

Washington, D.C. January 13th 1856

Miss Harriett Elliott

My dearest love:

I arrived here day before yesterday, thank God, safe and sound, not without encountering on my journey delays & accidents since my last note from Wilmington. The weather has been, on the authority of the "oldest inhabitant," that decrepit, yet immortal witness of all rare events, unprecedentedly cold all along my route. The engineers had failed before we got to Wilmington. From that delectable hole it was the turn of the locomotives and the pumps were frozen. Light wood had to be burnt around them to produce a thaw and feed the boilers. At last we reached the Steamer "Georgia" at Portsmouth and off we were for Baltimore. She had cut through the ice the night before to get into the "Bay" and there were some apprehensions that, from the continued cold, she might not succeed so well upon the return trip. In anticipation of some such difficulty shipwrights were put in requisition and her bows were strengthened with heavy sheets of copper. When about 10 miles from Baltimore she began to part the ice, yet light and fragile, as easily as the swan could sail through the water lilies. Presently she vibrated as she cleft the thicker fields, until it reached 6 inches through, when she shook and staggered and, at times unable to make headway against some stouter banks would "back" and then, ram-like, would butt against it, until the ice proved the stronger, cut through her sheets of copper & then through the ship. The water rushed in and orders were heard to run baggage & cargo from forward to aft that her bows might be lifted. I myself joined with the hands and seizing my trunk dragged it astern & so with the rest of my little property, after which I established one of the stewards as guard over it. We were then 2 miles from the shore. Some enterprising landsmen had brought by the side of the steamer a flat-bottomed boat which several passengers and I hired to drag our baggage ashore. We then jumped on the ice (a greater leap, by the by, than I made from the fence for that "glory of France" rose,) and proceeded to walk over it to the nearest land. I came very near falling at the very first step. It was a long time since I had indulged in "winter expeditions." Fortunately for me I had a new pair of rough soled India-rubbers in my carpet-bag. I put them on & got along very well. I confess that up to that day I had been somewhat jealous of Sr. Kane's frigid laurels, to speak more properly, of his Iceland moss, hence did not feel very sorry to see all around me something quite similar to the Polar Circle. Our steamer hemmed in by the ice, a propeller & quantities of sailing vessels frozen in behind us, and the Steamer "North Carolina" belonging to the same Company as our boat, on her beam ends about a mile from us. She had been cut through the day before by the ice & to save her from sinking was run into shoal water. Her passengers, like ourselves, got ashore on the ice. Well, on we went, carefully examining the spot we trod. One man fell and injured his face very badly. Others fell within sight repeatedly but escaped without hurt. Another, a stout fellow, had the bad luck to fall into an air-hole, broke the ice all around him and after struggling for a minute or two, was saved. It was doubtless fortunate that, despite Mrs. Wayne's assertion, I had *no* "pouch," as in that event the weight might have given me a *pouch-ant* for cold water not very desirable *under* the circumstances of the solid ice. There were but two ladies & it was well for them that they and their husbands remained on board. A gentleman belonging to our party, had a pretty little daughter about nine years old. He placed her into the boat with our baggage to be dragged ashore. On a sudden, under the weight of the load, the ice cracked & seemed to give way. Her father then placed her in the care of a seaman who carried her in his arms. When we reached

the land we were still three miles from the Depot in Baltimore. A small carriage was had and four of us hired it for our baggage. It did not prove a *carry-all* for it could not take us. We accordingly plodded our way through the snow sometimes knee-deep. It was 10 in the morning when we left the boat; at half past 2 we reached the Philadelphia depot, where my companions had to take the Northern train. Leaving them there and the horse with carriage being very tired I walked on to the "Washington Depot" more than a mile off--reached it in time to take the 3 o'clock cars for this city. When I got here, at Willard's, I wrote a four-page letter to Mr. Guiteras, about our engagement. I had resolved that no one should know it before him, through me. I then shaved a *long beard*, & without taking dinner, went to the Thoms'.<sup>1</sup> It was then night. I satisfied myself of my perfect ability *even under present circumstances* of complying with your father's (which was my own) "proviso." From the Thoms' I went to my former quarters to ascertain if I could have my old rooms again. The answer was favorable. At 11 I returned to Willard's took dinner & supper, all in a piece, and *after* grateful thanks & much thinking of you went to sleep very soundly. Have I any energy? How little I'm known in some quarter! The cold was so intense on the Chesapeake that over my traveling coat I had an overcoat and over this my cloak with another overcoat & my velvet hunting pants. I made a muff and yet I had to walk as briskly as I could over the ice to keep from freezing. The breath froze on the lip & my moustache was all icicles. We asked when we got ashore something to drink, & I for a wonder, there being no wine, took whiskey and water. The tumbler, in and outside were covered with ice. To our remarks, the "Hebe," who was a *she=be*, that waited upon us said that it froze as soon as she washed them, inside of the house! We were told of a family frozen to death. The thermometer here in Washington has been 10 degrees below zero. The snow on my arrival was 10 inches deep & no prospect of thawing. Last night it was still deeper as it snowed all day.

I delivered my work yesterday and immediately was given some more. The clerks at the Office stated to me that although many clerks have been discontinued the orders from the Commissioner were that "I should be retained." This is what has been done *during my* absence. Now that I am here, I shall see to the rest. When I take all the steps which I have in my mind I shall write to Annie & your father. I ruled 300 patents yesterday and shall commence to write on them to=morrow. During the events I have narrated I constantly thought of you. How would Hattie feel said I to myself, if an accident should befall me. This reflection, I assure you, did sharpen my faculties. I had faith in the day, the 11th, or rather trust in the Providence which, on that day, last month, graciously bestowed you upon me. I am glad to state that I have gone through these Arctic trials without even taking cold. As there are no omnibuses to=day, I have not been able to go to the Post office situated at the other end of the city. I consequently leave this letter open until to=morrow morning when I shall mail it & perhaps get a line from you or *sweet* Emmie.

And now, sweetest darling, after having said so much of me for your own satisfaction, I want to speak of your own dear self. Have you been keeping *all* your promises? You boasted of always doing so, & I believe it, too. I have no fear, then, but that you have been walking & riding on horseback, studying Spanish & music "diligently" & writing me *long* letters, & above all that you have been taking very good care of your cold & committing no imprudences. Please date your letters not mark them with the day of the week as Emmie does often. Number them also, as I do with mine

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<sup>1</sup> Probably Captain George Thom, of the Engineer Corps, an 1839 West Point graduate. Later served as Union general and was attached to General Halleck's staff.

that I may know at once if any fails.

Jan. 14th. No letter from you at the Post Office, one there is from Mr. Guiteras who tells me that he has written to me and *addressed* to *Oak Lawn* (of course I could not get it) giving me the reasons why he was unable to spend Christmas with me.

I write in a store opposite the Post Office, standing & other wise uncomfortably.

Adios, luz de mis ojos.<sup>69</sup> With warm love to your mother, sisters & brothers, receive the heart of your own

Ambrosio

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EGP

Washington, D.C. Jan. 20th 1856 [Sunday]

Miss Harriett Rutledge Elliott

My own sweet darling:

I have been most happy as happy, I mean, as I can be from you, since I received your dear little note of Sunday the 13th inst; there is contained in it so much of grateful news blended with so great loveliness. It makes me *very* happy to hear that your cough has gone, I hope *not* like rebellious Catiline, ever to return again. It makes me happy to hear of your attempts at your own hair-dressing and to think that in two months you'll be such an adept at it. It makes me happy to hear of all your studies & training and exercising for my sake, and of Ralphie's kindness and of sisters' love and last, not least, to find that while doing *so* much you still desire to gratify me further. I am, indeed, my dearest love, *most* happy to possess you. I am almost afraid to ask too much of you, but if those delicate, white, pet, velvet little fingers do not repine at it, practice sewing assiduously. You will find it most conducive to "*general* thought," and then it will repay you greatly. I think it one of the most interesting of womanly attainments, for it is more suggestive of her dominion, home, than whatever else she does.

The weather here has been and is very severe. The snow has *held its ground* more than a fortnight and sleighs and their merry bells have been and are, as at the North, the order of the day and the night. The pavements are covered with hard ice, sure-footed men and beasts are at a premium and some heads may laugh at weaker feet, but find themselves, sometimes, taking the former's seat. A further lease is granted to King Frost. He shook his head last night and gave us *such* a snow. Washington has been hoisted up several pegs in Latitude. I believe that if this continues, tallow candles will be the dearest coin in circulation. I am not personally much distressed, as I have at home enough for heart, & mind & fingers. I have not yet ascertained the result of the President's interview with Jeff. Davis in regard to me. I shall probably do so tomorrow.

I find, upon reflection, that the regularity of our days of writing renders it needless to number our letters. It is well to date them, though.

I have written to-day what perhaps would prove a year's task for my darling's little fingers, and she has been the pleasant theme of almost all my writing. I wrote to Paris about herself and me, to Cuba thrice, and four more letters to different parts of the United States. All of them quite long.

My best love to our mother, sisters and brothers, while, I, my beloved Hattie

remain

your own dearest & forever devoted

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<sup>69</sup> Goodbye, light of my eyes.

EGP

Washington, Jan. 27th 1856 [Sunday]

Miss Harriett Rutledge Elliott

My own sweet darling:

your note of the 20th (with the stamp of the Charleston Post=Office of the 23d and the motto "I will not forget" which had the appearance of having been stamped upon some previous seal) was received on yesterday and made me as happy as your little notes are always sure to do. I would have written then, as promised, but that I was engaged all day until 7 in the evening hurrying up a work which I must return to-morrow, in order to obtain another which, if I do not get, some one else will and I will suffer--for, dearest, I have to look ahead and make arrangements a long time beforehand for my next movement South. I shall to-morrow morning work by candlelight and continue till I finish it. I have said "until 7" because I had made an engagement with Mrs. Pierce to call on her at that hour and spend the evening at the White House. You have gained by the postponement, for, yesterday I would have omitted for lack of time & data some lines herein contained.

I have not, I assure you, forgotten the lock, but you all place such stress upon fine hair, that I thought you hardly wished for mine. Do you remember that I asked you *twice* for yours? and yet mine is silver and yours is gold.

I am sorry you cannot find *within* you, (not the Love, which you do have, but that *diligence* which springs from it), wherewith to fill some *real* pages for my sake. *I* would, you know, even there in that "secluded spot" especially with the little that you have to do.

I hope that by this time you have received Mr. Guiteras' and Miss White's<sup>70</sup> letters to me on the subject of our engagement. You will, I know, justly appreciate their sentiments and find it difficult hereafter to follow in the footsteps of your "illustrious *teazing* predecessor," an imitation which I, who, "remember that I am to make you a "*splendid*" woman", am bound in duty & love to discourage in you, as I would in her. It makes me happy, though, to find that you realize for how short a time I am yet available as groomsman, showing thereby that your *last* and most important promise has been well kept.

I spent the whole of last Tuesday evening at the Secretary of War's. His desire to show me his little girl (wonder if he knows how much I love the "article" and the article *Loves me!*) took him to the adjoining room and that brought Mis Davis who remained with us to the last and I was thus prevented from having a long "talk" about our future. He told me, however, that the President had communicated the intelligence to him, with the expression of the great interest which both took in my behalf. On Friday I saw the President again. He was beset with people & otherwise extremely engaged. He had not yet been able to speak with Mr. Marcy<sup>71</sup> but would do so at the earliest opportunity. Mrs. Pierce, inquired very kindly, among other things, if I had heard recently from you and tastefully dilated upon the sunshine which each note of yours must shed upon me until the next

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<sup>70</sup> Miss White, possibly related to Mrs. Ashton White, was apparently a "good friend" of Gonzales. See: Gonzie to Hattie, [c. February 1856], EGP; and Emmie to Hattie, Dec. 30th [1856], *Ibid*.

<sup>71</sup> Secretary of State William Marcy.

arrives. How short they were I did not tell her, for your sake. The “pretty little girl” cannot be altogether a good substitute for you. She loves me very much, however, & still tells me very prettily “Genin, I ‘ove you! Ain’t I your little girl? Considering she is *four* years old and that Sue McF. and Sue B., her cousin, who are also younger than you are, stand convicted of being fond of me, to say nothing of other “little children,” *I* cannot wonder that you do likewise.

I am glad to hear that your father has returned in better health & spirits and hope that they continue.

I send you “the lock.” It is the very first that I *ever* gave. This, if nothing else, might give it value. The “scarcity” which Emmie mentions should still increase it. It is very late, good night, my love. Please don’t make a boy of yourself by writing down “*le méme.*” What would the good, the kind, the natural, the charitable say?

With my best love to mother, sisters and brothers, I remain  
Your forever devoted

Gonzie

The lock is in its natural state. I have not taken a single gray hair out of it.

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**EGP**

Eldorado Jan 31st-- 56

Well my dear Hatty, you have been as good as your word! You promised me a surprise and you have given me one, I assure you! I remember your look of honest indignation (so I thought in my ignorance!) when Carey suggested that the news you predicted would relate to yourself. And here, while I was considering you just of a proper age to flirt with Charley, you must go & engage yourself; how could you delude the public last summer by wearing your hair so innocently plaited? Let me explain to you why your note to Cousin Hess has remained unanswered. I was in Charleston about the time she received it, but we were all sure it was a hoax; (You remember the girls had a weakness that way, some years ago) and besides, you and Aunt Ann tho’ leading me to anticipate something very shortly; never led me to suppose you juvenile fingers had any concern in the pie. We concluded therefore it was all a joke, and a letter coming from Uncle William to Papa soon after in which you were not mentioned, confirmed the impression. It was not until yesterday, that a letter from your sister Mary convinced us of the truth, and you have been in my mind so constantly ever since that it is a relief to me to take up my pen, and offer you my very best wishes. Do not think we would have suffered your note to remain so long unnoticed, had we believed it was written incorrect. All of the family here unite in sending you love, and sincere hopes for your happiness; brother remembered your General as an agreeable gentleman as he met at Oak Lawn, a year or two ago. I hope Cally has mollified since Cousin Mary’s days, and allows you spemaceti to sit up by, at all events do give her Mama’s thanks for the very pretty knitting backed, also received yesterday from North River; she is quite pleased to have been remembered by her Goddaughter beyond seas. You were so good and dutiful in writing to Cousin Hess, I shall expect at the least a circumstantial account of the rise and progress of this attachment; and all the particulars, down to “said he” and “said she.” I suppose you have given up all ideas of going to New York to school? Remember me to Aunt Ann, Uncle William & the girls; and believe me, your,

much amazed and affectionate Cousin

Mary E. Pinckney

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**GFP**

Oak Lawn, Feb. 10th [1856]

I assure you my “ever tender loving devoted Gonzie” that it took all of these very dear endearments to make me forgive the saucy letter which yesterday made me *so* very happy. It was cruel in you to arouse my anxiety (not curiosity) as you did. I really thought that something of great importance must be at the end of *such* a long sentence. I believed that you were coming, that you were on your way, I almost expected to see you come up. It was wicked in you darling to give me such a disappointment. You wish you say some of that artfully contrived letter-paper that takes so little writing to fill it. You shall have some when you have given me the recipe for making two moderate size words, fill a whole line of writing paper. Will this not be a fair exchange Love? Your last letter was in better spirits. *I* am so happy when *you* seem so. Give my affectionate remembrances to your hands, poor things! I shall have to pet them a great deal-- for all the hard work they are doing now, shall I not? I think you are perfectly right not to come, but oh! My Gonzie how I wish for you. The days are balmy & Springlike & the birds sing so sweetly while you my exiled little canary are chirping away where I can't hear you. I want to see my little bird. I want to pet him, scold him, worry him, make him vexed & pleased again. Tis funny but I never see a bird without thinking of you. L'ami de coeur I am sorry to say has shown a very lazy disposition & can not be induced to get up in the morning or indeed at anytime. So Annie quite worried with his obstinacy, gave him to me. I [...] up-placed him in a Cuban box, which I am sorry to say once contained cigars, & have given him a warm position where I can watch over him constantly. If my culture prove in vain, I must come to the conclusion that l'ami de coeur is good for nothing & change his name. By the by Annie bids me tell you that even *her ferocious* instincts with regard to Mr. Warrington were not ferocious enough for *such* a man. She says you would have been amused to have seen William's indignant look when Mr. W-- slapped him on the shoulders after an acquaintance of ten minutes! Do not let the fact that he has been to Oak Lawn induce you to tolerate him, for he is disapproved of by *all* of us. Gonzie dear I want you to write a note to Daisy, my little charge of last summer, asking him to be one of your groomsman. He will be so pleased. You know how to write to children, it is sometime since you have been writing to me. Now my “tender loving devoted” Love good night, *your* family send their greatest love, your attached

Hattie

General Ambrosio Jose Gonzales

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EGP

Washington, D.C. Feb. 24, 1856 [Sunday]

Miss Harriett Rutledge Elliott

My own Sweet darling:

Your two little sheets of paper forming a letter bearing date of the 17th inst., came like two dew drops which were, to me, like April showers to the wilted plant. It is singular the way I feel before and after the reception of your notes. No wonder that I should prefer writing when I have one before me, for Clequot Champagne is nothing to the spirits like your exhilarating little, gentle, soothing, loving, lively paragraphs. To me you are so all-powerful in sweetness; in proof of which I'll say that when I wrote your love down as “sluggish” I wrote “unwell” for “I am a foreign thing and never lost my native tongue.” I should have said *un-quick*. But even that *is* not, but *was*, for I now find that it pervades every fibre of my nature as if it were quicksilver and then it stops in fixity, & like the magnet, gently draws me to my [...] of happiness.

I am so glad that we all agree as to the one *in question*. How he ever went to Oak Lawn I

cannot possibly conceive. It reminds me of one of Moliere's best plays, in which, a victimized old man is made to ransom a person reported to have been enslaved in a Turkish vessel & to whatever he hears repeats, "Mais que diantre est-il ailé faire dans cete galéré?" What in the name of cause & effect was that individual's business at Oak Lawn? To be sure the Atlantic Ocean is a great *waste* & here's the proofs men, even men-of-war, are scarce, but rather than have this man-a-worrying I would take sea-sickness or the much brighter & not cooler prospects of a collision with an iceberg. I am admonished, and the conclusion forces itself upon my mind that I *must* take all the sisterhood. There's no help for it with this distinction that *ours* will be an indissoluble, unslackenable (*passer moi le mot*) uncuttable species of a bond, superior even to the Gordian knot, while the one with the Traddelites will bear loosening when I find the coast clear of men-a-worrying to be tightened & double twisted when going over the Atlantic or visiting St. Paul's. The individual in my mind's eye thinking that he was "lobbying" some green Member of the House, started with the congratulation already alluded to in a pretty loud, would-be-familiar tone, with a Down-East twang & a falsetto termination of his sentences--*next* came the expression of his desire for the annexation of Cuba about which he was not interrogated & which his party & friends have been opposed to; then he showed how he was like hand & glove with Butler King & Hamilton Cooper & other big men of Georgia. When I mentioned purposely some small fry, as good as they; and who knew him better, he would say Ah! yes! You know & if you do not perhaps your sisters do, that I have a pretty good memory for faces. Well I *never* saw him before anywhere. He "does not go into society." He was in the society of the people the other night, at the President's Levee, & was all eyes & bows with the crowd as I passed I recognized him too late to avoid his looks & gave the reciprocity. "He was anxious to get here" as "he had an interest in having the committees of the House organized" in some way, he stated: the King of Portugal "annoyed" him in Italy & to cap or bonnet the whole he had had or would have (I don't remember exactly which,) "*occasion* to write to Miss" [...] & would mention me. Then the grand finale the irresistible winding up was that he wanted me to go to his house not in a common way but to be sociable "over a bottle of wine." Did ever eagle feather stick out more proudly from the top-knot of an Indian chief than this visit to Oak Lawn will protrude forever from this man's conceit? I should not be surprised if a claim were presented before Congress for having taken the incipient steps towards the "forming of a more perfect Union" between the North & South. Now, if he has been written to, it is unfortunate for he will "make the most of it" "if it be treason." When I was corresponded with it was a different thing, for there existed on both sides an "instinctive, unconscious apperception" that your sisters & I were brothers, whereas in the present case every revelation points "ferociously" to the fact that he is our antipode. But let the curtain drop over the incidental man.

A rather noticeable thing occurred on Friday and had no small share in the shortness of my letter. What do you think of Mrs. Pierce's sending a footman to Capt. Thom's to find out my lodgings & then here. He said to a daughter of my landlady that she, Mrs. Pierce, & another lady would call on me during the day if I should be at home. Surprised as I was & rather doubting the correctness of the message I waited patiently for the promised honor, but it came not. In the evening I went to the levee purposely to see my lady friend. She told me that her object was to ascertain the state of my health, knowing that I had been sick. But the messenger never mentioned health & used the phrase "if I should be at home," & I putting all things together have come to the "guess," the wish, perhaps, being father to the thought, that she expected to have some good news to give me & wanting to do so in person took steps to ascertain my residence, & that some remark may have escaped her about

the subject which the servant, like most servants, could not be...

[Final page missing from Gonzie letter]

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EGP

[c. February 1856]

[First two pages missing]

...& prove you in the sequel the *most* improved.

I thank you, dearest, for your flowers and rejoice that though I am not *able* at this hurried moment to send you any of my own a letter which I received this morning from Mr. Guiteras contains two holly leaves which he sends the one to you, the other to Emily with his very kind remembrances. They were plucked with his own hands last year, at Chester, Pa., from the self-same tree which witnessed the landing of Wm. Penn, the celebration of which he attended with the Historical Society of Pa. He gives me the most agreeable news that he is coming to Washington to give me what he calls the “bridal embrace” before I leave for the South. I suppose I must write to him to stop & wait till you lose your beauty or can’t improve it longer, as by that time you will have attained perfection and Emmie’s logic been triumphant.

I am glad to hear that Ralphie has had some relaxation & witnessed the lion ball of the “Jockey Club.” ‘Tis very kind in him to speak thus praisingly of his down ward trip with *Belisarius*, two months ago. Even at the risk of demolishing Emmie’s satire which I knew never could reach the sublimity of ever a “ferocious instinct” I enclose a note from my good friend Miss White, *our* good friend, I should have said. Mr. Guiteras accounts for what she does not understand by the severity of the weather. The month & March are the most trying in Wash. While the snow was on the ground it was dry & tracing. Now that it thaws it is intolerably chilly and damp. Close confinement in heated room, & no exercise or possible recreation out of doors makes one still more sensitive to it. Add to this the sadness of the part & the *doubt* as to the future encouraged by your note & you will have with excessive work a cue to my situation.

With my greatest love to all I remain your ever tender loving & devoted

Gonzie

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EGP

Mills House  
Charleston  
April 15th 1856

To The Hon Wm. Elliott

My dear Sir / Your polite invitation to visit you on the occasion of your daughters marriage 17th Instant was rec’d yesterday. I thank you for the attention, but it is out of my power to accept, for my Court will go beyond the period.

I can only therefore offer my congratulations on the interesting occasion and wish y’r daughter, her husband y’rself and family every “good and perfect gift.”

Yr friend

John B[...] O’Neill

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EGP

To Hattie,

With the love and best wishes for her happiness of

May Hamilton



Lackland April 16th 1856

**EGP**

BOND.--Printed and sold by A. E. Miller, No. 3 State-st.

State of South Carolina.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT

*I William Elliott am*

held and firmly bound unto *Ralph E. Elliott Trustee under the marriage settlement of Ambrosio Jose Gonzales and Harriet Rutledge Elliott*

in the full and just sum of *twenty thousand dollars*

to be paid unto the said *Ralph E. Elliott Trustee as afore said his*

certain Attorney, Executors or Administrators, or Assigns: to which payment well and truly to be made and done *I bind myself* and each and every of *my* Heirs, Executors and Administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these Presents.

SEALED with *my* seal and dated the *Seventeenth* day of *April* in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty *Six--* and in the *Eightieth* year of the Independence of the United States of America.

**THE CONDITION of the above Obligation is such, That**

if the above bound *William Elliott his*

Heirs, Executors, or Administrators, shall and do well and truly pay, or cause to be paid unto the above-named *Ralph E Elliott Trustee as aforesaid by*

certain Attorney, Executors or Administrators, or Assigns, the full and just sum of *Ten thousand dollars with interest thereon from this date, the principal to be paid at any time within ten years from this date in [...] at the pleasure of the said William Elliott and the interest to be paid annually in the principal sum remaining unpaid, until the whole amount thereof be paid on or before the*

~~\_\_\_\_\_ day of which will be in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and~~ without fraud or further delay, then the above Obligation to be void and of none effect, or else to remain in full force and virtue.

SEALED AND DELIVERED IN  
THE PRESENCE OF

Wm. Elliott

The words commencing "on or before" in the fourth line from the bottom, to the words "eight hundred and" in the third line from the bottom having been just scratched out.

Wm. C. Bee

[Written by hand on the back of the bond:]

Charleston 18 April 1857 Recvd from Hn. W. Elliott by the hands of W. C. Bee & Co. three hundred & fifty dollars on int. on within Bond.

Ralph E. Elliott Trustee

Charleston 23 July 1857 Recvd. from Honl. W. Elliott by the hands of W. C. Bee & Co. three hundred and fifty dolls. in full payment on within Bond to 17 April last

\$350

Ralph E. Elliott Trustee

Charleston 26 Nov 1858 Recd from Honl. W. Elliott by the hands of W. C. Bee & Co. seven hundred dollars in full for one yr int. to 17 April last on within Bond.

\$700

Ralph E. Elliott Trustee

Charleston 6 July 1859 Recd. from Honl. W. Elliott by the hands of W. C. Bee & Co. seven

hundred dolls. in full for one yrs int. to 17 Apl last on within Bond  
\$700

Ralph E. Elliott Trustee

Charleston 4 Augt 1860 Recd. from Honl. Wm. Elliott by the hands of W. C. Bee & Co.  
seven hundred dolls. in full for one yrs int. to 17 Apl on within Bond

\$700

Ralph E. Elliott Trustee

I hereby acknowledge having received the interest due on the within Bond up to April the  
17th 1863.

Ralph E. Elliott Trustee

Adams Run Oct 15th 1864 Received of Mrs. A. H. Elliott Executrix of estate of Honl. W.  
Elliott seven hundred dollars, in full, of interest on the within Bond up to April 17th 1864.

Ralph E. Elliott (Trustee)

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**EGP**

Copied for Miss Emily Elliott as a testimony of tender friendship--

by

Pedro J. Guiteras.

Oak Lawn, April 19 of 1856.

Madrigal

de

Gutierre de Cetina

Ojos claros, serenos,

Si de dulce mirar sois alabados,

¿Porqué, si me mirais, mirais airados?

Sí, quanto mas piadosos,

Mas bellos pareceis a quien os mira,

?Porqué a mi solo me mirais con ira?

Ojos claros, serenos,

Ya que así me mirais, miradme al menos.

Madrigal

de

Luis Martin

Iba cogiendo flores

I guardando en la falda

Mi ninfa, para hacer una girnalda;

Mas primero las toca

A los rosados labios de su boca,

I les da de su aliento los olores;

I estaba (por su bien) entre una rosa

Una abeja escondida,

Su dulce humor hurtando;

I como en la hermosa

Flor de los labios se halló, atrevida

La picó, sacó miel, fuese volando.

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The Charleston Daily *Courier*  
24 April 1856, 2.

MARRIED, on the 17th inst., at Oak Lawn, St. Paul's Parish, by the Rev. C. C. PINCKNEY,<sup>72</sup> AMBROSIO JOSE GONZALEZ, of Matanzas, Cuba, to HARRIETT RUTLEDGE, daughter of the Hon. Wm. ELLIOTT.

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*Savannah Morning News*  
25 April 1856, 2.

**MARRIED,**

On the 17th inst., at Oak Lawn, St. Paul's Parish, by the Rev. C. C. PINCKNEY, AMBROSIO JOSE GONZALEZ, of Matanzas, Cuba, to HARRIETT RUTLEDGE, daughter of the Hon. Wm. ELLIOTT.

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**EGP**

Office of Charleston & Savh. R.Rd. Co  
Charleston 17th May 1856

Hon. Wm. Elliott  
Oak Lawn

My dear Sir,

I have received yours of the 14th inst. agreeing to take \$50 an acre for such land through your plantation, as may requisite for the Right of Way of the Charleston & Savh R. Road. I accept the terms for the Company and will be prepared to settle with you as soon I can ascertain the precise quantity that we will take. Maj. E. Manigault goes by your plantation next Monday -- and will inform himself of the precise points of entrance and departure through your place, so as to enable him to calculate the exact number of acres to be paid for.

very truly yours  
Thos. F. Drayton  
President

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**EGP**

A personal calling card from Pedro J. Guiteras has inscribed in Spanish:

To Miss Emilia Elliott  
your affectionate friend  
Philadelphia, May 20 -- 1856

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*Philadelphia North American and United States Gazette*

1 July 1856, 2

***Marine Intelligence.***

ARRIVED.

U.S. Mail steamship State of Georgia, Garvin, 54 hours from Charleston, with cotton, &c., to Heron & Martin. Reports, Sunday, June 29th, 5 PM Cape Hatteras bearing N.W. signalized steamship Keys one State, Hardie, hence for Savannah; same evening, at 8 o'clock, 20 miles North of Cape Hatteras, signalized steamship Knoxville, from New York for Savannah. Monday 30th ult. 4 PM off the Brandywine, passed brig Ellen, from W. Indies, under way. Passengers--J Clunas, lady,

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<sup>72</sup> Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, born 31 July 1812, nephew of the Hon. William Elliott. Son of Caroline Elliott Pinckney, owned and estate at Flat Rock, N.C., and served as a minister to that parish from 1843 to 1863.

two children and nurse; Miss E H Bond, Mr. Cunningham and lady, Mrs Workman, child and servant, Mrs Horton, **A J Gonzales and lady**, Mrs. G Humphreys, Miss M H Wilkinson, W D Rickuly, S D Parker, Mrs Ford and nurse, Dr W R T Prior, Miss Durragh, Miss Jones, F C Jacobs, John Long, Dr J F Shaffer, G C McNulty, J H Parsons, Geo B Edwards, lady and child, Hon L C Levin, S M Powell, W M Henderson, Mrs C A Vaux, Miss M Ford, P Fitzimmons, and 36 in the steerage.

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*The Evening Star* (Washington, D.C.)

2 July 1856, 2.

### ARRIVALS AT PRINCIPAL HOTELS

Willards Hotel

(Penn. Ave & 14th, N.W.)

Gen A J Gonzales & ly, DC

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EGP

July 11 [1856]

Rockbridge Alum

I shall begin my scribbling today dear Annie & if I hear from you this evening as I hope to do will dispatch this tomorrow. You see I have kept my promise "to write constantly" & only hope that you may keep yours to the same effect. As yet I have not heard one word from home & begin to feel uneasy about you all. The weather is really cold here many persons have furs & I found the change from Washington to this region almost too great. The water is nice & gives one such an appetite, it gives occupation too, for strange to say it affects me exactly as the "White Sulphur water" did Emmie! The life we lead is funny, immediately after breakfast, dinner, & supper, Gonzie brings me to our room & there we sit playing or reading Spanish or sleeping & not making a single acquaintance, everyone thinks that we are in the "Honeymoon" & several persons have warned Gonzie that when it is over he will find that he will not mind "a short separation from his wife." The other morning as we were returning from a plentiful breakfast I was stopped in the passage by a pretty *old* lady who introduced herself as "*my cousin* Mrs. Harper." I was very much surprised for I had heard of but one Mrs. Harper a Roman Catholic & I thought that she was now in Paris. I was however polite, introduced Gonzie, & did not demur at the cousinship. Yesterday at the solicitations of Mr. Fraser we went into the drawing room when Mrs. H. came forward & introduced us to a pretty little woman in black as Emmie Harper that was. She then gave Gonzie to Emmie, & overwhelmed me with questions about "Caroline & Berthias" Mama & all of you. She says that I am more like what she recollects of Mama as a girl, than any of her other children. Emmie has her *baby of twenty* months & pinch nurse with her. Her husband is absent. They both seem dying to get back to Paris. The only pretty woman here with the exception of the two last is Mrs. Ferser wife of the proprietor of these springs. She is very ladylike & resembles very much Alice [...] that was. They are some very sick people but they keep entirely to their cabins & they are no disagreeable objects at all. tell Mama, whilst I remember it do let me say that Gonzie begs you to bring with you the number of "Lissets Living Age" that contains the "*Political tendencies of America*" also he begs you to bring "that silk jacket of mine that once was Emmies, with the frills to put inside. He wants me to wear it. When we were in Washington we did not see Mrs. Pierce. No one saw her, she was quite sick, so sick the porter told Gonzie that she feared to tell the President. The President was also unwell. Gonzie saw Mrs. Jeff Davis who asked immediately why he had not brought me to see her. She had heard "such an account of the wedding & of me." Through whom do you think? That devoted old alligator

Mrs. Wayne who had written a description of the whole affaire to Judge Wayne. So after Mrs. Waynes account of me I am only too glad not to have seen “any great fish” until the fall when I expect to be so much improved & now to your favorite subject my darling Gonzie is perfectly well. Early risen & plenty of exercise, no wine & implicit faith in the waters agree admirably with him. He shaves every other day & I “camme” & black him diligently. He is now at this moment flat on his back reading “La Fontaine” which is a great resource to him. He does not leave me for a moment except when *absolutely obliged* & is as devoted as possible. We have a large sized room, a screen, nails to hang clothes upon & many other luxuries. The meals are good, the washing very good, the servants [...] & the cows magnificent. One of theirs would give more than *all* the Oak Lawn stock together. There is a pretty good Band of music which serves to drown the tree frogs who are as annoying as at Flat Rock. This place appears to be getting quite in vogue, numbers of persons arrive daily Mr. Rist was here when we first came but left on the following day. He was devoting himself to a roundabout little girl who *believes herself* to be a Bell & who has very short legs “a la Virginia.” Many men bring their wives & leave them here apparently because their appetites are too expensive to remain at home & a very wise plan too, they certainly all seem to get much more than their moneys worth. The amusements here & places of resort are two Boling alleys, a Billiard saloon, a Bar room, a Doctor’s & Dentist shop. The two last *we* do not frequent but “anything for a little excitement” & many persons are having their teeth [...] for nothing else I am sure. Gonzie went today to see some men play billiards & ended of course in playing himself & winning too.

The mail has just arrived & Gonzie has brought me your two sweet clever letters which we have both enjoyed exceedingly. I am too happy to hear from home & that you are all well & no fever after all one must perspire in order to write well supposing of course that there is a mind in the case. About your advice dear Annie, Gonzie says I must assure you “that it is no fault of his & that he has done his very best.” I say that I am in no such hurry & that there is time enough. Tell Emmie her news has very much surprised me. I did not suppose that Clitus had sufficient strength of mind to separate from & have the displeasure of such a strong minded woman as Chloe. Give my congratulations to Chloe & tell her this is a punishment to her for marrying in a family inferior to her own. remember me to all the servants please. There is a copilot colored man here who reminds me so of John he can do anything & is devoted to Gonzie. If we keep house in Washington Gonzie will hire him. Gonzie says I must tell you that as he was so unfortunate as not to see the persons we most wished in Washington that if you all come on he will be glad to leave me with you for a day or two & go to Washington & see his friends. Good bye my darling I have scribbled enough for once. Many thanks to Emmie & yourself for your sweet letters & with a great deal of love to all from Gonzie & self & to Mamie when you write. I remain

Your Affectionate  
Hattie

Gonzie has heard from Mr. Guiteras who has heard somehow of his passing through Philadelphia (where he is now) & is *almost mad* with him. He intends leaving in a few days for “Bristol” & Gonzie hope to induce him to come here but I think it would be a [...] to “rattle his bones” over so many mountains to regale him at the end of his journey “with the very much quietness” which this place affords.

Friday

Both quite well. Write soon to your affectionate

Little Girl

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EGP

Bay-Point July 56

[To Anne Elliott]

My Dear Wife

On the evening of the 16th I received your letter dated 13th enclosing Harriett's letter of 2d from Washington. If she has anything agreeable to tell as to her reception there--I shall be truly happy to hear of it.

You write that "if I see no objection to it, you will accompany your family to Virginia to partake of the sulphur waters." Most certainly I will not object--and shall most earnestly desire that your health and spirits may be restored by the change. You will draw on Mr. Bee for the funds necessary for your comfort. But I cannot be your escort as I am not strong enough in mind or body to take charge of a party--and have been too long accustomed to have my own way to brook the opposition which awaits me on such occasions--I feel decay--but I do not acknowledge to dotage--and until then I must be the director of my family whenever I am with them.

...

With my love to all with you I remain your affectionate husband,

Wm. Elliott

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EGP

Beaumont<sup>73</sup> 27th July [1856]

My dear little Sister

As I have been prevented from writing to Mama very lately by the news received from her of her intention to leave Oak Lawn on the 26th which would be before any letter could reach her and as she did not (as I requested) send me her address -- I think it best to impose this epistle upon You supposing that Mama will find her way immediately to You at the Rock Alum and that She will not be too much engrossed with the pleasures of travelling to be indifferent to hearing from me. I fear the journey will be fatiguing in spite of Ralph's good care and wish they could have taken the Steamer as You did -- but Mama and I have the same foolish dread of the Sea I believe.

So Gonzie and Yourself are both as happy and pleasant with each other as possible I hear-- and are most comfortably established at the "Rock Alum." I am most happy to find it so and congratulate You upon the prospect of a most agreeable Summer. I suppose you will not remain long in Virginia and hope You will persuade Mama to accompany You to Niagara. As she has made the effort to leave home it would be a pity to restrict her visit to Virginia. Do prevail upon her to change her intention of coming here much as I should enjoy her presence I cannot wish her to undertake it.

We are all quite well now. Mr. J.<sup>74</sup> has been at home a fortnight-- he was very [...] for a few days but is as robust as usual now and, so far, has been unmolested by his Mountain enemy. We have been so quiet here. A visit to Flat Rock *This* Summer would have reversed even Clingman's ideas on the subject. One of the *two* households -- *out* of mourning has just been "thrown in the blues" the de Choisends -- the Count having been Superseded as Consul -- and put on a pension of *One* Thousand which I am told he says is *ruin*.

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<sup>73</sup> Beaumont was the summer home of Andrew Johnstone, Mamie's husband, in Flat Rock, North Carolina.

<sup>74</sup> Her husband Andrew Johnstone.

Mama's house is at last occupied. The Middletons were at Church today, the Hamiltons find it dreadful no other family in their Hotel.<sup>75</sup> You will have the pleasure soon of seeing the Aikens at the Springs. Mrs. A. wrote to her Sister that you were very pretty so pray be grateful. Mr. Dan Blake is taking a wedding tour at the North. He will not come to Buncombe before September. The lady says she never expected to have so much to live for. I have seen Mr. Huber and Mary Man lately, the latter regretting extremely that she did not know until two O'clock of you being in Charleston. She wishes Emmie to be informed that She had received her letter. Mary promises to come soon and Stay with me. When you see Jeannie Becket and Miss Carter please give my love to them -- and when Mama arrives, tell her She *must* write if She wishes to hear from me and always tell me where to direct.

With a great deal of love to You all including Your better half I am dear Hattie  
Mamie

Mr. J. begs to be kindly presented to the General.

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**EGP**

Adams Run Sunday Night [August 31, 1856]

We have been all made very happy by your dear little note Hattie Darling. Dick reached this at 10 o'clock this morning with Sam & George in perfect health. Jacob has returned also, very safely. I mention the horses, as you seemed anxious about them. Your reception at the Rev. C. C. Pinckney's was of Charleston, Charlestown, but Dick tells us that it was the stupidity of the servant, & that Hesse spent some time in the State of Georgia with you. He was on the wharf and saw you off he says, in a fine boat that fire again as she left. I hope it did not frighten our "poor little girl"-- We have all been at home to our okra soup today excepting Mama who has become enamoured of The Rum & proposes remaining frequently. The last day spent here with Gonzie must have been charming to make her come to such a determination. We on the contrary found yesterday an eternity, & missed you awfully in spite of Mrs Seabrook, Johnstone or Jenkins' sea mullets which were very fine & came in when we were all tearful & sad after your departure. Mama was anxious to broil two & send after you on horseback, but we diverted her from the scheme-- "That poor child had eaten no breakfast." Dick thinks you eat no lunch, & Mama is now distressing herself slightly but we hope darling that you did not think it incumbent upon you because you had left us all & ought to look sorry to starve-- grief must be fed, to be cured & the mullets did us good I assure you. Mama heard from Mamie yesterday, she was quite distressed at the death of Alice's baby. The poor little thing wasted away & died at Beaumont. Mary found it very trying in Mr. Johnstone's absence.

Only think Hattie, Clitus has left Chloe! The woman like is not flattered by the desertion, but seems not other wise distressed, indeed went home to gather her worldly goods, today, & sets her surplus affections upon her hens & chickens.

I write to you to night, because you may leave Washington before our next mail could take you a letter. Gonzie will not be tempted to remain longer in Washington than he intended as Congress adjourned we see on Saturday.<sup>76</sup> We shall hope to receive in a week your impressions & experiences.

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<sup>75</sup> Flat Rock Hotel.

<sup>76</sup> The Thirty-Fourth Congress adjourned on Saturday, 30 August 1856. *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989*, 159.

You do not mention your note arm so we hope it gave you less uneasiness & that you have had no draw backs since reaching Washington how I wish I could peep at you. Dont you think now however that it was best to go without the sisters that you might feel *how* good Gonzie could be? Ralphie & Annie are now discussing the unity of the races on the piazza. See what she has come to. She is & has been [...] all day & no wonder, has she not lost her head. By the by tell Gonzie I am going to be a good girl by the time he sees me & am practicing deaf & dumb signs to ensure the improvement. Callie has moved into your room with Mama, & does not talk much. Good Bye. Our united & excessive love to your cano sposo & yourself. Ever Your attached

Emmie

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*Daily Evening Star*

(Washington, D.C.)

15 October 1856, 1

**Willards' Hotel**

Gen Gonzalez & ly, DC

Mrs W Elliott, do

Miss E Elliott, do

Miss A Elliott, SC

Miss C Elliott, SC

Miss C Elliott, do

R Elliott, do

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**EGP**

Washington October 23rd [1856]

Gonzie has gone to the office to see if there is a letter from you my dear Mama. We were disappointed at not hearing yesterday but suppose you were all too tied to write upon your arrival. I am very anxious to receive a full account of your impressions of New York. I know you will be pleased & you must give me the benefit of your pleasure. We are most pleasantly situated. Tis like being in a private house without the trouble of the house keeping. The fare is delightful (such big potatoes & pickles too) & Mrs. Paine as devoted as possible. I intended writing to you yesterday but the Vincents were here the evening before & Ellen expressed her intentions of writing to Emmie on that day so I deferred until today. Tell Annie I gave her dress to Mrs. Vincent who promised to send it with her own to Miss Schneider. Gonzie & I have been taking some considerable walks. We walked yesterday to the Capitol & the evening before 2 miles. I am getting quite a colour & look & feel much better. I am afraid exercise agrees with me. I must begin soon to return some visits. I met the "Ingrahams" yesterday, so can remain incog no longer. Several persons have called, Mrs. Ashton White among them, who expressed her strong conviction that Gonzie ~~will~~ be Governor of Cuba. I hope she is right. You have seen William & heard from Papa & Mamie by this time I hope. You must write & tell me all about them & how the girls & Ralphie are enjoying themselves. Give a great deal of love from Gonzie & self to them & believe me dear Mama with a kiss for yourself your own

Little girl Hattie

Many thanks dearest Mama for your letter Gonzie just brought me. I am too sorry to find that you are still suffering from the effects of that atrocious liniment. I hope you have recovered & are seeing all that is to be seen. I am glad you like Washington better however & hope you will give the preference to it rather than Bay Point & spend the latter part of October & the first part of November



with me. I know you like a quiet life dear Mama, as Mamie would say, & I think Bay Point far too unquiet for you. Does Papa intend going to Paris this Winter? Speaking of shopping, tell the girls very good boots may be got here of the same style as those they got from Paris so if their supply gives out they will have a remedy. I must now end this scratch to the office with a great deal of love Hattie

I suppose you have seen that the Yellow fever is increasing in Charleston.

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**EGP**

Washington November 17 [1856]

According to promises dearest Mama I shall send you a line to reach Oak Lawn on Saturday hoping to hear before then of your safe arrival & happy meeting with Kate - John Amy Chloe &c &c. I miss you all most terribly but will find great consolation in your letters & shall expect to hear constantly. Since you left by way of distraction I have been returning visits. Lindsays, Atochas, &c. the Misses Atocha regret so much they did not see more of Annie, they "took such a fancy to her," but hope to renew the acquaintance on her return to Washington." I saw the [...] the day after you left they paid me a visit of an hour & a half. They are full of their fortune which they have had told. [...] "dont you think so" is nothing particular but Ellen is to marry very soon & have a large fortune left her. She firmly believes both predictions they send their love & beg to be written to. Mr. & Mrs. Ezre called today. Poor Joulie imagine the fattest, thickest, greasiest looking man & you have her husband. He never said a word through the whole visit & only grunted when referred to upon some subject. She says she has nearly given up her music & looks anything but happy. I think she tried to hush Gonzie up about the [...] in a most amusing way but the cunning little man said expressly how he had read the whole of it to the Thoms & how they enjoyed it. Joulie did not like it I imagine. Mrs. Paine has been perfectly devoted to me since you left she is a real good woman & if I was sick would be I know devoted to me. I went after the Mantua Maker. She cannot make the dress until the next week. Some good must be in her she is in such demand. I have had the blue silk [...] up & it is the proper length now & I have been doing my duty in it today. You cant complain dear Mama that I tell you nothing about myself & now Annie would say she would like to hear something of Gonzie-- he is quite well very amiable sends a great deal of love & says he is in spirit with you all (myself included) As soon as there is anything determined about him you shall be immediately apprised of it. Old Barney called on [...] to day but we were out. I expect he thought the girls were here.

Good night my dear Mama. I believe I have quite choked out. I will soon write again & in the mean while with warm love to all I remain

Your dood [*sic*] little girl

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**EGP**

Washington December 2 [1856]

Emmies letter of the 27th inst reached me yesterday dearest Mama. Thank her much for it. When I last wrote I promised to write soon again & nothing but the promise makes me do so for I have nothing new to tell you & know that none of you like to receive letters with nothing in them. On Sunday we went to Church quite an event in our lives & the first time I have been for more than a year. Gonzie was so devout, it was too funny. Another event is the coming home of the dress from the hand of "Sarah Muse." It fits so well tis quite a comfort & what is still more of a comfort the making linings & trimmings came to less than Schneider's bill would have been for the making alone. I am only waiting for Emmie's advice about the Brown Silk before giving it to her to make. Emmie wishes she could have stayed a week longer in Washington. Don't I wish so too! Sallie Smith met

Gonzie some days ago, stopped him & enquired if we had heard from you & wanted to know when you were coming back. You made quite a conquest of her. She treats most people differently. The "Atochas" she gave [...] rooms at an immense price & they were to be turned out at the slightest warning. We have the washerwoman that you had when here & she is a very excellent one. At first she made difficulties, made her demands higher than others but being convinced that though Callies sister, I should give her no flounced petticoats, she became more reasonable & we engaged her. Of the two letters which Emmie enclosed to Gonzie one was from Mr. Mascias<sup>77</sup> inviting him to his wedding which took place in September. The other was from his stepmother.

Goodbye my dear Mama I am sorry to have to send you such a dull letter but must depend upon your forbearance. With a great deal of love from Gonzie & self to you all I remain your affectionate

Hattie

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EGP

Washington December 6th [1856]

Your letter of Sunday I received early on Thursday My darling Annie & can not agree with you "that it would be better for me if your correspondence was indefinitely postponed." Indeed I am sure it would be much better for *you* if you would "let off steam" at least twice a week to me. The family would be willing, & I would enjoy it *so much*. Gonzie read with interest the letter which you enclosed him. He will find out the subscription to the "Intelligencer" for you if you wish it. He takes the Herald much against my will. Such intemperate insolence as its Editors indulge in should not be sanctioned. I read there with slight mortification the proceedings in the legislature of my native State.

I have just received Emmies letter. She really is good in writing & her violets are *so* sweet they created quite a sensation in Mrs. Paines gasey little parlour. Gonzie is very sweet too. I love him very much. He is well now but has had a cold which worried him. Every evening he hears me a long lesson which I prepare in the morning & every night I take one of "Ayers pills" not that anything is the matter with me but it is an easy & perhaps a beneficial mode of pleasing him. Speaking of Ayer reminds me of Joulie Lear she lost her Grand Mother a few days ago & leaves I believe next week for Italy. I suppose we shall have to call upon her before she goes. The Aikens having arrived we called there a few days since. Mrs. Aiken was out & Miss Elka taking her Music lesson. I've heard her singing, but not long enough to judge if her voice was as sweet as Clingman said. They are in the same house & have brought their servants so I suppose they will retain it for the winter. I have been walking every day. The weather is now beautiful cold & dry ice unmelted at twelve oclock. I have not been to the Capitol yet but will spend some morning there next week. I have been over the White House through the Green Houses & grounds & was as much pleased as Mama was. I enclose for Mama a receipt for rheumatism which Gonzie cut out of a newspaper for her. Embrace each other for me & tell Callie I perfectly agree with the sentiments she expressed in her last letter & with the united loves of Gonzie & self to you all I am dear Annie your attached Hattie.

Do tell Mamie I shall be rejoiced to her from her.

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EGP

Oak Lawn, Sunday Night, Dec. 21st [1856]

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<sup>77</sup> Juan Manuel Macias, of Matanzas, who in 1849 was a founding member of the Cuban Junta in New York with Gonzales and other Cubans.

*Mrs General Ambrosio Jose Gonzalez*

I find in my desk dear diddle diddle darling -- this sheet with the above inscription -- it reminds me of when "I too *once* had a Gonzie." Are you not sorry for me? Don't cry. I am perfectly content to let you have him. So be a dood [*sic*] little girl. I am happy to tell you that Dear old Platt is decidedly better & expects to be on his legs again in a day or two. He feels as if he had been enjoying 24 Sabbaths, all in a bunch. Tomorrow will make five weeks since our return & strange to say it does not seem long although -- some of us -- Annie & self the worldlings of the family, have not interchanged one word with a *white* being -- & have not been into a carriage!! I mention this uncomplainingly -- only I *do* think one might be allowed to deduct such months & years from the sum total of ones years. With such deductions I might really count but *eighteen* Summers any good brothers estimate! I do wonder he did not think me young enough for himself I never thought of it before.<sup>78</sup> I have been riding Clingman & find him easy & manageable. The fine bracing weather we have had tempted me out & with Katchie & the hounds -- a Ride through *your* park, where there might be a shy doe or saucy buck & with an imagination is [...] enough, even more so I think than some rides I have taken with Carolina's *goodest* sons. By the by, if you choose you may send the enclosed bouquet to Don Pedro -- that is if it is not to make him think I am smitten with his dear self. Cubans are so confiding & believing. Tell Gonzie that he must really persuade Don Pedro to visit Washington for the inauguration -- although he must be opposed to the *Monroe* Doctrine he should think well of Old Buck our ostensible President.<sup>79</sup> Mama thanks you for your last. We are provoked at your blistering lip. You have enlisted in lip service this winter. Now my darling make it a rule to put some of that camphoric upon them *every night* & it will prevent any & more consequent blisters. Kate desires her love. Your maid Bella is distinguishing herself as a rubber. Papa calls her that little black & Sarah that little brown girl -- not taking the trouble to learn their names & he tells Bella to rub him *Scientifically!* & prefers her to my maid who is as good as she can be. Your probably perceive from my letters that I am growing fat -- for fat & stupidity or *amiability* go together you know. A lovely nubia (a worsted scarf) pink & white has been sent you. You will look sweetly in it & one of these days we will be able to forward it to you. Early in Jany. we propose going to see Mary who is *very grateful* for our promise to do so. Perhaps I shall flirt with Parson Gerardeau.<sup>80</sup> John says that [...] *said* that Miss Alicia kicked him last summer

[Remainder of this letter from Emmie is missing]

EGP

Tuesday December 23rd [1856]

Your letter of "Thursday night" I have just received my dear Sister & feel quite warmed up by it in spite of this cold weather. As cold, Gonzie thinks, as any day last winter when he found it so terrible. The ground is now covered with snow & it is blowing a perfect gale. You dont know how this cold agrees with me. I feel that I am getting a tremendous constitution. My face is now round

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<sup>78</sup> Emmie was born in 1829, and was therefore twenty-seven years old.

<sup>79</sup> President James Buchanan, one of the three signers of the 1854 Ostend Manifesto, a document intended to pressure Spain to sell Cuba to the United States. If Spain refused to sell the island, the signers recommended American support for a Cuban revolt, and if that failed, "we should be justified in wresting it from Spain."

<sup>80</sup> Thomas Gerardeau of Santee.

enough even to satisfy Gonzie & he declares my complexion to be “just as it was last winter.” I am glad to find from your letters that poor Ralphie is somewhat better. Gonzie & I sympathize greatly with him. Tell him I received a nice long letter from Marion today in which she declares that she has no intentions of becoming “Mrs. Brown” for that it appears is the name of the “aristocratic” Carolinians. She thinks it funny that I should have married a “public” man after having so often expressed to her my convictions that a southern planter’s wife’s life was the happiest in the world. She does not know that I tried to impress her with that *fact* on Ralphie’s account for I thought & still think she would make him a good wife, when he is old enough.

By the by in a paper a day or two ago I saw the sudden death of Robert Prikett-- Jennie’s father, we suppose. What a pity Emmie no longer writes to Jeanny. What an account you would have of the wonders that young lady performed on the occasion. The sole support of her “widowed mother” [torn] “sole caretaker of her orphaned little brother [...]. The only Virginian I have seen to like is Mr. Thomas Green the proprietor of Warrenton Springs he seems truly to love Gonzie & not to feel vexed with him because he did *not marry* one of his nieces. Mrs. Cross has called again & brought Mrs Stone with her. I think the latter is the best of her family though she did “mouth” & sat a great deal at the [...] Springs but she had a young boy I believe.

The other night at Tholbergs concert & while crowds of persons, foreign ministers, Senators & members of Congress, were waiting to see the President & Mrs. Pierce pass they, as they approached us bowed several times, stopped, shook hands & began to talk. We keeping rather in the background & everyone looking on just then I caught Mr. Aiken’s<sup>81</sup> eye & could scarcely keep from laughing if Emmie had only been there to catch his expressions, it was superior I am sure to his indian one. The Herald I see thinks Mr. [...] will be one of the new cabinet -- Mrs. [torn] is dressing beautifully this winter & is so facetious calls me Madame Gonzalez & begs Gonzie to carry me there to spend the evening & promises that Etta shall sing for him. Jehosey & Etta might have been Gonzies it is my opinion if he had been calling. G. says I must tell you that his hands are very much chaped & he wants you all to sympathise him. He finds “Granges Hedding Coke” (he believes it is) & Cordial” a great assistance to his patience. The coke is delightful. Mrs. Paine has had some & Gonzie carried some to the little girls at Mrs. Prottimers little Mary has grown pretty again so if you feel like adoption my dear sister there is a fine choice. Mamie wants to know if I will go into society this winter if Gonzie is not with me I don’t think I shall unless you want me to carry you out I shall make an effort but otherwise [...] is too cold. You need not tell Mamie this however but give her the best love of Gonzie & self & to the children & a great deal to old Nanie from me & now my darling goodbye I have a long Spanish lesson to learn & Gonzie is very particular & makes me roll my rrs in a most Cuban manner. No further tidings from our venerable friend Pedro. He fears that he is generally frozen past [...] or something. Tell Collie to hope for the best it may not be so serious after all, goodbye [...] very great love to all of you from your devoted Sister & Brother

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**EGP**

Oak Lawn - Dec. 30th [1856]

I send you a wee wee note tonight -- My darling Hattie to announce the arrival of your *three* letters -- of the 19th 23d & 26th by to days mail. Our [...] are [...] hushed & we thank you accordingly.

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<sup>81</sup> Charleston Democratic Representative William Aiken.

We are very glad to hear what a color & constitution you are getting up & congratulate you upon your epistolatory prowess. Your handwriting improves not daily, but letterly.

Your nubia my dear was worked by the fair fingers of Miss Lila Barnwell & reaches you via a certain cap & blue ribbons can you guess now? I am glad you are awakening to a sense of Mr. Guitera's age & infirmities does Gonzie write to Miss White & how does she stand the separation? Of course you will have to take your sisters into society Hattie or old Barny might [...] off with several of the young things. Fred Vincents says that *they* still hope to see me in Washington. We are preparing for our exodus into Santee next week & as the time approaches the desire to stay at home increases. Tis a great effort. Good night precious, love from all to you both -- & sympathy for Gonzie's chapped hands -- Glycerine -- is good for them -- camphoric -- He should wash them always in warm not cold water.

Ever Your attached  
Emmie

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**EGP**

Washington, Friday Jan. 9th [1857]

Your letter from Washington was an unexpected pleasure dearest Annie. I had no idea that you would have left so early in January but shall hope to see you all the sooner, for after your visit to Mamie of course you are coming here. Gonzie will be delighted to meet you anywhere & at anytime you may desire. He wrote to you on New Years day. I suppose Mama has forwarded you his letter. He heard today from Pedro Guiteras who is enjoying *excellent health*, tell Emmie & keeps the flowers she sent in a glass case upon his writing desk. His society of old maids has been broken up from cold weather or some other cause & he finds himself very lonely but *never in better health*. So Callie did not accompany you to Santee. Perhaps tis better on Mamas account that she has remained & perhaps she is going to write to me in your absence. Who knows! I have been to two parties as Gonzie ~~told~~ I believe informed you. I dont enjoy such things but he enjoys seeing me there so I am a good little girl & go to please him but when you come my darlings then I shall take holiday & send you out with him. With respect to dress I place myself in the hands of Gonzie & "Schneider" & dont trouble myself about it. Schneider is very obliging & with her assistance I must hope to do very well. I shall direct my scribblings as you desire to Oak Lawn & if Mama thinks it worth while to forward them to you she may do so. Do give a great quantity of love to Mamie & her babies from Gonzie & self & don't forget an embrace to [...]. I intended writing to Mamie but have put it off so long that I don't know how to begin.

Goodbye my darling. This rare effusion must be sent to the office in time to reach Oak Lawn on Tuesday.

Our united love to all, your attached

Hattie

Miss Annie Elliott

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**EGP**

Charleston January 12, 1857

Mess Wm. C. Bee & Co.  
Gentlemen

I am about selling (Viz on the 21st inst.) for Mr Jason W Lewis fifty five of the Negroes which he purchased from Hon. William Elliott, there is a mortgage on them to Mr Elliott

of \$20867, in two Bonds, the one for \$10,000 payable 13 Febry 1858 and the other for \$10867, payable on the 13 Feb. 1859; Mr Lewis has written to Mr Elliott requesting him to release the mortgage on these negroes, and I have the letter in reply from Mr Elliott in which he regrets that he cannot release the lean; my object therefore in ad[ress]ing you are as the Factors of Mr Elliott, to request of you as his business friends to use your influence with him to allow other property to be substituted in lieu of these 55 negroes. I propose therefore on Mr Lewis behalf to Mortgage to Mr Elliott One fourth of Commercial wharves, which in themselves are certainly worth the entire debt, in addition to which Mr Elliott will Still have the residue of the gang, the Bonds need not be changed, Mr Elliott shall have no trouble or expense attendant on the change, and if he wishes it Mr Lewis' atty's Certificates Shall accompany the Mortgage of the wharf Showing that the unencumbered title rest in Mr Lewis.

I need Scarcely add that the mortgage of that Estate is considered as more Secure than Personal Property, and Mr Elliott if it were possible would be better Secured than heretofore, and would allow a business arrangement to go on, which would put him to no inconvenience and no additional risk.

I remain my dear Sirs

Yours Very Respectfully & Truly

Louis D. Dessausure

Therewith enclose a list of the negroes

L. D. D.

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EGP

Annandale Jany. 13th [1857]

My Dear Darling

We were highly gratified at the receipt of yours of the 30th & Gonzie's of the 1st on Friday last. Annie intended acknowledging the latter tonight-- but something interferes & wanting a little chat with you I will not let the mail day pass. We are having a very comfortable time & Mary seems so truly glad to have us with her that it is gratifying.

The children I must confess *are* interesting-- too much more so than Carolinians of a larger growth. Much to our astonishment the neighbors are calling upon us. Mrs. *Foliage* Middleton came with *Alicia* yesterday it is not at all pretty-- but sings sweetly & it would not astonish us if she renounced the pomps and vanities of this wicked world & marries Tom Gerardeau-- who gave us a most extraordinary sermon on Sunday-- a minute account of the deluge with suppositious conversations upon the subject by the wise & witty of that period-- "The snaky fortress of Jophet" "The Gorges of [...]" et cet et cet. Mr. G. dined here after the above & I prefer him as a tutor. This must be "state flat & unprofitable" talk to you however. So let me say a word of the chicks. Ann says that Mary was not so wrong after all. Maffit is quite coming out in a literary point of view. She goes at her lessons with gusto & is *quite* intelligent!! Confess your astonishment Hattie? Elliott is still my devoted-- he drove me out yesterday in a buggy called the horses "old fogies" & said it was a pest to drive such old ones. This [...] will be eight years of age on February!! Mary Manigault gave us a most "comme il faut" dinner last Friday & Arthur ex Captain of the Marion Artillery behaved with an urbanity & suavity unlike his former self. I begin to feel quite anxious about your wardrobe, my baby. You are going to balls. I want to know what in & all about it. Tell me if you wish ball dresses & upon my return to Charleston I will get you some & send on by express-- if you are to be in Washington & if you expect our advent in Feb. please engage your cold. mantua maker for us, will

you? Good night darling kisses to Gonzie & yourself from Annie & I & an abundance of love in which Mary joins. Your ever attached

Emmie

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**EGP**

[16 Jan. 1857]

My dearest Hattie

I have just read your note of the 16th inst forwarded to me by Mama with a prudent perhaps, but provoking certainly clipping out of a portion. This is the fourth time we have written to you since we left home and I trust you have heard from us. You are constantly in our thoughts my darlings and in this bitter weather many comforts in clothing suggest themselves to me which you should have been provided with-- our absence from home all this time has many inconveniences as for being now in Charleston from N. York which would have been useful to you the contents rather. I am pleased to hear that you have attended some balls in spite of all disinclinations. Gonzie's sweet note to me was gratefully received last week only. I shall reply to him by the next mail. Tell him it brought tears to the eyes of our old nurse who can judge of heart-- if not of styles. We find Mary very sweet and I almost think grateful for our visit to her though that feeling should be on our side she so covers us with kindnesses.

Callie has twice sent to us a few lines but still declines all visits in this quarter by the by she writes to us to ask you to give her silk dress to Schneider to make flounces to be pinked-- body simply trimmed *not* with black [...]. I scarcely feel that I am authorized to trouble you with this commission considering that Callie has not written to you once but you can be charitable and put it down against the Cherry Brandy.

I suppose you have been told that Wm. is now a planter and other interesting news from the domestic hearth so I forebear. I do hope that Fred Vincent's intention of visiting Oak Lawn will last as long as his clerkship in the War Office. I think him very uninteresting. Mary Man looks much older than Mary and is quite hum drum-- her husband the contrary most vivacious in a lumbering way they dined here yesterday and carried Emmie home with them for a few days. Our present plan is to return home about [*torn*] and our further plans depend on you. I am obliged to close [...] darling in a hurry with all my [...] to Gonzie and yourself and love from Mary and the children to the same.

I am ever your own

Sister [Annie Elliott]

Santee Jan 16th

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**EGP**

Oak Lawn Jany. 29th [1857]

Once more at home My Darling Hattie-- let me have a little chat with you. We did not hear from you to day a sad disappointment as we feel anxious to know how Gonzie & yourself have stood the bitter weather of the last fortnight, but we trust in your promise to write *always* twice a week & blame the mails. You have seen your first snow storm & have had a sensible excuse for *not* visiting so I flatter myself that the cold has not been without its charms to you. Will anything be left of poor Don Pedro think you? We find Mama Callie & Ralph all looking better-- & the warm weather is an agreeable change. We want to heard from you Darling preparatory to making our plans for getting to Washington. We made purchases in Charleston & are now employed in preparations for said visit-- but must hear from you before we can say when & how we shall leave. Your wardrobe is to be

prettily improved when we join you. A fact I mention lest you should be worried by the idea that you are wearing out. A sweet French bonnet has been got for you-- pink-- in which you will look to your husbands entire satisfaction. Annie intends you to sport a certain handsome Canton Crape shawl-- for you must be tired of your cloak & with two becoming ball dresses & me to help you dress-- I hope you will feel in the humour for going out. The Hamiltons were here yesterday-- looking very pretty-- Fannie particularly. May desired a great deal of love sent to you. She is very anxious to go to the "Colonial City" to the gaities but her Mama says that she must content herself with being a country girl. Mrs Hamilton said that her baby was born when you were married-- indeed that Hattie's wedding was what they dated every thing from!! We saw Lizzie Rhett for a few minutes in Charleston she enquired after you with a great deal of interest & said it did her good to see us again. The poor thing shows gray hairs through her veil & she looks lonely. We are truly sorry for the death of Mr. Brooks. That Craven Sumner will now return to his post-- I presume. I hope this State will give Mr. B. a public funeral. You don't know how bare & dreary the woods look-- from Charleston here-- but Oak Lawn -- is evergreen. I trust that you received that box in good season for your cold. The oranges being apropos. Do my dear engage either Schneider or your other mantua maker to work for us & do kiss Gonzie for his affectionate relatives & believe me with my whole heart your affectate.

Sister Emmie

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EGP

Oak Lawn 3rd Feby --56 [1857]

My darling Hattie

Though with an inflamed eye, I have proposed to Emmie, who is suffering from headache to write to you in her stead to night. I want to tell you what happened. We enjoyed when your four letters were perused by us. This afternoon we had been a fortnight with out one from you, and the deprivation was intolerable. Gonsie & yourself will have had your share of colds for the winter and will be well I trust for the future. Your sisters have been preparing for their visit to you. They are at a loss for an escort, as Ralphie has a cold affecting his throat very much but they intend writing to Mr. Bee, tomorrow, to request him to telegraph Gonsie, to get them lodgings by the tenth inst. When their arrangements are made they will send another notice. Should they require your Husband to meet them en route. The "State of Georgia" has not reached Charleston, where she was due last Saturday, and her next trip to Phila. cannot be calculated on. Yr sisters think that route wd. give the least trouble to themselves & friends-- however-- never mind as Hattie says. We cannot see our course & must be ready to adopt the best which may present itself. Annie begs that you will engage Schnieder's services for her.

The weather has been charming for several days past-- and I cannot omit telling you of the event of my life this winter. I went to Church at Wilton on Sunday last. There was a good Congregation-- for the Bishop was there-- and there was an attempt also at Musick.

In consequence of being seen at church, we had visitors to day. Ruth came to say farewell & Mrs. Gibbes & [...] came also. They are improved I am told for I did not appear with my red eye-- the pain in which reminds me to close *it & this*.

believe me darling with much love to Gonsie your ever devoted

Mother

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EGP

Oak Lawn Feb. 9th 1857



My Dear Darling Little Girl

On this morn we really expected to leave on our way to Washington but we are not yet off. Mr. Bee wrote me by Saturday's mail that he knew of no one going North who could escort us, & that the State of Georgia was being repaired & could not fix a day for her return to Philadelphia. Ralphie's throat being decidedly better he determined that he could & would take us in charge-- Papa saying that it was an unheard of thing for ladies in our position to travel alone & that he would not give his consent. So to return, we were to have left to day, but Ralph has a swollen & painful eye-- before I close I will hear from him as to the possibility of leaving tomorrow. I am very sorry for your disappointment Hattie but you see that we can not help our selves. We have packed & are ready, & by the end of the week, must be with you. Ann says that she is getting in a nervous fever upon the subject, but do not be uneasy about her. The symptoms are not dangerous. William came up in the Stage on Saturday having been to the races & three balls in Charleston. He has come up here to sleep & [...], returning to Hilton Head on Friday. He saw Arthur Lynat in the city who told him that he had seen you some where looking very happy. Wm. speaks of going to the Inauguration. We have had a week of charming Spring weather & are sorry to have missed such nights for travel. When we do leave, we will reach Washington very early in the morning by the mail route not via Baltimore.

We don't know exactly how to find out where Gonzie has got us lodgings, but if we have Blatt with us-- suppose that he will be able to find out without serious difficulty. Jordan is a harder road to travel than I thought on Friday last. By the by I hope you have not troubled yourself about Mrs Vincents sweet meats-- let them rest until the old soul turns up-- if she is ever going to-- if not n'imports. Ralph sends me word that his eye is very much swelled but we'll like special care of him & to morrow shall hope to get to the city & to you on Friday. Should we not be able to we will telegraph. Please say to Gonzie that if it will make any difference in the procuring of our rooms. The land lady who ever she may be-- may be informed that we expect to stay some time after the 4th of March. We hope that he has not had too much trouble on our account. I want to get your pink bonnet to you dreadfully, you will look so sweet in it.

Mind now don't fret if we can not be with you by Friday or Saturday we will telegraph. Mrs. Alston is going on to her daughter by the 1st of March. I wish Mrs Waring had hurried her arrangements. We might have had her friends as escorts.

A great deal of love to you darling & to Gonzie from your family & his. Ever your affectate.

Emmie

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EGP

Tuesday Night 17th

Feby. [1857]

Many thanks my darling Hattie for your welcome & long letter of the 8th received this evening. I trust that a happy meeting with your sisters has compensated you for the frequent disappointments their detention at home must have occasioned you. I have yet to learn if they were detained en route as Mr. Yeadon was-- his letters in the Courier on the subject were quite dispiriting to me. I feel comforted however by your pleasant account of the [...] here everything indicates that the winter is past. We have had a few genial showers. The oats have [...] green, and the flowers & fruits are budding. The mosquitoes tho' are tormenting and there is a "very muck smell" from the lowlands. The old Place is not looking beautiful-- it is dilapidated & not worthy of an embrace from you my darling, and Sallie has impressed her House how glad I am that you will be benefitted thereby. I hope that you will all be well & happy and will remain together as long as you possibly can. Say to your Sisters they must

consider me in their annoyments for passing the summer at Flat Rock-- if it will suit Gonzie & you to be with us there it would be the inducement for taking possession of the ruinous place there. I am given till the 1st of April to decide whether I will reside there this Summer. If I do not-- it can be sold for double of its lost as rented. Your sister has decided to pass the month of June & a part of July at South Ist. Mrs. J. wonders if G.Mama would not take the children to Buncombe on 1st June. Mary says No. The responsibility wd. be too much for Mama. Nonie is better tell yr Sisters & from the use of Electric oil. She now can walk about (up stairs). How fortunate it was that Ralphie did not accompany his Sisters to Washington. The poor fellow, one day after they left us, had another sty on the same eye from which he has ever since suffered greatly, his face inflamed by it. He will visit Hilton Head'' tell Wm. if you please, and will attend to his wishes. The roads continue so bad, he must reach H H by Steamer. Ralph's home engagements I very much fear. Will preclude him from going to the Inauguration-- his disappointment at not seeing you he feels acutely. Callie's spirits & health since her father's return seem as good as ever. She had consented to accompanying him to Cuba-- his health for he had fever three nights during his visit to Cheeha & some vertigo-- and the trial of Sancho which is to come off on Friday-- prevent her going by the Isabel on Thursday the 19th. The Isabel's next trip will be on the 4th March, which Callie says will be too late --as she has no summer dresses tho' urged to say that she will accompany him there. She does not by the morrow-- your father supposes she may determine before I close my letter. Pray tell Amy that her children are well, that that she shares the lot of Mary, you, I, Mother's, her little pet Rachel does not miss her. Dick tells me he has been furnished with a job to keep him at home-- in the Evenings-- and Mileu has promised to be sisterly towards her family.

Kiss each other for your affectionate Mother  
give my particular remembrance to Willie. I hope that he will enjoy the Capitol. I hope to receive many letters from my daughters.  
Seeds have been received from the P.O.  
Johnnie is studying for the Ministry.

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**EGP**

Navy Department  
February 25, 1857

Dear Sir

I take pleasure in introducing to your acquaintance the Hon. Wm. Elliott of South Carolina. He is a gentleman of fortune and character. Any courtesies you can find it convenient to extend to him during his visit to the Island of Cuba, should you meet with him will be duly appreciated.

by your friend & obt. Sert.  
J. C. Dobbin<sup>82</sup>

Commd Paulding

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**EGP**

Mills House, March 28th 57

My dear Emmie

We are *just* from the Isabel, but finding a letter from mama informing me that you are *still* in Washington, I write immediately, at papa's request, to invite Gonsie & Hattie to accompany you

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<sup>82</sup> James C. Dobbin, Pierce's Secretary of the Navy. Had pro-southern and expansionism views.

home. He would write himself, but has been obliged to go to the custom house, he really seems anxious for it & I hope you will persuade them to come. We have had a charming trip to Cuba, it was only *too short*, the country is magnificent, the climate delightful & the people (the Cubans) the nicest in the whole world. I would prefer returning there to going to Paris. We spent a week in Havana & saw Mr. Echevaria & went to a reception at Mrs. Aldama's. She inquired very affectionately after Gonsie & asked why he had not answered Mr. A's letter in which he proposed ~~his wife~~ her as Gonsie's Godmother. She appeared hurt so I told her the letter had not been received. I do not know whether I was right, but I certainly thought if it had Gonsie would have accepted. Tell Hattie a great many inquiries were made after Ambrosio's "*Succession*" & when Don Antonio Guiteras remarked that it was not time yet it *almost* made me blush. We went to Matanzas -- Mr. Gener called upon us directly, he is a noble looking man, with elegant manners, papa was immensely struck by him, he brought his wife to see me the next day. She does not speak a word of English & you would have been amused to have heard *us* talking french. Mr. Gener took us to the Cumbre & the valley of the Yumuri & was very kind in showing us everything -- Mr. Guiteras too Pedro's brother (but much handsomer) came to see us often & sent us to stay at a sugar plantation (belonging to one of the Alfonso's) with Mr. & Mrs. Poole the latter spoke english & made it very pleasant for me & [...] paternal was so fascinated that it was with some difficulty that I could persuade him to leave. "Triumvirato" was the name of the plantation. I met with a number of nice people from New York & Philadelphia & some old acquaintances & have never enjoyed myself as much in my life, the change was so great, & being thrown with perfect strangers I was obliged to exert myself & believe on that account I enjoyed it more. We visited the Cabana's & Morro Castle & at the Tacon Theatre I had the felicity of seeing Concha -- A bad looking fellow I think -- I have not time for more you will excuse this & give papa's love & mine to Gonsie & Hattie with the hope of seeing them soon, love to Annie & much to yourself

from your attached  
Callie

P.S. Tell Hattie I have some dresses for her but will keep them till she comes, Gonzie's friends desired their remembrances to him. Mr. Guiteras teaches a school of two hundred boys. We leave on Monday for Oak Lawn & I hope you will all be with us in a little while do write & order up a piano.

**EGP**

Airy Hall Ashepoo River  
April 8th 1857

Wm Elliott Esq

My Dear Sir

Your letter dated the 7th inst. was received by me this evening.

In reply I would say,

The causeway you speak of was made by my orders, but, I intended that a bridge should have been made there.

I did not know until this evening, (upon enquiring of Mr Sanders my overseer) that you had a trunk in the backwater dam at that place, therefore it never occurred to me to ask permission of you to fill in the hole at that place, for I judged by the cart tracks I saw there that by filling in the hole I was benefitting you more even than myself.

I have sent this with one of my best men to Mr Hadwin if his work will not be sufficient to remove the obstruction you will please let me know and I will send others to help him.

I do not now think of nor have I ever thought of claiming a right to use your road by working it.

If my negroes have at any time annoyed you I would be much obliged if you will let me know.  
I remain with much respect

Your Obt Servant  
A R Chisolm

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**EGP**

Adams Run  
June 3d [1857]

[*To William Elliott, Jr.*]

Well my Dear Crusoe<sup>83</sup> which are you an Uncle or an Aunt? I give you three guesses is it a boy or a girl? But I will tell you all about it. on Friday morning last at a quarter to one o'clock P.M. a Little Spanish American of the masculine gender made his [...] presence in Adams Run.

He looked about him opening upon the surrounding magnificence a face of remarkably large dark & bright eyes, before he was an hour old. He has not yet made up his mind who he intends resembling, Don Tomas or Don Ambrosio Senior, but he is pronounced by judges competent & otherwise to be a boy of uncommon size, shape, intelligence & appetite. To conclude the mother & child are quite as well as can be expected & better.

Can you realize it old fellow, Hattie has a baby! Gonzie is of course radiant & has written to inform his Cuban friends that they may have no doubts of his succession. He says that I must give his love to you & dares you to do as well!

The weather continues so cool that you are still lingering at Hilton Head I presume "to get certain things in order." Beware of local attachments my Dear William. I hope that you found all things going right that Savannah has found a wife in your absence. That your turkies have hatched to your entire satisfaction & that you are progressing in all things.

Ralph's crop was refreshed yesterday by a fine shower. He does not croak much. So I suppose that there is not much occasion. All send love to you. Papa is delighted with his grand baby. Write to us & believe Me

Your affct. obt. Sister  
Emmie

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**EGP**

Warrenton Springs, Va. Sepr. 7th /57

Mrs. A. J. Gonzales

My own darling wife:

I received several days ago your letter of the 24th ult. and preferred waiting for another which I would be more pleased to answer. Those of the 26th and of the 19th came afterwards or the same day and I have been borne out in my hope that your afterthoughts would be more acceptable. You speak of my being easily offended, of your having been unfortunate in your letters this summer and of your having been in the habit of writing freely &c. I have all the time refrained to tell you where the fault lies & if I do so now, it is because it is necessary for your good

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<sup>83</sup> William Elliott Jr. was at Bay Point tending his crop, and claimed to be "playing Robinson Crusoe." See letter from Emmie to her father, Sept. 21 [1859] EGP.

& our happiness. If you have been accustomed to write freely if this freedom was not mere openness of heart but was an oversight of the feelings of others, however unintentional, you have done what it would be for your happiness & that of those to whom you are dear, to correct yourself of it, for it is a defect of education which you would probably not mend in the training of your children. I acknowledge my being offended or more properly speaking, *hurt*, by voluntary or involuntary want of consideration, but it is because I have much refinement of feeling and on that account am more sensitive. It is this consideration for the feelings of others this want of “freedom” in talking of, or speaking to, others which has made me many friends & so far as I know, no enemies. When we were engaged I believe I wrote to you about the “discipline of the heart.” This is still more useful than the discipline of the mind & to a woman would be, I should think, easier. If you will accustom yourself to think twice or to *feel* twice or three times before you act, I am satisfied that you cannot [...] for I know that you have every noble feeling if you just give it time to come up and take its place in action: but if you act hastily and *under excitement* as I have carefully noticed has been too often the case with you this Spring & Summer you have no one to blame but yourself if you are “unfortunate.” Be calm and you will be reasonable and consequently *fortunate* & you will make others so. This little sermon you will make one of these days to Brosie, for he, too, will be excitable & will want the curb of reason and reflection: in the meantime you would qualify yourself for preaching. In order to satisfy you of the correctness of my judgement I will only state that in your last letter (of the 26th) in which you express regret of your former writings, your nervousness & excitability takes possession of you when you least expect it & without reflecting how sensitive the chord is to touch, you inquire what will become of us if I do not succeed and state that wild rabbits & blackberries will not satisfy Brosie &c. Now, I do not take offence at it, but I do wonder that your own heart & sympathy for me does not point out to you or admonish you, that of all things in this world I am most anxious about this and that what I need from you, if you have any thing for me, in comfort which strengthens and bears up & not doubt which weakens & pulls down.

When the time comes when I *do* fail it will be time enough to ask, what next? or what I intend doing. In the meantime there is neither wisdom nor any practical benefit to be derived from such questions from you. The fact is you should leave that to me and if I do really fail I will succumb or bear up. It will not help success, in the meantime, to forebode a failure; it only makes a present and positive unhappiness of the anticipation of a distant & contingent one. I consider it improbable that Mr. B.<sup>84</sup> will not give me what I most desire. I consider it *next to impossible* that he will not do something for me. But the time has not come for any body to decide about the result, in my case no more than in those of a thousand more who are as expectant as I am.

I rejoice at the baby’s good health, am glad of his appearance & *very happy* that he is the comfort to you which I am not, though not for any fault of mine. With love to all & Ralph & remembrances to John, I remain as ever, my dearest wife,

Your affectionate & devoted husband,

A. J. G.

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Washington *Daily Evening Star*  
25 September 1857, 4  
ARRIVALS AT THE HOTELS

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<sup>84</sup> President James Buchanan.

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WILLARDS' HOTEL--...Hon. W. Elliott, SC; W. Elliott, jr., do;<sup>85</sup> ...

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Washington *Daily Evening Star*

28 September 1857, 4

ARRIVALS AT THE HOTELS

WILLARDS' HOTEL--...Gen'l A J Gonzales, DC...

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EGP

Bay Point Sep 28th/57

My dear Ralphie

I regret to learn through your letter of the 15th to William that you have injured your hand. I hope it has not proved to be serious. You cant complain of a want of variety in your ailments first to be salivated, then to be bedecked with those rare jewels (the only one's worn in our family) & then to sprain your wrist. What a succession of grievances. I would have written to you before but I took offence at something in your letter, I am glad you have made a good crop & hope when you have harvested it you will feel inclined to pay a visit here all of those "half young gals" in B. are to be here next month & *you* would be a new sensation to *them* & *perhaps* have some fun too. William has an excellent crop about 5 bales in, he ditches, dams & *fertilizest* me to death though, I have not an item of news to communicate, not having seen or spoken to a white person for five weeks excepting those in the house, my chief amusement has been bathing & since the slight attack of fever that I had I have had so much sore throat that I have given it up & have to devote my energy (when I have any) to chinking crashts & endeavoring to keep out wind & light from this *Palatial* residence do you know Ralph that when I go to bed there is nothing between the *stars* & *me--but--the shingles*, live in the "Poverty hunger & dirt" that I found them in certainly, but roughly enough yet, I planted a Cuba vine on the patio of the billiard room will you tell Bob if it has bloomed to save the seeds for me before a frost. Chloe begs her respects to you & her love to [torn] please.

William joins me in love to you & hoping you will excuse the brevity of this & write to me again & am in much haste.

Your affty.

Callie

Monday night

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EGP

New York Sunday 4th Octr 1857.

My Dear Wife

I had the pleasure of receiving yesterday your favor of the 28th. I wrote to you from Washington--giving you an account of Willie's failure--I was really sorry for him--his disappointment was so keen. Had he known what a beautiful place the Academy was, at Annapolis, I am sure he would have studied for qualification. When rejected, I told him to join me at the rail road station, and that I would return to Washington to make interest for him. He remained behind of his own motion and called on the Professors for a new trial. In this again--he was rejected--the causes--his absolute ignorance of grammar--and spelling, and his consequent inability to write off--the difficult sentences selected for testing the capacity of the boys. The examiners were mostly I think *Yankees*, who could not tolerate the ignorance he shewed in the rudiments--and could not appreciate the qualities he

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<sup>85</sup> The sixteen-year-old son of Thomas R. S. Elliott.

shewed for active service. They were looking to their own convenience in having boys admitted who would save them the trouble of rudimentary training, and not to the ultimate, and paramount object of a navy--which is to beat the enemy in battle. I expressed myself very freely, at the course of these Examining pedagogues--to Mr Secretary Toucey<sup>86</sup> whose good will I could not further propitiate, than to obtain a letter to Capn Polake--the superintendant (a gentleman) introducing me--and hoping that my G. son might gain admittance--(this was after his rejection) and altogether too weak to operate a repeal of a "*fait accompli*"--I was hurt, at his reluctance to speak out, to his, examining board--and told him things that I am sure, have made him my enemy. Being excited, I cannot pretend to say what I did tell him--in precise terms--but my impression is this--"that the course adopted by the Board of Examiners--in rejecting boys, otherwise best qualified, for want of elementary instruction--would be prejudicial to the Southern and Southwestern boys--and fling the Navy into the hands of the Northern & Eastern--where the means of early education--were every-way superior! that from the disposition shewn by the Board--I concluded they would more readily admit a tailor's apprentice, who had mastered that important--text book--the spelling book--than the best revolutionary stock in the country--if wanting in that all important particular"! Willie, is in fact--dull--but not too dull to have learned what was required if he had been grounded in his elementary education. *Treville* has deceived--Tom, (who was not unwilling to take on trust--what he should have personally enquired into) and has thus thrown Willie out of that line of life--for which I think he was very fit--I told Toucey I remember, that "no Board of examiners in the British Navy, would on such Grounds--have rejected such a boy--" because I believe they would select for fighting qualities, and not for those that make a pedagogue. Two months' training at Annapolis--by one of the teachers--who would have known exactly what--was required--would have ensured his admission. If Tom can get Keitt to renominate Willie for the next year--I will ensure his admission! But--I shall not ask him--and in truth--I fear the vacancy is already filled--for Capn Ingraham--told me Keitt had promised the place to *his* son, if Willie did not enter! and he did not conceal the anxiety he felt, to place his son in a situation, of which he understood so well the advantages. You see how like a woman I am in this--for I will write "of what runs in my head"!

I have written Tom the history of the "rejection" but I have not made any suggestions for the future if you choose to do so--so that they will reach him--through Willie or Callie, (for I suppose they are all at Bay Point) you may do good thereby.

Keitt had no right I think--to give away--the *reversion of the place*! Tom should call upon him --to *renew his appointment*--for Willie will not be over age for entering in September 1858--and there is no life for which he *is so fit*.

On Tuesday, I met Willie near Baltimore, and directed him to return home. On Wednesday I reached this City and took lodgings at St Nicholas--(The Carolinians are all at N. York Hotel). I immediately put myself to shop, for needful clothes, and spectacles and such other appliances as I could not so readily procure at home: and well it is I did so--for I have taken the influenza, to which I am so liable at this season of the year, and shall have to keep in the house except in day time and good weather--for two days past it has been severe on my eyes nostrils and throat and today, my chest is affected. If my feverishness turns to fever--I shall take remedies--which I am not sick enough to require at present.

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<sup>86</sup> Isaac Toucey, Connecticut Democratic Senator. President Buchanan's Secretary of the Navy.

Please say to Mr Johnstone--that I sincerely regret his suffering from his face: and am highly pleased to hear of his successful cropping--*let him sell at once!* for the money crisis here will keep prices down for some months I fear! The ship *Harkaway* is burnt at sea! Was it not *my cotton* that was on board? but doubtless Mr Bee *has insured!* if so--I shall gain & not lose by the accident--I shall remember the commissions--you have given in your letter. By what time--have you determined to return to the low country? With love to my daughters--and best regards to all interested in me--I  
am your affectionate husband--  
W. Elliott

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EGP

Washington--Tuesday 27th Octr 57

Ann Elliott

My Dear Wife

I left New-York on Friday, and passed a day very pleasantly, with Mr. J. Jay Smith--my Cuban acquaintance--who is settled snugly and elegantly too, at Germantown. He pressed me with such good will to prolong my visit--that I was almost tempted to forego--my rule--which is to leave while your absence would be regretted. It was pleasing to see from the reception given me by his family--that he had bespoken their good opinion of me, before my arrival--and I have reason to think that I did not disappoint their preconceived idea. If I had staid as he pressed me to do--till Sunday--I should have met at his house Wm Penn--the descendant of the Penn who settled Pennsylvania: but I had left my night clothes in the City--and was obliged to go to them or take the penalty of a sore throat--I must tell you a compliment paid me by my host at dinner. He is subject to unequal spirits--and was moping when I arrived--but getting exhilarated by company--he turned [*torn*] me at dinner, and declared that my conversational power was [*torn*]tly *intoxicating*--I never supposed when I was [*torn*] that I had conversational power--why should [*torn*] me credit for it now? Have I grown [*torn*] has the world grown stupid?!!

Sunday--it stormed all day so that I did not leave the house, and Monday morn. I left Philadelphia dined in Baltimore and reached this to tea. I met at this house (Williard's) Genl Cazneau<sup>87</sup> of Texas, whose acquaintance I had made at New-York; and he told me he was looking for me to introduce me to Genl Lamar,<sup>88</sup> who has the appointment of Minister to the Argentine Republic. He said Lamar wished to know the present residence of Genl Gonzales, that he might consult him on the subject of his accepting the place of Secretary of the Legation to that mission! I told Genl Cazneau, that I understood that Genl Gonzales expected a mission, and that I did not suppose the position indicated would suit him--but that I had no claim Whatever to speak for him; and giving him the Genl's address, advised him to write his wishes on the subject.

This morning at 11, I called on Genl. Cass,<sup>89</sup> but found from his secretary that he was engaged specially, so I would not send in my card-- [...] left it, to be delivered when his business, [...] to be

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<sup>87</sup> William Cazneau, husband of Jane M. Cazneau, the former Jane McManus Storms, who wrote under the pen name Cora Montgomery.

<sup>88</sup> Mirabeau B. Lamar (1798-1859), second president of the Republic of Texas. American Minister to Nicaragua in 1857.

<sup>89</sup> Secretary of State Lewis Cass.



closed. As it is Cabinet Council [...] miss seeing him--I shall call on [...] this evening. Possibly I may leave [...] without seeing either, for unless I leave this City tomorrow morning, I shall not be able to hit the steamers which ply between Charleston and Savannah--and so be detained in the first City for a week, which would be neither safe nor pleasant. I suppose that Caroline is yet at Bay Point, and will wait for me, before she leaves--so if I go in time to connect with the steamer I will take charge of her until it shall be safe to go to Pon Pon.

I met Clingman here, but he can tell me nothing of my family at Flat Rock, neither do I find a letter from you as I expected. The frosts here have been very slight so far.

Tuesday night--I went to the President's this evg.--sent in my card, was invited to enter--found some ladies--and persons from distant portions of the country--Mr. Buchanan is greatly changed in appearance since I saw him in London. Grown very old. I could not get a single opportunity for conversation *en particulier*. I like Miss Lane --she is pretty and straight [...]. She told me she expected my daughter [...] Gonzales to pass the winter in Washington [...] met Genl. Lamar--and now with love to [...] I bid you good night--and go pack up my [...] start for home tomorrow at day light.

yr afft husband  
William Elliott

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EGP

[October 1857, between the 27th and the 30th]

[*To Anne Elliott, first part of letter missing*]

from beginning to end--a miserable [torn] and abortion. It was clearly impossible to establish slavery--where the majority of the settlers, would be from climate--and other obvious causes--wedded to another form of labor.

[3/4 of page torn off]ntains--which [torn] to make available at Pon Pon--and a picture--but such an ugly one I did not mean the ladies to see it. However it is after the style of the Luxembourg Gallery--and they who have looked at that--need not shut their eyes very tight. It is a common trunk with a common lock--and you can readily have it opened by some key in the house.

I asked for a five minutes audience of Genl. Cass--in which I stated to him the strong personal claims which Genl. Gonzales would have for an appointment to South America--and referred to the recommendations--which he had received from prominent leaders of the Democratic Party in his behalf. He replied--that he retained a favorable recollection of the Genl-- that he could not say that at present--there was any opening for an appointment but that he would bring his name again to the claims which Genl. Gonzales would have for an appointment to South America--and referred to the recommendations--which he had received from prominent leaders of the Democratic Party in his behalf. He replied--that he retained a favorable recollection of the Genl-- that he could not say that at present--there was any opening for an appointment but that he would bring his name again to the notice of the President. All which it seems to me--means very little. At least-- the same things are said to hundreds in Washington--who never get the appointments.

I hope in a few days to be able to travel without discomfort. Write on receipt of this--directing me at the Mills House Charleston--and in the mean time give my love to all the family and believe me ever your affectionate husband--

Wm. Elliott