

Beck's Orchard Springs

23^d Nov. 1863.

Dear friend & Bro.:

I should have re-
mained at Mr. Kear's long enough to
come to your house and see you; but
more than half the things I had saved
and brought away with me, were in
the wagons of another person, who would not
wait, fearing his mules would be stolen;
and I had no choice but to come on
here with him.

I should be as glad to see you, as
you could be to see me: and I have been
very sorry to learn that you have been
injured by slanderous reports. You will out-
live them.

Affairs in Arkansas are going
as I last year knew they would. The loss
of the State has been a mere question of time.
I am not pained on account of my own

no because my property at Little Rock is
at the mercy of the Federals, no because
I expect the loss of all my library. No and
I greatly tremble for what may befall
Arkansas. I owe nothing to the people of
that State. All that troubles and pains
me is the evil that impends over the Mis-
sians, who have assisted in us and
fought for us. I have cared for them, and
them a love; and God knows I have
done all in my power to save them and
their Country.

But the President saw fit to prefer
Hindman and Holmes to me; and let
me be whistled down the wind, rather
than give up two worthless pets; although
I had no controversy with them, except
so far as I strove to prevent them from
losing the Indian Country, and doing the
reverse of what he desired. Mr. Davis is
ungrateful and ungenerous.

Compelled to retire from the Ser-
vice, I have remained perfectly quiet and

inactive for months, taking no part in public affairs. I am powerless to do any good, and can only be still.

I shall be here some week or two, before I go to Texas; and I would be delighted to see you.

Mr. Christopher engaged ten of the choicest beeres for me, of Mr. Jacob Sims; whose cattle are now at your house. If Mr. Sims will drive them here, as I wish he would, I will take them and pay him for them. If he wishes, I will take all he has. Please let him know this, and tell him I want the cattle, and am ready to take them. I am within two miles of R. M. Jones' plantation.

I am always truly yours

Albert Pike

Col. R. P. Ritchey