

## Augusta County: Diary of Nancy Emerson (1862-1864)

January 8, 1863 Jan. 8, The first of Jan has come & gone, & Lincoln's proclamation has brought no desolation. What awful disappointment will be experienced by our friends the abolitionists. Never was a more quiet and orderly Christmas & New Years. Even Sister C. who is so [deleted: illeg.] timid, forgot to be afraid! I do not forget it, but a little circumstance may show how much I was terrified. Bro. L. having been to Charlottesville, Cousin S went [added: to S.] for him, & did not get home till late. I sat up for them, and having occasion to visit my chambers, went repeatedly in the dark, & near mid night.

Indeed, never since have I been in this state have I felt any reluctance to visiting any part of the house in the dark either here or in Highland. This whole agitation about slavery wh. has prevailed at the S. these years, is the most monstrous humbug ever got up since the flood. I am [added: if possible] a thousand times better satisfied of the propriety of slavery than I was before the war.

I believe this violent abolition spirit grows out of attempting to be wise above what is written, & it shows itself out where it is carried out, by leading those possessed with it to throw away the bible. It is my full belief that the infatuation which has precipitated the North into this war, is a judgment from God upon them for their deep declension from him manifested [added: among other ways] by their fanaticism and every other ism. The fear of the Lord had [deleted: so] nearly forsaken the land, [added: as there is season to fear] & therefore this whirlwind had suffered to burst upon them. It has spent much of its force upon us thus far, but if this is the end of the matter, I have miscalculated this eclipse altogether. Both nations may have to make a long sojourn in the wilderness before they reach the land of Canaan.