

zugabronft fallen. I hope you all are
not fooling us about Charley Voshies.
If he should follow the old maxim
of our family he would not come
to Europe at all, although he has
determined to come over. We however
are expecting him now every day
and if he should come on the ~~Vanderbilt~~
he ought to be in Paris, in which case
he would be here in four or five days.
Claude went to Paris about a month
ago and instead of taking up lodgings
in the Latin quarter as he expected,
he went to ~~Madame~~ ~~_____~~ (I can't spell
the name). He pays 800 Frks a month
for everything which is not so very
dear for Paris, but for him is fearful
for he only gets 300 Frks or \$60 a month
and it will put him down to the lowest
mark. Of course it is impossible for him
to live in Paris on ~~700~~ ^{\$700} a year. He says
the Latin quarter is full of Americans
and that there is no difference in the
prices of things. He has therefore determined
to remain at the Madames this
winter and come back here as soon

as possible in the Spring.

Toke is here with me reading
Literary etc. We are both well.
The lectures begin tomorrow morning
and we shall attend them regularly.
We will remain next summer
Symeator here should we not get
contrary directions. I wish you and
Lee and Pa would consult with
one another and determine when
it would be best for us to leave
this benighted land Germany for
France. I am not anxious to
go to Paris the first six months.
We will put Charley Voshies to
work as soon as he comes, and
I am in hopes of giving in
a better beginning than you
gave us. What a great blunder it
was that you ever took us to Heidelberg.
Jena is twice as cheap and possesses
just as many advantages, and
has a population of about 6,000
inhabitants. I am in a fair way
of being introduced into the Prof's families
this winter, and there will be many

J. Gibson

and more

for small wages. In all earnestness, he would be a model servant for you and could be of immense service to you in your law office, as he is moderately well educated and speaks a little French. He is a son of a hotel keeper in Mairmar. Should you wish a goodmannered, good looking, humble and unassuming servant one who could drive the carriage, wait on the table to perfection, and assist you in business and in your office take this one. He is, I believe, not more than 21 years old about 5ft 9 inches high and has an open countenance and looks like a gentleman. Should you want a white servant, do by all means take this one. Should you wish him, write me directly as to the best means of sending, I might send him to Hewitt & Co in Liverpool

Who could then send him to New
York to their firm, who could then
forward him on to you. Do not neglect
this exceedingly rare chance. A finer
servant you never saw: polite as a
gentleman, and speaks no English.

Well how do you like
the marriage state. I cannot help
but laugh when I think of your
being married. I would like to
be in America about a month
this winter to see how you all
get along. You must give my very best
love to your wife, whom I shall
hereafter call Mary. I am sorry that
we could not give you some more
palpable marks of our well wishes, but
you understand how we are situated over
here. Give my best love to all the family
and tell each member to write. It encourages
us mightily in our hard work to get a letter
from home. John sends his best love.

Your affectionate brother J. M. K. Gibson

P.S. Subscribe to De Bows review, or Harpers review, or Weekly for one. Dont neglect this, It will cost but little. Do it immediately. Lalignani's Messenger is too dear, and there is not a single English or American paper taken in the town. We have no means of getting news from America except through letters and they come too very seldom, so trouble your self this much, I would prefer De Bows to Harpers, But either one or the other I must have if I have to write myself. You tell Pa to give you the money for it, I know he will not refuse, for we are positively shut out from all news from America. And dont forget the aquaretypes. I am anxious to have them. Be sure and send them. I will write to Pa as soon as Charley Korkies comes, which will probably be in a day or two. You will be encroaching upon my right, if you go to settle

D. Gibson down on Magnolia, For
and here I have been looking to that
place for the last year. Do you
had better look out. To be wants
to settle on Greenwood, but I suppose
these are all vain hopes, as ours
generally are. Do you want any
German paper (Zukunft)? We received
the invitations to your wedding, for
which we are much obliged.
Why did not you write us a letter
at the same time, for you directed
the invitations, if I am not mistaken
in your handwriting. I was surprised
to hear that Louis Hewitt was
a groomsman. I suppose however
you want to make friends
around you. I think my P.S.
is long enough, so adieu.
Laba wofl. Grüßß von uns Grount und
allu meinnu Freunden und Freundinnen
Woflu mir ein nettes Kind bist if dir
winden jaja, viel Gruffß da nicht zu
überfügen. Von dir liebendes Grount
Kiss

J. M. W. Libman
Geneva

July 3, 1860

I wrote a long letter to Pa
the other day but let it lie
over until it got too old to
send off. I have had five duels
on swords (Sf. lüger) and have
come off victorious from 4, and
the last was a drawn battle -
my opponent being three inches
taller than I and weighing about
lbs 190. I cut one man's head all off
so that he was confined to his room
for a week. Have you entirely
forgotten the degenerate types - or what
is the cause of your delay?
I hope you have not neglected
die fundirt dollaro utzuffuhren,
wahrn die ind in dinnun luytm
V. f. s. i. b. a. u. w. e. f. f. r. o. u. p. f. Hark ye! and
forget not. Das ist eigentlich der
jungherlich dieß die Briefe -
I am making great progress on the
Piano. Claude is doing well in
Paris, as well as Tobe here. Love
to all. Your affectionate Grandpa
J. M. W. Libman.

Shall I direct your letters in future
per Col?

Geneva Saxe-Weimar July 3
/60

Dear Hart.

I do not propose to
write you either a very long or
interesting letter for such is the case
of circumstances in Geneva that an
interesting propose would be
idle - I write merely to let you
all know that I still exist and
have not forgotten America. Tobe
& I have concluded, though not
absolutely, to leave Germany on
the first of September or October
according as circumstances may
be - and go to Switzerland
either to Geneva or Lausanne.
Paris is too expensive for our
allowances and it would be with
the greatest reluctance should I
have to call on Pa for more
than he now gives us. I feel

also a sort of conviction which tells me not to go to Paris not because it is so dear there but more on account of the great attractions which every day offer themselves and which draw the most resolute from their books. You and Lee were situated there well enough - but that happened by accident. The M^{rs} M^{rs} - house in Paris is full of Americans and I am ^{certainly} ~~not~~ the place I want to go to. Besides you must remember what an immense sum one must pay there for board and lodgings, I for one would not be able to stand ^{that}. But you know Paris better than I do and ought to know that it is no place for a student, as I want to be.

Charly Vothies left Weimar a few days since and this morning I received

a letter from him in Dresden. He has made the acquaintance of a Mrs Mops there from Louisiana, I believe, and seems altogether to amuse himself very much. He goes to Heidelberg in a few days - not at my advice -

I am paying my chief attention now to French and indeed am making a little progress. I find it harder than I thought, but ten times easier than German, as you from your own experience know. My endeavour is to learn the theory of the language before I go to Switzerland, where I will have to change the theory into practice. I am reading "Lermaine" by Abent - German I have completed, so to speak. I have brought it up to as high a degree of perfection as a foreigner ever does, and, to say an immense deal, I am tolerably contented -

J. Mth Gibbon
Genea. Aug 26th/60

I was surprised to hear that Louly had grown so large. Tell her that she is indebted to me a letter and that I expect her to pay her debts. It is a great pleasure to receive letters from home and especially long ones. Take this maxim to heart for you always write short ones. I am today in no mood for writing and consequently the abruptness of this letter.

I wrote a long letter to sister not long since, which she has probably received by this date. Send us your photographs by the first opportunity or by mail; they would reach us more safely and quicker by the last. You can send them in a letter just as well as not. I want sister's and Louly's too.

I must now close

Best love to all

Your affectionate brother
J. Mth Gibbon
Stu. just

Genea Saxe-Weimar
Aug 26th 1860.

Dear Hart.

I received your kind letter of the 6th inst yesterday and congratulate you most heartily on the "great" increase of your family. It seems laughable to imagine you the father of a child, when I reflect upon the different conversations which we all had in Heidelberg two years ago. At that time you had not the slightest idea whom you would marry. You ought to be proud of the addition which you have made to the Gibbon family. I was also pleased to hear that you had sent the money off. Should you have a desire to write to either of us, as I hope you will, it would be best for you to direct your letters to Geneva

as Tobe and myself expect to leave Germany for that place in a week or two. Tobe is already in Heidelberg — on his way to Switzerland. I have been taking French lessons for the last 3 or 4 weeks and can already speak a little, though here in Tena I never have an occasion to speak it excepting with my teacher. I intend to hear lectures in Geneva and read French literature as diligently as I can. I expect to stay there over winter and the next Fall go to Paris to spend a few months. Charly Vookies is now in Heidelberg as I wrote you in a former letter.

It is awfully languid here in Tena and were it not for the unfeinbaren Pflichten which I have been able to attain I think I would die from Langeweile. I never have an opportunity of

speaking English, though I speak German just as well; still there is always a little restraint when one speaks a foreign language — and especially German. I have been "lob" (duelled) eight times and have always had the good fortune of coming off victor. Tobe has had six or seven duells and has done as well as I. Today and yesterday are the first summer days that we have had this season.

It has rained continually during the last three months. There is no very important news here in Europe — leaving out Garibaldi & Co, who are gaining big names in Italy.

I have not heard from Claude for three or four months and have no idea what he is about in Paris. He seems to have forgotten us here in Tena since his high life in Paris. In his last letter he said that he was studying hard and attending lectures regularly —

J. McKittrick, Geneva
Jan 14th 1861

But enough of this, the last news we had from home was contained in two letters from Lee, and as he is rather prone to give advice than news, we heard but little of you in Kentucky. I hardly remember what he said. We have been waiting a long time for letters from you all but I am afraid we will lose our patience before we find your letters; however we will hope for the best. We are all settled down in Geneva for the winter - certainly not a very desirable place, but about as good as any in this miserable climate. I wished to go to South France but, as I supposed, my means were not sufficient.

We are all in fine health and poor spirits on account of financial affairs. We are afraid that Hewitt & Co will break and that we may have the felicity of working our passage home. I have no desire to work - that is to say, manually - still if Hewitt breaks we have no other alternative. We might as well hope the man who worked his

1861
Geneva Jan 14th 1861

My dear Sister,

We have just entered upon a new year - a year scarcely equalled since the existence of nations or in the lives of individuals - a year which has bestowed upon one nation a Union, peace, prosperity and a prospect of eternal happiness upon another it has brought a collapse of feeling, a disruption of a confederation formed by the wisest heads and linked by the purest blood, a breaking down of all that has been erected by prosperity - a prosperity the world never witnessed before, - a year which ^{has} surpassed all the sacred plans of our worthy ancestors and brought to the brink of destruction the American republic - a government neither surpassed or equalled since the days of Rome. What an all important year this is. While Italy is slowly regaining her ancient freedom America is falling rearward, downward into the abyss of anarchy and darkness. Each individual should now, while standing on the

the sorcery of the mansion of the future,
cast a look back upon the past and
mark the faults - the missteps - the blindness
of non-experience - and casting these aside
step forth boldly into the future - with
new resolutions - with new convictions.

I am now at the most critical point of
human life - at the end of youth - at
the threshold of age. Now is the time for
me to change or never. I look back upon
a past overbalanced by the weight of
faults, committed in the thoughtlessness
of youth. Although I believe (I flatter
myself as much) that I have a pleasanter
past to reflect upon than most people,
nevertheless I am very-very far indeed
from being contented. I scarcely believe
there is a man in the world who is perfectly
contented with his past life - and I
am like most men. But still it is a
strange thing - One knows that if one
continues on the road that one must
meet with the same obstacles - the same
same faults - the same deceptions and

still there are very few who leave this
broad road, when they once get fairly
upon it. The road to iniquity is much easier
to travel than the one to righteousness.
It is much easier to lose a fortune than
to gain one. Man is naturally prone to
evil. How profitable would it be if the American
people, in this day of trouble, could fully
comprehend the consequences of the steps
they are about to take, if the future could
but for one moment be opened to the
eyes of all! When the American Republic
has ceased to be, when small, unnatural
confederations shall spring up in the
place of an universal Union, when
the very neck of Liberty shall have been
destroyed by the hand of Passion; when
shall the poor and the oppressed then
find an ally? America has ever been
a kind mother to the poor - a chain-breaker
to the oppressed, a serpent to tyrants, but
when she is gone, how grievously it makes
one to look into the future. Our troubles
will never cease. Revolution must come in
the North and the South will be overruled
by democratic hordes of Southern men.

letter occasionally. There are a few
Americans in town, among whom I
saw Mrs General Thomas of New York, a
most pleasant and obliging lady.
The other day I saw a Mr Mitchell of
Miss. who had lived a long time in
Lexington Ky and whose home was
near Victoria Miss. He seemed to know
a great many of our relations & acquaintances.
He is a young man of about 20 years.
There are also two Misses Morgan here
whose father is a partner of Geo. Peabody,
consequently they must have a plenty of
"tin" but they are too capricious for
me. One of them is rather "soft" on me
but as she is about sixteen years old
and weighs about 160 lbs I of course
cannot not "make up" to her. The quantity
overbalances the quality - however I expect
they have the same. Jobe and Claude join
in love. Charly Vookier is doing well in
Weidellberg; is in fine health. Now
Father do answer this letter. It is for
the sake of our names that I write it.
Love to all. Tell Aunt to write
Your devoted brother
S. M. Linn

passage on a canal boat, and who conse-
quently was put to leading the horses.
Now that I call in passing on a good
will and an upright intention.
We are in the midst of winter. We have
had two feet of snow and plenty
sleighbing, but as this was rather a
early amusement we let it be. We
have had any quantity of skating. Geneva
is not a very lively place and were it
not for the Americans & English it would
be as quiet as Noah's Arc. We have the
densest fogs here I ever had the pleasure
of seeing; the sun has shone three or
four times since November. Mont Blanc
is occasionally to be seen - and as distinctly
as if it were not more than three or
four miles off. Toby and myself are
working away at French as we have
been entirely disregarded it up to this
time in account of German. We are
getting along slowly - i.e. at the usual
snail's pace. A language is a difficult
thing to learn - as you probably know.
German I found ten times harder than

French. Claude learned the latter two years ago. before he understood German. He has not a difficulty in speaking it. Have you ever forgotten what you learned in Philadelphia? I can scarcely say what our course will be the next summer. I am afraid I shall have to remain here on account of inability to get away. I don't go and come when I where I choose. Tell Hart there is an old flame of his here: a certain heiress - Miss Riggs, whom he unfortunately met in Dresden two years ago, and to whom he took quite a fancy, according to my judgement. But the poor benighted girl is in love with a German officer. the last and poorest specimen of humanity. I can't say whether she is in love with him or his uniform, probably with the latter, as that is generally the case with American girls who are captivated by foreigners. She treats him, it is true, some thing like a man would a good

horse. When she stops for a length of time at any place, she tells him to come to her, probably she sends him money for the trip. German officers are not remarkable for their riches and Miss R. is. I think there is nothing more despicable than to see an American girl in love with a foreigner, it's against all the laws of nature, and the taste of mankind. They are always unhappy marriages, but it never them right. I am about to drop the piano as something which it is impossible to keep up with my present means; if Hart is willing to support me in that respect as he did last year I shall continue; otherwise I cannot. I have learned a great deal and two more years would make me a fine performer. It would be a pity to let it drop now. The money and time spent upon it would be thrown away. John has given up all idea of ever learning any instrument. Claude plays well on the flute and a little on the piano, but he neglects the former entirely, and only fingers on the

Geneva Feb 15th 1848.

Dear Hart,

I have directed the enclosed letter to you fearing that the postal arrangements with Louisiana have been interrupted. I wish you to forward it to Pa as soon as you have read it, and not to stick it in your pocket and forget it. I wish you would occasionally give yourself the trouble of writing to one of us. You are either lazy or negligent to say the best of you. You promised to write us regularly. Until you got your barley you did so, but since that time you have forgotten us. By the way, Miss Riggs is still swelling about Geneva in "purple and gold" albeit in ermine and a fine carriage. She has taken ~~the~~ notice of our visit, and on the whole I am rather glad of it. She still keeps up that affair with the Saxon officer, but they say she is afraid to marry him. I only hope she may be scared out of the notion of it. Claude is in Paris. He visited about ten parties in a week, and is now quite tired of them. He leaves soon. He has been having a look at Miss

Calhoun of Ga. but he says she with all
her thousands does not please him.
So much for that goose chase.

Tell Sister to write me soon
and often. She seems to have forgotten how
to write since I left America. I have
no proof that she has not.

I wish you would help us
in to come off over here. You might
do it if you would try, but I am afraid
you are doomed to laziness.

I must finish; am in a fearful
hurry. Give my love to all.

Tell Louly to write me.

Edwin in love to all.

Love to Mary -

Your affectionate brother

Wm King Libron



he will take up the Jews' harp next.
I can of course say nothing at all about
our plans for the winter and shall make
none until winter comes. If I spoke
French very well I would go home
immediately - but there lies the obstacle -
I must learn French now or never and
for this reason I would like to stay a year
longer. German we both speak like
English but that language one easily
forgets, as perhaps your own experience
may tell you. I have seen so many
Americans who speak the languages poorly
that I am disgusted with them all.
The English are worse off than Americans
and for that reason are ridiculed all over
the Continent. I have written to sister several
times but have received no answer as yet.
I would write to Pa immediately if he
were not certain that the mail was
interrupted. I know of no news which
could interest you. Give my love to all
and write soon you and all.
Don't hesitate to call us home if it be necessary.
Your affectionate brother L. M. G. Liben

My double, I have
received a letter
from Claude
announcing
his safe arrival
in Kentucky.
Since that time
I have written
a letter to
Louis which
he will receive
in a week
from this date.
We are in a
fearful state
of anxiety on
account of
the troubles
at home. The
last news
we received
through the
papers was
that the war
had fairly
broken out
and that in
consequence
of a proclamation
of Lincoln
concerning
an army of
75,000 men
that the
gub. of the
slave states
were about
to secede.
Our country
seems doomed
to an
ignominious
ruin. Civil
war however
is the result
of all
free governments
nor is
America to
make an
exception.
Our only
hope is
that the
flame of
freedom,
which has
thus far
burned so
brightly,
may not
be smothered
by the
ambition
or envy

Dijon France May 6th 61

Dear Mother
Some few days ago we received a letter from Claude announcing his safe arrival in Kentucky. Since that time I have written a letter to Louis which he will receive in a week from this date. We are in a fearful state of anxiety on account of the troubles at home. The last news we received through the papers was that the war had fairly broken out and that in consequence of a proclamation of Lincoln concerning an army of 75,000 men that the gub. of the slave states were about to secede. Our country seems doomed to an ignominious ruin. Civil war however is the result of all free governments nor is America to make an exception. Our only hope is that the flame of freedom, which has thus far burned so brightly, may not be smothered by the ambition or envy

of a few glory-seeking fanatics.
Thus far Kentucky has been sitting
on the fence, afraid to descend on
either side, I hope she will not leave
the South in the time of need.

In Europe all troubles are said to be
caused by the South. The time will come
when she will be undecided. We expect
to be called home daily to take part
in defending the South. There are but
few Americans over here just now.

I have not heard from Charley
Vorhies for two months. At last we
he was still in Heidelberg or in
Prague but intended coming to France
in a short time. He is acknowledged
the best fiddler in Germany. I suppose
we shall see him in Dijon. Before long if
every thing goes on smoothly, if Kentucky
takes a part in the war, as she must do
sooner or later, he will probably return home.

To be and I are pretty well contented
with Dijon as there are no English
or Americans here. The city itself is very
attractive. The neighborhood is lovely.

abounding in pleasant walks.

We speak French only, when we speak
to others. I am in hope of learning it
now in a short time. To be does not
live in the city, but in a village a
few miles off—like Schwetzingen or Hei-
so we see each other about once a week
only. I would like to take a course of
reading in English but I cannot get the
books. I feel that I am forgetting it in
the efforts to learn French and retain the
German. It will be absolutely necessary
for me to spend a year in reading English
in America—that is to say and keep up my
studies at the same time. I still keep
knocking a way at the piano. I shall
be able to play you something pretty when
I come home! I would like to spend more
time at it than I do—but you know
how dear music lessons are in France.
I can only afford to take one a week.
To be has tried every instrument I can
think of, piano, guitar, flute, violin
and now he is working on the accordion
the meanest of all instruments. I think

20 dollars a month making them
board themselves -

The stock seems to be doing
well. I told him to pay especial
attention to this department as
both beef & hogs would be of
more value in the fall than
all the rest of the crop -

Everything is getting on well.
I shall ride over tomorrow
or day after and go over the
farm -

Sister is after me -

Don't forget to bring up with
you my uniform and a pair
of boots from Lehots - summer
No 6's, but he has my measure -

Sister joins me in love
to all -

Your devoted brother

McKilley

Summer's Forest March 5th 66

Dear Hack.

Sister and I are on the eve
of starting for Spring Hill where with
Miss Julia we will take dinner and
not return until late this evening.

While waiting for Sister I will en-
deavour to scratch off something of
interest to you -

I was at Hartland a
few days ago and found things
jogging along as usual. I had quite
a talk with Mr. Atkins about the
hemp which you want him to put
in. He says it will not produce
more than a half crop viz: it will
be a failure. He is opposed to planting
the 25 acres of hemp. I told him to
prepare the ground and have every
thing in readiness and that I
would communicate with you

about it before it was time to plant. Do you still want the 25 acres put in. Besides this Mr. Atkins thinks the wheat will be an entire failure. The season has been too wet & cold. In case the wheat be not worth saving what do you want put in its place.

The barley in the 43 acre field - the first put in - is, Atkins thinks, in pretty fair condition and will yield a moderate crop. The 65 acre field is very bad, a great deal of it being frozen out.

How much corn do you want planted. I think pork will be dearer next Fall than it has been this - chiefly on account of the great scarcity of beef. For the first time beef is shipped in large quantities from N. Y. to England. If the plague gets into this country, pork will be

worth 20 cts per pound on the foot.

I see no reason anyhow why there should be any decline in price. I think you ought to buy 100 pigs and put in corn to feed them.

I told Atkins to stop cutting wood - across the pike by the tollgate - as there is now no sale for it at your price and he has 120 cords cut in the woods and no money to pay choppers.

The post & rail fence commencing at the toll gate or that way has been completed nearly to the gate to the house, completely shutting in the woods across the pike, thus preventing negroes from hauling the wood off - the gate is kept locked.

Atkins says all of his hands are going to leave him, so I told him to engage as many as he wanted until you came but not to pay them more than