Raleigh, July 29, 1864

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 26th pertaining to certain an advertisement that never came to hand, has been rec'd.

The advertisement must have been omitted by accident.

You have no doubt seen or heard in this letter reaches you of the wonderful successes of Gen. Vance in the army. My heart sickens at the memory of what occurred yesterday. Never before in the annals of American history did such voting take place. The Provost Guard of this place was marched up and voted under orders, and beneath the supervision of Confederate Officials. All Holden men were summa-

rily disposed of, in guarding the bridges in the vicinity and those who did vote have been sent forward to the Army in many instances. The Hospitals were filled with Lucesh women who in some instances maligned the soldiers bitterly, snatching the tickets from their hands, tearing them up and stamping upon the remnants. They then gave them Vance tickets. The Surgeons also browbeat and abused the privates. There was no withstanding such pressure. So the Holden men generally refused to vote, and some timid ones were forced to vote the other way. Col. Geo. Little of Vance's staff engineered the whole matter. We have the proof.

The returns published by

the Conservative are picked. Up to this writing none others have been rec'd. How has the balance of the Army gone? If they have voted freely, we have no fears, if tyranny has been put upon them also, God only knows. We have no dispatches and no one else seems to have. It is fraud and despotism. Where are our liberties?

But we are cheerful. Our people are much aroused and seemed determined to vote at all hazards.

It rests with them now. We issue an extra Standard to-day. Will send you one. Keep a bold stand and much may yet be accomplished.

Truly

Per E&VH. M V Holden

W. W. Holden
Raleigh N. C.
July 29th 1864
The Elections

Recd. Aug 2nd 1864