

Wadesboro, N. C. December 14, 1883

Mrs. A. L. Coble  
Chapel Hill, N. C.

It is with pleasure I have the honor of replying to your favor of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. I am very glad to know you are going to write of North Carolina for I know from what I have seen from your pen that the cause for which I am laboring so hard and in which is my almost every thought will be materially advanced. You are at liberty to use my name in any way you see proper.

The prospects at present are very bright. Far beyond my expectations, when I took charge of the work last May. To give you some idea of the work done and the manner in which it has been done I will give you a brief outline of what I have done.

My first work was to visit near every county in N. C. and secure as many as I could to engage in the real estate business. This I did so as to have men interested in showing the people land when they come to the State. This work took up May and June into July. Then I went to P. A. establishing a general agency at York, P. A. placing in charge Mess. Cole & Brush who have had considerable experience in the selling of real estate. Mr. Cole the elder man of the firm is a leading lawyer and was for many years Mayor of Harrisburg the Capitol of the State. Knowing the feeling that was among the northern people concerning the treatment that they expected to receive at our hands, I was for a time hesitating what to do and how to convince the Pennsylvanians that they would be well treated by our people. I was aware that to use the columns of the papers would cause an expenditure of thousands of dollars and that to send out printed matter would be of little benefit. At last I concluded to induce the people to go down in crowds. And by the aid Capt. F. W. Clark Gen Pass Agt Seaboard Air Line [railroad] a rate of twelve dollars was secured from Baltimore to Charlotte and return for all persons desiring to visit the State with the view of localing. Cole & Brush at once went to work advertising an excursion to N. C. and on the first of August a large party arrived at Weldon and visited many points in N. C. Along was three newspaper reporters for whom I secured free passage. This party remained in a body until about the middle of August when they scattered through the State. From this excursion we can now see much good results in the way of actual settlers and land buyers. The newspaper men have written many columns of matter concerning our state and of which has done much for the work. Mess. Cole & Brush went to work establishing local agents through the territory I assigned to them.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of August I had fitted up and on exhibition at the Grangers Fair at Mechanicsburg, P. A. a very fine display of the field crops and woods from our state in charge of Mr. Uriah Alexander a gentleman who came to this State during the first of my work. I had this exhibit made so as to follow up the good impression made on the men who had just visited our State. They being very nearly all from the Cumberland Valley. The display done much for us not only had we Mr. Alexander to talk for us but at least ten to twenty of the excursion party was on the grounds the entire week and Mr. A. tells me they put in almost this entire time taulking in the interest of N. C.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of Aug. I visited N. Y. and opened a permanent office at 691 Broadway placing in charge of it Mr. Tilman R. Gains who has for the past ten years devoted his time to working for a good class of people to go to his native state South Ca. But his people not appreciating his work he was willing to work for our state. Since then we have through Mr. Gains established local agents through the State of New York.

From New York I went to Boston and remained during the continuation of the New England Manufacturers and Manufactures Exposition. At the exposition much good was done for our state and let me say that Gov. Jarvis should ever be remembered with words of nought but gratitude for the stand he took in the work of having our state so well represented at the exposition. So should your townsmen the Hon. K. P. Battle and each member of the Board of Agriculture.

While in Boston I established a General Immigration Agency for the New England state placing in charge of it J. C. Campbell and Ernest Kesten. Returning home on the third of Nov. in time to meet a second prospecting party from P. A. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of Nov. we had our third prospecting party, a very large one to start from Boston and on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. the fourth one started from the same place and only last night I left them to take one days rest before going tonight to meet the citizens of Richmond and Robeson Counties to arrange for a party of one hundred and twenty five Scotch people who are coming to the counties named from Isle of Sky Scotland.

I have now so convinced the northern people that they will be well received that I am convinced it is no use to bother with further excursions for there is not a steamer leaving Boston, N. Y. and Baltimore but what has from one to ten persons coming to our state.

You may see from the foregoing what the condition of this department is in. And let me say that with all the agents we have at work (a great many more than all the southern states combined) it does not cost the state departments any money except my salary as these men are working on commissions received from the sale of lands.

As to the real results already I will only mention one or two of the larger ones. Mr. Smith of P. A. came to our state in Sept. and a few weeks since he and several of his friends made a purchase of four=ten [fourteen or forty?] thousand acres of swamp lands in Robeson County and six thousand acres from citizens. They will drain the land spending at once one hundred thousand dollars. They will then sell it in small tracts to northern farmers. This land which has for years past been a dead weit upon our state will be made to bloom forth in splendor. And besides the pay received from the sale our state will receive an annual income from the taxes on the lands and those who occupy and cultivate it.

In Richmond, Moore, and Cumberland Counties thire is large bodies of said land which is of but little value for farming. But will grow [grapes] and silk worm food, the mulberry, to perfection. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of the present month from N. Y. Frenchmen will meet me in Raleigh and select a location upon which to commence the cultivation of the silk and [grapes].

I am at work and if the men and women of N. C. would do as you are doing we could cut out for our State at once a garment of splendor which would be knit together and made up by a new people of worth, culture and thrift.

I will be exceeding pleased to have the honor of receiving a letter from you at any time you have the chance to assist me by any words of suggestion.

Please excuse this very hurriedly written reply to your favor for I now have exceeding twenty five letters to answer and I must have on the next train which starts from our town this \_\_\_\_\_ at 11.

You obedient servant  
John T. Patrick