

February 2019

B. Montgomery to J. E. Davis, 30 December

B. Montgomery

Joseph E. Davis

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B. F. Montgomery

For C. Davis Esq
Wicksbury Miss



Memphis Dec 19th 1867

Kind Sir:

I have your letter of the 17th inst. in Cal Lovell, and now contents. I cannot see what grounds in the present state of affairs that he bases his price of land upon. He can obtain the promises of the poor laborers which will entitle him to everything they make and there it ends. The Master Lovell, without having any work to pay and having the entire control of the cotton made on this place, acknowledge that their load is heavy, their laborers have not received a dollar as yet and but very few are likely to bring also in debt for a part of their necessary supplies. The same state of things exist on other parts of the Bend as well as else where.

although the crop is not unreasonably
small for overflowed land.

Complaint of failures being general, alike on
hill and river plantations. The aggregate receipts
present year is over 20,000 bales in excess of ~~that~~
of the last, and still a pressing want attends
the planters, merchants & laborer, and much
suffering is anticipated among the latter
class. And with which class ^{who being also} they being prom-
ised, it is proposed to make such contracts
as experience plainly teaches they cannot
fulfil, such a course must discourage
the industrious without benefiting the idle.
I have as yet been unable to say to the people
what the land ^{can} ~~could~~ be rented at because
I did not feel authorized to do so.

All that I have made the present and
past year go to meet liabilities which
is insufficient ^{even} to accomplish that object
though with a living channel I am

still hopeful of the future.

It may be prudent ^{to} be consistent but if Col-
Lovell's changes are adopted I fear
less land will be cultivated than other-
wise might be.

Admitting that the present depreciation in
the price of land is temporary it never-
theless does exist and the most wise
cannot see the end of it. Some
little time must elapse before recovery
can reasonably be expected.

With a willingness to do as near
right as the teachings of reason
justice and experience dictates

I remain your obedient

servant

Mr Jas C. Davis
Vicksburg
Miss.

un
—
Montgomery
Dec. 19-1867.