

Letter, M.C. Rogers to David Shields Esq., Marshalls Ferry, Grainger County
Tenn.

Sevierville, East
Tennessee, 3rd July, 183

David Shields Esq

Dear Sir, I believe you have never had a copy of our contract with the Loues, and I send one- They are complaining badly of Andrew Smith. They say they have no confidence in him, that he intends to cripple them all he can by violations of the contract. They complain that under the agreement to take one sixth pot gates, he puts in old broken machinery that if they use it will take more coal to melt down than the mettal is worth when melted. They have therefore said to me they want nothing but merchantable Pigs giving as a reason why that it will not do to give any latitude to Smith. They have heard that Smith has said that the first quarters mettal would use them up, and that they would never pay for it, and we should then be done with them. They notified me on that account on last Friday to attend at the Forge and receive pay for all the mettal they have received it being the last day of the 1st quarter. I attended- they reported 12037 "Pigs weighed at their Scales- they paid me 2735" new Iron which I brought home and have passed to the credit of Bright Hope. They also understand that Smith says he will furnish them a Hammer and a Set of Forge plates when they will furnish a Set of patters and pay the moulders- They deny that they are bound to furnish the patters, but if desirable they will call upon M. Guthrie and offer him the cash for the moulding what they need as they are not bound to receive them at any other place, but do not want to be particular as to that if fairly dealt with. I want you to ascertain what are the rules for grossing Pig Iron "at Iron Establishments in Tennessee" as that is what we shall have to be governed by- Pigeon forge is now in better condition for making Iron than I have ever seen it- 3 fire places- Chimneys put up ... (sic) 6 forge men- 2 of which are Idle for the want of a set of forge plates which they ordered together with a Hammer in April last.

I am tired of their grumbling, and would be glad that they could be furnished this quarter up the contract in extenso . If they pay up punctually we can do at that, if they do not, then we can have some ground to stick off?

Write to Smith that they say they are nearly out of Pigs and to send nothing to Foxes, but merchantable pigs. They says we must pay damages for the set of hands now Idle for the want of a set of Plates to start the 3rd fire. Let us not have them grumble any longer than we can help. I hope you and family are well, When you and Mrs. Shields come over we shall look for you to give us a call

Your friend M.C. Rogers.