

June 19th -

1857

Dear Sir

I am suffering all the misery torture and agony of mind, body and madness and insanity. The way I have been treated is enough to sour the feelings of any man for time and eternity. To be sent to the Penitentiary and be the companion of thieves, robbers & villains, the insupportable thought. To be forever disgraced not because I am guilty but for the want of money - is indeed humiliating and mortifying in the extreme - You not coming here - not offering us means and not one of my relations attempting to assist us was looked upon by the Judge, jury my own Surgeon and any body else ^{there} as something strange - singularly so -

Bill McKane tells my boy
here that his mother & self
had been assisting us all
along, and there was your
and Sonny's - more able
than he was had not done -
anything for us; and that
you would not pay me cent
towards our air - that tells
our "hush". You need not look
for the indictment - petition
and the record in my case -
over 4 or 5 months.

People here don't work for
nothing. The judge has already
intimated also the District attorney
that the case was not one
of executive clemency -
hence our chances are bad. If we
do get a pardon it will be
a year or two - and our term
in the Penitentiary does not
commence running until the
very day we are put in there.

and if we fail to get a pardon
our imprisonment will be three
years and six months. Walter
says nobody will follow us
if we are turned out. if they
do they will try and not find
us - our horses are still
here. Cant be attached for
our debts or contracts. if I had
100 negroes here the Govr could
not take any of them - no
matter how just the debt -
Supreme Court of the U. S. -
has decided that point. if
the contract is completed that
is a different thing. All
executory contracts made
between an African & white
man are void. now see if
the money is not up by
chance of getting out here,
and bad. for a pity sake I
hope you will do something
for us immediately. Leave -

Washington let the parson
go to the dogs - Here is the
place to work - this is a
certain thing that at Wash-
ington uncertain - Come
yourself delays are dan-
gerous ^{at} Consider the People
here that you felt some
interest in the matter -
and hence they were not
more willing to cheer you -
They have taken up strange
notions about you staying
any - and all this sort
of thing. It must be done
quick or ~~they~~ are lost
lost - forever lost - I have
only 41 days to buy my liberty
after that the gates are
closed against me. I am a mined
man, Walker & the jailers are
very intimate. So is Dece - Come -
yourself it will give more
satisfaction - deliver us
Deliver us from this gloomy place
your faithful servant
John L. [unclear]