Dear Ta,

I received your letter on Wednesday night, enclosing the fifty dollars and am very much obliged to you for it.

We have had a very dry winter here and also very warm; we have had no ice except once and then it was not more than a half an inch thick: there has been no snow at all this season, and I do not expect we shall have any. There was a very unusual occurrence at Hillsboro last week, two or three students went up from this place, all of them of the most timid, and me felling with some loggers there, and got drunk. They then went to a tavern and on the tavern-keepers coming down to stop the drink, one of the loggers advanced toward him; the tavern-keeper picked up a chair, and the student, that was with them, drew a pistol and shot in the air. He is out of all danger now, the student fled immediately from the state; he is a nephew of Chief Justice Ruffin. The attack was entirely unprovoked, and it would be a good thing