

Lackland Lafourche La

Dec 12th 1859

My dear Father,

I have just received your note of the 10th inst. I mailed a letter to you the day after Crofton & the boys arrived.

We are now progressing very well - making a very good article of sugar. The greatest obstacle to a more rapid progress is the hauling water. My utensils furnishes nearly all I require but I find it a good deal of trouble to haul a small quantity.

Should everything go well with me I will finish in eight or ten days - may even say seven - when I will come at once to Live Oak.

We are having delightful weather after the freeze - but night was one of the brightest I ever saw. Make both "looms" when the mill is running - the only way to be certain of going ahead certainly.

Enclose you a letter from Claude.

I am glad to hear of Host & Mary's arrival & hope to see them in a few days - Your devoted son

R. L. Gibson.

New Orleans to Aug 2nd 1866
Thursday evening.

My Dear Father,

Have not received any very recent letter from you. Enclosed you will find a letter from Mr. Smith and one from Lincoln. Persons from Tombone report the crops generally much improved within two weeks and as very good.

Will go out on Monday and make a thorough inspection and write you a long letter. Precautions shall be taken to protect and save all we can. The cane crops are said to be excellent. The supply at sea and on hand in Liverpool is I believe about four times as large as at this date. But you so that we cannot hope even if Peace be declared any great rise in present prices of Cotton.

After looking at it I may come up to Woodford about the 15th or 20th as I think the recreation may be of service to me - though my health is ~~not~~ Last night I was elected Councillor for the Factors & Trading Insurance Company - getting a majority of votes over all competitors several of whom were our oldest & best Lawyers - was elected by acclamation on the 2nd ballot. Although the retaining fee or salary is small - I am to get a fee in addition at the customary rates, for each case and opinion - so that not to speak of the direct intercourse it requires, with the most influential members of our Commercial Community, the position will probably be worth something worth having. This indication of regard and confidence is very gratifying to me and I hope I shall prove worthy of it. Very little can be done during the recess of Courts except to pick up acquaintances & business - but we have to wait generally for the money.

I am in my new office 100 Corn Law Street with all the finest libraries in the City - if not the largest
that. Be sure to write often but save about the people you meet than politics. We have
enough of the latter and in the newspapers.

You will see a full account of the little riot we had the other
day. The general opinion is that the local effect will be good
but damaging to us at the North. I saw the whole affair and
cannot but condemn the action of the military authorities -
their conduct, had the material been sufficiently coherent and
courageous, would have produced disastrous consequences to all
classes - at the outset to the whites but in the end there
would have been a rally in all probability - of the white Regts
& old soldiers - that would have been fatal to the aggressors &
abettors - to all parties concerned on the side of the Conventionists
& negroes & others. Look for war this Fall or Winter. If Johnson
does not appeal to arms the Radicals will; but the latter will probably do
so at the same time. The Radicals will rather than give
up if beaten at the ballot box; - Johnson will of course fight
rather than be impeached. One or the other is inevitable.
The Radicals will impeach ^{him} if successful ⁱⁿ the most fight;
if defeated he will recognize the South & Southern representatives
signore them & they will fight.

However let us take care of our own business. I am troubled
about what we shall do to make the two ends meet and to go
forward next year. I am convinced that we should not extend
unless it be at Ridgeland where I hope you will stop as you
come back. Where shall we get money from?

I sincerely hope you are enjoying yourself - leaving your own
& the Country's troubles behind you. I wish you had the old home
stead in Tex - The only crop you will ever reap in Fensbourne, if
an abundant yield will be vexations & annoyances. Better stay
away as long as you can. Don't hang back. Love to all.
W. de Wittson - R. L. S.

Wm L. Gibson -
Care of
W. T. Duncan Esq
Lexington, Fayette County, Ky

Wine Oak Oct 18th 1866

My Dear Father, Fair weather has again
set in and all hands are busy -
at all the work; gathering corn and
Cotton hay.

The cows today and is in
cornet about affairs on the
Fugoo. I cannot arrive at the
exact results but if he makes
fifty bales of Cotton, the expenses
will be paid and nothing more.
There will not be a cent of profit
on this basis of crop.

I am very much improved
- am a new man after my ten
days constant absence from
home and cows & indulgence
in out door occupations.

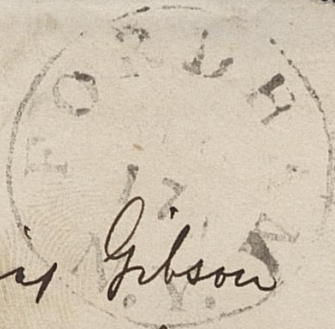
I go back tomorrow to begin
the fall campaign and will

write you on Saturday. I have done
all I could here that would
advance your interests in any
way - I feel uncertain about
the progress made in closing
the Curasses. Everything is going
on satisfactorily but it saddens one
to think of the work of the worms.

I am sorry you did not have
Lody with you this summer
and hope, if not now, that
sometime during the winter
she, with some of the rest, may
come down on a visit.

I hope your health continues
good and that you will be
here by the 1st of November
and full powers.
Your affectionate Son
R. B. -

Paul Tobias Gibson



Lexington

Fayette County

Kentucky

Care of
Mrs Joseph W Humphreys

with us good land - is in these times - almost the
difference between a live man & a dead one. If a man without
Cash in hand - there is without exception - all this difference
unless he smiles back with his hands.

Do not know that you differ from me in my views,
but I cannot feel that I can take it for granted, that the revolution
in your judgment at your age & position since our association, and
hardly equal, the revolution that has taken place - in all else -
especially in the elements of values. You see nothing's assumed,
a man in the country, who is bold enough to put out with the
view - of gathering in - with any certainty - for a long time there
12 was - is blind - His considerations like these - a shutting
out of the old views & hopes - that determined my behavior.

Make your vision without cancellation - write up the
papers - you can do it all in an hour & get those with you
today - and do to me & say to them will send it to
John - and there is an end of the business forever.
There is no use in raising official objections: better let us
be done with the settlement. The terms proposed are just to
all.

A part last -

Y^r affectionate son

R. D. Dixon.

August 15th 1868

My Dear Father, I have just read your last note and
am rejoiced that you are well & passing your time
in much bygone satisfaction at Lexington among your
old friends. I felt uneasy when I first heard you
were sick. Mr. Bell might send me letters of
introduction to Stewart & his other friends & low
dealers here. If that begins here in Louisville
he will find everything depend - upon his going
to make business - to procure business.

Times have changed our chance with them,
the means of quick success are not what they
were 20 or 30 years ago.

My last letter presented the whole matter as to
the estate upon a perfectly just basis.
I consider the valuation I put upon these
places about right. No man here will give over
\$10,000 for a Southern Plantation. You can
sell here as well as in La - if slavery existed would

not consider the division equal - but just make
calculations on paper of productive value - and you
will see I am about right. Suppose you owned
Magnolia or Newwood. What would it cost you
to establish one or the other? Could you raise the
money or either necessary. Would you feel safe without
a fence? You would have your team to buy & planting
stumps. Bristle yourself if you can - if old ideas -
& without capital - figure up how if you owned
one of these places you could raise the money to
develop it. In time with a dollar you might
more forward by borrowing or getting a partner with
money. Properly managed you ought to make one
line for three years, ^{clear} twice as much as you would
have to sink on the others in that time - difference paid!
I am perfectly satisfied in my judgment of the
valuation I put on the property - and in the
letter wrote you never expressed a preference.

It was full & complete and there nothing more
to say except to refer you Gil and to ask you
to draw up the papers accordingly for I

shall go into nothing that is not recorded to writing & the
recorded. Would you to assign me any share in this
or that, controlled by justice to all, shall be
perfectly satisfied - perfectly - to take any share in Newwood
Magnolia or Pine oak. I would deem it wrong if I
had a preference to express it & fortunately that case -
now have none.

My previous letter alluded to Magnolia because
Waters had talked about visiting with me - but
when he found there was no dwelling or sugar
house at the place - and I was not willing to
give it away - that it was not one of
your well established plantations. He said
"it is not worth while to talk about any other"
He thought he could buy the finest lot of plantation in
Cane working well for \$10,000 - and as for
water when mentioned we had a little he turned
upside.

The difference between a large plantation, with cane, and
Cane & planting stumps & sugar house in order & fence - with
a moderate stock of Cane & plenty of corn - and with a working
force at home on it - and one without these things

Genl Tobias Gibson



Lexington

Fayette County
Kentucky

Care of Wm. J. A. Humphreys

would be moved except at great expense
and inconvenience. And then there
are some matters here connected
with this estate my own business
that require more or less attention.

There is an utter want of
confidence here in all Southern
securities. Do we think it would
be within the bounds of possibility
here, to borrow a dollar upon
real estate in the South. And unless
things have changed entirely since I
quit New Orleans - for the better -
we can borrow no money there
upon property in Louisiana.
That is my conviction. I believe it
is impossible, utterly so; but it
may be done upon the hypothesis
that impossibilities or what appear
to be - sometimes do happen.
Impressed with these convictions that
spring from actual efforts, I deemed
it in your interest in the interest

of all of us that the estate should
be divided upon some equitable basis
so that combinations might be made
amongst ourselves to enable the greater
part of it to be made productive -
in view too of the great taxes about
to be levied. That is a matter about
which however, much can be said
on both sides. These things means &
better other spheres of operation will
be indifferent as well as those unable
to do anything - I thought however it
was especially your interest that this
division should be made now;
that the burden of reconstruction
might be lifted from your shoulders.
Do not believe you can stand
the exposure & annoyance, and
harassments that isolated life!
But while these are my views
I am willing always to concede to
what you all may think the

SEP
17
LA.



Hon Tobias Gibson
of Capt. J. M. Kinly Gibson
Versailles
Ky

P.S. Sarah is improving - There is some
Chills and fevers among the
Negroes - Elisabeth has returned ^{Letter}
Anthony is dead also Off Volney Stone
and I understand from Elisabeth
that all of our hands that has been
at work for Sherman intend to
return

Oak Forest La Sept 16th 1862
Sunday Night

Mr Gibson

My dear Sir

I have been anxious
by looking for a letter from you but
have been disappointed I have writ
ten to you regularly once a week
& some times twice the last letter
I had direct from you was
dated August the 8th I hope when
this reaches you it may find
you and all the family en-
joying good health.

I am sorry
to say I have no cheering news to
write we have had the Cotton-pil-
lar in June. They ate all the
leaves & many of the young bolls -
they have now disappeared
what they left the incipient

rains will injure a great deal
this last week it rained more or
less each day except yesterday which
was clear Thursday & Friday nights
it rained very hard the roads are
almost impassable and on
the Upper & Black & Lorraine they
say they are impassable I never
saw such a season I picked
last week 600 lbs - Making 31000
lbs I have picked in all up to
this time as yesterday & today has
been fair it is to be hoped that
we will now have some fair
weather - I shall push along as
fast as I can so as to get to
planting cane as early as I can
for cane is ^{the} only crop that we
cant count on and a good
crop of cane next year is our
only salvation; I shall make

all the hay I can and save
all the ~~grass~~ ^{we had} & that I can ^{use} besides
scores of cane & ground; The
cane has improved very much -
Mr. Lohr has finished the
boiling room and will commen-
ce tearing down the old house and
to work on my house in a day
or two as I have a day or two work
for him & Simon ~~to~~ on my haggons
I have my mules on fine pasture
and they are improving no
disease among them I hope
we will escape the cholera
I hope to get a letter from you
soon

I wish my best wishes
for your health & safe return
I am your truly
E. Smith