

Then then today I am fearful
that we can not hold them
twenty four hours longer as there
was a fall of four inches water
last night that added to Ice age
Water as more than ordinary much
in will take off for some time the
water rose on the rear & front
in the last 12 hours one inch. The
Wind now now got a sound to the
North West I hope will relieve
the rear levee to some extent
rest of pond Mr. Simpson & myself
will depend on it to save
the boat

Yours truly
E. Smith

Wednesday Aug 26th

Dear Kate.
It continued to rain here on Monday and
Tuesday night and closed off Tuesday morning & has been
bright & cool since. This is the latest from Nagasaki.
I still hope we will save it. Taking this for granted,
you must see what can be done in the Banks. Suppose
Letter will come down in a few days will come up
or expect you in fall.
R. L. S.

Oak Point 5 May 1867 Sunday

Dear Randall

It has been raining steadily this afternoon
with a good prospect of its continuance. This is what I
most dread. I spent all yesterday on the levee giving
directions & stimulating the hands, and engaging my care
of them by extra pay to work together. Mr. Poirer went up to
alter the wheel but it was thought best not to stop it as
long as it was raining - He got up in the morning again
to watch the millstone.

I think it best to give you the truth. The water
is now above the highest mark of this year '65 and it
has been rising the average of an inch with a day for
5 or 10 days. This rain will increase it. The current
of yesterday though it has favorable news about the levee
will certainly a year it is too late - I have hardly a
hope that we will be able to save Nagasaki at the
rate the water is rising & near the levee.

Kochel came from Wawa in a boat today having
taken his family up there. He says Borden & Watson are
employed on the other side of the bay; gave up last
night - Water rising on this side all the place above
Nagasaki - Almon is in trouble with his levee &
in imminent danger. I have heard that Mr. Cotton had
gone up; I had hady surprised that we have held on
so long; I cannot as yet know what we will do

When we lose the case at Maguelin & the water at
a stage which probably will stop of its going down so
as to plant a money crop & can can that be got another
year for by or money -

I have had no late letter from you. The money
will want there money soon. I do not know what is best
& only you were here to advise about it I feel the greatest
difficulties. To keep the hands they must be regularly paid
We can get boys & make corn at Holly Wood but if
that plan is abandoned or smothered in when Messors
may want to plant it himself - we could plant them to
have but that about half to raise money - all are well
& thoroughly impressed with the importance of saving the
Can. I am best & only hope

My letter indeed explain what I want
Burnside & myself are old friends but he is now in
& may not choose to act either as a member of the Board
or for me. I want him to get the letter - Ogelsby is Randall
Kiggins friend. I do not know him - Lawson is very
friendly with me but not reliable - we have agreed
in our policy - He went down for the Grand Share
& the other men there - If it suited his mind & was
actually a member he might nominate me as Chairman
Smith & McMillan I don't know, but Lawson, Ogelsby
& Burnside make a majority - Burnside can have
me appointed by Sheridan & can have me made
Chairman if he will act in the matter. This is the first
thing to get - the appointment -

P.S. If R. d. G. is not in the City Major Austin will do me
the favour to deliver the letter to Mr. Burnside at
the Store of Messrs Stear & Co. Canal Street.

The Stock is all at Holly Wood - my horse
with the rest - Peggy at Maguelin

I intended to send the letter for
Mr. Burnside to you but as you may be on your
way here I have concluded to send them to him direct
by you know him well you might call & see him at
the Stear's Store in Canal Street to see that he gets the
letters which he would show you.

Your ever affable Father
J. H. W. W.

6th - The rain fell all night. The sea is
2^{1/2} fathoms since yesterday morning - rain has ceased
& the wind strong from the North which is our
our favour. Mr. Smith will write the
settlement at Maguelin. If the levees stood
the rain I think we have seen the worst - I am
afraid to hear this morning.

Maguelin, Monday Morning
Dear Genl

We have a perfect
storm all night it is still raining
the levees stood last night but only
the weather is so that we can store

Come over



Col Hart Gibson

Versailles

Woodford County
Kentucky.

GIBSON & AUSTIN,
Attorneys at Law,
100 COMMON STREET,
NEW ORLEANS.

May 8th 1867

My dear Dad,

I have kept you almost daily advised of the situation. Our yesterday Street called to see me and asked me to write to Father to come down and try to make some arrangements in conjunction with the House to raise money, as they had exhausted their ability and would be unable to do any more for us in that way. We have thirty thousand falling due in the Southern Bank of Kentucky at Louisville early in June, there is besides this a cash balance against Father on their books of twenty five thousand dollars - so that when they pay the ^{for} acceptance maturing in June there will be a cash balance against Father of fifty five thousand dollars.

Street says the money market is stagnant here - that they can't sell bills or raise any in anyway. - The meaning of this is that Father can use their credit with his; that they will accept for him but that they can advance no more for they have not got it and can't get the funds.

This brings us to a stand still - to the wall. I have written to Father to come down. If the heavy rains on Sunday (three days ago) literally swamped Mayolia will leave us as we were in 1865 - at this time - with this accumulated debt; but still hope Mayolia has escaped. Yet it is not reasonable to suppose, it has escaped the recent heavy rain. But the point is this: Father will try the Banks

and may get accommodation for a short time - but I do not believe he can do anything of the kind. I do not believe a dollar can be raised here. H. S. He will then advise him to try Kentucky and he may go there, or will wish to send me. If we fail there as is almost absolutely certain we fail there - down tumbles the whole thing. We have not today any means to pay the hand & other employees for the last months wages - nor to buy provisions - are at a stand still all around. The moment this fact is known away scatter all the hands and in flock all the outside creditors. - Ridgland comes to a halt and privileged creditors seize all that is available and within reach of all the plantations.

I look for Father in three or four days - and this letter will prepare you, for what may happen. Father has many resources. You see the difficulties of his position. You will soon know whether he has been able to compass them or not. I will write you constantly. The condition of things here is just as bad as it can be - no business - no money - no credit: everybody down.

You may think I write only the dark side but if you will look over my letters you will see that I have about stated facts as they were all along. I wish I could write differently and truthfully. The waters had begun to fall at last accounts (May 2nd) at one oak.

Your affectionate brother
R. D. S.

GIBSON & AUSTIN,
Attorneys at Law,
100 COMMON STREET,
NEW ORLEANS.

NEW ORLEANS
MAY 10
1862



Col Hart Gibson

Versailles

Woodford County
Kentucky

GIBSON & AUSTIN,
Attorneys at Law,
100 COMMON STREET,
NEW ORLEANS.

There are sixty acres of solid replanted
Cane on Magnolia - P.S. -

May 10th 1867

My Dear Host,

Those written to Father at Home &
my letter have not been sent to him.

You may now take it for granted that Magnolia
is safe. Having escaped the storm and rain & it
being warm & clear, and the water falling, all on
that place maybe regarded as saved. I hope too
that as the water rose earlier than ever before and
may go down earlier - much of the Cane overflowed
may not perish. On this we cannot count with
reliance.

The depression still continues here: owing to both the
commercial & political complexion of affairs.

Business is stagnant and there is almost an army
of young men & people here thrown out of employment.
Confiscation even is apprehended by many persons: but
I have no idea of anything of the kind though the
whole South go Radical - which is quite probable.

The whole military power & civil of the U.S. Gov. is
being employed & will succeed in changing the
negro vote for the Radical Party.

I suppose Father will come down in a few days. I hardly see how we are to get money to move a peg - but we must wait patiently and see what he can avail. No stone will be left unturned either here or in Kentucky.

Old Mr Livingston was in my office on yesterday just from Yazoo. He said the County in his neighborhood was again free from water and that Ray was at work on Ridgland plowing & planting but he could give me no exact particulars. He observed that Ridgland ought to make with a good season forty bales of Cotton: that all would depend on the season.

I write so that you may keep up with the times.

I would give a good deal to be able to write you some real good news.

Your affectionate brother
R. B.

Will keep you constantly advised.



Colonel Hort Gibson

Versailles

Woodford County

Kentucky.

Haji College July 19th 1968

My Dear Sir,

I found on my desk this evening the
card of the Green Man I thought that came you
in my last letter. I am indifferent as to whom you
send the Loose and Ragged House corner of
4th Avenue & 25th Street but you may have no one
in your mind. Should you prefer another it
will suit me quite as well provided you supply me
with the name and precise location. Had you
any something of a man named Thom but if I look
his address I would find it.

We have had a copious rain today after the longest
spell of the most oppressive and intense heat, I have ever
experienced or has ever been felt in this country. There
was absolutely an epidemic of sunstroke & the mortality
was very large. We hope the rain will freshen the
atmosphere and terminate this exhausting heat.

Father's last letter speaks rather despondingly of John's
health. I am very sorry for the poor fellow. I know
what it is, from experience. He died in summer
at Pine Oak. I thank, however, Father takes a

dependent view of the health of Lbe. I am chock of opinion
that none of us can endure the La summer climate.
It cracks all the vitality out of me - all the juices, out
of the system, leaving nothing but skin bones. It melted all
the flesh off of Kin's school' hair nearly out of his bones before
he quit. Our mother could never live there in health.
And I have seen you panting for breath gasping even
when there is winter doing nothing. Imagine yourself
hard at work there or being with fever or fighting
with child - and the physical debility, distress and deep
consequent stupor? If that the means would make
a permanent settlement in Louisiana and if there do
settle down I expect it will be there but does anybody
ever "settle down" permanently anywhere? If that the means
be like there, could do a good deal for Lbe & all the
rest; but of course I would never think of going there unless
I had some means in hand. I expect it takes a shop and
any demonstrative man to wedge his way into business
there. Buckner spent two days with me here and broached
the matter to me. He thinks there is a splendid opening
for a working lawyer, who studies closely, and proposed to
devote himself to building me up if I would go there.
The horrible climate of La is dreadful - for a home;
but I expect will spend the balance of my days there.

Keilston's is a most powerful speech. He was the trump
card of the Party and it was a great mistake not to play it.
He would have been our strongest Candidate.

I think our ticket is gaining every day, though it
appeared to me to fall upon a disappointed
and indifferent party when first announced.
As the Campaign advances, the stronger it will
get.

I hope you found Mary & your children well
on your return. I suppose Kin will come before
the public this Campaign, now for his time,
especially as it seems that he must live in
Ky - the corner he takes root & identifies
himself ^{with the place}. You would be sure to tell Sister how
much I am pleased with Judge Headman -
if he were in Kin's place he would run for
office in Louisiana at the next election &
ask for it on the ground of being one of
its oldest inhabitants, & he elected too!

Many joins me in warm affection
to you all. Yr affect brother
R. Gibson.

NEW BRITAIN
NOV 27
Vt. A.S.

Col Hart Gibson

Versailles

Woodford County

Kentucky

Please forward

Nov 26th 1888

My Dear Port -

Left Fair Oak on Monday last - this being Thursday. They were all well enjoying themselves. The first run the cane had yielded about $1\frac{1}{2}$ loads - a little more than that - & was giving $14\frac{1}{2}$ - but it will take one load to fill up leaving about 13 clear. The quality was bad - the sugar makes proving a lumbering. About up the Bayou brought down in the evening a man who has the reputation of being the best in the state. We started again and his sugar was almost white in the Crocks and everything was going splendidly and think we may safely count on a crop equal to (20) loads of first class sugar perhaps more than that quantity in number. Do not count on more than $10\frac{1}{2}$ for the sugar and 50 per gal for molasses. The crop will come better all hands - all of us - atleast square for the coming year.

Further it was agreed on a clear division on the plan adopted this summer with you. Think there is no danger now of our having any trouble with the old creditors. They all seem satisfied with what has been done. We have a magnificent estate.

with my family there is a large household at Pine Oak.
My people come to the City on Sunday. I have taken the Clark
House - You know him Clark of Clark, Stauffer & Co
on Association No 123. Don't forget if you come
down - You all must drive directly there, will have
plenty of room. You know Mr Clark had about (13)
children was an Englishman - You may know he
had plenty of room, water and coal.

I am of the opinion that both you & sister should
come down & settle up in ship shape our business.
It cannot be done well and effectually by proxy or
attorney. You know Father is peculiar in the days you
both must or ought to be here. It is delightful at
Pine Oak. It would do your wife & children good to be there
enjoying the oranges & sunshine.

I hope sister will come with her children. Do not see
how she stands the night house & discomfort of what
travels nor how her children can stand it or how she
can bear the expense. I can stand a tent or camp
life without tent - but that house would require
a stronger constitution than I have, should die of
neuralgia or pneumonia.

Which you would do me the favor to see what
is the lowest notch Gross will deliver his part of

Clark's time in New Orleans - sell them to be delivered
here - including the transportation of my horse - he would
undertake to send mine down & take me his part - delivered
in New Orleans on the Levee, what will he sell me for
delivered here & send my own down at the same time - he
paying transportation for all three. Find this out
and telegraph me. Or if he won't agree to this what
can you buy the price of Clark's send them very over
house down for? Telegraph me this. I would prefer
the former. It is not often I trouble you and would
avoid this if it could be done but I hope you will
not find it so inconvenient to attend to this as promptly
as you will can.

Everything looks cheerful in the City - better than since
the war.

I think the trip would do both you & sister good.
but you ought to bring your children - they will enjoy
it most. I think they would get to feel like a young
Lady again.

With warmest love & all
I remain

Your devoted brother R. L. Gibson.

P.S. Be sure to telegraph the hour you leave Louisville and
I will meet you where you meet at the Depot being your home.

GIBSON & AUSTIN

Attorneys and Counsellors at Law,

No. 5 Carondelet Street,

NEW ORLEANS.



Col Hart Gibson

Legisville Post office

Morgan's La Railroad

Louisiana.

If not delivered in 10 days, return to

Apr 11th 1869

My Dear Hart,

I am most anxious to advance \$1000⁰⁰ to buy plant Corn for Father. I have not the money in hand that I can honorably use at this moment without too great risks for this purpose. From present appearances, I believe I will get back every dollar that is paid by the 23rd Jan'y. These resources upon which I can with absolute certainty rely as available by the 1st April. There can be no mistake as to this. I count on paying over the trusts funds now in hand before 1st Feb - between this and then ~~and~~ I have not other means to replace them instantly as hitherto. This a penal offence & to pay damages in this State to fail to come & mine - different from Ky. or to use ^{them at all}.

If you have the means available I will give you an absolute guarantee that they shall be refunded by or before the 1st of April next. I mean a thousand dollars & see Revised Statute under Administrators.

to advance to me in order that I may

enabled Father to buy as much more corn with
that sum. He must have more corn. He has
the organization - it is expensive - ought not
to be broken up & will cost us more with a
larger planting; and it is the only hope of his
making the ends meet or accumulating any
thing of a surplus, next Fall.

I would not ask you to do this - was it within
the bounds of possibility for me to do it today
if I did not know I could replace the
\$1000. at least by April 1st perhaps -
probably before - almost certainly before.

The fact is each one of us - you & I ought to
buy a little - but we can postpone while
the imperative obligation is to make Father
easy. You can rely upon my showing with
you liberally the advances made & lain!

May come out on Tuesday next - must
be in Supreme Court on Monday. Had you
not better come down on Saturday & stay with
me until Tuesday.

Wormestlowe Hall

Yr ever affectionate brother

R. A. Gibson.

GIBSON & AUSTIN.

Attorneys and Counsellors at Law,
No. 5 Carondelet Street,
NEW ORLEANS.

NEW ORLEANS
DEC
17
LA.

Colonel Hart Gibson

(Member from Woodford)

Frankfort

Versailles

Kentucky.

FRA
22
KY

R. L. GIBSON.

J. E. AUSTIN.

GIBSON & AUSTIN,

Attorneys and Counsellors at Law,

No. 5 CARONDELET STREET,

(up stairs.)

NEW ORLEANS.

Dec 17th 1867

My dear Father,
 Your letter about Pendleton recd.
 send me some of his speeches. I will do as you
 suggest. What about raising money for
 Father? Let us know positively what & expects.
 This is important. It would be a great boon - & be
 able to stir class of merchants altogether. If we can
 get two thousand & build the levee all will be
 safe & come the crop will easily pay the expenses.
 We will be the only solvent estate in the South.
 Did you get the letter I sent you about Gladie from
 her mother. Please answer all these points.
 send me the speeches I allude to -

You & Mary must strain a point to
 so my wedding 23rd Jan any. I shall come
 as you,
 Affectionate brother

I have just recd a long letter
 from Father - we must raise
 money to keep him occupied
 if we don't he will get beside himself.

R. L. G.

Can you do anything?

Telegraph.