Varina apil 3. 17

Dear Sir,

Will you do me the favor to inform me whether the Branch Bank of the U. S. in Richmond means to lend money upon security in land.? If they do, whether one or more Indorsers, resident in town, will be demanded; and to what amount of the value they will be likely to accomodate any one person, whose real estate offered may be of the most saleable kind, and very near Richmond. If the Directory of that Body should not yet have deliberated on those points, your own opinion will be entirely certain enough for me. A small sum would be of no service to me, for I must free my land from prior incumbrances, to give that full security which will be necessary. I have dealt largely with Banks, and have met, allways, every demand, with punctuality. If a memorial be customary, I can prepare one containing claims grounded upon a very

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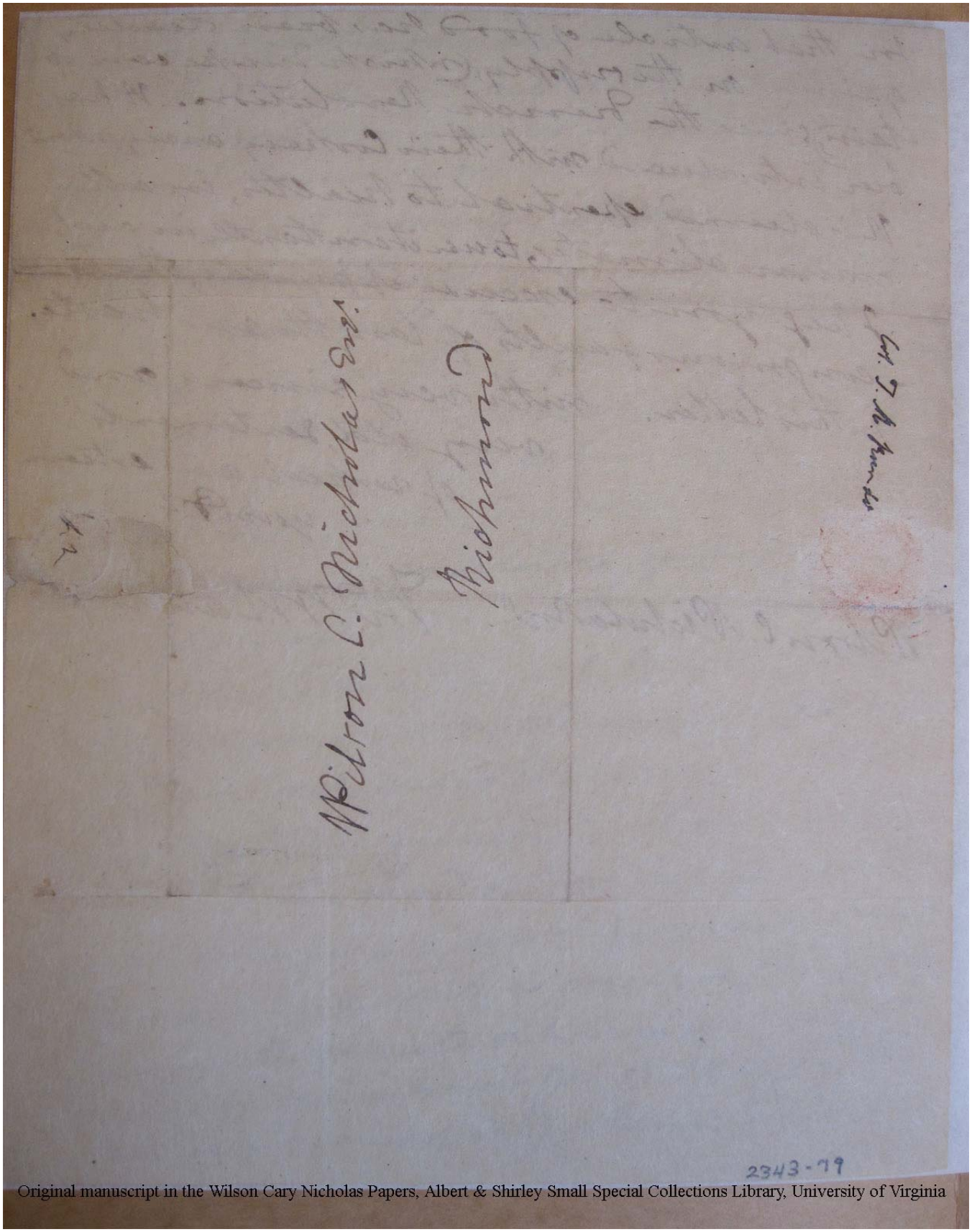
important public interest. No less than the introduction of the Rice culture into Virginia, without inundation; which is now proven to be unnecessary, where the plough can be used, to extirpate ~~that~~ weeds that have been hitherto drowned by Water, and the Rice bears well. during the Revolution War it was raised, on the marshes in this neighbourhood, with the greatest certainty. I have seen it growing, and have eaten it often at Cube, during that period. The product was immense and the quality excellent. General Wade Hampton opined one, that we could make more, and better, than S. Carolina; for our Summer was allways long enough, and their heats were too great, except at it's Northern extremity, Waccamaw. What I have read of that Culture in Piemont, removes all doubt from my mind. I feel animated, even with so small a glimpse of hope, for a favorite scheme of 27 years maturation: allmost lost sight of in the last few years of ill fortune. The demand

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for that article of food has been steadily gaining on the supply, which I hope can obtain, since the French Revolution. It has been introduced with their Cookery every where. It is deemed essential to health, in all warm climates, to use it constantly in diet. I beg you to excuse, as possible, the incommon faults of length and haste, in this letter. with very sincere, and very old, sentiments of respect and esteem yours &c.

Wilson C. Nicholas Esq. Th: M. Randolph

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