

Fort Smith January 5/61

My dear Father

I wrote to you a few days ago from this place; and as I am still here, not having left at the time I expected to, I will take the occasion to write again. A few days ago I got a letter from Capt. Plummer; he was at Little Rock in this State on his way out and wished me to remain here until he arrived. I am very sorry he did not come in time for me to get a leave of absence this winter. Now the political trouble is so great that leaves will not be granted for any length of time. A short time will now determine the question and from the news we receive here, there is little hope that the union will last much longer. It appears to be the general opinion that the South will follow South Carolina. We do not hear much from Texas and there is not much said here about her affairs, South Carolina taking all the interest to her self just now. I suppose Texas will go out, if she goes, as an independent State; she has perhaps, the best situation for that of any of the States. The present is a time to interest all and particularly those who depend  
on

The General Government for their breach. The Pay Master  
has no money and does not know what he  
will have any - Officers and Men are in want of  
their pay to live - The case looks like a bad one.  
Should Texas go out, I think, I will try my fortune  
with her - But I will not give up my Commission  
until I see some prospect of being provided  
for else where. I wish as soon as you get this you  
would write at length and give me your opinion  
on the present times: perhaps before I get the letter the  
thing will be settled - still I would like you to write  
The Course of the President towards Major Anderson  
at Charleston appears to me very singular and  
~~very~~ unjust: It is impossible to hold the fort  
with his present force and they will not take  
him away or reinforce him - thus leaving him  
subject to be sacrificed without and means -  
The times are indeed troublesome - Yesterday, the  
day appointed for prayer, I went to Church here  
and heard a very good sermon on the affairs of  
the times. I hope your health is good - I am  
quite well.

From your affectionate son  
Wm. E. Burck