

[John Winthrop]

Newport Sept. 30. 1865.

My dear Dan. We were delighted
to receive a long & satisfactory
letter from dear "Pulley" showing
that you were once more at y.
plantation home & surrounded
by your family. I most heartily
unite with Kate in congratulating
you upon this auspicious event,
although accomplished under
very different circumstances
from those we could have wished.
But as it seems more than use-
less to lament, or even to moralise
over the past, I propose to write
more particularly of the future.
Sarah has rightly interpreted
our feelings, when she supposes
that we do not wish to settle
ourselves permanently in this

section of the country, & it was principally in deference to this feeling that I conceived the project of joining Dr. Gurin in Louisa. But I am as yet without any advice from him, and I wish to form some plan, in case that should fail, for the approaching winter. Our inclination both turn towards Attakapas, and as I intimated to Kullie in a letter sent through Pemberton at New Orleans, it has occurred to me that we might do something together with your salt mine, the working of which, it seems, is now in a state of abeyance, the necessary capital being furnished by me, in such excess, over any you might be able to put in, as to make a fair & reasonable arrangement between us. If labor cannot be obtained with you, it can certainly be procured from the city, with money, & I could doubtless form such a connection in New Orleans, as to afford all the facilities for successfully carrying on the business. My ideas about it are of course crude & confused, as my information upon the subject is so limited. I presume there can be no difficulty about getting the salt to market, or selling it when put in market. Means of transportation to a shipping point will of course have to be provided & provisions for the laborers furnished, for which the steamers will no doubt be at hand, as of old.

I shall await your reply with much interest, & if you think favorably of the project, would like further to know whether we can probably make some arrangement to live with Henshaw for some months, upon the condition only of paying our proportion of the expenses. Could you ascertain this, or should I write him? - Please give me your ideas upon this subject, & let me know about what sum would be required in cash to push the matter at once into activity, for if any thing be done, there will it were done quickly.

I suppose that we shall remain here, until towards the close of this month