Needwood Jany. 1, 1846

1600

My dear Sir

The enclosed bill of lading I received only yesterday — having been addressed to me at Frederick & detained there. The cask contains twenty four hams — 18 of 1844, and 6 which are labelled, of 1842.

We have had very cold weather in Maryland. Until Christmas the month of December was of unexampled severity, but we now hope the winter is past. I am glad that you have enjoyed with the ladies of your family, a more genial climate. There have been many speculations about a war, & some uneasiness in certain quarters — but within a few days the apprehension of this result has in a great measure subsided. It is now confidently believed that the administration does not contemplate such an event.

With the compliments of the season, & respectful salutations to the ladies, & to Mr Clay if he is with you, believe me, Dear Sir

Yrs faithfully

J. Lee

William N. Mercer Esq Canal Street New Orleans.

MdHS 1974 [1525-1600]