

April 19th 1837
Perquimans County No Carolina

Robert T Robertson

You re letter of 12th March Is before me in regard to my Negro Jesse his situation at this time places it in his power to give me what he think's proper. But I do not feel disposed to make any title for him for less than Three Hundred Dollars which is not more than one third what I could have had for him before he absconded If I had bin disposed to sell him but I have never had any such Intention I should like for him to return to N. Carolina if he should think Proper he may be assured that I will not Sell him But I can not expect it as he at this time is entirely out of my reach and may not wish to place himself in my power again I never intended that he Should be mad[e] a Slave not longer than three or four years from the time he left Jesse was a man that I had a grate regard for that I am in hopes will do well I should like to hear from him from time to time If he should be disposed to give me the above sum he can forward the money to some one with Instructions to take a Bill of Sale

Respectfully your friend
Ephraim Elliott

Reply
1837

3rd of 5th Mo.

Ephraim Elliott

Thy letter of the 19th was recd last evening & I regret to find that the sum thou requires for the freedom of Jesse places this desirable object--the most anxious wish of his heart beyond his reach. Since leaving thy Service he has by his industry & economy laid up 150\$ & he is willing to give the whole of this sum for his freedom: & the whole of his savings is all that he can offer--for much as I and his other friend here may desire his liberty. I am bound to inform thee without the least wish to offend, that we cannot consciously contribute any thing toward the purchase of a slave even for his liberation; because we believe it would be recognizing a principle which God forbids. If Jesse was in possession of a larger sum he would freely offer it all for his freedom. I therefore hope thou wilt feel disposed to consider the case of one for whom thou has so great a regard & accept his offer which considering his present circumstances & location must be ackgd liberal. Shouldst thou feel disposed to accept this offer I would propose thy forwarding the relinquishment of thy title to some person in whom thou canst confide either in N.Y.T. or Boston who will receive the money on delivery of thy sd discharge. Please to inform me soon of the result of thy mind in the case & accept my own and Jesse's sincere desire for thy prosperity & happiness.

Thy Frd RTR

PS I mention the above named places because thou & I can each find a person in either of those places whom we could rely upon to accomplish the business. RTR

Perquimans County N.C. 6th mo 7th 1837

Respected Friend

I recd thy acceptable letter dated 5th mo 3rd and was at hand a few days ago. I must inform thee that I do not feel disposed to take any less than I stated before. I dont know how Jessee could with clear consciense wish me to take any less than what I before stated. If Jessee has a desire to come back I wish he would express his designs in another letter. Stating his determinations If he feels disposed to come back I will meet him at any place that he will mention. And no sum of money or no Temptation shall Separate us. But if he does not wish to return I will make the transfer to any friend of his that he will mention for the sum before stated.

Thy friend

Ephram Elliott