

Then we are to have more but Yankee women ~~the~~  
ladies - coarse ungainly persons, hard hands,  
broad fat limbs, all of a size, from the foot  
to the body - no manner - but indifferent ~~be-~~  
-als - plain singing spirituals imps of all sorts  
Negro phidias - (New Orleans, has been crowded  
with them during the war and the country has had  
it, then in the character of School Masters  
whose devotion to increase of population has  
condemned many of their families of not unimpaired

Now all these blessings is more than  
the older population can stand and they are wasting  
their final west rapidly -

The weather is becoming there as the  
advance of the rains season so favorable in times  
past for our rich Corn fields, but now alas! to fall  
on barren fields -

I conclude by thanking you for the  
picture of your little daughter - I never saw finer  
specimens of young beauty than those of Denmark  
& Louisiana - I admire Denmark the most just  
now. I am truly proud of their looks, but from  
what I hear their looks are not equal to their mental  
endowments - How much I would give to see and  
enjoy them as I should!

My best love to Mary and  
kindest remembrances for all  
Yours affly Father -

Cad. Forest 7th July 1865

My Dear Mart

Your letter of the 29th June has been received.  
I have one from Sarah of the same date which I have  
already answered & what I have said to her would answer  
quite as well for you, so far as my notions may be said the  
circumstances which surround you both. I should be glad  
indeed to be able to make a single suggestion of value to  
either or both, I try to give the best advice my knowledge and  
experience enable me to do.

I feel as if the revolution had just begun  
a revolution more important than the one attempted by arms  
because the one was but temporary the other is to be permanent  
if any thing can be really permanent in a government of what  
is popularly called the people.

Probably my age makes me less hopeful of the  
future than if I were younger. I do not believe for instance that  
the agitation about the negro has more than begun and what  
we have had in the past is scarcely a foretaste of what  
is to be in the future. The negro being free according to modern  
order he now becomes a party in the impending political war  
and as he will have open grounds to wander to & to lead his  
not see how strife & bloodshed are to be avoided - If the  
Central government at Washington with a glance at the  
need is to control the status of the negro then long the  
White man become the dog & the Black man the master

but on the other hand if the States can to govern in this matter  
then there may be hope for a time, but the struggle will in that  
case become more fierce & as I apprehend more bloody, until  
the Central power controlled by the fanatics give all they want  
for the Negro, which is perfect equality to the Negro in every  
respect. All this you see, victimizes the South. Their New poor,  
bankrupt & with their much indebted, households - for during  
this political agitation very little work will be done by  
any body much less by the Negro, who will think of nothing  
but his future prospects and his present ease.

So much so necessary to the Union & States of  
your situation. Owners of land in States where white labor can  
be used to advantage should I think keep it - it is the best of  
the investment, because it will give a good support to the  
In the present unsettled state of affairs of many descriptions ought  
in the great & paramount idea. I think such plans as "Nullification"  
& "Sole man's Court" should be held with a deathly grasp. I  
only wish I had Smah: but in the present calamitous state of the  
Country brought on by insensate hate & crazy fanaticism  
we can must expect Surplus value - Smah profits & plantations  
must industry must be the order of the day. The object aimed  
at has been to destroy the whole class of Country gentlemen  
and it has been effectually accomplished. - Their class is  
doomed to disappear entirely & for the present times of this  
Class are to be the most oppressed, the most unhappy of  
any other persons in Society - because they can not  
adapt themselves to the new order of things & if they  
could they have not the means to enable them to do so.

Open Confiscation of their Negro property leaving to them  
place of no great value - or will under those who are in debt  
wholly unable to pay debts contracted when their estates  
were unimpaired.

I am not of those who have any faith in free  
mass plantation labor for Sugar certainly and Cotton also  
for years if ever. The Negro is the only race that can stand  
the work of our open fields - If we are to depend upon  
Voluntary Negro or white labor in this latitude and in  
our business the thing is absurd. Hence it is my pur-  
pose to examine the Yagoo property & adjacent plantations  
that those of my sons, who may prefer to extend and  
enlarge that property, may try it. It is worth while  
for following. Men who have fresh energies & buoyant hopes  
to try their fortunes where they may make something and  
will have nothing to lose.

We can start planting Corn as fast as  
we can with about 50 hands altogether; quite as many  
as wanted - but the Cat-worm is bad & the chances  
rather slim for crops - but we must try & make bread.

My advice to all young men in the  
South will be rather to use their educations just as  
they do at the North to make bread with or else to  
take the handle of the Plow - Education as an  
argument is one exploded idea - We are to be all  
trading - in mind or in matter & God knows - So  
the sooner these young men understand this the better.

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LA 11



Mr. Hart Libran

Livington  
Ky.



as a Government Commission, we had hopes founded upon our intercourse with them that the President only wanted his time to come out openly in favor of his former principles of State Rights and that we soon the States would have the exclusive management of their own Affairs - but as things now stand the Civil Authority of the States only reaches the white inhabitants, the blacks being an exempt & privileged class and at once bringing the two authorities in constant collision - that of the Central & Military assuming to deal with the blacks exclusively & with the whites so far as to punish them for any interference with the black carrying on more monstrous than this? It is a question whether our becoming involved in a contest with the blacks are prevented by Congress, of their course have encouraged by the officers to resist and to wage battle whenever occasion requires - The purpose now is that after the first elections the military will be withdrawn & the people will be left to pursue their own course unaided by the Central power at Washington - but they I fear will be very Constitutional & the conditions such that it will be impossible for us to comply with them - The amount of it is that unless we get the exclusive control of black labor we have the country is beyond all doubt ruined -

It is idle to expect that white laborers will come here and work alongside of free blacks, it was objectionable when the whites were allowed

to be the superior but now that the negro is to be admitted as his equal what white man would consent to become his associate in labor and the families of each living in adjoining houses? We must then depend upon the blacks, exclusively or the whites alone. Can this restore some of the one & the substitution of the other take place without ruin to the land owner? The land owner in a general trade offer so much land will be unable to attract because they have not the ready money so that an immense amount of land will be thrown upon the market without purchasers or the means to purchase with -

In view of these things which are put to my mind I am at a loss to do. I have been going on with Kendall, but he is not a man to be trusted for the business - He is a truly in depth in the study of medicine and applies himself closely & profitably whilst I startle of our business Affairs & politics - I encourage both to pursue a course which will make them independent of black or white labor in their country - I do not think it would be advisable for McKim to leave here for a trip to Kentucky, his health is good & he has become almost indispensable to me in many ways than one & Kendall don't seem willing to leave his company - besides he says he has no time to write, I think he is more likely to succeed in a profession than Kendall because of his ready adaptability to circumstances & disposition to please. Moreover his education & talents are more varied and exact & should his health permit he would soon be qualified for a professorship as well as the practice. I have got so

See Annals of the 500 in Case & 150 in Case and when the  
Water comes in favoring as they in the Parish - the hands  
and at home & having better than ever since the war! What  
is our trust in the present situation?

Now what shall I say to J. J. J. What  
can he go with Mrs. Colman will be, if it is not now our  
business for that City depends on the Country and the produce  
of the present season if fairly distributed would not pay  
the current expenses of the Country. There is the case to consider  
if our crops are to be plentiful next year but the case  
will be made & Cotton is yet in the green leaf. And if  
without a disaster will be only a negative of a crop.  
How then can we be taken there? Living that is poor, they can

When the Slave States prosper will not  
recover in half a century if we thin prosperity - The  
South is too much dependent on the white constant manual  
labor - enforced labor. Sugar can only be made by  
enforced labor in certain quantities, this can be supplied  
only by compulsory labor in the field black or white. Such  
can not be supplied because our Masters want others as  
to have it & that in the only season. It must be made  
Phillips, Sumner, Chas. Wilson or Andy Johnson. So we  
must submit - we hope perhaps we agree to submit  
to the man the aid of the Almighty. This is what  
I mean for each. No matter what the condition but hope  
the people must. Speaking of voting it seems, the people

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text on the left page of the document.]*

are beginning to talk of Candidates for different places  
I had best say some thing on this subject - I don't want  
to have any thing to do with public office but if I  
find I can by yielding to a decided wish to find some place  
in case my superiors see fit to bring me in any  
way I don't see why I should not do it: I am sure  
Kendall will not get out his pardon & amnesty and  
if Congress can take no part in public affairs I wish  
I was at his age with his prestige I would make  
both law & politics subservient to my redemptive  
in any way. He had not any way combination  
by John

I believe now that the North & West will  
maintain their prosperity even if the South becomes  
a desert for it now is. The Mines of California will  
supply the means to settle hundreds in trade with  
Foreign Nations exhibit their spirit trade at home  
by Sail Hoops & their great covered by Steam and  
other vessels will help up their business to an extent  
which the South ever thought was entirely dependent  
on them - What has ever been disappointed by this  
terrible Conflict of the sections - was being the only one  
victimized when it was true through the whole  
world was dependent on us! I would say

I don't know if the Sen. Thru. States  
will be permitted to have untransmitted blood  
until the show is made in Washington then

to accept the intended Status of the Negro, and this  
should prove a Condition, the day is far distant  
when we will have any thing to say in making the  
law, which are to govern us. If you election in the  
South will by all a proslavery, develop unwise  
- Able, determined & passionate Opposition to abolitionism  
in all its forms & places - The good of all Regions this  
we can not conscientiously say anything else - And  
in the war was the success of that measure and that  
above the consequences are upon us, we have no alternative  
but Submission

I have written enough for contesting  
Kendall went home with Charles Pease yesterday  
& will be back tomorrow or next day - So I am alone

I think you had all better arrange to be  
down next Fall & spend the winter here. It would  
be a great satisfaction to have you all together children  
& grand children & such a collection I wish would be,  
I have no doubt I should feel a head & shoulders taller.

My best love to Mary & Helen to the true  
one - Kindest regards to Mr. & Mrs. Burson & the rest  
Yrs. Father Ever Affectionately  
John

N. Orleans 45 Burgundy St.  
March 25. 1866

Dear Aunt

Your telegram of the 21<sup>st</sup>  
was recd. on the 22<sup>nd</sup> & of course was  
Satisfactory.

The Legislature adjourned  
by invitation on the 22<sup>nd</sup> but I  
have been detained by being on a  
Committee to investigate Charges  
which seriously implicate the  
Gov. but if all I know of him  
as well as many other kinds of him  
were printed before God with  
sufficient momentum he would  
have been a "D. D." long ago - If our  
Gov. is a fair sample of all the  
rest God help them say I.

Edie & Toby went over home  
yesterday evening - I follow in the  
morning - I may be back in a week



but it is not certain. There has been some talk of our water supply of the Legislature but I think Gov. Wells has had enough of us - We certainly would have no objection to get entirely clear of him.

Randall seems in better spirits. I wish he had gotten to work - a thing if he had begun at once he would have enjoyed it but I suppose he couldn't see it in that light - My advice is always offered as well as my opinions till times & circumstances prove their value.

I am sorely afraid Tobias Gazoo's experiment has proven a good draw back to his health if nothing else.

We have a good letter from McKimly, he speaks more favorably than usual of his health which rejoiced to hear.

I have bought no mules yet fearing some draw back on account

casualties which may yet happen, there is time enough in month since when mules will be still lower. I will be able to judge of things better after I have looked more closely with my own eyes into our affairs on the Black.

I sent you a "Crescent" the other day & a "Bee" today.

I wrote this before starting home & will write more fully after I get a letter from you.

I have no time to write more. My best love to Mary & Rip, for the little one with kindest regards for Mr. D. & Family.

Ever Affly. Yours  
J. Gibson

New Orleans 10<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1866

My Dear Aunt

Yours of the 22<sup>nd</sup> was received out at home & I waited till I came to town to answer it.

I telegraphed yesterday for you to send a check for the balance of proceeds of the bill negotiated at Southern Bank to H. St. W. to be placed to my credit here.

You will consult Mr. Houshain as to the proper course in taking up the bill having been kept months. Upon your giving the New bill they can give an order to withdraw the old one or they can give you a check which you will send to H. St. W. to take up with - Of course it will be <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ price of the old bill but this will be charged to us here. Which ever way is cheapest for us you will do.

The condition of the Lakes & the water is such that I shall buy no more lumber at present - many of the largest houses have given way & there is great fear of an overflow. Certainly a large section of the Country is now under water but I do not believe our work is seriously injured - This is my hope.

Until the latter part of last week it became so dry that it was almost impossible to plow. We had most of the Cotton planted but a perfect flood of rain came & made the ground soft enough - On the 8<sup>th</sup>

it cleared off & the weather is now clear & cool.

Randall went off home on Saturday <sup>the</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> the day I came over & as he had to go to the Parish of St. Mary's he will not be back for several days. I shall wait till he returns.

I came over to meet your Aunt Beggins but she is not here yet - Randall Staggins is here.

Randall's business seems to be very well satisfied with his prospects at the Law. If he had begun nine months ago he might have had very much business as he could do, but it is somewhat late to begin.

I would not advise you to get hastily through I am well satisfied you are better adapted to the business than R. both as to mind & disposition and it would not be amiss to think about joining him next Fall or Winter - You have great advantages in natural turn of mind & education suited to this City - French & German people form a large portion of the population & must increase largely as immigration increases -

Mr. Smith thinks you do not offer him enough. We shall try to have a supply of Corn & Cane for a short next year & it will be time enough hereafter to make a permanent arrangement. I shall take care of your interest.

Foley is at Oak Forest - in good health - Elodie & Claude also - Elodie very delicate - Claude is lively in a cricket -

I hope Duncan has recovered entirely - I can not speak of leaving home before all danger from Water was disappeared - and the crop in a safe condition - I suffer Mr. R. & daughter can now regularly reside at Sumner Street.

Edwin's left eyes before the agreement were bad but Mr. Barnum has gotten 10 new hands and as he writes going ahead. I would like to see Tobias in some country home. Nothing has turned up yet.

I hope Mr. & Mrs. T. will give my best love to them.

Kindest regards to Mr. H. & the rest.

Mr. H. & Mrs. Minor are here going out to South Down in a day or two - Effie failed to sell his Waterloo place at the low figure of thirty thousand dollars.

Yours most affectionately  
J. H. H. H.

Que Orleans 18 April 1868

Very Dear Aunt

The two thousand Dollars have been rec<sup>d</sup> by Howard, Norton & Co.

We are in much anxiety about the water - So far every old cross has been kept clear except one & that is open only in part; without other bridges I do not think we shall be damaged - It is true the Red River is very high & much of its water goes into the Atchafalaya which flows to the Gulf - so that if a considerable sea were to take place above the present stage of the river with such heavy rains as we have had the danger would be imminent indeed of the extensive overflow such as we had for the first time last season.

I have been detained in town by the business before the Board of Local Commissioners & having done all that was practicable we shall adjourn tonight & I shall return home tomorrow.

(Wm) Your Aunt Higgins & Cousin Maria  
Naylor, were in town & as the Conference of the Methodist Church is still in session I do not

Dear Aunt

How sorry would you be if in King's letter you saw the words in brackets as they are in your copy, and you could not explain the omission.

I thought that business to me. You must practice the "rule" in your every day's business.

What is the "rule" in your business?  
As long as I am in town

about the water.

With love to all is 21<sup>st</sup>  
Sincerely  
Wm. Higgins

Dear Aunt

Love & Grace

W. Higgins

As we have no other business you had better send up your business and come home

and to the summer house  
W. Higgins

whether it will be possible to get your Aunt away so  
as to make it ~~for~~ in a visit. Mrs "Patsy" Todd  
is also here & today she went up to Mr. ~~Whitman's~~  
& next week she says she will come out to see  
Eloise - who Susan's delegate. - What is this and  
Barren Hill goes on at Redbank with many prospect  
of extensive water privileges -

What through the want of sufficient  
means, within ourselves and the false promises of  
the general government, our works for keeping  
out the Cotton are too incomplete to prevent some  
damage - but by another season even if the general  
government does nothing I think we will be secure,  
but just now we are in great trouble about the  
prospect before us -

Randall has taken Major Austin  
into partnership - but I am not sure it was the  
best for him - he seems to know. I hope as I believe  
such partnerships are generally but short, as I feel  
very certain that you & R. together could do a fine  
business in N. Orleans - By next fall or winter  
I hope R. will understand the nature of business and  
if you should find it to suit you could go in with  
R. alone or with the firm.

I have seen your letter to R. about Judge J. but  
R. did not seem to fancy the proposition and whether  
he was dissuaded by telegram or otherwise I am not  
able to state -

The population of N. Orleans seems to be  
increasing very fast - Every body who can't coming  
to the City. I am not sure what I shall do next  
Fall. I have but little to do in the Country and if I  
could make a decent income in town I would much  
prefer to live here.

If we are not vexed I shall try  
to make a visit to Kentucky - after all danger has  
passed & the crop in safe condition a few weeks  
or months from home would be a great relief  
to me I am sure.

Give much love to Mary & the  
little ones with kisses, and kindest regards to the  
rest of the house hold

Write to me in return -

Yours ever affectionate Father  
J. Gibson

P. P. Reily our former teacher called on me at Washington - He is fleshy & looks handsomely & has improved in every way - Resides in Lancaster Pa. - He is now on some great R. Road Scheme engineering through Congress in the Moral West - He has a Wife & two Children



New York Hotel 10<sup>th</sup> July '66

Dear Hart

After spending a couple of days very pleasantly with my friends Colo. S. Clifton & Donald who are Commissioners from the Loan Board to wait on Congress to get an appropriation of money to help on with the business, I finally came on & reached this City this morning where I found Wiley Co. Com. inspectors appointed to represent the Board of the State on behalf of the Loans - so you see there is no lack of effort in favour of getting the Loans made safe.

We can borrow money fast enough on the Securities but it is our business to sell. We shall know what we can do in a very few days -

To go back a piece - At Washington I spent a day in visiting Monday for the business of the Loans - I called to see Mr. Garret Davis who is in high physical as I have no doubt he is, in intellectual power. All the democratic members are ready to

do all we want - so our Commissioners  
have to work exclusively with the Radicals.

One day I spent at the Capital  
looking at the Members as they appeared  
from day seat in the Galleries & watched the  
Manner of their proceedings - I saw nothing  
that would have caused me any more  
- regret if I had been in amongst them  
if I had been on the floor of the Senate of  
Louisiana - indeed I think our Louis. Senate  
would compare favorably with the Senate  
of the U. S. as now constituted. I heard  
Sumner, who has neither grace of manner  
nor fluency of speech - He is a rough looking  
angular, uninteresting man as I saw him -  
Without any of the polish of the orator  
or the strength of the logician - I heard  
Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Wade, Mr. Wilson, Gov. Brown  
& Mr. Saulsbury - & the last is the best Speaker  
amongst them, & the only <sup>one</sup> who stands up on  
all occasions heroically for peace & harmony  
union & concord amongst the people of all  
the States -

I went from the Capitol to the other  
House - I regret I could not see the President -  
Who was too unwell or too busy to see any

one - We were too late to see Mr. Stanton  
as he had left his office and the same as  
to Mr. Seward.

Washington has filled up wonderfully  
since I saw it thirteen years ago - Sarah will  
recollect the time - She was then having Miss  
Mercer's School near Leesburg in Va. How  
time has flown & how events have changed  
our conditions. The Capital of the U. S.  
is now occupied in its legislative halls by  
almost entirely a Yankee crew - and as far  
as I could see or hear determined to keep such -  
since Jeffersonian for an indefinite period.

Mr. Davis as well as others told  
me that the President desired earnestly  
that all the Southern States should be represented  
in the Phila. Convention on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Aug.  
I do not think it was any the intention of  
our State to send a representation - but as  
it seems to be so much desired by the President  
it will probably be done.

I have <sup>had</sup> no time to look around  
except to attend to my official duties and  
of course am able to give no variety to my  
letter - I met & was introduced to Mr. Stearns  
this morning who told me he had seen you  
at Mr. Manca's a week ago -

Best love to all my & compliments  
to all with deference to the little one J. P. Weston L. G.

New York Hotel 15<sup>th</sup> July 1855

Dear Hart

Just as we had concluded to bring our Mission  
home to a close, we received a telegram from Mr. Collins extending  
the time for our negotiations, fifteen days longer. So that it  
will be our duty to continue here another week to see what can  
be done. I do not expect much to come of it because people  
are not yet satisfied that Radical measures & Southern  
slavery may <sup>not</sup> yet breed disturbance. After the Phil. Convention  
I hope things will be better. I have very confidence that the  
South will act with sense and discretion and that the Conserva-  
tives of the North will extend a cordial welcome to them as  
of old. I have met some of the War Democrats here  
who are as violent against the Radicals as they ever were  
against Secessionists. All shades of Conservatives are  
warmly in favour of the Convention, & if wise Councils  
prevail in that assembly we doubt the downfall of  
the Radicals.

I saw the Rev. Dr. Day yesterday and Mr. Warren  
says he will send Mary's watch by him.

The weather here is certainly warmer than  
I ever felt it any where out of this City. I want to get away  
There are a few crossings down here from the South but none  
of that throng that used to crowd the Northern Resorts for  
health & pleasure & more will be again. I trust, there could be  
no greater folly. I have met some but professed friends in



This City but in Washington it is totally different. not  
amongst the people but the cold blooded hearted Yankee  
and Englisher and he unfortunately represents too many of  
the Western States in Congress.

I wish to let you know that our stay here  
will be prolonged beyond the time I had hoped to start for  
Kentucky.

With much love to my

Remain Affectionately,  
Yr. Father  
Hibson

we have seen agreeable persons here from St. Orleans  
& Mobile who make this Capital their head  
quarter - What a wonderful city this  
is - I am trying to get time to take a look  
at the great Park - now is I am told a great  
wonder but which when I saw it was in  
a barren state & rough enough - but  
Mr. W. will do almost any thing and has wrought  
wonders at that place -

After a time of extreme heat the  
temperature is most agreeable now - moist  
enough to lay the dust & cool enough for winter  
clothing -

Very love to all  
Yours sincerely  
H. Wilson

New York Hotel 21 July '68  
My Dear Sir

The time for my coming here  
was from the beginning so uncertain that I  
counted on that at least writing to you, but  
I have rec<sup>d</sup>. only your letter from Kentucky - and  
what is still more, Kendall seems to have come  
to the conclusion that I could not receive  
letters here & so I suppose he has directed his  
letters to N.Y. as I have rec<sup>d</sup>. none here.

You will see by the advertisement  
inclosed that we are not likely to get away  
under another week. We have so much interest  
inclosed in the business that I advised one of our  
Commissioners to go to Washington to help on  
with the business, I thought which we are delaying  
I have found it very agreeable to make a short  
trip with Mr. Kendall & Mr. Stevenson to Long Branch  
where I sent the families of both & had indeed  
a very agreeable trip - Last evening I went  
out with Mr. Lees to his beautiful residence &  
where I met for the first time his wife in many  
years. I found at his house also a very pretty

Sweet little daughter of Genl. Geo. C. Rodden,  
Judge and one of Mr. Carr's the sister of  
Mr. Lee's. I could hardly get away from that  
charming detour & not without a promise to  
return again which I fear I shall not be able  
to do. It was not that it was real and  
genuine friends of the South who are enjoying  
so many good things here I could find it in my  
heart to envy them, they have all done so much  
for our poor people when in suffering that I am  
glad to see them doing so well.

When I think of the fears of possessing  
encroachment of the people of the North on the  
rights of the South and that Mr. Clay gained his  
great reputation chiefly by his Moderation as pacifica-  
tion, & that Mr. Webster sacrificed himself with  
his fanatical Constituents as the great defender  
of the Constitution I do not wonder that after  
they were removed from the great theatre of  
human action, the trust was let loose and the  
people of the South had some or tutor to be told  
of their property & their Country despoiled by the  
barbarians of the North. This great object being  
now fully accomplished it is not difficult to pre-  
-vide the logical result which must follow &  
if President Johnson sustains himself in the

heroic effort he is making almost single  
handed & alone at Washington I shall be ready  
to acknowledge that the people are capable of  
comprehending the right & sustaining under great  
temptation to do wrong; though no one but a  
genuine fanatic can find to see the right. If  
New York City were the true exponent of the political  
sentiment of the whole North I should be ready  
to believe what so many assert, but I fear they  
are deceived and that the South is yet to suffer  
more, and in the year the hazard of a war of  
Gauss brought only the intermeddling of these wretched  
people, who, being strangers to the true situation  
rush in to the final catastrophe not caring for  
consequences cheap to the lessons of history.

There are very few persons from the  
South to be seen; only those on business - I see  
remnants in the <sup>North</sup> and others from the former <sup>Republic</sup> places  
of our people speaking of this fact - I do  
hope it may bring <sup>some</sup> - Virginia has already  
- been unwise for the wealth or pleasure seekers  
& her literary institutions are quite sufficient  
with those of the other Southern States for the  
wants of the South; let us learn at least to put  
a proper value on what we have & show it to  
be indispensable -

New York Hotel 6<sup>th</sup> Aug. '68

Dear Hart

Your of the 2<sup>nd</sup> was rec<sup>d</sup>. Yesterday I regret the power of attorney was not in the right form.

You failed to send me a plan or sketch of the meads & boundary of the lot so that I could make out a power of attorney here - I have not your letter with me giving the proper description nor can I recollect it.

We shall certainly need our witness here with the adjournment of the Theta Commission. There will be no use in remaining longer than I can see - indeed I hope we shall come to a favorable conclusion of the boundary in a few days, but in things of so much importance it takes time & patience.

I shall telegraph in time to let you know when I shall leave & when I

Shall be at Chicago -

The friends of the President  
are counting on great things from the  
Commission to take place at Philadelphia  
and so are the people of the South - and  
if the Representatives of the different sections  
in the Commission are discreet & wise  
I can not doubt that great good will  
come of it - It is the wish of the Radical  
that is to destroy their influence and thereby  
the Conservative men of every denomination  
begin to feel the necessity of arresting the  
movements of that party - People seem to be  
more confident here on the subject than  
I am, but on the great question of Slavery  
is really at an end I do not see what  
is to keep up the contest between people  
who are sincere in professions of love  
for the Union.

The chief thing to be regretted  
about the New Orleans outbreak is that  
every member of the Cabinet Commission  
was not killed & Wells hung up to a lamp post.

our Commission includes one of his  
nephews, Mr. Cass - who is small in every  
way you can imagine & worse than he  
is diminutive but he is one of well to do's  
but professes the greatest devotion to our  
interests -

Love to Mary & the Children  
From your affectionate  
Father

J. Gibbon

New York Hotel 13<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1866

Dear Aunt.

We have at length concluded our negotiation  
here but will not be able to carry out the Museum until  
our return from the Convention at Philadelphia to which we  
go tomorrow (today Monday)

From a letter from Sarah F. Conner  
that she & Mr. Karley will be there. I go with the hope of meeting  
them on my arrival to dinner - I expect to be at the La Pierre  
House. I have the proxy of my colleagues in the Senate  
Mr. Kemmer. We expect great things from this Convention &  
believe good sense & discretion will characterize its every action  
I can not doubt it.

I now begin to count on seeing you soon  
though it may <sup>be</sup> ten days first

My best love to Mary & the little ones  
Yours ever affectionate Father  
J. F. Wilson

this morning - what a contrast between  
his elegant wife & himself - well, wonders  
will never cease!

I will continue to write  
till I leave.

Love to Mary & the little  
ones when - it seems I can hardly to  
get acquainted with

Yours devoted Father  
J. Gibson

How is it that none of you have told me  
of your aunt Wallace's death? Jan Todd  
told me of it last evening.

New York Hotel 22 Aug.

My Dear Aunt,

I have become impatient  
to the last degree at my detention here.  
When Mr. Walker and I  
went to the Phila. Convention it was  
understood that we would return at  
once & close up our business here and  
get away, but he went to Washington too  
on the 17th & has not returned yet! And  
yet he manifested the greatest anxiety  
to get home: I can not bring the  
matter to an end with the two other  
Commissioners absent.

Private business occupies the  
whole time of one of them & he is in fact  
a drag back at best & shows the other  
who is intelligent & important in  
management is away on his own busi-  
ness.

I wish you had sent me the

description of the Lot 3. that I  
could have sent you the power of  
Attorney - I am afraid of some difficulties  
in every thing -

The Lumber business is the  
one vital matter & to this I have devoted  
myself ever since the Lumber was broken  
& the overflow, but every difficulty  
is interposed - & unless success attends  
our efforts the Country so far as we  
are concerned will have to be given up.  
Individual credit is worth nothing here,  
State credit is low enough. & even the  
radicals in Congress & the Governor in  
Louis<sup>is</sup> are determined to bring us  
to irretrievable ruin.

If the radicals succeed at the  
election in the Fall I do not see how  
a civil reconstruction in the South is  
to be avoided. An issue is inevitable  
between the Executive & Congress &  
the President declares there is no person  
on earth to change his course.

I do not see how the South is to get  
along with labor destroyed - taxation  
of property - credit impaired and the  
Country overwhelmed with debt. The  
prospect would be bad enough even - if  
all the Civil authorities co-operated to  
reconstruction materially & politically but  
it seems as if the Negro in some person  
or other was to be our ruin indeed - I  
believe if the radical party gets the entire  
control of the Govt. a war of races in  
the South is unavoidable. I look upon  
Country life there at the present and in  
certain localities as hazardous - and  
in many respects intolerable - If Mr. Knick  
health was as good as mine I would begin  
business in St. Charles at once. I can see  
no solution to our difficulties in the Country  
but to get to town & to put the business  
in the Country in the best hands we can  
get.

I called on Mrs. Todd & wife last  
evening at Ten St. Nicholas - They sail for Europe



New York Hotel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept '66

Dear Walt

I am still here as you see and  
our business not yet closed. It may be only  
for a few days or another week before we  
bring things to a satisfactory conclusion but  
the Live business is paramount to all others  
with us & hence I must do all I can to  
push them forward.

Genl. M. Johnson was here  
last night & I had the pleasure of spending  
several hours in his company. He went off  
today - It hurts me to see how our eminent  
Soldiers have to struggle for a living whilst  
those in the North are pursued & persecuted  
& honored for having brought us to ruin and  
what is worse there is a party moving Heaven  
& Earth to humble us to the level of what below  
the level of the Negro only because we struggled  
to wipe their injustice & to live under a  
Government of our own choice & independent

of them.

It is only a modified sort of relief  
if Johnson's policy succeeds for the good  
of the negro was not over the ruin of the South  
as it has been the ruin of the large western  
Country where people were so foolish as to  
adopt the East measure.

I would to let you know how  
gratefully I am held here by imperious duty,  
& how anxious I am to be with you all.

My love to all & keeps for the  
Children  
Your most affectionate  
Father  
H. Wilson

**JOHN CROSS,**  
*Wholesale Dealer in*  
**Sa.illery Hardware,**  
**No. 194 MAIN STREET,**  
**LOUISVILLE, KY.**

*If not called for within ten days, Post-  
master will please return.*



*To*  
*Colo. Hart Gibson*  
*Vermont*  
*Pa.*

John Cross,

IMPORTER & DEALER IN

Saddlery Hardware,

NO. 194 MAIN STREET.

Louisville, 15 Feb<sup>ry</sup>

1866

Hart & Magother lith. Louisville Ky.

My Dear Har

I have engaged to be  
made & sent to you at Covington, Va  
Wednesday evening by the express two  
boys saddles - one for American and  
one for Joseph - and a Wigan saddle  
for Anne Humphreys - also 3 bridles  
one for each of the children - as  
presents from me.

To the Saddle will be  
attached a bag for hitching up  
the single hitching chain on the side  
Saddling is much cheaper  
here than in Lexington.

I hope the children will  
be pleased with the articles

Whole bill 38.50

I have taken through ticket to  
N. Orleans to leave at 5 P.M. and  
to reach N. Orleans in 46 hours  
at \$34.50 Sleeping Car extra 1.25

So you see <sup>the</sup> chances are I shall have  
money enough without the check.

The bill for the Sunday  
will be sent to you for payment  
~~on my account.~~

I hope to go through like  
a streak of lightning & with  
entire comfort. Will write from  
N. Orleans.

Best love to all my dear  
Yr. ever affectionate Father  
J. Gibson

To



Mr. West Gibson  
or  
Majr. H. J. Duncan  
Lexington Ky.

New York Hotel 23<sup>d</sup> Sept. 1866

My dear Mart

I leave here this evening at 6 P.M. for  
Lexington via Washington & Chicago direct I am not sure  
which way — I ought to go to Washington but I do not  
know that it would amount to much & must stop at the  
latter place. The route from N. York to Chicago does not lead  
through Canada: But I leave here this evening in either  
Car —

Most affectionately yo. Father  
J. Gibson