

“There is no other such sea as the Gulf of Mexico, so entirely surrounded as it is by countries of such superior agricultural, mineral, and commercial resources. No similar gulf exists; the natural and *indispensable* outlet for vast interior States, with a population of many millions of republican freemen, unequaled by any people noticed in ancient or modern history for general intelligence, industry, enterprise, and independence, and who are, consequently, thriving and prosperous beyond example.

“These States extend upwards of twelve hundred miles from its shores. Their wealth is exhaustless. Their population may be quintupled, and they can still sustain such number in plenty. Their soil, and especially that of the great valley of the Mississippi, is of surpassing fertility; and their contributions to the commerce of the world through the gulf are the varied productions of a region spreading over eighteen degrees of latitude and the same degrees of longitude, and adapted to the diversified wants of nearly every other country. And this great ‘inland sea,’ though easy of egress, is, at the same time, readily susceptible of defence as a *mare clausum* by the States situate on its shores against any foreign intrusion they may decide to interdict. The Mediterranean or Adriatic is not equal to it, nor the Baltic, nor the Sea of Marmora, nor the Euxine, superior to it in this respect.”--Page 795.

“The chief portion of all our trade, commerce, and navigation with Cuba and the West Indies, and especially with Jamaica and the Windward Islands, and with the eastern coasts of South America, now passes through these straits, (the straits of Florida), and likewise the trade, commerce, and navigation of Europe with those places, in sailing vessels, on their homeward voyage. Steam vessels, on their outward passage from the Atlantic States, also pass through the straits, and most of our coasting vessels, even of the largest class, bound for the gulf, they generally crossing the Bahama banks. The voyage through the Windward passage, or the Mona passage, going near Jamaica and round Cape San Antonio, is sometimes pursued; but it is several hundred miles longer, and is attended with its peculiar hazards, and also delays, that render the other passage preferable.”--Page 797.

“An estimate of the trade, commerce, and navigation of *the gulf* now annually passing through the straits of Florida, and also of the other trade, commerce, and navigation of the United States and other countries above referred to as pursuing the same channel, has stated it as probably amounting to \$400,000,000.”--Page *ibid*.

“The prospect of extensive and valuable trade with the rich countries bordering on the Amazon and its tributaries being soon opened to us is favorable; and the recent auspicious changes in the affairs of the Argentine republic promise an increase of our commerce with the La Plata and the States on its waters. Our commerce is extending with Brazil, and with the States on the western shores of South America; and all of the trade, commerce and navigation just enumerated, and that in the Pacific, and through it to China and the Asiatic seas generally, the anticipated augmentation of which is before adverted to, must of necessity pass within sight of these two positions above designated, (Key West and Tortugas), *and most of it through the entire extent* of the ‘straights.’”--Page *ibid*.

“Upon the breaking out of a war between us and any naval power of Europe, a large naval force will be forthwith dispatched by the enemy to their vicinity, (Key West and Tortugas,) and, as was predicted by Commodore Rodgers in 1823, ‘*the first important naval contest in which this country shall be engaged will be in the neighborhood of this very island,*’ (Key West.)”--Page 802.

From a letter from W. L. Hodge, Esq., late Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, inserted

in the same report, I make the following quotations:

\* \* \* “Upon the above data, then, the statement of the merchandise entering and leaving the American ports in the Gulf will be as follows:

Foreign imports	\$20,000,000
Coastwise imports	50,000,000
Exports	<u>115,000,000</u>
Making a total of	\$185,000,000

as the aggregate value of the merchandise shipped and received at those ports.

“I have not at hand for reference the record of shipping arriving from the ocean at New Orleans annually, but it exceeds 600,000 tons, and at all the other ports of the Gulf it would probably be 300,000 tons more--making an aggregate of 900,000, which, at the value of \$75 per ton, would be \$67,500,000; and as these vessels make the voyage *in and out*, the entire value of the tonnage which annually passes Cape Florida would be \$135,000,000, which, added to the previous amount of merchandise, would make a grand aggregate of \$325,000,000 of property which annually passes to and from the American ports of the Gulf of Mexico.

“Although this estimate is made up in round sums, without going into detail, I have no doubt it is considerably below the real amount.”--Page 768.

“Perhaps the most valuable cargoes shipped in American ports are those by the packet-ships to New Orleans from Boston, New York and Philadelphia; and I have no doubt that some single cargoes are not unfrequently worth one million of dollars, and that half a million is a very common value for them. Some four years since one *of these Boston packets*--a vessel of one thousand tons--was missing, and considerable anxiety was felt for her safety; and from the inquiries made as to the amount of insurance effected on her cargo, and the ascertained value of some of the heaviest invoices by her, it was pretty well ascertained that her cargo was worth \$700,000.”--Page *ibid*.

I have no statement of the value of the American trade and *shipping* engaged in the Pacific, South American, Mexican, Cuba, and West India trade which debouches through the straits of Florida. It would be no exaggeration to estimate it at \$300,000,000, which, added to the \$325,000,000 already assigned to the shipping and trade with our Gulf ports, would make an aggregate of over \$600,000,000, subject in their transit to the caprice or hostility of a foreign power owning Cuba.

In our hands she would form a wall against the negro system of Jamaica and St. Domingo; possessed of Cuba, practical abolitionism would turn her guns against us, and any maritime power would be enabled to use her to our injury, as the allies did Constantinople, in the last war against the Russians. Nay, with double effect, for she might become at once the *point deep* for an attack on our southern institutions and on the commerce of the whole Union. The part that Jamaica acted against New Orleans in the war of 1812 may give a faint idea of what Cuba would become, with her immense resources, her unrivaled harbors and her black population, in the hands of a maritime power. I believe that General BERNARD, chief of the engineers of the United States, reported, more than thirty years ago, that the possession of Cuba and Texas was indispensable to the safety of the mouths of the Mississippi. It was with a clear view of all these facts that the United States have resisted the emancipation of the blacks in Cuba, and avowed their determination not to allow the possession of the Island to pass from the hands of Spain to those of any other power. Singular to state,--and no stronger proof could be adduced of the nationality of the acquisition of Cuba,--it was JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, the

Massachusetts President, who, in 1826, broke up at the Congress of Panama a concerted plan between Cuba, Colombia and Mexico, at the head of which was BOLIVAR, for the liberation of Cuba, for the reason that the United States were aware that, had their plans succeeded, slavery would have been abolished in Cuba, as it had been in Mexico and Colombia after their emancipation from Spain. From this fact arises, in my opinion, a moral duty of the United States towards Cuba, of giving to her sons a liberty they deprived them of. Our first statesmen,--Mr. ADAMS, in his dispatch to Mr. NELSON, Minister at Madrid; General Cass, in the Senate; Mr. POLK, through his Secretary of State; Mr. EVERETT and Mr. CRITTENDEN,--have had occasion to speak the sentiments of the United States in reference to the transfer of Cuba to any power but themselves. The members of the Ostend Conference have been explicit on the subject.--But the contiguity of Cuba to several American republics, more especially to Mexico, speaking the same language as her people, and upon which Spain and other European powers have at times entertained designs,--her finances and resources for an offensive war,--have made of her the arsenal, the conclave and the treasury from which expeditions have been started; intrigues have been plotted and money supplied, to invade them, prop up therein the lingering monarchical party, and insidiously undermine American influence and American interests. The reader may remember the expedition to Mexico by General BARRADAS, which started from Havana and landed at Tampico about the year 1828. The mission of Colonel ABADIA to Mexico, in 1846, was known to relate to a plan for the establishment on the throne of Mexico of a European Prince, with the aid of Spain. The reader has seen, in a previous article on "Cuba Taxation," an item, among the expenditures of the Havana treasury in 1846, of \$100,000 assigned to extraordinary expenses of the Spanish Minister in Mexico, for "matters" of importance to the Royal service. These "matters of importance" refer to the plan I have just mentioned.

Since then, incidents have occurred illustrative of the dangerous position of Cuba towards the United States. Among these, are the seizure of the *Black Warrior* at Havana, and the firing into the *El Dorado* in neutral waters. With the most absolute power in Cuba, the Captain General is denied, or denies himself at pleasure, that of settling directly with the United States any questions which may arise with them. Reference is made to Spain; the latter asks for information from her colony, and between the colony and Spain a game of shuttle-cock is played, anything but conducive to the dignity or the interests of the United States. But there is yet another cause for complaint. The Spaniards in Cuba are notoriously known to carry on the slave-trade despite existing treaties. The slavers attract the foreign cruisers, and these, eager for prizes, have indiscriminately harassed American commerce in the Gulf and on the coast of Cuba, while in pursuit of slavers. It is believed that the present Executive has succeeded in causing England to renounce her pretended "right of search" or "visit." But what is the result? Left by France and England to carry out the police of the Gulf and the West Indies, the United States not only incur all the responsibilities of their new position, but are compelled to levy upon themselves an enormous tax of lives and treasure as long as the slave-trade shall flourish, which is equivalent to the duration of Spanish rule in Cuba. It would be difficult to calculate the losses to our squadrons from the yellow fever of the tropics, but from the cost of the transfer to Liberia of the slaves recently captured in the *Echo* by the brig-of-war *Dolphin*, a proximate idea may be formed of the career of expense entered into by the United States in behalf of the immunities of their flag.

In the present state of telegraphic enterprise, Cuba will become the centre of lines connecting the Atlantic slope of the United States with Central America and the Pacific coast,

north and south. How much additional importance does it not give to Cuba? Should she belong to us, a dispatch from Washington would cause a fleet to start from her ports for Vera Cruz, San Juan, Aspinwall or the Windward Islands, with the same effect as if New York or Norfolk, with their armaments were transported to the tropics, and the seat of government lay at the Havana. But in that event such fleets would not be needed. None would dispute our right or assail our interests on this continent, and the United States, not possessed of the character of an aggressive people, would be left to pursue towards neighboring communities, through the powerful and benign influences of commerce, the even tenor of their way.

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**EGP**

Flat Rock, Aug 28th [1859]

I send you a line by Tom, My Dear Callie to tell you of the safe arrival of the box & its acceptable contents. Tom brought it up from Greenville on Sunday. Hattie begs me to thank you for the pretty turban hat-- I shall make her sport it on horseback some times. Narco in very Monkful for the Fonave, it makes him look like a fat girl, but he does not think so. Brosio is wearing Fonave's & Narco has been very jealous-- so your gift is quite apropos.

Your Quilt I will see after as soon as the weather permits it has been raining & is still incessantly.

Phoebe & Annie are quite improved & will be I think a pleasant addition to Flat Rock-- which is dull-- more dull & most dull-- ad infinitum, it is full to repletion nearly every body is here & the rest are coming.

Mary gives a party for her small folks on Friday-- the first of the season.

Col. Morris dined with us the last week-- if you do not come up quickly I am afraid that you will lose your chance at him! he is surrounded with many temptations of all ages, from Miss Telfair a fine fortune of some seventy summers-- to Miss Rose rather a rosebud. The Col. says he has tried to keep straight!-- since he has been up here. I am tired & sleepy so good night-- I hope to hear that you are much better for Dr. Gooding's prescription. Tell Cloe that Betsey continues quite well. Love to Mary Man & Mrs Huger, & with much to yourself

I am your affectate. sister

Emmie

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**EGP**

Flat Rock, Sep 21st [1859]

The Mails are behaving strangely My Dear Papa & letters have been taking eight & ten days to reach this from Adams Run & Bay Point. We presume therefore that your last is wandering about as we have been sometime without hearing from you. We are as usual, most of us have had colds. The usual fall diversion but Mama has been quite sick with rheumatism, she is still suffering from it & asks you to look out for a cure or potentative to be found in New York, if any where-- perhaps you will find such a search as interesting as your last year's inquiry after fringes & sewing machines. Callie is wonderfully renovated, Dr. Hardy, the Hugers & the climate have done wonders for her. The Hugers gave a ball last week at which Callie absolutely made her appearance & she has regained a little of her former affection for the store room key & spice box. She is looking *much* better than Mary Manigault. William's last letter was dated the 10th he was still playing Robinson Crusoe at Bay Point & said his crop was still good & that report said the same for The Grove & Shell Point crops. Ralph's letter was dated the 12th. The

harvest he said was later than he had ever known it. That at Pon Pon would not commence for several days. He was perfectly satisfied with Skinner's stewardship & found the crop as good as he had any right to expect. The place was looking handsome. A party of Naval officers had been carried to look at it by Gen Martin & expressed their belief that no where in the United States could such a gentleman's private residence be found!-- one more beautiful or tasteful!!! We are really getting a reputation-- thanks to the Rail Road. Flat Rock is as usual. There is a Bear in the neighborhood & the boys are about getting up a hunt with rifles, revolvers & shot guns. Tom Pinckney has commenced the murder of partridges-- & Arthur Manigault is doing his worst among the pleasant. Gonzie has been kept in the house by a severe cold, but is to be on the bear hunt tomorrow. James Elliott preached here on Sunday. We don't know if he has come to ask the *Pinckneys* once more, to marry him. Mama begs you to get yourself a shawl some more shirts & warm vests. Mary & family are well. Mr. J. is amiable & not poisoned as yet. All join in love & I remain Your affecate. daughter

Emmie

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MAC

Flat Rock, Henderson Co., N.C.  
October 10th 1859

Col. W. G. Freeman  
Sec. Maynard Arms Co.

Dear Sir:

At the time that I purchased my Maynard rifle and Shot-gun I stated that my possessing one would induce many to purchase it, this has been verified.

I wrote some time since to Mr. McFarland ordering a 90 gauge rifle & shot gun for the farmers at this place of Col. Memminger<sup>84</sup> of Charleston, S.C. A Son of the latter gentleman will likely order another on the return of his father from the North. I now have three more to order from you. 1- a 90 gauge rifle (20 inch barrel) and a 26 inch Shot barrel with *all* the appendages for both, cartridge box for *shot* cartridges, 2 boxes of primers and one of lubricator, leather wiper and shade for the sight, recently patented by Dr. Maynard<sup>85</sup> -- for my brother-in-law Mr. Andrew Johnstone, a rice planter on the Santee, Georgetown District, S.C., to be sent by express to Charleston, S.C. *care of Messrs. Wm. C. Bee & Co.* of that City.

2nd. Another rifle and Shot gun precisely as the foregoing with the same appendages for his son Mr. William Johnstone also a wealthy rice planter on the Santee & a farmer on the valley of the French Broad, near Tennessee, addressed like his father's to *Messrs. Wm. C. Bee & Co.* of Charleston, S.C. who will pay the bills on presentation.

3rd. A rifle and Shot gun precisely like the preceding ones with like addenda for Dr. Thomas Means, a planter of Beaufort, S.C., care of Messrs. Hankel Tunno & Nowell, Charleston, S.C. with the bill therefor. This is only the beginning of what I am likely to do for

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<sup>84</sup> Colonel C. G. Memminger.

<sup>85</sup> Dr. Edward Maynard (1813-1891). Dental surgeon and inventor born in Madison, N.Y. Entered West Point 1831 but resigned the same year due to delicate health. Settled in Washington, D.C. in 1836 and practiced dentistry. In 1851 he patented the breech-loading Maynard rifle, which in 1859 used his own metallic cartridge ammunition. The following year he created a method of converting muzzle-loading arms into breech-loaders.

the gun not only here, the principal Summer resort of South Carolina planters, but also on my return to S.C. in the District where I reside besides others that I am to visit this winter. Both this knowledge & the expectation of going to Texas this winter to look for lands. I wrote to Mr. McFarland requesting him to have one drilled expressly for me, with all the accuracy of which American Mechanics are capable, a 32 gauge rifle barrel and sent with its appendages and some extras to the above mentioned *Messrs. Wm. C. Bee & Co.*, my father-in-law's factor in Charleston. I have now to reiterate the same to you and to add that for the sake of the Company, more than for my own, I would like you to order me a 90 gauge rifle drilled on bores like the 32 gauge, expressly for me by hand, if necessary, as accurately and nicely as it could be done by the best rifle maker in the country, in fine such barrels as I believe are to be furnished to Mr. Bradley, the Agent of the Company that I hear is to be in the South West -- he being a paid Agent and I simply a friend to some members of the Company and a well wisher to the latter. The rifles that I have ordered have been so with one exception without any test of the weapon by the parties, and that exception was in regard to penetration. They have been ordered on my recommendation.

When I am able to show my friends as *accurate* a shooting at *all* distances as can be made by any American rifle, a matter of the first importance with Sportsmen among whom your gun I believe is destined to have the best and most numerous friends, the Company will be largely the gainers.

The expense of a special boring or drilling for the two barrels which I would like to have for my own use would be trifling to the Company. On receipt of the 90 gauge barrel (which I would have without appendages, as I have already the latter) I would return the one in my possession which perhaps might be drilled for a 32 gauge. I would thank you to answer me on receipt of this and address as at the commencement of this letter.

Yours very respectfully  
Ambrosio Jose Gonzalez

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**EGP**

Flat Rock, Monday night  
24th October 59

My dear Husband

In accordance with the wish expressed in your letter of the 16th which reached me to day, I shall direct this to New York-- though I was prepared from your letter of the 9th inst. to expect your arrival about this time at Charleston. I sincerely thank you for the good news you have forwarded me of your health. Your weight indicates robust health for you-- but think of Anne's rivalling yours-- *she* weighs to the astonishment of all who have heard it 173 pounds! She is thought to be of an enviable size & her appearance is uninjured by fat-- her health is excellent. You will I trust have a calmer voyage than I had anticipated for you a few days since when the weather was blasting & cold-- a continuation of the same weather was prophered for the remainder of the season-- whereas this has been the most delicious day to be imagined. We hear of no posts in the low country & Ralph who wrote on the 19th says that he intended to keep to his nocturnal habitation, as the overseers &c who had returned to the plantations were down with chills & fevers. By tomorrow week all of the Lowlanders will have left the Mountains excepting Mr. Johnstone's family and ours, & we must wait to hear of a post that will make it safe to go without the least delay in Charleston to the plantation. Tomorrow fortnight the 8th of Nov. we

shall certainly be en route I think. Hattie & Nartho will accompany me in the carriage to Greenville, which Dick will thence take to Oak Lawn. The rest of the family will take their seats in the Mail stage. I've requested Ralph to rig up a wagon & mules to take our servants and luggage off at Summerville which will save us some expense.

I have not & shall not have it in my power to do anything with the Mountain farm. Andrews is quite a cheat I believe-- & Farmer is no better in this matter. I've written to him on the subject, he has no time to reply nor to call. Andrews has given me about 10 bushels of corn for this years third, he says that Farmer promised to settle for the crop of the last year.

If not too late when this reaches you I wish that you would stop into a grocer's & ask the prices of Sugar & of coffee by the 100 lbs. ~~The~~ Costa Rica coffee, is what is sold to us for Java & I should prefer getting it by its own name & at a much less cost than we pay for the so called Java-- excuse me & believe me your ever affecte

Wife [Anne Elliott]

All the family with your sisters do send their love & remembrance to you. I shall write again to Charleston in a few days.

Ralph I apprehend may be absent from Oak Lawn when you reach Charleston, he is summoned as a witness in the Walterboro Courts. Mrs Seabrook & her family leave tomorrow for the low land-- they will stay in Beaufort with Stephen till there is a post. I mention this because he could not accommodate you at the same time.

George has sold his House to Wm. Jenkins for \$10.00-- he & Tom are in Beaufort s[hou]ld you go there.

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**EGP**

Flat Rock, Oct 26th [1859]

I have no stirring news to tell you Dear Ralphie-- but as so many of my letters seem to fail I must write the *[sic]* oftener to ensure your hearing from us occasionally. What becomes of my letters? Is one Moffit still a post office attachment? Curiosity about one's letters is a virtue in some classes! Have you got a letter from me enclosing one to me from Philadelphia?

The weather is excessively warm for the season, fire wood is a drug & the thermometer stood at 78 in our entry at midday & over 70 at dusk this evening. Those who have left this in winter garb must be perspiring in the lower regions unless a frost turns up we can scarcely venture upon the plantation before the 10th. Papa writes on the 20th that he will wait for a frost.

I hope you are quiet about the "Harpers Ferry" affair *[sic]*. The N. York Times gives common sense advice to the South on the subject. Virginia and the all wise wise *[sic]* are so furious that I remark a calm silence in the "Mercury & Courier" Tri Weeklies, which I hope will continue, even now however we may be in New York & the Mellon Beat Company may be being reviewed, drilled & told to hold itself in readiness. I enclose you an account of the marriage of "Oneido" from the "Times" tho well described & satirically too-- So keep it.

**Gonzie** has gone with Tommy Pruitt to the French Broad-- whose fertile shores, seem to be astonishing anew people about-- 78 bushels of corn to the acre-- sold at a dollar the bushel at the bin-- is worth while Frank Johnstone is going into the grazing line. I am afraid that should its fame spread Texas will lose most of its population! What think you?

We are all pretty well, including Mama's rheumatism-- Tho' dull we are to have a pic nic at Trenholms on Saturday-- after which packing, confusion & worry will be our portion & then unpacking confusion & getting to rights-- What a foolish life this is! but good night my dear boy

Love from all & I shall be right glad to see you again. Take care of yourself  
Your affecate. Sister  
Emmie

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MAC

Flat Rock, N.C.  
Nov. 4, 1859

W. C. Bestor Esq.  
Sec. Maynard Arms Co.  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

about starting for Charleston I have barely time to thank you for the instructions given to Mr. McFarland in reference to the two barrels which I desired to have expressly drilled for me. I have received the larger gauge one (5/10 inch) with appendages, sent by Mr. McFarland previous to the receipt of your [...] and consequently, as far as the barrel goes, not the thing which I desired. My object in asking for said barrel was principally to give my friends at the South an opportunity of witnessing the full power of Maynard's Rifle and in asking for superior barrels to have them see what *accuracy* can be attained with it. Would it be unreasonable for me to expect that while I cheerfully make the weapon known to my friends and to Southern men it should not be an expense to me beyond the time, & efforts I use and the ammunition expended? If you take this view of the matter, will you commission Mr. McFarland accordingly in regard to the 35/100 inch barrel, *without* appendages ordered for me and the 5/10 inch ditto with appendages. I will see if I can dispose of the 5/10 inch barrel and appendages already in my possession to some friend already furnished with the Maynard small bored rifle.

I leave in the morning for Charleston and my address will be for the winter: "Adams Run, St. Paul's Parish, S.C." I expect to visit between this and February next, the seaboard North and South of Charleston, Georgia, Florida & Texas and as my intercourse will be with planters in those different States and the Maynard rifle will be my companion, I shall have opportunities for making it known where it will best be appreciated.

Yours very respectfully  
Ambrosio José Gonzalez

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MAC

Chicopee Falls Nov. 7th 1859

W. C. Bestor  
Sc. M. A. Co.

Dear Sir:

...I wrote to you on the 3d in reference to the Bill sent to be collected of Col. C. G. Memminger. I am now inclined to think that I sent a wrong invoice. I have written to Gen. A. Gonzales about it. I can not forward the guns to him under about a week for want of shot barrels.

Yours Truly,  
Wm. P. McFarland

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MAC

Chicopee Falls Nov. 14th 1859



W. C. Bestor  
Sec. Maynard Arms Co.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed I forward to you invoices of Rifles &c also forwarded to you this day by Express and others to Charleston S.C. to the order of Genl. Gonzales. The Bills have been sent with them for collection as directed by him...

Yours Truly,  
Wm. P. McFarland

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**MAC**

Chicopee Falls Nov. 14th 1859

W. C. Bestor  
Sc. M. A. Co.

Dear Sir:

...In regard to the barrel sent to Genl. Gonzalez, I can say that in style of finish and workmanship it was equal if not superior to any sent to Mr. Bradley or any one else. I have received a letter from him in reference to it and have replied. I have selected a small caliber barrel for him by shooting several, and selecting the best, and will do the same with the large bore if you think best, as soon as I can conveniently.

Wm. P. McFarland

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**EGP**

Oak Lawn, Novem. 25th 1859

Hon: William Elliott

My Dear Father

The object of this note is to state, that I am anxious to make a start in the world, and desire your assistance.

My plans are-- first-- To take whatever Capital you may please to give me, and settle in some new agricultural State, where the lands are fertile and comparatively *cheap*.

My second plan is, That you should give me the same amount of Capital in Negroes, and in addition, purchase for me either the "Village" plantation on Pon Pon, or Mrs Allstons place on the same river, permitting me to pay you for the lands by regular yearly installments, and retaining the titles, until you are so paid.

If you prefer the second plan-- I would be willing to give \$12,000 for the first-- or \$10,000 for the second plantation. They will each be advertised for sale, early in the coming year.

You will excuse my making this request, but I have been for seven years endeavoring to make decent crops, on undrained rice lands, and am convinced, of the impossibility of benefiting yourself, or myself, by continuing to do so.

I am dear Papa, very  
Respectfully, & Affectionately  
Your Son  
Ralph E. Elliott

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**MAC**

Chicopee Falls Dec. 5th 1859

W. C. Bestor  
Sc. M. A. Co.

Dear Sir:

I received a letter from General Gonzalez on Saturday in which he says "I await with impatience the arrival of my two barrels and the terms which I have suggested as just to me." I wish to know what I shall do in reference to sending more barrels to him, I have selected a small [...] caliber for him and can do the same for a large [...] but I do not think best to make two barrels expressly for him unless directed to do so by the Directors. I have recd. pay from him for the 5/10 cal. barrel sent to him in Oct., he says he will dispose of that if I send another. Please give me directions what to do to oblige.

Yours Truly  
Wm. P. McFarland

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*The Maynard Rifle* (Washington: G. S. Gideon, Printer, 1860), pp. 10-11.

*(Extract of a letter from General A. J. Gonzales, of South Carolina)*

Oak Lawn, Adams Run P. O., S.C.  
January 2, 1860.

Mr. W. P. McFarland  
Agent Maynard Arms Co., &c.

Dear Sir:

I recently made with my little shot gun a most remarkable shot at a deer. I had in my gun nine swan shot, of which it chambers three, and on the top of these I placed a very large buck shot, but much smaller than the gauge of the gun; and in order to make it retain its position and fly straighter, I wrapped this angle shot in flannel. Well, with this single shot (the rest falling short of the distance) I killed in his tracks, at the enormous distance of 160 yards, a deer at full run through a cluster of large pines. This shot has given the gun great celebrity here. \* \* \* \*

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**MAC**

Chicopee Falls Feb. 23d 1860

W. C. Bestor Esq.  
Sec. M. A. Co.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed I forward invoice of Rifle for Dr. Wm. Powell, which I shall forward to him tomorrow by Express. Also for Bullet Mould & Sight for Gen. A. J. Gonzalez & a Bill of which I sent to him and he will send the pay in [...].

Yours Truly  
Wm. P. McFarland

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**EGP**

Charleston 25 Feby. 1860

Honble Wm. Elliott

Dear Sir

Mr Tupper sent us the title to day for the plantation on Pon Pon recently

purchased, and conveyed by him to your son Ralph.\*

We paid him seven thousand dollars for the property and eight 31/100 dollars for the papers, which we have charged to your a/c. Shall we send the title to Walterboro to be recorded, or hold it subject to your orders?

Please say to Miss Caroline that under a new arrangement which we were not aware of freight by the Savannah R. Rd. must be sent the day previous before 11 o'clock. Her box therefore will not go until the Wednesdays train.

Very respy truly yrs  
Wm. C. Bee & Co.

\*Ralph Emms Elliott.

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**MAC**

Oak Lawn, S.C. March 5th 1860

W. C. Bestor Esq.  
Secretary Maynard Arms Co.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I have given up the idea of going to Texas, for the reason that it is too far from my wife's relations. I am now about starting for Florida, with the view of taking a look at the country and settling there, if advantageous. I have thought that, in the competition of fire arms, especially breech-loaders, now existing in the Southern States, I could be of service to the Maynard Arms Co. in the three States of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida as their Agent for their rifle and shot gun. I have many friends and connections in this State, as many friends or still more so in Georgia, where I have resided for two years, among the sporting people of the seaboard and my coming excursions to Florida and principal prospective residence there will make me equally well acquainted in that State. For these reasons as well as for my being known, to some extent, in connection with military matters, and for my greater experience of Maynard rifle & shot gun than any other purchaser of that weapon, I believe that I could serve the interests of your company in the capacity aforesaid, probably to a greater extent than most persons at the South. The question is, will you make it sufficiently remunerative for me to devote all the necessary time and attention to the matter. Mr. Ladlon of Charleston, one of the firm of Wm. C. Bee & Co., factors of my father-in-law (the Hon. Wm. Elliott, author of "Carolina Sports,") is the agent for a breech-loader recently patented by Poultney & some other name, I think "Smith," of Baltimore, and said rifle has been taken to Columbia by said Major Ladlon and submitted for approval to the state authorities; it is now in Charleston for inspection. There is another breech-loader called the Georgia rifle, by, I believe a Mr. Gallagher, of Savannah, making by one of the Happoldts,<sup>86</sup> gunsmiths of Charleston. I have it from one of the aforementioned firm of Wm. C. Bee & Co. that Mr. Ladlon expects to make fifteen hundred dollars a year by his Agency for the Baltimore rifle and he being a merchant in business can devote but little of his time to it and can hardly do any traveling in its behalf.

I have seen on a recent visit to Charleston some of your rifles (26 inch in the barrel) at Graveley & Pringles hardware merchants. The one on exhibition was so rusty throughout, that it could make no favorable impression on applicants therefor; neither did the clerk understand the

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<sup>86</sup> J. H. Happoldt.

different points of the weapon, nor have the firm any thing more to say for it than that the shot gun has killed a deer at 180 yards, (163 it should be,) a shot made by myself, at this place, on Christmas day and Mr. Graveley, an Englishman, must be prejudiced against the gun for he stated to a brother-in-law of mine that the Maynard rifle was a "pop gun" & that there was no novelty in its invention and that in fact it was an English one &c.

The barrels that I have got of Maynard's rifle I have had filled with a variety of sights and bullet-moulds made for compound balls & use at a cost to me exceeding that of the whole gun. I have fired the three barrels upwards of three thousand times, on foot and horseback in good and bad weather and practiced at various ranges, so that in a trial of breech-loaders, I could, I think, do more to show its various points than any other person at the South.

I must state that for *purposes of war* I consider the metallic cartridge a drawback, for unless cleaned after shooting, not always a convenient thing in action or even in campaigning, it will clog and consequently be objected to. A cartridge of greased and *thoroughly combustible* material with a slender metallic flange, *good for one discharge*, and which you can throw away when used (the common soldier would seldom, in action, put the fired cartridge into his belt or pocket for further use) is, in my opinion a desideratum for the gun, to compete successfully with army weapons. A contrivance to fire the guard more reliably when the bayonet has to be used and perfectly waterproof tape and if possible some protection to the cone from the damp or rain while firing, are in my humble judgement matters to be considered by the Company.

In conclusion, I request that you will answer this hurried note at your earliest convenience as I shall leave for Florida very shortly and the acceptance or not of your propositions, if you make any, will have an influence upon my movements. My address is: "Adams Run P.O. St. Paul's Parish, So. Ca."

Very respectfully yours,  
Ambrosio José Gonzalez

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**EGP**

Head Quarters 13th Regiment  
South Carolina Militia  
Walterboro March 15th 1860

To Capt Ralph Elliott

You will cause an Election to be held for 3d Lieut of the Will Town Beat Company at the Muster Stand on Saturday the 31st of March. To fill said office Appoint 2 Commissioned & 1 Non Commissioned officers to hold Said Election Polls to be opened at 11 O'clock A M & close at 3 (PM) Count the votes and fourthwith transmit the result of said Election to me.

H M Stewart  
Col 13th Regiment  
So ca M

(PS) The Review takes place on the 19th Day of April full returns of the officers & Strength of your company arms &c will be required.

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**EGP**

Office Charleston & Savannah R.R. Co.  
Charleston, April 26th 1860

The Conductor of the Passenger Train will stop at the Place of the Hon. William Elliott,

and set down himself and Guests at that point, on any day during the present or next week he may select. -- And returning, will stop at the same point and take them up.

Edward Manigault  
Ch. Engr.

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*Savannah Morning News*  
7 May 1860, 1  
PASSENGERS.  
Per steamer St. Mary's from Palatka  
**Gen. Gonzales**

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**MAC**

Savannah, Geo. May 7th 1860.

Mr. Wm. P. McFarland  
Agent, Maynard Arms Co.  
Chicopee Falls, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I am on my way home, in S.C., from my trip to Florida. I have been up to the head of navigation of the St. John's; thence to New Smyrna on the South East Coast of Florida, and, latterly, to St. Augustine. I carried with me my rifle (with the three barrels) and as the result of my endeavors in proving to sportsmen the excellence of the weapon and also of my successful shooting with it, at rest & off-hand, I have to order for gentlemen whose acquaintance I have made during my journey, the following weapons, in packing, addressing and forwarding which I would request of you to be very particular.

1. In *one box* addressed "Capt. Jacob Brock of the Steamer Darlington" care of E. Lafitte & Co., Charleston, S.C., the following *five* rifles and shot guns, packed & marked *separately*, with bills *separate*, and with pamphlets with instructions *for each*:

*For Capt. Brock of Steamer Darlington:*

1 26-inch, 35/100 bore rifle barrel  
1 26-inch shot gun with appendages for both  
100 cartridge cases for each, extra.  
3,000 primers. Ten boxes lubricator.

*For Francis J. Wheaton, Jacksonville, Fla:*

1 20-inch 35/100 bore rifle barrel  
1 26-inch shot gun with appendages ditto.  
(Extras as above)

*For George Sheldon, New Smyrna, East Fla:*

1 26-inch 5/10 bore rifle barrel  
1 26-inch shot gun  
2,000 primers

*For Simmons Bennett, New Smyrna, East Fla:*

1 26-inch 5/10 bored rifle barrel  
1 26-inch shot gun  
2,000 primers

*For James Russell, Indian River:*

(The same as the two preceding)

2. *In one bore*

For Mr. W. P. Vaux, care of Messrs. O'Hare, Roper and Stoney, Charleston, S.C.

- 1 20-inch 35/100 bore rifle barrel
- 1 26-inch shot gun
- 100 extra cartridge cases for each
- 2,000 primers

Mr. Vaux has written to you for bullet moulds with *two* impressions. Also for zinc head impression, like those I ordered for myself. In addition, he requests me to ask you for an impression for *spherical* ball for shot gun, such as mine. Thus the cherries made for me may prove yet of further use to you.

3. *In one bore for Messrs. Edward Barnard and Walter Gwynn, of Tallahassee, Fla.,* care of Messrs. McKesson & Robbins, No. 91 Fulton St., New York:

- 2 20-inch 35/100 bore rifle barrels
- 2 26-inch shot guns
- 100 extra cartridge cases for each barrel
- 2,000 primers for each person.

4. For Mr. John B. Kilgore, of Ocala, Fla, care of Ingraham & Webb, Charleston, S.C.,  
in *one* bore:

- 1 26-inch 35/100 bore rifle barrel
- 1 26-inch shot gun
- 100 extra cartridge cases for each
- 2,000 primers
- 10 boxes lubricator
- Bullet mould with two impressions
- A mould with impression for round ball for shot gun.

For myself, as well as for the interest of the Company, having assured these gentlemen that their guns would be as good as mine, I have to ask that you have them bored & finished in the best possible manner. I do not exaggerate when I say that the disposition of the above guns to the parties mentioned above, will superinduce the sale, if they be not disappointed, of at least *one hundred* more. Capt. Brock, owns and commands the only steamer that runs regularly carrying the mail, up to Lake Monroe, on the St. John's and all the passengers up & down that river from S. to Palatka. He is, besides, proprietor of the "Brock House" at "Enterprise," on Lake Monroe, the only House in that region & the resort of sportsmen, travelers & invalids. He shoots alligators with two or three american rifles up & down the river, *every trip*, even while steering the boat--and will be, if satisfied, a perennial advocate of the gun to hundreds of passengers the whole year round. Mr. Sheldon is son of the proprietor of the Ocean House at New Smyrna, a great sportsman, whose father has been & is also one. He has been the main reliance in that region of Sir Francis Syke's hunting party last year & this.

Mr. Bennett is left, at New Smyrna, in charge, for the summer, of a steamer of the Messrs. Swift of New Bedford, Mass., and belongs to a party of about fifty Northern men who, during the winter, cut live oak timber for the Government Navy Yards. The gentlemen from Tallahassee, are men of much influence & acquaintanceship there: one of the is State Land Agent & they both talked to me of having the weapon adopted by their volunteer companies. Mr. Wheaton is a lawyer of Jacksonville. Mr. Vaux, a very enthusiastic sportsman, who wherever he goes, and he is moving always in quest of game, will contribute to the credit of the gun. Mr.

Russell is mail Agent for Indian River. So is Mr. Sheldon's father, for New Smyrna. Mr. Kilgore is from Marin Co., in Central Florida. Besides these, I wrote an order for Maynard's gun, for Mr. Blunt of South Western Fla. to copy & sign, at his request. So that the gun is now well known in Fla. In not one of the places where I have been has it been known at all. To other gentlemen, invalids, returning home, I have given your address. They want the gun and will order it during the summer. Among them are Mr. J. Culberton, of Chicago, Mr. Wilson, of Philadelphia, and a traveler, not an invalid, from Beaufort, N.C. by the name of Davis. The success of the gun, in my hands, has been the principal cause in deciding old sportsmen to forego their preference for the old rifle. With a rest, above hundred yards, I put three consecutive balls, the only ones I shot, within a two-inch ring, the last one driving the centre, & beating by great odds a rifle made expressively by Abby, of Chicago for Mr. Peters, of Sir F. Syke's party (to exhibit in England as a crack American rifle), & fired over twenty times by four or five expert shots. Off hand, & standing on the upper deck of the Darlington, by the wheel house, in the presence of many travelers & excursionists, of whom once there were from eight to ten provided with rifles & shot guns, I not only killed alligators that were missed by the rest, but some at a distance, say of one hundred and thirty yards, long before the rest could get within range, and having their heads only partially out of the water; white cranes at 150 yards, water turkeys & cormorants at 100, even "divers," single birds, three almost in succession, at from 60 to 130 yards, severally; a blue heron at 200 yards and finally an eagle in his nest on the summit of a swamp cypress tree on the shore. I, in all these shots, standing, & the boat in motion. Of course, all those, like Capt. Brock, who contended that such a gun would not be steady, saw with their own eyes that it could and did shoot, any way.

I carried the two barrels recently made or rather finished for me, but I must here state that I have not yet made, with a test, a good shooting at a target with the new rifle as I have made with the *old* 35/100 bore, *after* I increased the load to 30 grains & drove the bullet down to the flange every time. It may prove, on further trial, however, to be as good as the *old* one.

I will thank you to forward this hurried letter to Mr. W. C. Bestor, Sec. of the Company after you shall have copied the orders it contains. I suppose that, by this time, my swedges & have been forwarded to Charleston.

I remain very truly yours,  
Ambrosio José Gonzalez

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MAC

Oak Lawn, Adams Run, P.O.  
S. C. May 10th 1860.

Wm. C. Bestor Esq.  
Sec. Maynard Arms Co.  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

your last favor, accompanying a pamphlet on the "Maynard Rifle," was received by me, this week, on my return from Florida. I am pleased to hear that you will soon bring the subject of my last communication before the Board of Directors of the Company.

I had no anticipation, when I received the two rifle barrels from the Co., of becoming their Agent. I had then made other plans for myself. But when these were given up, a member of my family suggested to me that since I took so great an interest in the Maynard Rifle I might as

well enter into an arrangement with the Company that would prove advantageous to them and sufficiently remunerative to me, to warrant my devoting my time particularly to their interests. In my last communication, hurriedly penned, I omitted to make an important statement in relation to myself; to wit: that not to mention the first Cuban Expedition organized solely by myself in the South West, under full powers from Genl. Lopez, the means for which were given to me by friends that I had made in the same region, I organized in 1851, in the States of Georgia and Florida, and to some extent in South Carolina (and received from personal friends more than ten thousand dollars, artillery & ammunition therefor), the Cleopatra Expedition, broken up by the seizure of the Cleopatra in the harbor of N. York.

Hence my intimate & extended acquaintanceship in these several States and the deference with which my opinion on military matters is treated by those on whose regard I have but little professional claim. My present connection with well-known families in this State has still increased my means of usefulness in such matters. The Governor of this State with my brother-in-law, his aid-de-camp, were here during my absence, the guests of Mr. Wm. Elliott. Had I been empowered to do so I would have delayed my trip to Florida and seen him on the adoption of your rifle for the State.

I wrote from Savannah to Mr. McFarland ordering nine rifles and shot guns for friends of mine in Florida. I beg to refer you to that letter which I requested him to forward to you, after copying the orders it contained. My family together with my father-in-law's are about moving for the summer to Flat Rock, N.C. the resort during this season of many wealthy and influential families from this State and whence I ordered four rifles & shot guns last year. I desire, because of said proximate removal, to hear from you at your earliest convenience. I have seen a desirable location for myself and family in East Florida and may have soon to go there, passing through Georgia. Your answer must influence, to more or less extent my future movements. I intend addressing, when I have the time, a considered letter on the Rifle to Dr. J. C. Hall. I have much to say for it and much to hope for its success, if placed before the public with the energy of which you are giving evidence.

Yours very respectfully,

Ambrosio José Gonzalez

Mr. Bestor:

I have succeeded in copying the letter of Gen. Gonzales so as to send it by same mail as my letter of last [...],

yours truly  
Wm. P. McFarland

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MAC

Chicopee Falls May 11th 1860

W. C. Bestor Esq.

Dear Sir:

...I have received a very interesting letter from General Gonzales today with an order for 9 rifles with shot-barrels &c for Gentlemen in Florida whom he found being travelling recently. General G. has written several letters to me. he seems to take much interest in introducing the Rifle. He is very anxious to get a swedge for swedging bullets & I think we ought to get up ours soon as it will be of great advantage in target shooting I have no doubt but we might sell many swedges if we get up a good one. I shall send Genl. Gonzales' Letter to you



as soon as I copy it.

Yours truly,  
Wm. P. McFarland

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**MAC**

Oak Lawn, Adams Run, P.O.  
So. Ca. June 2d 1860.

W. C. Bestor Esq.  
Sec. Maynard Arms Co.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I addressed you a note on receipt of your last favor, on my proposed agency for the Rifle for the States of S.C., Geo. & Fla. I presume that there has been no meeting of your board or you would have communicated to me the result of your steps in that connection. Y may be excused for desiring as early a decision as can conveniently be had upon the matter for the reason that I have plans of settlement which must be affected by it and which, consequently to be definite, must await the result.

I beg to enclose two notes received to-day from Mr. Walter Gwynn, of Tallahassee, one of the gentlemen for whom I ordered rifles, which more than realizes the expectations contained in my letter from Savannah to Mr. McFarland, which I requested that gentleman to forward to you. I am perfectly satisfied that should the Company make me a proposition adequate to the employment of my time & energies enabling me, moreover, to circulate in the above mentioned States to establish agencies, see their respective State authorities & volunteer companies and explain & popularize the rifle, it would be most amply repaid by the results. I have felt convinced from the beginning, that the Maynard Rifle might make the fortune of its owners, at any rate of those who have it not, if presented to the public with untiring and *all-pervading* energy. I have considered it hardly necessary to state that I would be no irresponsible agent of the Company should it intrust me with its interests in this Section.

The recent birth of a third son has prevented our family from going to the mountains of N.C. as I anticipated when I last wrote. We will remain here a month or two longer (our P.O. always "Adams Run")

I remain, Sir,  
yours respectfully  
A. J. Gonzalez

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**EGP**

The Bank of Charleston, So. Ca.  
Charleston, 30 June 1860

Hon Wm Elliott  
Adams Run

Dear Sir

Our Board have had under consideration your offer of \$7,000 Cash for the Bee Hive Plantation formerly the property of Dr. Hamilton and have concluded to accept your offer.

The Bank is prepared to make the titles to you at any time convenient to you. We will be

pleased to hear from you on the subject.  
Yours respectfully

J [...]

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**EGP**

Charleston 3d July 1860

My dear Cousin

I received, yesterday, yours of 2d inst, and prepx a statement which will show the respective interests of yourself and Sisters in the amount here in our hands.

The figures in the first column show the principal, and those in the last the interest due each.

To these must be added for Mrs Gonzales-- fr Mr Heywards Bond	\$3000
and interest fr 18 mons to 27 inst	<u>315</u>
	3315
fr yourself Mr Heywards Bond	\$2000
& Interest for 18 mos to 27 inst	<u>200</u>
	2210

And the same as the last for each Misses Emily and Caroline.

In addition we have for you two hundred and forty five dollars the interest for one year upon Mr Dan Heywards note for \$3,500

To sum up the whole, including interest upon Mr Heywards Bond to 18 inst, the respective credits of principal and interest will be as follows

Mrs Gonzales	principal	\$4556.70
	Interest	<u>440.58</u>
		\$4997.28
for yourself	Principal	\$3037.80
	Interest	<u>538.72</u>
		\$3576.52
for Miss Emily Elliott	Principal	\$3037.80
	Interest	<u>293.72</u>
		\$3331.52
Miss Caroline Elliott	Principal	\$3037.80
	Interest	<u>293.72</u>
		\$3331.52

With kind remembrances to all.

Yrs very truly  
Wm C Bee

Miss Anne Elliott

Statement of cash receipts for a/c of Miss Ann Elliott and her sisters Mrs Gonzales Misses Emily and Caroline Elliott.

1860

Feb'y 2d	Recd in a/c of G V Ankers Bond for \$2000	10.00
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May 29	“	for interest in the same		140
	“	for A J Salinas Bond for \$2760 less discount allowed on the same \$300	2460	
		Interest to date		236.76
June 22	“	from Honbl Wm Elliott being balance due on purchase of Bluff Plantation	1310.12	
			4770.12	
		Deduct amount paid Benen & Porter for a/c A G Rose	<u>100</u>	
			4670.12	376.76
		Divisible as follows		
		Mrs Gonzales	1/3	1,556.70 2/3 125.58 2/3
		Miss Ann Elliott	fr 1/3d of balance	1,037.80 1/3 83.72 1/3
		Miss Emily Elliott	1/3 Do	1,037.80 1/3 83.72 1/3
		Miss Caroline Elliott	1/3 Do	1,037.80 1/3 83.73 2/3
			\$4670.12	\$376.76

NA, Federal Census 1860, Roll 1218, South Carolina, Colleton and Darlington Districts, p. 368. Schedule 1.--Free Inhabitants in *St. Paul's Parish* in the *District of Colleton* State of *S. Carolina* enumerated by me on the *Seventh* day of *July* 1860, *A. L. Campbell*, Ass't Marshal. Post Office *Walterborough, S.C.*

Name	Age	Sex	Color	Profession	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth
William Elliott	72	male	white	Planter	32,000	20,000	S.C.
Anne “	32	fem.	“			7,000	“
Caroline “	29	fem.	“			7,000	“
William “ Jr.	27	male	“	Farmer		30,000	“
Ralph “	25	male	“			22,000	“
Emily “	23	fem.	“			7,000	“
Harriet R. Gonzales	20	fem.	“			17,000	“
A.J. “	45	male	“				Cuba
Lucy Scharda	20	fem.	“				Germany
Anne H. Elliott	54	fem.	“				S.C.

MAC

Oak Lawn, Adams

Run

P.O. So. Ca.  
July 16th 1860

W. C. Bestor Esq.  
Sec. Maynard Arms Co.  
Dear Sir:

I have been prevented, by protracted illness in my family, from answering sooner your favor of the 15th ult.

I think the commission of 20 per cent a fair one on articles sold to sportsmen and the \$3 on each rifle sold to companies or State Governments, although small, could not well be

increased without reducing beyond reasonable terms the profits of the Co. But the expenses in advertising, in frequent travel and of life from home in a country so sparsely populated as this region is, makes it doubtful whether your agent could do as well with that commission here as he would at the North with only \$1 per gun. Dr. Maynard mentioned to me incidentally last year something like a heavy State tax upon the sale of guns. About this I have not yet made inquiries. Then, many sportsmen who might buy the gun at the ordinary price, may, if they belong to a military company get it at Government prices and the Agent, in that event, would make less profit in selling 30 guns to companies, than a much lesser number singly. But for the credit of the gun it is desirable that military companies should adopt it.

From what I have stated on the opposite page the expenses of an Agent desiring to sell a large quantity of guns, without which he cannot make a reasonable profit to warrant his devoting his time and energies to the business, would be very great. He would, beside, give to the gun, whatever little prestige his name may have in the several States and then someone else could, by coming after him, reap the benefits of his expenses and exertions. For these reasons I consider just that if any one undertakes the sale of the gun on the large and expensive scale that I would, in which the Co. has an equal interest with the Agent, that he be made the sole Agent for them for the District which he is to canvass, and that any additional barrels or articles which may be purchased by members of companies within said District come under the 20 per cent commission. I would also expect the Company to let me have, not for sale, but for exhibition at different places, a few guns, for the value of which I would give security.

I intend going shortly to Washington when I will be glad to make an arrangement satisfactory to both parties. I have hastily written these lines to show you that I have given the subject the consideration it deserves and to make up for my delay in writing. The very points touched by me may be applied in your proposition, but I would have them better understood.

Yours respectfully  
A. J. Gonzalez

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**MAC**

Saratoga Springs, N.Y.  
August 20th 1860

Wm. C. Bestor Esq.  
Sec. Maynard Arms Co.  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

I have been here with my family for some time. I had intended taking Washington on my way to these Springs but the excessive heat and our numbers (12) have compelled me to take the sea route. I will try, however, to make as soon as possible a trip to Washington in order to come to some arrangement with the Co. satisfactory to both parties. Many personal friends, planters in our neighborhood would take the gun and pay any reasonable additional expense if the shotgun could be enlarged to 16 or 18 bore which I believe it could be done with safety with some slight alteration. On this subject I will see Dr. Maynard & Mr. McFarland. It would, if attainable, vastly increase the sale of the gun in our region of country.

A double-barrel rifle & shot gun of 14 gauge would be vastly preferable, but until the Co. are ready for it, this increase of the bore would do.

I have seen here Dr. Barnard, of Tallahassee, Fla., who wrote for an agency at that

place and he agrees to wait for my trip to his section, next fall, to arrange some plan for the sale of Maynard's gun. Nothing is doing in our section, now, in that line, nor will be done, of any consequence, until the sporting season, which, with us, is *after frost*; that is to say, in November.

I am, in great haste  
yours truly  
A. J. Gonzalez

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**EGP**

St. Nicholas Hotel [New York City] Sunday 23d Sepr. 1860

[To wife Ann Elliott, who was with Emily at Saratoga Springs]

...By the time this reaches you--the General will surely have returned, and enabled you to insist on your rights or change Your quarters! In case he has not returned and you stand in any need--apply to Mr. Marvin--who knows who we are, too well to let any annoyance trouble you--but write on receipt of this to tell me how you all are--and what you desire of me.

...Love to all--and with the hope that your various annoyances are over--I am your affectionate husband

Wm. Elliott

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**MAC**

Chicopee Falls, Mass. Oct. 1st. 1860

W. C. Bestor Esq.

Dear Sir:

...I send the invoice of articles delivered to General Gonzales last week. He will be in Washington about the 6th inst. & will settle with you for the article at such reduced price as you may agree upon...

Yours Truly,  
Wm. P. McFarland

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**MAC**

Chicopee Falls, Mass. Oct. 15th 1860

W. C. Bestor Esq.

Dear Sir:

...Have you seen General Gonzales since he was here? he thought he should be in Washington about the 6th inst.

Yours Truly  
Wm. P. McFarland

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**MAC**

Chicopee Falls, Mass. Oct. 27th 1860

W. C. Bestor Esq.

Dear Sir:

...I have no altered musket on hand which I can send to Gel. Gonzales. I sent them all to Washington. I [...] is out there which can be spared. I think it will facilitate the business to send it to me & I will see that everything is right about it and send it to the Genl. I shall be obliged to get some of the new shot cartridges made before I can send them to him. This I shall

do at once...

Yours Truly  
Wm. P. McFarland

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**EGP**

Adams Run Nov 1st 1860

Hon Wm Elliott  
Dear Sir

I have been required to inform you that at the last Meeting of the St Pauls Rifle Corps, You were unanimously elected an honorary Member.

Respectfully Yrs  
Jno L Clement  
Sectary

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**EGP**

Rue de Luxembourg, 3.  
--aupres Jardin des Fuillises  
[November 1860]

My Dear Mother

I determined on reaching Paris after my last from Berlin to give you a little respite-- especially as I had not heard a word from home up to three weeks since. Then I had the satisfaction to receive yours and afterward Emilies from Minsoe & Co's. They were quite a treat, as I had heard absolutely nothing except from Johnnie whose father mentioned you as being all on the grand town. J looks thin & badly and does not seem over delighted with his trip although they been through Italy (and left out Rome) even in the sickly season. He drives out Doctors Fullers daughters, in a one horse voiture on the Bois du Boulogn. For that the weather has been recently delightful, after the most "vilain" possible. No one here has known such a rainy season before. Now I cant help wishing my sisters with me, & know of no pleasure so great as to drive out in a voiture a deux chevaux, with every body smiling pleasantly at you as they approach. The old ladies especially seemed to admire George Cuthberts fair complexion and Roman nose. I speak of him in the past tense because he left two days ago for England. After visiting Scotland, he will take the Canada at Queenstown in Ireland -- I was much tempted to go with him -- but prefer visiting Italy to Scotland and remaining a little longer here; which in fine weather is the place of places. The french, however are very ugly and generally dirty.

I have scarcely met an americain worth knowing this summer though the country, continent is full of them. The best hotel is crowded with rouge specimens. Yesterday I saw R Calhoun for the first time. he is going home in the Adriatic in a few days also the Middletons and Aleck Chisolm, who has been at Garibaldi's camp two days after the battle of Volturno. In the trenches, where they were keeping up a cannonade, two or three shells passed near him and an american officer, who were amusing themselves by serving one of the guns.

My programme at present is to remain here until early in November and then go to Rome spend ten days and there determine whether or not to visit the rest of Italy--such as Naples & Pompeii, Milan, Florence and Lago Maggiore--finishing the whole in a month or less; then return and go immediately to London, spend a week and return home in December. If the country becomes more unsettled, I may return home before that time after visiting Rome only.

In Paris I have been sightseeing but more leisurely--but have visited Versailles, Saint Germain, Vincennes, and Fontainebleau-- besides places and museums in the City. I took a french teacher some time ago, but he proved a humbug, but & after four lessons, I paid him & left. I am looking out for another and will take a [...] drudgery at the tongue. A few phrases in Italian for common use, I must also learn. Marceilles, and thence by steamer to Civita Vecchia and then to Rome. Galinseni furnished the latest news and despatches from Italy so that travelling can always be determined before leaving Paris, as to their course.

The Habershams must now be near New York. Poor Stephen can have nothing done for him, and says he has given up all hope of recovery. He is said to be much changed. The attentions of his brother and Telfain were unceasing and ~~do them honour~~ speak much for their good heartedness. Wm seems especially to feel his brothers situation.

I was sorry but not surprised to see from your letter that Ralph expected no crop this year--as I was glad to hear that he was sure of his election. The accounts from America shew that mischief is brewing--the Union being threatened by Lincoln's election--and if so I shall not be sorry to get home as soon as my programme will permit. It really seems time for the South to ~~separ~~ secede even at the expense of war. It must come sooner or later, for the people of the North are crazy and ~~fanatical~~ tyrannical. Before leaving for Italy I will write you again dear Mama. Thank Emily--love to all-- Your affectionate son

William

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**MAC**

Chicopee Falls, Mass. Nov. 9th 1860

W. C. Bestor Esq.

Dear Sir:

...I have received nothing from General Gonzales in reference to these Rifles but shall expect to soon. When Rifles are sent to his order, what course shall I adopt in reference to the payment for them?...

Yours in Haste,  
Wm. P. McFarland

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**CMR**

Oak Lawn, Adams

Run

P.O., So. Ca.  
November 19th 1860.

His Excellency

Gov. Wm. H. Gist  
Columbia, S.C.

Sir:

it is reported, by telegraph, from Washington, as I see in to-day's "Mercury," that it is the intention of the Federal Government to coerce South Carolina into submission. In such a contingency I beg respectfully to proffer my humble services to the State of my adoption. I have served as adjutant Genl. & Chief of the Staff to the lamented patriot, Genl. Narciso Lopez.

I have Sir, the honor to be with high regard & consideration,

Your Excellency's humble servant,

**CMR**

Adams Run P.O.

S.Ca.

Nov. 19th 1860.

His Excellency

Gov. Wm. H. Gist

Columbia, S.Ca.

Dear Sir:

I transcribe from a letter received to-day & dated Nov. 13th, from the Secretary of the Maynard Arms Co. in Washington City, the following words: "I sent you by mail, with this, two pamphlets on the matter of our patent for new breech loading firearms. This is, perhaps, the simplest plan ever devised for a breech loading gun and is cheap and can be applied to muzzle loading guns of all sorts. The thousands of muskets in the country, now comparatively useless, can, by this method, at small cost, be converted into the most effective and destructive weapons."

"I regret very much that Mr. McFarland has not yet been able to furnish you with the new shot barrel and *altered musket*, as I requested him to do. -- I trust he will be able to do so soon. I write to him upon the subject to-day."

I hope that the matter of the alteration of State arms may allow you to wait a few days for the promised pattern musket and that the State may have the benefit of so cheap & valuable an invention.

I beg to state, as it may be of service to the State, that I have to-day received a letter from Mr. McFarland the Agent & Inspector of the Maynard Arms Co., formerly foreman of the Springfield Armory, stating that two first class workmen "who have worked on the Maynard Rifle from the beginning and to the end of the contract and who understand thoroughly the mechanism of the Maynard Rifle, who are fine men and ingenious workmen, desire to come South & start a job shop for the repair of guns & other work." "One of them has been engaged as a Lock finisher in putting together the Locks and finishing the arm and the other has done the polishing for the whole contract."

I have also received a proposition while at the North, last Summer, from M<sup>r</sup> B. W. Amsden, who worked for me in Saratoga, and who is considered a No. 1 Rifle maker at the North and so set down by Prof. Lilliman, to come South. He is a good democrat & his reason to come here was to get away from the Abolitionists. Should the State want the services of these men either for the Maynard Rifle, the alteration of muskets or other work, I will take pleasure in writing to them upon the subject.

I have, Sir, the honor to be with great consideration your obt. servt.

Ambrosio José Gonzales

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**MAC**

New York Nov. 24, 1860

W. C. Bestor Esq.

Secty. Maynard Arms Co., Washington

Dear Sir:

Your telegraph dispatch arrived last evening and we immediately telegraphed to



our correspondent "Price thirty four dollars net here. Will get an allowance for you if possible." Yours of 23 inst. is this morning at hand & contents noted.

Our correspondent is in the South and we have already supplied the States through him with upwards of \$60,000 in various Arms. In all cases an allowance has been made to him even by Colt. We can hardly expect him to effect a sale on the slight inducement held out to him of an allowance. He has had them all along by the single one up to 1/2 dozen at \$34, and as this order is to supply a State he has probably named quite as low as that already as an index. We think you had better telegraph us on receipt of this to allow him 5 per cent or the Sale may not be effected & we should be sorry to have it lost. This allowance will not affect the price known to the [...] and though of course you will act your own pleasure we would advise the risk of running out of Arms until more can be made rather than to lose any sales, particularly *where it is improbable* that the Arms can come back on the market to interfere with future Sales. In the event of the Sale being effected we would send an Agent to attend the delivery & collect the money -- as the amount is large -- or as we would much prefer authorize you to send an Agent and receive the money, as it would relieve us from trouble & responsibility. The State is undoubtedly the best paying State in the South & not far from you, and would be followed we think by other orders.

We have another application this morning from another Agent who is supplying the Southern States, T. N. Radcliffe of Columbia, S.C., who asks the lowest cash price for 30 Military finish 20 inch barrel with rings for straps on slings and 50 blank cartridge cases for each. He says "One General Gonzales is here and proffers to furnish them at thirty dollars each." How can this be? We would be obliged by an early reply whether the Genl. can offer them on better terms than we do?

We shall reply today to this correspondent, \$34.00 net and offer no further inducement until you otherwise direct. If it suits he will get other orders.

The 50 Rifles are in store for J. F. Tracy and we will close the matter with him as early as possible [...].

Yours Respectfully,  
U. J. Syms & Bro.

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MAC

Chicopee Falls, Mass. Nov. 24th 1860

W. C. Bestor Esq.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 20th & 21st insts are received containing orders for Rifles &c from Genl. Gonzales which I will attend to as soon as I can. The Musket will be ready for him in two or three days. The new shot-gun is now ready, but I have not yet received the cartridges for it, I am expecting them today. I have been to Waterbury to see about shot cartridges. I brought home 200 or more & expect more today. I think we shall be able to get them a trifle faster now that I have been to hurry the Manufacturers.

The Rifles are going off well now. I hope the demand will hold out until we shall be able to make sale of the greater part of them.

I have sent the 8 Rifles to Mr. Bradly today which you ordered last week. I should have sent them sooner, but had no shot cartridges to send with them.

Yours truly  
Wm. P. McFarland

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**CMR**

Milledgeville, Geo. Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> 1860

His Excellency

Gov. Gist  
Columbia, So. Ca.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor of forwarding to you by this mail two pamphlets sent to me by the Maynard Arms Co. on the subject of their patent for the alteration of muzzle-loaders of all sorts into the most efficient breech-loaders.

The Company have not yet determined the details of their proposition, but by looking hastily over the pamphlets I see that the alteration of the ordinary musket would come to *less than a dollar*.

I commend the pamphlets to your perusal & trust that by this time you have received the altered musket.

I have the honor to be with great regard your obt. servt.

Ambrosio José Gonzales

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**MAC**

Maynard Arms Co.  
Wash. Nov. 25, 1860

Messrs, U. J. Syms & Bro.  
New York  
Gent.

Your favor of yesterday is received.

Should you be able to make any Sales to State Governments in number not less than one hundred as to Military Companies of not less than thirty, I am authorized to offer you the rifles at the same prices that the Company has sold to the U.S. Government -- viz \$30 for the Military Rifle without appendages -- the appendages to be furnished and paid for extra and upon all sales you may effect upon their terms to offer you a commission of \$3 per gun. I will send you tomorrow an [...] statements of the pieces paid by the Govt. --giving the number and prices of the appendages in addition to the Rifles at \$30. We would deliver the Rifles at New York.

These terms are considered only for State Govts. and Companies for military purposes and are not to affect the prices to the trade and we do not wish them to be made public.

Very respectfully,  
W. C. Bestor  
Secy.

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**MAC**

New York Nov. 26 /60

Mr. W. C. Bestor Secty. Maynard Arms Co.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

...what we have done heretofore seemed to give satisfaction, we know. We stand well at their estimation and only hope that Genl. Gonzales has not been there and offered an

article that we are Agents for at to \$30...

Yours Truly  
W. J. Syms & Bro.

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**EGP**

Milledgeville, Geo. Nov. 28th 1860

Capt. R. E. Elliott  
Columbia, S.C.

My dear Ralph:

I have been necessarily detained here. Please do all you can there that my absence may not be prejudicial. I shall leave today or tomorrow for Columbia, stopping one day in Savannah & one at Oak Lawn. Please see the Gov. & the members of the military committees & tell them that I shall be there soon.

When I reached here the Governor had already bought about two thousand Sharpes carbines. Had I been here earlier I would have sold that number of Maynard Rifles.

As it is, however, from my performance with the Maynard & my demonstration of its superiority, Randolph Spalding, my old friend and one of the most influential members of the Senate, will introduce a bill recommending the purchase of Maynard Rifles. He has ordered an expensive one himself. I would [*sic*] you would state the fact of this motion in the Georgia Legislature, to the Gov. & members of the Committees, in the face of a "Georgia Rifle" being here claiming recognition & of the State having *already* bought, as the Governor said to me, all the weapons for mounted troops they wanted. The fact is very significant of Maynard's superiority.

I will thank you also to have the enclosed editorial from the Milledgesville Recorder published by the two papers of Columbia. I could have done still better than there stated, as it was the *first* time I had tried the rapid & consecutive firing of the gun. With practice I can do much better.

Remember me to our friends.

Your affectionate brother  
A. J. Gonzales

*Milledgeville Recorder*  
[on or after 30 October 1860]  
THE MAYNARD RIFLE

Last afternoon, Gen. GONZALES, of South Carolina, gave a number of our citizens and members of the Legislature an opportunity of witnessing the power of the *Maynard Breach Loading Rifle* -- He fired it a number of times at the distance of 100, 150 and 250 yards, and the discharge was at the rate of ten rounds in one minute and ten seconds, taking aim and hitting the target 9 times out of 10, the piece being reloaded at each fire. The balls reached the target with great force, penetrating several planks, thus showing the capacity of the weapon to do execution in battle, and for other purposes when distance may be an object to the marksman.

The weapon is said to be effective by military authority, upwards of 3/4th of a mile.

Gen. Gonzales also exhibited the Grape Shot Revolver, about the size of a common horse-pistol, with nine revolving chambers, from which as many balls were fired in rapid succession. This weapon had two barrels, one for single bullets, and the other for fifteen buck

shot, both of which may be fired at the same moment, if deemed necessary. We consider these arms of a most destructive quality for purposes of war, and we learn that they have been introduced in the United States Army.

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**CMR**

To His Excellency  
Gov. Gist,

and

Honorable the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate and Genl. Assembly of South Carolina.

I have the honor to submit for your acceptance as a weapon for light infantry, artillery mounted Rifles and Coast Service, in behalf of the Maynard Arms Co., of Washington City, their Military Rifle, at the same reduced prices at which it has been furnished to the Revenue Service and the U.S. Army; a pro forma bill of sale on the basis of which I herewith enclose.

I also accompany a pamphlet on the Rifle wherein it will be seen that the highest military and sporting authorities in the country have found it to possess, in an eminent degree, the requisites of accuracy, range, penetration, rapidity of fire, lightness, compactness, portability, an ammunition impervious to the weather, exemption from fouling, facility of loading & priming under all circumstances, safety in its ammunition as well as in its handling, finished workmanship & correctness of design.

Your attention is especially called to the opinion of Gen. Scott (page 1) Col. Roberts, of the U.S. Mounted Riflemen, than whom there is no more competent authority in the country (pages 5 & 6) the Report made by Capt. Dahlgren, of the Ordnance to Capt. Ingraham (pages 7 & 8) the target accompanying the same; the letter of Secretary Cobb<sup>87</sup> (page 9), the opinion of the Master Armorer at Harper's Ferry, Va. (page 17) and finally the letter of Professor Lockwood, professor of Field Artillery and Infantry Tactics at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis (page 21).

I have owned one of Maynard's Rifles & Thor guns over a year and a half and have shot it over three thousand times and tested it under almost every circumstance that the sportsman can be placed in, and not only have I out-shot the guns that have competed with it, but I have had no gun that has called for so little repair.

It combines what in the opinion of competent judges is considered the greatest improvement yet attained in the loading of guns: a *metallic* cartridge case in which the powder is not only retained in absolutely the same number of grains originally inserted, for an indefinite time, without being liable to pulverization by compression, & breakage of the cartridge but is equally free from dampness no matter how long they have been loaded & in what climate they may be kept. Said cartridge case is made of a *whole* sheet of brass, compressed into a thimble, as it were, of brass, by means of powerful machinery. The flange alone is soldered to it, *outside* of this one piece thimble & the only way it yields at all, is by this flange unsoldering after, in many instances, hundreds of discharges; leaving the tube without a hind part to draw it by, but otherwise leaving no more passage for the gun than it did when whole. It allows from its strength and elasticity of a bullet being most firmly marked into it by means of a steel cylinder and so

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<sup>87</sup> . Secretary of the Treasury Howell Cobb. Resigned on 8 December 1860, believing secession was imperative.

accurately that at every shot, no matter how rapidly the gun is loaded, the axis of the bullet, from the start, is coincident with the axis of the bore, an advantage over muzzle loaders and over breech loaders not provided with a metallic cartridge, of accuracy of loading and avoidance of windage and therefore more power. Not having a fulminating powder attached to it, it is not liable to accidental explosion which, independently of the risk to the soldier is calculated to impair his confidence in action. The primer, although unequalled for quick firing and having in this weapon a new improvement of the inventor in the shape of a button by means of which it can be returned to the magazine with the left hand when not required to explode, a desideratum in the U.S. Rifles using the original Maynard priming magazine, his lacked hitherto the long desired quality of being waterproof. Major Laidley, of the U.S. Army, has recently patented the desired priming tape in the shape of a Maynard Primer covered with zinc and which in the tests made by the inventor has been found to go off instantaneous, after an immersion of five days in water. A sample of the same recently provided me in New York by the inventor, I have the honor to enclose for examination. Thus all the excellencies of the metallic case are had in combination with the metallic primer, combining safety and certainty of fire with the qualities already enumerated. It will be seen in reflection, that a paper cartridge is not easier to make in the field than it is to procure a metallic one, for, for making cartridges, a wooden cylinder is desirable and, in action, paper is not always procurable, as what is in the cartridges vanishes by combustion. Not so with cartridge cases, for each soldier is provided with a certain number, each of which, will, in an average, last a hundred times and should the soldier lose all but one he can fire that one repeatedly and losing that one, can borrow from his company and if they have none they can fire with the "stopper" hundreds of times. The stopper is a cartridge case with a strong leather thong attached and a hook of steel at the end of it, by means of which it is securely affixed to the gun. It will last hundreds of times and is intended for loading with loose ammunition. But should the stopper also be wanting, the flange of either cartridge or stopper bored to hook with a leather thong can be made to fill up the interstice between breech and barrel and an ordinary paper cartridge or loose powder can be made to rest against it and the gun be fired thousands of times if not with the accuracy of the Maynard cartridge with as much safety and better working than some known breech-loaders.

The Rifle can be procured 26 inches in the barrel, for light infantry. The sights can be moved back at the State Armory and a piece inserted to hold the bayonet which if a "sword" one, such as has been generally [...] in rifle [...] will by its great length compensate fully for the shortness of the barrel. The hand of the soldier firmly & necessarily holding down the lever while making a bayonet thrust there is no reason why a bayonet should not be used, if found desirable. This length, with bayonet, would suffice for service in boats, while for Artillery, mounted riflemen, this very light and strong shooting carbine (of the same calibre) 20 inches in the barrel would be preferable.

The Maynard Rifles are made on the adjusting principle by which each piece is made to fit all rifles, & by which in or after an action one perfect rifle can be made out of two or three broken ones, & whereby duplicacy of guns can be obtained readily and cheaply.

In making the offer of this weapon to the State, I would engage myself in case than one or two thousand should be taken to train the men or the officers appointed over them for the purpose to the perfect handling of the gun and what my great experience with the weapon has taught me to do in order to bring out its full efficiency.

When I was last at the factory this Summer, about 2,000 of the 5,000 contracted for had

already been disposed of. I presume that at the present moment twenty five hundred, if so many, are all that are remaining to the Company. I would wish the State to take as many of them as possible, for when these are sold a long time must elapse before the Company can have another contract filled or manufacture them themselves. Those I offer are already finished and ready for delivery.

I have also the honor to state that I am also commissioned by the Company to offer to the State, the use of a recent patent of Dr. Maynard for converting at very little cost and in little time all its muzzle loading guns into breech loaders whereby not only greater rapidity of fire is attained but greater power and accuracy, owing to the use of a cartridge case. The contrivance, I am informed by the Company, is even simpler than that of the Maynard Rifle, the upper hind portion of the barrel, if I recollect right, being simply sawed off and hinging back or, rather sideways allowing the insertion of the cartridge without changing or even altering the cone.

I have this day telegraphed to Charleston to the Adams Express Company, who I take it for granted have received it for me for some days past, to forward it at once to the address of Gov. Gist. In this musket, the band remaining in its previous place, the use of the bayonet with it, is not altered. This is the pattern musket, the ammunition for which was not yet ready when I left New York.

Any proposition that your Honble. Body may be pleased to make either in relation to the Maynard Rifle or the Maynard breech loading musket, or Col. Le Mat's<sup>88</sup> Grapeshot Revolver, when not in Columbia will best reach me by addressing to "Adams Run."

I have the honor to be with great respect

Ambrosio José Gonzales

Pro Forma bill of sale for, say, 100 Maynard Rifles at prices paid by the U.S.			
100	Maynard Rifles	\$30	3,000
100	Extra cones	.15	15
100	Screw drivers	.10	10
100	Loaders	.25	25
100	Wiping rods & brushes	.35	35
100	Bullet moulds	1.00	100
100	Shields for chambers	.06	6
100	Stoppers	.06	6
10,000	Loaded cartridges	2.70	270
50,000	Maynard Primers	1.00	50
5	Packing boxes for carbines	4.50	22.50
10	Ammunition boxes	1.00	10
			\$3,549.50

Memo. A less number of bullet moulds might answer

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**MAC**

Chicopee Falls, Mass. Dec. 7th 1860

W. C. Bestor Esq.

Dear Sir:

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<sup>88</sup> Jean Alexandre Francois Le Mat.

I have an order from Bradly for a gun for Genl. Wade Hampton of S.C. just like the one sent him last Summer with Leather case the same. You will recollect that I sent this gun to you...

Yours in Haste  
Wm. P. McFarland

I have filled most of Genl. Gonzales orders.

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**EGP**

Columbia, S.C. Dec 10th /60

Mrs William Elliott  
My Dear Mama

I had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 6th yesterday. It gives me pleasure to learn that you are all well, and that you are not suffering for the want of a male protector; We shall have to give Hattie and yourself credit for being decidedly *spunky* hereafter. The General left here quite unexpectedly yesterday morning for Milledgeville-- he has sold the Georgians 1,000 Rifles, giving him a commission of \$3,000. Pleasant news for Hattie & her boys. I am doing all I can for the Rifle here, but the most culpable neglect of business on the part of members here, the absence of others, and the general clogs on all rapid legislation which exist under the present arrangement of things, renders it extremely difficult to enact a law on any subject whatever, particularly, on one of which the members have so little experience as the military.

No definite arrangement has yet been made for arming the malitia [*sic*], or even for the organization of a small body of well organized & drilled troops, to serve as a nucleus to the raw malitia, Yet the Legislature, expects the Convention to vote the State out of the Union within *ten days*.

I can see nothing but anarchy and utter confusion staring us in the face. No man appears to have the slightest confidence in more than one other man beside himself. The Election for the next Governor comes off on tuesday next. I will name the candidates in the order in which their popularity now stands-- Johnson, Jamison, Rhett, Pickens, Chestnut, Wilson, Miles-- not one of them up to the emergency of the case but I have selected the 2d Gen Jamison of Barnwell, as my candidate-- he is a graduate of West Point, quite a gentleman, and a man of some literary attainment. Poor Steven<sup>89</sup> has been quite unwell for some days with a [...] of Pneumonia. He brought his wife, sister, & two Stuart girls up here with him to enjoy the gaieties of the season. The poor things have been to but one party and have had rather a doleful time of it. Stu improves on acquaintance, and I think will make a very serviceable member of the House in a year or two. As to your son, he is enjoying excellent health, in this most variable climate-- thanks to your kindness in procuring him so comfortable an outfit, and is leading an orderly life, attending to his business, and making many friends.

I had intended to pass Saturday & Sunday with you but the hope of adjourning this week induced me to put it off. I will be at home on Saturday with, or without, an adjournment.

The newspaper accounts of the St. Pauls Election puzzles me. I am with love to all, in haste, Your attached son,

R. E. Elliott

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<sup>89</sup> Stephen Elliott.

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MAC

Chicopee Falls, Mass. Dec. 10th 1860

W. C. Bestor Esq.

Dear Sir:

...I enclose services of Rifle &c sent to Genl. Gonzales orders and others. In settling with Genl. Gonzales I think you should deduct from these Bills the amount charged for packing boxes & express to Springfield; as well as the cost of collection. I hope to hear of the sale of the 400 Rifles by Bradley soon...

Yours Truly,  
Wm. P. McFarland

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MAC

Chicopee Falls, Mass. Dec. 12th 1860

W. C. Bestor Esq.

Dear Sir:

...The Box of Bullets &c sent to W. J. Price, Fincastle, Ver. Oct. 27th has been returned. Also the Pinewood Case &c sent to James Russell, Indian River, Florida July 24th 1860. He saying he did not order it &c. Probably [...] to be at his expense. This I suppose you understand. Genl. Gonzales writes long letters to me. I received one yesterday in which he says he was interrupted while writing by a Telegraphic Dispatch stating that a resolution had passed the Geo. Senate for the purchase of 250 of the 26 in. Maynard Rifle & that the House would try it the next day, & says I must by some means attach a Bayonet &c. I have not written to him perhaps you have best do so--and inform him that we have not that number of 26 in. Rifle on hand and *cannot* attach Bayonets to the without making new barrels, which would probably take too long to do. His orders are nearly all for guns with *set trigger* and other extras which makes a good deal of delay in preparing them and getting them off & I am fearful that the Express will find some trouble in collecting some of the Bills and possibly some of the guns will be returned. Genl. G. writes that he has made arrangements with Mr. Woodward<sup>90</sup> at Charleston, S.C. to take all the guns sent them and collect and make payment for them & to deduct the amount of his commission but I cannot perceive how he can do that without authority from some other source. It will be necessary to state upon the services the exact amount to be collected.

Mean-- write to me what course to take in the matter & also about Bradleys orders. Yours of the 10th with copy of invoice of gun for Gen. Wade Hampton is [...].

Yours truly  
Wm. P. McFarland

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MAC

New York Dec. 17, 1860

W. C. Bestor Esq.

Secty. Maynard Arms Co., Washington

Dear Sir:

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<sup>90</sup> W. T. J. O. Woodward, agent, Adams Express Co., 20 Broad Street, Charleston. Home: 5 Hampden Court. Mears & Turnbull, *The Charleston Directory 1859*, p. 228.



...We regret to have to complain, but must say your action in giving Arms to Genl. Gonzales on better terms than to us has not only injured us as your Agents, but we fear has greatly affected your sales. The party now trying to effect the sale of the 1,000 had a good opportunity to dispose of at least 500-- but when he [...] telegraph offering no reduction, he rather disparaged the Arm to the officials and Sharps were taken instead. He received our second telegram offering them at \$30-- and to him half of the commission and though he would have gladly, he could not then offer and recommend the Arm and felt mortified & vexed at the loss. Another party in Charleston to whom we have just shipped \$2,000 of Enfield Rifles was disappointed in same way & has not since ordered and yet another at Columbia S.C., both for Companies.

We presume the Company will soon give another order for the manufacture of more Arms and if desirable we will venture a few suggestions as to sizes, styles &c.

Yours very Respectfully,  
W. J. Syms & Bro.

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The Charleston Daily *Courier*  
20 December 1860, 2.

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Gen. A. L. Gonzales, agent for the Maynard arms, and for the Le Mot grape shot revolver, is at the Mills House.

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Governor Pickens arrived in the evening train, from Columbia, and has quarters in the Mills House.

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Capt. A. H. Colt; agent of Col. Sam. Colt, the well known maker of approved arms of worldwide celebrity, is at the Charleston Hotel, and will be pleased to give information. Specimens of Colt's arms may be seen in any hardware store.

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The St. Andrew's Hall, in which the Convention sits, has no room for visitors or spectators,