

The State of South Carolina
Executive Department
Spartanburgh, S.C. Feb. 27th 1865

My dear Sir

The information I have received of the destitute condition of the inhabitants of Columbia, make it proper for me to adopt the most active measure for relieving the suffering which is thus felt.

It is probable that I shall have to provide food for those who are without it. But I will rely upon you to assist me in gathering together such supplies as may be necessary for that starving population. I hope that in this purpose I will have not only your aid, but that of all patriotic and humane men in the State. I hope that in collecting together the supplies which may be required, generous temper will animate all who from their abundance can now gratify the noblest public charity to which they contribute their means. Surely if there ever was an object which from its nature would banish and expel every selfish and sordid feeling it would be that which is now addressed to us all to minister actively in the relief from starvation of those, who are of our own State: who are of our blood: who have the same cause to advance: and who now stand before us, the victims of devotions to that cause. Shall we remain idle while they suffer, and we can afford them assistance? Shall we remain unmoved while we know that they are without shelter or food?

I trust not: I hope not. I feel that the occasion is one that appeals to the noblest sentiments which affect our own natures: to highest purposes which control our conduct: and that to them we will not be insensible or indifferent.

Yours very truly

E.P. Lake Esqr.
Newberry. SC.
J.C.