

Oak Forest 12th May 1871

Dear Aunt

It has been an admirable season for the crop, too dry perhaps, as it was for 5 weeks, but as our crops were all up, it only enabled us to prepare the land for a more extensive planting & the often complaint of dry weather when it is the best thing for us. I never had a crop to look better than our here & we have actually 25 acres to the hand, i.e. 500 acres to 20 hands. Of course Overseer don't begin to do this yet & Wood & Mr. Will & I hope in another week it will be worth looking at. I want it got in such order as will justify marketing your Merchant to see it. Then sending men to be done & Mr. John put to work sowing so that your Sugar house may be got ready in time and Mr. Pratt at the Boiler - but these things will come in their order & then pushed through.

I am very sorry to have to go to the

Occultist at so critical a time we are far ahead
of others with a crop for the praise of anybody
but with no one but McKinley to supersede
the getting to the field not before you will
lose in all advantages we must have. This
trouble Mr. Beider crasles. I think my
presence every day at G. Wood keeps things
in a rather better condition. but it is hard
to get business to do as you want. Wright
secured a great deal of praise that he did
not deserve & I would not have him at any
price. Will keep you advised of any thing
material & endeavour to get every thing done
in its proper time & order. We have got no cooper
but trying hard for one. Bontsch is getting
out Hds. Stove & O'Keefe is to make the barrels.

I hope you are all well,

Warmest love to Mary & children
& remembrance for the dear family

Your ever affectionate Father
J. Gibson

of distinction or to move along in a quiet hum-drum
fashion - taking his ease eating & drinking well and
calling at regular periods on the proper officer for his
per diem & mileage -

I happen to have known a good many
of this sort, young & old - I do not believe you will
be content to be one of these -

I have seen another class of members of the
legislature like the others of all ages always braving
to their feet, bawling loud enough to be distinguished
from shouting & forever advancing a constitutional
or a legal difficulty to the management of the
proper business as well as those who happened to know
the Legislature as nothing but a club hopper at home.
But as I know your taste & judgement do not lead you
in either of these courses: I want to guard you from the
opposite extreme, too much backwardness - If you mean
to distinguish yourself you must come forward with
freedom & boldness when you have the proper subject - make
your words & manner tell, not merely for display, nevertheless
manage that display, shall be made in a way that
all will feel & approve if not applaud.

I have felt on more than one occasion
the desire which I have here expressed, but I had neither
the preparation nor the age for a display - I know
what it requires & you have all the qualifications -
inherited & acquired - So go ahead -

Yr. Father
Best love to Mary - keeps for the children. Helen

Having gotten through with my letter on our private affairs
I need propose to say a word on other matters -

From the Registry made of the votes there
out the State & with the knowledge we have of how the negro
will vote I consider it perfectly clear that the whites will
be completely in the power of the black and the whites who
affiliate with them: The results before us of the condition
of things in Tennessee & Missouri gives us but little hope
of quiet or peace & order here after the legal government
fully established by the consent of Congress - They can
two sections dispatched perhaps, with, to live
in safety, call upon the U.S. to keep a standing
army amongst us to keep the peace - No doubt the
government will keep its militia such as Brown led
has organized & armed to protect the negro in his political
& social pretensions - So that in the end a War of
Race must take place or a permanent Dictatorial government
established - I can see no other result, as the negro party
will regulate the suffrage & will always keep their
advantage so regulated as to keep the white citizens
down. No respectable white man out of N. Orleans, West
looks to fill an office of any kind -

I understand you have been brought for-
ward by the people of Woodford for the legislature - I do
not understand that you have any opposition - Your position
geographically is favorable and your constitution is
considered highly intelligent - It is then for the Member
if he has the ability & ambition to make himself a