

Mr. Hunt & Son

Your Obedy^t

Wm. H. Hunt

Lee Oak 19th May 1853

Dear Aunt,

It seems like a long time since I wrote to you and still longer since I had a letter from you. I have so much writing to do and my hand has become so tremulous that it might not surprise you that I do not write oftener - say in writing it to me so far as every effort of mind is concerned I begin to find it a labour to perform the manual part.

We have at length reached the point where we can tell our latitudes and departures: our passages are engaged in the Eclipse to leave St. Orleans on the 28th inst. and we shall go up the same day from Mibodawa and embark at Conception where the boat will call for us. We lay over some days before to St. Orleans to take a look at the city and will go on the same boat with us in his ~~own~~ house where he thinks his duty calls him to assist his Father. We have never had any one in the house that we liked quite so well and who ever discharged their duty more faithfully. I made him every offer to remain during the summer with Preston & resume his studies next Fall with the West boys but without effect. I had made him the offer to return again next fall but he is in great difficulty himself as to the profession or business he is to pursue & having been from home so long he wishes to see his Father & consult with him & look around for a while.

Prouton will remain here at least till winter in the season
and until I can determine where it is best to place
him for the completion of his education or so much as he
will take, as I am sorry he has so little determination to
get his mind better improved - but it is useful to fight
against a current and worse to endeavor to stem up &
put in motion a stagnant pool with no inclination to
move itself - I wish I could find a good school of
Agriculture in which the sciences were taught as well
as Chemistry & Botany - Prouton will make a good
Planter & I would like to study the branches kindred
to the pursuit - and in the Sugar Curing Chemistry
is very important.

I do not see any chance of getting either of
the boys into the West Point Academy nor do I feel quite
satisfied to put either in the way of it were practicable
they are anxious to get into the latter place or any where
else where adventure is required rather than solid steady
training or study - William is intended for the Dragoon
and quietest walks of life and I do not think would
suits either the Army or Navy to which his brother would
be glad to be in either place.

The season has been very dry and
very healthy - The crops are promising - Sugar & Indigo
are at low prices and unfortunately we have some
of both on hand at present - more than I like -

We hear now that your Uncle
North's health is again in a critical situation - so
much so as to render any certain arrangements

about your sister's marriage difficult to make - It is
certain if it does not take place so that she will go on
with Mrs. H. to be at St. Marks by the 15th June it will
not take place till Randall returns to Lexington - If
I do not get on to know R's address I shall certainly
be on to see you & elude at Commencement -

All join in much love to you all
I shall expect a letter from you in reaching Seta
= 12/10/20
Dear & ever Affectionate Father
J. Gibson

Oak Point 15 Feb. 1859

Dear Aunt

Upon of the 30th ult. with one from Sarah of
same date was duly rec^d. I write now because Wm. Gibbons
has been here and his information about the Hager land is complete
of the business there - He sold because he was a poor fellow and
he was not willing to occupy & improve what had so many objections
He says you & Porter's is different & by improving it, it can
be enhanced in value, that it is now worth 20¢ per acre
that it is of more value than the land Colo. Harker paid
25¢ an acre for - But he says it will take work to bring
it into cultivation and if it pays expense, the 2^d year it will
be doing well - more than his did - so you see you must
sely exclusively on Hartland - you & Porter's Accts.
including Hager place are larger than any - much larger
double of Sarah's & ten thousand more than David's all
another thing, Wm. Gibbons informed me that there was
not an acre of land depending worth buying at all
so I have given notice to Porter not to buy for in this
case you would most likely be the loser in getting the land

I just want to advise you at our next to make the best
calculations on the Hager property doing any thing in
the way of repairs but that you will have to raise
money at the end of this year to defray expenses. This is
what I anticipated upon your return upon Boston insisted
so earnestly on starting this year before the trees were
dead - but the property will be enhanced in value the
Season if you & Boston will only economize you can get
along - but only by economy & ~~work~~ which I have urged
on Boston - Save what all you can at Hartland - If you
can Mr. Verrill's Degree you ought to get one half the
Inst. - spent for a number of years by paying interest.
I do not know a young man of more practical good
sense than Mr. Gibson. Very much like Claude in appearance
but exceeding in industry & energy & good sense. Every way
reliable & honourable - He thinks your & Boston's place
can not be divided to advantage & that it ought to be
divided as one & split on one fine place - The improvements
are on Section 28 near the line of 27. He thinks
Boston will have a hard time but that the people
are obliging & the country improving fast & property

enhancing in value rapidly, that he might have got a
better price by keeping his place but that he can do better
in buying with his practical knowledge of the country, than
to have kept his place - He is about buying again and
in the mean time he hands on making a crop on the
River with his Father -

There we are nearly through planting corn
& tomorrow the Greenwood farm will be planting the
corn at Magnolia - We have cleared a good deal this year
small stone to get in all that we can -
Now all is in

Aunt Higgins in Arkansas - She says they were well pleased
with their visit here - Mrs H. was very agreeable and I was
truly sorry when they went away - She writes that difficult
Weather was opposed to her returning to Ky. They are down on
Old Richard for his treatment to his wife & his drinking -
I am afraid they are to bring scandal upon matrimony.
It is thought she is determined - I say so much to you that
you may not be in the dark - Matrimony is a real blessing
to those who properly appreciate it - but a curse of the worst
Sort where either of the parties are sensible to its high
Responsibilities & its appropriate claims & enjoyments - I do not
think Randall has any idea of such a thing just now - I wish
you would write to Charles & urge economy - his Aunt was
bring off Sam afraid of his husband's extravagance, I wish such an old
song with me it has lost its charm - Consider you sent him 200 \$
My letter of credit gave him 1500 dollars ¹⁵²⁰
Now this is a large sum in quality but how long will it last?
I do not hope ever to have money to spend myself but I desire
to see what costs so much to obtain in attention & hard labour
used without regard to the good it ought to do - besides these
large Subtractions, perverfely curtail the necessary means
for the elder members of the family - The accounts should at
least be true - & then must contain no matter what money
be thought or said - I am willing to give my time but
I will not be blamed for the acts of others -

Write often - Ever your Affectionate
Father
J. Gibson

Oak Forest 2^d Sept. 1859

Dear Hart,

The inclosed letter from Poston will tell you
of his movements - I feel very anxious to get his next
letter - He has had a rough time & next I fear a solitary
one - Still if any body escapes an everflow he will - but
the weather has been so bad that I am afraid he will get
very little done - a beginning however has to be made &
some or later these difficulties have to be met with those
who go into the woods as I have done twice in my life -
and of course know all about it - He has every thing
now to facilitate business & to secure comfort & if he escapes
one everflow he will at least make progress for a ~~year~~
another year which is all I expected from the first
or four years - The flood in many places is greater
than it was last year but I hope it will abate in time
for work on the River to be made - You will see in the
papers the best accounts I think seen than you could
get them from him - So far I do not hear of any
Crossings on the Coast - but the tide is very threatening

None very thing looks well - The cane is coming out
of the plant & new stubble looks well - Back of that
it is yet invisible above ground & Randall writes
that there is great fear on Safford's & The Missions
that it will not come at all. - Speculation is yet too
early. - I have got a large brick shed up and hope
to be able to make some progress in the material for
a Sugar house next year - I have had to dismiss
my head viceroy & employ another who is young & without
experience the only sort that can be got to attend to
business now a days - but of course this keeps me
absolutely engaged & how I am to get away at all, much
more to cross the Atlantic is yet a problem -

The Court is now in session at Havana
Mr. Belcher is there - It will attend I suppose after Mr. B.
Returns to St. Domingo as one has to be at the Office at
the time - Mr. Collins Estate about the same as Randall's
10 Miles below St. Domingo sold the other day for 100,000
dollars - It is yet talks of selling: but you know he is
not in one mind being enough to do any thing - I am
opposed to selling - under 100,000 - I wonder what he will

do if he ever gets engaged to be married! I feel however
feel awful - There seems to be very nice young ladies Society
in his neighbourhood - they are threatening a foray upon
"Summer", meaning Oak Forest, Savannah! Fingerville is
a great place for fish & I don't doubt I shall before
long have a fine sea-dancing - & a feast before long.
This is the season - I am feasting on fish caught at
our door - and we have straw berries - & all the early
Vegetables & a prospect of the most beautiful supplies
of oranges & Pannanas - Just Miss Mary Duncan
that she must come down this fall or winter and enjoy
them here with me! and the same invitation is extended
to Miss Lilla Strand - but in this latter case it is perhaps
an unnecessary invitation as I think she already
considers herself engaged! I would send a kiss to both
but I am afraid they would not allow me to deliver it
in which case if they refuse, ask Mrs. MacCallister to
perform the ceremony for me -

Every thing is charming here now
but the mosquitoes - The mosquito here is up for the season.
I had a letter by last mail from your

Show you the points made.

As to the lot - the price is known as I have written to Mr. W.

Mr. Mess had not paid the whole of my bill advanced by H. S. H. our two dollars remains - that McCann is one of the partners - the one I made the first agreement with - Mr. Duncan knows him - the money should be paid in Mr. Ordway's. They have violated their pledges & unless settled at once they will have to pay cost - I have had great confidence in the parties & hope the matter will be settled - at once - by John McCann or less. I have their bond in N. O. with H. S. H. to pay the bill given by Mr. Tall 1st Jan'y.

I will send bills to you in due time or could you not send me a pair or two fixed up by W. H. H. the Oak & some left out - putting the names in pencil just so as to indicate the places through I understand all that -

Give my best love to Mary & kind regards to all friends -

Your affectionate Father
J. Gibson

Not a case of the "epidemic" since you left - There is a
good report of all ¹⁸⁶¹ ₁₈₆₀

Oak Point
Nov 11 1860
J. Gibson

Oak Point 17th Aft evening 1860

Dear Hart,

We have had a glorious rain today just as much as we want - I had just started hands to digging foundation for Sugar house and in a few days the workmen will be laying brick after a plan which I have adopted from one of the best Sugar houses on the River - Mr. Crowl will soon have this house (the 10th house) up and I hope in another month he may have the house all done & ready to be occupied, so soon as the Negroes can move into them Randall will cause the old houses to be removed to Magnolia so that his Negro hands can remove to that place and begin to work in earnest to themselves - That plan is already started & the rain will bring up the corn & start the cane crop after the dry spell - Every acre is now planted on the three places except the new ground along brick shed about 75 acres - The crop was already improving fast & now there need be no fear for us.

I have seen Sarah's letter from near St. Charles and was glad to hear that Louisa

was well - I feel uneasy about her health - Suffering
that you have all desired I hope & found all well
I desire to say a word about Louisa - Of course
she is domiciliated at Mr. Williams' and I desire
that she shall remain a class student as she is
much behind in her English at least - When the
vacation is to take place I hope it will suit for Louisa
to remain most of the time at home & take lessons
in the different branches that she may be pursuing -
Of course if Sarah desires to have her with her she will
exercise her discretion in the matter - I want you to
consider that Louisa is not grown and that lacking the
advantage of a Mother's Care & attention she may not
appear to as much advantage as otherwise she might
that this is no reason but the very reason why you should
manifest the kindest interest & tenderest regard and
always the truest respect - She is now as it were to
begin to learn both what books contain as well
as the manner & deportment suitable to her
age & position - You will truly show respect for
yourself as a brother by scrupulously observing
all that is due to her as your sister with every
thing to leave - Let her rejoice it upon you
then to encourage & sustain by such attentions

as may be due to her and to impress upon those
who have charge of her the importance of attending to
her education mental & physical - It is true she had
learned to labour in a student and if I understand
the character of the family none of these duties will
be neglected - I have always kept accounts at Mr. Williams'
who would procure any thing wanted but every
thing ought to be got by Mr. Williams and Louisa
not allowed to buy any thing at discretion - I want
you to advise me about the necessary furnishings and
I will give due attention -

How do you? The letter from Mr. Worcester
which you will find enclosed - Keep it - I have written
to him that I did not understand the matter spoken
of - It would be well to consult your Uncle William
& whoever you find best - friend or lawyer - Ask
Mr. Worcester about it - I have said to him that I had
written to you on the subject - You will soon see the
points if you do not understand them already -
I am not sure whether Mr. W. is interested for or against your
Mother's rights - it is a mixed question as to him - against her
in behalf of his wife & children & in another mind the contrary
but you must look into it clearly as I do not comprehend
the matter as it stands - your good Father's will, will

The developments at Washington are very important -
- able for the President - I do not see how he is to
weigh the various inconsistencies to call it nothing
worse than by his title to H. J. Walker. Of course
we are receiving daily telegraphic reports from
Charleston but as yet nothing conclusive either as
to platform or candidate has taken place. The whole
country is in terrible way and will continue
till the idea of November have passed -

With much love to all my kind but
regards for all about you I am with
kindest affection
Yours
L. Johnson

29th April 1860
Oak Forest
L. Johnson

Oak Forest 29th April 1860

Dear Hart -

I have just rec^d. your letter of the 20th
from Louisville & perceive that your Deacon
has had her accident - I am glad that it was no
worse. I shall wish with true interest to hear
of your safe arrival at Lexington and of matters
and things generally - I have written to Louisa
and Thelma to Sarah. I shall feel anxious
until I hear that Louisa is well settled at school
I hope you found all the family well at Mr. Duncan's
as well as your Uncle & Kim in Woodford like when
to whom I wish always to be present in kindest
terms of remembrance. I want to hear how all
both parties & things are getting on at Lexington.
I have written to you before about some matters
which you must not forget.

How are you getting along
the usual - Randall has just returned from the
wedding at Judge Union's wife carry to Mr. Brooks
he goes back tomorrow to attend a variety of dinner
and other parties given on account of the wedding

R. Amundsen has not a little to do with the variations in his notions from one day to another. I don't believe I ever knew one so unsettled. One day he is enthusiastic & determined on one course and the next day it is entirely something else & another way. Now he is going to sell out every thing & buy a large place - but under half a millier. Then after a little reflection he concludes it won't do to go in that. But enough of this.

We are pushing ahead with every thing. Sadwick is laying the foundation of the new Sugar house and in a few days we shall be making brick near the same spot. 18 new double walled cabins are up & will soon be ready for occupancy. The crossers house is framed & the stables & crosses come next. Then came shed 80 by 100 ft. and last though not least the Sugar house. All this takes labour & material. The brick work is to be 275 ft long by 48 ft wide. Then the crop is not to be neglected - which is promising. We have finally which concluded that the new Sugar house will be convenient enough to Magnolia to make the Sugar there until suitable improvements can be made at Magnolia & the sugar much better off

in the new house than in old one temporarily constructed at Magnolia. Much more may be done in clearing & preparing for a crop next year under such an arrangement and a deal of expense saved. And what is still better you can have time to make good improvements of a better & more permanent character. The Negros are doing very well - No complaints as to health or their work. Indeed they have given no trouble and hard work as well as any. They are a valuable set of hands - I shall be careful that they are not exposed in bad weather or neglected in sickness.

The weather is perfectly delicious - Since the wound out rain of the 17th it has been cool clear & pleasant with fine in the morning. Still among the Negroes house is surely an ornament here - we had Allen & Leggie Gibson here for a week.

Mr. Humphrey's young Arab horse was sent by Reid Regard here a few days ago - he is a fine young horse but ^{has} not the Stamina of Black - We have a goodly supply now - of fine horses - No letters of late from your father - Are you going to send the photo-graphs? Does Tom Spry that he is planting cotton, but I fear the place is too new for much of a crop this season. I derive young up in July if business here will permit.

J. Gibson
May 5th 1860

Oak Forest 5 May 1860

Dear Hunt

I wrote to H. N. H. to make out
a Statement of the balance due from Alcott & Co on the
Draft given by W. H. Hunt for Cash - The amt. upon
which I gave my note payable in the New-England bank
the 1st July - with their bond to take up the draft
which was given for the same debt - & which they
were to pay at Hewitt's Store on H. N. H.'s the 1st July
last but which they failed to do & which was in
consequence subjected to a Commission for advancing
by H. N. H. ^{and in doing you are leaving the} some time after the bill had been
paid by H. N. H. on my account W. H. H. paid
\$2100 - & it is the balance with the New-England
change to the 1st July which they are to pay &
if they will pay it on my note given to them
it can be settled in that way as I have paid
the whole amount. I want no mistake in the
matter - Should they make any difficulty about
it I want you either to sue at once either in the
State or Federal Court - or allow my note to go to
protest & afterwards pay what is due from me or

The whole of this can be done I hear them under protest:
They are obliged to use their credit in bank and
can't afford to lie under protest - The President
of the bank Mr. Johnson wrote the bond and
transacted the business & they went like to be engaged
in their bad faith to the bank - If you have any
difficulty in understanding the matter you might men-
tion it to Mr. Duncan whose knowledge about
such things would be a good guide -

The weather is very dry and favorable
- all for our business - The seasons are very happy
- and on Monday the 7th we shall start
to making brick for the season - The sand is going
at a great rate & every thing is moving ahead.
I am satisfied that for the first season at least you
& Randall will find it best to make up your
Camp at Greenwood - It is an undertaking to build
any thing new - more than can be done in one or two
seasons - Property is getting up to fabulous prices - I
have heard of late sales of 100 dollars an acre on
Shuckabamba & much higher rates on the shore
none equal to the Black - I think Perret will be
ready for a big offer next winter - or some body
else when the place has a crop of cane in the ground

The N.Y. hands are doing very well - No Seiberg. It
could be better to keep all the new hands & Randall is
at Greenwood & work at allagoula - it is near
enough & much better on account of comfort & health.
Your ^{thing} dock is equal to a physician - The new houses
at Greenwood are handsome & comfortable enough for
any body - In another week I think they will move
into them - There are 10 double houses I think of
selling two more - When all is done at that
place I think 100 dollars an acre would be cheap
- Suppose you & Henry take it at that! 3000 acres -
or do you prefer to make allagoula worth as much
without going in debt - In a few years, with a knowledge
of our security from the casualties of other places property,
land - here will greatly appreciate in value. How
much I am prepared to say -

I hope you & Henry & Louisa are well and
all about you - say love to Henry & Louisa and
best regards to all - Write -

Your affectionate Father
J. Gibson

Evening 1860 - On Saturday last there was a Proslavery
 ratification meeting at Boone a - a large collection
 of persons - A good many are true enough who were
 at the meeting - One Ingham who is known as a public speaker
 said that Randall spoke over an hour - and per-
 fectly astonished the natives - Both friends & opponents
 extol the speech - This is his first effort - It is
 most likely now he will have to take the circuit.
 I understand he made out a record for Bell
 that his friend Henry Heaton would not believe -
 I understand it was severe as well as elegant -
 Col. F.W. Briggs can here relate to the W. Springs
 so is Duncan Cagle - & others -

I hope you will do something
 for the Proslavery Cause - Now is the time
 when young men of superior qualifications must
 show what they are - The cause will justify
 any sacrifice because it is the Cause of the Country
 and involves a vital principle for the South -
 Prepare yourself well & come forward with enthusiasm
 Speak to the people in a way to gain respect as well
 as applause - but always with zeal & fervor

1672
 New Orleans
 16 July 1860
 L. L.

New Orleans 16 July 1860

Dear Stuart

On my return home from Hayes having
 spent a week with Proton and a week in the vicin-
 ity of and in Vidalia and Clinton - Having all well
 I am sorry to say the appearance of things at Bogalusa
 did not indicate very good management - but crop -
 I put an acre or so in the place - and made arrangements
 for building a gin and if there is any management
 there will be difficulty about a crop another year
 but this is the 2^d year and it is enough to discon-
 -age one who can not ^{account} very distinctly the cause of the
 failure - I offered to take Proton's interest and asked
 him to visit it in an improved and more agreeable
 way for him - but change of plan is no remedy for wide
 spread in an early inquiry for in a place almost
 breaking even there is a crop the first season as good
 as any one could desire and which will yield more
 than double to the acre both of cotton & corn - see Proton's

I see your letter of the 3^d of July
 sent up by Randall - I am sorry you allowed them to
 - we will do to surround you so easily & that with all

The documents before you - The payment made by Messrs
Law was not made at the proper time - the bill passed
on the 1st Jan^y. & he made no payment till the 12th or
14th so that the bill would have been protested and gone
back to Lexington if it had not been paid by him and
of course this incurred the charge to H. N. W^o on the
Whole bill of 2 1/2 % of the bill - The 2 1/2 % only on
the portion they left unpaid - The account I state it
was made up to the 1st of July by H. N. W^o charging
them 10 % with the amt. of the bill - Interest &
Commissions - then they credited them with the amt. and
they interest up to the sum for what Messrs paid him
from the time it was paid - So that by disregarding
the statement of H. N. W^o I leave the interest on
the whole bill from the 1st to the 12th of Jan^y and
the Commissions for advancing on 2100 dollars -
which together makes about sixty dollars - If you
give them up their bond I have no remedy unless
if you have not given Messrs and it to me and I will
try my hand on them here this Fall or winter -
By the time you have done business with men trading
men in Kentucky as long as I live you will learn a
thing or two better than this -

The Country is very warm and

dry - I had a very pleasant visit at & near Wickburg
with the Country there is poor - poor - they are planning speculations
on the River preparatory to a final abandonment - I am
more & more pleased with the Upper Country and intend
to hold on rather to keep or sell at a fair price -

I don't see Chandall has written you
about matters at home - The drought will shorten
the Sugar crop very materially and we have count
on high prices - I shall try to make your interest
more prosperous than Boston is making his -

You have seen Chandall's article in
the July no. of De Bow - I have read it here - it is
a well written production and leads logically to a
final separation of the Slave & free States - but I can
see no other result ^{other} without a laboured argument to
prove it - I wish it otherwise or I rather wish we
could agree to separate without violence - we have
one or two kind - Standard & split upon that I would
be willing to acquiesce in any peaceful separation
and if you are to have sea power in the union then
I am for independence out of it -

Canal Street looks finely & the States
as large as life and a little more so. What is Mr. Knapp's
kind regards to the young Men here to all my
J. H. Wilson

I am glad to hear your Uncle William has got his
Man Henry - He says he thinks he would ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~well~~ ^{well}
Very well!! Daddy has walked to the house for the
first time since he was brought from the woods!
We have a good deal of sickness - The rainy
Season is in full blast - I wish it would ~~cease~~
The crop is fine - What we have to do is to get
ready to saw it - I am counting every day
we haven't one to spare.

Got Mr. Duncan's letter looking
for that letter - I thought he was going to support
his friend Breckenridge - and incidentally yourself.
I am extremely sorry to hear of Mr. H's
bad health - Menota went to him and good Dr. Lane
of Vicksburg went up - to try it but returned in shame.
Dr. Crump of Vicksburg died there - He ought to
arrange his business so as to come here early in the
Fall - I have written to Sarah about it - What are
you & Mary going to do with yourselves this winter?
I send love to Mary & yourself
mine to her and Remembrance, to all

Love yours - Affectionately
Father
J. J.

Aug 1860

2. B. Brown
Oak Point

Oak Point 1st August 1860

Dear Heart

Yours of the 25th and one from Sarah of
the 28th I saw yesterday - Certainly her letter must be misdated
Up or 3 days is a very short time from the transmission
of letters from Blue Hill to Eggenville -

I am glad to see by your Remarks on
The Mass He says that you stand on the side of your
country's position - You may be sure that I have seen more
Coward than Mr. H. or myself - I shall write to them
today and mean time I wish you would send me the
account for Mr. H. from them and at the same time refer
back to my first letter to you which you answered after
Suing McKean & send it also ~~the~~ because the very
gist of the charge against Mass was that he acted in
bad faith in not meeting his engagement in whole
or in part & having failed to do so became liable in
consequence to pay Commission for advancing the
whole amount of the bill on the 1st Jan^y 1860
by which failure on his part I had the Commission
to pay - This was the Complaint I had to make and

if I failed to make you comprehend this in my letter
to you I might say am most Improvingly - The Commission
was for advancing - And of course if Wags had paid
\$2500 when the bill fell due - No charge would have
been made - but being my bill - H. S. H. paid it on
my account: ~~It is~~ Such is the integrity of
Col. Wags who understood the whole matter
perfectly - Oh! how Wags made - trader - from such good
Lord deliver me - I am glad you have never yet been
"overboarded" after the tremendous sums you I have
paid for others - you have been a very unfortunate young
gentleman I must confess - but there is a good time coming
when I hope you will have an "equivalent" for all your
outlays in former days.

Walt. R. has ^{with me} another installment
of his hoarded political treasures over at Franklin on Saturday.
Charles Palfy came over with him & stayed with us a couple
of days - he took me it was a splendid effort. I think there
are at least a hundred supporters for Miss Taylor's place
in Ohio Headed! I hope to hear if your debut before the
Campaign is over - That log cabin in Woodford
has meaning in it! Very well I would rather be
somebody in a log hut than a nobody in a castle -
You are right perfectly right - You may be a man

in a cabin and if you so will it one of distinction
and if I am not mistaken your Secret little wife will
be her part to help you on: but you will have to improve:
Speaking - Public Speaking for a great ways in N.Y.
Why should you not be able to speak well? Many appear
without preparation - It is then that you A. in Superiority
Wrote to Dr. Ken's Washington City for your Service - I
had to do the same - Every No. in N. Orleans was sold
Soon after I bought one - I will stand to your request
about the Delta - We have not the documents you
want. Write to the National Committee at Washington
I have done so - and requested one or two documents to
be sent to you, but enough of such matters which after all
should not be allowed to interfere with private affairs -
Politics would do us a mischief - too uncertain and by far
too demoralizing - But great issues are at stake total
I think to the South and to the Maintenance of the
Federal Constitution - Oh! how no body could object to
Sill & Ervett - especially the latter - The East is the
best of the North! - It is well then to go for Right from
- Cripple at once and earnestly but not as if the Union were
to be dissolved - My notion is that the Non party have
yet to unite against Lincoln and have Wreckers on edge
hope that the Campaign would be conducted without
bitterness -

which is necessary before grinding it this with many other things occupies much of my day

I see Breckinridge is nearly swept out of Ky. to judge by the election of Combs. I hope if there is no chance for Breckinridge he will succeed in still better success. I am a Sheriff man - Anti-Cuba etc. but support Breckinridge because he is conservative of the rights of the South - its equality in the Union, and against all concessions to Northern aggression and Northern fanaticism.

How is young master Gibson this morning and his mother? and yourself? did you take to bed on the 22nd? I hope my Lord Duncanson takes his customary remedy with Complacency "Grand Stomach".

I hear reports of Mr. W. Duncan Jr. why don't you or Mary tell us something about it?

Much love to Mary & the young Lord of Hardland and remembrances, as I should

Ever Yrs Affectionate Father
T. Gibson

T. Gibson
Aug 11. 1860

Oak Forest 11th Aug. 1860

Dear Hart

It is now pouring down rain in true Raining Season style as of old. The crops are no good of course and interests regular and important work very much still we have had to turn to complain of and are so much advanced every way & so find a crop on the ground that it would be hardly reasonable to make a fuss at a little less much of what others have had to shut cause to complain of the kind of -

Looking into the wants of the place whilst I am there, I found that for the past year there was not working stock sufficient and so there will be 400 acres that can be brought under the dominion of the plow. (by the bye have you paid my account to Miller & Sons Cincinnati yet?) I do the plowing for next season there should be two or three more chains on the place by the plow and I have thought by writing to you in time you might be able to engage such as would answer & have them sent down to Vicksburg care of B. Hardaway who would send them up to Preston - Now the terms must be payable at Lexington not sooner than 1st July therefore - The place is making nothing this year and hence it is important to get them

On such terms as that they could be paid for out of
the best crop. Such lands as Mr Duncan sent to you
are about the description I thought as good at
Wicksburg for the same last Spring broke young mules,
at 135 \$ a piece - Now can we get our friend your
Uncle Col. Hart - Mr David Humphreys with generally
has a lot of it may be Mr. Duncan you could get
them on good terms - I want Boston to be pleased
by the Cape York mules I should buy him out - which
I promised to do, if he could get a more improved
piece to suit his better. If I were of his age, or the
place as he is, or indeed where I am, nothing under
50 \$ for one would tempt me to sell. After getting
to you on it as in respect the Fall and so
with Magnolia either a Sugar House is built
every thing in operation I should be unwilling
to take less than 60 \$ for one. Still when I get
to be a large planter and could afford to buy
a fancy piece I would rather have it on the
River - but my advice is to keep out of debt
unless the temptation justifies a little gambling
and when a man is really able to pay considerably
outside of the place itself.

I am sorry to tell you that old John
is dead & buried - After going to Magnolia he had
but little and seemed to be done - debilitated without
specific complaint - This was whilst I was on my
visit to Yazoo - Randall went up every day and

generally twice a day - his appetite was good and he sent
to the city for such articles as the sick might need - Dost
too kept old Barney & went up every day until the last
week when John was moved back to Greenwood so
that Dost could give him some attention - Finally
I concluded to bring him here so that I could give
my personal attention - I began with Stimulents
(Sarsaparilla) but it was too late - the old man died
with his pulse good - appetite good and was not
good the way they before he died - Old persons do not tolerate
Wills especially Gum - White nor Black - John had very little
The rest are all very well but do but little work - Not that
they are not willing on the contrary no hands could be had
either except the black excursion of Henry & Dandridge
Dandridge is still here under my care & has had Dr. Kane give
to see him - I am giving him cold baths morning and
evening & giving him tonics - He looks very well but still
complains of his Stomach - I have put his abdomen
at Magnolia in George's place so that he can ^{with}
work where he is comfortable - He is not at work as he
has had chills for several days - It is very important that
the paper should be as near equal as possible - Men have
no comforts without women - & this may apply to both
White as well as Black.

Some counting every days preparation
for winding where I am anxious shall be begun early
The crop is fine - a storm would play the mischief with
it - being large - We have been at work at Greenwood
all I can now we have need to do something here

Care of them to four hundred thousand two engines
Such as we make can save worth from 9/4 to 1/4 of its cost
I hope to make 150 to 200 tons - with the Malaga
2 1/2 to the whole with a light party gun - I am
in first rate order for saving it - a fine engine well
only two years old - a new and fast class engine - two
sets of valves mostly st - additional New boiler - Clarifier
enlarged and improved - Steam battery - and with all a
super boiler of the very best reputation - I have
estimated 20 times & in many new ways as we
can run - so if I do not succeed getting this season
I give up

I have not heard from Great Britain
She was at St. Anthony - Nor from London for as long
I wish some of you would write - I'd all along to
write of you are too much engaged - My love to
her & the young master - I hope to see all around
you very warmest regards - no more waste
Affectionately Yrs. Father

J. H. H. H.

Randall brought 1/2 acre land in the middle of the meadow
about Magnolia the other day at public sale. and is getting
high -

Oct 15th 1860
C. G. Brown
Oak Point

Call Street - 1st Oct 1850

Dear Aunt -

After the sickliest season I have
yet known in this country we are now about
free from complaints - Daily in that line & James tells
he is somewhat incensed - I am a good appetite and
is going about & visits my friends very much
and I think of he is some time to do more. The best
one doing very well & at Magnolia - There and at
Greenwood we begin planting cane this morning - only
part of the hands here - we shall begin to plant
between the 15th & 18th Randall about the same time
to plant. I received a letter from Mother &
you days ago & was from her today - The first from
James the other from Heidelberg - They are about to go
to France & Switzerland till next summer - They
say he has seen Mr. St. Shaw but did not get
the photographs as you promised - and they must
buy Comanches the & very fine - It is much
best at the request of I think justly - This sort
of disregard of people's attention & neglect of a
very positive obligation is not at all agreeable to me

omissions in small things are apt to lead into habits which involve larger matters which I do not mean to - Having omitted to inform you of the payment of my account to all the Sons of Cincinnati - I beg you to send me their names & amount of the same - as well as the payment to the benevolent societies in Lexington - It is my habit in matters of business to consider my promises to pay as sacred as any thing that can be imagined & I would never forgive you if you were to allow my name unsparingly to be tarnished - You may not have learned as yet how inevitable is the value of promises but whether you have come to consider them in this light or not I would say to you as the best legacy I could leave you that no man's character is worth a straw who neglects to make any sacrifice to keep his engagements sacred -

Remond returned from Fullers day before yesterday and says he saw Winters & a brother & company he says there were good catches & the finest speaking he started yesterday to descend down to Ashmun on invitation to speak at that place. On the 6th he & Judge Union are to speak at Thibodaux - The former in French - the Judge through a very Swedish man in English -

Spurlock He speaks in French - R. has spoken once only in French - Says the Judge will be a little inconvenienced when he hears R. in his unimpaired style & polished measure as it has astonished every body - I think R. is ambitious to create a sensation at Thibodaux as it is right in the midst of his warmest friends - He is to have a special appointment to speak here in the City - Mr & Mrs. Claiborne who spent several days with us a week ago are going to the northern part of the State before the election - He is finally spoken of as the next Candidate for Congress but I am opposed to his nomination as Senator & having the advanced part in the Campaign will give him the domination but he will get it only after a struggle -

I am opposed to him as well as he ought - I think the course I feel there is a good one & the improvements are under way & so that next year a full crop ought to be had ~~and~~ ^{be made} - I know a better plan for a young man of management to even Winters a fortune - but will he do it? - Our crop of my sort here is good - we have heard even say at our three places here for a full supply for each - if the force is supplied I think some enough may be planted on Magnolia for a

Oak Forest 10th Dec^r 1860

Dear Harb -

We are half done the cane when we should be finishing and yet if the cane does not deteriorate natural it will yield more & better sugar than it has done at an earlier period -

We are storing the sugar in the Cooper Shop as soon as wanted in the Pinyon - There is now no market for either sugar or molasses & I am not sending any off - What is to become of Commission Merchants God only knows - They are fast suspending & I am in constant apprehension for H. N. H.!

I want you to get at the bank & send me a memorandum of the bills nego-
- ciated in the bank - date & time of payment -
I must be looking out in time -

The legislative Councils today in extra session - the result will be a convention and I think Kendall will be brought out as a candidate if Goode & Cage who are both in the legislature will permit!

We have read the President's message - It is not satisfactory - If Carolina goes out on the 17th and he refuses to surrender Fort Mifflin there will be trouble - or if he attempts to collect the revenue after she has declared her independence -

I am afraid they will be a barrier in the way
for independence - a further connection with
the Abolitionist North is out of the question - too
much has already been sacrificed for us to fall
at the threshold - It is now or never - Once we have
gloriously compromised and we are lost -

There is no way here but we must
I must try to save the cause and hoping for
a ray of hope to guide us through the dark
clouds of the future

Best love to all

Yr. Father ever affectionately
Gibson

Dec 10th 1860

J. Gibson

Oak Forest 3^d Dec^r 1860

Dear Hart

I have yours of the 21st and since Sarah's of the 18th I am much gratified at the report about Louisa. I had already written a letter to Mr. Williams which would only confirm all that Sarah has denoted. Sarah stayed away so much longer than was expected that I deemed it best to write myself.

I had rec^d a letter from Mr. D. C. Thompson about the matter for Protest and have talked things over to long at Washington & to let Mr. H. send Thompson by.

We are now going on with the sugar - have left the difficulties which were enough to collapse any common man. I am so used to such things that I go about the best way I can - crossing mechanics & turning up tools generally - so far the weather has been favorable but it is threatening now and may yet do us damage - so that I can say nothing now of final results. The worst part is that there is no market for sugar & molasses and no prospect of improvement. Change tell public affairs are such that which we can not hope for soon. I do trust devoutly that the Union with all its faults is at an end. But what may come I am for no more connection with the South except as a foreign Nation and unless under a separate & independent government we would be the greatest fools men to continue

L. L. Garrison
Dec 3 1860

the present Union no matter what new guarantees
might be obtained - What guarantees can there be against
God's faith & higher Law? - Now whether our only security
is in independence out of the present Union - The
Federal Congress wants I think for the first time - City the
Capital at Washington ^{but in vain} that all traces
of Slavery & Republican ^{principle} might be set on end - We don't
want it and they can have no use for it either -
The principal affairs of the country tell the whole story
of the impending crisis - The South will in due time
show that the South is in earnest and ^{that} the troubles
do not spring from a few fire eaters in South Carolina
or the non Comm. Government to call those who have
had the temerity to oppose the Abolitionists - The
Puff-blow begins to reach the light spirit - and in St. Louis
Dr. Palmer & Leacock have published Sermons or
rather discourses that would be so dependent to old
Presbyterian times - The spirit of resistance is upland
I believe is extending and taking the light direction -
but we can't see hard times until quarters are
filled - every season credit paraded and distorts
universal - but better than a thousand times the unshaken
& even Sublime and long

I wish sincerely your uncle William
would make us a visit and so you must tell him
where are Mr. Hunt & Grady? I wish they would come
too - I am afraid Mr. will disgrace himself by
holding forth in this great Christian movement

I wrote Mr. Duncan the other day about your business
here and reminding him of the importance of an
early supply of the force which he was to send - City
has known that some preparation had been made conformably
to the understanding between him & myself - The R. R. hands
are now getting able to work - but in the Corn field
are terribly awkward - They say they like the Sugar
Curnings very well - I wish it suited Mr. D. to send
some boys & girls for making brick & to declimate carriers -
Old Mr. Rogers takes it badly - I have sent a copy of the
Delta to Mr. Duncan containing the discourses then rec'd
hoping that they may have a good effect on his mind -
Chubbuck has written you more of
Coke & supersedes the necessity of my going into business
quarters - I hope the next season will find us all
cut off - The improvements all completed at Greenwood
and Magnolia with a good crop & such improvements
as can be got up at the latter place - The machinery must
be got out in advance before building -
I hope you & yours may be comfortable
in your cabins - and when you have got a little up
you will have to send beginning - I wish to call my
a short time ago - My first love to Mrs. Hunt
Come, in it say? Remember me to your kind Mr.
What is doing in the South?
Your Father Affectionately
J. G. Jones