

Simatolin Miss. July 29th 1862

Dear R. W. Thompson

Terre Haute, Ind. - Dear Sir

Why in God's name don't some of
you leading men make some effort to stop this war? don't you see that
you cannot overce us? don't you see that we are not so constant?
don't you know that it would be impossible even if we were willing? You
cannot subjugate us, the 500,000 thousand men whom we have in
the field, are to be killed first, the old men and the boys will have
to be murdered first, the women and the children exterminated first,
and what will you have accomplished when this shall all have been
done, if you should have the power to do it? You will possibly have
abolished slavery, but the negroes will have gone down with
us in one fell swoosh, and you will have made a desert
of the richest and fairest country on earth, do call it Union & Peace -
There may be some delicacy in a Man born in the great
old state of Virginia, taking the lead in a matter of this kind, but
your influence is great among your Northern bretheren,
and your Virginia's blood should make you brave enough to
face the storm, which the Yankees would raise against you -
I have heard of your sons in the U. S. Army, and I do not blame
them for having tried to sustain the dignity of their nation, in fact
I was rather proud to hear of them, but now when that nation
is about to wage a war of extermination, to have cracked
under her flag the scenes of St Domingo, they and you
should at once protest, and in a manner not to be mistaken.

Large numbers of negroes have already been taken from Northern and Western Mississippi, and I am credibly informed that companies of Blacks are now uniformed and armed in Memphis, & are sent against their mistresses and children, their husbands being in the army -

Should this be attempted, it will be a sad mistake, of the Abolitionists; for the spirit of patriotism, which induced the planters to cheerfully commit their cotton to the flames, will when urged by the law of self preservation, compell them to submit to my plan, which I have seriously proposed, which is in all counties where there is the slightest probability of such Regiments invading, that all the negro men, between fifteen and fortyfive be removed to the interior or instantly killed when suspected of being mutinous -

I have no doubt but that you have heard many hard stories on me during this war, but let me assure you, that whoever says that I have deviated from the strict rules of Civilized Warfare, have misused a prisoner, or punished a Union Man, or done anything as an Officer unbecoming of a gentleman, that man says what is not true - and every one who has met me will corroborate my statement - It is true that I have "played duleat" on your officers, and have led them many wild goose chases - but these hard stories and any Crockett fictions which are told to amuse - but I tell you frankly, that if this War is to be conducted, as the Abolition party are advocating, that I will be in favour of red blooded murder or anything else, to rid the country of invaders.

Your Obedient Servant
Mr. Jeff. Thompson