

Sir

Lunenburg County 21. July 1812

I received your favour of the 3<sup>d</sup>. inst. on the 15<sup>th</sup> and reply to it by return of post - sorry that I cannot do it satisfactorily - If Mr. Machine had chose it, he could have informed you. that the arrangements I had made with Baaler in 1809-10 have all been defeated by the incapacity and want of integrity in that person; I have however been so far successful as to obtain Domestic spinning Machinery of another description which answers the purpose completely and has been in operation for upwards of 12 months with entire satisfaction - Having progressed considerably in making preparations at my Mill for Baaler to carry on his works, I was unwilling that the whole should be sunk, and therefore continued the hands at the business of making Machines, under the superintendance of a capable Mechanic, and so far have met with sufficient encouragement. But the peculiar state of the Country for some years past has occasioned much difficulty in procuring Cards and it appears now doubtful whether, from the scarcity of Ware, we can depend on a regular supply, my enquiries on that head have not yet been answered by the Manufacturer at Boston - And were should his reply be satisfactory as to the supply of Cards - our object would necessarily be to supply entire sets - consisting of Carding, Roving & Spinning Machinery - But I have little doubt of your getting supplied with a carding Machine completely to answer your purpose from Jacob Alrich of Wilmington Delaware, the patentee of the spinning Machines we make - It would give me

please to accommodate you, if I could with any certainty say I could do it -

I trust you will excuse my mentioning what little my knowledge and experience of this domestic spinning business has put me in possession of, especially as I know the difficulty of procuring suitable persons to conduct any such thing, and also that vendors of such things always represent them as more simple than they really are. My Machines (now at work in my sight) are altogether conducted and worked by Negroes and with the exception of one, such as could not learn their living in any other way - some of them being under 5 years of age, we spin any size of Cotton yarn wanted for cloathing either myself, the labouring hands or the house - either warp or filling - the carding machine, on which the whole depends, is so constructed that the Rove cannot be made unequal unless by very great carelessness or by design which was long the great desideratum in the spinning business, and is turned by any chap of 7 or 8 years of age, the roving frame is distinct and separate and requires one of the same age the spinning frame is drove by a Girl of 16 - quite easy and pleasant work - and the size and quality of the yarn is entirely out of her controul - The carding engine for coarse work will do from 5 to 6 lbs per day once carded, for finer spinning it is carded oftner, even to three times, the spinner will do with ease three to four pound of Negroe yarn as it is called in the day, and of any other, less in proportion to the fineness - the Twist requisite for the yarn is entirely at Command and can be changed in 10 seconds - Some of them can easily be put out of order and such <sup>parts</sup> as are most liable to fail can be repaired by any Carpenter - You will excuse for expressing my Doubts as to the

operation of your 12 spindle machine, as it appears the  
Roving is connected with it, my practical knowledge  
leads me to say, that tho the two operations of Roving &  
~~and~~ spinning may be compacted into the same frame  
yet it must certainly add to the complexity and con-  
sequent liability to go out of order, underrugit moreover  
unfit to be put into the hands of Negroes —

Your Neighbour and acquaintance Mr. Fisher Coler, with his Lady  
have seen ours at work and can satisfy you probably better  
than I can by letter —

It will give me pleasure to be of any service to you in  
the getting your Machinery to work by answering any  
queries you may wish to put, or in any other way that  
may occur to you —

I am respectfully

your mo: obed<sup>t</sup>

John S. Ravencroft

Ravenscroft John S Lunenburg July 21. 12.

rec<sup>d</sup> July 6.

(27)

Christiansville  
22<sup>d</sup> July

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