Resource #9. A Request to Slaveholders

With the Union Army menacing the coastal plantation areas around Charleston and enlisting fugitive enslaved men as soldiers, the headquarters of the Confederate army in the city directed a commander at Adams Run, south of the city, to urge slaveholders to move their enslaved men and women or risk losing them.

Charleston, March 23d *1863.*

> *Gen'l It is the wish of the Comd'g Gen'l, that you advise all planters and owners of Negroes in your Military District to remove their negroes as far as practicable into the interior of the State, as otherwise they are liable to be lost at any moment. Very Respectfully Your Obd't Servt.*

Jno. F. O'Brien

Capt. Jno. F. O'Brien to Brig. Genl. Hagood, 23 Mar. 1863, Letters Sent, series 71, Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, War Department Collection of Confederate Records, Record Group 109, National Archives [FSSP F-181].

Question for Students:

- If "planters and owners of Negroes" in the area followed this advice, what would the effect be on the enslaved people?