

Newbern N.C. Feb. 23d 1864

Lt Col. Kinsman A.D.C.

Sir:

I acknowledge the receipt of yours of Feb. 17th and have noted its contents. I did not intend to disregard orders, and least of all to offend the General Supt of Neg. Affairs.

I have yours informing me that a schooner will come to Roanoke to purchase fish, Capt Bond master. I think the white inhabitants of the island will set about five hundred nets, and Mr Streeter as many as he can get. I left there last evening, and the nets had not yet come. If he had a quantity of gilling twine (no 30, three cord,) nets could be tied very rapidly, and it takes a pound and a half to a net. Mr Streeter is very impatient at the delay of the gill nets. The seine with boats and poles are ready.

The commission of my assistant Mr Waite is received with thanks.

I wish to bring to your notice Mr Benjamin H. Woodworth, a dealer on Roanoke Island, who keeps the only house where a stranger can lodge there, and is a man of fine feelings and character. He is a friend to the colony, and though as a sutler he charges a good price for his goods he is generous and public spirited. He will go with us to get the seines in Alligator now. He has been to the house where they are. He wishes the privilege of buying packing and sending fish north this season getting them to market at Fortress Monroe or Baltimore or elsewhere. He willingly pays the tariff on fishing which we require. I respectfully suggest that he be allowed to send fish to the northern market, as he is making somewhat extended preparations to set nets.

The cold weather of last week put back the fishing, but the season is close at hand and some have been already caught.

I remain as ever

very respectfully

Horace James

Chapn & Supt of Neg
Affairs

[Horace James to Lt. Col. J. B. Kinsman, 23 February 1864, Records of the Department of Negro Affairs for Virginia and North Carolina, Record Group 105, series 4108, National Archives.]