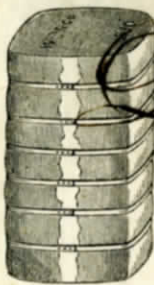


Wm Christian.



J. C. Baldwin.

OFFICE OF

WM. CHRISTIAN & CO.,
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COTTON FACTORS

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28 & 30 MAIN ST.

Houston, Texas, Jan 1. 1871

My dear Doctor.

As you see I am writing in Houston - and I beg you will direct your answer to this place; I am not however living here but at Evergreen and visit Houston only occasionally. Please accept my best wishes for many happy New Years to you and all of yours.

You remember that many years ago, in 1838, I bought of Col Wade W. Benton, the headright certificate of Ferdinand Bell to 1/3 league of Land which land was located for me on Green's Bayou.

I afterwards sold the land to David Ayers; by him it has been sold to others.

We cannot now find Bell's transfer and sale of certificate

by Bell to Benton. I once had this
transfer and on this instrument
of transfer the patent was delivered
to me. — It is most important for
me to prove that Bell did sell
his certificate to Benton. You
had the supervision at that time
of all my papers and indeed
transacted most of my business.

I want you to state, if
you are able to do so that —
1st. you were well acquainted with
my business, attending yourself
personally to most of it. — And
2dly, that according to your best
recollection, the chain of sale and
transfer was complete from Bell
through Benton to myself — and
you will much oblige
your old friend
in haste
Ashbel Smith