to defend places, that can't possibly be defended against gunboats. About
two thousand men were taken pris-
ners at Island No 10. It seems to me
our generals ought to have know
better than that. I am very much
afraid the Yankees will defeat us
as follows: if we lose Virginia
we will lose the "backbone" of the
Southern Confederacy. Do you
think there will soon be an exchange
of prisoners? Gen is anxious for
another fight. The Yankees again
say, he is tired of doing nothing.
I am sorry Mr. Hemming was beaten.
I thought certainly he would
be elected, if he ran. Frank
McCleddy was beaten too. I sup-
pose. Write immediately and
let me know your final decision. Yours
John