

tell they have for the season. Mr. Wells and family are at "High Cottage". I am unable to speak of McKim's future - & to tell you the truth he does ^{not} appear to much concerned on the subject.

Eldie & Claude were well in some times but have returned to Carrothers. If Louis remains here I think Eldie will come & stay with her. It is very warm but very healthy. I really want to get away for as long as I stay here I keep growing & am ten hours in the day in the saddle from 5 A.M. to P.M. this leaves 4 hours for all to rest out of the sun.

Love to Aunt & Mr. Kipley for all the children - Tell your Father I am looking for a letter from him.

Your ever devoted Father
J. H. Wells

Oak Forest 20th June 1871

My Dear Mary

I was most agreeably surprised yesterday to receive your letter of the 24th with a photograph of your beautiful little children. With you had sent one of Tobias also. Of course you excuse me for not coming to see him last summer but I shall offer him this because I intended positively to come. You may have a bed & a plate for me.

I am making a full partner of McKim in the management here & intend he shall do his part & no more. I have done enough & begin to feel like retiring & taking the part of a son-in-law. I hope early in August to embark for Ky. & the ticket will be taken for Lexington without a stoppage - I really want to get amongst your fine group for I know the girls are beautiful & I hope all the boys

Are the same. I do not know what Mr. K. thinks of doing but to stay at home, he says: excellent health & stands the business better than I suspected he would. I sincerely wish John was as reliable.

I suppose there were other ^{things} equally objectionable so my dear Mary if the hospitality of my own house were denied to a stranger! you must ^{not} complain if you are no better treated!!

John's thinks of staying at home

Now I would be most happy for you to come home with me & spend the winter but Louisa has so many young friends to take charge of & make such ^{of our accommodations} that I doubt if there is really spare room in the house for you & your children. I have protested and changed only to give the majority overruling July.

John's talks every way - Mr. K. says nothing - I shall leave in August because I need rest & recuperation. I would go to Vt. also but this would create such a hubbub that I think it safest to stay all day.

So until we build another house I despair of having a single room for those I would most like to see occupying them. I am thinking seriously of getting another place while - The Cam is very good where it has so that I can have ^{you} with me who have been worked almost exhausted by circumstances - the addition contemplated last Fall would have required no more space & in that respect at least might have been tolerated but is very objectionable & I think will never in

Mr. Patterson is here who is to put up the Siphon Machine at G. Wood - by 15th We have over a week of dry weather - At G. Wood & Magnolia it is several weeks since they had rain. We are over-crowded except in Cam which will be laid by next week. The Cam is very good where it has no burner; but at G. Wood & Magnolia they are obliged to keep them which is a great misfortune - Mary Montgomery is still with us - she is very agreeable & I think will remain in

New York Sept 2nd Aug. 1866

My dear Mary

As I do not see much chance of being with you till after the Phila. Convention - I take the chance of the mail to send you a photograph which you may perhaps recognize - I have had two different impressions taken and I send one to you & one has been sent to Sarah, both different; you will have to decide which is the best looking when you see them they are both so ugly that I can ^{not} bear to send them, but you must recollect I am not "a Lord" to care.

I am disappointed at my detention here but having become in some little degree - a public character I am bound to make up in fidelity what I so much lack in wisdom. But to confess the truth Mary, after looking for a while on the specimens of humanity in the two houses of Congress at Washington, I feel that I am a more respectable man as a Senator in the Legislature of Louisiana than to be a member of either house of the United States or either the Union State Congress: A real gentleman is out of place when found in that open stage.

I had not yet done to write a letter. I have nothing to say of any interest - If I were not here on public business I should not be found in this hateful way in Louisiana and I am almost ashamed to have seen here as it is -

Warren Day has given me a couple of letters

Packages for you which I shall bring.

I enjoy the company I find here as it is made up entirely either of Southerners themselves or Southern sympathizers - I try to forget what is disagreeable for the time and to enjoy each passing moment as it flies.

I did not tell you how much I want to see you & your little ones & the rest of my family & friends from whom I have been so long separated.

I write in some haste - you must write - Aunt has not written or I have not written. I have written to him twice - I wonder if he concluded the sale of the lots in Lexington.

Love to all & rejoice for the children.
Yr. always affectionate Father
J. Wilson

Senate Chamber.

H



Majr W. F. Duncan

Lexington

Ky.

Official, Senate Chamber, La.,

New Orleans, 5th July 1867.

My Dear Sir

I have scarcely had time to make a satisfactory answer to your last letter & have not now, but as I have a natural aversion to procrastination when any duty is to be performed I will this morning write you a line or two at a venture & somewhat in haste -

Only we are here located for our allotted sixty days & have been earnestly engaged in our labors - today we shall make an attempt to elect a U. S. Senator & I hope succeed with Dr. E. Kinser my colleague -

Allow me to congratulate you and the Country on the election of our friend Mr. Davis to his old place in the Senate - I was sincerely gratified at the final result.

We have had Mr. Brooks of Indiana amongst us for several days & I have had some personal intercourse with him of a very agreeable character - He & Mr. Campbell the U. S. Minister to Mexico were introduced to the floor of the Senate yesterday when they were very warmly received. To night Mr. V. delivers his address in the Exposition Hall which will be crowded -

Mr. V. is a fine looking man - opening for his

Reputation (34) & a very sensible Man, I assume
appears to be a man of high principle & sound judgment.
We shall soon vote on the Constitutional
Amendment - Report it & call a State Convention to get
Clear of the whole crew who now occupy the offices - they
are a villainous set - The Governor at their head - but this
plan is ridiculous in name & in fact begins a new government -
founded on the Consent of the people -

Our Long line done & we begin to feel
as if the future was safe from ourselves - I have been planting
Cane since early in Nov. & shall finish this month -
It is a tedious business to plant an entire crop in one
Season - the regular plan is about a third - next year
the planting will be small - we shall have as large
a crop as we can manage - The regions are coming
from all parts of the South to our desirable lands - in
a few years we shall have as many as we want -
our Sugar lands will be an object before long as the
Sugar cane is by far the safest & most profitable culture
for our labor.

It was to give my compliments to the good
old Northern Bank Officers & tell them that one who paid
them up his own debt with interest during the time which
Swamp all but our lands away, does not think it very

fair that because he could some abundant in a
small security debt, the obligation to pay which he
was denied, he should now be denied a respectable recognition
at their board - This may be very proper but I do not see
it in that light - nor very kind towards the future & people
whom they should never fail to remember with kindness -
a sense of gratitude & good feeling it seems to me should
sometimes enter the hearts of the hardest of minded institutions
but I may be wrong -

Well, if the South is to suffer she will never
forget her friends for though they may have - but in the Providence
of God there must be compensations which will redeem
this people both from enemies & quarrelsome friends -

I am not writing touching the afflictions
of my poor daughter - May God be merciful to her - the
loss of poor Anne was a terrible blow to us all -

My kindest regards for your family
Ever Dear Sir
Yours faithfully
J. J. Moore

Wm. J. J. Moore
Lexington Ky

To

JUL
28



Major Henry J. Duncan

Lexington

To

New York 28 July 1866

My Dear Sir

You can imagine better than I can describe the inkblots of my situation, when every feeling of affection prompts me to leave this place.

Our objects have been twofold - namely. To get an appropriation of money at Washington and to sell the bonds of our State; all for benevolent purposes -

I am sorry to say that the malignant feeling in the House of Representatives at Washington has caused its suspension for the moment, at least in that body, and the disturbed state of our affairs in Arkansas is having its effect in Wall Street. We shall be detained here certainly several days longer - I will telegraph the very first moment - when our business is brought to a close.

To W. L. Garrison Very Sincerely Yrs J. Gibson
Lex. Ky.

To



Henry J. Brown Esq
Livingston

La.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., Nov. 16, 1863.

Special Orders, No. 102.

I. So much of General Orders, No. 70, dated Headquarters, Department of the Gulf, September 28, 1863, as prescribes that "all able-bodied men of color employed upon Government or private plantations will be detailed for military service in the Corps d'Afrique upon order of the Commission of Enrollment," is hereby suspended.

II. No officer or other person will hereafter be permitted to recruit for any Corps or Regiment of colored troops from off the Government or leased plantations.

III. No negro will be recruited from off the plantations of private individuals until further orders, for the purpose of permitting planters to take off their present crop. This paragraph refers only to parishes in Louisiana exempted by the President in his proclamation of January 1, 1863.

The above order is issued by the undersigned in the absence of Major General N. P. BANKS, feeling assured that were that officer present and cognizant of existing circumstances, he would issue orders to the same effect.

* * * * *

By order of the SECRETARY OF WAR :

L. THOMAS, Adjutant General.

Roll Forest 20th Dec^r 1863

My Dear Sir

I have entirely recovered from my late indisposition. I have a letter from my daughter Mrs. H. from N. York where she had gone to see her sister. Santa before she sailed for Europe & that Miss Allen was with her.

We have had exceedingly cold weather lately - plenty of ice, so thick that I am afraid to wear it. The crop is not proof against such weather and we shall lose considerably - our force is sufficient and no exigency can hasten the movements of what we have left. I hope to get our ships just half what we made in 1862. It takes now 1/3 to pay government taxes, other charges & then the negroes are to be paid & the heavy expenses of the support of the hands to be taken into the account being a comparatively small balance for profit. Still this is better than any one I know of is doing.

I have just read Lincoln's annual message with his plan of Reconstruction & proclamation - The whole reminds me of the Fox or rather of Wick. I have never read such a batch of nonsense in my life, but concerning it its chief characteristic - He proposes a plan for six State Ministers with an oath which he says is no plan & no oath except for those who voluntarily take them, & if 1/10th the voters choose to adopt them they can reject the present State organizations

provided it is to abolish Slavery! What a farce! and yet I suppose the number required in any State that can be got without difficulty to vote as prescribed. It would have been just as well for him to have said '1/20th or 1/50th - I have no right in concern. It is placed on the pardoning power of the President. God help the miserable Whig! - After all however he says the Chief Vengeance is placed in the military and naval power in the civil organization he frankly avows has no lawful authority to do any of those things - After all it is his darling military power on which his best government in the world rests. Can any body be deceived by such absurdities? Will good old Kentucky go on & support such a power? It is too soon he thinks for Reconstruction to take place; Why? because it would divert his war on Slavery! Majorities would soon be against his infernal schemes if he puts it in the power of 1/20th of the voters who will swear to support his plans to destroy the whole frame work of Society & destroy the States which were established by the whole people. Well but the people of the North rebel against such doctrine? It is plain the President prefers abolition to reunion which is clearly secondary both here. He is assured that there will be too many voters against him in Congress. But it is idle to argue about things that are in the secret. This is no war for the Union but for the negro. & he & his party do not desire an end of it until their Africanized but

hellish schemes are accomplished.

I shall look with great interest upon the proceedings of Congress - But I suppose the administration has a safe majority to carry out their measures. Still I think much good will come of the discussions to take place in that body. We are living or rather braving on a volcano which nothing but the force of the Abolition can prevent erupting in one common explosion the whole country. We are alarmed people - Liberty has taken her eternal flight & despotism is enthroned in her place instead. The people in the Northern States come boldly to the rescue.

Look for W. H. to arrive in St. Orleans two weeks from today when I expect to meet her. I wish I could hope to see Mary & her sweet little one, with her or any others of your family. I am doomed to be a fixture here until the County is settled - I would be supplanted in a week by a Govt agent if I were away any where out of sight. I'm wiser of the Govt plantations on this earth than they have taken possession of they won't make enough to pay expenses much less pay the negro any thing. The Whigs are getting very sick of these payments in promises.

I am glad to get your letter & the longer they are the better - My Remd regards to all & to Mary & her May love Yours truly J. Gilson

And you will see what that means in the pages of Blade
where both peaceable as well as violent abolitionists described -
The one as in Samaria & the other as in San Domingo -

We are now momentarily looking and
most anxiously for the news of the election in Ohio & Pennsylvania
if the people of the North do not come to the rescue of the
Government as established by the Fathers in the Constitution
I do not see how liberty is to survive in any portion
of this once free & happy Country unless indeed the South should
gain her Independence - because the old Constitution of the
U.S. being trampled in the dust without rescue then voted
it may be hoped that its vital principles may live in the
Constitution of the Confederate States - I am for freedom
in matter under what name and against a military
despotism every where and under all circumstances and
at all times - I hold the ballot to be the palladium of
liberty and when that is in peril, despotism rules - Let
the people be free to say what they will have - especially
in times of trouble - They are the voters - they should have
the power to declare war & to stop it - I am amazed at
their prostration -

I hope you will write often. I would
like very much to get letters & valuable documents from
Mr. Davis when he is in Washington sent to the care of
Samuel Bell St. Oran. We shall have no official representation
I know application was made to Mr. Lincoln for permission
to order the election - I do not yet know the answer but
shall in a few days.

Yours truly
H. J. Duncan Esq.

Yours truly

Hooker

Oak Street 24th Oct 1853

My Dear Sir

I have no letter from you in answer to
mine but am expecting one daily -

I have just lost the conscription
of the "American citizens of African descent" (the personal
stigma of the demagogue & abolitionist) between the ages
of 20 and 30 has taken place and has carried off three
of the Kentucky gentlemen - but for the determination of
one of a pair of brothers, Ben Bragg, I could have gotten
them all off - but he was obstinate as to his age and
that fixed the other - unwilling as the two others were
to go - This boy had once before volunteered and I got him
off so he would, leaving a wife and child in poor
health behind - What worth half some & blind of the
rest I got off very well for all were soundly angry
to going - and those who went could have been
off before they reached the S.R. Station if they would -
The names of those who went were George & Andrew
brothers, & Bob Brown - I was very sorry for George
who left a young wife & two children at Greenwood
and Bob who was a good boy and much opposed
to going - The speaker after told them that as soon as they
were enlisted they were free so I suppose that induced them
to hold on - so you are now left at a disadvantage that
I shall probably keep them all at Greenwood & better

and more comfortable - we have begun sugar making
getting the cane fruit from all quarters but it is a short
business - half work is about all that can be got out of
them - we have cane for 800 Whs. but I shall be well
satisfied to get half that number altogether - The article will
be high no doubt a very little more will be made but
when the Government internal taxes & expenses are deducted
the net returns will be moderate.

The coming year presents a gloomy prospect
for effect the negroes are now gone, but have been kept together
in a measure by the Government made by Mr. Banks with
the planters. - That ends the 5th Sept. is as soon as that day
is over. - What has made the negroes go is the fact that
at any time the men could run off and enlist in the
Army the Government to the contrary notwithstanding. They
believe in that but an able bodied man will be left in place
later. After the close of this year we shall then be
left far less with what remains of the men and
the women & children old & young. Such as choose
to stay - with the person on the place of the "employers"
(that is the word now) to feed & clothe them but without
the power to enforce labor!

Reflecting upon these matters in the library
yesterday the day being rainy so I could not go out, I went
to the shelf and took down Rufus W. Blodgett's work
"Liberty & Slavery" of our sex pages & read it at
one sitting, i.e. in the day. It is published by the
Lippincotts & Co. Phila 1856. I want you to get and

~~read~~ read the work attentively - it is a study - no ephemeral
production. I want Gerrit Davis to read it before he goes
to Washington - especially the latter part which tells in
the story of West India Emancipation, what a taking place
in Louisiana. to my own knowledge & what if not soon
discovered will render bankrupt every man South of
Mexico & Davis's line of no others. - Mr. Davis
secession in the same breath with abolitionism and
think very unjustly. I want him to print out the section
if any in this work: there is none - but he will see
unadulterated abolitionism original & unqualified
by the first part of secession - and he may see there
in character of living light prophetic of the future (what
the South is existing) - It is not secession she fights
for - It is resistance to the same abolition long before the
term secession was heard in the South the women had
grown into titanic proportions at the North - If Mr. Davis
has not read this work already it will afford him much
information. It is able luminous, profound, comprehensive
in spirit & admirable & cogent in its logic & style.

We are not allowed to have elections
here as we had last year: we might send members to
Congress that would vote against the Lincoln measure,
and then would look badly after having been sworn
to the union so long! The trouble is the administra-
tion are well satisfied with the military despotism
which they control & do not intend to give it up
until the darling object of their election is accomplished

Extract from the Diss. Scott
Decision delivered by Chief Justice
Taney.

"And if the Constitution recognizes
the right of property of the owner in a Slave,
and makes no distinction between that dis-
-position of property and other property
owned by a Citizen, no tribunal, acting
under the authority of the United States,
whether it be legislative, executive, or
judicial, has a right to draw such a
distinction, or deny to it the benefit
of the provisions and guarantees which
have been provided for the protection
of private property against the encroa-
-gements of the Government."

"Now as we have ~~seen~~ already
said in an earlier part of this opinion
upon a different point, the right of
property in a Slave is distinctly & expressly
affirmed in the Constitution."

Reading over the decision in the
Dred Scott case I find very
thing material to our interests already
decided & this with the plain provisions
of the Constitution in other respects
give to us as Citizens of the United
States every guarantee which law
could give - & the time will come
when these guarantees will be made
available - Not of course whilst
that unknown & bastard power called
Military Necessity is the Supreme Law
or rather the story in the land; but
when Lincoln and his numerous minions
"have been crushed by that deep dam-
nation which awaits them in the
future - On these topics he seems
to dread the Supreme Court in his
message & well he may if he knows
any thing of what that tribunal
has already said - He sees the
hand writing on the wall - Wisdom
is easily seen & read

I send a military order which is
easily interpreted - On Govt. or
large plantations conscription or milit-
arism is at one end but on private
plantations it is only suspended: Why
is this distinction made? Obviously
as I understand it to induce the
planter to put every thing into the
hands of the gov't. agents and thus
get possession of all the property
which is said to be nine points of the
law - I have then far been able to
protect myself in a good degree from
this system of robbery and I shall
continue to protect myself as long
as force is not employed to dispo-
-sess me; but truly we know not
what a day may bring forth - It
all depends on that wretched "military
necessity" in the hands of whom
happens to hold the authority at any
given time. & so we live or rather
breathe & all this in the captured districts!

If not called for in ten days the
Postmaster will please return to

SPEED & SMITH,

ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
LOUISVILLE, KY.



*H. T. Duncan, Esq.
Lexington,
Ky.*

that I may hold my land which can not be carried away
in this senseless Crusade against humanity & civilization.

I believe my three sons - R. L. G. J. G. & M. H. M. are
at Chattanooga and of course in the great ^{battle} ~~the~~
is going on at that place - We have had the ^{the} ~~the~~
account of the two first days, but no further letters.
Many days have elapsed since - You can well imagine
what the anxiety feels. God has been merciful so far
in sparing the lives of my sons under severe trial and
I shall pray to the end that his good Providence will be
over them - You will of course hear all before this
reaches you.

The weather is now cool & pleasant - Yours
very pleasant - The season has been fine - weather now good.
Ladies come to visit without interfering
I am sure have no mail to that place Mr. Stone! Tell
Sends them out by private hands.

I am looking for my daughter W. H.
this month - I wish I could say when I see her and
you not make us a visit this Fall?

I do not see the end of this war unless
God interpose, his almighty arm & arrests the mighty hand
of the infernal powers -

My best love to Mary & Helen to the bright
beams come by her side - with best regards for Mr. Stone
& the best of your family - I am
Dear Sir

Remain Dear Sir
Yours

Oak Forest 3rd Oct. 1863

My Dear Sir

I do not write to my son Hart
because it would be so doubtful about his getting
my letter and it is quite the same thing to
write to you or to Alfred which I shall continue
to do. I have too? One letter direct from home
and others transmitted by Mr. H. and another
from Mary. I know you will do all that can
be done to alleviate his situation and can fully
appreciate poor Mary's feelings which is really
more to be pitied than Hart himself. After
all I know that he will bear his privations with
a manly fortitude which will only serve to
make him a temporary Captivity a permanent
triumph - I am confident that he will not appear
to look firmings under trial and that his deport-
ment has made a favorable impression
on his captors - As long as his health remains
good I shall learn to submit with as much
complacency as possible.

I see by a slip Mr. H. has sent
me that Confie continues to go on in N.Y. I do not
see how Hartland can be affected by the Estate
must go to his surviving heir as no Attender
of blood can take ~~place~~ beyond the first generation.

under the Constitution of the U. States, if such an
obsolete document is considered of any force there
being - So there is to be no compromise - no forgiveness
of Sin under abolition rule - Even the South has
more respect for an and it is precisely this Abolish
Spirit of Abolition which drove the South in
Alarm from her devotion to the Union and
Nothing else - as nothing else could have done it.

I send you some orders which are
just sent to inform you of what is about to be
done at the very moment when the services of these
hands are most wanted just as we are about
to begin making Sugar which we shall be ready
to do at Greenbroad & all around in the 10th &
12th and as you will see the orders are to put
these negroes boys fellows to school! instructions
appointed with Military commissions!! Did you
and Madam's ever regard their orders? Is it possible
that such men as Gerrit Davis will vote to carry
on a war for such objects? Oh Lincoln says
"Fight for the Union" I will make my own
objects out of it "win the freedom of the negro!"

I wish you would hand these to Mr. Davis and tell
him not to forget that because the South revolutionized
it was only against the already accomplished deflection
of a large portion of the new Slave holding States
from their pledged faith to the Constitution in terms
implying Spain's & penitence on those who would

attempt to recover their Slaves and after the election to
the Presidency of a Secession and as the facts and antecedents
of Mr. Davis, an Abolition & Anti Constitutional person
but I forbear - I do not write now on these topics but
I could not help but think of the Cause of Mr. D. so
better to write as only because of the high respect I have
heretofore felt for him.

I do not yet know how strong hands
I shall lose under the present order but I have no doubt
there will be a succession of regiments until all the
able bodied men will be taken & of course as Lincoln says
under a promise of freedom & which promise must be kept?
and yet we are not in rebellion - Slaves exempt from
his emancipation and yet taken by Military power and
freed - Is it possible that such men as Gerrit Davis
will be silent in the South under such high handed
measures - never - never I know his gallant soul will
swell & his voice find utterance in terms that will be
heard even under a despotism so intense -

The article I send you from the Free Press is worth
republishing all over the West - It is true to the letter - Very
little Sugar will be made in this State this season - Not more than
an ordinary supply for its own wants including St. Orleans
& then cotton was at hand - And more will be made next year
with the old worn women & children we may make a little
corn & some cotton if we are not so badly & humiliated
as to be compelled to quit the Country which seems to be the
real purpose I shall defend my article to the last

Rak Forest 17th Sept. 1863

W. L. Duncan Esq

My Dear Sir

Tell Mary I have her letter of the 17th Aug and will write to her soon. I have written to her very regularly addressed to you in some instances.

I have rec^d the inclosed note or rather I send you a copy and must ask you to see the writer and explain to him my view. I do not see how the Cause can claim to be the owner legally of a note given by me to another without producing the transfer & the note itself. If such an attachment has been granted by the Court. Very well what I desire is that when the claim is made good in the hands of the Court let the lot be sold for the Court of the debt or I will make a regular conveyance without a sale on those terms as long as I can but the Court of the debt starts on the lot. I wish to say to you privately that I feel very unpleasantly about some accounts made by my children in Lexington and if the same were sent here approved by my daughter or Mary certifying their correctness they should be paid. I owe also both the Bank and they understand doubtless why their debts have not been paid. The Confederates have inflicted a heavy penalty for not giving in their debts - What can I do? I want to pay my debt - am able to do so but how am I to do so under the circumstances? Another year with the policy of the President carried out and all the world will be in chaos - and if we are alive - The policy of leaving the negro to become a

Received for

Cult Forest 8th March 1881

My dear Sir

I have not a moment in answering your esteemed favour of the 24th ult.

Telegrams in my unceremonious composition, and between friends read they are like the spirit which dictated them. Such I regret to perceive was the case with mine of the 20th Jan^y. Allow me to explain. I think I wrote you early in the winter that under the arrangement between my sons & H. which you had sanctioned as more satisfactory than the one which had already been made on paper it was very important that the force which you had suggested for instruction to place here should be sent down with as little delay as possible; that the Fall & Winter was the time for planting the cane & H. H. sometime elapsed when you wrote that you were only waiting for the end of the year to arrange the hands for sending them down as well as to buy them, as more suitable to make up the number. I waited till the 20th Jan^y being satisfied that the whole arrangement was in imminent hazard of a failure unless prompt action was taken and in such case believing it better that the hands already here had better go back to Kentucky, I could not do less than in the discharge of my duty promptly to despatch you in I did. Not a minute was to be lost and indeed I may now say that the delay

from the East till the time when they came has seriously
delayed the necessary work to make a crop certain.
If you were so well acquainted with what is really
necessary to be done in starting a sugar plantation and
how much may be saved & expected in the beginning
of repairs by having an adequate force you would not
think me at all urgent.

I did not doubt something of the misgiv-
ings which you now express had operated on your mind.
And it was to afford you the opportunity of undoing what
had been done that I so despatched Handley in the relation
which I did to all the parties. I could do no less than to
ask a fulfillment of the agreement between the brothers
predicated on your acquiescence in so many forms or before
you at once that it must be abandoned altogether.

What is to be the future of your particular
interest it is more than I can tell, but of one thing I am
satisfied that we are better off in the hands of our friends
than left to the tender mercies of our better enemies - we
shall undoubtedly suffer temporary embarrassment but
when war liberty was achieved without pecuniary loss!

I have today read Lincoln's inaugural
address, and it is a plain unadorned, undisguised plea
for coercion, the fruits of which may perhaps be seen before
they reach your hands - a barefaced declaration of his pur-
pose to extend tribute from an unwilling people and
to him and his authority by all the forms of law
recognized by the civilized world, a distinct, independent

Separate and Sovereign people - The ones he is very anxious
to place on them whom he seeks to coerce, but in this he will
be mistaken as he will be mistaken in his emergency even
upon the South if he expects an easy conquest - He would
now have us believe that our rights without resistance were
in no danger when he himself had stated as a settled fact that
the two systems in our Union could not co-exist; that the
Country must be all Free or all Slave - that a home divided
against itself could not stand, and that the people would
never be satisfied unless Slavery was placed in a course of
ultimate extinction. That Slavery could not be protected in
the Territories, and as an inevitable result without explosion
and by a National law of Antagonism the one side must in the
end destroy or subordinate the other. This is Mr. Lincoln's doctrine &
by the principle of the Absolute ^{only} majority ignoring entirely
the federative principle, the great idea & Substratum of American
institutions, I do not see any logical conclusion but that
which Mr. Lincoln has announced of an early reclamation
of the Whites or the Blacks in the Southern States.

I differ with you in some respects very
essentially. The question with you and with us is not identical
with us it is what with you only Slavery - without our
Slaves and the right of expansion our other property would
be of but little value, so that with the loss of our Slaves all
would lost - With you it is different - you can sell your
Slaves for a good price when as many think your other
property would thereby be enhanced in value. Then as to the
Abolition of Slavery - the statistics show if I am not mistaken

that Louisiana carries almost as many Slaves as Kentucky and perhaps quite as much in Value - Instead of being precipitate I think the South has been patient & forbearing. For forty years the South has been enduring aggression, as that is about the time since the Missouri Restriction was enforced our territory guaranteed by treaty to our rights in our property - I do not believe the Republican party is governed by philanthropic motives - it is actuated as I think by jealousy & envy which has engendered the most deadly hate of us more than of our Institution and without assistance would ultimately subjugate us and destroy our Southern institutions with them our highest Civilization.

If the border Slave States had at once obeyed the dictates of self preservation and the demands of honor the Southern Confederate Union would have proven to be in fact the United States - too great in her dimensions, and too formidable in her power of resistance to allow of aggression ~~or~~ by any of the instrumentalities which our common enemy the Black Republican party could bring to bear in the conflict; and it is matter of very deep regret to us who have so many reasons to be attached to Kentucky that she has not thought proper to second our efforts in the cause of resistance to designed oppression: But we will not despair of our Co-Southern States - I believe Virginia will soon be with us and Kentucky will soon follow as well as the other border States - We shall then

Realize the peace and quiet we have so long sought
in vain, and both North & South will be all the more
prosperous as each will live under institutions congenial
to itself and being independent of each other will preserve
towards each other more consideration & respect than could
ever exist in a common Union.

I have within a few days just returned
from a visit to my son in Yagoo. The Country there is
rapidly developing and I don't doubt will soon realize
the highest prosperity as every article of Subsistence may
be raised in such abundance as to render the Cotton crop
entirely superfluous.

Our cane fields here are green, the woods
wearing the foliage of an advanced season and the garden
& shrubbery beginning to show that the season of sweets
is at hand. Even the orange trees are budding all
over indicating demonstrably that it is to be a season of
abundant fruit.

Your remarks about the Servants will
have particular attention and I may remark about Pandar
that he is exact in requiring the observance of kindness and
humanity in the treatment of all under his control. I
ought to add what H. states, that the force is yet unequal
by several different hands which he desires my mention.
Magnolia is improving and unless the storm is bent on
our destruction by the end of the present season we shall
be able & happy to show you a tier of plantations worth
looking at - and I yet have confidence will yield

Wohl. Ich habe zu jenen mir so sehr
wichtigen; abgibt beiseite auf den die
ein neues ungeordnetes Gefallen auszuweisen
Binnen und in jedem der folgenden beiläufig die fünf
Jahre (Institutionen) Kämpfende Historie. Was
wollen wir dann annehmen allein in unsern Mächt
zu denken so wie wir die Jahre setzen was wir
Lied von der Bekommen sind in jeder der
Worte auf dem von dem Elecken
Lassen wir nicht von der Form. Es werden
wir auf die anzuweisen werden das Gekleid
Gekleid von der
Lied von der Lied
Lied von der Lied

L. Eichen

und, was

1818

Mr. J. G. Palfrey
Cambridge
Mass
West Gibson



Boston 1st Aug. 1853

Mr. J. G. Palfrey

Dear Sir

Some years ago I was introduced to you with my family by a letter of your brother my friend in the adjoining Parish of Revere Mr. W. T. Palfrey and had the pleasure of seeing you both here and in Cambridge at your house. I would have done myself the pleasure of calling to see you on my trip in passing but I have not now the time to do so. This note will be handed to you by my son West Gibson a recent graduate of Yale College and who proposes to become a member of the Law School in Harvard. I take leave to introduce him to you with some confidence that he is not unworthy of such civilities as it may be convenient for you to show him.

I am not fully acquainted with all the requirements and terms of admission to the school but I venture to ask your aid & advice in whatever may be required. Referring you if it should involve any pecuniary responsibility to my bankers in New York Messrs. Wall & Co. with whom I shall keep funds at all times to meet any engagement made for my son.

With great respect

I am truly & respectfully Yrs.
W. Gibson

Comely with you. I wish you
moving to Lexington - Poor child - How I wish I could help
in some thing done by - I do not like any whole family
being in the; I wish to have come long long ago -
He could be doing something here or nothing, with less discomfort than
Germany, and expense & delay -

I was talking with William today about the
Leaves he says we have two months to make them in but he
does not know that we shall have the hands - In your office
you can not appreciate any thing here for instance every paper
is governed by circumstances they are both to remove - Now I shall
place they were counting the chance of escape from water -
When they saw the plan of protecting the place where it goes
the greatest satisfaction - Their hands, the garden, the poultry,
I shall comfort - Then the study, the cattle a hog or two and a
big place to live upon - a little crop land and a portion in
prospect, there was something - to them a stimulus, a great
shock to them & to me - and I believe before long we will
know & have area to be protected by such - And it will take
more fuel - but that is all - I feel more convinced

During the morning what would break up was
thing - Saw Mill Engine water - all the brick work broken, and
then digging & heavy work there could be done by a few
hands - The wooden protection itself with a small pump
not half the size of one of ours - "Mr. Pratt & Co. John could
set them going in a week - We can do nothing else now
but I will say no more - If I had known your sister was
in town I would have conferred to their relation that was
booked with my judgement or not because I asked you &
North soldier would have been

Cable Street 26 Dec 1867

Dear Wendell

Your two letters 24 & 26. I came this morning
in place of yourself - greatly to my disappointment - it was
disappointing as I expected - do not report my things as present
from that source - ^{also when the first report} (and planning can ~~XXXX~~ the case) -
the case where I left off after having planted 20 beans - they
hope now is to get the case from correspondence presented here, but
is to remove any ordinary plan that we shall have no hands
to do it - We have only four working days left in this case
and 5 of the best ones of this place - even in the house since
yesterday morning looking for plans - I hope they may be at
home tonight - ^{they have} ~~they have~~ is one of them the information here - This
is a slow business getting even to this place from all the other
shores - but I want to know - If the Grand Jurors not back
& we are not able to show remedy I do not see the use of any
hands - Let me mention one or two important reasons for my
planting at 26 - It was more lived than this place, I suppose
that M. Pratt would have the whole book sent - It was
too late after their final failure for me to undo what was
already done - then it was protected on 3 sides from the wind
& waves which is so fatal to leaves - then the land is higher
would produce more, the improvements in better order, left
to do so good - all these influenced me - & then you & I had
did not think there was the least danger of getting the
property under your wing - I started to see doing
the evening - considering the danger of the case of the leaves
but not being able to stay the hands & change the whole thing

If I should have known what I know now either early or
before beginning to plant I should have asked very diff-
erently. We have some sewing circles to have much con-
fidence in truly secure but as it is, none is entirely safe, and
can not be made so without running by contract, which is
cheaper than can be done by plantation hands. I would
give you all these things and others, I can not write. The
last thing I ever thought of was getting the control of
S. Wood. The basis of my plan is to be secured in the
whole on any point. But this you won't understand, as if
I was made of iron and needed no rest -

[illegible]

I had a nice time yesterday - Sunday is the regular time -
 When I go, cordial welcome - This time was not at Thompson
 Lewis & The Surgeons - Turn to act 195 of the Legislature
 by you will see the privileges of the Major - I had the idea
 if the lower Court ^{was} going to make them ^{be} offer for next

Give some of them some land for corn inside the line for corn
 and cassida. Survey some for rice. Informing them that Geo.
 & Isaac & him to work it - To ask them to wait 5 days for
 the line for themselves - Informing them good clothing - but
 my impression is they will not get any more & we shall not be
 able to obtain the best of them - perhaps none of them - I send
^{no} many of them. Now what can I do if you are not here
 on the 1st? I am saying that you are to be out ~~and~~ but
 without a single promise, they will consider if you fail to get
 the money some thing has been said but how can we be ~~sure~~
 I wish it could be arranged to save for the trouble & expense
 but I can't see it, but by your being in the spot to explain all in
 the first but I will try to see what the effect of a few days delay will
 have & let you know.

I examined the record of the Anderson and
It was a reception sale by the Sheriff in St. Charles: No mortgage
was retained - Chittenden retained claim for just debt my simple
Note! but Good says the vendors provided with - so that they would
be an incumbrance to 3 parties but not to us as brief is paid and
the other two notes are provided - but who knows any thing about this?

The terrible chain of death has been given up by
Buck - but Wall has instituted a suit to remove the sale to him!
Which Court says is an absurdity & won't stand in re-examination
After Wood sent my statement to Stephens fully
endorsed by him - & strongly recommending relief - and received no
answer.

Have not rec^d. Mary's letter the even writing - Send
your Judge Handman - send to Mr. Governor Hobbs has
not come - I wish he would come & bring Elodie. They would

To



Mrs Hart Gibson

Lexington

S.C.

all that is going on. It seems now so that I cannot
- really leave - It is active life most of the time.

Many thanks my Dear Mary for the nice
present of Silver Sugar Bowl & Cream Dishes. Silver Supplies were
very, improving with new Coffee. The Service of Silver performing
that appropriate office - Jewish Service was here to perform
his share of these perceptible duties - I think there will be a
sort of rivalry between these two branches - in their respect there
one - Randall says Maudslayi reminds him of Leslie in
some things! a pretty strong sign of his admiration of her.

10th Please say to your Father that the box
of books has arrived & I wish says they are splendid
we have not tried them yet. I shall forward the Manual
of Sugar for you in a few days. we made but a small
crop but have a hope of doing better this season as the
Cane is coming out finely & still better at S. Wood as the
S. Wood hands say. I hope it is so for I heard it was planted
well.

I hope you will be able to make in a
visit this Spring & take a look at what we are all
doing now - The weather is splendid & all very
well and join in warmest love to your Mother & the
little ones - With kindest remembrance for your Father.
Mother & Miss Lily
Nothing from Aunt.

Your devoted Father

S. Gibson

Cake Forest 9th July 1840.

My Dear Mary

Although the weather seems settled and as
Dr. Martin says it is the brightest day he has seen - Clear, Cool
& Sun Shiny - It is weather like this which stimulates the
energy & gives confidence even when the circumstances hardly
justify it, but we are creatures of hope sometimes against
hope. It illustrates how can a blind man of nearly
70 be brought to exert himself with so little before
him? - Do you think you would strive as hard to
accomplish what you do at that age or would you rather feel
like spending it? Did you ever study to find out the
improving principles of human nature or rather of human
conduct? because it is an engine to the poor old persons
can have a single motion of action, with absolutely
nothing before them but barely to live for a few days &
then lie down and decay a few feet of earth. It amounts
about to the same thing if we give back for nothing
for busy life to the quieter life is so uncertain even
while it lasts & its span so short at best, that it is
a puzzle why any body is disposed to labor and live
for bare subsistence & much less at an advanced
age for large accumulations - Now here is our friend

Mr. Miller who has but one idea, the idea of wealth in
other words the idea of broad acres. This is his idiosyncrasy
& this belongs to many men of more culture as very well;
they can carry this peculiarity to the last act of their lives!
Condemning all by the greatest lack of good arrangement,
as if land was a panacea for every ill and the highest of
earthly achievements! Why surely, I believe there are more
persons happy without an acre of soil who have reached
a degree of civilization to enjoy social & intellectual
attainments than those who have the imagination left in
the large earthly possessions obtained & cherished to the last
last breath. For myself I value the efforts of the
mind in such displays as some New Yorkers or have words
in of higher & purer enjoyment than all the dirt which
a fortuitousness of territory could give - but all can not
believe, but I can not see but that the very high achievements
of mind not only afford higher enjoyment in this mortal
space of time, but must yet us with more certainty
for higher enjoyment in a future state if that be a spiritual
state as is represented by the highest authority. - If there is
then any sensible ambition in this life I suspect must be of
the mind, as much above the mere accumulation of earthly
possessions as possible -

I have often thought if I had only been

endowed with the intellectual gifts which Hart Rogers what
a different ^{person} I should have been from what I am, it may
have been from what he is - I had all the ambition not origi-
nally for duty as such as I have professed but for some-
thing which I am sure was better & higher - my early poverty
only lent wings to what I professed, but fate, (I believe
in fate as Hapsburg did) decreed in the year 1824 that
my destiny was in a different line & so I have yielded
to fate. Nothing else. I so ends this, kindly.

I have not had a line from Hart since
he left N. Orleans but have heard of him indirectly. -
Every thing is going well so far on all the plans - The
Michigan men seem to be doing their duty & I am no idle observer.

We have had a pretty full house all
winter which is likely to continue till summer - If we
only had larger crops to value upon we should have
been for solicitation, but unfortunately it is the "high
life" in the State - I wonder when this state of things will
change - We are looking for it this season, & that is our
principal motive with me at least to be up & doing, I
do not like to be outdone - & will not be outdone unless
the circumstance bear the road to success -

I wish you could be in the parlor
some evening with your little flock to see & to hear

I had written so much when I got a letter from McKinley informing me that the Mules had been sent & says he don't believe the Mules had been consigned to Foley, Conger & Co. I was tired of writing to them - him self he writes to me to write to them or go down for them myself. Did you ever hear of such man-agement in your life? Luckily I told Mr. Conger about the Mules & wrote again. After I got back home I was sorry to get the same Mules & got Mr. Grady to brand them at the fair.

W. K. writes as if he could get 12 or 15 hands - I hope you will hurry him up that we may have the use of them at once.

I destroy this as soon as you read it yourself

Oak Forest 6th Oct. 71

My dear Sarah

I wrote this morning to acknowledge the receipt of your yesterday dated 29th not posted at Lexington the 30th. How long the mails are coming. It is scarcely 3 days to come here by Rail -

I was glad indeed to get your letter the first from any body since I left Ky. I am so glad you have finally rented your place to your satisfaction. Don't let it be a slip - Close up matters as you go. & get clear of trouble - I wish it suited you to charge yourself with the purchase of a mule at Leesmary Forest as agent & shift the loan to Hart & let him make the mortgage to Rebecca - somehow it looks to me

as if we all wanted to be under cover.
Since the division of property I have
worked harder than I ever did, but
things don't look bright. I ought not
to have left here this Fall. Tobias
influenced McKinley to do things which
ought not to have been done at G. Wood
which the place could not afford
& which I had fully provided against.
thereby oppressing Hart unmercifully &
cutting us off at the knees for lumber
to make all the little improvements
McK. had designed & many I know to be
absolutely necessary to us in several places.
What a mistake - G. Wood is consuming
double what it needed & incurring
expense which in poor Hart's situation
is absolutely cruel. I had absolutely
decided against the thing - It strikes
me I shall never leave here again until
we are out of debt at least - Say nothing
about it - but urge Hart to bring Randall
to New Orleans with him on business

Matters so as to be here by the 20th to
decide what will be done at G. Wood.

It seems as if Tobias took
leave of his duties as soon as he got the
money he did, but this ought not to have
affected McKinley in the least - we can't
afford to borrow money to spend except
for what is necessary for the place - but a
dollar. but we are at an end of our power.
Matters, our last log is saved & nearly
all gone to G. Wood & yet this place has done
nearly all the work. Randall is interested
to conciliate Tobie who is at High College,
because he has to make up his scope there.
I don't object to that at all but Randall
ought to do every thing in his power to
pacify Hart & to right Tobias - Hart has
helped out when he was able - Tobias is as
much bound as any to use his money for
the place, & as his mismanagement got
the property into its present condition
he ought to be the more ready to get out

to have time - McKinley will return from Kansas
The planter, are making efforts to get
reinstated in their former rights of ownership, but I
fear as long as the war lasts this can not be
done - I am an active member in these war
- efforts but don't intend my name shall be used
in a formal office - I shall steer clear of that

The Yankees are woefully ignorant
of our history and always intemperate & just
as they have always been - This keeps our negroes
in trouble - The article with us was clear
of the whole -

Your devoted friend
J. H. Brown

W. K. Ford Sept 1891

My Dear Sarah

I have had your letter of the
7th I saw it today - today Mr. Ford came to the
City to spend a few days with his sister and
to create a little interest in the American Society
to which he was introduced through his wife
to be his brother to whom we were all
so much devoted - I can not forget the kind
attention bestowed on my children and when
all in him who was the particular object of
them & appreciated them so graciously - It is
now a great pleasure to visit the spot where
your child is put away to await his quiet
resting place at Lexington - Yes, we have
some photographs of your child which I shall
be delighted to show - also his hair to
supply the missing - I have a new glass portrait
also which is a very fine portrait under
excellent lines, which mark his features of
gentleness and affability which is constantly
before me & which will be treasured as long as
I shall live - but I find no outward token
of his love to keep alive the sweetest memory
of his very look & every feature and
the unalloyed enjoyment which his presence
gave & the unceasing memory which we

All these things, struggling every day & every night
with the Master at his elbow - His short notes &
the few days which my affairs have required me
to be away from him are his characteristics. You
shall see them one day - I don't why should I write
so much for him, & you for to shut him out. I don't
want to give up. You help me to have faith in the
hope of another world when we may all meet again.
We are here now around the family board, but this
too I don't see a hope for me to rely upon. I fear without
hope and can not help but fear, the sweetest &
the happiest of nights.

We are living in the accustomed
way, all this is uncertain - I have a Yankee Soldier
to inform, & another and when I have become attached
to a regiment when I could not do much. He visits
the 3 places daily and resides at Greenwood but his time
is not in time and he says he don't intend to be a part
to this war any longer but wants to come back and live
with me. He is from Connecticut & has a wife and
is a real democrat & his father who went for Governor
of the place. There are a great many such in the Army
but I don't see for the reason as it was: but I don't think
him with me. Mr. Banks is advancing westward
& having quarrels with many plantations to protect the people.
If it were not for the abolitionists at the North
Mr. Banks would have been all straight in his department.
Don't but he has to watch the good for the poor as well
as in the field and besides don't understand the

Negro Character. He is more an American and has a part
to play. He was originally a cotton picker in one of
the factories, New York: but he is no ordinary man
and generally believed to be honest & benevolent. He
was a friend of Butler who has been from extreme
disunion to the blackest abolitionism. He has been in
1st and 2nd Subalterns - and believed to be the greatest
courage on the face of the earth, demagog & thief.
Mr. Banks has arrived & the planter has to meet him
to consult in respect to many matters important to us - I
am going in the morning - I will write to Mr. Quincy
after things have progressed a little farther. Mr. Banks's
mission is not exactly known yet - Excuse me if many
have been going on all the time but the difficulty is the
way of that brought. Magnolia has lost more in proportion
than the other places but there is a beautiful crop
growing there and hands enough to cultivate the place.
The island nothing but corn all last season: but some
of them don't suit any others - Peter Forest himself
it is not so all certain that if they have made they can
be saved: If the agreement with Mr. Banks is carried
out we may do something. - "Military necessity" knows
no law and of course recognizes no agreements!

St. Croix, 29th

I go home this morning - Louisa is very well - I was
at Madame Desrochers last evening. Madame things
I will be very fine singer & performer. Her voice is
good & she knows very well. Louisa will remain
here as long as it is healthy - as I do not wish her to

I have a letter from H. H. C. saying that if money
can not be raised either on Securities or Produce
they will be compelled to refuse all drafts on them
for money. I had told out my crop before the war
began except some cotton sugar and some molasses
if not even a thousand dollars in value. But it
will be pretty tight to be restricted in this way but it
can not be helped. I would be willing to live on
bread & milk with other good things of home production
then submit to the abolition North. - Yours - Wm. H. H.

I shall not be able to leave home this
time - Randall says he has been busy
in addition to his own. The responsibility this season
is greater than I have ever felt. I do not know what
to do about John & Mary. So a few more to bring
them home. They were to leave Geneva for Dijon in
France on the 1st of this month. What are the do-
about Lewis's expenses till another crop is made? We
can't tell that winter will be settled with them so as that
our product will bring money. Randall & Lewis's
debtors pay all expenses. Provided the Public Treasury
is not exhausted. This is my greatest fear that we
won't be able to keep money in the Treasury at
least enough.

My paper is full so I must close. Refers
to the time and yours of with much kind regards
to all. H. H. C.
The devoted Father H. H. C.

Oak Forest May 3^d 1861

My dear Sarah

You have no doubt discovered long ago
that whenever I am at a loss who to write to
I am apt to think of you. I write to so many that
it would be strange if I did not repeat myself to
the same person. You know my habit of endorsing
my letters "Answered" on any particular day and a
year ago of the 14th yet without the endorsement
I take it for granted it has not been answered.

That winter was before us such as we
now expected to see but it only proves the instability
of all things and that man is without reason just
as much as the animal who daily has his corn and
the support which stocks at all it wants. This is a war
of pure generation with one part of a party and
of Commercial interests with the other portion of the
same party. For the time being they have conspired
to make a national Commercial which prompts to a war
of subjugation in their action. Thank God the nation
has become rather enlarged in its proportions and
firmly in its power. We shall soon know
the progress of both sections - for the strongest
will prove the ruler except that we would not
rule the South in a government with us because we
do not seek them and much as they hate us
the North is not willing nor can ~~they~~ ^{it} well do without

44 - We fight to get rid of the Tyrant - The North
fights to hold its victim - I think it is easier to repel
than to embrace an unwilling object and so if we
can once drive the vandals from the Capital and
over the border - we may successfully repel invasion. This
is all we desire - but it will cost blood & treasure
enough to excite or impoverish a Continent for genera-
tions to come - Our forefathers thought old George
the 3^d a fool and a Tyrant - but his cause
was nothing in comparison to the outrageousness
of the present pretensions. Slavery in application to the
demands of a free people simply to be let alone. The
reader of History in future times will pause to think and
wonder at the necessity of what is to transpire in
the immediate future - It is like Caliban. I can
not realize it - much as I have read of it, thought of
it - almost felt it.

Kendall is at Fort Jackson with
the Rank of Captain. He writes me from the City
today that he likes his new place & business & work.
He came up to the City under orders but
when he got there was sent back to his post again
he says not very liking - Canada is not Fort Pickens
on the route to Mobile. I have had two letters
from him. The difference of St. Orleans are very
important about for me if in the Service I would
be on the March to Washington and that is the
road I think Davis will take. This is very quiet.
It is a very quiet - Lincoln has no previous hand

be drawn out but what it may - but this is time above every
in writing about ^{what} will have occurred either successfully or
otherwise before this reaches you or I am no prophet - I have
a presentiment that we are on the eve of important events
and that the matter is in its position now at all events.
I trust a good & gracious Providence may smile on the
North and South cause which we have with so much una-
nimity and zeal espoused.

We have had a very wet Spring too wet
for planting and general work. The cane is more promising
than I ever knew it at this period. My corn planting is behind
though I am ready to plant a very full crop if it should be-
come enough to put the seed in the ground. The stalks of the
Sugar house are going up rapidly and I am making
every effort to get some thing finished for the season. That
is the worst article - In the year 1856 when I built the
Sugar house it rained all the time. I hope this is not
to be one of those seasons.

Harriet Norton & Co are sound. George
Norton has volunteered for at Pensacola as well as
several other young men of that house. St. Orleans
is loyal except a few Bell men but only a few
of the leaders.

Your Aunt Higgins writes me today
that she is in great trouble about giving home. She says
London's things are done and so are her articles done.
I think I will send them to Vick's by so they can
go together either with her or by express if she does not
go soon.

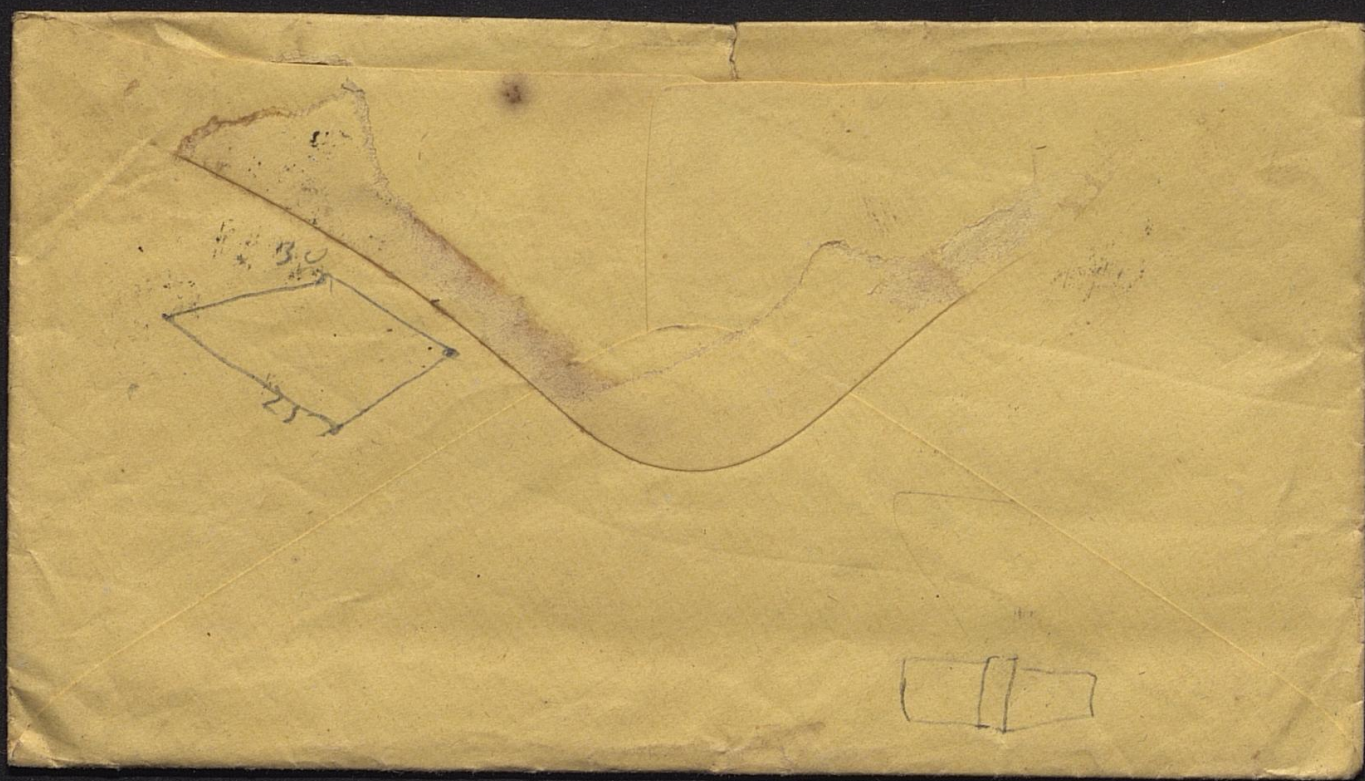
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Mr. Sarah E. Humphreys

Paris

N.Y.



But for the overflow we might have gotten along better but the effects of that & the liability to the same thing again are too serious for any one to live with save in comfort subject to such calamities.

Proctor seemed to be anxious to get back to Hagerstown - He left Clinton in N. Carolina for treatment for his leg & left Charlotte at 11th M. on the coast so we shall hear from him soon. The child - Proctor was looking very well. I have said nothing about his health. You know he is not suffering. Nerves & lungs & the other he had on board we put into the words of most of it. His house was burned with most of the contents in April last whilst he was from home. And he is gone & so forth.

26th We have had a very rainy day & impeding it by sitting out some potatoes. We shall have a good many oranges but the bridge was killed & it is cut away & carried out of the way. The Magazine has been both killed and some of the place has & all the French trees of the choicest sort. An overflow is a calamity indeed. Every thing will be done to restore the river and I shall then try to get another stock of corn. All join in love to you & the dear little girl. Try a couple of weeks with you.

Your ever devoted Father

Rock Forest 23 July 1865

My Dear Sarah

Your letter of the 9th had one of the 11th from West from Lexington was recd. a day or two ago. I was very glad to hear from you both but very sorry to hear of your health. I thought it better to say she was better.

I suppose of course Louisa is with you before this time. As she was to have left Hagerstown in the 15th June - as there is a vessel from Hagerstown to N. Orleans of the 15th I should think it would get a letter today or tomorrow from her. I suppose of the same. Harriet & Frederick are both well and the former is waiting so as to go the city in Sept. or Oct. to open an office. The latter is doing what he can to report me. The way is clear for the future & looking better. I would like for him to make you a visit but Grady does not wish to say about it. I think the best thing for you & most to do would be to come here next fall Oct. or Nov. and spend the winter with me. There need be no fear about the servants - there are now so few that we could get along very well.

I think there will be a considerable emigration from this country the coming season.

Mostly to Brazil. McKinley is talking a
good deal about going to see the Country with
others going from the Parish; besides I think this
voyage would be of advantage to his health: of Course
this is not to be taken only. One thing is very certain we
can not make Sugar in this Country to pay either
with black or white labor, and it will not do
for cotton. If a plan was showed I would not
hesitate to go myself as this Country is certainly
destined to the cottonists forever as long as it remains
under Yankee rule & the Negroes not only encouraged but
encouraged to do nothing and do every thing to
make them believe they are better than the whites.

I have very pleasant & working cows
but I think I should like as the women are using
it up completely. & so it is the case on all hands
which have been converted. & there are but
four places in the Town land on the South Side

[illegible]

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text on the left page of an open letter.]

P.S. Since finishing my letter, Yours to Chandler of the 18th has been recd. and as I want to say a word to you about your own affairs, I add a post script to you. We are entered in to your place of living. I do not feel fully able to give you advice on this subject but as the condition of things now are, I feel that the Country is now in a more critical situation than it was during the conflict of arms - our union is broken up wherever we have had slaves and if the Congress has the power to legislate on this subject we are rapidly divided, for by our own law, we cannot hold slaves longer than four years. The fugitives under a repealed law are to work all the year long by the hands of the Government encouraged to go away & stay away and we are to work for a man who becomes dangerous to them. Nothing is sacred where the Negro is concerned. Of course we can not live under a government of this kind and unless the Negroes are made to the State Govt that the other States can or the other States leave the Country. I do not think this state of things ought to be allowed to continue. I wish to see the storm is over. If you have the wisdom keep it safe I should it is for you. Yours very truly
Wm. L. Garrison
for the children

I should prefer a man who could stay in a separate house as Mr. Saunders used to do here, you could attend to their Mess & household better than my son & I have no doubt Sarah would make a business of teaching them & it would not be at all strange if Sarah had to travel for a support. This is no business position - In the winter you will have half a pound & will have more than 100 in Boston in the very midst of home & Washington society education her own children. If your health is not improved by staying at home make your house a comfortable place for winter. I would be most happy for you to come to Sp. Adams, but you know what costs. See below for your position. I have had 100 Dollars in New about what you need for your School Cost.

If any arrangement can be made that will secure us an income here next year I will try & spend next year with you, but I cannot believe the winter position will be worse than it is now. This is my year. I don't know that I shall be able to get home next year at all. Most of the year in Albany & in the City. I like to stay there. They come better. When they get back. Kelly is dead. Ben Taylor died a few days ago both at home. As they had been kept in. Now I have something off hand just as

I feel about it. And you must take it for what it is worth. You know your own situation best. We shall have our public meetings And now instead of victories by arms we are looking anxiously & hopefully to the ballot box - No one can give encouragement to the other in any other way - Every body has returned from the Confederacy and all in property. The Negro is the only cheerful looking person & the former days beyond all reason or taste - but all are out for display and the luxury of city life. Eliza is still here after being two weeks in the city getting her husband out of the work house & getting cooking in her absence. Jane & the little boys Ann & Frank are all the waiting - Lewis is in Cyrus' place. Harriet washes & Irons. How long this is to last I cannot be told. Orson has desired to go to the city for relief but got none. The preachings are at an end for the want of subjects. Cyrus expected to become a Bishop as soon as he got to thirty. I so we all go.

Write in full & tell Sarah and Toby to write - I will write to Sarah soon. Love & kisses to all
Yr. devoted Father

Park Forest 26 Aug. 1863

My Dear Sarah

Yours of the 4th was rec^d. Some days ago I looked up the 10th last evening.

I went to find Louisa's accounts, they are all settled and it is on this account I write so promptly. Mr. Norton sent me before Louisa left enough a bit of the bill drawn on his name by Dr. W. D. for Louisa & the very last one was for an amount "£80 £" which is in addition to 375 £ previously paid for. He says "I sent the Dr a credit for the sum she asked but at the same time expressed the hope that she might reduce the sum as I was quite sure you (I) would not wish her to make any unnecessary expenditure."

I do not know whether Dr. W. D. received notice the amount of last bill or not, if he did not this sum is "superadded to the other."

I have made it a point to make no repairs - as against Louisa for it was incumbent on Dr. W. D. to see that Louisa did not go beyond the limit of ^{strict} economy. But the aggregate of the amount for the last two years from the time she left home till her return ^{is large} ~~is large~~ I can not but express my surprise.

When Louisa left her baggage was sent to Mrs. York & her expenses there & passage to Liverpool I paid & charged to me at Mr. Atkinson's - Mr. Bell took a Sterling box of 200 £ equal to 100 which

lasted till Mr. Bull left Paris & until Louisa went
to the Continent where some balance remaining was paid over
on Louisa's account - So that these last bills amounting to
£650 Sterling are since the 200 £ bill was exhausted. So that
redemcing them several bills to sterling & back makes the sum
of \$2250 Dollars & when the high rate of exchange is added
it makes a second sum - all told of give or six thousand
Dollars!

Louisa suggests that I send my bill in your favour
for a sum to pay this last indebtedness & that you will
have it paid in Europe with money you have there.
I send a bill on Mr. Bull for a blank sum which
you must fill after adding the exchange to the last
Louisa wants paid.

Now I want you to write to Mr. Marshall
as for your own satisfaction to show him your list of the
known & unknown Mr. Norton at what date and as near
as practicable the expenditures. Until Mr. Bull gave up
Louisa's business there was no undue expenditures but since
that time they look large enough for the whole family.

You must think to arrange this coming so
that it may be all right. My bill on Mr. Bull will be paid
when permitted. No matter where it is used, at least except
or at some place. But write me the amount it is paid
up for & I will have no time in sending the money or having
it paid to Mr. Marshall.

Now, had I should be to tell you all
the other words one just enough - and how I grieve by the
last sad misfortune, the conflict, my family should

be deprived of the means I had taken so earnestly to provide
is most galling to me, but I do not mean to give up, as
long as there is life there is hope - and I intend to use
every faculty I possess, mental & physical, to recover
my position & if God spare me to bring my fortune
back to an extent to enable my children to maintain
the status which I have always labored for them to be
able to occupy.

I was loth to give up Mr. Marshall - but then
it seemed to be a necessity. Marshall came home last evening
looking very badly having been sick ever since he left home suddenly.
I wonder why my own health is so wonderfully preserved.
May be it is for some good purpose: I shall not be idle as
long as I have health & strength.

If I can manage it that I can live and
save the future till we get our state constitution again
in full operation I shall be satisfied, but such plans as
these of poor Louisa will leave us without bread if long
continued - There is no credit here & it is a good thing
except that the effects of the French conquest are to deprive
almost every other man of all he possesses - but for my
having paid up my debts I might not have a roof
over my head - Many of the largest estates would be
vacant. If restored to former owners as they would not
be worth long the debts upon them -

When the laws are rebuilt the lands here
will have an increased value to what they have at
present but how much can not be told - We must
wait & see. we must be patient - we can't help ourselves.

4

Mrs. J. G. Humphreys

near Versailles Ky.

Gov. of
Mr. Geo. Doolittle

New Orleans 10th Sept. 1865

My Dear Friend

The opportunity of writing by George Proctor is so good that I can not resist to scribble myself up.

I have written to McKimby since I came here by mail - which may or may not reach him before you get this.

I am still detained here by the sickness of Spot Wells whom I must see before I return home. He is expected daily from St. Louis.

The great subject is the Lewis' withdrawal the Country being made safe from our foes we can not plant at home - I am not alone in this - thousands are in the same situation.

I suppose you must consider your house as the house of refuge - if not for the whole family for the most of it - I shall expect to receive the most of them at New Oak next month - I wish you & yours may be of the number.

I want to hear about McKimby's health all the time that is the great consideration as to him - I want to see Louie very much but really can't say what is best for her. I suppose Wendell would be a general director or adviser. It has become very hard on housekeepers every where & we have no guarantee that we shall be any better off than others - Eliza Lewis is still in the kitchen & does better than any - but she made one visit to the City & talks as if she could do well any where. I should

in the Washier and ironer with help occasionally. - I am
still about but her temper is very uncertain as I think her
intentions are - One of Mr. de Solles is doing good service
in cleaning up & sending - he has encroached so much on
James department (my room & the library) that when I left
home he had finished the job before she got at it. She
looked sour enough - but I don't not it will soon go away
easy to do nothing in fact - as has been nearly the case for
a long time - She was a barter & knew how to do a good
many things. We are now hoping to get the control
of the region into the hands of the State as soon as the
Civil Organisation is completed. We shall certainly
turn many restraints around the necks that do not
exist now: and we hope for our advantage as well as theirs.

The weather is improving, but I of late have
raining which is no advantage to the Cotton. Still I think
good crops will be made.

I want you to write me what - you
think about my thing & every body & how you are doing
Mr. Winden is here on his way to
Washington to see the President concerning his business.
She has a good deal of trouble with her boys. She is
taking George & Thomas with her to Springfield. John
is in Edenborough - She has wonderful energy and
She makes it all - as her business is precarious - indeed
with the labor such as we have, liability to surplus
& taxation it would be hard to get along even under
more favorable circumstances.

Love to all yr devoted Father



STEAM

Mr. Leonard B. Silliman,

Long Is.
N.Y.

Steamer Lexington near Cairo
Wednesday Morning 9th Oct. 57

My Dear Sir,

We are flanked all the time & in the ordinary course of things we should be getting to our destination in place of our present position without further delay. We left Portland at 12 o'clock Monday in Sunday Eve. in just three (3) days to Cairo - We suffered the loss of water & have been one day delayed through not having at any place - We are here so small & some boats that have been a week out from New York. It is a well managed & very comfortable boat & with Sincerely you may have as pleasant a time even when the water is high enough for the largest ships. The Company is very nice & the time very interesting at home & especially well & I have felt better myself - I have been by the prospect of some getting when they began to go about of some importance.

Reference to your own movements My advice is for you to be governed entirely by what is in most for your health & comfort - this is the main point. & the week earlier or later is nothing so that your own condition is improved thereby - I shall telegraph at Memphis if I can & continue to write until I know you have left.

My flight was left at 10 o'clock to have something done to it - I think if it is not taken

if it would be better to bring it along - I do not
think my Photo was put up in my trunk, if it was
not bring it also - Eyring asked for it but I do not
think it left. Stop the Observer & Reporter when you
have unless you wish it to be sent to Fayette which
he wished & the Journal at Louisville - I advised
him to take the latter as the best of the two if any -
you can take him which he prefers -

You must write whenever you are
able it will be a great satisfaction to me - Sarah
thinks you are not, I write from at least twice
a week - If any thing important comes you could
telegraph to Mr. Collins care of Shreveport or to Mr.
Wells and forward the same by mail to me -

I hope, sincerely, your health may improve
this fine weather & soon be entirely restored - If you would
see a good young man on board from near Shelbyville
I have no doubt you would never suspect him to be
the same person - I believe you is the same as the
of the lungs -

A father has been to Sarah & her sister
a brother to John & Mrs. Breckinridge & their household
& a husband, for the & I write to you for yourself
I remain

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to

24
J

Tigerville
Augst 3rd



Mr. McKimley Silson or
Mr. Sarah J. Stephenson
Lexington
Ky.

If you come up tomorrow to stay
some time which is probable, and
you come today, couldn't you
tell David to put in my card &
& bill. - Both carried away he
coming up, so it will not be the
same way. - M.H.G.

Cork Post. 2^d Aug. 1868

Dear Mr. Kirby

Your letter to Tobias & myself came
to hand last evening. I had just returned from
Herron. The sale took place & was bought in, as
the property was bought in for the hire, for \$64.44 dollars
approximation was 54.44 & 1/2 of the approximation was
the bid - so there remains 54.44 & 1/2 due in the Mortgage.
With reference to Mr. Rich - is Gold Mine in opera-
tion & that a debt.

I stand at "South Shore" where we
are always not home. They do not leave home at all
this summer. I am very young of mind even now
for business in my absence. Tobias is nearly as
good as well. I have got a man to stay with him in
my absence & to attend to business. I wish you
could come & live with me. They get along so differently
at Capt. Allinson's. No course - Capt. Will. Stephen and
Foley & the Capt. at the head. They have not lost a
nickel the last season. Which we have lost more than
half a dozen. With this, with this is the thing said. I
am not able to attend to every thing. I am a skeleton
in comparison of what I have been. I hope I shall
be able to recover in N.Y. I want to stop till N.Y. I shall
have been I hope by Wednesday. Stay in N.Y. a day
& if lucky be in Lexington Saturday evening or Sunday.

W. Sturwood W. Coster's Son in law wrote me I should
have no trouble about taking my Machinery away, is
by a little disarrangement I have found what would have
been lost & what will be a good outfit for Magnolia.

Our Cane is very fine & the corn good.
I think we will have a full supply but we had good
trouble to get a stand - had to plant 4 or 5 times.

I have not rode the Spring horse - the
Mare drives fine.

There are occasional trains to Louisville
at half price - which suits me very well. I shall carry
my provisions basket so as not to have to leave the car.
I see so badly that it would be dangerous for me to
be moving out & in without assistance.

You must not judge Randall too
closely or strictly. He has no surplus money of his own.
& he is furnishing all the money now to carry on our
business - appearances often deceive. I hope the account
& kindred thing to a dollar - we must be just
all around. It would be very unfair to restrict his
wife's living on her own money & she is not disposed
to be extravagant. It is not all necessary for her
to be made to feel our misfortune or that we should
make her the depository of our restrictions: we must
work out. We have no right to put all in the best
of prospects - living off and cutting off or pulling
out according to the humors of each.

What I have no time to write you, and after
all I may get to Lexington before my letter -
But I must leave for all -

Yours ever Affectionate Father
J. Gibson

Senate Chamber,
State of Louisiana.

New Orleans, 29 Aug. 1866

Dear Randall.

I have received your despatch from Louisville & shall go out in the morning to send Mr. Pratt with hands ^{trucks} to Donaldson to take charge of the ~~hands~~.

The contract you with the hands close on Wednesday and it will then be time if they will engage. Very few have done so & I have much doubt of ours.

Capt. Minor's all left. Staffed by Banks & H. Some have got a few since; saying none. I find it an uphill business - according to the reports I have been able to make - Capt. Minor has been in town all the time since he left & has got half dozen or so. He has not planted a stick of cane & I doubt not he will lose it all.

We have been done planting

Some time 75 or 80 acres, altogether.
I fear we shall have all our oats
with rust, the great enemy to the
small grain for some years past.

I hope you ^{will} get out very
Thursday - I may have to stay at home
all the week in order to make arrangements
with the hands. The whole thing is
extremely uncertain.

I enclose a note & photographs
from Miss W.

I have been to see Elodie.
She is in great grief & would go out
to see Jack at once if we were at
home. Poor Preston said much about
you & myself of much interest. His
sweat, beautiful & very spiritfully little
boy he left especially to your care. I
am sure no wife could have shown
greater devotion to a husband than
she has done. She now neither stifes
nor eats - She talks of Preston all the
time & wants ^{to} do exactly as he wished.

God bless her & keep her to comfort
you from her sad bereavement.

The Senate is just being
called to order.

Our Most Affectionately
Yr Father
J. Gibson

14th I have found of the 5th today. I showed your letter to Mr. Howell, like myself he approves of the fugitive Scheme - you want for Green wood about 10 miles - that would give thirty to each place.

The Quaker did not bring Dr. Richardson. I sent you a telegram today. Albert G. leaves on the Quaker tomorrow. I shall send my letter by him & may send those here for you. I really sympathize with the W. who I am sure quite anxious about you. I believe you a worthy & very consideration and whose accomplishments & capabilities any man might be proud of. No family that I know of in N. England, or out of it to completely won my respect & esteem - high or without being a beauty is a most interesting & lovely person. The whole party received great attention here. I was more reluctant than under ordinary circumstances, I should have been but I saw enough of them to understand very well that they were entirely above the circle of ordinary people whom we meet.

Mr. Harriet goes with me tonight to hear W. King deliver: I have just returned from the speaking in the Hall of Superintending - It was a sensible & gentle affair, but not the reasoning & inspiring effort that some men would have made. I think you or Harriet might have done a great deal better. Now but the two houses were present.

You must draw on H. No. 46 for money we will have to argue over again but will speak of this when you come. I could work on but have no room so must stop & go to bed. Love to all. Yr. devoted Father & Mother

New Orleans Sunday Night 11th July 68

Dear Randall

I dined today with Randall Higgins family & A.C. Gibson at the St. Charles - The latter gave me a correct account no doubt of your & Harriet's situation and what you were about. I have had no letter from you. Supposing that you might leave any moment I have not written to you. Indeed I may say I have nothing to write: I suppose every thing is going on as usual at home. I have one letter only from Dr. Smith. I have no fear with the business in the hands of Smith & Lincoln.

John & family left & Andrew & daughter; these were all that went from Green wood & I think their place can be supplied. I will not get there without any discharge from me. Father & two daughters are all that left. Live with except Ellen Lewis who was taken off by her lazy trifling husband. I understand she is to be employed here in the city. I have taken Nancy in the kitchen - old Harriet also left & came to the city & I trust Miss Smith will allow her to return - yes Anderson & Syra left - old age had provided a plan for them & some others as I understand. I don't think it will be well for him to show his face again.

at Oak Forest: I think Oak Forest & Grandwood have left
about equal numbers - Considering our losses & the uncertainty
of this year I think we have hands enough - about 30000
hands at each place - There will be a report presented
to the Legislature made by the Chairman of a Committee of
the Board of Land Commissioners on the Subject of what has
been done or likely to be done by the Federal Authorities which
is discouraging enough - Nothing has been done & nothing is likely
to be done - I will send it as soon as it is printed - We have
to depend upon the State alone & it is doing all in its Power.
But the work has not progressed very satisfactorily. It is very fortunate
that the Season has been so favorable & that the Swamp remains
empty at so late a period, & the River not high. My report will
be verbal only. I saw in a letter from a friend of yours who
was on the boat with you that you had lost your Mules and Six
thousand (\$6000) dollars in money - I communicated this fact
to W. H. Hunt & told him what had to be done - he said he would
do all in his power. It is a heavy blow for us but we must try
to recover from it as soon as practicable - I have more faith
in raising Cotton at England than on the Mack; Abbott said
something about your going up there - This is a good idea - He has
has but little experience I would be enlightened by some advice
and direction - Lincoln wants about eight or ten more
Mules & all would go well - Corn planting will begin this

week at both places - so as to have the very earliest Corn possible
joint to Cane with - I am no advocate of much very early planting.
We have a supply of Cotton seed already on hand - but very little
seed corn such as we want - I am trying to get more by exchange
as it can not be bought.

I am concerned about Warts Situation. I
am afraid his hands will be crippled or greatly disfigured, but it
was such a merciful rescue from the jaws of death that we
ought not to complain.

I got letters from Abbie - Her health is not good &
her prof. is better - Persepolis Clenden is as sprightly as usual - and
Walter Abbie seems anxious to see you - I have left Chicago
for you & me which as far as is in my power shall be carried out.

Look for Dr. Richardson on the Saturday
in the morning. Good-bye I stay him sincerely.

There are several notes or letters at W. H. Hunt's
for you from Mobile etc. Since the disaster to the alligator Center.
I do not venture to write a word about you in the newspapers
give or satisfactory an account of your Situation as long I
could give & yet I can imagine the anxiety some of your friends
in that place feel after the terrible ordeal through which you
have passed. This is intended for both you & Hunt.

My love to all
Yr. ever Affectionate Father
Come directly to No. 115 Broadway St.
J. H. Hunt

Losinski says Dr. Hayter wants land for building his sugar house which will take most of the pasturage land. If we need more seed corn I can take our share of our half in seed corn.

Some places on the waste to the front gate are out of water. The water is going down a month earlier than in '65. Should it get off in time I shall try cotton & I see in the "consent" from one writer that by soaking the corn in lime before planting it will prevent worms. I mean to try lime, coal fire & greens. I have fear about Holly wood - but will try what I think is safe. I think we can get logs another week - this is Saturday. Mean time the women at both places & some of the men can plant as fast as the water leaves the land.

Yr. ever affctd. Father
J. Gibbs



Oak Forest 17th May 67

Dear Land out,

I got back last night from my trip to Holly wood and other places more dead than alive - The last night I staid at Mr. Shapors - You must know that I was on horse back from the time I left the boat at Little Ferry place till I got back there. The horse was hands on at Holly wood & as demoralized a set as any one would like to look upon.

Mr. Water Machine did no good but he did not lose much except in the loss of labor in his crop - Shapors loses nothing altho' he had 200 acres dug under water - He has a wheel a little over ^{half} the capacity of ours. McCallum has about 200 acres of his best corn.

I saw Duncan Coyle at Monroe: he says the water was over his land on the west side of Grand Caillon

He fully incense without Lewis H. all
on the Black when all minor & labor
are serious suffocation. Watch Millerberger
Victor worse than us. I would not
is Worthily I am. I count from a suspicion
yesterday on saving near 40th

I have just received my book
about the Anderson debt. I paid half
the debt having two notes of \$375 & 75th Jan. 1861
Still due 5th Jan. 1861 & the other
one year thereafter, so they are both
prescribed according to Gov. opinion.

The Russell debt I am char-
ged by the decision of the Supreme Court of
the State - on the merit of it.

I find on looking into the ditching
& draining business that Magnolia with
the Liden with some additions is safe.
Now to drain the big field we should have
to run a Canal front & rear through the
piece of wood land of which is Bassess
the cost of all which would not pay half
so well as starting at the lower side of

the woods and securing the land from
that point to the Liden - putting one of
the pumps at the lower end. Securing
the big wheel at the point of Liden between
the Clear field & the Liden. This would
include some 500 acres for Clear & Liden with
the chances of no droughts for as much
more cover as we could plant waiting
to see about the water. To insure this
it would require a back Liden not less
than 3 feet high & an inside ditch to bring
the water to the wheel of 18 feet wide
not to speak of the front Liden which
we could build now but with a great
deal of labor & management.

The cost of ditching would
not be less than \$3000. & removing draining
machine & other work not less than \$2000
More say \$5000 all told, about 10¢
for each superficial acre. We must
do the work by degrees -
18th water falling 2 in. per day the whole of 2 in.
hand getting longer. 15 min. also the Canal,

Will report from Magnolia before Sunday this.
Always your affectionate Father
H. Wilson

The cause at Magnolia is improving fairly and is worth
a round sum. Board Estimated for Seed. I never saw
such drover & self sacrifice & energy as Mr. Smith has
shown. He lies by the machine every night on pickets &
a little smoke to keep off the mosquitoes. The Dutchman
one with him driving the wheels by turns. Lincoln goes
home. He is industrious but no influence with the hands.
Whatever. It is the same with Mr. Smith's hands but
they are both the best of men. John Henry & Pratt are
worth their weight in gold. His ladies are here & such
men about not ready & willing to do anything & everything a
man or woman might & day. Their example has no
doubt had a wonderful effect on the blacks. One Lewis
has been of the greatest advantage - both in attention and
sound judgment. It would be a calamity indeed to
have to break up such an organization as we have.
I am more and more for concentration
& to limiting to one operation making perfectly secure
all the land necessary for a money crop & if there is no
water extending other crops afterwards.
Magnolia - all right here - water is so slow in rising falling
is not slow. I said this to House.

Official, Senate Chamber, La.,

Ork. Frost New Orleans, May 7th 1867.
Dear Randall

Knowing the anxiety you feel about
the state of affairs, I think it right to give you an
account of the same as often as it is convenient to do so.

I wrote the morning after a tremendous
rain which poured in torrents & left me nothing to hope
from its effects but the loss of the crop of Magnolia but
to my great relief I found the sugar cane unbroken
but the phase almost inundated from the rain.

Mr. Smith came here last night to get a
night's sleep. Mr. Lincoln remaining in his place.
Yesterday it was so wet they could not work on the
sugar at all so they ran a ditch from the front to
the rear so that in case of a break in the levee the
rain division being the dirt from the ditch, would
give a chance to save a part.

I spent today at Magnolia leaving
here at 7 o'clock A.M. & returning home at 4 P.M.
I found the greatest necessity for my presence and
as the weather changed last night from cloudy and
threatening to clear & beautiful this morning I have
determined to spend every day there until the season

is made manifest - The Machine after an observation
this morning by Mr. John & Mr. Pratt is doing
fairly & in a day or two more I expect to see the
place entirely rid of rain water - The water in the
front is considerably above the mark of '65 and according
to my mark has risen at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ in in a day
of 24 hours including the time of the heavy rain i.e. 12 inches
in 3 days. Dr. Sidley whom I saw today says at his
house on the opposite side of the bayon it has fallen
 $\frac{1}{2}$ in the last 24 hours - but my observation
is that the water has risen a bit in the front of
Magnolia & considerably more in the rear, than it
has been stationary since yesterday morning. All
these indications more or less favorable may be
caused by the strong southerly wind which has prevailed
during the time of these observations, & not from a fall
of the water in & of itself - As it has been since I
collected this coming perfectly still I will be able to tell
by morning what we are to expect & one thing I
can state that the weather is at present most favorable
& inspires confidence on that account & that our
efforts will parallel the change & if the efforts of
all can overcome the progress of the flood it will
certainly be done. & this is all the information I have

to say at the present. From what I hear of the
labor on other places our hands must have been
much better than some others.

Sidley informed me that West had
14 machines similar to ours out of 5, broken, that he
had given up his own place saving the one machine
working, under the protection of cuttings & devices made
made after abandoning older & more elaborate contrivances
-ing his plantation. In this list Mr. Gundry included
in having given up the right of the rain. Burgess
place - Miller's, Rattler's, Bodin's, Brown's place,
Porches, most of Dugan's - Some of opinion and
I have heard of Mr. Colman & there about his place in
a higher or lower degree - So you see if we should have
the present hopes for success we shall have done more
than any body else, all things considered. I repeat it is
my determination to spend every day at Magnolia
till it dries or lasts:

8th morning beautiful - hands off at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 o'clock.
Water fallen $\frac{1}{2}$ inch here. I think we have our highest
water, the back water at Magnolia being below the front
give the trouble - it will have its work -

I do not hear from you. I get my papers
at Signville pretty regularly by Cheneau. No letters
Stark doing well. Got Kelly Wood Minors very kind.