

acked 3/7/1902

New York, March 5th, 1902.

Hon. Theodore Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

While in one of the Southern States some time ago, my attention was called to a condition of affairs in existence there so appalling in its vice and cruelty, so contrary to all national laws and principles, as well as to all rules of decency and morality, that I feel it my duty to call your attention to the matter, with the assurance that you will give it the attention it deserves, and have today forwarded you under separate cover a statement of the facts.

I admit that the charges I make are sensational in the extreme, yet if I am allowed the opportunity I will be able to assure you that every one can be substantiated.

Personally, I have spent considerable money and time in investigating this matter. I have been on almost every part of the plantation especially referred to, have met Colonel Smith many times there, have seen and talked with all of the persons mentioned in this statement as well as many other unfortunate negroes illegally held by these plantation owners, and have handled the lash with which they are whipped.