

GIBSON, AUSTIN & GIBSON,  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law,  
No. 5 Carondelet Street,  
NEW ORLEANS.

If not delivered in 10 days, return to ~~43~~

NEW YORK  
MAY 11 1852  
2.30 PM

Col Hart Gibson  
Lexington  
Layette County  
Kentucky

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R. L. GIBSON,  
J. E. AUSTIN,  
M'KINLEY GIBSON.

GIBSON, AUSTIN & GIBSON,  
Attorneys at Law,  
5 CARONDELET STREET,  
NEW ORLEANS.

High Collage  
near Tremont  
July 20<sup>th</sup> 1890

My Dear Hart - I suppose you have seen Helen and if she has had a chance to talk there is no need that I should attempt to enlighten you on the situation in La.

We arrived here at dinner on Friday last & found all well. Montgomery is now coming around on his own hook & looks very well - Loup we think quite as good looking if not better than her brother. The boys have grown & improved in all respects wonderfully - they return on the middle of September. Gen Lee wrote a special letter to let me in praise of the boys and to department & scholarship & enclosed "certificates" of excellence for them.

It is a great relief to be at High Collage - but I feel somewhat as if I had climbed a tree. I wish it were in Ky or Va. We have trees & grass & flowers & vegetables & bathing in the bushiest salt-water & fine driving in the Park & plenty of time to eat & sleep - but it is too far out of my County.

Wish you now to consult you on the team and labor question. What are fair mules worth?

What could good substantial horses & mares be bought at? I was thinking good mules were so high that it would be best to buy horses - or rather mares for they do best with us. The Conviction is growing

upon me - that I ought to have a good team - pair of  
mules & coach man employed on my plantation.  
instead of as before the war - one mule to each hand.

Do you propose to increase yr labor: and if yes  
what steps have you in view?

I am writing to Mr & Mrs Carolina endeavoring to  
set project on foot - so that by the middle of Sept  
I may be able to get about twelve good men with  
families & carry them to the plantation. If

You determine to do anything of the kind, come by  
here & we will go together.

My own judgment is that the crops (ours) are small &  
the land not good and that it will not do to count on  
favorable results. Corn if the two last & pork too, will be very  
high.

My wife says she would be delighted to have you all  
come on & pay us a visit - she would like very much to  
see May with the children & Clouly whom we suppose is  
with you. Tell Lobe Mr Montgomery & Cousin Susan  
they are both on his side - both anxious that he may succeed  
in his suit for the hand of Miss Waller - will be greatly  
disappointed if he fails. I was astonished to see how much  
more they knew than I did - but that is the way.

May joins me in warmest love & regards to the children.

To Mr & Mrs Montgomery - & Mr & Mrs Waller -  
in affectionate remembrance  
R. H. Sherman.

Col Hart Gibson

Lexington

Layette County

Kentucky

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High Cottage near  
Hemont West Chester County  
Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 1890

My dear Hart -

I was glad to receive yr favor of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. I will call at the office of the newspapers you request and try to secure you them as exchanges: but I fear my mission may not be successful as I shall appear as a stranger, without Commission or the proper evidences of the existence of the newspaper "The Daily Press": nevertheless I will do my best. I would suggest that you enclose one of yr papers - direct to the Managing Editors of these newspapers and write plainly requesting to be placed on their exchange list. I think the two points you can make are first that you represent the agricultural interests of the State, <sup>and</sup> the feelings & views of the dominant political party. I would also try the Standard & the Sun. I rather expecting you will come on I would not be surprised to see you today or tomorrow as since the receipt of your letter, I take it these newspaper projects require business to be done here -

There is a matter of business importance that I wish to bring before you. Do you wish to buy any seed Corn of me? I shall have about 20 or 25 to sell: A large portion of this is adjoining Greenwood. I wish to give you the preference. Please decide at once. As between us I am willing latter should fix the price, but it must be cash down as I need it.

We are all going over to the Races today.

It's a bright day. Wish you & Mary were here to go  
with us. You would see & expect the grandest team out  
of horses & Carriages & Trilletes on the Planet.  
There will be probably six - ~~four~~ in hands -  
besides Tandems and every sort of vehicle ingenuity  
can devise to gratify Covetous wealth.

Where does the money come from?

Mary joins me in love to Mary & you all.  
Lang is a little better today - Montgomerys sickness of  
health & all the family well.

Your affectionate Brother  
R. Gibson.

Did you & Mary ever send your power  
of atty to sign the sale of Pine oak  
Y<sup>r</sup> interest - to Father?

24  
So



Colo. Hart Gibson

Lexington

Vt.

Ellis -	20
Dixon.	137.40
Holmes -	71.05
Jayson	13.60
Shurt	4.25
	<hr/>
	226.30



Park Forest - 25<sup>th</sup> Jan'y. 1871

My Dear Mart.

Randall has been out to take a look at the ground  
& I am sorry to say was not well satisfied with things on  
the place.

Green Wood is in full organization with some  
20 effective hands - On day just finished planting the cane  
which was good - I am glad to say things look promising  
there - Ben now says he will do no stacking - If my  
expectations are not disappointed concerning the mud over-  
-land we have - I shall be able to give the larger share  
of my attention to these two outside places - so to speak -  
I can say truly that so far as my feelings are concerned  
I feel just as much interest in one place as another  
& with my experience & remaining strength I intend to  
bestow them to a faithful application to each place  
alike. Ben now has the best disposition to please  
& he knows as well as any body what ought to be  
done - All requirements for the plantation will be sent  
to Randall with my expenses, that is all I shall do.

We are in town for a general muster  
to commence on Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> at this place with a list  
of about 25 with a bag for the fiddler, with the usual  
complement for other departments.

The hands are to work 5 days only in  
the week - but allowed half a day only for the use of  
team & implements & land cleared - No clothes - I think we  
will be the gainers on settlement but whether or no is

2  
had no alternative. all sorts of concessions are being  
made & we had to accede to some of them like others  
or lose the hands - so my stipulations here were such  
as we think make us the gainers with a rest at the  
end of every week for our teams -

The question of Manual Labor still  
presses upon my mind & in answering my prediction,  
as far as the African is concerned to a  $\frac{1}{2}$ . I do not  
allude more to my public letters in 1864 & 5 - than  
to those of 1867 & 8 - which McKinley brought forth the  
other from a hiding & which articles I could hardly  
recognize as my own. The subject is one that if well  
presented would still fill the columns of your papers.  
The Negro will not long consent to remain as mere drudgery  
on plantations and unfortunately the class who are most  
disposed to become Squatters are those who have gotten the most  
money by more faithful & valuable service.

I write this hastily to set your mind  
at rest as to our & your particular affairs here & in a way  
to give you full confidence in the facts from my own  
knowledge and promise you similar statements as this  
progress - but you must not fail to write what  
you wish or any views you may have about parties  
- what matters in to Green Wood or general ones if you  
choose. but do give occasional glimpses through the press  
as to the present & future according to your own observations  
but not too much of the shady side for obvious reasons  
w.

3  
The subject is one of absorbing interest all over the Country  
not only in the South but in the Middle States - The East  
& the West as well -

I feel exceedingly Relieved by our Results on this  
point on this place & Green Wood - it is really better than I had  
hoped at one time - Randall is trying the White basis and  
I shall feel quite the same interest in this experiment  
as if it were my own. We shall be able to tell about  
it at the end of the year.

Randall advised us not to ship your  
Sugar till he wrote & ordered it - Your & our Mules will  
fall be off tomorrow, but the Market is not meeting  
still it is better to get away before fermentation takes  
place.

We shall continue to send our Sugar off till it  
is all gone.

Your barrel of Sugar will go in a day or two  
perhaps tomorrow -

Is it possible Sarah is not coming down this  
Winter? What is the matter? If it is her business you ought  
to give her your assistance - & if it is the fear that her Protestant  
Party action in a certain matter will have any effect on  
my welcome of her & hers or any of our friends it will be  
a great mistake - unpleasant as the whole thing has  
turned out I cherish nothing but the most devoted affection  
for Sarah & mine shall - all things are in the hand of God and  
the failure in this case may be for the best. We shall  
never be able to tell, and so I intended to submit to

What has happened forgiving even Randall, the only  
Responsible party in the matter because of the Motion  
which actuated him —

With warmest love for Mary & the children  
With kisses

I remain <sup>ever</sup> your devoted Father  
D. Gibson

Said to Mr. Duncan that as soon as I have a little spare  
time I am going to pay respects to him in the way of an  
old fashioned letter — My affectionate regards for him —  
= Mrs. & Mr. Duncan with a kiss for Miss Lally —

26<sup>th</sup> of November, rain last night —  
Plenty of water for boating.

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Col Hart Gibson  
Lexington  
Layette County  
Ky



E. L. GIBSON,  
J. E. AUSTIN,  
MCKINLEY GIBSON.

GIBSON, AUSTIN & GIBSON,  
Attorneys at Law,  
No. 5 CARONDELET STREET,  
NEW ORLEANS.

My Dear Matt,

Jan'y 27<sup>th</sup> 1871

I paid today Rannoir's draft upon me - or rather one of yours in his favor for (\$300) Three Hundred Dollars - making \$1900 - of the Bym fund advanced to date.

I saw Delgado on yesterday. He says 7<sup>th</sup> Molasses ought to be shipped inmediately but the sugar should not be sold before the 5<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> of February. His advice will be followed.

Beaus out last Sunday. Since then Rannoir has engaged more hands I think than he need & has begun work. Father has moved off also under favorable conditions with all the hands needed & you both have sowed by Fall planting a month's expense - taking it all in all not much less than (\$8) hundred dollars & your mules have rested & greatly improved.

There is not a negro or negro man - Grant & six other white men at work, we are all in doubt still about Grant; but the white labor movement is taking Cope & Minor both have  $\frac{1}{4}$  their force. Wish you would get in correspondence with parties in Chicago with a view to getting families white. The conclusion appears & the general that there must be some substitute here - next Fall - & take the

place of the Negroes - with whom the tendency to squat on patches is becoming more & more active. You & Father only agree to work for you five days per month - week -

Suggest that you run down the first of April for two or three days or a week at most, or if you leave the whole thing in Father's hands - he will work it out.

But the value or productiveness of your place depends upon your getting enough white families located on it - to do half the work, and you ought by all means to take the matter in hand. I will do all that can be done here.

Long & Sheila give a "German" on Tuesday and are in a great state of excitement about it. Father & Kim very well & Love too.

Mary & Maud going very well but Long still delicate - I think very delicate. With warmest love & sympathy to your children & to Sister Mary & kindest regards to Mary & this Father & Mother

Remain

Yr devoted brother

Edouard Knapp & whose R. S. Gibson,  
pen & describe but observe a decided improvement in your editorial, in strength, brevity & tone.

R. L. GIBSON  
J. E. AUSTIN,  
McKINLEY GIBSON.

GIBSON, AUSTIN & GIBSON,  
Attorneys at Law,  
No. 5 CARONDELET STREET,  
NEW ORLEANS.

March 9<sup>th</sup> 1871

My Dear Hart -

I was so much hurried when I wrote you the other day that I did not have time to send you all yr account. Now enclose you your final acct sales which you left with me - and the two drafts which I paid - one for 300 and the other for 35 - making \$335 - which added to 1500 first advanced to you to pay back wages and \$100 while en route to Livingston makes \$1935. Received 697.97 from Delgado. There remains due 1237.03. My crop did not bring "back wages" netting \$1000 & costing \$5.500 - leaving a deficiency of 4.500.

I am behind hand on the Ryan fund counting the amount due from you as paid \$5.657.60.

I do not see how I can raise so large a sum of money. My plantation is in a bad way - not a hand on it black or white. Grant is the greatest swindle I ever touched. I cant get the money to get more labor.

If I had never touched the plantation I would be today \$12.000 better off than I am and in easy circumstances.

I came in last night. Everything within Father's reach is splendid. You can be easy. If Father cant raise the machine to make crops & money nobody can.



Five oak is like a garden - ahead of any body.

Greenwood looks better than since the war.

Ransom has too many hands for his crop in my judgment. He is doing much better than last year. The season promises well.

Was made a complete fool of by Grant -

Hudys editorial. I am greatly pleased at the style & tone of yr articles. You appear to write as if you were at all not a boy but a man & ready like Governor or Senator & not somebody's Lieutenant.

Wished to get Delgado to pay Ransom draft for \$300 but he would not do it.

I presume I shall have to pay out the Ryan funds about April 1<sup>st</sup>. The last piece of property is to be sold for whatever it will bring on the 11<sup>th</sup> month and I am bound to distribute - as I can get up no excuse for delay. Payne & Tucker are for closing up immediately.

I left Mary & the children in the Country - & all very well.

Give my warmest love to Mary & your children & Sister Thers & accept the sincere affection of yr devoted brother

What about Hedgepland?

R. Gibson.

Oak Forest 10<sup>th</sup> March 1871

Dear Aunt.

I was in the City several days last week bringing business to a point preparatory to going on the present year - Of course it is a trying time - Very many failed in making arrangements but I do not enquire who they are for that is not my business - as a general fact it is those who have been promising the most extravagant wages for labor & wanted slaves to become big planters on credit & speculation - for whom I for one have no sympathy be they who so ever they may.

I Wood & Levi Oak are doing very well - being the only ones who have myself of course things go well according to my opinion - at J. Wood I try to keep Banana in the same groove - The plant cane will be a good stand if it is not so already & I am sure about the 1<sup>st</sup> year's returns if not of the order of what we had here -

We have planted some Corn and shall go on as fast as we can. We are well ahead with our work with a diminished force - The two are now very near equal - Nothing shall be neglected. Magnolia is struggling with white labor exclusively & I hope may recover from a partial failure so far.

Lonnie has returned from the City & is doing extremely well - Mary & Children came home with Mr. M<sup>r</sup>. Montgomery & family will be out on Monday with Randall

I young friends of Louisa of both Sides - So I suppose for  
a brief period we shall have a full house & a gay  
time between this & South Down -

I send you a letter which please attend  
to at once & return the documents -

you ought to finish up the year's  
business at once - unless an danger - indeed no  
part of the whole ought to remain open - Not a day  
should be allowed to pass till the link remains  
out of the chain - it is dangerous - Close up in the word  
I will pay up as fast as possible -

Sarah & Mrs -

Much love to Mary & children and  
Your ever affectionate Father  
J. Gibson

GIBSON, AUSTIN & GIBSON,  
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265  
L.A.  
Col Hart Gibson

Lexington

Layette County

Kentucky



R. L. GIBSON  
J. E. AUSTIN,  
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GIBSON, AUSTIN & GIBSON,  
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No. 5 CARONDELET STREET,  
NEW ORLEANS.

March 4<sup>th</sup> 1871

My Dear Fort,

I have this moment received from  
Delgado & Co a full statement of your account in  
and their check for the balance due you namely  
\$697<sup>97</sup>/<sub>100</sub> I have placed that amount to  
your credit in the Bygn fund, but you  
will have to give me a check for \$1303.03  
to make good the advances. I should you  
first \$1000 and then \$100 and you afterwards  
gave Barron a draft on me for \$300  
making in all \$1900. Sales took up another  
draft in favor of Jim Page for \$25-  
The last of the Bygn property is sold on  
the 11<sup>th</sup> and I am compelled to make distribution.  
I hope you will not make any delay & put  
me in funds on this account.

I would send the accounts but Father is here  
wishes to look them over. My sugar sold at  
7<sup>cs</sup> - Crop 11 blads. nearly all yours sold at 7.7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
& 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - seem to have been well handled.

All join in warmest love & best wishes to you  
& Mary & children & affect brother  
R. L. Gibson.

**GIBSON & AUSTIN,**  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law,  
No. 5 Carondelet Street,  
NEW ORLEANS.



Col Hart  
Lexington  
Fayette County -  
Ky

If not delivered in 10 days, return to ~~66~~

May 10<sup>th</sup> 1871

My Dear Hart,  
I wish you would hurry up  
the signatures & the power of atty for  
Austin sent to you some days ago.  
Father is anxious & here the matter closed  
& manifests some suspicion that our delay  
is designed.

All well here & you in warmest love  
to you & my sister and your household.

Your devoted brother

R. L. G.

April 27<sup>th</sup> 1871

My dear Host,

Please find enclosed power of attorney for you, Mary's sister which please execute in me ready and return so the act can be completed.

I declined to make notes thus bind Sister & kin in a large amount absolutely — though the title to the property might be attacked — though it might be run hopelessly in debt — As it is kin's own owner can issue his mortgage notes for any amount he pleases payable to his own order and endorsed by him — and turn them over to father.

Father wants the notes to give to Miss Moore and the moment he gets them he will hasten to go to offer himself & them. He would sacrifice all the property here & all



Sister has other children or all you &  
your children come for that young  
woman. His mind is perfectly  
crazed on the subject.

I warn you if sister gives notes or  
kin either — those notes will  
be transferred and held against  
them while the mesmes from  
Lucie ask — will not go to them &  
at returning those notes will  
swallow up all Lucie ask &  
any other property they may  
have. Put up this thing  
else Father will again change  
his mind on the notes.

All well and all join in  
love —

Your affectionate Brother  
R. Gibson

Attorneys at  
No. 5 Carondelet Street,  
NEW ORLEANS.

If not delivered in 10 days, return to ~~the~~

Col Hart Gibson

Lexington  
Layette County  
Kentucky -



July 5<sup>th</sup> 1871

My Dear Hart,

Returned last evening from Pine oak leaving my little family & the household very well. Went over the Greenwood crop and found it better than had expected. There is not a great deal of difference between the Three Cone crops but your Corn & Wine are substantially failures while Fatters is somewhat better.

Both your place and mine are managed about alike rather slipshod while Fatters is energetic, close & systematic.

Fatters came down with me & he & Albert Gibson are stopping at my House and we caught a good deal

I have just had a long conversation with Sumner — and presented the case. He proposed that he should reimburse you the total amount you had advanced and that my Cone should be granted to pay the advances made by his House for this year — and that his House should carry the plantation. He observed that he saw no objection to doing it — that he considered the matter favorably and ~~unless~~ <sup>unless</sup> some unforeseen financial crisis should occur there appeared the

no objection: that he presumed you desired nothing to be done until after you began to print & saw how things were. I told him you would desire to know by the 1<sup>st</sup> of Nov or by 15<sup>th</sup> at furthest.

Of course you cannot rely with absolute certainty upon the arrangement - but I had a long talk & gave all the facts and I do not think you will have difficulty in getting out. But the plantation will require somebody having an interest to manage it.

I have had to borrow \$600 to make up deficiency in Byam fund but expect my crop to meet it. I put the case strong & I am sure I thought it best to mention it to him in advance so that he might make his arrangement accordingly. He said he was glad that I had done so, as he might have put out all his available resources elsewhere & that I could say "Byam" he considered the matter favorably" we must love & all

Your ever affectionate brother

Father is full of the idea of R. L. Gibson.

paying you a visit & if you can keep him up & let - he will do so. He is here trying to buy more mules! He says he has only lost 6 each since Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.

By election in Louisiana. 25,000 was raised yesterday by the  
Austin House & together the Emphatic is correct.

My Dear Host,

Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 1872

Thank you for the 15<sup>th</sup> and  
think you did perfectly right about those  
notes. I am astonished at Ken - he is too  
slovy. I intend to do all I can to keep you  
through with the rolling. and will go out  
before the 1<sup>st</sup> November & get things started.

Wont you to be prosperous - if you  
are not - I can enjoy nothing myself.

Hope pray you will get rid of all "dead  
weight" and assume no more debts.

I have thought that you ought to sell or rent  
your House so as to dilate that dead weight  
on the interest. Once on the right  
road, you will look on everything differently.  
You will be more cheerful & contented.

I intend to do more than you would  
ask of me in anyway but endorse more &  
what I am under bond.

Respectful Brother R. Gibson.

May 19 1873

My Dear Host - I have gotten from Gladie a signature made 18<sup>th</sup> March 1871 between you & her of the first part and Gladie & Humphreys Partner of Claude Ribon of the second part by which you in consideration of the sum of \$1700, sell & convey Bridgeland - & the part of the second part.

Kim told me out at Live Oak that this deed had never been recorded but he could not say why, did not recollect - but was of opinion it had never been recorded. So Gladie & Gladie heard it to me. I was about to send it to Miss She day recorded this morning when it occurred to me that you had made some suggestion with regard to it - and I think to the effect that in addition to the consideration of the 1700 it should also include, "in consideration of a surrender of all claims on the part of the Linebome" ? Is this it? If so, express your views as brief and clearly as you can and for proper certainty & secrecy, I will embody it, in the deed before it is recorded.

I have been confined to my bedroom again by a swollen and aching foot - since Friday night - but I am limping about today & will be able to get out tomorrow Tuesday & there will probably not be a trace of it by Thursday or Friday, but these attacks pull me down & make me lose a great deal of time which is next to bread as this season of the year in every way.

I have the mortgage for 15,000 complete a Greenwood; but I cannot place the notes to borrow money so as to keep the place. The hands have agreed to wait until the crop is made for their pay upon my personal guarantee; and I have furnished and am furnishing Com, oad & pork monthly to keep them going.

The 35<sup>th</sup> was of Plant cane - is splendid. The 35<sup>th</sup> stubble

does not amount much - would make 35 bushels of sugar.  
It costs about <sup>#</sup>125- per month to carry the place - so shall have  
advanced about <sup>#</sup>725- by Oct 1<sup>st</sup> with a lie in the crop: there will  
also be due for wages about <sup>#</sup>1,500: total <sup>#</sup>2,225: so want to pay  
Coxes & <sup>#</sup>500 to Goode so as to diminish his mortgage & get clear of  
it. I think half the plant cane will do this & pay for it - convert  
into sugar. It is all equal to my plant cane that yielded two loads.  
This will leave all the first year stubble for seed and it ought  
to plant fifty acres and half the plant fifty acres - making  
one hundred acres plant cane next year.

I expect I shall be compelled to pay the hands something as we go -  
will do so if compelled but mean to stretch my credit, - & put the  
place on its feet - so that you will someday - get back your  
advances and will not take long either.

There is now no way possible to save the Roussel Place. If anybody  
writes you about it - reply that you are amazed & hear of any  
judgment against you - that you were never notified or served  
with citation of any such suit - that you know nothing of any  
compromise never authorized anybody to represent you.

Helene John Winder was appointed Curator ad hoc to represent  
you - it was his duty to write to you - He is a partner now by  
marriage with Connors of Goode - married his niece and lives  
with him. Goode assumed to represent you some other  
compromise. I have been trying to hold out this

Another great copy of the letter

place until we could get the case from it  
enough to plant (25) acres - but I am afraid  
the place will be sold the first Saturday in  
June next as advertised. This claim was against  
Father & a mortgage on this place. After his death, you  
Toke & Lady were made parties & this suit & a personal judgment  
obtained against you by confession by Doode who represented  
you. A stay of execution was granted last Nov 24 upon  
condition that you would pay \$400 July 1<sup>st</sup> 1893, \$2000  
July 1<sup>st</sup> 1894; 2000 July 1<sup>st</sup> 1895.

Doode says this was a good compromise for you all - the  
best he could do; that Toke authorized & approved it & he  
thought that sufficient. I have offered to give up the place  
July 1<sup>st</sup> in extinguishment of the debt - but they now will I  
think insist upon selling the place. I may get out an  
injunction so as to get the case on the place.

I will decide as soon as I get out and can look over the  
papers - An injunction would disprove Doode - the  
ground being that he was not authorized. Toke says he was authorized.

Riley has affairs formed of this bill - have a judgment  
against Father for \$1100 obtained in 1866 - before our  
purchase it covers the whole place, all of them.  
His Lawyer called on me yesterday. I will try and compromise  
this judgment by reducing amount & getting time.  
I paid Sam Smith of the same date for \$1000 because  
through Belcher & Beattie, he would have forced us all & opened  
the way for all Father's Creditors - but I can't pay this



Really judgment for I can't raise the money now.

Kim had better stay in Ky until the business he went on is concluded for  
Lester is in a bad nervous condition. She is undertaking too much in trying to keep  
up two establishments - in the Country.

The conviction is universal here that Kim has addressed Miss Le of Lexington -  
He had better look out for himself. Mr. Cullam & Foley have both died  
in the last month - leaving a debt of about \$17,000 on his book  
over & above, the current year's expenses & small debts - & he  
paid probably this winter - This is no time to add this cargo or else  
will strew around his neck. He needs certain help, \$15,000 in  
cash would save \$60,000 for him in his book -  
but he knows all I do - Expect his guide is competent to  
take care of himself.

I hope you are not still living upon great expectations  
while current interest is eating up both your income & your  
principal - I fear your House. Interest is a mighty power.  
We are not understood by our people - but it has impoverished more  
men in the South than the War ever did. Few men have  
the courage to face it & measure its strength - or their  
strength against it. His is great enemy - will capture, you  
attain, your house & your land, your energies & your talent!  
- and leave you in the end, only the bitter recollection of  
lost opportunities and mourning regrets.

Answer about Gladie & the other point - in this letter.  
Mary is well & well today - our children are well. The baby  
is my large & fat - a splendid specimen.  
Sally is here very well. All join in love & longings for the  
children. I am affected brother P. S. Gibson.

**PAGE(S)  
MISSING**

Forgot to thank you for the photographs of Louisa she appears to be quite a young lady -  
Lang & Driscoll certainly are fine specimens. But when can you find two  
such looking grandfathers as they have and how can they help being good  
looking. You don't say anything for your namesake Hort on this score.  
Can't you have yourself taken in uniform & Hort's photograph taken - I  
shall then have the family complete. Wish some day you & sister would  
go down with your entire family and have groups made. Kim has a very large  
book and has already quite a collection.

When is Will Johnston and how is he getting along? When is Genl Prestone  
what are his prospects? Father has a letter from Dr Richardson of a  
very recent date from New York City in which he speaks of coming  
to New Orleans. He ought by all means to come - say to him for  
me; although my N. D. friends say there is little or no paying practice  
in the City - nobody having any money but I know that Dr Richardson  
will get as much if not more practice than anybody else and  
people will get money afterwards. He says my little  
namesake (his youngest son) is a very handsome fellow.

You ought to send your application for amnesty through the Governor  
of Ky & get him to put a strong endorsement on it & follow it up  
vigorously until obtained from the President.

Kim is likely to join Woodaway in business. He, Richardson  
Couch & many others are in the City but idle. They can  
get no situation - nothing whatever to do. You had better take  
charge of Kobe in some way for the present - until further  
developments. Nothing can be done here, absolutely nothing.

Kim's health is not satisfactory. We are trying remedies - but he  
looks gaunt and bloodless. I am doctoring him with cold water and  
whiskey & exercise, and hope to bring him out. He has no  
specific complaint. My own health is excellent and I

Never look tough - we robust. I find this law business very dull.  
This thing of reading Codes is very much like reading a dictionary  
very stupid - but I keep digging away and avoid roots and  
nests these long hot days and the enlivenment of mosquitoes,  
manage to get some faint ideas of the subject treated. But the  
daily aspect of affairs <sup>here</sup> stimulates me to exertion and has well  
nigh confirmed me in the intention of lamelting out in  
three or four weeks. Why dont you live & practice in Lexington and get  
a good overseer at Portland. In a year or two - maybe three - you  
will be able to make a support. Let Mr Duncan to make over to your  
children the heavy claims he holds on Portland and which accumulating  
with interest, will soon absorb the entire estate - and this will  
make you free - and then try the law: - that is the best  
thing you can do for the present. I would like to have you in  
New Orleans with me but it would cost you as much to live one  
month there as a year in Lexington: afterwards this may be  
done. We must do now not what we wish or prefer but what we  
can. I would consult freely with Mr Duncan - he has fine sense - better  
than you or I on business matters and will do all he can for you and  
your family. I am sure you could not in the wide world have  
a wiser Counsellor or one more deeply interested in your welfare;  
and after I am weary myself - see for & correct.  
I wish you would write a long letter to Loug & to Preston and do  
something in some way for Lobe. We all have much to be thankful  
for much to hope for - but all depends upon taking things by their  
handles just now & nowhere else.

Your devoted brother

P.P.'s. -