Your letter of the 7th inst. met me here. I am sorry that Lloyd T. shd have misconceived me so much. The only thing that I am to blame for in his application to you is the selfishness that induced me to divide with you the odium of refusing to gratify our friends. I told Lloyd that I would not give him or any body else a cent until the claimants under the Trust were paid in full; upon a renewal of the application, I said that if you wd authorize it, I wd send him some, & that you would write to me at Jackson. I met yr. letter here, & found it what I expected. I agree with you fully, and out that matter; and I shd not be surprised to hear you express great dissatisfaction at my retaining the $500 temporarily; but if you do, I can't help it. I do what I think is right, under the circumstances, but I was incautious in getting into entanglements, which are now nearly at an end.

The remittances now made leave a balance due you as Trustee of about $2000. Pryor Lea informs me that he has sent (before my arrival) a draft for $2,200 on Dick, McLean & Hill, N. Orleans, to Mr. Hill at Nashville for acceptance & transmission to Mr. J. J. Donaldson at Balt. This House is good; & if the draft be sent, I will direct Mr. D. to turn it over to you, & then you will be overpaid, & the surplus you can send to Mrs. A. C. Tilghman, according to the nature of the trust. — I shall remain here until I hear from Mr. Hill about this draft. If it be not sent, my brother says that he has other resources that can be called up; and if possible, you shall have enough to pay of all the creditors by the time the drafts sent you shall mature. The debt is safe, but is difficult to get it just now; but I shall settle it before I quit the premises. My brother accedes to the terms proposed by me, & will secure what he cannot pay, although he deems the terms rather oppressive. The legal interest here now is six per cent. and he thinks it rather hard to pay pos for Brandon money at 5 to 50 cts on the dollar, & extra interest besides. I rather think so too, and if I were dealing with a stranger I would not enforce it.

This is a cold winter, they say; yet I am writing by candle light in an unlined room without fire and am warm enough. The woods are dusty, & the rose bushes are quite green. This is a fine climate, & the uplands are healthy. "hard times" have enforced industry & economy, & the Mississippians are now growing rich faster than any other people in the Union. No money can be found here but specie which is rapidly coming in as the Cotton goes out; & although property is very low, yet it has some saleable price.

With great respect, yr. obt. servt.
Albert M. Lea.

To
Col. John Tilghman,
Centreville, Md.