

Dear Sir

St. Louis July 27<sup>th</sup> 1854

Your favor and also the petitions came duly to hand, you will find them signed and under this cover. I am quite ignorant of this kind of business and shall depend upon you and your directions.

You mention in your letter of not selling the slaves, that you had rather hand them over to me, than sell them there, if I understand your first letter to me, your advice was to sell the negroes. I certainly am of the opinion that would be the better course to pursue, more particularly in the case of the Carter family, there cannot be a division without a sale of the slaves.

Mary F. Carter is grown and subject to marry at anytime, and ask for a division of the property. There are several reasons why I think you had better sell them there than to have them sent here, they would naturally dislike to come to a strange place and into strange hands. consequently they would likely become dissatisfied and might endeavor to make their escape, to Illinois which is a free state and has the name of being connected with Canada by the underground rail road, one thing is quite certain, our slaves often make good their escape, there is also something of a risk

and a considerable expense in bringing them here. it is the wish of the children that are of an age to act, in the matter to have them sold, three of which are quite well grown,

It is hardly necessary for me to tell you that I had much rather avoid the trouble and care of the Negroes.

I submit this to you for your consideration, hoping you will act for these Orphan children in such way as in your opinion will be for their best interest, you certainly are much better qualified to judge of this matter than I can be, and I hope you will act upon your own good judgement, and barely take what I have said for what it may be worth.

If you should sell the Slaves, would it be necessary for me to come to D<sup>a</sup> could not a Draft be sent to St Louis, please inform me soon

Very respectfully  
Yours  
A. J. Wright

L. W. Lewis Esq  
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