

Page 1.
New Orleans. Sept. 15th 1862
To Brig. Genl. Geo. F. Shepley.
Military Governor of the State of Louisiana
The Petition of R. R. Peebles, respectfully
sheweth that Messrs M^cManus & Griffin, are
and for some years have been the owners, and
possessors of the Plantation situate in the parish
of Plaquemine on the right bank of the Miss-
issippi river about 35 miles below this city, and
known as Point Celeste Plantation. —
— That about 800 to 900 acres of this plantation
are in cultivation chiefly in sugar and corn.
— That there ^{are} attached to and upon it about
125 negroes all slaves for life and belonging
to said M^cManus & Griffin.
— That about 75 of the number are counted
as hands capable of labor.
That the crops of corn and sugar thereon were
until the last few days in good condition
and promised a good yield. — that he had
good reason to calculate upon a yield of

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MMN # 73960

Date: September 15, 1862

Description: R. R. Peebles wrote to George F. Shepley on behalf of McManus and Griffin regarding items purported to be taken by soldiers. Peebles was the manager of the plantations.

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from 500 to 600 Hogsheads of Sugar and from
5000 to 6000 Barrells of corn from the crops on the
ground —

— That the said M^cManus & Griffin being
each the owner of a different plantation, besides
the one specified above, left this plantation in
charge of your petitioners — In fact this plantation
has been in charge of your petitioners as their
manager ever since the fall of 1858, except for
a short period during which your petitioner was
unable to give it his attention in consequence of
sickness —

— That on Saturday the 6th inst the Steam boat
Avery, landed at the plantation of Mr. Bradish
Johnson, next below the Point Celeste Plantation
and while, being loaded with sugar a
detachment of soldiers came from the boat to
this Plantation, part by land, and part by water
Petitioner has understood that the said soldiers
were part of the 13th Maine Regiment Company
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- Petitioner was not at the house when the soldiers reached it, and indeed was not there until after they had left it. He was at the time engaged with a few of the hands on a remote part of the Plantation

- On his return to the house usually occupied by him, he found that his furniture had been taken from the house, his trunks taken away with their contents, his watch (a Patent lever silver watch) taken and also a small sum of money, between \$35 & \$40, taken from his wardrobe in which he had kept it, the lock of the wardrobe having been broken -

- On inquiry of the servants, who were there, he was informed that his house had been entered by the soldiers, during his absence, that they had searched it, broken the lock, scattered his papers &c

- Your petitioner did not then go to the family residence on the plantation, but learned from the negroes that the soldiers had gone to it, searched through it - took out of it all the furniture, carried off wine and Brandy, and some of the furniture, and scattered the Papers through the house and over the ground

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Petitioner was informed, by the negroes, that the soldiers told them they were free — that everything on the Plantations, belonged to them and that they could do with it whatever they pleased — That they could sell the sugar and molasses, or use it, and in all respects dispose of it just as if they were the lawful owner thereof —

That if Petitioner on his return, should attempt to interfere with them, that they ought to kill him or confine him, and if they failed to do the one or the other that they, the soldiers would punish them.

— That on your Petitioner's return, to the house as above, he found the slaves in a high state of excitement, and seemed as though they were about to make some attack on him, such as the soldiers had directed — That the negro men were armed with knives, and one had a sword which he said had been given to him by one of the soldiers — Being the only white person on the premises, and being unable to control

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the negroes he left the plantation soon after his return and on Monday the 8th came to this city for advice and for assistance. He returned to the plantation on Thursday morning the 11th inst. and found things in a very bad condition. they were altogether uncontrollable had done no work during Petitioner's absence - refused to work, - claimed everything as belonging to them.

He found that they had disposed of 28 Hogsheads Sugar and had killed some of the stocks. He found the Piano, and some other articles of Furniture belonging to the family residence in the negro quarters. Petitioner states that the corn is hard in the fields, and ought to be gathered and cribbed that a good deal is already rotting on the ground and unless immediately attended to will be a total loss.

He states that though the cane in the field is not now suffering for want of attention, yet that much preparatory work is necessary to be done, and should now be done, before it is cut and ground, and unless this preparatory work

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shall be done in due time there will necessarily
be a heavy loss in the sugar crop

Your petitioner states it his belief that the
spirit of insubordination, now existing among the
slaves aforesaid, was occasioned by the visit of
the soldiers as above stated

— That your Petitioner is utterly unable to bring
them into a state of subjection & obedience, though
at great hazard to himself he has made all
reasonable effort to do so.

— That if left in their present condition the
crops now on the Plantation will be a total loss
the buildings thereon as he believes, to be destroyed the
stock killed and the Plantation become a ruin

— In addition to all which he takes the liberty of suggesting
that unless put under immediate control negroes on other
Plantations will catch the same lawless spirit and become
a terror to all Peaceable inhabitants in that Parish

Wherefore your petitioner pray that such actions
may be taken in the matter as under the facts
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State of Louisiana,
Executive Department.

Sept. 15th 1862 -

Here personally appeared the above named
R. R. Peebles and made oath that the
above statement by him signed is true -

Before me

James F. Miller
Asst. Adj. Genl -

*RR Peebles on
the McManus Plantation
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