

Very Special  
Steep Post

Mr. Wm. G. Gibbs



Figerville Station  
Gumbonne Parish  
Louisiana





Leymington. Sat. Morn,  
Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> 1869.

Dear Hart

Your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> has just been received. It is strange you do not get any of my letters. I wrote four times last week to you, and sent two papers. I have not been at Hartland for a week - during which time I have suffered much from an attack of croup - and am not yet perfectly well - indeed I have some fear of its being laryngitis - from which I was much troubled for three years - My illness is well - except a cold - and if it does not improve I shall bundle up - and go South to remain until

your return of course I shall take  
Louie & Susan. Mother said last  
night Lily might go with me - there  
would be no use in my taking a  
nurse - for I do everything for Mittie  
and she keeps well. Whenever I  
leave her she takes cold - as was the  
case when I went to Cin - I could  
pay some one to wash for me - and  
aside from that be as comfortable  
as at home. I shall write to you  
every day after this. My dear darling  
it is no trouble to write to you the  
fact is I always have more to say  
than I have room for. And about  
Louisville I have expressed myself  
in several letters - but for this spell  
I should have been there I was  
in bed all day yesterday - and a  
day or two since also - I can get  
you all the hands you need and  
send them on a boat - to meet  
you in New Orleans. of that I have  
also written. Your sister leaves  
in about ten days and by that

time I shall determine about going.  
all depends upon Mittie's cold - if  
it is no better I shall certainly go -  
if you think it best not to let me  
know. The fact is - you want us  
and have the Blues - is it not so?

It is rather cold to day - and  
the ground is white with snow -  
it makes me long more than  
ever to be with you - I am glad  
to hear of your Pa's improvement  
and also of Dr. McKee's - any change  
is good for old people.

I must close this for the mail.  
I shall write you a long letter  
tomorrow with a heart full of love  
and a thousand kisses. I am as  
ever your devoted wife.

M. D. Gibson.



Mr. Hart Gibson  
Figueroa Station  
Apollonas R. R.  
Lumberton Parish  
Louisiana.





Leysington, Sat. Morn  
Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 1869.

Dear Aunt

I came up yesterday  
noon just in time to receive  
your letter and the box of oranges,  
the children were perfectly de-  
lighted. Mittie danced about  
in great glee, there was not a  
spot on a single orange. I shall  
send your sister some to day.  
She has just come from Mrs.  
Dimmock's where she went for  
Sallie. I am now suffering  
from an attack of Croup -  
night before last I was quite  
sick and came up to get  
medicine. I am almost releas-  
ed to day. The ground is

white with snow. Mittie looked  
out this morning and said  
"Now! Mama, don't look at the snow."  
I enjoy you the fine weather. &  
if we were not such poor devils  
I would go down at once to  
see you. Next week I propose  
going to Louisville with Mother  
or Lily to look at houses and  
if I can find a clean house  
well located I shall engage it.  
But what about the last of February  
I must have Dr. Hillman. You  
cannot imagine how unpleasant  
it is to have so many different  
men upon such occasions and  
besides he & S. is so gentle and  
does not hurt me. Like Desha &  
after Mittie was born you knew  
how much better I was and  
as this is to be the last time I  
am anxious to get perfectly well  
for your sake as well as the  
childrens and my own com-  
fort for I know you do not

realize how uncomfortable I have  
been for the last ten years and  
I attribute it all to G<sup>o</sup>. Desha's  
roughness. I want you to be happy  
and not find fault with me.  
Whenever you do take me  
in your arms - tell me  
affectionately and kindly - this  
the only way to manage me.  
Much thanks for the oranges  
and as many more - for the  
Gears - when they come - I have  
quite a longing for them -  
All send love to you and  
kindest regards to all the family  
Much love and many  
kisses from the children &  
Mypself

Devotedly

Wm. D. Gibson.

Continue to visit to Lexington  
I do not think I can stay at  
Hartland much longer - but  
will go down about every two  
days. The same - Mary.





Mr Hart Gibson  
Sycamore Station  
Copolous R. R.  
Terre Bonne Parish  
Louisiana.



Again Preston to Mr Thornton  
all the Old Maids in Sep-  
go off this fall. Margaret Pinkhead  
and Samall are to be married  
next month. Mittie and the  
children make so much noise  
when I write that I scarcely  
know what I ~~write~~.  
Love to all - and many kisses  
and best love for my own darling  
Good night  
Devotedly  
Mary.



Wartland Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>

My dear Husband  
I have just  
received two letters from you  
of Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> - I know I have  
not written to you as often as  
I wished - but I have indeed  
been either very busy running  
about or too tired to keep up.  
I wrote you that Mittie had  
been sick, and having to hold  
her night & day - for three or  
four days has almost finished  
me. I am glad you are  
having such delightful weather  
and are so well. If you  
come up as you threaten I  
shall not let you go back - for  
you have now been away

just one month and it is like  
five - I shall go to Louisville next  
week and look for a house  
You are sure and certain about  
Louisville - I shall be too happy  
to have you established and  
practising law - for I feel as if  
you would be happier and  
more like your old self - If  
you will just love me as you  
used to - and pet me just a little  
you will never regret it - or have  
cause to find fault with me -  
and I shall have nothing to  
complain of. Your riding mare  
is out in the woods and the  
colts I keep in the yard so as  
to see that they are cared for  
Yours has distemper - but is  
getting well. Mittie had a  
slight attack of croup <sup>last night</sup> she  
said to day - I must tell Kappa  
she would give him her "de  
K. G.'s and obysing I dot - I thought  
her a toy of W. B. G.'s from

Cin - which she is delighted  
with. Mary Puston is to be  
married the last of this month  
Mr. Grousseau from Paris has  
arrived - and the house is almost  
ready - If I am invited I shall go.  
I shall enjoy the oranges - and  
the children will go wild for  
them - talk of them all the time  
Mittie says Kappa has done to  
Susanna to get her some oranges.  
I will send you the day paper  
in the morning that you may  
see what is going on.  
Kiddie talks of going to Mobile &  
New Orleans with <sup>Mr. Magobain</sup> George was  
here this morning for a few  
minutes he said, she expected  
to have left to day - but Mr. M.  
had not come to time.  
Some body is to marry Mr. Stan  
ley this month, he has been  
looking at Granville Smiths place  
& has almost made up his mind  
to buy it. Bessie Brand is to be  
married to Dr. Grimes - and



Father, while the shades of evening  
Gather round our household hearth,  
And the dews of heaven are falling  
O'er the bright & loveliest earth,  
Bending low, I come before Thee,  
In this sweet & holy hour,  
And in silent prayer beseech Thee,  
God, to guard me by Thy power.

Well thou knowest how weak & sinful  
And how prone my heart to wrong;  
Heavenly Father, change & cleanse me,  
That I may to Thee belong.  
May the paths in which I lingered  
No more by me be trod;  
Teach me, as a wife, my duty  
To my husband and my God.

Though unworthy of Thy mercies,  
Weak and erring, Lord I pray  
For the absent from our circle,  
That his footsteps may not stray,  
May he learn to love and fear Thee,  
Call on Thee when Thou art near,  
And while kneeling low before Thee,  
Lord, Oh! bend a listening ear.

Father, bend in mercy o'er him,  
Shield him with Thy mighty arm,  
While the cares of life beset him,  
Turn him from each huring charm.  
Turn his heart to Thee, and teach him  
How to bend the knee & pray  
For a savior's love to bless him,  
At the closing hour of day,

Guard and guide and gently show him  
All the goodness of Thy love;  
And when cares and griefs oppress him  
May he turn to Thee above.  
Teach him, bless him, in Thy mercy,  
That, when life's short race is run,  
He can say, when Thou shalt call him  
Father, may Thy will be done.  
Wednesday night Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> 1869.



Mr. Wm. Gibson  
Tigerwood Station  
Opolonus R. R.  
Tune Koune Parish  
Louisiana.





you being anxious about me  
and wishing me to write - You  
see what a fool I am about your  
loving me. I don't know why but  
I feel as if you love me better  
when you are away from me. Is  
it so? It is natural however for  
us to wish our dear ones to make  
much of us. Is it not? Do not  
fail to write as often as you  
can - letters for me - not for any  
one to read but myself - I never  
hand your letters to anybody  
they are too sacred - just like  
little private chats.

I have nothing but this (nonsense  
you will call it) to write about  
and you will think me  
so simple - but you may write  
just as much nonsense to me  
as you choose - and I will love  
you all the more for it.

As ever with your permission - Yours  
foolish loving wife  
Good Night. C. D. S.



Hartland Thursday  
Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 1869.

Dear Aunt

I wrote to you last  
night - and sent the letter to  
the office to day - by James  
Hodes - He came to hire your  
Engine - but I told him you  
would not let it out again  
but would sell it - that he  
could look at it - and if he  
wished to buy - he could write  
to you - but he said after  
seeing it - that there was a  
new patent - which he would  
get if he bought. Let me know  
if you receive the letter - it  
was dated the 10<sup>th</sup> - I sent to  
day Gratz paper the Observer

did not come - or I would have sent it. It is said Col Blackford is pleased with Louie. What do you think of it? How would you like him for a brother-in-law? My throat is very sore and the children all have colds if I could afford it - I would go South if - only to get rid of bad colds & sore throat. If you are to spend half the year at Greenwood - I shall always go with you - even if we have to stay in one of the Cabins. It is quite lonely here without you - and you know at best it is dreary - If summer would only last forever - I would never tire of it. After this month I shall dismiss David - and Martha is willing to do what I want done whenever I am here through the winter - for the use of her room ~~so~~ that will suit better than sending her away - for

we might need her. Lucy & Katy will go with us to Louisville and they are as good as many who get ten dollars a month. Giddy's Fanny is going to leave Sallie Warfield and I think is coming to me to nurse. Then I would hire a woman by the day to wash - which would only be two days out of the week so you see in a city we would save one way where we spend another. I have been thinking we might perhaps board at the Galt house as cheaply as keep house - if so - it might do for a while for during the hot weather we would likely be here. I shall go to Louisville in a week. If the children are well - and see about a house if I find one to suit I shall let you know at once. I do not think you can scold me any more for not writing. I am so delighted and surprised at



Mr Hart Gibson  
Tigerville Station  
Opolansus R. R.  
Terre Bonne Parish  
Louisiana.



110  
67  
011  
—  
246  
440  
3130

much of course the girls all thank  
Mary in a shocking manner.  
She said she had been sending  
off invitations - so I suppose before  
this reaches you - they will arrive  
for you all - upon leaving the  
said girls I will see you all next  
Thursday - that is of next week.

I wrote to you three times, or more,  
last week and sent you a paper announce-  
ing the death of Mr. John Shreve  
Craig Goodloe has about two hundred  
thousand dollars left her - and she  
is to choose her trustee. Isn't the  
Goodloe's braky dog? Warrin Dey is  
at Travlers. But he has not been here  
Your sister leaves next week -  
write often to me - and tell me more  
about yourself - Don't you think the  
oranges would come as well with-  
out the moss - it gets wet and is  
apt to rot them. Love to all - and  
ten thousand kisses for yourself -  
from your devoted wife M. D. Gibson



Lexington Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 1869.  
Wednesday Evn

Dear Hart

Your two letters of the 10<sup>th</sup>  
and 11<sup>th</sup> were received yesterday -  
continue to direct to Lexington for I  
shall only be at Harthand about  
every ten days. I wrote to you that  
I had an attack of croup - from  
which I have not yet entirely re-  
covered - Mittie's cold still  
troubles her - indeed if I find she  
does not improve as I wish - I may  
take her and go to see you -  
I shall go to Louisville as soon  
as my wheat is well - Now what  
do you think of my plan? Instead  
of sending a horse just now for  
me to stay where I am, until

after my confinement, then to board at the Galt House until the warm weather when we could go to Hartland where John D. Martin will be and Lucy also (if we do not keep house in Louisville). I will keep a nurse - and that will give us all the servants we require. We can board at the Galt House for two hundred dollars a month including everything except washing. When we are absent no money will be paid out - as there would be if we had a house and a servant in charge of it. If you are obliged to go South next winter I will go and take the children. We can fit up one of the Cabins at Greenwood - and you will be on the ground to look after things yourself which is quite in - port with all occasions. It would give me a fine opportunity to regain my strength, as I would have nothing to do but teach the children, and

I do not think it would be any more expensive than housekeeping we could see about houses during the year and know how the plan suited, you could get a law office and go to work in earnest. But of course whatever you think best, or whichever will make you happiest - is what I desire. This was only a temporary plan - for you know after my confinement I have always been very delicate more so than most women are and I should like so much to be perfectly strong and well as I was ten years ago - perhaps you would love me more and not find so much fault with me... I am writing in bed - not feeling Herans - when eight of the old set of girls met Mary Weston - we had a fine supper - no beer - and I do not know when I laughed so



Mr Hart Gibson  
Liguville Station  
Grisi Bonne Parish  
Louisiana.





but I hope I shall get well & strong  
again - so that you will find some  
pleasure & comfort in me.

Now will you write me just  
what you think best & what you  
wish me to do. March & April I  
shall be in my room unless much  
better than I have been hitherto -  
then May and June at the Galt  
House - without any care - and  
during the warm weather I can  
go to Scotland and South with  
you whenever you must go.

All are well except Father who  
is complaining - I think a Trip South  
would improve very much -  
we hear once a week from Ellen  
they have a new house and are  
much pleased. Annie Buckley is  
"enclint". Brother Henry talks of moving  
to Ill. permanently but I think he  
may be able to trade his land there  
for Bedford - which will produce the  
necessity. All send much love to  
you and kindest regards to the

family - a thousand kisses for  
you and bushels of love from  
your devoted wife -



Dr. D. Gibson.

Miriam has been trying to write you a letter  
Seymourton Sunday night  
Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> 1859.

Dear Hart

I wrote to you yesterday &  
the day before - but there are so many  
things for me to write about now  
that I must begin at once. You  
must answer at once soon as you  
receive this letter. I sent for the  
Dr. yesterday - and he says I have  
bronchitis - he gave me medicine  
for Mattie - and says it would be  
well for us to go South. Now as you  
expect to come up the last of this  
month - don't you think it would  
be better for me to take the children  
and go to you - as you expect to be  
about until the 20<sup>th</sup> of January.  
It will do them good and will not

be more expensive than your coming my throat and Ann's perfectly well  
up - for Lily will go and Mrs Hoagie this week - and go to Louisville tomorrow  
the children will not need a ticket week. May Proctor's wedding cakes  
and I can do without a nurse, if I place Thursday night and I am  
can only have my washing done - going if possible. Your sister leaves  
after I get to Live Oak. You said Tuesday week she will take her  
something about bringing a nurse piano and furniture. If you are  
would it not be as well to try to spend five months very remote  
one than first. Then about bands from home - we might as well be  
I can get you a dog or more - or together - the difference in winter  
arrang as you wish - start them clothing would pay our way down  
on a boat - and if it is necessary to and then if you board this year  
send some one with them. I do you will be better able to decide  
know - would do for he has been about a house - perhaps buy  
to New Orleans & has friends there one - I do not think it advisable for  
write ~~to~~ about this matter - I can me to move - to Louisville just  
get them for \$10 a month they furnish now I would be afraid of a mishap  
ing clothes - Cyrus says in Louisville - standing or any fatigue makes me  
there are a number of southern negroes feel like it was just about to  
who would be glad to go - he has a take place - I do not think I would  
sister living there - and when I go to mind the trip south - and by taking  
Louisville by paying his fare down care of myself could return with  
he will hunt them up for me you - in time from my confinement  
Johnny Simbalake will attend in Leg - having Dr. Skillman - I dread  
to anything for me - I hope to have the pain &c. more than I ever did.

Mr. West. Gibson  
Tigermill Station  
Terra Bone  
Louisiana





Morning washing and returned  
the next afternoon did some  
shopping and would have done  
more if our presses had been  
better fixed. Did all your letters  
go safely you did not write.

I suppose you have abandoned  
the distilling project I like to have  
many roads in the fire, if one  
fails another may succeed.

What does your father think of our  
going to Louisville? and he do  
they think it better than living in  
Lexington? All send love  
to you I forgot to ask you if Cyrus  
would be of any service he is  
too delicate to stay here all winter  
and is willing to stay all winter &  
do what he can for his board and  
expenses down. What do you say  
about it he might help at something  
but no hard work would suit  
him Love to all and more than  
I can tell for you with my

any number of kisses Good night  
Devotedly  
Mary.



Lexington, Monday.  
Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1867.

Dear Hart

The children are in bed  
and Douglas has gone to the office  
for the mail. if I do not get a  
letter from you I shall be much  
disappointed. but you will say I  
decide it do not fail to write as  
often as you can. and as many love  
letters as you choose you know my  
weakness in that respect.

My bronchitis is much better and  
I think in a few days Mittie will  
have improved. she is very lively  
talks much about you and is  
writing lines to you every day.  
whenever one comes from you, she  
understands as well as any one

and always wants to take it from  
me to read. The children are deli-  
ghted at the thought of going south.  
Here is a letter from you. I have  
just finished reading your letter of  
the 17<sup>th</sup>. It is too bad for all of us  
to reach you at the same time. but  
you have heard that "whenever it rains  
it pours". I am afraid my barrel of  
oranges is still in New Orleans. it has  
not come to hand yet. and John  
Brand was so prompt sending the  
first I think he would do the same  
with all. I shall drop him a line  
in the morning. and you might  
do the same to Lee or Hugh. Him  
the latter would be more apt  
to attend to it. you know Lee's  
old trick of keeping all that were  
sent to his care. I am delighted  
at your energy. you know how often  
I urged you to write about you.  
I did not say that you had been sick  
what was the matter? Home sick, I  
expect. I wish I was able to buy

the Rochelle place. you know how  
much I always admired it. I should  
not mind living there, it is so  
convenient to the railroad. post  
office etc. Now if I only had the  
five thousand. you should see it  
and get in your God acres. I don't  
know but what I shall get it. after  
all. don't you say anything about  
it to "nobody" what are you going  
to do with the Cargine and Mill?  
use it in the same house? when it  
is sent the barrel and all small  
pieces can be boxed up. Your  
letters are not half long enough. can't  
you write more about yourself?  
I wrote you that your coats were nicely  
cleaned. I would have sent them to  
you by express before this but your  
sister said she was going, and I  
do not know now that she will  
get off when she expects to.  
I thought I had written all about  
our trip to Cin. we went on <sup>the</sup> Thursday