

can judge of my qualification for whatever it may be in your power to secure for me. I hope you can spare time to do something for me. Please speak to Gen. Forney, B.B. Lewis and Hewitt. Francis too I believe is there, and he may know of something to be had through your solicitation. I believe either of the gentlemen would help me if in his power.

I suspect you are frequently bothered with communications of this character, and nothing but my present helpless and, I fear hopeless, condition could induce me to make this appeal.

It may be proper to state that I am perfectly temperate in my habits, and that if I am fortunate enough to get something

to do through your influence, I shall bring such promptness and energy to the work that you shall never have cause to regret the trouble you may take in my behalf.

Hoping to hear from you soon, and with many thanks for past kindnesses and the best wishes for your future prosperity.

I am, as ever,
Yours, truly,
A.D. Bailey

Siluria 3/20

Hon. J.H. Caldwell [John H. Caldwell]
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.