

New Orleans Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 1874

My Dear Mary.

I came down to the city day before yesterday with Sister. I have not yet been able to see Goode which is all that detains me. He went to the Country the day I came in. The total failure of the Sugar crop has put this people in a deplorable condition. There will be actual starvation before the winter is over. I don't know what will be done at Greenwood. Him is leasing out to Germans and the tenant system will become universal. I may return to the plantations for a day or two if not shall leave for Kentucky as soon as see Goode.

Think my much you are all here. The weather has been delightful clear, dry and warm. But love to all and a heartfull from your devoted husband

Hart Gibson



Oak House Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 1874

My Dear Mary.

I came out day before yesterday with Lee and shall be detained here several days longer. The disturbance in the Parish amounts to nothing. A few trifling negroes at Houma were at the bottom of the difficulty. There was a general reduction of wages from 18 to 13 Dollars per month and the rioters were determined that no negroes should work at the reduced rate. Eighteen of them were arrested and have been taken to New Orleans. We are all opposing the share system which I hope will soon bring this country out of the "kinks".

Lee insists very strongly upon my joining him in the practice of the law in New Orleans and Sister wants you to come here. We have got to do something. We can't stay at your Father's. He and Henry are determined to make an irreconcilable breach between us. I don't know why but the fact is too clear to be questioned. We can't live at Harland because the income from that place can't possibly pay the interest upon what I owe. Then what are we to live upon? Think about this and say something about it to anyone.

This is really the most delightful winter climate in the world. I have no recollection of it in Summer. I never saw a more beautiful morning than this, about like Kentucky weather in May. If the country were only prosperous, I can't imagine a more delightful home



Hope Warren Day arranged satisfactorily with Anthony.

If I can arrange for a little money when I return, I think we had better pick up and come down here.

Lie Louie I received a letter from her which I shall answer to-morrow. Duncan's letter also came to hand to-day for Stuart to write to him and I shall try to keep him to the mark of actually getting through it.

Give my best love to all. Hope to be at home in a week. A thousand kisses from your devoted husband  
Hart Libson



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Mrs Hart Gibson

Lexington

Kentucky

Oak Forest Jan 26<sup>th</sup> 74

My Dear Wife.

I have been "smallly" worried about matters here and am just on the point of leaving for the City. Mr. Kialy went down there or four days ago to see if he could arrange to get supplies for his tenants and will be back to-day. I hope he has been successful. The trouble is no one here has any money - white nor black and the utter failure of the Sugar crop renders City paper ineffectual to do anything at all. I want about \$500 to run Greenwood a small amount but very difficult matters to put your hands on. I think the tenant system will work well.

I hear to-day that Bannan has made a divorce upon his judgment for nearly two years ago. It won't amount to any



thing but compels me to go at once to the  
City to see Lu & Leode.

By the way - and this is a profound  
secret - Lu is very anxious for me to  
join him in the practice of the law in  
New Orleans and I am anxious to get home  
to talk to you about it. I think sincerely  
something could be devised to get you  
out of that miserable winter climate  
in Kentucky. Lu thinks after the first year  
we could make a great deal of money.  
Now if you could get your mother to  
"sorter" go in with us, it would work  
like a charm. What do you think of  
the idea - from Oct till June in New  
Orleans and the rest of the time at  
Hartland. The only trouble is the first  
year. But I can't write as freely as  
I will be able to talk about it. Mean-  
time say "nothing to nobody." If it  
is known that I am going any, my Pass  
stock would be utterly valueless.

I think I had better not hear here

until matters are definitely and satisfac-  
torily settled. I can't be detained more  
than a week longer. Mardi Gras is  
on the 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. I think you could all come  
down, you can come & return for  
half price. If you could come I  
would wait for you. Otherwise you  
may expect me in ten days from now  
at the farthest.

Best love for all my kins for  
the children and a thousand for yourself  
from your devoted husband

Hart, Gibson