

Charlotte, N.C.  
Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>

Dear General,

Some weeks ago, my husband General Hill rec'd a letter from you relating to a change of residence. He was then preparing to go west & in his press of business engagements before getting off, I fear he has not answered yr. letter, & if he has perhaps in not a very satisfactory manner. We were both very much pleased at the idea of your coming to our part of the country, & wd. [would] love to give you all the information we can. You enquired particularly about Davidson College & this place Charlotte. I was almost brought up at dear old Davidson. My father Dr. Morrison [Robert Hall Morrison] was the founder of that college & the first President they had. He made it a flourishing institution & would have continued in it had his health not failed. My husband too was Prof. there several years after he left Washington College, VA. He owns two very desirable houses & lots there, & a small plantation about a half mile from the college, which he wd. [would] sell I suppose.

The college is well endowed, & they have a fine selection of Professors. Dr. McPhail [George Wilson McPhail] the President is from VA. & one of the expert [?] scholars of the age. [He] Is a fine/fair disciplinarian & a perfect master of elocution, is distinguished for making splendid speakers of his boys. I have two brothers there, & at the last commencement this summer they both spoke, & Gov. Vance [Zebulon Baird Vance] of our town, says he never heard two finer addresses from young men in his life than they delivered. It is also a very moral place. All of the boys there excepting three are members of the church. My two brothers both preparing for the ministry.

We went back there during the war. My children, particularly my oldest a daughter nearly fifteen was taught by several Prof.[s] there & Eugenia is far advanced in Latin & many other studies that girls seldom take up. This town is one of the most thriving ones I know of & a very pleasant place to live, though our "Black Registrater" is about equal to the white, still we have a good post commandant out who keeps them in their places. He possesses too an unheard of anomaly for a Yankee. He is we all think a gentleman.

Enclosed please find a photograph of my husband. [Not included.] I have at lat & after years if importunity prevailed upon him to hive us his "counterfeit presentment," & he did with "so ill a grace" that he looks as if he was sitting for a Yankee show. He wrote to Mrs. Gen. Gordon to pass him off to her child for a Yankee officer – "Never to tell them so homely of a person was of their own." I will also send you one of my daughters or both of the little girls & my sister Ms. Jacksons if you wish them. [Not included.]

With regard,  
Mrs. D.H. Hill

Come & see our country for yourself. We wd. be happy to see you make a visit with Mrs. A.

Transcribed by Christopher A. Baker, University of Florida, 2008.