

GIBSON & AUSTIN,
Attorneys and Counselors at Law,
No. 5 Carondelet Street,
NEW ORLEANS.



If not delivered in 10 days, return to #27

Cal Hart Gibson
Lexington -
Kentucky

4000

1.000-
1.600

March 1st - 800.

but to Jan. 15th 1871. .304

N.O., May 11th 1870

Dear Hart,

I am at last located here and
am all ready to go to work. I write
simply to learn if you have heard any-
thing of my license. I am of course rather
impatient to get hold of it so that I
can put out my card and solicit business.
If you have not received it and think
it likely there may be further delay, I
think it would be well to write to Judge
Peters and acquaint him with the urgency
of the case. I am in Lee's office on my
own hook and all letters should be
addressed to me here. Until the receipt
of the license, I can spend my time very
profitably reading & attending court; etc.
I should feel much better if I had it
in my pocket. I searched every nook &
corner at home but could not find

the original.

I left home on the 9th Monday.
All were well at that time. The case
had come out finely and promised to
be a complete stand -

The Vances returned with me, and
will go on to Memphis in a week.

Louise will leave for Lex. the last
of this month. She is busy sewing
to get ready -

Pa was in good spirits for a while
but didn't like to see me leave

Best love to all

Your aff. brother

McKusky Gibson

Miss R. 6.6.9 10 20 8 2
1 5 4 3 3
3 2 3 5
11.7.2
6
4
300
210
82.00

300

M. W. F. S. A. M.
19
L.A.



Col Hart Gibson
Lexington
Kentucky

Newspaper Postage, Drawer and Box Rent

Payable Quarterly in Advance.

Post Office, Lexington, Ky.

Mr. Col. Park Gibson Dr.

To Postage, from 1st May 1864, to 1st July 1864, on Newspaper

Dolls Cts.

To Drawer Rent, No. 285 - - - -

Received Payment,

, P. M.

7/11

Newspaper Postage, Drawer and Box Rent

Payable Quarterly in Advance.

Post Office, Lexington, Ky.

Wm Snyder G E

Dr.

To Postage, from 1st *Apr* 186*7*, to 1st *July*
186*7*, on Newspaper

Dolls Cts.

10 15

10

To Drawer Rent, No. - - -

Received Payment,

1 00

, P. M.

\$ 11 25

N.D. J. Carondelet St
May 19th 1890

Dear Hart,

Your very kind & considerate letter of the 17th inst came to hand this morning - with the enclosure of \$200⁰⁰ on Grinstead & Bradley. I was not in immediate need of the money, but in a large city like this it is well enough to have something on hand to meet emergencies.

I think this will run me until Christ-
-mas, if I can get anything to do here, which I think I can do.

By the time all my letters arrive I reckon you will begin to think I am very anxious to get my license, and you would not be much mistaken.

I think I could make a hundred or so dollars during the month of June before the Courts all close - which takes place the 3^d of July. I thought you might have heard something of it when your letter was written, but I suppose Judge Peters is taking his time about it.

It would save me a great deal

of unnecessary trouble. Still I know
you have done everything that could
be done under the circumstances,

I have been written to, that Lube
and Lencie leave Oak Forest on
Saturday the 21st inst via N.O. for
Ky; so you may expect them soon.

The weather is very warm and crops
splendid. Thermometer at 86.

The Vances leave on R.E. Lee to day. I
go to the boat at 5 to see them off.
Miss Ashmore left last Wednesday.

All well here - Mr^r Montgomery
leaves last of the month.

Pa is in splendid health.

Ever gone off brother with
kisses & love to all

Wm Kinley Gibson,



Col. Hart Gibson
Lexington
Kentucky

Luther Gay
Boston

Mass

30. Boomfields W Boston

824120
52.
168120

52.
100

who are passed by the committee, usually
always pass the Court. The committee, you
see is the great obstacle. Now you will
observe by Sec 113 as copied, if I present
my license I am not examined by the court
at all, but only by the Judge or Judges etc -

This is a great relief to me, as it diverts
the matter of all difficulties & formalities
and as I can easily form the acquaintance
of the judges of the S. C. I shall have
no trouble; but then I must have my
license, and I cannot express to you
how impatient I am about it. Could
the Clerk of Court or Appellate at Frankfurt
do anything in the matter? Whatever can
be done please do it immediately, as
I see an opening for business, and my
position is a very embarrassing one.
Do not be put off in any way.

Besides I am at great expense, and I
heard it rumored this morning that the
Supreme Court would adjourn soon.

I cannot see why Judge Peters cannot
sit down & write out the license as he
did at Frankfurt & send it to Judge Williams
for his signature & return it to you.

Yours M. C. C.

N.O. 5 Carondelet St.
May 17th 1870

Dear Hart,

I this morning looked up the law
in regard to the admission of attorneys from
other States and send you a copy taken from
the last edition just published;

"Sec. 113. Any person having been licensed
to practice law in the superior Courts
of any of the States of this Union, on
the presentation of said license to any
one of the Judges of the Supreme Court or
any two of the Judges of the District Courts
with evidence of good moral character,
who after being duly examined, by said
Judge or Judges on the laws of La, and
found qualified to practice law, shall be
by said Judge or Judges licensed to
practice law in any and all Courts of this
State, on taking the oath prescribed by law;

This is the first section in regard to attys from
other States. You will observe that this applies
to attys who have been simply licensed
and not admitted, in which case they
must undergo an examination; Now

comes the next section: viz.
Sec. 114.

Att'ys at law who have been admitted to practice at the bar of the highest Court of record in any State of the U.S. may be admitted to practice before any court of this State upon motion of any member of the bar of this State, and upon presentation of a certificate that such atty has been duly admitted to the bar, the same being duly attested by the clerk of said highest Court of record and bearing the seal thereof, which shall be spread on the minutes of the Court with the vote admitting the applicant to practice.

You will see that where one has been admitted to practice, under the above forms he may do the same here without examination. I was licensed by the S. Court of Ky, but the license was never recorded and I was never admitted to practice; so I take it I come under the sec. 113, which requires that I should stand examination. I shall go to work and prepare myself and shall be ready in a week time, I shall nevertheless require the license from Ky, as there the examination will be merely nominal

where as without it every effort is made to "pluck" candidates. I have known of late many persons who have been rejected - You wonder amongst others

I send you the above extracts, so you may see exactly where I stand, Lee has small cases in his hands which he desires me to manage, and if I had the license I could get other business immediately.

I expected to receive a letter from you this morning, but was disappointed.

Lee & family are all well.

But, love & kisses to Mary & the children.

Yours aff. brother,

Ed. Kinley Gibson

P. S.

I desire to add a word more. According to the law of this State applicants for admission to the bar, must be examined by a committee of seven lawyers, who hold during the session of the Court, and of late they have been extremely rigid. This is where all young candidates are caught, if successful here they then appear before the Supreme Court (Open Court) and are again examined by all the seven judges, but persons who

GIBSON & AUSTIN,
Attorneys and Counselors at Law,
No. 5 Carondelet Street,
NEW ORLEANS:



If not delivered in 10 days, return to 43

Miss Louisiana H. Gibson
Care of Col. Hart Gibson
Lexington
Kentucky

myself to take a step if I
had. I know her too well.
I hope you are enjoying
yourself. How is your time,
let nothing escape. How did
you find all your friends?
Have you seen Cousin Peggie?
Write me about her, for you
know I feel a little interest
in that quarter still. How
does she talk, look, act etc.
I suppose you have been
to the weddings.

How is it? Does he not seek
my license? Is there any hitch.
I leave here next Saturday the
11th for Opelousas, shall return
immediately. Can I do anything
for you here? Best love to all.
Remember me to Cousin P. when
you see her. Won't she be in
N.O. next winter. From accounts
from all quarters, I leave ~~the~~

N.O. 5 Carondelet.

Sunday Leave 5th 70

Dear Louie.

I came round to the
office this morning to get
cool and to write you a
note to let you know how we
are all getting along.

Today it is very warm and I
concluded to stay away from
church for once.

Pa came down on Wednesday
to make purchase of clothing
etc for the negroes. He is in
splendid health and left
every body well and things
in fine fix at home. The crops
are doing splendidly at all the
places, and on Monday we
begin to lay by the first year
straw at Oak Forest. The old

etubble has come out wonderfully
and promised a larger yield than
that of last year. The weather is
extremely dry. The rains will begin
soon I suppose. Pa is still in
town - remained over to see
Albert Gibson, who arrived from
Mabile early this morning. He
came immediately to Lee's house
where we all met at breakfast.
He is looking very well. Has
just lost his youngest child.
All well at and about Vicksburg.
Pa returns in the morning.
Wants me to go back with him
but of course I do not think
of it. Have engaged a fine
room for a month from 15th
of June - at 63 Dauphin St.
I gave Dr Richardson two
of your photographs. They thought
them very fine. I can get
more of them if you desire

them as the negative is pre-
served. Many people are
leaving for the summer.
Minnie Buckner is gone and
hundreds of others leaving.
Hav'nt seen Frank Morehead
since you left.
Why don't you or Pabe write
to me? Hav'nt received a
line but hope to find a
letter in the office today.
The mail is not opened until
1 o'clock and it is now 11.30.
Called on Mrs Pope. She had
heard from Betty V. Said she
was preparing to return to
spend the summer across
the lake. You have no idea
how anxious they all feel
about me in connection with
B.V. I am perfectly amazed
for I really have no serious
intention, and should not allow

we are to have an extremely
gay season. The Opera will
be more brilliant, if possible
than ever. It did very well
last season financially, and
in point of ability - you know
there was not a better one in
the world. Michot, the tenor,
and Dumestre the finest bary-
tone known - have both re-en-
gaged for the coming winter,
and the manager is now in
Europe trying to secure the
finest performers of the old
world. I hear the season
in a social way is to be
extraordinarily gay. Many persons
have promised parties, and the
city promised to be overrun
with strangers - ladies & gentlemen
from all parts of the U. S.

Miss Leta & Miss C. Stauffer
are to make their debut together

and will create a stir. A
Miss Sackhouse is to come
out also. Her father, a planter
below the city - has bought Chas
Cox (or Koch's) white marble house
a few doors from Lee's for
\$85,000. and promises it as a
wedding gift to his daughter.
The Marshalls of N.Y. will
be here also. So you see N.C.
will be a Paris indeed. You
must persuade Cousin P. to
come down about Christmas.
I will guaranty her a splendid
time - exceeding anything she ever
saw or heard of.

I am studying hard. Must
pass at Opelousas at all hazards.
Will then get out cards etc -
Love to every body.

Your devoted brother
McKinley Gibson

McKINLEY GIBSON,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
5 CARONDELET ST.,
NEW ORLEANS, LA.



Col Hart Gibson
Lexington
Kentucky -

H. L. GIBSON,
J. E. AUSTIN,
M'KINLEY GIBSON. }

GIBSON, AUSTIN & GIBSON,
Attorneys at Law,
5 CARONDELET STREET,
NEW ORLEANS.

July 27th 1870-

Dear Hart-

About three weeks ago I sent you a power of atty to be signed by all of those in Ky, in order to enable us to put the possession of Pa's one third of O. F. into his own hands. I suppose it was received safely in due time, or if not I should be glad if you would write me immediately, so that I may have another copy drawn up.

Sister & family, of course, you have seen. She seemed to be pretty sick of the plantation, as any lady will soon become if she has to manage free negroes. Since she left, Pa writes he has no sort of trouble, and that the negroes all do their work cheerfully; probably because there is nothing to do, and splendid opportunities for stealing. I intend to run out next week to remain several days.

It ~~is~~ has been pretty warm here for New Orleans, but nothing like what you have had in Ky and elsewhere. I stepped into, Dukawell's, ^{where} the official thermometer is kept, yesterday and asked him the degree; it stood at 86 at 4 in the afternoon. He then told me that the mercury had never yet risen above 90 this summer ^{in N.O.} and our real hot weather is over. The rainy season has set in and the almost daily showers keep the atmosphere tempered down. We shall have pleasant weather from now on until winter, when I suppose you will be here. Business is very dull, almost nothing at all doing. I am fast becoming initiated. The practice here is very simple. Have you ever opened office in Lex?

Pa talks of going to Virginia to get hands in August. How would you like to meet him there?

Best love & kisses to all

Your affectionate brother
McKinley Litton

What has become of
Yole?

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to



Col Hart Gibson
Office of "Daily Press"
Lexington
Kentucky

well for you to make a deed of sale
of your interest to Sister & send to
John for record.

Since we began work - Feb'y 1st - it
has been raining all the time
mostly & very little has been done.
I have not been over any of the
places, but am anxious to get
out to see how things are getting
on. I understand the plant
cane is coming up splendidly
- particularly at Greenwood.

The sows are said to be well marked.
I have just returned from N.D. I
left all well - and Lonnie a
belle & general favorite. I
can't but repeat the oft recurring
wish that we were all rich.

Best love & kisses to Mary & children.
Send your "dollar weekly" -

Your devoted brother, Chas. Kinley, Jr.

Oak Forest Feb'y 6th 1871

Dear Hart.

I have just copied off the
devised notes & bonds of Ridgeland
in full and you will have now
nothing to do but to make out
such a deed as will convey the
place to Claude. I suppose it ought
to be made to him in fee simple
with an expression in the body of
the deed or parenthetically of the
manner & consideration of the trans-
action so as to be a matter of
record hereafter and possibly a
bar to any disturbance of us here.
The deed once made out & recorded
and the transaction complete our
responsibility ceases and it then
remains for Elodie to take hold
or look after the place, by qualifying

before the Court in Miss. She will take a great interest in the place when she feels secure in its possession, but unless then I know she has made up her mind to have nothing to do with it.

A deed made out in conformity to the laws of Ky will, I make no doubt, be exactly the thing for Miss. provided it be amply authenticated. Billy Boockinidge can easily write it out for you and then it can be sent to Messrs F. & L. B. Valliant Atty at Law, Greenville, Miss. for recording. There is no use in postponing a matter of this kind and the sooner settled the better.

Our ^{Mrs} Co in the 's of this place ought to be arranged some way so as to render us not liable to disturbance hereafter. The other places are owned by the partners

alone - i. e. three at Greenwood and one at Maquoka, whereas here ~~the~~ every member of the family has an interest, which may, if any one saw fit, jeopardize the welfare of the entire place. If any member should die or become involuntarily & creditors push you can imagine what a fix we would be in. Lobe made me a deed to his '6 & '3 in consideration of \$5,000, but Lee & Louie & yourself were to settle by the notes - at \$25,000. I confess I should feel extremely uneasy with these notes in Pa's hands - especially as they are mortgage notes & would have to be recorded - but as between these notes & a universally joint partnership I hardly know which is preferable. Pa says he will place the notes in my hands when they are transferred to him. Perhaps it would be as



Col Hart Gibson
Daily Press Office
Lexington
Kentucky

McKINLEY GIBSON,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

5 CARONDELET STREET,

NEW ORLEANS.

I believe Bacon is doing very well at G. wood. Pa has not begun to push him yet but will soon commence - The plant came up there is coming out splendidly and in most places is already a stand. It is coming up well at all the places, but it is best at G. wood. The rows there are distinctly marked and the cane thick.

If we don't all make a good crop this year we shall become seriously involved. Upon return of acct current for the year '70 of F. C. & Co we stand \$4200 & odd behind - a deficiency - now add outside debts & we shall begin the year with nearly \$20,000. Debt. Add expenses of '71 \$2000 & we have a total of \$22,000. to be paid Jan 1st 1872 and a crop of 200 acres of cane to do it with not more than \$25,000, at the outside. I look with much hope to my plan of settling the jail. It is very strange how

Oak Forest, Feb 23^d 1871

Dear Frank,

I received yesterday a copy of the Dollar weekly Press the first I have seen, tho' Pa says several copies have come before. It has quite a Metropolitan appearance but the headings of all country papers are generally made to appear the chief part of them, and generally are, and in the case of the Dollar Press the heading is too fancy, and instead of the word Dollar, if anything, I should have placed Morrison College or a couple of oze horses, or fine cattle - or better nothing at all. The heading suggests at once a story paper. The reading matter ought to consist of few editorials, many short stories - the more sensational the better - one con-

-titled story to make people keep on
buying - and filled with short cu-
-rried out-of-the-way facts & sayings.
A weekly paper is generally read by
plain country people & plainer
town laborers and mechanics and
young girls, and it must therefore
be characterized by much that
is sensational, and of infinite va-
-riety. The great danger to which a
news paper of any kind is most ex-
-posed, is a tiresome monotony, like
the Observer. The copy of the 6th of July
or any other day of the year, will an-
-swer for the whole year. The great
secret charm of the Louisville Courier
& formerly of the Journal is & was
their infinite variety - never humdrum.

Now that things have settled
down and we have fairly set
in for the year, I will try soon
to write you a letter, and endeavor
to bring this country into notice.
I shan't attempt anything but
a plain every day letter, such as

I would write to a friend asking
information about the Country -
you can publish it or not just
as you like and I shan't feel
hurt if it never sees day light
in print, because it will be no
effort, simply a letter, if I
write at all.

Louise is still in N.Y. She wanted
to remain until after the Mardi-
-gras ball at the opera given by
the Myetick House of Conus. She
will be home now in a few
days. Johnny Woodhead is in N.Y.
and I wrote to Louise to bring
him out. The city is jammed
with strangers - hotels all over-
-crowded and every nook & corner
in the city filled. You never saw
such life. Canal street is almost
blocked up every day. I suppose
the people will begin to leave now.
~~It~~ It is estimated that there
are not less than 25,000 genuine
strangers now in the city.

the keys. I understand she sent them by mail to Louie care of G. & A. Street 5 Concord St. Possibly Louie may have received them since I left the city on the 18th but she had not up to that time.

Today we are planting cane at Magnolia. Lee's white hands don't amount to much in spite of Grant's "spy pole".

I will write you again soon. We are for Lake Saturday. He has not been here in a month. Col Blackford has returned & was here last Sunday. He looks about as usual.

See all.

Give many kisses to Mary & the children with much love. Much love to Sister. I will write to her soon.

Yours devoted brother
M. Kinley Gibson

a new idea seems to strike people in different localities at the same time. Many people are now putting up settling tanks and last year 1870 - the McCalls on the River just above Donaldson made 900 hogsheads by this process and sold (averaged) at 11 cts, while we were selling at 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. The sugar is said to be white. Burnside made 700 hds by settling and sold at 11 cts at the same time. Here is the secret of all success in any business. We can't afford to run our places and make mind. The difference between poor & fine sugar is our only margin of profit. If a man in any sphere in life does anything badly or makes a mean thing it won't pay. The above figures come from McCalls himself. Next month I am going to pay him a visit. He is a young man of my age - a great beau - travelled in Europe - finely educated - and an elegant gentleman.

Leman, I intend to examine his apparatus minutely, take dimensions, drawings, etc: etc: and if possible improve upon them. He uses the settling tanks - open kettles and strike pan like we used to have. The whole thing - having the kettles - ought not to cost over \$250 - When I have made the trip I will write you the results and then if it is not too expensive, you can have the same apparatus put up at Gwood. I will write you in detail. So my foolish idea of 1868 is in 70 & 71 making people their fortunes - My idea, I think, is not yet fully carried out to its legitimate results. I believe it will entirely dispense with kettles and much other like nonsense. I will work it up and if I can have any way will perfect it.

The season so far has been extremely favourable. The cane is sound and growing rapidly.

We have broken up over 125 acres of corn ground and have nearly finished plowing out our plant cane. I can't speak in figures about Gwood, tho' you may rely upon Bammon doing his best. We are running 15 plows and ditching besides. I am going to cut down expenses this year by opposing every \$ purchase, stay snugly at home, and run close to shore. We must get even. Merchants will swamp any planter. They get about 20% profit on their money and no body can pay that, except speculators.

We are expecting company next month - the Montgomerys, Stauffers and possibly others.

Please be sure to tell Sister the keys have never been received and we shall be in a quandary. Nearly everything is locked up in the silver chest. Tell her to do what she can there to recover

If not delivered within 10 days, return to

LAW OFFICE OF
GIBSON & GIBSON,
No. 37 Carondelet Street,
NEW ORLEANS.



Mrs Louisiana H. G. Carter -
Versailles -
Woodford County -
Kentucky -

LAW OFFICE
—OF—
GIBSON & GIBSON,
(Over Factors' & Traders' Ins. Co.)
37 CARONDELET STREET.New Orleans, Dec 8th 1876

Dear Louie

Your letter of Nov 30th reached me in due time. I am surprised that Cousin L. could have made any mention of any sums owing by us to her. I believe there is something due her, and as I expect in a few days to receive a certain amount of money I think I will send her something - say \$50.00, and later on something more.

We are in quite a muddle politically. The Rep. Board has counted us all out, as was expected, and unless the Cong. Com^{tee} brings relief, we shall be very apt to take matters in our own hands, as soon as Hilden is inaugurated. The swindle is so manifest that were not our dearest interests at stake the farce would be very laughable & enjoyable. We are only waiting to see what Cong. & Hilden will do. If they do not upset Packard & his set, the people will rise & put them out.

I have not heard from Sister in months, and you can well imagine how anxious I feel. I can assure her of one thing - that everything

is going to the D-L- (to put it strong) at Oak Forest
about as fast as can be, and if she does'nt come
soon she will find it a useless trip to come
at all. The young man out there Havelk is a per-
fect rummy - not sense enough to keep out of the rain,
and spends half his time at Col Johnson's or Col Black-
-fords place - dancing attendance on Miss Johnson -
The servants, Sarah & Jim & Forest are all about to
quit having received no money and rations, and ah
outs with Mr H. When I was there in Oct. the house
was literally filthy, and ^{had} not been aired a day. It would
make you cry to see the old place going to the dogs. I
bought two acres of cane up the bayou - soon in water, &
Joe had six half rows - in all enough to plant 8 or 10
acres - a pretty little start, but if it is'nt all planted
by the middle of Jan'y, I am afraid it will be useless
to touch it. I wrote Havelk to keep plowing, but I doubt
if he has done a lick, and if he has I presume, it is
mere skimming - not real plowing; and I don't like
to trust him with the planting. But I can't help
myself - I can't get away for a day, and I can't
get anyone to put in his place. So we must let things
drift on. I can't imagine why sister does'nt come -
I'll bet she is'nt here until spring, and then she
will be without the means of living.

The sugar planters are doing better than they have

RANDALL LEE GIBSON.

We are to have an
opera all winter with
Do Murakia in the troop.
in 4/4s

LAW OFFICE
—OF—
GIBSON & GIBSON,
(Over Factors' & Traders' Ins. Co.)
37 CARONDELET STREET.

McKINLEY GIBSON.

New Orleans, 187

done since the war. Mr Shaffer will net on his
crop \$60,000 - that means \$20,000 - McCollam 25,000
and all others in proportion. So you see what we
are losing. Ernest Burguires in St Mary sold one
half his place, or rather bought the one half of it of
his partner for \$26,000 cash - a small place -
There is great stir in the sugar interests & much
inquiry for plantations. On Magnolia & Greenwood
they will have 50 acres the coming year, which will
all be planted & the grinding come off the 2^d year,
They (M. & G.) are rented for 1/3 the gross crop, put
up in hhd & bbls - in sugar house. That is they expect
to make 300 hhd the 2^d year, 100 of which go to
pay rent, & not a dollar of expense - The man
who leases them (Joe Beason) has money to rent
himself and is called a good planter & honest.
So you see those places are in an excellent fix -
and in three years will rent at a high figure -
How it makes me rather dependent to think
of V.F. going to rack & ruin and being deserted for
want of some little attention. I expect all

our old hands will leave on the 1st of Jan'y if they make no arrangements with us. Their leaving will no doubt contribute very much to the comfort of the house, as it will save all worries, abatements, complaints etc. - but the fields will continue to produce abundant crops of suckleburrs, and if we want labor, we shall have to get other danties to take their places, which would ^{not} promise any betterment. Havelk is a perfect nuisance. I hate to go there on his account. He is pert, smart, a ceaseless talker, full of excuses, and utterly uneducated.

I think you may hope for good results at G. wood. Once on its feet, it will become valuable either for crops, for rent or for sale.

The city, socially, is very quiet. Miss Alice (Mrs Preston) is getting as fat as a butter ball. Miss Cora^U is dignified & is to be married in the Spring, I believe. She is engaged. My flame, way up town, is just as pretty & sweet as ever, and of course I am devoted. You know how devoted I can be. They do say her father is an awful old scamp, and as close as wax. - but she makes up for all this about evenings. Write me all the news, and if you can induce Peter to write, ask her to let me know when she will be down. Love is very well but desperately anxious for Eva to come.

With warmest love your devoted brother
Remembrances of course to Dr. D. D. C.

RANDALL LEE GIBSON.

LAW OFFICE
—OF—
GIBSON & GIBSON,
(Over Factors' and Traders' Ins., Co.)
37 CARONDELET STREET.

McKINLEY GIBSON.

New Orleans, Oct 17th 187

Saturday - Your letter to Lee of the 12th came this morning. You need not be afraid of his doing anything, which will in any way compromise your interest in upon Greenwood. The counter letter does not give to Luke a title, but simply renders him secure against Lee, his creditors or heirs.

The sugar crops are so fine this year that I feel certain sugarland will take value. We have about reached the bottom in our affairs, certainly we can't get any deeper, and with a change of Govt here and by crops everything will take value. The clear revenues of the injured sugar planters of Terrebonne this year will be immense. Duncan Coge estimates that Geno will make net \$30,000 - & old Mr Shaffer about \$50,000. In a year or two I am certain the general Govt will take hold of the levee question, and when that is once definitely settled, our land will become valuable, In the mean time we must try to hold on

to them, which will be hard enough to do,
I wish I could have spent a month
in Ky this summer, but it was impossible.
I may have the means next year, but I
doubt it.

Things are improving here a little, as
people return home from the North &
Europe.

There are crowds of Kentuckians here
with mules. One can hit them a square
off.

The canvass takes up all of Lee's time;
He is busy all day, & speaks every evening.

Give my best love to Mary & the children
& to Charlie if she is with you.

Yours
W. K. G.

go, I suppose to protect himself he wrote a letter which he thinks, which it may well enter me from my object, shall at least act as a disclaimer in any share of the inducements by which I was led to undertake the practice of the profession. I left this page for what it is worth. I assure you, if I felt, that even partial success depended upon the assistance of any patron - especially Lee, I should never dream of taking the step. As to the ultimate result, if I am not diverted from my object by greater necessities, I feel no anxiety. But success does not come all at once, and in the mean time I suppose a ~~small~~ ^{small} amount live, ~~some~~ if Palpsand don't agree with me. Lee says I can easily make \$50- per month to start with. Now this will go very far towards paying my expenses. My clothing I pay for at the end of the year. I may be able to make the same arrangement about board & perhaps lodging - as summer is approaching I am sincerely grateful for your offer & I may make use of it in part. I really cannot tell how much I shall need current until I go down & make the arrangements. You know Lee's experience is no guide for us. The economy would be asphyxia to him. After glancing over the past year since the war, I feel that I have no claim upon you for further pecuniary aid & footbacking in the present condition of affairs. Still my desire

I think you had better send me my application: I shall want the house partly soon after reaching the city. 1892

Destroy this letter
N.Y.
Oak Forest, April 14th 1890

Dear Fant
I wrote you a few days ago, but as something new had since come up I will write you a few lines this morning. You know when you left here you authorized me to draw for such sums as Louie might require from time to time. Since your departure I have not drawn for a dollar and Louie is very averse to calling on you for anything - proved as you must be. However whilst you were here she wrote to Mrs Whittingham for a dress etc for this Spring & Summer, as she could get it much cheaper in N.Y. than in C.S. I enclose you the bill which you will see amounts to \$28.15- and get receipt, whenever you find it convenient. We would pay this account ourselves, but as things now stand it is a question if we advance last until the 1st of Sept. We have agreed to be satisfied with \$7000. this year, and upon this basis L.C. & Co agreed to advance for us. The deficit upon last year subtracts to begin with \$2000. leaving us only \$5000 practically. If this we have spent already about \$1000. so you see, with one plantation and extraordinary

household expenses, we shall have to reduce ourselves to half rations. The house costs us one way and another more than one would suppose. The servants' wages, fuel, clothing, groceries, currents, small items, ^{etc.} make up a large sum at the end of the year. Pa says he never felt greater anxiety. We are trying to save every dollar we can, but we have a great deal of company - unavoidably - and this keeps things on the strain. The Vances see to be out next week. I don't get exactly understand what ~~they~~ ^{their} motive they have for that unusual outburst of cousinly affection. They evidently desire to make fair weather with us, and after so many years of indifference I cannot penetrate their design. I suppose it will develop itself after a while. Then Mrs M. & family have written they will be out next week - in fact the house is always filled.

I have not fixed upon the day for going down to N. A. but I hope to get off next week - this being Thursday. Pa is very reluctant and often refers to the necessity of my remaining here but I think he could get on quite well without me. I am still trying to raise the funds. I expect to hear from a party on Saturday. In fact I know Goodie was paid

\$2500. in money a week ago, and I have gotten Pa to ask him if he would lend me \$500. - in notes payable in 9 months with 8% interest. Pa is to let me know Saturday. Lee I cannot depend upon for aid in any way. I think I shall take a desk in somebody's else office and run on my own hook entirely. He offers me a seat at his table and later a room in his house, but under the circumstances I think I had better keep myself entirely independent of him. In the very letter in which he virtually denies me all aid of any character whatever, he expresses his aversion at my not being able & willing to take entire charge of Magazine. Still I make no complaint against Lee, for I know his responsibilities are almost greater than he can bear, his expenses necessarily enormous, and his desire to assume further responsibilities quite natural; and when the time comes he generally does a great deal more than he professes. A bad night's rest, of which he has many now, or a cold breakfast, or a mean cigar, may give the entire tone to his letter. You must just find out the condition of his stomach & find out the real aim of his remarks. He has been urging me to go to the city for a long time and now that I have made up my mind to

to render myself independent
of the many contingencies of
the planting life is so great
that I feel willing to seize
hold of any thing within reach.
I have great hope in Goode
but then he already holds
my vote for over \$600 - but
for division, and he may
feel a little squeamish about
putting any more eggs in the
same basket. But I shall
see. The plantation cannot
furnish a dollar for current ex-
penses. We shall be too close
pressed.

Sister & the children are all
up stairs studying - Lucy has
taken to riding twice every day -
We play croquet nearly every
evening under the oak in front
& to the left, where there is no

grass - occasionally we go
fishing at Yigerville or Cal,
Blackford.

We expect company here
to-morrow for Lutescence - The
McCullamit, Minors & Conelley.

The Cone at Greenwood is coming
out finely - and I think will
make a fine yield. I counted
yesterday up there nineteen hands
in the field and I believe all
men - four force is nearly as large
as ours & quite as efficient.

Bannan pushes things regardless
of quarrels - He has been on
the point of shooting one or two
but they all like him, I believe,
because he is just.

Best love & kisses to Mary &
the children -

Your aff. brother
McKinley Gibson

water we feel as safe as you do in Ky. All we want now is a fair season to the end of the year, and I think all your calculations will be realized. I feel a little anxiety about the grinding business. It will be awkward, but if all are disposed to meet in a proper spirit I think it can be easily managed. You will have to get out & haul I suppose, 400 or 500 cords of wood, but it is easy to get and not very far off - not more than one mile & a half, which is considered close by most planters - and a fine road - choice of wood - to haul on.

The dances are here. Both are very pretty. Betty is the most beautiful thing I ever saw, but utterly ruined by the world. Her motto is "après moi le déluge". Does not care a snap of a finger for any body or thing. She is the most reckless woman I ever saw - a perfect skeptic in every thing, but takes good care of herself. She is certainly a wonderful beauty - a regular Parisian belle.

All join in love to your house hold. Pa & all are well.

Best love -

Your aff. brother

McKinley Gibson,

P.S.

Send the license the moment it is received.

I cannot practice until it is received. With

York Forest, May 5th 1870

Dear Hart,

I have at last, I believe, gotten everybody up to the realization of ^{my} intention to go to D.C. - even Pa; who now that I am determined to go reconsiders every more. D.C. is a great city and I have no doubt I shall meet with much to discourage and dishearten, but I shall give it a fair trial, and if things turn out worse than I expect, why there will only be the loss of my expenses, which our crop will be ample to cover. I shall at first take a desk in Lee's office - until I get the hang of things, and make acquaintances. Besides it will save some expense, tho' I made it a condition that I should be allowed to pay my full share of rent, food etc. etc. It shall, of course, take my room out in town, as well as my board, and shall only dine at Lee's, when I feel they can appreciate it as a compliment. My room & board will, I suppose, cost about \$65⁰⁰ per month, which

in connection with other things will run my
monthly account up to about \$100.00 per month.
The expense of the first few months will be
greater than those of the succeeding ones, as
I shall begin with no practice & have to fix
up besides. He says he thinks he can guarantee
me \$50.00 per month in cases which he cannot
or will not attend to, and whatever I get out of
will be in addition to this. If I start as well
at this I hope to be entirely self-sustaining
by the end of the year.

I shall leave the plantation either this week
or Monday next - 9th at latest. I shall accept
your offer of assistance and will call upon you
from time to time in sum of \$100.00 as it
may be needed. I don't see exactly how I can
to draw on Trinidad & Tobago in N.Y. unless
I accidentally meet some body in need of exchange
in Lexington. Possibly they may have a correspon-
dent in the city or some one with whom they
are in the habit of doing business when they
have any there. You had better perhaps send
me bills of exchange on city - or you may
fix it in whatever way suits your convenience

best. You might send me a bill of Ex- on city
to N.Y. to begin with for \$100.00 and by the
time that is gone I shall know which is
best. Once settled I may find means of
getting board sufficient in the city to carry me
on until Jan^y 1st 76. But he is so unreliable
you know, you cannot put the least faith
in his assurance. Send along a bill for \$100.00
to the care of Gibson & Austin as soon as you
can. It will reach me in time to fix up on
my arrival, tho' that will consist of very little
a desk & a chair - will be the entire outfit.
But it will be some time before I get quieted
down and until then I know how the money
flies. I shall draw just a "little" occasionally
on our merchants as my part of plant^g supplies,
so I hope one way or another to pull through.

Pa was all over Greenwood yesterday.
The cane there is a full stand & is doing well.
For four or five days past we have had heavy
rain - softening the earth & bringing out the cane
& corn like magic. We have had an abundance
but not too much. I think you need give yourself
no anxiety on the score of the crop, and as to the

I doubt if any of us get away this summer.
We certainly can't afford it.

We have completed the settlement of Pa's stock
of O.F. by conveying it to me - all have signed
but you & sister.

Louise & Elodie & Claude are getting by.

L. & I go to Southdown today.

Remember me kindly to all, with best love
and kisses to Mary & the children.

With much love

Your devoted brother
McKinley Gibson.

Oak Forest, May 12th 1871.

Dear Hart.

The little package of seed we re-
ceived in pretty fair condition - it having
been washed in the mail and, I suppose,
a good many of the seed spilt out. I
planted them carefully the same day and
I reckon we shall have as many trees as
we shall want. I have two hickories and
one walnut growing from seed from
Spring Hill, and have enough Japan-plum
(*Mespilus japonica*) seed planted to supply
all the places. Pa has consented to allow
the garden ~~to~~ to be moved to the front
attract but when the time comes I ex-
pect he will so arrange it that the whole
thing will be spoiled. The season has been
extremely favourable for all crops and the case
in all the places is quite fine. In the big
field at Greenwood a little - say 30 to 40 ft -
back from the fence there is a slight depression
running nearly the whole length in which
the stand is not regular. What I fear is
that our method of planting came in the
old ridges - in land not thoroughly broken up
and planting always our present case, will

in a year or two draw the cane to 4 or 5 ft for the mile. I think the land ought to be broken up very deep and then the best cane planted. The cane is now about 2 1/2 feet high as it stands - the first year stubble being ahead - and the 2^d years almost nothing at all. We have a good showing here for 200 bbls and \$30000 to pay at the end of the year.

I have not been able to get to Mr. Call's yet to see the retiner, but my impression is his sugar house is full of costly machinery. My plan ought not to cost over \$100 - complete, unless it should involve material changes in the other arrangements of the sugar house. I want to have simply six or eight large hogsheads put up in a row and draw the juice from the top.

I have heard nothing of your sulphur machine. Pa is talking of putting things under headway in the sugar house at Good - Brite at the Corlies & Dohas at the Confederates work. If the settlers are put up at G. wood, you know it will require the juice to be pumped up and will therefore necessitate a change in this respect. I have been too much dragged about to pay any attention to the matter, but now that I am settled I shall look into it. If the experiment is a success - the settlers

should be made of iron and of large capacity with every arrangement for easy, economical and prompt working. This would run up the cost, I imagine, to \$200 or 400 to be perfect. It is still, in measure, an experiment, though I have never had a doubt in my mind since I first saw a humbler of juice settle. I think if perfected the plan will make white sugar.

Johnnie Dookies left us on Tuesday the 9th and intended to go by boat from N.O. as far as Memphis or Cairo - thence by cart. The Montgomerys left about a week ago and are in N.Y. by this time. They left N.O. on the 5th for "Belle Lee" to get off at Cairo. Miss L.'s departure was quite a triumph. Our relations are about what they have always been - nothing special. She says she was addressed by four or five young men and all rejected. I have my doubts about it, tho' any one of them would have pitched in if they had thought there was a chance.

The weather is cold. We have fire only. There will be very few oranges, barely enough for our own use. The freeze in Dec came near killing the trees.

I intend to try & get you some subscribers for your papers. Send me a sample of the Miss Valley Magazine when it comes out.

Lee has bought ten acres & three more wages,
So you see he means business. They are all
at Maymasia.

The oranges are turning slowly, but are as
sour as vinegar.

Routie joint me in warmest love to
you all, and many kindest regards to Mr
Mrs Duncan, Miss Dunster, Willie, Ellen & Kate.

Good bye

Your devoted brother

William Gibson

Oak Forest, Oct 6th 1842

Dear Mark,

Yesterday I handed Mr Early a letter
from you. Sugar selling is near at hand and
I would advise you to come down at the first
moment and bring Mary and children here. Of
course, the longer this is a house and in
possession of the family it must be understood
as the home of all without distinction—a home
belonging equally to all & open to all, so don't
let yourself or Mary feel one moment's hesitation
in coming straight here and staying as long
as it suits you & her. I don't suppose there
is much for you to do there, and you can
find plenty of pleasant occupation here in
getting things in shipshape for selling. The fall
weather has set in and it is delightful.
We have had frost and a few days ago I
feared we should have frost.

Sister seems very uncertain about her
movements and does not say when she
will be here. Her business seems to give her

a great deal of trouble, but I never saw the
time yet that she failed to equal the situation,
I am pinching & lopping off on all sides and
am determined in one way or another to bring
this ship through the storm, which seems bent
on swamping her. If industry, perseverance, in-
teligence and economy can accomplish it I
shall have no fears, but it is no child's play
and constant vigilance must be exercised day
and night. If I can tide over the winter and
get advances for next year I shall feel better
but the future looks dark, & threatening and almost
hopeless, but I tell you one thing, I intend to stand
right here and face it out to the end, nor be moved
a single inch by imaginary evils, and I shall in
the end have atleast the satisfaction of knowing
what hurt me, or of triumphing where many
would have shrunk away. I am getting to be
very much of a Thomas in my nature - I want
to put my finger on the holes themselves.

Well, we have had some shames of late and
I hope the cause may grow - it looks small
enough now, Inacius knows. I shall begin
rolling early, wish to meet expenses.

I think your crop averages better than mine
but don't count on anything. In such a
season no body can estimate the yield of corn,
It is very small, but sweet,
Your notes will be put in order next week
and you will then be ready to sell, but there
is plowing and sowing and planting all
to be done or not as you like.

If it will not interfere with your business
there I advise you to come down the day you
receive this if you can, but don't concern there
is any necessity for it. Things are progressing
very well at Greenwood, but I think you
could help them on a little and you will
find the life here as usual - very pleasant.

Lee will be elected to Congress
intend to lose this State this to
manner of means, Swindling
of the day now and we are
tattled on the Radicals - Jay hat
Warrmeth,

Don't put off your coming, I
up, buy or borrow money to go
and we will see what happens.

5 Cornhill St N.O.

June 29th 74

Dear Luke,

I have an expectation to try at 3 - it is now twelve o'clock - way up 8 squares from here so I haven't much time. I haven't made a fee yet and no immediate prospect - This exception is for Stuart Boston &c. & they are too poor to pay.

If you can sell Martha do the best you can - and get as much cash as you can. If you hear of two-bits catch her & the thief.

I sent your papers to Ogden's office. I presume you have heard from him. Business is very dull here. I expect Lee back at the end of this week. I received a card from Miss Lector from Richmond Va - saying all were well & safe. Of course I had to answer. Violette has done his best and got the matter. She can't stand him. I see no prospect for her.

I go to Court every day to pick up practice. I see Lillian there often. How can you raise money to go to Ky? I wish I had it or could sell something to get it. I want to sell that Oliver my old draining wheel. It is pretty tight papers here to get along. I room at Lee's, so come there when you come

down and you can board for \$1.00 per day, so
when you get well bored come down and
stay a while, we can loaf around and see
what is to be seen.

I have 'nt a line from Kentucky, but I learn
from good authority Lucy is to be married to
young Wm Scott - a very good young man
I believe with some plunnder. The report comes
straight from Allen Stiggins' house, it is not
a rumor, but a fact, and I understand
the young man has written to Sister, and
she ought to have received the letter before
you left Oak Forest on Sunday or Monday.

There is nothing to write. I am studying
the Code of Practice to get the points,
I will be glad when Lee gets back,

kindest regards to friends,

Devotedly your brother,
W Kinley Gibson,

This letter to be sent me about a week before
I had ever had an intimation of the fact
from Lucy or the young man.

July 29th 74,

Dear Sister,

I sent you a few days ago a supply of things and the ticket to come down on. Can't you come, we can see Goode & have a clean talk - invite him to dinner. I have not inquired about the 4 bales of musk, but stumbled on it the day it came at Welkinsons. He was holding it at H¹¹4.

Lee has gone to My. & Va, Monday. I am at work and in a great puzzle over a case for Factors & Graders, I heartily wish I knew more.

I have a letter from West, with no news in it.

Can't you come to Lee's house and take a bed? I am stopping there.

Alcide Knight did not come to see me as he promised. You can make

out the affidavits or rather sign them,
It has been very hot here the last few
days, I will write fully about the
mortgages - but nothing can be done
at present - can't have the sale till
1st Saturday in Oct; though it was hoped
it would take place in Sept,

The whole matter is in Lewis's hands,
I am going this evening - in a
hurry, to call on our old school teacher
Mr Buckner -

Come down if you can,

Love to all,

Devotedly yr brother
Wm. H. Wilson

N. O. Aug 6th 1874

Thursday P.M.

Dear Hart,

Many thanks for your letter of some ~~two~~ days ago. You must have suffered a good deal after such an effort, as it was rather longer than was to be expected. As you are now living at Hartford I should think you would find plenty of time to write as long letters as anyone could wish, provided of course you don't conceive them to be out of place upon moral grounds, which I believe is the case with you. Any way I was glad to hear from you.

Lee went with his family on first leaving here, straight to the old Sweet Springs - thence immediately to N. Y. for the purpose of having Mrs M's house repaired - remaining there only two or three days to complete contracts, and then returned here in all haste - having been dispatched for by Factors & Traders Ins Co. on a matter of business; hence his not stopping in Ky. He remained here ten days & until the 27th of July, when he received news his little Louie was sick, and besides the contractors wanted him in N. Y. so he put off again at a double quick, went to N. Y. - by the Eastern route, I think, and is now again at the old Sweet. He is constantly on the go, and his hands are always full of business. I hear from him nearly every day - either by telegraph or mail. All are well at the Springs.

You have no doubt heard that he had dropped Austin from the firm - taking me in his place. A's practice had fallen off to almost nothing, and in every respect

had become objectionable to Lee. We are occupying the same office, but he has nothing to do with our business. On the 1st of Oct. we shall get an office to ourselves, and do all we can to establish a real first class business, and I think we can do it with slight effort. The winter coming promises a good business season. The crops of cotton, sugar and rice will be unusually large, and as there has been very little credit, they have been made at very little expense. If we can get our political situation straightened La will set out on a career of prosperity. The lines are being clearly drawn here, and the fight will be white versus black, with both parties thoroughly organized. If we fight it out on that line I am pretty certain we shall carry the state.

Of course they would like to see you for Congress, but he doesn't fancy the idea much himself. I am now running the business in the office, and with my precious limited knowledge of law, I am constantly in terror lest some great question arise, which I may find myself unable to answer, but I am picking up pretty fast, and I know where to look and that's No of the fight. In the next week I have to bring suit on a mortgage, executory process, for \$16,000 - in which Lee sketched the pleadings. Upon examining the case I find him all wrong and his pleading to be upset. It is a cut throat business and one must be extremely careful to keep within the law or they will come back at you in damages. I hope I'm right.

Light places teach one as nothing else will.

Your friend, Bright - Summers book keeper or head man went into business two years ago by himself, and is now going through bankruptcy - so much for him - "a busted commission merchant" as he told me.

We have had very warm weather here for a week - 95 daily.

The city seems almost deserted - I scarcely know any of the "Can't-get-away's". Some have gone to Ky. I suppose you have seen Bob Simmons. The pretty Miss McFarland married Blake more a month ago & went to Ky to live - Louisville I think. Stauffer in Europe. Miss Alice to be married to young Preston - a comm. Merchant this Fall - No Kin of ours. The levees up the River are being built.

Lester still at Oak Forest - teaching Joe & trying to make a garden & live. She says she likes it and has a good time. Has visitors occasionally. Sew outfits in abundance at no pay - all hands living on contributions doled out at Nijerville by committee on Distribution. The places look like great weed plains - nothing doing. Worms ate up everything as fast as things appeared above ground. Greenwood has I think three or four miles on it and the implements - nothing more. Stands at law in Lee's name. O. F. will have to go through the will of the said. Our workdays are all more or less defective, but I think we can save it.

unless the merchants pay about \$15,000 - which I take it they cant do. Sister thinks she intends to cheat her out of her interest, of course. She is beset with that crank. It cant stand any longer in her name nor in mine. As far as any value is concerned the place might as well be at the bottom of the ocean. It will be put up 1st week in Oct. and then for the squall. I hope we may save it as a home for all.

Polk is still in Wouma doing his best and I believe is making a living. He is a better lawyer than you seem to think. I expect nothing will come of his affair in Ky. It looks as if the end of our misfortunes was at hand - now that we have nothing more to lose, and sufficiently covered with debts. Well I intend to strike out afresh here and try & enjoy life as best I can. Its all a curious thing after all. But it is our own fault if we dont make money - for the world is wide and people have made fortunes whilst we have been thinking.

Best love to Mary & the children. If I make enough I may run up later on - but no chance now

Devotedly Your brother M. Kinley Gibson

to worry about. We are trying to get white servants. Greenwood stands in his name clear of past mortgages, but ready for you & Fabe & Louie, when you can take the Randall Virgins is here. The funds ready, every evening here. As well & busy as usual. The city is deserted. My friends are all absent.

I am very sorry to hear people there talking about me in connection with L.V. when there is no real foundation for a single suspicion. It has always been my misfortune to be abused about somebody. I hoped Betty Vance would be the last. It is all back and measure and the serious such vile suspicions are dropped and forgotten, the better for all. It does not matter much with a girl, but with a married woman people suspect too much and produce trouble, which there is no cause for any. So I hope you will take occasion to deny the whole thing, or give me the names of those who are spreading such malicious & false reports. It is simply outrageous & I may say, infamous. These designs had nothing to do with my affair with Miss Lucy etc. for I was positively rejected before I got to Lexington - before, almost, I ever knew L.V. So you see how people can lie, when they are bent on it. Miss Lill rejected me finally & forever in La, & not in Lexington at all - and she will say so. If there is one thing I am sick of it is of people, suspecting me of all sorts of tricks with ladies.

If I got the good of the tricks I would not mind it, and by Gracious in the future. We see to it that I learn them & play them too.

"Then they can talk; but he laughs best who laughs last."
Best love to all - Devotedly yr brother, McKimley Gibson.

N.O. 5 Carmichael St Aug 14th 74

Dear Frank.

Your letter of the 7th inst reached me a few days since, but the card was missing. I was curious to see it, just to convince myself that you had actually hung your flag to the breeze. I don't suppose Versailles will ever have any law business in N.O., or New Orleans have any business in Versailles, but it is well enough to exchange the courtesies of the profession. I believe I have sent our card to all the lawyers I can think of, as it is customary, and they are the ones after all who send business from a distance. We shall change our office in the course of four or six weeks, to a better office, a more desirable locality, and further up Carmichael, over the Factors & Traders Ins Co, as Lee says "squat down on them", as they are his main clients and give him about \$4000 a year. I tell you I have to keep my eyes and ears wide open, for I am afraid of being caught all the time. Do you ask me the other day, if a tutor could give a power of attorney - such questions are apt to catch me in the vocative. Now I am again in a tight fix. We had a first mortgage on an undivided third of a piece of property, and another man held a subsequent mortgage on an undivided third of one of the other co-proprietors and had judgement on the property, is to be sold on the 29th subsequently to the mortgage. The property was divided ("partitioned") in kind amongst the three co-proprietors. Now the question is in this sale

under judgment of B, we'll say, holding 2^d mortgage, shall we
save our rights - or the rights of A - the first mortgage. But I
can't explain it all; it would take a sheet of paper. Here, I pre-
sume the remedy is a third opposition in motion to make the
sheriff turn over to us 1/3 of the proceeds. For see the proprietor
mortgaging his undivided 3/4 to us, is not the proprietor who mort-
gages to B - but two different coproprietors mortgage each their
3/4 to different persons, and then the 3 proprietors partition the
property equally in kind. One mortgage covers an undivided 3/4
of the whole, and said by operation of law necessarily comprise
half to the divided 3/4, set apart for our mortgagees. And I cannot
act inside of 10 days. Then here's another question. We hold a
first mortgage on a piece of property - have paid the taxes on it
three years to keep it from being sold, & hold the receipts, now
we want to foreclose in execution process; now what are the
pleadings to properly bring in our claim for the amounts paid
for taxes? They would require a regular suit, but the mortgage
is tantamount to a judgment. My motion is to make an affidavit
to the fact that we paid the taxes and have the receipts with
affidavits recorded against the property and then proceed on the
mortgage. For see these things get me into trouble - and there
is about \$30,000 involved. I often wish Lee were here to look
after his own affairs. I am going ahead to the best of my
knowledge and stand the consequences.

The weather for two weeks past has been hotter here than
was ever known before - the mercury standing every day
at 96 or 98. I hear many very fat people have calloped
and died, but there is not even a suspicion of yellow fever,
and it is not likely to come now. It is too late.

I shall probably go to Baton Rouge to the State Convention
as I have been asked to go, and have accepted, but we have
to hold an election in the ward convention next Thurs day. I
do this, because I am going to try & get the nomination for the
Legislature from this (3rd) ward, and if nominated am certain
to be elected, as the ward is largely white. It will pay me
\$8⁰⁰ per day during the session, and that amount said, for 60
days will help the cause considerably, besides putting me
in the way of making acquaintances, and becoming known
as a candidate. I rather think Lee will be nominated again
for Congress, and as the lines are changed, he is now in the
1st District, beginning six squares above Canal St & embracing
all the lower Parishes of the State to the mouth of the River,
with a white majority of 35,000. Reame looks almost dead,
from Lee. He is at the old levee, but expected to go to the
White Sulphur in a day or two. Little Louie is well again.

Polk is out at Houma - fighting it out on that line.
I don't suppose he makes much, but he cuts his teeth,
and gets one side or the other in nearly every case.
Sister is at Oak Forest - but not so heavily in funds as you
seem to imagine. She has been living all summer on
Govt rations - a peck of meal & 2 lbs meat - and when I last
saw her had not fattened on it. Her health is excellent and
she is not worried, and that's a great deal, we are in process of
trying to raze the place, by mortgages and I think will suc-
-ceed. Things are a good deal out of fix there, but the promises look
just the same. They are rebuilding the empires which over-
flowed us, I hear very substantially. All the same was
lost, and there are not enough mules left on the places

From Fob's letters I judge his astronomical prospects
have not been abandoned, as I at one time thought
the specter of getting ready and of his intended trip.
I hope it may turn out for the best, and that
he may at least find a home more congenial
than Hama. He makes a living there but no
more. The surroundings are not agreeable, and
I would like to see him located well elsewhere.
I will now bid you good night and write what
I have to report, as the train gets in at 8 Am.
Thursday 17th. He not arrived - of course. All are
anxious to see him and are a little angry.

Reports this morning that Genl. Emory is to seek
Kellogg, I do not think they are true. I wish to see
Emory but he was engaged with Ogden. The dis-
position is to fight with U. S. troops, and Kellogg
will never dare to rattle the streets.

I expect our little troubles will cause a good
deal of talk in the world. I am anxious
to see the comments of the Northern papers.
Of course they will abuse us.

There is nothing new. Give my best love
to all,

Your devoted brother,
M. H. W. (H. W. Brown)

N. O., Wednesday, Sept 16th 1844

Dear Hart,

You will no doubt have read better & fully
accounts of our glorious transformation scene, in the
papers than I can possibly give here. The victory
is complete and the spoils are ours. The Mc Eury goal
is fully attained and the citizens have gone about
their usual avocations - and all is peace, quiet and
contentment. I never witnessed such a universal
outburst of enthusiasm and rejoicing. If want
should unfortunately conclude to renege Kellogg
by force of arms, the desperation of the case may
make the people resist even U. S. soldiers, and I
would not give a cent for the life of any man who
would consent to be governor of this people under
such circumstances. The best people in town were
in the ranks, some with rifles, some with shot guns
and the majority with old pistols. The most likely amongst
the police were frightful. We had about 75 men in
the actual fight - the police several hundred. Our men
took advantage of the packages of freight on the
line - hay, cotton, pork, flour etc and at a distance
of about 100 yards poured us such rapid volleys
that about 20 of the police were killed and 80 or 90

wounded in about five minutes. Only 3 of our men were killed and four or five wounded in the fight, but some were killed & wounded amongst the lookers on by the police maliciously. Most of our loss was incurred in this way, I was in the ranks as a volunteer, but was attached to a down town league which did not get into the fight.

The city is more orderly & quiet and the people are hopeful & in good spirits. The ~~few~~ Radicals, Kelley, Dibble etc are in the Custom house under the protection of the U.S. troops and dare not venture out though they would probably not be harmed.

The Govt is installed throughout the State quietly and without force. The Radicals are glad to be let off with their lives. Do you think we shall be disturbed? I think not, we are now de jure and de facto - and what is more need no troops to maintain ourselves. McCaury was in Vicksburg during the troubles - by arrangement I think - but will be here tonight. Lee is expected in the morning from N.Y. The people are impatient at his long delay. He ought to have been here two weeks ago, as I wrote & telegraphed him. I think he will get his place this time in Congress. His accepting the nomination for Congress was against my advice, as I thought he had better remain here, push his practice and take the office of Governor two years hence; then go to the Senate of

the U.S. He can get any thing he wants. No man in the State carries as much weight as he does before all classes. He takes his seat in Congress a year from this fall, unless Chelton should be nominated. He has the nomination this year from the 1st District, as the district lines were changed by the last Legislature, with a majority in white population of 40,000.

I have half a notion to make a break for the Legislature, as it would help support me in the winter, and by the means of buying me practice, I have gotten over the law difficulties mentioned in my last, but my knowledge of practice is very defective. You said in your last you enclosed me your card but I did not find it in the letter. Have you had a case yet before the Court. I am afraid you are as timid as I am. I have been requested to speak to the people several times, but have invariably declined and I have reason to regret it. I intend to make an attempt the next time, come what may. Thursday week I am regularly invited to address a large club in this (3^d) ward, and I am going to do it or die in the attempt, and if I can make a hit, my nomination for the Legislature is certain & nomination means election now. Now I am full of doubts & misgivings, but soon overcome.

RANDALL LEE GIBSON.

LAW OFFICE
—OF—
GIBSON & GIBSON,
(Over Factors' and Traders' Ins., Co.)
37 CARONDELET STREET.

McKINLEY GIBSON.

New Orleans, Oct 16th 1874.

Dear Hart.

Whilst in the country a few days since, I enjoyed reading a letter from you to sister, full of many wise suggestions and wholesome advice which I suppose you gave in a Pickwickian sense as you are all the time disclaiming any intention of desiring to sway the actions of any body. I don't exactly understand the serious objections to Lucy's proceedings, as I have presumed that the young man or his father being possessed of a just share of filthy lucre, was also of a sufficiently respectable pedigree & connection to make such a match at least tolerable. I am told by sister that his letters were not of the ^{highest} type of teterary productions - in fact that in penmanship, spelling and ideas they were rare specimens, of what might be accomplished - so rare and so extraordinary that she confessed she was ashamed to let me look at them. Her feathers are all the wrong way and if Mr S. encountered her in her present

state of mind I think there would be a lavish expenditure of sarcasms & irony.

Loke is in a quandary - distressed at the probability of not being able to be present at his own wedding. He is scratching & scraping around and I hope he may yet be on time - but things don't look that way now. If he would marry and settle on Greenwood, I believe that place would be put on its feet in a short time. Planters are making plenty of money this year - Shaffer, the Minors, McCollam's, Gens, Nolan Williams, Dammis, Craigie etc are making tremendous crops and will net thousands of dollars.

We are doing a slow business here. I think I have docketed five cases in all. When the courts open & the crops come in we look for a great improvement. We have a delightful office and only need cases to make life pleasant. Lee is run to death nearly with his canvass. We shall carry this state certain. I don't think F. C. Ho., will get O. T. It will take a hard fight, as we have \$15,000 ahead of them, and \$8,000 mortgage of theirs is 'nt worth a cent - except in power of atty.

I will write again soon. Best love to all. Yrs M Kinley Gibson

RANDALL LEE GIBSON.

McKINLEY GIBSON.

LAW OFFICE
—OF—
GIBSON & GIBSON,
(Over Factors' and Traders' Ins. Co.)
37 GARONDELET STREET.

New Orleans, April 22nd 1875

Dear Frank,

We have just learnt from Oak Forest that you would leave by on the 19th for this city on business connected with Greenwood, recently brought up by some negotiations here talked about. I want simply to quiet you and assure you, at his request, that you need have no fears, that nothing will be done which you would not yourself approve of. He has the interest of all parties at heart and will not listen to any arrangement detrimental to the interest of anyone - particularly of those absent & whom he represents, as a trust, I fear letters from Sister may have given you cause for anxiety & alarm necessarily and I write this to put your mind at rest on that point. Whilst we would be glad to see you, we don't want you to incur so much expense for nothing

die, unless you feel able to stand it,
I am expecting momentarily to hear
of your being in the city, but have an
idea, that you would not take such an
expensive trip upon a letter from sister
with nothing to corroborate.

We are kept very busy, particularly
so just now, and Lee is bed with an-
other attack of his gout. He will be
out in a day or two - as the attack is
not a severe one.

All are well at the plantation. Luke
talks of going to the next week, to do
what I cannot tell. He is more "im-
possible" than ever, but warm hearted
& generous. Eva is amiable and all
here are very fond of her.

I hope you are all well up there,
Give my best love to all.

I hear Louie is looking splendidly
I mean sister Louie. I would like to see
your children to see how they have grown
& improved. devotedly yr brother
McKinley Gibson

Tuesday Am. Aug 31st - I have nothing more to
add. I am back in my office and at work.
I have the two codes bundled up ready for
the mail & will send them in a few days.
They are not the very latest, but there are
very few points left out.

A letter from Lee today, he has returned
to New York - probably on account of the
failure of the Bank of California. The agents
of that bank in N.Y. (Landow & Co) are the
holders of the Montgomery estate.

The summer has been cool & pleasant.
The city is very healthy. 108 deaths last week
out of a population of 200,000.

Not a suspicion of yellow fever and there
is now hardly a chance of its coming here
it has disappeared on the Gulf coast.

Fobe & Con both well. Fobe practicing
law at 26 Cornwell St.

I hear Duncan is a wonderful boy &
I know Lucie is well beyond her years.

Hope all are well.

With best love to all

Your devoted brother
Wm. H. E. Brown

N. O., Aug 30th 1875

Dear Frank,

I went out to D. H. Saturday, spent Sunday
and returned today (Monday). I found all
well out there and Sister quite uneasy about
business in N.Y., not having heard from you
in reply to her many letters. On arriving
at the depot at N. Y. on my return she
found a letter from you giving, I believe,
entire satisfaction. I read it of course, and
was amused at your supposing I had closed
up like an oyster - probably under orders.

Like you I have not written simply because
there was nothing to write, though I don't
believe a day has passed that I have not
thought of writing. Fobe (Eva) paid and
took up the notes, and held them against
the place. I do not know whether they
are good as mortgage notes or not, never
having seen them; but my impression
is they are simply in settlement of an ordi-
ary lawyer's fee in procuring a mortgage
and that they do not stand as a privilege;
still they are just as likely to be a valid

primarily debt on the property foreclosed against
and if recorded, may still stand as such not
withstanding transfers of the property.
These notes in that case can only be used
upon and the property seized and sold, which
would bring it back where it is now, practically.
Your debt has no recorded existence, and
I believe it is your intention that the
\$1700- shall be paid first. A foreclosure
would not affect you in the least. I don't
think Lake will ever recognize that he owes
you anything. He considers that if you
were wild enough to risk your money
on a plantation & lose it, you lose it
in the crops & bad luck, and that neither
the owners nor the land are morally
or legally bound to share your mistakes -
What's about the way he looks at it.
Lake is kind hearted and generous to a
fault, but his moral vision is just a little
dim, and in all this it is impossible
to hold him to an accountability. It
is not worth while. You need look for no
more in this matter, and as far as I
can judge, you can make yourself easy.

Lee thinks you were too hasty in blaming
him; I was not present and can't speak
of my own knowledge - I don't think

he ever intended to sacrifice your interests,
He has always spoken so feelingly about
you and seems to always take so much
interest in your affairs, that it would be
certainly extremely inconsistent if in this
instance he should pursue a course even
apparently hostile to you. We once have an idea
that you must have made some mistakes
of judgment or management in Key, and that
they might still be remedied by bold action, but
he was not intent on them to find fault, but
rather to point out the remedy. I don't know
which was most kind you or he -

P.H. is just as pleasant as ever. There will
be a big crop of oranges - the biggest in three
years - and he'll expect you and Mary to
come down (with your basket) and help
her eat them. She is very hard up for money
and has on little or nothing, but if all could
help a little who are there, the expense would
be almost nothing. I am going to try &
cut both Oak L. & Greenwood this fall -
I shall advertise. Early, I think, would like
to go to Greenwood. I wrote him about it.
The sugar crops are splendid, and even better
than it has been since the war.

Things are more hopeful here, and the
impression is we have touched bottom -

up town - single house, with double parlor & dining room
or single parlor & dining room & a study - three or four
bed rooms up stairs, for about \$500 - fifty dollars a month.
These houses are generally frame, but very comfortable & quite
nice. I mean unfurnished. They are a house furnished
would cost you \$700 - You can get good houses at
\$30 - to \$40. Very nice & well located, but not desirable
if you can get \$10. better. But the general price of good
family dwellings is from \$40 to \$75. - Your Leases run
from Oct. 1st to Oct. 1st. Your marketing expenses & account
gas, pipes & other expenses ought not to be over \$150. per
month. - or say in all about \$250. - per annum. I think
you could run fairly well on that sum - in a pleasant way
quite comfortably. - With \$3000. - you would be perfectly safe.
But you would have to economize, & help build up practice.
Practice must be acquired - and you ought to be here when
Lee is here - by all means. - He could introduce & advance you
immensely. - Put yourself in communication with him, and
try & be here when he comes - whenever that may be. - He can
do you more good than years of labor & exertion. - I shall
expect him here next week - say by the 25th of this month.
His position here is very prominent. - He is unquestionably the first
man in the State - in every way - as a politician, as a business
man, and socially. - No one compares to him. - He would be
desires Senators' attention, if it was deemed advisable to go into
an election - but it may be postponed until next session.

N.D. March 18th 1877
Sunday night

Dear Mark -

Your letter of the 13th reached me several days ago
but I have delayed answering until today - expecting to give
you an answer in full on all points. I cannot tell you
how glad I am to think that you intend to make the great
change which I believe will bring you wealth, honors &
contentment. I think I can fully appreciate the embarrass-
ments & troubles you have had. Every member of our
family mourns them deeply, and perhaps no member of it
has had a larger share of sympathy than you. It may
not have been expressed, but it has been felt. You have the
capacity to excel at law, and I honestly believe you will
find the opportunity here. Your affairs have been involved
and you have not done yourself simple justice. As Lee
says in a letter to me "with your wonderful talents you have
stood still for twenty years". You can retrieve ten of those
years by commencing here. You can do it nowhere else. The
difficult part of the road here has already been cleared, and
you have simply to join in the fight that Lee began so suc-
cessfully & that I have carried on indifferently. I can't
say how much longer I shall hold out. I haven't the
advantages or the ability that you have, and I need very
much the assistance, of some one, who will bring into the

business those qualities which I lack. But I fear your giving way at the last moment. I fear you may not be able to cling to the determination at which you have arrived. You are negotiating this. You have no promise. It is the peculiarity of your situation - circumstances & difficulties which you can never control. But you ought to let the ax fall. Liquidate if it costs money. Find out where you stand. Sell out - realize and you will be free to go where you please. Well - to business. First with reference to the law. I swear in before the Court of Appeals (Supreme Court) & by all means. You will not then have to be re-sworn here. You will be admitted without further ado. It is a matter of course by Atty. from Miss. Ala versus States. Attend to Court, swear in - then as to books. Post yourself on evidence - Read Greenleaf or Starky on Evidence carefully, cautiously. This you can do in two weeks by application. Borrow books of lively Beckwith or other lawyers, or the Lex library. Read also Equity jurisdiction and practice. Attend the courts or look at the pleadings. Don't give much attention to La. law. Mitchell (Lord Redesdale) is the best on Equity practice - or Daniels. But you can learn there. Remember our Equity practice is exclusively before the United States Courts. Our State Courts are equity & law courts - or rather we have no equity practice in State Courts - we simply state the complaint whatever it may be & ask relief without reference to law or equity. No distinction is made. Read up on Contracts (say Parsons), ~~also~~ Bills & promissory notes (Parsons), Insurance (fire & life and marine) and Admiralty.

I believe Condit's admiralty is the best or is at least good. The admiralty practice here is large & very profitable. It is easily learned. It is simple & requires little study. Pay no attention to Criminal law. It is useless. You can't practice it here. The main things are Contracts, Bills & notes, Insurance - Commercial Law & usages - Partnership, Admiralty Equity, pleadings & practice - Evidence and other things not necessary now to mention. There are books on special subjects which are useful to have with you. You might look into Corporations - their powers etc. A good book is one known as "Ultra Vires" chiefly on Corporations. I have sent you, two days ago by mail, to Versailles, our Codes - Civil Code & Code of Practice - also laws - not entirely reliable, but they will give you a general idea - and with the exception of perhaps a half dozen articles in each are correct. You need not try to learn the Civil Code. There is too much in it - a thousand times more than what appears on the surface. It is the most wonderful book of any age. It is almost literally taken from Justinian, & the Code Napoleon. Study the Code of Practice - Learn it well. It is small & you can get it in a short time. The Conservatory writs are very important i. e. Injunction, Sequestration, provisional seizure & attachment. Note difference between Sequestration & provisional seizure. Pay no attention to Civil Code - or little. Read Successions & "Conventional Obligations" (Contracts). But you will find it a curiosity - especially when you come to practice. Now about living. You can get a good comfortable house

Now I have written you on all points, I think -

You ought to be here with Lee - if possible -

I think, October 1st would be time enough for you to come down - not later, the courts close the 3rd of July & open 1st of November - Our practice has shrunk very much, and we can't expect much - not more than \$3,000 - all told the first year, but it is the case with all the lawyers - The future is full of promise & hope. With Nicholls prosperity will return - Things are looking up already - Plantations have gone up 50 per cent. Business is improving, and if we exert ourselves we can do a business of \$4,000 or \$5,000 per annum - I have no doubt of it. Sitting in an office won't get one a case - One must make acquaintances amongst business men, and business will come - It is hardly necessary to mention how delightful you would find life here - With this splendid climate & the advantages of church & schools your family would be immensely benefited - You would be near to Greenwood which promises much -

We would have to take hold in earnest - real sober earnest, drum up business & enter upon the fight of life - If you will try honestly & fairly I warrant success. You have all that is necessary, if you are only true to yourself. Only yesterday I heard a gentleman Mr. McGehee - a member of our Lyric latitude, say that the most perfect speech he ever heard, was made by you at Yale College -

You may remember him - He was in Karsell's school -
I think he had an older brother in Yale - He
complimented you extravagantly - No city in the U.S.
has a greater future than N.O. with decent government -
we expect great things - Property has gone up here fully
25% in the last four months -

Don't be alarmed at my letter to Lee - My general health
was never better - I am strong & well & haven't any
idea of giving up - I have a bad & dangerous cough
but I hope to get rid of it or keep on so - I have
recently seen even worse off than I am who have
had the same trouble & lived to be old - The cal-
careous formations - stones - are "nature's evil" as Dr
Bourne expresses it & Dr's Richardson & Scott con-
cur in the opinion - I am perfectly well, and
only today a lady remarked that I was getting fat.

Poor Charlie! I can't forgive myself for not
going to see her - I had time, but thought she was
past danger - Poor girl - I know how she must
have longed for her family - Well I must stop
It is after 12 o'clock Sunday night.

Don't give up your resolution - I'll not realize
& come here - Not many of us are left & we ought
to be together - Luke & Eva are both well and so
is the splendid baby - Best love to all,
Dorothy
W.K. Wilson

PAINCOURTVILLE
DEC
6
1871
L.A.



M^r M^r Kenley Gifford

Piquette

Boyer, Black
La

Row of Am. Col. Co.
Piquette
La

RANDALL LEE GIBSON.

LAW OFFICE
—OF—
GIBSON & GIBSON,
(Over Factors & Traders' Insurance Co.)
37 CARONDELET STREET.

McKINLEY GIBSON.

New Orleans, July 5th 1877

My dear Mary.

Of course I am delighted to get your letter of the 1st of July, and am glad to be able to say that the bundle for Mittie came to me, and was sent out a week ago, but I should ^{have} been so glad if you had given me a word or two of news.

We have all felt miserable about the advertisement - ~~ment~~ of the land for sale on the 25th fearing lest it might result in turning you all out of home, but you do not mention it - whether the property was sold or not. What a terrible curse that farm has been to Mark. In his place I would sell it at any price & get away from it as I would from a pestilence. If not sold on the 25th it is to be hoped that he may effect a good disposition of it by late Fall.

I have had a note from Lee - since day^s from N.Y. & two from Liverpool - dated the 15th at sea - He said he had never improved much in so short

I do not know whether Lucy intends taking Miller & Robinson with her or not, but I think she is very likely to do so.

is
time in his whole life. Mary & Leticia were
sick still - see a little for two days. They
are now all at Carlsbad, Bohemia.

What of Hart's project to come here & try what
he can do for work? Has he drifted from it?

The size of his family would make it expensive, and it
would not do to live in a very cheap style. Houses can
be had unfurnished from \$40 per month up - Work
could be secured on over \$1000 the first year - certain.

Also that everything would depend upon him. There never
was in this world anywhere a better chance. San Fran-
cisco is very humbug - dead.

I can't say that I will get away at all this summer.
Matters things come up & keep me here - and I am not
anxious to get off. I am perfectly willing to stay -

I heard yesterday from Sally. All are well at the
plantation. Lucy is expected here Saturday to go on
next week by arriving the 9th. So she will probably
be here between the 10th & 15 or 20th of July - She
is not looking very well - nor is Sister so well. Your

children are both well. Sister has put them through
a course of sprouts - their advantage -
I love to all, Yrs affly M.C.L.