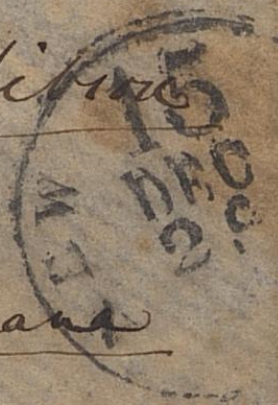


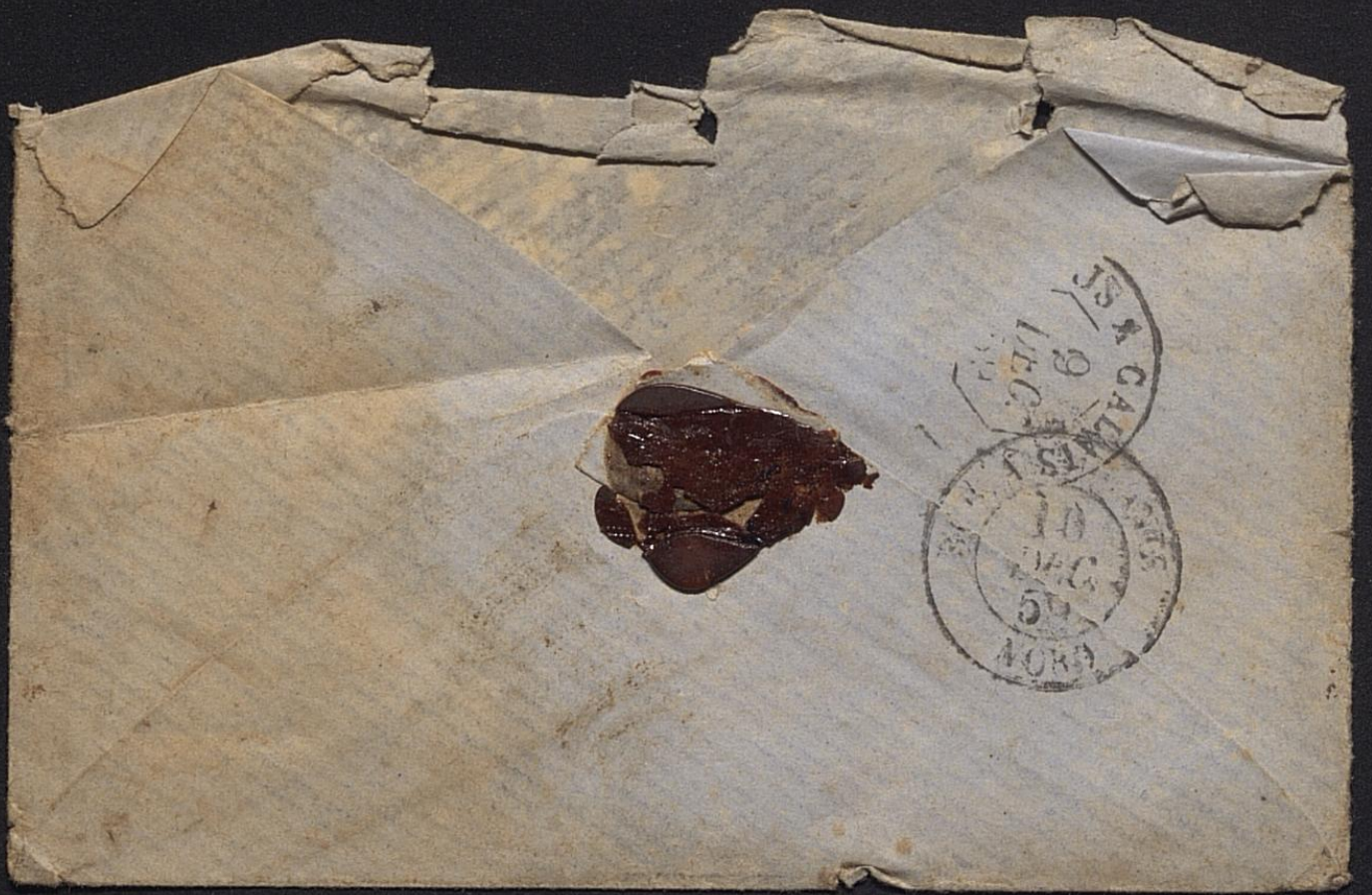


6
Mons. le Col. Hart Gibson

Tiger ville
Louisiana



Etats Unis
d'Amérique



GIBSON & AUSTIN,
Attorneys at Law,
109 COMMON STREET,
NEW ORLEANS.

Col Hort Gibson

Versailles

Woodford County
Kentucky

I so deeply & sincerely regret King's failure in New York, the man & the Place
met - but the man did not know it. I am sure, Mr Robb would
have got him a place - I have been in correspondence with him
all winter and am on very cordial terms & the moment I heard
him was in New York I wrote a long letter to Mr Robb. - but him
must have left before my letter got there. But I saw from his
first letter that he was "frozen out." - didn't have the internal
heat to stand eg-coldness indifference & antipathy - which amount
to nothing but kills young men who have no brass or doggedness
of purpose & won't be put down. A man who goes to a
city - worth less than a million of dollars, who must force
his way - his soon crowded out and lost sight of.
But it is useless to talk over spilled milk. we can't change

Life or kin and if they can avail themselves of such
opportunities — they must of necessity — relapse
into the Plantations & it will then be — Foot
log or die the balance of their lives, a giving up
of all things for meat & bread & a place to sleep — no
society — no means — no prospects — nothing.

My friends Mr & Mrs Newman leave for Versailles
today.

Yr affec brother
R. D. S. —

you mention having written to Mr. Hay - The Poston
speaks of him in the highest terms - of his simplicity, of his talents
affectionate disposition - I should indeed be sorry to think
was not a gentleman after all the good things I have
heard of him. At the request of Col. John Poston I called
yesterday on Mr. Ballou Poston of Va - he seemed very
much gratified at my visit. Arrives on foot
leaving - My friend Captain left yesterday for England
intending to sail the last of this month. He is about
the only one of my old friends left to me beside
Hills - all of them have got married & gone the
way of all flesh. Only yesterday heard of my
old freeman friend Frank Newsum - a noble
fellow - died leaving a large fortune, a pretty wife
& child - near Helena, Ark. a year ago - How
strange some things seem! - I met several gentlemen
the other day from Va - and they insisted that I was
had been a Know Nothing - Poston is getting us
all on the wrong side - I expect he begins to regret
ever having joined that party. Mr. Robb left
with his family a few days ago - Miss Belle has
not made an excellent match - though I think
myself highly of her husband as an agreeable
& rather flashy looking gentleman. They go to
Mexico in two -

I am going to Heidelberg in a few days
to take supervision of the boys - I shall be
very much pleased you, I suppose
with Hart after having been
as many years associated

A postponement will be fatal to me -
in some sense it is now or never.

There are fine spots there even pass without
taking a step forward and this shall be
the last - there is an idea of going
west - and if I emigrate anywhere
I should prefer Mexico or South America
where both the pursuits of the people &
the climate would be more congenial
than away off in the frozen West.

Your last letter took the same
view of the whole case as those take
and after all I see that I but echo
your own opinions. I hope
to them of the sale of the land in question
of the purchase of other property suitable
to your views - property upon which
all the superabundant force of slave
labor might be temporarily transferred.
I am inclined to
profitably employed. I am inclined to
use the more urgency in making these sugges-
tions because the moment the sale has
taken place & purchases made, you will
find yourself under circumstances much
less favorable for the better. Of what avail

is a life of toil - spent in overcoming
hard obstacles and in the discharge of
weighty duties - if there is to be no
period of ease and enjoyment &
one of the most pleasant reflections it
seems to me a man can have if he
feels that after all the troubles and
anxieties of raising a family and
making a fortune, there is to be a season
of rest from undue labors & anxiety and
set apart as it were, for being relieved
in his children, that intercourse and
association which affords more pleasure
than any other circles of intercommunication
When this arrangement shall be completed
there will only remain, blockade, Tobias
Jr., the Ly & Lowly - his debt will be
productive and unembarrassed with
debt - as before observed, if at all
feasibly treated I could always give
it sufficient attention without neg-
lecting my own affairs - and I of
all others ought to settle near you - the
property of which you will find

foreably five or six years hence. Now is my
working time - the flower of life - it is at my age
that men make their fortunes when their impulses
is quick & strong they are not hampered by dome-
stic cares or broken down by domestic afflictions.
I don't afford to lose all this activity - I want to
store away - so that I may some day find
myself in the position you now occupy.
The more there is - the greater the responsibilities
- the wider the sphere of duties the better - But
think of a year's idleness at Live Oak,
for a man situated as I now am
should stagnate & give up the ghost -
It seems to me, that, under this settlement
you might come living with Sister, it would
mean us coming her to Europe - and come
over yourself & travel for a year or more with
Hunt - take the summer for Great Britain
& France - the winter for Italy - the winter
business for Switzerland & Northern Europe.
You have no idea now, how much you
will enjoy this tour - Three or four months
would amount to nothing. You might spend
a year or eighteen months without the
least anxiety - since all home matters
will have been arranged.

the parental mansion of my boyhood
however dear as it must be - can never
be the home of my manhood. I am now
going to see what I can do & do what I
can - it may be with defects unpaired
or with defects acquired, it may be with
the elements of success or it may be both
to make manifest my own faults -
however prepared or whatever the condition
I must strike out. I anticipate no great
success - I only hope to do as others do &
show those that come before me the
regis must often lament the issue.
Of course I should like best to have a
good stock to be able to consult in some
degree my own inclinations - to follow
out a course clearly marked out in my
last letter - but if such a course
ment is to interfere with Preston or Sister,
I would yield with the greatest cheerfulness.
All these matters one way or the other - must
be resolved by your own superior judgement
experience - and whatever that decision
may be I shall make it my own. - The sale, the
proper purchases - the equal distribution
& location of all - you understand better
than any of us - I only hope that
be no postponement.

see them embark in life is natural - you
will be the last to see in them the cap-
city to stand alone in this world's affairs
for your anxiety is not unlike ^{that} the
mother who ~~first~~ ^{she} fears ~~the~~ ^{pleasure}
in the boldness of the first attempt of
her child at walking. Such, however,
must be - and it is better that they
should do badly while you are living
than do worse & be beyond reach
when you may be no more.

It was upon these considerations that
I signed four years & a half ago the
sale of the Lexington property and
that I now urge perhaps with undue
vehemence, the sale of the Palace
the Yazoo lands.

I should think it would be well for Preston
& Sister to unite in the purchase of a Plan-
tation - a cotton plantation - such
as you might choose. without going
to the expense I see many seasons, with
it seems to you, why this would

a most fortunate partnership on both sides.
But Prator on his own ~~let~~ cut him
entirely clear of yourself - keep off every
hook on which he might hang - load
him down with debt - and I'll
stand to it - that he will not fail.
We are made up of better stuff than
that. And I hope this - or the like
of it will be done - before you come
to Europe. I would that he should
not know who are your merchants
that you did not know the names
of his own. He wants a large and an
improved estate - and with a fair
stock - he will make a fortune
for himself & his.

For myself I am ready to begin work.
I have long always endeavored to
harmonize my own wants with
the interest of the family. Never
for a single instant have I had any
other end in view, than to
promote as well as I could

the interest, peace & happiness of the
whole family. If that only found out
of conduct in myself should have
gambled, drank - and got married
instead of pursuing - to say the least
the negative course I have, for my
passions are strong & my inclinations
impetuous. Fortunately for me perhaps,
the interest of all was my own best
interest - But now I begin to feel
the force of my position - experience
both inside and outside pressure.
Circumstances have changed - I am now
married on and I find myself gradually
reaching middle life and its stern
duties, its larger needs and its more
decided vocations - now summon
me to work. The fancy sketches of magic
nation have passed the illusions that
they surround the youthful of time have
been touched with light - and are
behind and far before me, are realities
which cannot turn over which
to rest.

might sell the balance and
they get a few thousand
dollars to begin on -
What a help it would be!

Will Brooker has not
sent me the check for the
amount at Ellis & Torrey. I
wish you would attend to
it - as I am greatly in need of
the money. The very first
moment I am able to return
you the amount you were kind
enough to loan me will
do so - but I can hardly hope
to do before my return to La. -
during the winter.

Your affec brother
R. Gibson

27 Wall St
P. B. 2830

My Dear Aunt -

I regret the loss
of your horse but on our
account I am glad the
purchase failed as it is quite
clear now that this winter
Mr. Montgomery as well as
ourselves will be obliged
to dispense with a carriage.

I have taken a desk
in this office, am distributing
my cards & circulars, drumming
up business & seeing the
clients for whom I have done
& am doing business in that
wing all I can while here to
keep busy and advance my
self in my profession.

A man picks up about the Law
so much by mixing with
Lawyers & about Money making
in general by mixing with
leading men in a great
Metropolis - leading men both
here & from all parts of the
Country - that I have
concluded to venture in.
If I only had about \$40,000
or \$10,000 even - I could
make a fortune more quietly
& safely here than any place
there ever been; - and if
you will come on here I
would put you in the way
of it. The difficulty is, there
nothing to go on. If I had
property anywhere I would tell
it to invest here with a view
to become very rich. And if I
had your Woodford property I
would invest every dollar of

it on this Island. If you come
here with me you would soon
see the truth of what I say.
And if you want to become
a rich man, you have
to do it to come here depend
ten days with me - your
eyes will be opened. What do you
say to it? There is no rush it is
cool & delightful here now.

I suppose Father will be with you
in a few days. I hope you will
try to make him enjoy himself.

Of course we can never induce
him to sell out in Tennessee
at any price the property would
bring. It would be contrary to
Nature might not be
expected. But if we could
induce him to be satisfied
with Pine oak, we all

LAW OFFICE.

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R. L. Gibson, from July 1st until November 1st, may be found at 27 Wall St., New York City.

REFERENCES.

LEES & WALLER,
JAMES ROBB,

BENNETT, SLOCUM & FOWLER,
NEW YORK CITY.

M. MORGAN'S SONS,
W. B. OGDEN,

SAMUEL SMITH & CO., SLARK, STAUFFER & CO., HORTER, PETERSON & FENNER,
CANAL BANK, FACTORS' & TRADERS' INS. CO., MECHANICS' & TRADERS' BANK,
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

**PAGE(S)
MISSING**

of the Confederacy coming down the few speculators in Cotton, Sugar and Tobacco - our friends - both here & in Europe. Everybody connected with us for or near appears to have sooner or later, been brought down with a sudden crash. I thought the people of Mobile were lucky; they had escaped - the last City to fall & the citizens were in no respect; when all at once ten (10) squares of the most valuable property - in the City - were laid in ashes - in ruins - by the explosion of Federal Ordnance stores.

we are all down together - But I am a believer in the resurrection in spite of debts & losses. Taxation is the great load here - a load that may yet break down all the large land holders & force them to sell out to the "Coming Yankee" & divide the large estates - before help may come in any shape.

The great difficulty you perceive is to make our resources available; to pay debts; to stock the plantations with mules & implements; to pay taxes; to support in the meantime our families; and to accumulate sufficient means to ~~purchase~~ ^{hire} new laborers to provide for it. I think Preston with

economy & energy ought to make money; he owes eight thousand dollars; two thousand five hundred to Henderson & White, Barksburg Miss and five thousand five hundred to Judge Montgomery New Orleans - this on

hand about twenty five bales of Cotton and ten acres planted down in Cotton and fifty in Corn. - His dwelling house was burned with every thing in it about the 1st of April last. - But he is in a great measure free from overflow and has a good place and if he can get the labor can make two or three hundred bales very easily. He has not the

trouble now the rainy season to contend against as is the case here and is further removed from unsettling & demoralizing influences. Gladie & Claude came to St James Parish with Mr. Knily who returned from Preston a few days ago.

Unfortunately Preston sent off all of his negroes, but six indifferent ones two years ago and I am afraid he will have trouble

and shall strive not to add to my burdens - which he has come to long and wished to land 6-
get rid of. How much less than anyone of us has to spend - than to see the Canal stop head of
his whole life swept away, for my land with him. If should another see

in getting them back, I heard of them in Ala. & placed a few of them
in Sagrange - above two of his best men here. I shall try to assist
him to get them back atleast towards the close of the year when he
will need them. He also sent off half dozen mules - all in charge of
Mr. Holson in Ala.

Father still owns the Canal State Bank in New Orleans two notes of \$7,500
seven thousand five hundred each - making \$15,000 - or fifteen thousand;
\$7,000 seven thousand to Dr. Pickens; \$4,000 - or four thousand in
Louis; \$2,000 - or two thousand on Santa Fe, chiefly for the Russell
Place; and about five thousand in outstanding notes & in a
balance still due to R. Atkinson New York -

He has about seven thousand dollars worth of sugar on hand. Of course
nothing can be paid as even this amount will not be sufficient
to defray current expenditures. The registers are kept quarterly
on regular muster rolls which are forwarded to the little Provost
Marshal at Houma & of him examined and sent forward approved
to the Treasury Dept or returned for correction if the regulations are
not fully complied with. It will take our good crop to liquidate this
indebtedness if not two.

would like very much to see you & your family and to be with sister
the children for a few days. Hope you will be able to run down
when the Railways are open and make us a flying visit if nothing
more. Sold three good horses in New Orleans for two hundred dollars.
Have another one that I may sell. I have this two hundred on hand and
shall have that to start on - and may draw on you once in
awhile for small amount until I get some practice. There is
no such thing as credit in New Orleans. Nobody advances money to
planters. I have not drawn upon Father since the war began

13th

How are you going to manage the
Accepted bill for of George Hall &
will you draw on Mr. Rindley? Set the
longest time you can - Write & let the
Kew -

We had a good shower of rain
yesterday - the weather but for the backward
- Signs of our crops caused by the long
drought I would say they were fine.
You have the best plant ever but
we have the best stubble -

Benjamin lives in daily
year & trouble - I am on a part of
his premises every morning - he is not
lazy but needs attention - is honest
according to circumstances - petty abuses
will exist in spite of the greatest vigilance
After a while perhaps we shall feel them so
much -

14
Tell Sarah I am much obliged to her
for putting away my Coffee Service sent
to me byillard I wonder what put that
into her head - She surely forgot that
I had ever been a house keeper & that I
still enjoyed my morning beverage Coffee
which was made the more tempting by the
very late present - I miss it very much - I really
don't expect to be robbed badly any more than
I have been for the last 15 or 20 years but I like
his Vigilant Care but this is carrying the
joke a little too far - don't you think
so?