

Ashland 9th Dec. 1830

My dear Jon

Anne and Mr. Erwin are still with us. They intend in a few days however to proceed to N. Orleans. And your mother and I, having also determined to pass a portion of the winter there, will either accompany them, or follow them a few days after. We purpose taking John and H.C. Duralde with us. We expect to return early in March. The advantage we expect to derive from that more general climate, some business connected with the death of your aunt Brown, and some other business are the motives of the voyage. That lamented event will enable us, I hope, to indulge our inclination to pass our sojourn in great retirement. We expect to meet your uncle Brown below. By the laws of Louisiana, the wife is entitled to the disposition, upon her death, as she pleases, of one half of the Estate held by her husband. Your aunt, availing herself of this privilege, has left her part (one fourth) of their Sugar plantations to Mr. Brown during his life, and after his death to her sisters and brothers or the descendants of such of them as are dead, in equal shares. And in the mean time she has left to her mother and her sister Price each \$500 per annum. The arrangement has been entirely approved by your uncle, whose whole conduct in this affair has been characterized by great liberality. Mr. Brown left me one of her Executors, and altho' I am not aware of any thing at present what I shall have to do, that circumstance constitutes one of the motives of my voyage.

I have lately purchased 111 Acres of land, part of the tract which belonged to M. Hays Estate, adjoining Ashland. This acquisition will give me more space to operate upon. A further small addition which I have in contemplation would make Ashland all that I

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