

and the lawn on the River covering an area of
eight or ten acres is studded with great trees, looks
like blue grass woodland - many would wish
this evening that she is going to sleep in spite of
herself, we have had a pleasant day. I wish you
had been with us. We generally drive in the evening
a long distance. I go back to my writing office in
the morning as never cease "pecking away" at the
main chance.

How delightful for you to have Father with you!
I hope you will persuade him to stay just as
long as he can. If Lord had control of you all, I mean
you, Sister, Father - you should not live another
day separately, and not among the bestest reasons is
because it would be less expensive; but I can't control
my advice has never been accepted so I shall let others
take their own way; - each one for himself if that is
the maxim - but I think that a bad maxim for
persons like Father which treat as with regard to one
another. It looks up all your future and the future
of other children. Can nothing be had better? I know you will
sacrifice when any interest both of economy, dignity, affection -
and of course for your welfare than your other children
saward such an union. But I must leave to him

my anxieties - as I have no doubt - such as I feel in the
the genuine belief of others - may be disappointed.
I remain with love to all & ever affectionately
P.S. May says I ought to mention all the names of the
about your coming on & to give her love. I must visit Chester Co
she shall be as best on your coming.
R. D. Gibson
Newport West Chester Co
Aug 12th 1888

My dear Lady -
Wednesday is a holiday with me and
I have had a very busy day - as I have given it to my
wife & her mother, brother & sisters. Early this morning we all
started off on an expedition - took the steamboat
North Bridge & went as far as Harbor Bridge down the
Hudson River - there we waited about an hour
looking at what might be seen - the Great Bridge -
the rail boats, riptides & miniature steamboats.
One of the latter was sold at auction for \$1300 &c
a beauty in its way - a steamboat for a family -
about three times the size of a large carriage -
boats may not only be used for pleasure but convenience
as New York is on an island - a narrow island 14
miles long over more than two in many places
not more than one mile wide - so you can go
to almost any point of the Id - by water.
Hudson 14 & the

the terminus of the Underground Railway
from City Hall in Ely-Port, and is destined to be a
Great Centre. After looking at all of
interest there, we bid farewell to the
"Ligeia Lily" and taking the "Sylvan Grove"
a large fine steamer - went down the
Hudson River to Hell Gate where we
entered the East River - and finally
stopped at Hell Gate where the Battery
is sight of Governor's Island. On either
shore - there were the finest residences
& parks, lawns and public edifices of all
kinds. These estuaries of the sea are called
Hudson & East Rivers, bounding New York on
the East - but they are not Rivers - they
are arms of the sea - The atmosphere we
found fresh & bracing white caps covered the
surface of the water - as far as the eye
could reach. I am now clad in my
warmest winter clothing. It takes one
hour and a half to go from High Collage

to Fulton or Wall Street by this route.
It presents the grandest spectacle I have ever
looked upon. We went into Fulton market and
supplied ourselves with fruit and then went to
Broadway to visit the Candy stores and Toy stores.
Accomplishing the objects of these visits, we again
returned as we went and on arrival at
High Bridge found hundreds of persons assembled
to witness these grand boat Races - the River was
thickly covered with beautiful boats of every
description and as much interest was manifested
in the Race as Regattas would exhibit in
a Bay - the starting point was at Kings Bridge
the terminus of the Race - at High Bridge -
the former a half mile above the latter a
half mile below us - and the intervening banks
filled with spectators. As it was already 5 o'clock
we came quickly home to prepare for dinner
dined at the River & jumped in took a splendid
bath - the water fresh from the sea & clear as the
sky. We have a beautiful roomy Government Bath
house



Miss Louly Gibson
Care of

Wm Joseph A Humphreys
Lexington - Fayette County
- Kentucky -

Shore get down up into a boat for three days with no special pain anywhere. - Little boy is still unwell and we are not without uneasiness as to her. Mary & Thelma are in pictures of health & so are all the rest of the family. I think Emily will not leave the moment we can get off and the yellow fever shall have disappeared from the city.

Did I tell you old Dr. Smith had got his two Wasson coss of Corn from the Leakes in New Jersey - immense coss - those three coss fully put away. We got no Corn no yield in comparison with any other part of the County - not more than 1/4 - and I think improvement of the seed or soil may be made by a little attention.

May get a letter today from Father at Pine Oak under date Sept 29th was well & happy.

What a flood in Va? When will misfortunes cease to fall on people?

I am amazed every day that you are here at the wealth, comfort & luxury of the people.

Never in the history of the world was there such houses, such gardens, such galleries of art (private) - such carriages, horses, such pomp & parade of life, as in New York and the surrounding Country. Among the wealthy class. Never saw such comfortable & expensive dressing - such comfortable looking people - as if they enjoyed good dinners - nice bottles & gave orders to their butlers or waiters without regard to expense. Where do the people come from? Where does the money come from. What signs of prosperity! of opulence!

all join in love for affectionate father

R. Gibson.



My dear Sister

High Cottage Newrat
West Chester County New York

I received from Anthony Day today a copy of his Cousin Mary's Complaint in the matter of D. C. Humphreys Executor Plaintiff vs D. C. Humphreys Legatee & Defendant - or rather the Women volunteered to give it to me - He also showed me his two letters to Mr Hunt both of which state distinctly his Cousin's indignation not to require contribution of your children. The last letter required the execution of that part of the petition requiring contribution. It was thought by both Anthony & Wren that it would be best to demand contribution to sign the petition as drawn by Mr Hunt - but they both say Cousin Mary refused point blank to sign it or to allow it to be signed in her behalf: but although it might redound to your advantage & hers it was his fixed & unalterable determination not to require contribution - "not to touch you or your children" she would not even assume the appearance of such a thing by signing the Complaint as drawn.

I will have a copy taken of the Complaint and send the same to you with such poor observations as I may be able to make pertinent to it. I understand Judge Thomas

has been made Commissioner or Referee in the matter. I am ignorant of the character and extent of his jurisdiction in the Ky system. If his powers are broad he may decide the original decree defective, untractable, incapable of being understood or equitably enforced thus perhaps send the case back to be tried over again; or the fact that one of your children was omitted that perhaps, it would render the decree inapplicable to the said child or altogether imperfect & inoperative as to all your children.

His powers do not go this far but are confined to an interpretation, adjustment and proper execution of the decree, here again is a good chance to so modify the decree as to defect its harsh features as to your children for the power to modify is very elastic.

I think it important that your children's position should be maintained at all costs. Both my experience & observation at the Bar, teach me that judges & attys are disposed very naturally to acquiesce - those not represented; and that the best of judges are greatly controlled perhaps unconsciously by their personal relations to lawyers & kindred - such is human nature. In practical life it has amazed me to see how much depended not upon the ability & learning but upon the personal energy & persistence of the attorney, & his keenness of skill or social splendor & power of the attorney.

brought them upon the Judge out of Court as well as in it.

A call upon the Judge or an incidental conversation by the client is all powerful. They feel flattered by such an exhibition of confidence in them & take the personal earnestness you show as the very best evidence of the uprightness & moral of your side. "They take sides"

My advice therefore to you is to ascertain just before whom the case is to be brought & then to secure the lawyer who is the best friend of the Judge & frequent of children. Go & see the Judge and talk over your matter with him & talk over the matter with an intimate friend of his and get him to see & talk over your case & present it to the Judge. I would select the lawyer who is most intimate friend & powerful with the Judge without reference to anything else - and if you & the Judge have an intimate friend in common - mutual friend - he will prove your most powerful advocate if you make it a point to get him to talk the matter over with the Judge.

I know this advice is common place and not sound; but I understand the matter is coming on immediately if it has not already been brought up. There is no time to spare.

I have not been feeling well for several days - my long and constant exposure in the war - especially the two last years - make me susceptible & change of the weather & liable to rheumatism.

M^{rs} Joseph A Humphreys.

Bessilles

Woodford County

ky



has until now -

You are much occupied with business that leaves but little time for miscellaneous writing. There is a kind of nothing particularly interesting at all. You are generally on the quiet side. But you received some good books for these sultry, brooding days. Something that hardly requires the use of the eyes.

You were deeply pained by the death of poor Aunt Virginia although fully anticipated. Her death seems to draw all of our warmest sympathies.

How are your little ones, healthy and happy as ever I suppose. How glad to hear that Cousin Joe is improving on his former path. Is it so long that you always write in such a hurry? Do you know it is so long? He seemed to be from you about once at the same time. How was her time as long as yours? I wish you would let me hear more of you when you have nothing to do write me a long letter -

Hope to you will write often & believe me my dear kids with love, to all at times that - but the long distance to you - Yours thro' the ether

R. Y. Johnson.

Leffland, September 10, 1887

My dear sister,

Although there is nothing of any interest to write about still I find much pleasure in keeping you in my debt for I have not yet despaired of your paying me in full both principal & the accumulated percentage. Father & I returned home yesterday after having spent several days with me. They both were very much pleased with this neighborhood. Indeed this Spring there has been a good deal of society. We had quite a lot to do since at Fair Lake. I regretted very much that you all and Hart were not here. Mr. Pragg & his young were the chaperons of the party - they both often spoke of your absence. Miss Young always speaks of Belle as her old school friend - but says that she fears that with her new associations you have lost all recollections of her. Sometime ago you wrote me that you Miss Belle was going to write to her. She wants to know why you did not write you don't fulfill your promise. Lady & Jessie both a great fancy to each other. The whole family have for some time the North side in July. Everything is going away steadily. You have no idea of what

raging weather we have at present. It is very dry and dusty - everything is parching up - and the sun shoots down the hottest rays I ever felt. It rained all these winter and now for days, no, not a cloud can be seen in the sky. Just as my wish the rainy season would set in.

Father is yet undetermined as regards his movements for the season. He will certainly go to the and may go to Europe - but you know he always sacrifices pleasure to duty. I certainly rather than so self sacrificing a man. In small things as in large matters he appears to be right of himself entirely and to decide every question according as it may benefit or injure his children. I should be willing to wage any amount that his individual expenses are less than those of any son - for any child he has - where can you find another instance of the kind - and yet his debts are bound & unbound. He is only saved from a case of debt.

I would like very much to come up this summer but being called here I am obliged to be at home pretty much all the time. I never expect to be away nearly the whole of next summer and as a matter of course ought to remain here this season. But there is no concealing the fact that this is a terrible climate in summer. We have a good cooling temperature from June until

Oct and then sickness of all kinds and a body scarcely at home. Spring is our finest season - the most delightful climate in the world.

We hear quite regularly from the Transatlantic boys - from all accounts, they are doing very well. The war has come to be interesting in every way to us - if it should continue it will seriously affect our values. I think however it will be confined to Italy and that by winter peace will be re-established on a solid basis. Austria will lose her Italian possessions.

Suppose the elections attract much attention with you all. Hope the anti-slaves may carry the day. It is hard for my party to stand against the democracy, for it alone is rational, organized and confident. Its consistency to give to it a moral prestige that the opposition composed of heterogeneous elements, can never acquire. He will be triumphant in our elections here - though there are grave discussions in the Party.

We heard from Aunt Anne the other day some pains about that Uncle Higgins was not mending. Believe that Father is about right in saying that the excessive use of tobacco has contributed to the derangement of his health. Aunt Anne writes that Fred is looking in excellent health. I am very sorry he did not remain here longer - He has nothing of La - He must come down next winter's stay

We have had the funeral & wedding in one Parish City -
the bride - Miss Annie Glover was married last week -
she was a sister of Mr. Dr. George Jackson - quite a friend of
the Union. We had a joy time of it. Miss Annie's sister, Maggie
Glover are about the prettiest ladies we have in the Parish.
What do you think of what he wants to let off Hell?
Will he have some chance to be elected.

I would like to enquire about that man who makes
such excellent whiskey in your neighborhood - speaking
of elections put not in mind of it. I would like to
get a barrel for medicinal purposes & such other
as might answer.

I don't see at present any chance of my coming up
this summer. I would not be surprised from present
appearances if Court sat all summer. However,
Father will be absent & I must be here.

I have been writing with increased speed
with much love & care

I am

Your devoted brother
R. A. Gibson.

Lockland, Tennessee, July 8th, 1859

My dear Father,

We have had occasional visits
from you within the past three or four weeks
in reply to Father's & my own very amiable letters.
You seem to think that I in common with
all mankind are possessed of original sin -
Is that any fault of ours? You allege that
I say "think the world perfect though I know
it is not, that I condemn good manners
with hypocritically & do not converse with sinners."
Now the fact is my dear father I am so taken
up with business & the circle of my affections
is so limited being confined to relatives & friends
that I have but little time to investigate the
matters of persons in no way associated with
me - and for my own comfort & peace I
try to think that they are good or at
any rate good as I am. Hope they are better
& believe many of them are. I tell you
the truth there is pretty good opinion of them.

would though Theobald is my favorite author. Under the circumstances I am inclined to believe the whole family of men behave quite decently. And as for myself I would rather be on the blind side of their faults & virtues & be to them even a little kind, than judge them unjustly. Write these few lines by way of explaining to you that I have the fullest sympathy for all the Sons & Daughters of Adam Stone & of telling you that you are correct when you say that I regard it as bad taste to be constantly alluding to the dark side of poor & depressed unhappy but kind & patient humanity, & choose to be well to my letter.

Was at home but a few days since - left Father very well. He will be up probably in June. We have a recent letter from Peter. He is on his plantation up Yagoos - half of it is under water & he is to the well.

We have very high water at present. There are several canals in the Sugar region but unless there be still more breaks neither Father nor I will suffer. The crops generally are poor - both Father's & mine are also poor.

I give your messages to the young.

She always asks for you Miss Belle - she says nothing would delight her more than to get letters from either of you.

We have every week or two some kind of entertainment in the neighborhood - a picnic fishing excursion - dinner, tea, fight or dance - but they have nearly shamed me as an old fogg.

All the young ladies now on the top's know me as Mr. Stone a being while they see children so I am living beyond my time. Well what is the difference so long as one can eat sleep rest - enjoy a good book and attend to business? and I hope to have added enjoy a clear conscience. You know some persons have accommodating consciences and perhaps mine is one of that kind - except itself to circumstances.

I am glad to see that the young lady in West St's case, and hope they may stay long perpetually, in reply to your question I must say I don't think it any more difficult for a gentleman to get along in the than here. There are exactly the same conditions in both societies. If there a man of large wealth would much rather live in the than here, but people are never so dissatisfied as when they ought to be contented.

Let me let me walk out again to see the Dress Parades and to hear
the music. We have one of the finest brass bands in the Army which
plays the operas very well indeed besides martial airs. The Colonel leaves
for his command about three miles off - and after receiving various
orders with some of my officers etc. call, I come in here, take a
cup of tea - dispose of a few more papers - look over the newspapers
pick up a book or two & finally conclude to write to you.

Mr. General Kitchin has gone to call on Mrs. Florence who
with a party is coming out tomorrow, to look at our Camps, to
hear our music and to mount to the top of old Rocky Face -
Capt. Wm. King & Capt. Ross are playing chess & about his dining
table. This is my regular aid. He has just come in & says
he has received a letter from Fannie - at which you see
on Good Luck was Sluff. He is very well. Will you ever have to go
to the top of the Ridge with us tomorrow. Before part of the day
on the Ridge yesterday. It is covered with beautiful wild flowers.
The view from the summit is beautiful. It reminds me of Spain.

Thus you see my dear sister how depend these
days of the Revolution. Generally I see the Brigade every morning
three Battalions drill in the afternoon - and a thorough inspection
& review once amongst. I attend closely to the interests of my officers
and men. I never forget that my men are my brothers & kindred
made such by our Holy Cause - and desire to take care of them.
About one half of my officers & men have been wounded - they are
indeed veterans. Tomorrow I shall be occupied all day on a Board to
relieve the Army of disabled, demoralized & incapacitated officers. Thus
you see we have a way of adding the service of worthless officers.

We have now an Invalid Corps - Corps des invalides to which
all officers were disabled by wounds or sickness contracted in the service

Head Quarters 26th Brigade New York

Mill Creek Gap - Army of Tenn April 28th 1864

My dear sister

How happy I should be if instead of sitting down in
my tent before my little table to write to you here with you and
had your little one in my arms and on my knee! How for
sisterly I feel for you & Fannie from those sweet love! How
much you all would have to tell me and how much I should
enjoy being here you and leaving all you had to say! But
Providence has decreed otherwise and we must bow submissively
to its behests with seeming resignation & cheerful will. Soften
words in what way you all pass your time and I suppose
you sometimes desire to know how I am occupied. The
officer in our Army lead a very uniform life - devoted to a
routine of duties, interspersed by occasional episodes of battles
ephemerals, reviews, - and social gatherings.

Should you ever visit this spot three miles from Dalton on
the Chattanooga road - Mill Creek Gap in Rocky Face Ridge
some of the inhabitants will show you where the Louisiana
Battalion was encamped and where its General had his quarters.
They may point to you also the graves of our dead and of
the Rebels who fell in the recent reconnaissance on this position.
They are but few in number but still enough to indicate
the spot where the fight was. My Brigade is encamped on
a small ridge in rear of Rocky Face - and my own quarters
are in a beautiful pasture along side the Railroad beyond
which is a deep, full rushing Creek - and just opposite
to us flows the Creek - indeed in it, so one of the largest and
finest springs I ever saw. There are four tanks in this green

The first one is mine with a comfortable brick chimney, floor and nice bed - The next is my Adjutant General's & friend Capt. H. H. Rein & Dr. H. H. H. - The third is Dr. L. Fardell (brother of Dr. David Fardell) Major Surgeon & Capt. Geo. Nelson a. c. c. g. - and in the fourth are Lt. H. P. Kermochan - my acting aid - a Lieutenant in the 15th Regt. Infantry - and Captain W. L. Stewart my Inspector General and who has his superior as an officer except in rank. Just in rear is a good fly (tent) in which we dine and to the rear of this is our kitchen and in rear of this still the quarters of the sutler's, Commissary, Ambulance & baggage train. Across the road is an unoccupied farm house from one end of which hangs my battle flag - red blue - which is borne behind me by an orderly on the march on battle and in camp & indicates the official head quarters of the Brigade where all business is transacted. Beyond this on the ridge are seven Louisiana Regiments, 1st, 13th, 16th, 19th, 20th & 25th of the La. Battalion & another Sharpshooters - and still further off in a gorge of old Rocky Face are my Quartermaster's and Commissary's establishments - stables, workshops, wagons, teams &c. As you see to begin with there enough to do - and I try to do my duty with little time today to show you how I pass my time. Rose at 6 o'clock this morning and took my old bath - a custom I indulge in on the march - and we all breakfasted at 7 o'clock - at 8 o'clock the Brigade was formed and marched about a mile to the drill ground. We had a division drill with one select Major Genl. A. P. Stewart Comdr. Stovell, Clayton, Howard and Rocky Regts. constituting Stewart's division. It would surprise you to see how accurately with what ease nearly eight thousand veterans execute all the evolutions of the line. Never saw our officers march looking so well. After drill we were visited Genl. Clayton

and throughout of a little refreshment and interchanged opinions on various military matters. Genl. Stewart is from Tenn - an accomplished soldier and Christian gentleman. Genl. Stovell is from Georgia - an old brother officer of "Rock in Sledge Biv", Genl. Clayton & Parker are from Ala. We passed an hour very pleasantly at Genl. Clayton's, there being many interesting officers of the Staff present besides Genl. Bate & Shackle from Tenn also present. We all then went up Rocky Face where Genl. Johnston who by the by gave every other day something fresh & new - a new thing in the Army with its Comdr. Major General. After spending about two hours on the heights and in the Gap we separated and returned to my quarters - having been about six hours on horse back - Here I found the papers going up and coming down through the channels which are filled in about one hour when Genl. Frigby was announced. Dinner was ready and we all went at the table and managed to pass an hour & a half enjoying our appetites, cracking each other as could be made current and discussing "the impending crisis" - in the shape of a Battle which will be fought and soon before you receive this letter. We then strolled out into the field to see a game of ball at which the officers and men amuse themselves. - It would do you good to hear their hearty peals of laughter and to see their buoyant faces and cheery countenances. The Colonel & I return to my tent and talk over matters - our domestic affairs - Cousin Susan Uncle Will, yourself, father, that pided our kind friends and our own affairs. The Colonel tells me that Genl. John Williams is assigned to the command of his Brigade and we fear his desired promotion will be postponed sometime to come. Genl. Wheeler is a strong friend of his and while I hope he will be promoted.

My Dear Cousin,

I received a letter from Cousin Lee today enclosing this to you & wish I had time to wish you the glorious news we have heard. I send yesterday telegram from old man on great horse.

are retired with full rank, pay & allowances. Mentions officers are cared for. But this is a different affair from the Board on which Genl Tompkins whose office it is to dismiss - recommend for dismissal inefficient, negligent and incompetent officers.

My old associations are somewhat broken up. Genl Preckmire is now on duty in Western Virginia - his old Division was broken up in the reorganization at Chancellorsville. We were much attached to him and the Officers and men all were devoted to each other and to their common Chief. Genl Preston is no longer with us. How much I used to enjoy his society and how much I became attached to him. Like him all in all he is a true man, a firm sworn friend, a gallant Officer and a most accomplished Gentleman. I think him one of the most admirable men I ever knew. You may hear from him while he is in Mexico. We have had quite a number of Reviews, sham battles &c and a great many "Ladies" in the Army. Mrs Stewart, Mrs Stovall & Mrs Baker are here now - so you see that there is no danger of our becoming barbarians - although a greater part of the time - we live like wild men - on the march & in the woods. Genl Stahl said to day that he and I were the only unmarried Generals in the Army - but as I am younger than any other (in infancy) I have concluded to wait until after the war - although he proposed for both of us a different course or wisest ^{one} best. Never heard of so many marriages. Cousin Capt Kim sometimes imagine think of deserting me. At all events he applies for frequent furloughs to visit Clinton, sometimes overstays them and looks rather sad for sometime after his return. I don't know why it is that Louly never writes to me. She writes to her very often & Capt Boston get letters from his family who are in Paris - about once a month.

I get letters occasionally from Cousin Lizzie who tells me all the

news. I have been at Uncle Am Cross a great deal during the war - and
have felt like a member of the family. Feel like I had a sister in
Cousin Lizzie. I have written to Father often long letters besides other
things giving a good deal of advice which is cheap - but which is
given honestly & sincerely. Receive random notes once in awhile but
they are rare - like angels visit - but none from him.

I get notes occasionally from Mary but hers come via Flag of Peace.
I hope to take her by the hand before long. Mary I think from what
she says will come to Dixie to be with him.

The trees are nearly full leaved (though I have a fire in my chimney)
and we are again on the eve of great events - events that will
have transpired perhaps before this letter reaches you. Great
battles are to be fought in Va & Tenn - and I think they will be
decisive. I don't know why it is - but even I a long war man
begin to feel that this may be the last year of the war. God grant
it may be. Two decided victories and the dimensions of the Confederacy
will expand at once to the Potomac & the Ohio - rivers to be contracted.

Write me as long letters and give me all the news of my friends and
acquaintances in the country and in the city - tell me how they
are what they say show they are getting along and write also all about
Landy from whom I despair of ever getting letters. Should she receive my
letters she ought to enclose them to you - they are long letters and she
may receive some of them. On account of the uncertainty all
the letters I write as all receive are intended for all the family
in reach. It is late & must close - I have been interrupted.
Kiss Father & your children for me. You all live in my heart.
May God bless & protect you all.

Your devoted brother

Rd Gibson