

Mr Lafontaine, private secretary
of Genl Ruggles reached here
this morning and is in the
military prison. He is from
New Orleans, where Ruggles
was killed. Lafontaine fought
in the ranks with a musket
at 3 O'clock on Monday the
bursting of a bomb back
of his head stunned and
threw him in convulsions
and he was taken prisoner
he is now well and as lively
as a cricket.

But Genl had a permit to
see him desiring to answer
inquiries about Genl Hunt &
got out to ask about the Giberny
he says he knows them both
well. he says that Genl Giberny
is a Genl commanding a brigade

to Genl Ruggles Division,
Camp Belmont Gibson command
miles battery of New Orleans,
both now in the battle and
he saw them as late as 17
October Monday, and they
were without

Blake

Mr D. W. Hays

Seeming compromise on the
Davis heresy. It will be a perilous
& hateful journey with many
hicks & trials. But I seriously
contemplate the humiliation of
a "flag of truce" visit to Memphis.
Despite all my views, principles,
& prejudices. If we have any
prosperity left we owe this
separation movement - our future
home will probably be on
the other side of the water. I
dare for there - dear to me - I
never desire to behold the
South again. - For if Memphis
could only be taken - what

a comfort to me! so he lives
about three hundred miles from
that pigsty of a town. Do you
think that either Columbus or
Memphis can or will be conquered
& occupied by the Nationals? -
The Seymour Aesop & that he
made no mistake & that
Col. P. distinctly told him that
there were "sixty thousand
negroes - & that they were all
supplied with ice"! Of course
I naturally imagined that
Seymour had made a grave
mistake. But he says that
Col. P. made some statement -

That be repeated it with
out exaggeration - You
know how ignorant English
men generally are about
this country. & you are also
aware how Weston is given
to pomp & vanity. Mr. D.
told me however that
they had "tried" to impress
the Spanish fleet with
the belief that Cuba
was only in range from
the North. " & if people
are untruthful in one
instance - they are apt
to be so in another -
I hear (from undoubted
authority) that Col. L.
did not pay all his bills
in Madrid. & I imagine

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Destruction of Burnside's
fleet. but I hope that
it has gone far South.
I don't believe in perfect
performance & I want
a slow but sure
immediate benefit may
be expected. - Unless
something extraordinary
happens - I intend to
apply for a "Pass" to
go South but the first
of March. So - although
I cannot bear the thought
of getting lost on Reception
Vot - yet - I want to
rejoin Mr. Duncan. &
therefore - shall endeavor
to reduce myself to

But notwithstanding the rivalry of the transcontinental lines of railway and with such limited liberality by the Federal Government, notwithstanding the rapid & continuous development in form of the railroad cities, the commerce of the country has maintained a respectable though relatively feeble existence. So great and rapid has been the development of the great valley, so vast the growth of its population and so immense the surplus of its agricultural products that the railroads have been unequal to the tremendous task of moving the accumulated stores, & so overwhelmingly so that the tonnage of the railroads in the last year before the war was 697,000,000 tons, while the River and its tributaries 400 vessels of 69,000 tons while in the year 1860 there were but only 101 vessels of 11,000 tons, which the local carrying trade has since then increased to 1,000,000 tons, and it is believed that the total tonnage of the river and its tributaries is now 1,000,000 tons.

Commerce of the Union. And this notwithstanding the
 grant of a single acre of land to the
 about to pass of a single dollar of money
 but thanks to the Taig Liberty of Congress
 science has deepened the mouths of the Miss
 river since the Great Eastern came land at
 the wharves of the Crescent City. The genius
 of Eads has triumphed over not only the
 mightiest river of the world but ^{also} the prej-
 uices and jealousies of those who were pro-
 visionally interested in his failure. Scientific
 speculation has at length become demon-
 strative truth and Mr Coker's hypothesis
 may now be tested in the crucible of
 fact. What has been the effect of this
 ancient increase in the depth of the channel
 through the South Pass, upon the Commerce
 of the river? ²

But aside all hypotheses and conjectures
 and truly solely upon the commercial re-
 cords of the city of New Orleans, what you
 be too that persons to the construction
 of the future, the receipts of grain and
 other articles furnished at this great Me-

chain I have not yet received it but I know it is pretty

Give my kindest regards to Aunt Roman & the Wookies & any other
of yours or my friends & yours are always mine
All kind much love Lily has not named the baby yet that we
know of The Lord watch over & bless you my Lexington July 3rd 1864
Dear Brother - love your loving sister
Ellen

Many thanks dearest brother for your two kind letters, which
I would have answered long since, but every day something
has prevented so I have at last concluded as the Parkies say
to "face the music" & not stop until it is finished -

There is some little stir here among the populace, an
account of the wretched condition of Kentucky - many persons
are leaving the state among those you know, are Mr Charles Boddy
who is going to Canada & Mr. Peator & family to New-York
& possibly to Canada - Brother Henry is very anxious for us to go,
but mother says every body can not go, & if other people can stay
she can, I don't that just like mother? - I do not know
what we will do - I shall not be surprised at anything,
In our last letter from Louie she said Willie Perkins is not
very well - he will be home next month or the one following -
London is still held as a prisoner, they are at Indianapolis

Many thanks for the beautiful chain you made me, every one admires
very much, if I could I would kiss you for it.

I saw one of Capt Wobblers men when Gen Morgan was in &
talked to him for half an hour, I don't you think I was
such a monkey, I did not think to ask him his name? He is
from Holly Springs Miss. We went out to see Mr. Tom Clay the other
evening & Harry has received a partridge he married, & is a widow
Sister told him once he might have me for a sweet heart, but
Harry thought I was too young - so I told Mrs Clay to ask him
if I might have his step-son - I am regret, I cannot write
you about the affair - but I can never write any thing as I can
tell it; but one thing I can tell you, you know me more
than you should - but never mind I can explain all some
day - We have had another letter from your ^{brother} Prandal, he is very
well & says he expects to visit Spring Hill & Summers Crest
this summer; I hope so they will all be so glad to see him -
Mr. Humphreys said the 19th of this month for he is on his
way to Ky. Pa says he does not know exactly what he
will do - It is said Lillie Winfield & Edw. Clay are to
be married, & I should not be surprised if it were so -
he has been quite devoted of late & Mrs. Went told me
he had been asked to be groomsmen by Ed. Clay on
the 25th of this month - but he did not tell her to whom he was
to be married - & he thinks it is Lillie - It is also said
Mary Oreston & Anselm Bush are engaged, he is there all
the time, that is almost every day, & Anselm leaves for Europe
in the next trip of the Scotia - Please thank heron for my

Aunt Lucy & Aunt Abby are going to New Jersey to see

I, Henry J. Duncan of the Co. of Hay
of the State of Tenn. a citizen thereof
do make ordain and declare, This
instrument written with my own hand
and subscribed with my name to
be my last will and testament
revoking all others. 1. All the payment
of all debts I owe. 2. I do hereby
ordain and declare that my estate
remain together and undivided and
managed by my dearly beloved wife
and son H. J. Duncan Jr. for the
joint and common benefit of all
my family until my youngest
daughter Eliza attains the age
of twenty one years and the profits
after defraying of family expenses to
be invested by the Executors as
they in their judgment shall
deem best for the benefit of all
the family. 3. I do ordain and will
that my estate when divided
shall be divided precisely as if I
were to die intestate that is one

... of my ...
... of this ...
... and ...
... the ...
... all my ...
... pictures ...
... and furniture ...
... possessions ...
... for domestic ...
... shall ...
... at my death ...
... and articles ...
... I desire ...
... to ...
... discharge ...
... needful ...
... and ...
... my ...
... daughter ...
... slaves ...
... devised ...
... in trust ...
... shall ...
... my over ...

... for life ...
... estate ...
... in my own right ...
... absolutely to ...
... furniture, plate ...
... and carriage horses ...
... which I may die ...
... of such slaves ...
... as she may ...
... I desire that there ...
... sale of property ...
... such things stock ...
... my executor may ...
... he is authorized ...
... any slaves for ...
... that may not be ...
... on the farms as ...
... I do hereby wife ...
... all my estate which ...
... be ... to my ...
... all real estate ...
... it is hereby ...
... Henry T. Demean ...
... and that ...
... and ...
... all of them their