

Oak Forest 4 Jan. 1861

Dear Aunt

Your letter of the 27th ult. was rec^d yesterday
and first of private Affairs -

I have just closed a letter to
Lewis Stewart reminding of his obligation to you and
your desire to have the Court placed to firm credit with
Stewart & Co. N York - Randall was at Mr. Knickerbocker
a few days ago & Lewis was there at Dr. Knickerbocker's
View, it is said to help Mr. who is a very nice but not
Very Superior young lady - a sugar plantation for some and
No mistake - & in R. things a good match - but this is only
I suppose - The two about 12 miles only apart so it would be
a very convenient arrangement -

I hope you will be able to get along
in the absence of Harland - for it is most certain we hope
Mr. Duncan sends the full force promptly I see no chance
of your doing any thing or a place to be employed and it
would be still worse to be in debt for one of any sort
Mr. D. writes me that he is about sending the hands but they
ought to have been here this Fall by all means - I am afraid
it will be too late to do what is required - Randall wants
Court do it - and those of yours who have been here have not had
the time at work - If it were possible to sell to Wood
I would advise a sale & let the negroes go back to Kentucky
It is only a matter of Crisples along in this way it will
be in all hands - If the times were different with the lights

11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22

$$\begin{array}{r} 21 \\ 76 \\ \hline 97 \\ 21 \\ \hline 118 \\ 118 \\ \hline 236 \\ 236 \\ \hline 472 \\ 718 \\ \hline 1190 \\ 71 \\ \hline 1261 \end{array}$$

L. Gibson
12 Jan 61

Now before we I would sell & you could use the money
to more advantage - Perhaps we shall see light
soon - & then I shall write with Standall in doing
for the best - Selling if possible so as to get clear of this
multiplied responsibility - I have been wearing the socks
the Saw nearly broke of it and have had no rest
& nothing but disappointment the whole season - I am
anxious to get clear of it all & if I could sell out both
Stock & barrel I would quit the country which may
cost the spirit to work as one man to the defence of its
freedom & the support of its liberties - The disposition of one
man is far preferable to the despotism of a whole
assembly - If Louisiana don't go for independence
of the North I will take the first offer for my property
& go to London rather than submit

I had a letter yesterday from Alveston
at Geneva - He had to leave Philadelphia on account of his
old complaint (pleurisy) - Says he will leave for here this month
if no better land - I have answered for him to come as soon
as it is safe to do so - I wish & anxiously will remain for the
present

Standall is out canvassing in the coffee
shops for the Convention as Candidate for the District -
I am doing what I can for him - He will see but few votes
himself - but as there is "Co-operation" offered, meaning
Submission to Union - at long - since and the Courts are troubling
in their Show it is hard to tell what will be the result
I want him to be in the Convention that he may collect some

of the self important rogues who think they shine in Show
of the first Magnitude - The election is on Monday the 7th

I will write again after the election -
We have fair weather now after a spell of very bad - we
have ten days grinding yet - Windward Cape - making me coffee
and a little sugar

Several weeks the sugar had not arrived
which was sent to me & allard - I shall make another
shipment as soon as I am done grinding

Best love to Mary & the boy

Your affectionate
F. Johnson

T. Gibson
Jan 21st 1861

Oak Point 20th Jan. 1861

Dear Aunt

We have at length gotten through with our letters at the Sugar House which have waited in a heap of drawers but not such as with being a large quantity of money - about 400 of half pt. Gold for Sugar & 1/2 pt. barrel for the paper. I hope we shall make out to live but it will be in hand - Instead of twenty five thousand dollars the crop will not go over 40 thousand I fear.

The enclosed letter is in answer to mine which I wrote at your instance -

Your Aunt Higgins & Sister I will probably leave in a day or two we shall visit them very much. Sister is pretty well very sprightly - we talk of going down to spend a few days in the City.

We have no sign of the cotton force promised by Mr. Sumner in his last letter to me of the 25th Dec. I regret most exceedingly the delinquency on his part - It is a very great disappointment from his voluntary engagements and for your interest very much in the shade - Randall is in great trouble the force is wholly unable to meet the expenses - must & the said cause which has been kept will be a great loss to me as it takes so much

from the present crop & R. can neither plant at
Nor save the crop if it were made, & I shall have
~~my~~ a full crop of my own. I have done my
duty. I have written Mr. D. plainly in his
opinion and have done what I could for
you more than I promised. Of course a man
has a right to give what he pleases, to a child
but he has no right to involve third parties
or to violate voluntary engagements. If this
thing is to continue I should advise you
to state the negro now here to H. or to
return them to Mr. D. It is not in their like
these that repentance is to be withheld rather
more promptness should be observed. I shall
wait a year or all time but after that I
will not withhold my sentiments in reference
to the whole matter. I have raised and given
my possible attention out of a sincere regard
to your and Mary's interest intending to do
all in my power to intercede your interests on
a basis to make you easy & independent but I
have counted on others to act up to their engagements
as fully as I have to mine.

I wrote some time ago for Claude
to return home but he may delay it till September
or May - unless something more serious occurs
July & McKinley will remain where they are

and get I believe they would be better off to be at
home in order to be doing something in the way
of practical life. It is not well to begin too late
as I can well see. I am going to go on soon
as I can leave my business here which requires the
most attention from being so late grinding. I have
even more to do than I had last year except that
I may not have another storm to put me back.
I do hope we shall never see another season of a
much sickness - the worst I ever saw in this country.

Magnolia is behind. The planting
ought to have been done in the Fall & it's hands did
what they could but what could they do by themselves
plowing, hauling, ditching, &c. with the sickness.

Mr. D. ought to have sent the negro
in October before he got the cane planted and
corn ground in order with the ditching & fencing what
time will be here to make brick & prepare lumber
for a sugar house another year.

I have sent a telegraph to Mr. D.
today either to send the full force at once or to
order three back. There is no use in feeling in
weather of business - it is vain to all parties.

My best love to all of you. Hope to see
Master Simeon this summer.

Ever your affectionate Father
J. Gibson

things sent to Lexington some days ago from here to the
Care of Messrs & Messrs St. Johns, when I hope will give
them some idea of what I have done some time.

Tell Mr. Duncanson he is in my debt
a letter - I want to know what he is doing for the
old Union and what he thinks of the new - we
shant be doing any thing by joining to others that we
are independent - whether in the old Union or in a new
one - that is certain though it may cost something in
debts & time.

My best respects to Mr & Mrs Duncanson
Senior & Junior - a kiss to each of the young ladies
and a word to each and a kiss to Mary & the little
boy
Your affectionate father
J. Gibson

1781 = 1. 7. 74.

Dec 7. 1781

Wm. Gibson

Johnston

Oak Point - 7th Feb. 1801

My dear Earl

Mr. McDaniel has come safely and
I hope safely returned - I did not see what he brought
all I can say the more the better - I had young women
of all nations, and the sooner the better - I shall be
done planting here before we get to - I hope the hands
in your land will be so that so full
planting would have been done at that time - I had
the hands could have been doing clearing, felling &c.
most of which has now to be done - but better late than
never - I know or suppose Mr. Duncanson was kept
back by the Convention's conduct in public affairs
but perhaps will go on at what may happen - I suppose
the sugar is suffering but you do not suppose that
the Southern planters are such fools as to take the
duty off of sugar when we in a separate government
can union the whole North by a discriminating tax
against them - not a bit of it - but for the very reason
I say - they would not be such fools as to do so
for the Union & the improvement of the South - the I
quote Scripture - with respect do they show for
the Constitution which is the bond & terms of the
Union or the law as interpreted by the proper triar-
nal - The only way is we don't or won't understand
them or understand them a letter too will for their

comfort they meant to go on robbing and abusing
us as long as they could keep us in chains - but I
thank God the Spirit of the old Revolution is arisen
and we stand today once more a free and independent
people and what is more I believe half the world
is with us - The noble band of democrats are stirring
up the old spirit of liberty and before the battle is over
I expect to see a regenerated Nation - I am almost
surprised to see the Southern States showing such
weakness in the matter - If they had come out promptly
by taking I should say as Gen. Breckinridge counseled
us they should have been a United States again by a new
Constitution and admitting a majority of the new
Slave States, but were driven and excluding all the
free States North & East - I think Mr. Lincoln will
find it no bad of care at Washington with a standing
army to defend him and in the end to direct to him
I think Washington will be too hot for him before the idea
of abridging his power - A military government in the
midst of a free people! did you such an anomaly exist?
and will it be upheld in an age & in the country of the
great Washington?

Well we will hope that Subject for the
present - Want of confidence has affected trade very severely
all over the Country - Sugar & molasses seem to suffer
more than any thing else - I am not realizing one half
of last years prices - and some of course considering the
extra expenses I have been at must call my wages low

but I shall do what I can and do the best this year -
we are all improving and this year I hope will make
up for I am going to have my best work to do what Boston
is at - His Gin is up & now he will ^{run} nothing but big crops
to make - he says he has got all the practice in his section
and a good owner and I think the place is not in a
good condition for quilting if it is managed - there are
now 800 acres sown - half of it 4 year ago - I
wish Church could get 25 or 30 more hands so as to give
them 50 - I think they would work ^{very} well off -

Randall went to N. C. again and I think
for him today - you know he has a company here called
the "Highville Guards" but it is not subject to the orders
of the Gov. The state is forming a Company of two thousand
for the defence of the State & of the Southern Confederacy
and it was told he could get a command for him of
100 hands or more - & he had some notion of the thing -

I had a letter from Capt. Allen the other
day from Antioch - he says you will have to go to Clambling
Cotton here! now this is old whigery that won't leave
any thing - they will not sell - we can make cotton
on our back lands as I know - because I made more at
Cotton at Holly wood than I do now at Sugar.

Mr. Moore dined with me yesterday
He came down to break open the locks on the bayonet
Barrow had had broken & thereby stopped the boat - He
wrote opened them down evening & did right -

I had a number of hands of some late

Oak Forest - 4th July. 1861

List of Articles Sent off Care of Knorr & Higgins No.

1 Bl. Sugar for Bl. Curr de Balthazie H. J. Duncan Secy Ky.
for Bl. Curr: Hart Gibson do

1 Bl. Sugar - 1 Bl. Curr. No. 77 Ann Higgins do.

1 " Sugar J. S. Humphrey; do

1 " do W. Vinton do

1 " do Colo. W. F. Hunt do

Let me know if all any will Higgins,
have use for more brown Sugar July 4, 1861
than the Bl. I sent.

Sorry the quality of my Sugar is not as good as usual
It is the best I could make

Dak Fort 14th March 1861

Dear Aunt

Your letter of the 15th came whilst I was on my visit to Boston - I returned yesterday, so you see I have no time in responding -

This is one wonderful day and no man is able to say what it is to bring forth - Vices of our Public Affairs are about as solid as the changes of the Kaleidoscope and about as uncertain - There are a good many who think it best for the firmness of the institution of Slavery that the border Slave States should remain as they are - Relying their Slaves, necessarily within their own limits and prohibiting them absolutely from ever - There is much difficulty in coming to satisfactory conclusions touching the tariff - This latter subject is the most perplexed of any and, which ever way it may be settled I fear the Sugar interest must suffer; and yet I feel better satisfied to be in a Union with our acknowledged friends, than to remain with every pecuniary temporary advantage with better enemies - We shall require time & patience to settle our Revenue System & to put the government in the best working order.

I found Horton & Clark well and I rather think the harvest will do well the present year - The weather is good & the land in condition to plant - Will receive a good crop if the season is favourable.

The improvements are good & there is need nothing to do but to work & get out of debt - which may be done in a few years even with the force now upon the place if fair management is the rule -

I am glad a few days in and around Vicksburg amongst my dear relations - Cole has too leave his estate in good hands - Doct. Nichol & Mrs. Barnes being executors & leaving but two heirs Wm. B. and her brother Jeff 14 years old - Your Aunt is liberally provided for besides having the Central during her life -

The constitution of all is very good & it is a very agreeable thing to go amongst them - I see one might with your Uncle near Clinton -

Your Aunt's Shiggins & Kinler left in St. Orleans - The latter came down to consult a physician about her eyes - She is nearly blind - I hope they may come over & make us a visit but can not see that they will -

Handcut is well & awaiting his company at Sigmond. There were two other Quaker companies near in Terrebonne but I would not have seen them if they would not fall to the ground at the sound of a cannon blast for we were they were very shy during the action -

We are now talking of building the Sugar house at Magnolia this season and postponing the building at Greenwood - If it worries you to be near the plantation, I pity you to agree with him

is hard to bring on an argument and to differ only in trifling opposition - Silence is the most potent weapon in a dispute with him - I wish he had really more confidence in himself - He would then be established in St. Orleans, respectably at least & living in society - Whereas for one like he is I cast this slow death or decay - It is bad enough for me but for H. it is abominable -

The weather has been hot & so continues but we are planting cane - The potatoes are green all over the field & if we have no killing frost there will be a crop this year -

I agree with you as to a Farmer, off for a man of culture & taste - without pretending to answer to those qualities I can say the ceiling and life were sweet but we must often yield to the force of circumstances & make the most of what can not be helped - I wish I had had the opportunities which you seem to have had I would be no peasant where I am - but there is no use in repining - We ought to be thankful for the many advantages we possess -

Much love to Johnny. Why don't he write? I would like much to see the boy as well, both of you with true affection -

Yr. Father
H. Gibson

Advised it would be before next winter (Fall?)
When you come down

I do think Sarah has treated
Mary shamefully & I mean so whether her - but
Mary is too good to mind such things - Tell her
I would rather see her in her cabin than in a
cabin with I shall be glad when you get out
of it - I am sure she is just as happy now
as she will be when she is better housed - There
is nothing like visiting in the world -

Much love to her and Compliments
to Master Duncan

Affectionately yr. Father
J. Brown

28th March 1861
D. K. Brown

Oak Forest 28th March 1861

Dear Hart

I have seen your letter to Randall
of the 21st about Post Card and have sent you a
dispatch of this date authorizing you to take
of Mr. Clarke one hundred red bank notes on my account
and thirty for Magnolia

Mr. Post is now worth 18¢
in N. Orleans ^{cash} and but for the hard times I think
would be higher but in these times one likely to come
time with our political troubles are settled
I do not think the article can rise at this price
on a credit of 9 or twelve months without interest
or commission if would of course that much
Sarah - try to do better - mind you must
know what it will cost to deliver it in
N. Orleans or which would be better, Plains
Rail Road Depot - consigned to H. N. Ho
If you find you can purchase favourably you
might add 15¢ for Poston to be consigned
to Hurdaway & White Vicksburg -

You may say to me that
I will see the amount paid - let us know
with the least delay -

From your Louisville paper you
see the price by telegraph in N. Orleans and can judge

What is but if you have to allow for cost it is better
than 10/8. And here - There is a great deal of
difference in Pork. Mass ordinary (No. 1) is of
light hogs otherwise the same - exactly except it
is about 2/3 cheaper - It is the largest I have
seen which make Mass - which is the best we
can get - You make 100 or 1200 can take from the
difference - the larger I prefer the meat the better

About the 15th Sept building
in continuation of the Sugar house at Greenwood
will begin. The granddaddy can land - last year I
shall have to make another hole for an furnace.
The rebuilding of the Sugar house has having substituted
materially from the one made last summer

We thought at one time it might
be better for Randall to build but I soon perceived
that it would do to depend upon for him I can
do without but he could not - so I shall go on
with all possible activity - so as to have my thing
in order by the 1st of October

It is not done planting cane yet
and has a great deal to do - clearing & cultivating
& then a Saw Mill to put up and back to make
and the new hands are not to be relied upon - It
seems as if they never would get interested
for of Chills & Fever - Josh keeps a horse and
goes to Ellington almost every day and she is
convinced rather better in the practice than any

of the regular M. D.'s and some occasional bills -
We will as some laws - especially the one which
stands since the last arrival from N.Y. I was sorry to
see Mr. Duncan so easily discouraged - It is well he
never embarked in the planting business South - Why
if I had been as timid a sensitive to the fluctuations
of the business I should have been poor enough - And
it is about the same in politics - Subjugation to wrong
& profligate measures of final subjugation is not the
policy of a people who intend to prosper - Existence
such as we have made will bring prosperity in
Certainty as that the other State would retail buggery
& Morgan - The Sugar planters will be taken care
of in the end - at least they are in no danger under
our government as we were under that which is quit
I think it would be long before we have them on their
knees - our Tariff when properly constructed
will be their ruin and our aggrandisement as a
people - and this they see clearly enough and are
already beginning to come their last Sheriff which
was much under a bargain & which they expected the
South would veto - We are well content
with our "Seven Stars" - and hope the good States
will have a good time in the old Union with the
black abolitionists & black free Negro voters against
them in their blessed Union

Why don't Mary write? I believe she
has forgotten us entirely - I have not forgotten her
and I want to see the two Dear Maids but I can

the children! I hope to be done improving here this
Season and when I get out of bed I'll think
seriously of the arrangement

Why didn't you send a photograph of
Duncan & Mary must have had Duncan's taken
together and sent very soon - Claude says Mary
is very handsome! I have got Wilson's photograph
and I want to compare them - you really ought
to send all to the boys in Europe - Let Will change
Mary with this - as I know she is thorough in
what she undertakes - Come along with the pack
and send it off without delay - you & Sarah go
to work - Claude brought Louisa's which was a
great satisfaction to me

What has become of Sarah's last barrel of
Sugar? It went with the rest - Look after it so that
she can get it - It was on the main order - I
sent to you

Thank love to all my dear boys
for the love
Your Father affectionately
J. Wilson

Apr 23 1861

Richmond

J. Wilson

Richmond 30th April 1861

Dear Mother

The weather is very very bad - raining -
When we went it dry & and yesterday in my hands
on horse back at Magnolia I was troubled in coming
home by a heavy rain and this morning find myself
with some sore throat -

I feel quite alone & miserable since
Randall left - Claude was at home but one entire day
He is at Fort Pike - Randall at Fort Jackson - the
latter above the city on the River the other on the
Narrow between the lakes which open to the city
It has been apprehended that the enemy would be
arrived by old Abe undertake to "fix up" these places
and so invade & capture our City & Coast - I don't
think my soldiers want much progress in a
work of this sort where every man woman & child
is armed & ready for defence - A movement is now
making to throw up works at the entrance to the
Bay west of us - We shall be well guarded at every
point -

It is believed that our Congress which met
yesterday in extra session will declare war
but our land President Davis take command
of all the forces and make a dash at Washington
In this case I think we shall undoubtedly make

Miner Mead of the Government with but few persons
It will traitor Scott and Abolition Lincoln and
the rest of that black hearted crew could be
that I think our Country would soon be conceded
but no one can tell what is intended as our govern-
ment know how to keep their own secrets I have
not been long before decisive words will decide the case.
The "Mother of States" is now with us and we shall
work for the whole family soon (as your Aunt Higgins
would say) the whole tea party.

Charles Sumner to have enjoyed his visit
amongst few long much. He fell in love with
Miss Garrison is a prodigy. All this way long can
the only it would be more so, if I could only
see for myself.

It was understood by Sumner &
myself that we would telegraph it. It appears to
be true and the order for the same duty absolutely
nothing can be done at Magnolia but to take the
crop. This I proposed long & long ago but for these
young people have the land and will it is if it is
not at a ruinous cost. Stop it by all means.
This is a rainy year and without the usual dry
weather but a brick can be made.

The walls of the Sugar house at Green
will soon be up to the top and with reasonable
luck we shall have that coast no ready for
the crops, which would be a disgrace. I do not

allow a false bill or count as being as can be given
in the right place and in the greatest possible time. It is
an undertaking to build up a permanent improvement
of this sort and it will be several years before one is put
up at Magnolia as it should be. This I know from
some experience - it takes time & much labour. After every
thing else is done. We shall control the land and
control the corn planting and economy at all points.
The acquisition of the Slave States to the original seven
Secures the consumption of all the sugar we can make
and I do not doubt we shall find a market as usual
in the West. We are now in the hands of our friends
& I know the other States in the Confederacy are willing
to do any thing for our relief. The course of our little
State has injured the gratulation of the rest of the States -
I have this from prominent members of Congress, Sugar
Planters - so don't listen to croakers. Croakers are generally
Subservients. We shall have a great and prosperous
Country.

Tell Mary W. Robertson we made many
enquiries for her and was much pleased when she
knew of her's from long. I spend a night with the
Winnons - go to the City - they are to make me a
visit this month. I wish I had a good house
in the City - I am looking around and can find
them but I am not able to buy. It would be
pleasant to have a lady home for all to Congratulate
in during the winter. I wish a large house for

J. L. Schou
May 13th 1861
Oak Forest

Oak Forest - 13th May 1861

Dear Hart

I have yours of the 3^d

The condition of Kentucky is truly
deplorable. To make any attempts at defence would
her border & appears likely to draw & to present a
Cincinnati has lately told her that if she does to
out batteries on Lexington heights - they will be taken
at any cost - for she sees too late to depend on
support her formidable neighbors except the Ohio - She
is in Missouri and a heavy responsibility rests upon
Crittenden & Guthrie for their impeding course -
Enough was attempted at Washington that would be to
strange any one should that the Lincoln party
do nothing and after the failure of all their efforts
it was then time for the border Slave States to join
the Southern Confederacy and be safe and ready
for defence at all points - Now what! Now her case
is deplorable - Unless the Neutral States will be moved
& available and the most formidable attempts
will be made to get into the South - but the Union
will fight - She will find it a losing game unless
they will have a division of the Federal Army which is
of us

I am sorry to hear of Louisa's bad health - and
glad she is at Sarah's for the season - she ought
to take exercise on horse back - her walking and
to go - I want to say to you the progress
the sister of Mary's parents - she is getting
smaller - and is getting small again - and I think could
be got in moderate time say 3 or 4 months
I hope she is about as good as ever - and is the better
looking - How would all your people - how far a
ward for Annan? I will send her up without
cost to you if Mary would like to have her - she was
out of employment some time - at Mr. Allwoy's but
is now at Sigurd's - set her down - was time
Mr. Allwoy has promised to send her - and I will be
willing to send her if she will go up the line I get
your answer - and she can not go - I will write to Sam
by I know - A good nurse is a great matter for a young
mother - she has a poor character - and if not going to get
married I think will be glad to go

You hear from H. and C. I did not write
about them - Both are reporting - I expect to "pop off"
their teeth by the discharge of them - I think going down
to see them a visit the last of the year if I can
possibly get off

The mechanics are at the sugar house
the walls are going up hard some - this day went
to see the two tables to meeting - we shall return
to see them - I am sure they will be
of some use to you

our operations - getting out logs, working crop - building H.H.
We are just finishing a Sugar's Stack down at the Sugar house
and are expected to be on the ice at Greenwood

Edwards had a great congregation of the
people from the place yesterday - Another says it was a
good one - but it is good rain as what it is
now - some such weather than it was last season
no sickness - you have - but the work was much done
since H. has - I have taken it in hand - but what has
to do any thing to make the crop - no improvement
at all can be made - just what I know at the beginning
It takes time - three years to get ready for building -
The people seem to be getting garden, getting it across
them - I am the nearly every day -
With

Big Sol died at Greenwood yesterday - The D. says he
had disease of the heart - died suddenly although he had
been laid up some time - There is scarcely any sickness
amongst us - for weather than last season - The rains
make the grass grow as well as the crop - we shall be
planting corn - for a month get at all the places - Pea
springs, hills, and here - we shall try to make every one
but Pea Springs way of good - I think the better plant
will make the best of them - well

With the number of State Carriages to
be introduced - I think I shall see
I am going for the Sugar - I believe I
shall be of some use to you - I am
of some use to you - I am
of some use to you - I am

Dale Forest 21st May 1861

Dear Aunt

I send the letter from Dr. Richardson
to let you see what he says about Jim Fry one
of Mary's men when Randall took to the Hospital
as we have been in the habit of doing in cases which
we are not able to manage readily ourselves -
I shall keep him here when he returns in order to
give him my personal attention.

The weather has become warm and
dry just what we want. We began to make brick
this morning at Greenwood and hope to get enough
made to finish the Sugar House in good time. There
are about 3000 already laid and 100,000 on hand
not laid and 250,000 more will complete the whole
job - So you see how many brick it takes - No little
matter - And then the lumber for Sugar House and
Cane Shed 100 ft square takes a huge pile - but when
done I think it will be a superior improvement
of its kind, at less cost than most others could be built
of similar dimensions - My own hands do most of
the work - If it had not been for the Storm last Oct.
which required me to rebuild at this place I could have
got along very easily but to build two Sugar houses in
12 mo. is an undertaking with two Sheds almost
equal to a Sugar house in materials & work,

It is uncommonly healthy. Very little Complaint on our
Shores of course we have the usual number of old and
Chronic Cases - Last Season was the Sickness I have known you
Many years - There is not now a Case of any sort at allagrotaria.

I wrote to you to stop the Saw mill from S. Lewis
fearing it had omitted it - you have not answered -

I hope to go to see K. & Claude they work
out Am. Wanting on Mr. Hewitt who is going -

I doubt if troops are sent very far
South during the Summer - but by next winter unless
Matters are settled I doubt not a Crisis will occur to
shake Civilization quite - we entertain strong hopes of
the interposition of England & France to break up the
Blockade which will bring them in as parties unless
the South makes peace with us - but I have no hope
in Congressing our independence in the field -

There is nothing to write about here
So I will close -

I have left it discretionary with your
brother to come with Colo. Peyton or Augustus or to
wait till next Fall or Winter

With much love to all

I remain with sincere Affection

Yr. Father

Hyson

Oak Point 7th June 1861

Dear Aunt

News of the 17th Mass was duly recd. Indeed I had for a notice from the W. D. Delta of the Lexington Statesman which I consider is richly deserved - I must say that it is a treat to get the paper which comes here to your address.

I have read the proceedings of the State Rights Convention held at Lexington and am glad to see so sound a feeling manifested in that School of Disloyalty & Secessionism - I really think Florida ought to be driven out of the State and never allowed to return - How very sorry to see Gerrit Davis taking the part he does - Kentucky need not fear as the Civil War would drive out every Rebel that dared to penetrate her soil by a hostile tread - we understand what is meant by Lincoln - It is to subdue Kentucky just as he has done Maryland & Tennessee - but that in God she will suffer no such degradation - she is under no such necessity - & never can be - and since she has no reason or apology for such disgrace - It would be of a piece with the conduct of the Western portion of Virginia - Nothing can be more shameful -

I have made a visit today to Uncle John

both occupy responsible posts - N. on the River below
the City and C. on the route to Mobile which I see
it is the aim of the N. to intercept by gun boats
Fort Pike is a very strong fort but has no large
guns which they want - What they have is 24
pounder - at Fort Jackson they have 24³ 32³ and
8 inch Columbiads and all other carrying shot and
shell from 3 to 4 Mds -

We have had no rain for a month
until this morning. I hope we shall have plenty soon.
The dry weather suits us very well - as we are waiting
as well as keeping cool -

The Canal is fine at all the places
and with rain we shall have good crops of Cotton
at all the places we have some new ground yet to plant
The weather is good - Jim is here and has worn
can but his disease is chronic and anxious and
it would be a surprise for one of his age to recover.
He came to see me one morning and try to cheat
him up - allagnolia begins to look very well and
we saw Condit - I follow the blacks of the three
plantations to separate him once a month for preaching
by a very sensible young preacher. He preaches very
dressed not long ago just below Cairo -

I have some notes given for collection
putting down at some time. We have but as I suppose
the bank did not decrease them. I must let them
pay promised to pay them here when there is a
market for sugar - I could not forgive the present

state of things when the notes were given - I give you
a memorandum of the notes so that if you should
be interrogated you can inform the parties how the
matter stands -

note to Mr. H. & P. on one day at N. Bank for \$2172 00
do do P. Bank do do 1500
Such ordinary course of business I should have given
such bills as the bank would have taken and so paid
the notes -

I do not doubt that in the end the
Sugar Planters will show with all other Southern
interests the good effects of a separation from the
North - Our tariff gives 20 per cent duty which
is prominent and not subject to be changed
& complained of in the duty has all the time been
in the U. States can give

I wish I was able to furnish
the money to buy more as you suggest - but I am
not - Myself & others are the best stock to deal in,
at all times - Pork is now 26 1/2 per barrel in St. Orleans
we get our supply including allagnolia at 19 1/2 -

I have your answer from letters & that
if you do not get letters it is because you do not write
yourself - Much love to Mary & the young Gibson

Your ever affectionate Father
Gibson

Dear Children, and I for all, you may be able to ^{live} ~~live~~
them I do not doubt if you were to go to work ^{manfully}
in the Law in N. Orleans when ^{it should be our will}
you could do something towards a hard some living -
This is the view you must take - You know how
gladly I shall do all in my power to help you
on and how delighted I should be to see you
living near or with me - It may be all for
the best - Who knows? Take Courage of hope. Whilst
there is life there is hope. I was at Capt. Eldon's yesterday (at
South Down) He has been separated from his family
for many months - Natchez being near within the ~~Union~~
line. Mr. A. has written for his family to come to South Down
to remain indefinitely - He is now entirely alone.

I feel more than anxious about
your brother since the battle at Chattanooga - It was
a horrible slaughter on both sides up to Monday (3 days
undecided) I fortunately got the proper way day
from N. Orleans but the news is rather kept back designedly
to get along very slowly through Southern sources - 14 days
news since the 2^d the 3^d day of the battle and we ought
to have it by Mobile in time to 5 days.

We look for Sarah by the last of this month.
When I go to the City I will have some Cash & orders sent
to your Treasury as you desire - all my love to your
childrens & yours which I want -

God bless & preserve you

Yr. aff. Father
J. G.

Rail Road 6th Feb 1863

My Dear Wm

I have been glad to receive your ^{part} letter from you and which I can not ^{fully} ~~fully~~
the misfortune which has brought you into captivity
to a demerolops among I am yet thankful to God for
the preservation of your life and good health. You
can better imagine than I can supply the deep anxiety
which I have felt for my children exposed as most
of them have been during this year and our natural
war and now as a climax to all its atrocities the
Confederates is to go on as if no fighting was ever
to take place and emancipation of Slaves indiscrimi-
nately against every law of humanity, as well as any
dictate of Reason, Common Sense or Law: and yet
there who profess to be Conservators vote for all these
things by supporting a war mad and carried on
for no other purpose whatever. but enough of this.

Your letters speak of business matters
which I have felt great difficulty about - I had
not finally closed up my debts of crops till of late and
have of course some means on hand but have not
paid all my debts because I have felt no certainty
that the Negroes would remain of this our accord
to make up the present crop or that they would be
allowed to do so even with an agreement with Gen. B.

to that effect. The fact turns out as I had apprehended that
the agreement is set aside and all able bodied men between
the ages of 20 & 30 are being carried away & put in the
Army at the point of the bayonet. Say, I may have
on hand some twenty five or thirty thousand dollars -
I have thought it would be safer to keep that under
control here until the present crop begins to be felt
When I could begin to let go abroad. What is certain
is to be realized. Currency is the only thing we are allowed
to use and if the Am^t was placed in its power it
might happen that we would be cut off from intercourse
with that place. Then again I have such a strong desire
to pay up all my debts that until I find safety in my
labors and calculations here I proposed to keep the money
in hand. I have anxiously considered those matters
hoping that an offer might come up in some shape
or that the elections at the North might be of such
a character as to give a good hope of peace - but every
day seems to confirm me with absolute certainty
that we are not here to be considered as in the Union
with our rights of representation in next year, nor as out
of the Union to act as an independent people - deprived
of all rights of property - that is, of our Slaves, we
could do what we wish, but unless we agree to this
we are to be regarded as a conquered people and to be
allowed no rights whatever which abolition hath proposed
them to grant!

At Magnolia not a stalk of cane was cut last

season & but 12 Hubs made at Grandwood & at this place 75. in
all go! - It was fortunate that through all the difficulties - arising
under Mr. St. I managed to retain most of the old crop.
but the expenses of several years past and it may be still
longer will want largely from the next proceeds - The force
is now weakened, & in proportion more at all quarters
than any other place, but I work the two places alike
& in common & shall begin on Monday the 12th to cut
& haul cane from that place first as the cane is the best
& report there - There is some interest manifested among the negroes
to save the crop, but as they only had work now what will
it be when they must, if the crop is saved, work all day and
half the night when we begin grinding? I confide to you at
least last season I had to give it ^{up} before the ^{whole} year half saved
but this season they are interested in the crop itself - but a
Negro is a Negro & will never be any thing else - he will
not work - Slavery is his only resource for extermination

I do not ^{know} how it will be with me and
my real estate here - If we are not wholly stripped of every
thing my real estate here & my negroes will under all
circumstances make us independent - I want to say to
you just here that the Grandwood place is now well
improved with a very good new house - which we were
just here, all my would soon make quite plain and -
a fine building. Let you get an improvement laid off with
your Live Oak & other trees growing, and that under
all circumstances I do not think you need feel uneasy.
It may be too with what Mr. Owen can do for you.