Beauvoir, Mississippi
Feb. 4—1887

Mrs. Mary Meredith,

My Dear Friend,

Your most gratifying letter of the 1st inst. has been received, and I feel rich in the possession of such generous affection as yours. If anything could increase the sensibility with which your expression was received, it would be found in the declaration that you are uttering the wishes of our dear departedinnie, who always remain to me the memory of a lovely and beloved child.

In regard to the material point presented in your letter, you will have no difficulty in understanding me when I say I am too poor in worldly goods to receive valuable presents. I honor and confide in the People of Texas to the fullest extent but my Dear Madame, your suggestion is based on the feeling of liberality of individuals responding to such motives as actuate me. Shade received many wounds
in the day of my adversity, they have not all stood, yet I walk erect in the face of my fellowmen. To be the restoration party would cause me to hang my head and render impossible the happiness you portray. Let the prospect you contemplate remain buried in your own kind heart, so that there shall be no hindrance to the fulfillment of the purpose I had cherished of visiting you in the beautiful country in which you reside. My wife would be delighted to see you as she has no doubt informed you, and kind fortune permitting, we may have that pleasure at some future day. Please let the matter remain as if it had never been suggested.

Believe me ever

With faithful affection

Your friend,

Jefferson Davis
A letter written Feb. 4, 1887 by Jefferson Davis to Mrs. Mary Meredith, given by Miss E.D. Wescott of 224 W. Romana St., San Antonio, Texas to Miss Mary D. Carter of Upperville, Va., and presented by Miss Carter to Washington and Lee University Library.