

sense, elevation of sentiment, eloquence and dignity
upholds the standard of the Democracy. Let us all
unite to carry it to a greater victory in 1876 in behalf
of a truly United People bearing upon its folds as
watchwords: The supremacy of the Constitution & Laws
and the equal rights of all the States. These are the sym-
bols of perpetual Union and Peace

R. L. Gibson

New Orleans Dec 18th 1874

Mr Stanton Marble

Secretary of the Manhattan Club

Sir, I beg to tender my thanks
for the invitation to your Reception on the 29th Dec
in compliment to the Hon Saml. J. Tilden elected
Governor of the State of New York and William
W. Wickham elected Mayor of the City of New York.
I am making my request, permit me to say that my voice
over the victory of the Empire State in favor of Conser-
vative and Constitutional principles of government.
The triumphs of the Conservative Party ^{in the Empire State of the North} will be more
fruitful to the South in good results than to yourselves.
It holds out the promise of peace to us after the harass-
ments of many years - but not the peace of bayonets and
gunboats to enforce the midnight decrees and midnight
arrests. It opens ^{the way to} that healthful repose which
comes from the unhampered exercise of self government
in the Union mindful of its responsibilities and en-
joying its privileges. More than the North do we
need a stable government, a sound currency, reform
in the civil service and an end of the distractions, un-
certainty and lawlessness that have so long agita-
ted the Country and so seriously impaired its ^{national} and moral interests. Especially is it necessary that
the Southern People should be brought to feel that
they have a Country to love, and a government of laws
fixed, just and uniform in their operations. Moderates
and enlightened men in the North, realizing the difficult

almost numberless that have beset us and who have voted in favor of excluding self government to the South and to relieve her from the burdens and unsightly disorders created by Federal ^{particular} interference - may dismiss all apprehensions as to her coming back into the Councils of the Government with the view to unsettle any of the disturbing questions which have been determined by the war and the Constitutional Amendments. We can never forget how much we owe to these Institutions of Government nor will impartial History relate any attempt on our part to separate from them. They were established by the joint efforts of our forefathers and we will cling to them and strive while life lasts to preserve them in all their original purity - integrity and vigor. This whole Country is our common country. This Government is ours as well as yours by inheritance. We will uphold its Flag we will sustain its credit, we will hold sacred its honor, we will do justice to all classes of our citizens and protect them all alike in the enjoyment of their Constitutional rights, in their immunities and privileges and American Freedoms. We will set the Confederate yell to the music of the Union, and the day may not be far distant when it shall break upon the ear of the Federal ^{General} as sweetly as did the strains of the Scottish pibroch upon the beleaguered English garrison on the plains of India. All we ask in return is that we shall be treated as equals and fellow Country men. We should be unworthy of Washington and Jefferson and of Lee and Jackson if we demanded less. It would delight me especially to participate in the reception of the distinguished statesman who with so much saving common.

Oak Forest, Bogerville, Parish of
Terrebonne, Dec 16th 1879.

Hugh W. Rogers Esq.
Houma, La.

Dear Rogers.

On leaving here about ten days ago for Washington, my brother Randall handed me a deed and full power of attorney, and requested me to arrange matters in regard to the plantations for the coming year, as he could not give them his attention. In looking into the business I find things all out of joint, and as I see no serious difficulty in the way of a complete arrangement, it seems to me best that it should be attended to. I find by the lease that the Wood + Magnolia plantations and one ~~new~~ - divided half of this purport to be rented to Hugh W. Rogers & the Piedra Bros. for the term of one year, ending on the 31st of Dec 1879, with the privilege of continuing for four years in addition if they should deem it to their interest so to do. Very well, the first year is about to

expire, and we have no notice nor positive knowledge whether the privilege is to be exercised or not - whether you (the Lessee) wish to continue the lease for the next four years or not. We are entitled to it and it ought to be attended to - otherwise there might be trouble.

Again I understand you have ceded out or got out some way, and are no further concerned. Of course any Lessee may cede his lease or sublet unless forbidden in the lease, but that does not set aside his obligations to the Lessor - the owner. Of course I don't mean to lay down the law. I only give my impressions. Your liability to Randall cannot be done away with by a sale of your interest in the lease - your relations remain unchanged.

I merely suggest this, as I do not know that it has any practical bearing upon the case - or can have so far as Dinwood & Magawia are concerned. I don't see however, how we can permit this plantation to go on as it did last year with no attention whatsoever and under an attempted contract that cannot bind any body. It has always been plain that the object of attempting

to lease this place was simply to get the use of its personally and improvements and to control its labor. I have never supposed that the cultivation of this place was seriously contemplated.

Now Mrs Humphreys for reasons, has so far declined to make any lease of her undivided half to the Lessee who purport to have the other half and both she and I shall object to anything like a division in kind of the land. It could not be fair to either of the owners - Now this place cannot remain in statu quo, and go to utter ruin upon a quibble - We cannot afford it.

Be it known that we S. G. Humphreys &
and McKenty Lebon Agent of R. L. Gibson
with full power, earnest & coproprietors do
hereby lease unto

their Pine Oak Forest
Plantation now by them in equal
undivided halves, situated about 20 miles
below Hannas & 5 miles above Tignerille
for the term of 4. together with all the
buildings and improvements thereon
and appurtenances thereof, with the
exception of such as ~~are~~ ^{are} hereinafter men-
tioned, for the term of four (4) years
beginning on the 1st of Jan 1880 &
ending on the 31st of Dec 1884, for the
consideration hereinafter mentioned
and for the ^{sole} purpose ~~solely~~ of cultivating
thereon, sugar cane, cotton, corn, peas
and other ^{usual} ~~experimental~~ crops & the raising
thereof by the same to the end that said
plantation may be reestablished upon its
former footing as a sugar plantation.

The lessees are to cultivate, ditch, protect
manufacture or ~~raise~~ ^{harvest} their crops in
in a proper manner and according to
the usual customs, making & clearing all
needful ditches, & keeping clear all the

old ditches that may be found in the ground
cultivated by them, to keep up fences of a
lawful kind, ^{to build} & new ones were ~~for~~ often
with part & fine rails - to rebuild ~~and~~ re-
-pair the bridges, to keep in order both the
private & public roads - to make all re-
-pairs that may be required during the
lease of their own expense, to put the
sugarhouse & sawmill in order when re-
-quired at their own expense, not to remove
alter & tear down any building without the
written consent of both proprietors - not to
cut wood or lumber for market, nor to
do any thing violative ^{of} or inconsistent with
their position as lessees - They further agree
not to ~~cut~~ ^{their lease} or sublease to ~~third~~ without
written consent of both proprietors, (to grow
all cane for sugar in the City Sugarhouse)
and at the expiration of this lease to
leave as much seed cane ~~properly~~ put
in windrows in first class manner,
as may be delivered to them the 1st year
by the coproprietors to be estimated by
two disinterested 3^d parties & upon their
failure to agree, they shall select a
third person whose decision shall
be final -

Live Oak Plantation, Lenoir County, North Carolina,
Dec 4 1879

I do hereby appoint & constitute my Brother
McKinley Gibson of this State my true & lawful
attorney in fact, and do authorize him to
represent me in all matters and transactions
with regard to the Magnolia, Greenwood and
Live Oak Plantations, to make leases or
Compromises or to refer matters to arbitration
& appear for me in Court, to sue and
be sued, to take out any one of the
writs - and to furnish bond & security as
fully as I could if I were personally
present & acting for myself.

I do also authorize him to take of & protect
and administer said property and to do any
and all things necessary for the preservation
and advantage of said Plantations or
in any way needful, and I do hereby ratify
and confirm whatever he may do in the
premises.

Randall Lee Gibson