



Wilmington N.C. 22nd April 1901

John W. Barbell,
The S.S. McClure, Co.
141 E. 25th, S.E.

New York City

Dear Madam

With thanks for the courtesy of yours of
the 19th inst I shall endeavor amid frequent interruptions,
to reply tho necessarily very briefly. With Captains Jno.
Cowan, ^{and} Walter G. MacRae, ^{and} Lts. Jno. J. Rankin, of
this city ^{and} Tho. B. Henderson, of Anson County, I was
released from the Federal prison of Fort Delaware, Dela.
May 27th 1865, arriving at Wilmington N.C. the night of
June 2nd, to Genl. Alex. MacRae, 3 of us were indebted for
bed ^{and} break fast. I found Wilmington like all
Southland impoverished ^{and} business nominal, I
visited my residence ^{and} on making myself known ^{and} enquire
ing what are you doing in my house? The negro woman
occupant slammed the door in my face. The
generous big hearted A H Van Bockeler, I found in
an office on Water street distributing provisions to the

needs, He procured transportation for me to Hillsboro, N.C. where my family were refugees. Investing my last 25¢ in provisions for the journey I joined them June 5th.

About September or October thro the kindness of Genl. Wm. Mac Rae, ^{they} Superintendent I obtained employment with the Wilmington & Manchester Rail Road,

You will note that I was far more fortunate in escaping the hardships of the return from the war than the vast majority of my Comrades.

^{and} my family were fortunate in selecting Hillsboro as a refuge, ^{and} my heart now ^{and} ever will glow with grateful appreciation of the courtesy shown them by the kind people of that Historic city,

Of the indignities we of this city were the objects I shall not write; ^{and} it is with humility ^{and} reverence I join our people in heartfelt gratitude to the giver of all good that it has pleased him to so guide the hearts ^{and} actions of our law makers that our good State is again prosperous ^{and} her people free

Yours Truly
Jno. E. Cartwell

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