

Jordan's Saline Tr. Nov. 1st 1864

Gentlemen,

I did not receive your letter ordering my papers by mail until about two days ago, and as I then had to go to Tula to buy the Cotton you desired me to purchase, I have not been able to report sooner.

As I have no office nor proper place for the transaction of business my papers do not go up to you in that style I hope to exhibit in future. My "Army Regulations" too are not acceptable hence I am deprived of the proper forms but trust that a plain statement of facts will suffice. -- truly for him --

There are some outstanding liabilities which I had not reported but as the parties will not receive C.S. notes in payment of them I am discharging them with salt. This I am forced to do or else stop my works. The gentlemen I expected to get this month with their hands have notified me that the Govt. has taken their teams and hence they cannot come.

I feel greatly mortified at my want of success but the currency has prevented me. I can procure hands in any good terms for salt -- say from two to three sacks each per month. A portion of my hands costs me only two sacks. It requires from ten to fifteen hands to a furnace -- I now have thirty three hands besides two overseers -- the latter I have agreed to pay one hundred dollars each per month subject to your approval. To run day and night requires the very best of working men, and no other sort are worth any thing to me. Much of my time is taken up in seeing to the wood choppers, teams, and general business, and hence I need one white man to my furnace.

I have used some salt for my own purposes
which will be reported in my next Dr. return.
and have been forced to sell some, for money, to
war widows who could not procure it from others.
The exempt are selling at one hundred and
fifty dollars per sack. The knowledge of this
fact and the destitute condition of the parties
made an appeal to me which I could not
resist. Indeed I felt that I was there for the
protection of that class of individuals, and
they came to me expecting favors which they
could find no where else. I have been forced
to put a stop to cash sales, however, as I cannot
use the funds thus collected, nor do I consider
myself authorized to make sales, only for such
supplies as I need to carry on my work.

I shall look for directions as to what dis-
position I shall make of the funds I have
on hand at the close of the year. True, the
amount will probably be small, yet I suppose
I must either deposit it for exchange for
New Issues or return it to you.

About Christmas I hope to get as
many hands as I need, and probably teams,
but if the State could furnish transportation
she would supply a desideratum which
is seriously felt here. The Govt. has
absorbed all the transportation in this sec-
tion, and private speculation has also done
its share of it.

Very Truly
Yours.

Military Board
Austin Texas

A. W. Army
Genl. Capt. S. M. B.