

You must prepare in for the gold medals - for an
appointment at commencement - Don't over-
estimate the kind of speech required for the medals -
If you aim at the class you will never accom-
plish anything on the gold - Write just as if you
were going to make a speech in English before
your own class - only be careful in leaving the
subject clearly divided - The propositions you advance
must be soundly true -

There is old C. S. P. 2 Lake that more than
all the college put together - Its members have
everywhere been devoted to it - It is the best insti-
tution ever belonged to - Be strict as to money and
as to the rules & keep clear of liquor and take well
always be in the ascendant - It is the only thing
would ~~any~~ take me back to New Haven

Write to me - I believe

Your devoted brother

R. D. Ligon

New Orleans Jan 25th 1835

Dear Knott -

I have this moment read your letter
to William - but have not yet received any answer to my
annual last letter to you for compliance of their trust -
If you were in my situation - in a large city where
you never see anyone you know - and never have
anything you would indeed be kind if you judge by the
length & frequency of your letters under the present
favorable circumstances!

I am sorry to see you missed the valedictory -
I believe you could take the defeat but if you
one have no idea you will try - I hope you
will not miss an appointment at commence-
ment - We are glad to hear of Calander's prospects -
but a letter from for marks tells a bad tale as
to his scholarship - by far the justest criterion
of Mental strength not only in College but far
more so in the estimation of the world -
You would be surprised to see the absolute necessity
of thorough knowledge of the Classics & Philosophy at
the New Orleans bar - and how ~~any~~ accomplished
many of the lawyers are -

Save Homer who took the valise over "old Had" in
his and a very clever fellow that. There are some
25 lawyers here - if not more graduates of Yale - and
4 valedictorians to my knowledge - we have some
lawyers who speak 4 or 5 modern languages and speak
the Greek also and read the Latin like English -
I speak French pretty well and shall have Spanish
shortly - neither Preston or I think of marrying
yet - while - He will be here all summer as he
has the chosen place for a medicine student - The
Law school is a very poor one here - I get more
than anything else I did not read here in New Haven
and thus graduate in Cambridge - I shall probably
go to Europe early in the summer, though as
yet my arrangements are not fixed - if I do not
I shall certainly remain here all summer - and
settle the question with the most awful foe to the
summer family from New - Mr. Yellow Jack -
leaving out Yellow Jack this is about the sickliest
place I ever was in - we have plenty of
Cholera here now - I am afraid that Orleans is
going down - Bacon is up at Mr. Cousins' & seems
very well pleased - Charles Palfrey here every day - he is
just entering the Hospital.

I heard from Lina both the other day all well,
Doris was looking much improved when
I last saw her - little Lucy is a beauty.

The crop will be about next generally as there
the seed came has all decayed - taken what
is called the "dry rot" - of course we do not
escape - Old Hollyford is disposed of it - as I said
we are all glad of it.

What is the meaning of Sheldon sending me
a bill for cigars & tobacco? Father told me he
gave you \$275 - expressly to pay General & Hull's
bill which originally never amounted to but \$175 -
and I left \$95 - in cash with you & \$100 in furniture -
I am afraid you are a terrible financier -

Set down words to Father plainly & frankly
all about your affairs - put the worst foot -
Club through it - he ~~knows~~ he will fix the shoe
so that it won't pinch. There is no use in
mincing matters - I am on the up & down side
now - Board room alone - anything else extra
in this City - is worth \$450 & \$60 per month -
I don't you think it takes a long time for that
anything else is in proportion - I have called
to my bill at General & Hull's - not yours -
sent at New Haven worth \$20 is worth \$35 here
rents worth \$10 there all for \$16 here -

You are I am out of the frying pan - as you
seem to think - but I am in the fire -
Why don't Claude write or let he look himself in
the idea of our probitors - Both of you must
write to me -

Heart Gibern
New Haven
Conn



Dear Hart -
Sept 29th 1833

There are one or two things of a financial character to which I wish to call your attention - 1st You failed to settle the bill incurred here in your name for a pair of white pants at Mathews the Tailor, - a bill which you obligate to pay - 2^d I must remark that my collar and night shirt without their rightful owner's knowledge and consent to his disappearance to date disappeared the day of your departure to Yale 3^d that the money you got back from Bryan for my returned pants has never been accounted for - 4th I wish you would find out Ben Phelps's address and collect the \$15 he owes to me, which he borrowed to pay for his lithographs.

The family are all in Woodford and all of our kinspeople are doing well except Uncle Nat whose condition is growing more and more precarious. Father delays here until the Plague ceases its ravages, and I until I can raise money to get away the which is very doubtful at present -

If you to Va shall probably go by New York and
you may inform Knevels I shall that they had better
wait until then as it will be more convenient
for me to communicate with them at that time

I am reading some and hope you will
have the "spunk" to write for the gold medal.
Whether you take it or not is a matter in
reality of small importance - You had better
practice writing for it is the only way to perfect
yourself in it -

Get some nice white ^{small} envelopes and someone
to direct your letters in envelope and they
will not be opened - ~~Some financial matters~~
must be decided also and ~~resolutions~~ must
be made - Some see payments deferred and
spend to be settled by instalments -

Write me long letters - R. L. G. & Co.
of College Point -
New York -
I will be sure to see you, which is
the best thing for the ~~benefit~~

all of our ~~benefits~~ are being well kept
and the whole business is going
on as usual - I have been
writing for some time in
the same way as I have
in my ~~complaint~~

small - 1000
New York