Ellen C. Moore
March 21st 1863

Salisbury NC Mar 21st 63

To His Excellency The Gov of the State of N C

Dear Sir

Hoping from absolute
necessity I am forced into measures
most distasteful to pleasant to obtain something
to eat. By the Cruel and unfeeling
Speculators who have been gathering up at-
most every species, not only bread stuffs but
Meats, Wines, even down to Eggs Chickens &
Vegetables to carry out of our own State.
for the purpose of Speculating upon them.
We feel it now our duty, Honored and Esteemed
Gov to appeal to you Gov Zeb Vance Respectfully of our
Proceedings and Humbly pray to Redress
us whether or not we are justifyable
in what we have done - and if not
to Reasons Sake tell us how we are evils
are to be remedied.
We Sir are all Soldiers Wives or Mothers
our Husbands & Sons are now Separated from
us by this Cruel War. Not only to defend
our homes but by the Laws of the Confederate
Government at the same time we are

grieved at this Despotism Yet we
Appurmur not. But Weeds them our
hearts go forth them and our
Prayers follow them for Heavens pro
tection through all the Trials and deffi
culties that may surround them
but Sir We have to live and We must
live While they are gone from us
and that too without much or in many
cases any assistance from them for how
far will eleven dollars go in a family
where Meat is from 4 to 5 ℔ per pd flour ℔0
per Bl. Wood from 4 to 5 ℔ per load Meal
from 5 dollars per Bushel. Eggs 50 & 62 cts per
Chicken ℔00 per doz. Molasses ℔00 per gal Rye
20 cts per qt. & and. addition to that we
are willing and do work early and
late to keep off Starvation which is
now staring us in the face. But the
Government only allows us 50 cts a per for
Lined pants and ℔5 cts for Coats and there
are few of us who can make over a
dollar a day. and we have upon an
average from three to five helpless children
to support. and while we complain not at
Government prices if we can only get bread

and meat at a reasonable price
but Sir many of us work day after
day without a morsal of meat to
Strengthen us for our labors and often
times we are without bread Now Sir
from Whence do we ask you in the name of
God are we to live.

Laboring under all these difficulties
Sir We as We have told you in the
commencement of this letter were from
Stern Necessity compelled to go in
Serch of food to sustain life. and
Some forty or More respectable but
Poor Women. Started out Backed
by many Citizens to get food We took
our little money with us and offered
to pay Government prices for what we
took but the Speculators despised us
any thing or even admittance in to their
Premises We Then forced our way
in and compelled them to give
us Something We Succeeded in obtaining
twenty three bbls of flour two Sacks of Salt
abt half a bbl of Molasses and twenty
dollars in Money. which was equally
divided among us in the presence of our

highly esteemed friends and Benefactors
Blackmer, Sincerely praying other gentlemen
of Good Sense and Lasting Standing in
Society. Now Sir this is all our Humble
Request under Heaven at this
Season we have addressed you Sir in
this Epistle that we have been
Informed to you as Protectors of the
poor Distressing the Peace and Quiet
of the Community. Dear Sir do have
honestly to let you the whole proceedings
and then pray your protection
or a remedy for these evils. We as
much as pray you deplore the misery
of such proceedings and do humbly beg
you in behalf of our helpless children
to so fix the prices of bread and meat that
we can by our labour Earn an honest
portion of that which sustains life.
To whom else can we look but to you
our highly esteemed and Benevolent
Friend. To redress these evils. You were
the choice of our Husbands and Sons.
and are too look up to for Direction
perfect confidence. as being able and
willing to do something for us. We ask
but Equity. Bare only ask for Just and
Reasonable prices for provisions and
Leather for Dir wear. If we have been
Shameless this whole winter except the
cloth Shoes we can make for ourselves
which are no protection even against
the cold. We conclude Dir perhaps
busy Pens after carefully and Deliberately
considering your Letter. To let us hear from
you - you can address Mary L Moore Salisbury N C
and that Heavens Richest Blessings and a long
Life may be your portion with your hoping Family
is the earnest and humblest prayer of many
Soldiers Wives.