

Oake Forest 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Dear Aunt.

The weather is now beautiful & on Monday we are going to work in earnest.

Johanna returned from the City & we went up to G. Wood & to a garden. The cause is coming up beautifully at G. Wood & will be a complete stand. Parsons says he has seeds enough to do. I see no reason why every thing may not go on there in perfect order. I shall give <sup>myself</sup> ~~the~~ necessary attention.

The seeds generally are going but 5 days in the week. We have capital all they demand till we get them in our power which will be in a few months.

I want you to do what you can to get Sarah here. She has

An idea we don't want here -  
Nothing could be more necessary  
I do not expect to leave here this year  
& we must try & make ourselves at home  
we have no alternative, whether it is  
agreeable or not. We must make it  
do. And make & settle we are out  
of debt - Things will be worse every  
year - The harvest will be poor & we  
& without a large increase of labor, we  
may look for the worst.

The portable mill & engine  
we have - I see there is a good stone  
mill at Wood Hill. It says he will  
run both at the same time & have  
two mills with less fuel & labor  
doing all the grinding we have been  
doing for a great many years at great  
cost of wood, time & labor - all the same.

Look for the kitchen and  
Larkin home tomorrow - They have all  
had a gay time in the city - After  
Lark & I suffer. The same to some  
extent transferred to the City Country.  
Do try & get your sister's

business so she can come here at  
once - you tell her you attend to her  
children so she will feel no anxiety  
for of course she will bring with  
her. I wish you would let Duncan  
come with her - with little John, to  
fill up the trio - I want to see whether  
the dinner or the all-out-gone is the  
smartest - I shall go of course for  
the former.

Much love to all my & a kiss  
all around for the children  
Your ever Affectionate Father  
J. Brown  
He writes occasionally -

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to

*ref  
So*



*Colo. Hart Gibson*

*Essex*

*Mass.*

would not have been less than fifty thou-  
-sand dollars.

I have gotten so used to despise  
-spiritualists that are anxious only to have  
the means of living -

I have reported an article to  
-Sugar King Children and I find on exam-  
-ining my papers that by the existing  
-proscriptive law I am released from  
the Anderson debt for land a part of  
Green land place, & by a late decision of  
the Supreme Court of the State, all debts  
or bonds given for negroes are null and  
this lets me out of the remainder of the  
Anderson debt. I have two hundred to  
about two thousand dollars.

I am about to make a mort-  
-gage to M. S. H. so as for them to be kept  
to Sugar Children & to prevent annoyance  
by suits of small creditors, but the truth  
is there is but little left - but whatever there  
is there where I am will be glad to con-  
-promise -

Oak Forest 18<sup>th</sup> May '67

Dear Mark

I have written to us our best  
-shoulder since the war for reasons  
-you can easily imagine: The tide was  
-turned & the water in this morning of today  
-bore the highest mark & 5 below that of  
'65. This confluence was entirely  
-unexpected & beyond all reasonable calcu-  
-lation from the work which had been done  
-the past season: But it seems as if God  
-I mean conspired to cause effectually this  
-from desertion people avoid alike by  
-the atrocities of man as the Providence  
-of God. We have not seen the worst the  
-end is not yet come in the placing the  
-miserable barbarism over us civilly and  
-politically - that is not the end near the  
-worst. The whites are already in a condi-  
-tion that requires a strong military power  
-to protect them from the outrages of the



Blacks & know the Continuance of the Federal Authority will be as much as necessity for us as it is to be allowed as a government ~~that~~ for there can be no responsible desert that the Southern State Governments can be Negro States. Of course the white population can not increase & the black will multiply by immigration from other States when they are denied the rights they enjoy here. Of course if the Military & Federal Power is withdrawn & State governments in the hands of the negroes there is no reason of the white or a war between the races. At present this is inevitable the protest is offered of granting a standing army amongst us at the best of the two sides.

There are about 4 blacks registered as voters to one white & they will vote for their own color or for those of their own view & that means Confederates which is openly preached to them. They will vote as we mean this way.

No confidence is now felt in the Public Service & every one will strive to protect himself. This will cost a good deal of money. The price here had not been very high. It can be made by the Plow & Serapis with the planter's hands but the back does not go from 5 to 6 feet high with large inside ditches to convey the water rapidly to the draining power. We shall endeavor to secure the plan above the sea the coming season having ample draining machinery. We will see nearly and can enough at all hazards & if not will be able perhaps to get enough for a crop next year.

The water will be off of the fields about a month earlier than the former seasons of our field & we shall plant cotton some corn (the Green Wood hands are plowing & planting corn at Holly wood) peas, Potatoes, Rice &c. so as to get something to live upon.

The crop growing this year is a serious loss. It is possible that value

May 20<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Dear Bro -

Ray from Bridgland is here  
having got out of everything supplies money -  
has been set up dead beat - a curious way  
of doing business. Boston was here says he  
had written written to Lobe and never had  
had a final settlement with him.

It is strange Lobe should have quit the  
place without either making arrangements  
or acquainting Lather with the  
condition of things: but I suppose he  
has his reasons or excuses. Others a  
bad effect. If I were Lobe or Kim I  
would not cut any lot with the Plaintiffs  
or in this state: they had better make  
the sacrifice now - of getting business  
somewhere else - than in all  
human probability - ever going to  
say certainly - be obliged to do it with  
a great loss of time when they get  
older.

My little business goes  
I am just from a point to Boston  
A high number of dollars being going  
of all nearly broken down but possibly  
enough to occupy them at the ground floor  
W. J. Smith. The business is now quite  
though he can not tell is whether  
under them. The other to stay with me  
to manage personally or with a white man  
I would for one of them at 1/2 way  
with me if they had would prevent  
get hands I would be glad to have them  
of stay or not stay can not  
8 to 10 am a day of half business  
the other plan which would cost  
of either for day or 10 days - I don't know  
but don't be worried about from 8 to 10 am  
regarding how much come in the plan  
has come by the 13 day. When not day  
done speaking from 30 to 40 to 50  
Mr. Ray was favorably from 1/2 way -





Mr. Kay writes favorably from Yager was  
 done planting Corn 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. I would think  
 his Cotton by the 15 May. He does not say  
 exactly how much Corn he had planted  
 but said he would plant from 8 to 10 acres  
 of Cotton per day in 15 days - I had him  
 two Cotton planters which would each plant  
 8 to 10 acres a day if kept running.

If Gray or McHenry can not  
 get business, I would be glad to have them  
 with me if their health would permit.

I would fix one of them up at S. Wood  
 to manage personally or with a white man  
 under them & the other to stay with me -  
 though we can not well do without  
 Mr. Smith. The business is now quite  
 enough to occupy them at the several places  
 I am nearly broken down but fortunately  
 my health remains good.

I am just from a jaunt to Houston  
 & neighborhood of several days, going

John.

a great deal of time when they get  
 any business - in other things -  
 business particularly - some going to  
 Providence also - then in 1855

the descriptive manner of getting business  
 or in his state; they are better with  
 would not care say he will do business  
 last office. I have taken in his 2  
 from his business or success. I know a  
 Consider of things; he is engaged in  
 or accompanying father with the  
 these without either making arrangements  
 It's things that should have given the

had a time agreement with them.  
 but could mention to the end near the  
 of every business. After you have made up  
 has been set up near State - a common way  
 having got out of every thing capital money -  
 See that - Ray from Providence in the

May 20<sup>th</sup> 1857.

half the way by water & the rest of the way  
I will the time on horse back which was  
nothing. I got back nearly dead and  
Quincy & the rest of my back.

The weather is fine and the  
heads here (the Quins) are getting legs for  
the Saw Mill & will be able to continue about  
a week longer. The whole of Bayou Black  
Bayou Abbeville & part of Grand Caillou  
are seriously affected with the water - by  
sawing which all will have to do or are  
about as well off as others - only that we  
will have to make our Lewis a little higher.

It would be absolute ruin to go  
to the present purpose but it will not do to  
leave the Lewis in the Quins for protection.

Though there can be little doubt now that it is  
more than probable we are to have Negro government  
Congress, so called, will have the Lewis rebuilt.

We are soon to have a grand  
Conservative rally of Blacks & Whites at Houma  
in about 10 days. I think the Negroes will  
not attend in great numbers as they are

afraid of being approached with their "Rebel"  
We intend to vote for negro rather than Radical  
White - that feeling is almost universal and  
I don't think there is a chance for a Conservative  
White.

I feel very unhappy about  
Fitz & McKinley on account of their  
wealth & their inability to get business  
where their wealth would be good. If  
we had not had such a grand mis-  
fortune, it would not be so much. I feel  
sensibly very continued separation from  
London & the rest of you but God's  
Will must be done.

Remond has to stick to his  
office to be sure of his living & so  
it goes.

My best love to Mary & Susan  
for your sweet letter.

I will write again soon  
to Sarah or the other.

Your ever affectionate Father  
J. Wilson



ways of the one, the world will want to know to  
the estimated as far as I would prefer only the numbers  
suggested - It depends on effort to go on until money  
can be got in a regular way - It would be well to  
our interest to keep our business out of the hands of  
Commission Merchants altogether - and let our funds  
coming into your hands and hands, this might  
be done - I shall have the clearing mortgages  
with hands & passed or rather Mr. Gordon's account  
which there can be no difficulty -

I could wish Mr. & J. could get  
into some paying hands -

We must take things calmly but  
earnestly & promptly - there is no time for delay  
Hand all yours -

Best love to all my wife & children  
(for her & the little ones)

Your affec<sup>t</sup>ed Son  
J. Foster

Oak Forest 10<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1867

Dear Aunt

I have not had a letter from you since  
you left; this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> I shall have written when this  
is through -

When you were here it was understood  
that the plan should be carried on if the securities  
of the plan could be made available to that end.  
I wrote you that these had failed owing to the early  
= stop of the season the merchants not having ready  
the money already out, they was one reason, but  
the distrust as to the stability of our public  
affairs was another & the great scarcity of money  
in N<sup>o</sup> 3 - Now it turns out that the beginning of  
a new year is only 20 days off and much something  
can be done to go on at that time a dead loss  
is the consequence -

I am now planting corn as fast  
as possible & if the weather continuing favourable  
I hope to have most of the corn planted by the  
end of the month - You will recollect that we  
were to retain only as many lands as were  
wintered for the crop we could plant including  
about as much rice as corn - & now to do the  
plan as reduced - we intended <sup>to</sup> of each which  
would take some 30 or 35 hands - Now if we don't

pay the back wages at present it may be that  
 the hands we want may agree to stay provided  
 we can feed & clothe them & pay their necessary  
 wages quarterly. Supper this to be the case, we  
 could start off with a small sum for the first 3  
 months say for Corn & Pork \$750 - 6 months \$1500  
 Corn would then cease

Half Wages for 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter say	350	6 "	700
	\$1150		2200

Next 6 months omitting Corn			
Pork for 6 months @ 75 pt Mo.	\$450		
Half Wages for 6 mo.	700		
Clothing for the year @ 10 per	350		1550
			3700

add for house repairs 300  
 \$4000

Now, at the end of the year to be added for  
 back wages retained \$5000

Of course the last item would be paid by the crop  
 and the last quarter could be paid in the same way  
 12000  
 5700

Leaving in the first 3 months say  
 2000  
 5425

You can perceive from the above that about five  
 thousand five hundred dollars could carry us through  
 provided we did not pay the back wages till the  
 end of the year to come

Now I propose to pledge one of the first Mortgage  
 Notes off \$5000 to cover any or all of these advances  
 that you might not feel any scruple as to the propriety  
 of the transaction. For the Corn & Pork it would be  
 necessary by the 1st of Jan'y. Monthly \$25 quarterly 750  
 those for the first time

I have in my first letter stated (with  
 details from Weston) what weight to be counted on  
 in the crop. I think it would be probably safe to  
 say that the crop would pay double the charges upon  
 it and make a surplus of feed for the next year and  
 enable us to extend the planting and preserve the  
 estate from dilapidation & ruin

If you can in any way raise these  
 amounts at the several periods named the security  
 would follow the very money and not only for the  
 present but for the future

When time I think it almost  
 certain that in 3 or 4 months arrangements  
 can be made in St. Johns provided the levee  
 is built. If the object here did not warrant  
 the effort to go on by every consideration of interest  
 I would abandon the thing at once, but as I  
 deem it as of the highest importance to all I consider  
 it my duty to support the thing in its proper  
 color and just as I think is true & correct

It might so happen that next or all of  
 the hands would prefer to stay so as to secure the back

The first use of the money from N.Y. will be today <sup>has to</sup> to pay.

Oak Forest 1<sup>st</sup> July 1858

Dear Madam

I think it might that you should be well informed as to our affairs from time to time at short intervals & so I write this morning, and first of the year in the year. It has proved itself on account of bad weather; for several days the ground has been frozen hard; the thermometer on the mornings of the 20<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> at 22°. This morning it has Wednesday it has risen to 32° all at one time.

The snow will be finished up to the snow from the large heap by the 15<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. There will then be about 100 bushels more, which will make from the sugar to the line road between this place & Spruce Wood. I shall undertake no more this season. Will have all the plant close inside of this line & cover ground enough for the place with the few hands I propose to keep this is enough & crop enough to be profitable.

When all the hands were here last year we expected of losing to Mary I had just part of the line at Spruce Wood & part here, but finding things changed so much I determined to remove the cane plants at Spruce Wood to near the Sugar house here. This will economize labor, expense &c. &c. - but under this change one pump will do the drainage, it will take but half the wood & the crop to be sent up will be at one side only. All this I should have arranged from the start if I could.

have foreseen what has taken place - 20 hands or 25 at  
the greatest number will be all we want.

Mr. Hargreaves Lewis down has taken on half  
& Cooper Charley with his family has taken the other half to  
cultivate - They take the Oxen & I the Cane they to assist  
here whenever needed & in Sugar Milling they & their hands  
to work in the same way as the other hands on the  
place - If the weather turn out well it will give us  
much seed cane as we shall want the next year, so that  
we may grind all the plant cane here.

About the expense of the Seed - it can not be  
less than 2500 & perhaps 3000 when completed in every respect.  
The first payment is to be in the 15<sup>th</sup> and the last when it is done i.e.  
if I am not damaged by delay of the work in which the contractor  
forgets his work - but it will go on rapidly as the weather improves  
I hope when Marshall comes we will be able to go on certainly  
till the 1<sup>st</sup> March & I hope till the work is completed without  
calling on you - I will keep you accurately informed in time -  
Your letter to me is so positive about the certainty of the money  
that I shall just say & go ahead to the extent I have indicated  
but not an inch beyond what is absolutely necessary to the present  
state of our affairs -

Against it being to hire certain jobs done as  
wanted by the Crows who are shaking work them to hire and  
support extra negro hands for the year. For instance I am getting  
owed out by the Crows payable out of the crop; I to purchase  
them feed to be charged to them - So in Sugar Milling any  
number of hands skilled in the business - The truth is

every thing must come to a moderate scale, if money  
is to be made - If we had a small sugar house at each  
place with 25 hands all told at each we would make more  
cane money to the hand than in any other way - Every hand  
with a big amount to be utilized - boys have one hand doing the  
work of three at half the price - so of women.

Sobras is talking an interest in every thing  
& every thing is pleasant - but he wants practical knowledge  
which he will get in due time - He is willing to lend  
& is a great relief to me - He sees the real necessity of being  
economical & the idea of spending your & his sister's money has  
a most salutary effect on all - I am glad things are turned  
to a small scale considering all the various times - but  
for the Seed we could not get along in any small way - I  
do not see how we could have got along at all without  
Poult & Hargreaves they are true & good.

We can't give away per much so we shall  
have to keep them - They will help out with the manual labor  
but the feed is a great expense - I keep all the idle ones in the  
Cane over the year - The only thing from Randall since he  
left St. Orleans is the receipt of working tickets to the ceremonies  
in Church for the 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. past - I shall expect every day  
to hear of the arrival of the party in St. Orleans when I  
shall go down to see them.

I hope this will find you all in a  
pleasant state for it is freezing here and I can't see how any  
one can survive in any colder weather - Must love to enjoy  
Hambro & Mackinly - Your ever affec<sup>t</sup>ed son  
L. H. H. H.

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Figerville

July 21<sup>st</sup>



Colo: Hart Gibson

Versailles

Ky.

All the adlogues  
allowed to have my way - provisions must be made  
in some other way for carrying on the business - Should  
the stations go favorably & a crop is actually made here  
& nothing but a short lease to locate to secure both Sugar  
houses & improvements - what is to prevent the children as  
burden out of debt borrowing on hand - or way bookkeeping  
to carry on - Can the harvest then of expense will be in the  
place - team enough I hope & very unpleasant - Pork and  
beef - then the chief & nearly the only articles to supply  
& we will have the expense of the very best <sup>very</sup> Forest - we were  
old stock of hands - I saw the best of them - Not the best  
then I can see good - our crops in these places have always  
been the talk of the country & they were more than ever  
and so it will be in which comes from water land  
properly managed

I ought to have to say that John's health  
I am afraid is a complete breakdown - I sent him to see  
Dr. Richardson - I can see but one chance in the whole  
matter - Cole W. Minton of North Devon - the son of Capt. W.  
Cannon - down Saturday & follows down his (man of house  
with him Sunday evening to spend a few days - I did  
not think he was well enough - but his heart was in  
it & it will help him - The Capt. Minton had given him  
repeated invitations - they are very hospitable & I am  
always at home there -

We had a fine rain today just to suit  
my boat - to allow & the children to go out & walk  
very warm & affectionate - Dr. Nathan & Dr. G. are

Oak Forest 20 July 1868

My dear Mat - I have just received McKinley's letter  
dated the 14<sup>th</sup> at Spring Hill and as you have returned  
from your trip to N. York I will enclose my answers  
to McKinley's letter to you

First as to the horses: They have arrived  
safely but with a bill which I have just received  
from Stewart & Richardson to wit:

"Changes on horse for Indiana \$ 5.50  
The infernal Johnson & Road charged upon 18.00  
Other charges 4.00 per 50

Your objection of their unsuitableness was perfectly just.  
Two strong plain well broke gentle team worth 100 each  
would have suited much better - Still poor John's seems  
so much delighted with these excellent ones that half  
the good effects would have been lost by converting them  
into more suitable stock - She is one of a fine kind -  
I had but with her fine skin the mosquitoes & flies  
will worry her life out of her

Grider wrote me that the Jan would  
go on under the old law but he has been to St. Orleans  
since & if any change in his opinion takes place I will  
let you know it

I took all hands the other day and  
brought away one Nick & Equine from the East

W. & W<sup>m</sup> C. being dead & the place including these articles  
being offered for sale I thought the best plan to get  
possession - None of the family were on the place  
so I managed with occupant or tenant that he should  
keep quiet whilst with all hands in 5 weeks we  
succeeded in getting every thing to grow good under  
lock & key. Dr. Winter found out the very next  
day what was done & spluttered I understand a good  
deal but I had taken legal advice and as the property  
had never been paid for I do not give myself much  
concern about it - The machinery will send Magdalena  
eastly.

I have now had a better crop for the size of  
it on this place & the rains are making it grow finely  
I was from the upper end of Magdalena to the lower end  
of the crop here below Sugar house this morning before break  
fast - All fields look as done & the hands are getting good.  
for a while past - We had to plant some corn land 4 or 5  
times & then in some spots could not get a stand of corn  
on account of worms in the ground - I was afraid for  
some time that we would fail in making corn at all together  
The whole of the corn is in Pan which nearly cover the  
ground: If we could have all the Pan vine it would  
require but little corn to feed with - We shall buy no more  
corn I believe - The Negroes have fine crops which has  
encouraged them very much - indeed they all work as  
well as they ever did - We can find & choose best  
beasts from there now away. I see no reason why we

can not grow corn to make 75 or 80 Mds Sugar and some  
Said to plant 100 acres.

Lucy's Randall has been sitting in his  
Office and writing criticisms upon my Management. What  
we truth he has very little practical knowledge on the  
subject & he always reads a facture, which fell on me at  
last to feet the bill - If I had disregarded entirely every  
suggestion made by him last winter & spring we should  
have been much better off in our cane crop. Hereafter if I should  
be able to superintend the business here, I shall get the best  
Manager to be had, one that I may know to be competent  
& make it my business to see that he does his duty and  
does it right - I will not be put down by such an imprudent  
idea furnished me some time ago in the form of  
Spending Money lavishly & foolishly for nothing, as I should  
as they are extravagant but I am not sure that I shall be  
able to satisfy the operations for a year or so if I will  
not have sight - this is a very important number, the eye to  
be in order - My aim is to get the property in the best order  
to divide & sell, at the same time cultivating the very  
best plants - Not one of my family will be anxious to be  
work this property profitably I fear & hence the property as  
I think to put the whole front from one end to the other  
in the most attractive order at the least possible expense.  
It won't pay for you & Sarah & Randall to be kept restricted  
in your earnings by obstructing your means, to place  
them here - thus it is my good pleasure to return as soon  
as Sugar enough is made & sold on the Loan of San

H  
So



Col. Hart Gibson  
Care of  
Louisville Hotel

Louisville



Leovington 8th Sept 1868

My Dear West

I regret very much having had so little opportunity of being with you & comparing ideas with you on your question course. It may be the best I shall have & whether it should be so or not I know you will make very judicious. At least all they are worth. I do not detect other ideas at second hand but have always been willing to hear every thing that can be said on any subject on which I get interested and then decide according to my best judgement.

On the question of your removal to Lewisville I am not capable of giving you advice. I believe you have capacity to succeed any where but still I see difficulties and disadvantages in your settling there. And the question is a short way some of the considerations.

You are now West advan. to generally, not looked to be, at least a rising man in the central part of Ky. geographically the best location you could have is a place therefore in the light of advancement as a public man it could not be better. Now as for the land what do buyers want in population there is plenty of business & if you were to give yourself up earnestly and faithfully to the profession in your way as you would be compelled to do in Lewisville, would not the results

be as satisfactory? I mean to go earnestly to work,  
every day from 9 o'clock Am. to 4 P.M. - I expect an early  
fallow cannot labor. - You are most comfortably fixed  
at Hartland. Your good lands would enable you to  
consult profit & taste both & you could make with the  
two or three even in the year a large income for thy. in  
thy there is no risk - Another consideration - you might  
husband every prudent resource in view of what you  
will be compelled to expend in carrying out the plan  
I suggest for the establishment of your interest in Louisiana  
which is very quickly to give you in return a handsome  
sum - You must not listen to party or crude advice  
or suggestions from other folks but in circumstances  
to comprehend the whole case - It is a great deal  
to break up & go to a city conspicuously unknown to  
such business - You may weary of delay & at the same  
time expend a large sum in the experiment - If you  
were not so well off as you are it would be different -  
husband what you have go to work at your dear  
for what can I mean easily get them struggling amongst  
strangers for what might turn out to be no better than  
no more -

I have hardly written but the truth  
considered these things think of them seriously and  
then decide according to your best judgment for  
your own good & the comfort of your family

Sarah Lewis determined to go to N. York this winter in order  
to get clear of trouble & to put her children to school. She  
has no idea of going South - She expects to hear from  
Mary Dey on this subject - As to London I think it my  
duty to have her visit her some where -

There is a letter here from Randall  
in answer to yours. He gives over the division of  
the property ignoring Claude altogether who has the same  
interest in the same born property as his father had &  
as far as Bridgeland is concerned he has no right whatever

I differ entirely in Mr. Lewis's estimate  
of the property according to this letter - say 4 to Lin Oak  
including myself - 2 to Spruce Wood & 1 to Magnolia. The spot  
of the improvement & development of S. Wood requiring time  
& money. It in fact requires less than the other places, the more  
necessary improvement is made large, new & well located and  
judiciously developed - land enough open & detached - & wood enough  
to last a life time - I am willing to take it with two others  
& have Lin Oak & Magnolia to be divided as may be agreed  
among the 7 other may share Claude can not be ignored.  
Bridgeland is yours & you may do what you please with it.

I wish you were here, but it is of no  
immediate consequence - I am serious about taking S. Wood.  
by which arrangement I could live any where as I  
pleased - I should rather take South S. Wood than 2 with  
Lin Oak -

Ever with sincere Affection  
H. Fisher  
23

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to

To

Colo. Hart Gibson

Verdailles.

July



I have received of Handbells' instructions - I hope to  
write you a plan soon as it will take time to make  
that plan satisfactory. I do not desire to be at  
all responsible for that plan believing & hoping that  
the Com. Supply the means necessary to carry it on, and  
I know he has got confidence in it. He has promised to  
put it on his desk in a week! So I am not of that plan.

The answer I write to you is exactly what  
I mean to say. I think these matters must all be decided  
in time to put up the great Com.

I shall look for you here this winter  
but mean in the advanced part of it.

Read my letter carefully & give me  
your views freely.

With much love for Mary & the  
children I remain your affectionate  
father.

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting]*

Richd. D. Hunt 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1868

Dear Hunt  
I am glad to say so, the future develops, the  
views of a tributary of the old so which is  
now so totally covered I consider it my duty to make  
suggestions which arise from a close & intense considera-  
tion of our situation & I await your response after the  
next labor report. You would see by my letter of yester-  
day the workings of my mind. I shall continue the  
subject this morning. I consider it better as to the situa-  
tion of the property but the working details including the  
harmony in procedure is to be carefully considered - indeed  
the sugar plan is to grand in itself of the Com. as  
subject. If this is done then to we will increase on so  
small a scale what is the use of going to the expense  
of a double operation. I desire to spare by ensuring  
two sugar flows to make the crop of sugar just what  
we want. Why not increase the force & expense in proportion to  
to the crop? For instance build the levee just the length  
of the operation so as to make secure safe the two  
flows or rather enough of the two for several years future  
crop & do this in the same way as the good measure.  
Plant the Com. here, over this sugar stream - making  
up the crop here. Plant a large crop of Com. so as  
to supply both places together <sup>at once</sup> - make up losses  
& divide proceeds of the crop just as if the plan.

were one. We all need wisdom to live upon, and the smaller the expense of making the crops the larger the harvest. Much saving will be wanted to give up the Pump at Wood. Tobias might go there if he wishes, but no matter about that unless he get his health he can't do much long or how he must take back some of the best hands belonging to Lewis - they would come here except in winter - There are some of the Sugar Wood can be got ready in the woods near the line between the <sup>two</sup> farms. The sawing can be done here there on in the garden with one hand to direct. I think the team would be sufficient in this way for the four hundred. Proceed - What to do at Wood and 15 or 20 more in this way I could control the whole to advantage & with less good, just rate Misogog, get along easily with your equalization & separate of thought but...

Apply finally the same in trust for one place in the other part want in things belonging exclusively for the good of the whole. I would like to see how tall let things of high water were raised next season & if the light sort of a Muscovy was got I could then go around & stay till Oct. for water of regard. Well, can't not stay here as I have done - because it is so constant work whilst I am here & can't be otherwise. Somebody must be at or things want

proportion. The chance of my letters given up to Tobias was ride out & see the Wood - how it went & especially not to allow the hands to run over the woods but to get away things as it came. I see changed the Spokely course I took to spend time with you today evening I took the same with me to take a close examination of the Wood - & what do you think I saw about 1/3 of the Wood cut could only 1/2<sup>nd</sup> still standing - describing or describing the distance to haul our stumps & logs & brush & the ground soft I should suppose to haul over - the hands getting their tasks done generally three days evening for the week! The plan light opposite the Sugar house about 1/2 of a mile from here & half that distance from the Sugar house - Do you think Tobias had ever been to see the cutting? Not the great team I know was he there before I saw away nor was he here since - Knows no more of the State tax of this important matter than you do!! This is a specimen - I hope he will learn for I shall make it a point to teach him whenever he is able to be taught. What a pity you sent those horses. The mare is crippled so she can not be used & he is used to ride the horse & keeps the servants fooling with them half the time. I have in mind of every thing and would have to call out to you but actual for partnership has given him new views & he don't see things exactly in the light he used to - How fellows I don't see yet what he is precisely getting for. I shall be as plain as possible