

GFP

Matanzas Jan. 3d 1866 [1867]

Mrs. A. J. Gonzales
Charleston, So. Ca.

My darling "little girl:"

I write that you may know that I am well and very much worried at my not having been able to return as I had expected. I have never felt as anxious to see you as I do now and I am constantly thinking of you and the children and fearing that you or they may be sick. In your and their interest, in the hope of yet effecting something of advantage to me in the future, I am pegging away to make some arrangements and leaving no stone unturned. As bad luck would have it I have come to Cuba during a great commercial crisis, and the storm has burst during my stay. The banks have suspended no sugar is bought and even those who have money with banks cannot get it: while those who in other years could obtain money on their sugars now cannot do so. It is very hard for me to go back without doing all that can be done to remedy in the future, as much as possible the misfortunes of the past; and if I cannot obtain funds at least I must try to get as many orders and promise of future ones as possible, and then go back and work them out as well as I may. I have taken many steps to that effect. I hope that the Cuba which sails on the 7th from Havana will be willing to take me but as she is to bring a regiment of colored troops from Texas to Baltimore she may not do so. In that event I will be constrained to wait for the Liberty, which will sail about the 20th or 22d and the Capt. of which is the same that brought me and may be willing to oblige me. The passengers from Charleston by that line have been so few or none at all, unfortunately, that they have suspended touching at Port Royal for the present. So I am left high and dry unless from perennial considerations they go out of their way for my sake alone and a *free* passenger at that.

A vessel is expected to sail from this to Charleston in a few days. If so, I will send a box²⁰⁷ of refined sugar a hogshead of brown sugar and a large bag of black beans presented me by Miguel Aldama and perhaps, my chinaman. I would go in her myself but the trip by sail may be very long and as it is more risky especially at this season than by steam you would blame me if I did and anything should happen. I would, so far as I am concerned, but think of you and the children. You cannot think how much you are constantly in my mind and in my heart and how much sympathy I have for you in your lonely state: but I trust in your good sense, your control of yourself and children and the kindness of my friends in Charleston. You must ask Mr. Lafitte²⁰⁸ for any thing you may want. I have repeatedly instructed him to that effect. I am anxious to go to our little home and cease this roving life for since you have been with *me* and satisfied, I have loved you and cherished you so much the more and I know that we can be happy in a home of our own, if I can only pay my debts.

Kiss the little darlings for me and in the hope of soon embracing you, I remain my darling love
your fond husband

Gonzie

EGP

²⁰⁷ A Cuban wooden box of sugar had an average sixteen-*arroba* capacity. An *arroba* is a Cuban weight of 25.36 pounds, which would have made this shipment weight around 405.76 pounds. (Manuel Moreno Friginals, *The Sugarmill: The Socioeconomic Complex of Sugar in Cuba*. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1976, 35).

²⁰⁸ E. H. Lafitte & Co., Commercial Merchants, 20 Broad St., Charleston.

Millville Jany 5th 1867

Miss Emily Elliott
My Dear Sister

Brother Tom brought you last night before last, which as well as his arrival was an agreeable surprise. Of course his family have not come. It would have been the depth of folly to leave a comfortable house in Charlotte to encounter they know not what. I have contrived to weather it by remaining in bed most of the time. Sunday last was my 21st day for return of fever and I prudently took quinine then & for days previous. Such weather was of course likely to bring on the chill, but I'm happy to report a miss, and today the sun having come out I'm dressed and about with a good appetite. I wish I were certain you were & are as comfortably off, thanks to good fires & plenty of bedding, and in spite of cracks and draughts. On Xmas night we had an eggnog in Willies room, a pudding for dinner, but except for the storm & that, the past week has been a weary time to me. I'm glad the avenue was uninjured as I feared it might be.

You must excuse my notes. I've been so long in prison it is hard to write cheerfully or pleasantly.

The mill is up at last & should be sawing this week. That's all the news I have of.

Of course I can know nothing of your plans but hearing Ralph had stopped at Oak Lawn and that he had a chance of borrowing \$5000 to plant with. I beg you & Annie will not decide adversely to his proposal, at least with undue haste. The chance is a rare one in these times & the credit is long. To stand still is ominous. S[torn] is quite possible -- my failure nothing to go by. R. besides understands the free negro & can get him to work. He deserves credit for the energy and intelligence which he showed in putting down Gonzales machinery. To the first I was witness & as to the last Caho, an engineer of sixty years, from Washington, declares *he* could not have done it better. He can turn over \$1000 to Annie for Oak Lawn, and by good financing the remaining \$4000 will plant 200 acres short cotton at Cheeha which will give 100 bags, besides corn. But the land must be ploughed up in the winter to kill grass wh was the pest that ruined my crop. If in three years the debt cannot be paid, there can be no object in keeping such lands. Do not mistake, -- I only suggest -- not dictate. I wish I could talk it over with you & trust to get strength enough soon to come over & see you. Schley is established in Charleston -- more convenient for me. Must close this dull scrawl & wish you & Annie a good night, with much love from your attached

Brother [William Elliott]

P.S. Must not close however, without thanking you for your no. of the H Old Guard (I had nearly said "Home) I admire your piece very much, but must read it again before saying more, or you may accuse me of "faint praise."

W.E.

GFP

Matanzas Jan. 6th 1867

Mrs. A. J. Gonzales

My darling "little girl":

I wrote to you a few days ago by the Manhattan and wish to write again to let you know that I am well, and something of my prospects. The "Cuba" that leaves tomorrow for Baltimore from Havana will not touch at Port Royal and is expected to carry a regiment of discharged colored troops from Texas. So even if I had been differently situated I could not have gone. I am in part compensated for my delay by three things: 1 I expect to make a contract & or receive orders

from Mr. Galindez a lumberman of this city, in copartnership with Mr. Aldama. 2 - The President of the Cardenas R.R. has just arrived from Spain and I have also expectation of making thro' Mr. Ximenes'²⁰⁹ influence an arrangement with him, which if I succeed will bring desirable as the Vice President of the road who made the proposition to me informed me that it consumed (the Road) from 10 to 12,000 dollars of yellow pine per annum, and 3- Mr. Madan of coffee notoriety whom I am to get damages from, peaceably or legally, has arrived from the North yesterday. I have a world of things to carry out in so many directions to insure my putting my mill to account that I have no rest in the day time. I may have to go to Cárdenas soon and then back to Havana. I cannot see from here how you are faring but should you feel *too* uncomfortably when you are move to the Carolina House for I hope to be able to pay the expense for the short time that will elapse between your receipt of this letter and my arrival there. I do not expect to be delayed beyond the next trip of the Liberty probably about the 22d inst. I think constantly of you and feel constantly for you. I hope my friends have done for you & the children all the good offices possible. With great love I remain in haste my sweet darling

your devoted Gonzie

EGP

Oak Lawn -- Jany. 10th [1867]

I send a line My Dearest Mama to say that we can not arrange for the wagon to day or tomorrow. T'is possible that we may next week so do bring up what is perfectly essential to you. The bedstead & a mattress or the sofa for my bed. I suppose Mr. Sheen might take them for you to the depot from Cornelias as cheaply as it can be done. Provisions if we are to have them can make out the load of the wagon with the rest of the furniture. I hope you will get up soon we are weary of the separation. Ralph left word that he would pass down on Saturday so we shall look for you early the next week. The yellow ocher & kerosene did come. The only other wants I see ahead are some wheat flour & a bar or two of soap. Now my Dear Mama you must promise not to cry when you see the old place but to behave like the mother of the Gracche!! & we shall be very glad to see you. Give a great deal of love to Mary Man & to Mrs Huger. Kisses to Hattie & the chicks. Wm. Simmons told John that he had had a letter from the Col. in Cuba telling him to make up the Social Hall banks, but that he could not as he had his own business to attend to! The parcel from Tom has not yet come to hand. We are quite well & remain Your attached daughters

A & E

P.S. If you can get me a root or a few cuttings of rose Geranium, I shall be *so* glad.

EGP

Mill Ville
Jany 22d 1867

My Dear Ralph

Our poor Brother died last night about ten oclock. He has been quite unwell for some time but dined at Table of Sunday & was at the Mill yesterday. I was with him during the last half hour of his life, & saw him die as quietly as an infant. he took my hand & said Oh! Brother Tom I am very grateful to you for all your kindness to me, he then turned to Emma who was standing near him & said Emma, you are a good Girl, but are you not tired of me? Patterson was the only white friend

²⁰⁹ His high school friend José Manuel Ximeno.

in the room at the time with me. Willie is at Balls -- I have sent for Uncle George. I think of placing Williams body near my Children in the Stoney Creek Church Yard.

You must break this sad intelligence to our Mother, but do it gently.

Your aff. Brother
T. R. S. Elliott

EGP

Charleston
Tuesday Night
[22 January 1867]

My Dearest Sisters

I regret having to send you the tidings of our poor dear William's death, so abruptly yesterday. I should have returned to you darlings, but for the necessity I felt, of breaking the sad intelligence to our mother gently -- through the kindness of Mrs Huger, & the fortitude of our sweet Hattie, it was accomplished -- thank God, without the fatal result I feared -- Mama would be with you today -- but I think it best not to bring her up until friday -- pray send the wagon to the Depot on that day for the furniture, & we will stop at the Gate. please meet Mama at it -- I will bring you a small sum of money. God bless, & preserve you, my ever dear sisters,

Yours devotedly
Ralph

EGP

Boston Feby. 6, 1867

Miss Anne Elliott of S.C.

My dear Miss Elliott

It gave me great pleasure to receive yr. note yesterday, introducing yr. Brother, & I was very sorry that I felt compelled to discourage him from the attempt to borrow money in Boston on such security as he had to offer, however good that might, in reality be -- as I had already experienced & heard of the failure of similar attempts on the part of the friends of Southern gentlemen, because of the prevailing ignorance here of the value of such securities and a general despair of the future from the present unsettled state of the country. My mind has reverted, my dear Miss Elliott, very often to the hospitality & pleasure I enjoyed under yr. Fathers Roof in the Spring of 1861, & I was glad of the opportunity afforded by yr. Brothers visit to Boston to hear directly what had befallen you during the frightful interim of this calamitous war, & how you & yr. family were now situated, & was only able by my enquiries to exhort from his manly & modest reserve, & his proud reticence that touching tale of affliction ruin & sorrow which nothing but the cruel desolation of civil war can produce. His simple recital of yr. experiences, & plain description of yr. present privations & hardships, could not fail to wring the heart of one who remembered the proud position, the charming attractions, & social advantages of yr family, & when I repeated it to Mrs. Amory she shed showers of tears.

[William Amory]

EGP

Flat Rock 6th Feby. [1867]
Wednesday Night

My darling Mother

I was *so* grateful to get your letter to day of the 1st and to find from it that You are

comfortable through the exertions of my sisters. I did not know that you had been sick, and perceive from that, and from Your wishing me to return a letter which I have never received that some of Your letters to me have failed. You said in one of them, that You would in Your *next* enclose me a letter from our dear Wm. to read, but the next came at the usual time without the enclosure. May you not have put it away carefully? I hope You may find it, and will let me see it. I have written to beg Tom to tell me all he can, but I do not know if any of my letters reach him or if my three last directed to Dr. Pinckney's care have found their way to Oaklawn. I am truly glad that You are with Anne and Emmie, and that You can support and comfort each other in Your severe trials. I trust Ralphie's mission may be satisfactory and that he will soon be back. His presence must be requisite if my sisters contemplate business, for *ladies* cannot superintend field labor, or regulate idle Negroes. I am glad he will have mild weather for his trip.

Mrs. Lowndes' paper has ceased to come so that we can no longer look for the Col's arrival, but I hope before this Hattie has welcomed him back. She must be heartily weary poor child of her city life and discomforts. No doubt Lalise is happy at the exchange, and he must be a useful addition to Your little household. Where are the log cabins to be built? I hope the flooring will not be too near the ground. Have You any saw mill within reach and any team for hauling? Do tell me all of Your arrangements that I may know exactly how you are situated. I am very glad to hear of Kate's good feeling. I think she has sense enough to appreciate the difference of station and colour. Do remember me to Dick and herself. I feel *grateful* to them for their willingness to help A. and E. in their desolate condition of the past two months. I sincerely trust that they may never be called upon to endure such discomfort and anxiety again. You have never mentioned John -- how has he conducted himself? I scarcely think he could be comfortable when there was no trading to be carried on. We heard from Elliott yesterday, he writes very cheerfully says he has got into the "way of study," judging by the photograph he sent me he has grown fat on the good fare. We are all well. I have been feeling unnerved by my sorrow for You all, but thank God I find that You bow in submission to his chastening. Continue to write to me My darling Mother and tell me if my letters reach You. Much love to my Sisters and little Lalise from Your ever affecte.

daughter
[Mary B. Johnstone]

EGP

Mill Ville Feb 18th 1867

My Dear Mother

I have been very remiss in not writing you since my return to my little home here but trust in future to be more dutiful. Yours of the 13th, (five days old) has only reached me to night so I presume it must have taken a trip to the city. We are cut off now from all mail facilities, & have to depend upon the kindness of friends to bring our letters & Papers, it appears that the present Directors of the Road refuse to bring the mail unless they are paid by the U.S. Government, & we have to suffer for it. I received on Friday last 9 letters, some of them a month old, among the number a capital one from Elliott & a charming one from my Dear Sister Mary. How gratifying it is to me to receive such affectionate tokens from her, I need not tell you. My Boys are doing well at College & little Bell²¹⁰ at the Convent is considered the brightest there. Miss Mason of Baltimore writes in

²¹⁰ Isabel Rutledge Elliott.

glowing terms of her, says she is the smartest child she has met with for years, so you see My Dear Mother I ought to be happy. I take not much credit to myself, for it is all owing to the bringing up of their excellent & pure minded Mother. And now with respect to the ginning out of your cotton. I can do it at any time you send it for I am getting out 4 Bales per day. My Engine & Gins work beautifully. The first lot of cotton I sent to Charleston was pronounced a fine style of cotton, & my Factor holds it at 90 cts. I have as much business & a little more than I can attend to, for I have hired Mr. W. Heyward's fine Rice Plantation adjoining me & intend to plant largely both of Cotton & Rice, & this year we must struggle hard to make a good crop, & I only wish that Ralph had as good lands as I have to cultivate. I have 45 hands & can get as many as I require. I should like to see Ralph if only for a few moments on business I think I could help him in his planting prospects. The Boards I will send you next week, a portion of them I hope to be able to send on Saturday.

I send you a lock of poor William's hair, which I cut especially for *you* My Dear Mother. I have one also for Mary, Anne & Emily, & one for my Daughter Phoebe, who had a great regard for her uncle. The poor felows pocket Book was handed me by Emma on my return from Charleston. She had found it in his boot, & as it contained but \$4. I gave it to her as a slight reward for her faithful & untiring attentions to him.

With much love for Anne, Emily & Your self

I am Your aff. Son

T. R. S. Elliott

EGP

MORTGAGE OF REAL ESTATE.--Sold by HIRAM HARRIS, 59 Broad Street.
The State of South Carolina,
TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY CONCERN *I, Anne Elliott* -- in the State aforesaid
SEND GREETING:

WHEREAS, *I* the said *Ann H. Elliott* and by my certain Bond or Obligation bearing *Even date with [torn] presents* stand firmly held and bound onto *George H. Hoppock* in the penal sum of *Ten Thousand dollars*-- conditioned for the payment of the full and just sum of *five thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be advanced by the said George to Ralph Elliott-- and the crops to be cultivated on Oak Lawn & Bluff be unequal to pay on or before the ___ day of February which will be in the year (1869) [torn]*s in and by the said Bond and Condition thereof, reference being thereunto had, will more *[torn]*y appear.

Now Know all Men, That *I* the said *Ann H. Elliott* in consideration of the said debt and sum of money aforesaid, and for the better securing the payment thereof to the said *George H. Hoppock his Executors & administrators* according to condition of the said bond: and also in consideration of the further sum of three Dollars to *me* the said *Anne H. Elliott* ---- ---- in hand, well and truly paid by the said *George H. Hoppock* at and before the sealing and delivery of these Presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, ----- have granted, bargained, sold and released, and by these Presents, DO GRANT, bargain, sell and release, unto the said *George H. Hoppock his heirs and [...]* all that plantation in *St Pauls Parish in the District of Colleton called Oak Lawn containing Seventeen hundred and fifty acres More or less-- bounded by lands of H. S. King and Lewis Morris on the North by Lands of the Estate of James King on the East and Lands of Estate of Joseph King-- and on the West by Lands of K. B. King --*

TOGETHER with all and singular the Rights, Members, Hereditaments and Appurtenan[*torn*] to the said Premises belonging, or in anywise incident or appertaining:

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the said Premises, unto the said *George Hoppock* his Heirs and Assigns forever, And *I the said Anne H. Elliott* do hereby bind *myself and my* Heirs, Executors and Administrators, to warrant and forever defend all and singular the said premises, unto the said *George H. Hoppock* his Heirs and Assigns, for and against me & my Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, *and against every other person or persons* -- lawfully claiming, or to claim the same, or any part thereof.

PROVIDED ALWAYS NEVERTHELESS, and it is the true extent and meaning of the parties to these presents, that if *I -- the said Ann H Elliott* -- do, and shall well and truly pay, or cause to be paid, unto the said *George H. Hoppock* the said debt or sum of money aforesaid, with the interest thereon, if any shall be [*torn*] according to the true intent and meaning of the said Bond and condition thereunder written, then this deed of bargain and sale shall cease, determine, and be utterly null and void, otherwise it shall remain in full force and virtue.

AND IT IS AGREED, by and between the said parties, that *the said Ann H. Elliott shall be permitted* to hold and enjoy the premises until default of payment shall be made.

WITNESS My Hand and Seal this ___ day of *February* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *Sixty Seven* and in the Ninety first year if the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

Anne H Elliott

IN THE PRESENCE OF

Two Witnesses

H. S. King

Jas Legare Jr

Stamps \$5.00

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

DISTRICT.

PERSONALLY appeared before me, *James Legare Jr* and made oath, that *he* saw the within named *Anne H Elliott* sign, seal, and as *her* Act and Deed, deliver the within written deed; and that *he* with *H. S. King* witnessed the execution thereof.

SWORN to before me, this *twenty fifth* day of *February* 1867

M. W. Clement

Magistrate

James Legare Jr.

EGP

Charleston Feb. 26th [1867]

Dear Emily,

The General leaves in the morning and Hattie has promised to enclose this in the letter she intends sending by him. Arthur left this morning to spend a fortnight up at Santee. fearing that you may be frightened from paying yr. promised visit I write to tell you (knowing that you do not mind small annoyances) that his half of the bed is at yr. disposal so you need not mind Aunt Emma's being here. I am now occupying yr. Mothers room which I find much warmer than my own. Therefore you will not be quite [...] by the going one as there is room enough for us all. Hattie proposes leaving on Monday don't you think you had better come down on Friday so as to see and cheer her up. She has suffered a great deal with her face and looks rather pale and thin, she looks forward to the change with great pleasure. I hope her Nurse and cow will turn out the treasures we would desire.

Papa has had a wretched cold and we all wish that your Mother could have remained longer

with us it is impossible to say how much we have missed, the children even now cry “oh my how much I miss Mrs. Elliott.” I do not know how I shall get on when Hattie leaves who keeps me up in the family news. I am so anxious now to hear Mary’s determination about her girls, Annie’s peak of spending the winter in the Convent may [...] her plans. The box of portraits has been opened and I am surprised to see the strong likeness between your father’s portrait and William. I want to see you very much my dear. Many things to talk over. I went to see Bine this morning and have a bad headache so you must excuse this short note as it must go in the morning. love to all, neither Hattie nor myself have seen Mr. Ralph.

As ever yr. attached friend

M. P. M.

Politics are so dark that persons think the [...] is gone, but I still hope.

GFP

State of South Carolina

Memorandum of an agreement made this First day of March in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Sixty seven by and between Ralph E. Elliott and George H. Hoppock both of the State aforesaid.

Whereas the said Ralph E. Elliott agrees carefully to plant and cultivate in the tracts called “Oak Lawn” and “Bluff” situated in the Parish of St. Pauls in the District of Colleton about ___ acres of Cotton and ___ acres of Rice. He also agrees to furnish the necessary labor for the production of the Crop, and all such materials as may be requisite for its harvesting and usual preparation for sale. He further agrees seasonably to reap and gather in the produce, and without delay properly to prepare it for market, and forthwith deliver it to the said George H. Hoppock to be disposed of by him, according to his best judgement, he the said George H. Hoppock applying the proceeds as herein after agreed upon and expressed.

And the said George H. Hoppock in his part agrees to furnish to the said Ralph E. Elliott Five Thousand Dollars and no more in manner and form to Wit Within ninety days from the date hereof the said George H. Hoppock will pay to the said Ralph E. Elliott Three Thousand Dollars either in cash or its equivalent in suitable and customary plantation supplies, and at the option of the said Ralph E. Elliott; and after the expiration of the said ninety days and the payment or furnishing as aforesaid the said George H. Hoppock also agrees with the said Ralph E. Elliott from time to time as may be required to supply in cash or its equivalent as aforesaid the other and further sum in balance of Two Thousand Dollars, which said last sum is payable in monthly installments in cash or supplies as aforesaid, and on the requisition of the said Ralph E. Elliott, no requisition to exceed Four Hundred Dollars in value per month and to continue under this limitation until the said sum on balance shall be fully paid or discharged.

It is further agreed by and between the said parties that the proceeds of the sale of the said products shall be applied first to the payment of the said George H. Hoppock for the usual and customary factorage charges and commissions, then to the reimbursement and payment of the cash advanced in the cost of supplies due and owing to the said George H. Hoppock, then the balance remaining to be equally and promptly divided and shared between the said Ralph E. Elliott and the said George H. Hoppock share and share alike.

Lastly it is agreed that in event of the failure of said crops, or should the production of the adventure be insufficient to re emburse and pay the said George H. Hoppock for the outlay made by him in this behalf then as a farther and additional indemnity for the payment of the whole advance to

wit Five thousand Dollars, as aforesaid, or so much thereof as may have been actually drawn, used or required by the said Ralph E. Elliott and which may remain due and unpaid in the First day of February One Thousand eight hundred and Sixty eight, the said Ralph E. Elliott hereby agrees to secure or cause to be secured to the said George H. Hoppock by good and satisfactory assurances.

Given under our hands and Seals this day and Year first above written.

Witness

Ralph E. Elliott

Robt J Magill

Geo. H. Hoppock

The within agreement is hereby renewed for one year so that it shall continue to the 1st Feby 1869 and the conditions & covenants for the second year shall conform in all respects to those expressed for the 1st Term.

March 22d 1867

Witness

Ralph E. Elliott

Robt J. Magill

Geo. H. Hoppock

EGP

Social Hall Tuesday March 9th [1867]

I avail myself of this very rainy day my dear Emmie to have a long chat with you hoping for an opportunity of soon forwarding it -- the letter & basket were safely received, unfortunately some of the curry stained the Day books (the lid of the can not being a tight fit) but not sufficiently to obliterate the excellent & spicy articles they contain, everything sent was appreciated & enjoyed. The oysters were fully equal to your first effort & the round cake was delicious! please send me the receipt. You did wrong to send me so much ale -- but I must admit that we all enjoyed it, even Tulita, she was delighted too with the biscuits & ginger nuts. The flowers came in perfect order & are still beautiful. They have quite improved the appearance of my dressing table. How sweetly the place must now be looking but do you know whenever I think of it or of you -- it is always as it used to be. The old house is there & you all are in it. The cars passed so quickly that I had only a glimpse of the place & can not therefore dispossess myself of the idea. I was much obliged for the perusal of M's letter & very glad to hear of Elliotts success. After so many years of idleness, his application does him great credit I believe now that he will be a comfort & support to his mother. Send me M's letters when you have a good opportunity. I will take the best care of them, & return them when able. I am glad, since you are -- of your long respite from Charleston -- hope you will have a cool spell in which to do your unpacking. Will be very glad if you will select from my juvenile library some books suitable for the boys. I am glad there are none of Wayne Reeds among them. I think I have never seen the children look so well as at present. They are *fat* & Brosio's health is excellent. Their complexions too are very fine. There is a beautiful spot (in this generally uninteresting part of the country, called Green Pond), about half a mile from this, it might with more propriety be called Green Valley, as t'is more of a valley than a pond. There are a few pools of water in it -- but the rest of it is hard ground even after a rain. It is perfectly green & literally carpeted with white violets in full bloom as there is no underbrush & only a few pines the effect is truly beautiful. The boys drive the cow there after she is milked & bring her back in the evening. We tie her to a pine tree by a very long rope & she enjoys herself amazingly & we enjoy the clabber curds & butter she gives. Nearly all of our cooking is done with butter. I am glad you find your stove such a comfort I have had lately a waffle iron & coffee toaster added to mine, both of them admirable! The small stove that I have in my bedroom, can also be used for cooking, & in the winter will be very convenient. We have not yet the additional cabin which would add so much to the comfort of our habitations so much necessary work had first to be

done at the mill which had not even a shed over it to protect it from the weather. I drove there on Sunday the situation is pretty & the river beautiful. There was a five raft at the landing which is to be converted into lumber for the Cubans who ordered it, it is cheaper to buy timber at the present prices, than to haul it from this pine land. This reminds me that Ralph told the General that this place was advertised for sale for the nonpayment of taxes for several years! We have nothing to do with this except for the last year. Mama as executrix must understand the matter. Can you tell me what the *yearly* tax on this place is, & where t'is paid. Have you seen by one of the late papers that the sea islands of Georgia had been restored to their former proprietors by the provisions of one of their numerous acts -- may not the same apply to the islands in which we are interested? We have working for us two of the negroes who were owned by the Fullers, Three days in each week we can get a good supply of freedmen, they only work 3 days for the person whose land they cultivate. I do think the freedmen work better than the crackers, what do you pay your contracted ones & do you still have whites -- Tell me please the price of your tobacco! Gonzie met with quite an accident yesterday from one of those fodder cutting machines, his finger was cut to the bone fortunately we had all remedies at hand & although suffering much, & at present one handed I trust in a week or two it will heal entirely. Tell Alfonso his Papa will have as ugly a mark as himself.

Friday

A man has just come from the station & brought letters but not for me. I am disappointed at not hearing!

On reading this scrawl written in much confusion I dislike sending it but have not the time to write another -- as the man returns today. G. may go tomorrow but I fear he will not be able on account of his hand, which I am anxious he should see a Doctor about. With much love to Mama, Annie & a kiss to Alfonso I am my dear Emmie your attached

Sister [Hattie]

The chicks send love & many thanks for your thoughtfulness of them.

TRE

Oak Lawn
March 11th 1867

My Dear Willie²¹¹

I have written to half a dozen of my so called friends urging them to furnish you with the mule force necessary to your success. I have so far not received a reply from one of them, though I still live in hope. I assure you, my dear boy, I am much interested in your welfare, & sincerely wish I could assist you, but you know that to be impossible, Except by inducing others to do so.

What a calamity the death of George Heyward is to his family & what a brute it must have been who assassinated him!

If I do not come, or send over by friday, please ship any chattels by R R to Adams Run on Saturday.

I annex a list of what I remember & what I am in need of.

Your Grandmother & Aunts are well, & hopeful -- *I* am sober & industrious, & feel the better for it. Mules & Niggers satisfactory-- *Pony AI*.

If you ever have more fresh meat than you want, send us a peice [*sic*]. Eatables are scarce

²¹¹ His nephew William Elliott, son of Thomas Rhett Smith Elliott.

hereabouts.

Excuse haste.

Yours affectionately

Ralph

List of articles left at Cheeha

One Matrass [*sic*], One Bolster, 2 Pillows, one Trunk, one Hatbox, one Chest, 1 Desk, 4 Sheets, 4 Pillow cases, 2 Blankets, 1 Comfort, 1 Cot, 2 Pad Locks, Lines, Net, Gun, 3 Ploughs, 2 Spades, 2 Shovels, 2 axes, 8 Hoes, 1 Saw, 1 Hatchet, 50 Corn Bags, cooking utensils, (unless you need them).

Blowing Horn, & Saddle, Pair Shoes.

R.E.E.

TRE

Oak Lawn
March 13th 1867

[To T.R.S. Elliott]

My Dear Brother

I wrote you immediately after my return from N.Y., but from your recent message through Mama, I perceive that the letter failed to reach you.

My trip was a pleasant one, but the political condition of the U.S. was so confused & uncertain, that capitalists refused to invest money for a longer period than three months, or any where out of sight of their own homes. So I could do nothing for Street, Mama, or Yourself. On the trip home from N.Y. a New Yorker, now in business in Charleston, who told me he intended a drawing for Nat Heyward, & Alfred Rhett. I soon made him succumb to my eloquence, & he has given us five thousand for two years, secured by a mortgage on Oak Lawn. I have since gotten \$1200 out of him for Willie, but he is now "gone dry" & can't be milked any more.

I have been to Balls since my return. If Willie can get 3 more mules, he will succeed this year. I am much pleased with the young man who is with him, & think him fortunate in his selection. I am trying to get him mules.

I am hard at work here, have hands enough, & am agreeably surprised at the ease with which they are managed. We intend planting 150 acres Short Cotton & 20 acres of corn -- have 7 mules & 13 contracted hands -- outside labor can be obtained to a sufficient extent.

Mama & Sisters are well & hopeful. They look much better than when I arrived. They had been worried most grievously & should never have been here by themselves.

The whole household unite with me in thanks to you for the Boards. The nails were in them before they had been here an hour. There is but one fault to find with them, my dear brother, & that is that we require nearly twice as many more. Please send them, & dont be squeamish about sending the bill for the Lumber & freight. Tis a necessity to us, & we expect to pay for it.

Please remember me to Sister Mary & my dear neices [*sic*] when you write & believe me with love from Mother & Sisters

Yours affectionately

Ralph E. Elliott

EGP

Social Hall Wednesday
[17 March 1867]

Your letter informing me of the return of your "Rosa" has been received my dear Sister-- but as I had not heard of her loss, I fear that one of your letters has failed to reach me so please send a suplicate. We are all well. Gonzie's finger much better, he goes down tomorrow & you must write when he returns. I wrote you after the arrival of the greatly appreciated basket, & sent the letter by a raftsmen, hope you received it. You may have to adopt my plan, & tie your cow with a long rope where she can get grass, the rice field, if you are not planting it, would be an admirable place! Cows without calves are not to be trusted! You ask in your note, if the grist mill is working, it grinds on Saturdays & the "Toll" helps ration the hands. I have not heard of an opposition line & if there is to be one, it would matter little, the mill would do more by sawing than by stopping to grind. The decline in lumber has been terribly to all engaged in sawing, if it were not for the orders from Cuba, the prices of which were fortunately fixed, milling would be ruinous, by the way Rinah from the Bluff expects to cook for the mill hands-- & would "come at once but that Mass Ralph" left a box & *matlass* "under her care & she is afraid that they may be stolen, & she will not be paid for past services. She goes tomorrow to "Balls" to ask Mass T. to take them away --should she *not* succeed I will have them brought here & kept in safety, & sent to the station should R. desire it-- some hands from the Bluff were working here today. I received a visit from Sharpers Nancy (handsome vixen) & Grove & Billie's Maria. They are working for the Rhetts & say they cant contract on same terms another year" indeed I think the contract is all in favor of the planter. The negroes are ragged & look *so* hungry that I can't help feeding them--encouraged, they beg extensively. Quash George made me a fine present of eggs & tells Brosio he expects me to send him physic when he is sick" Tells B. also that he can now "*wote*" & will "*wote*" for him & not for Mr. Haskel Rhett whom he does not care for. Brosio is much gratified, it seems that the Rhetts do not pay promptly for the work done in the negroe's time, & they prefer going where their work can be immediately settled for. Tell Alfonso his brothers wished for *him* today when they were spading out Sallies house (cow) & assisting Louis in completing a shanty. Tell him Tulita speaks constantly & affectionately of him, his sojourn at Oak Lawn will soon be over for I can not spare him much longer. Tell him to behave beautifully for the rest of his stay to make up for all the trouble he has given you for I know he has been troublesome although you do not say so. I am curious to know what he is wearing, for the few summer clothes he had are all here, would send them, but ti's not worth while, for the little time he remains. Please in your next letter (on Monday) tell me the amount of the year's tax on this place, & where it should be paid? Ralph told the Genl. some time ago that this place had been advertised for sale, to pay former taxes! I should like to know if this is a *fact* & up to what time the taxes *were paid*. My "yearling" is yelling & I must take him for Margaret²¹² is churning so good bye with much love to Mama Annie & ever so many kisses to Alfonso I am yr affate.

Sister [Hattie]

P.S. If you had been troubled with sand flies as we all are I think you would have asked *less* for this "most valuable spot" Poor "Nigno" is one speckle.

I had opened my envelope to send another letter-- excuse its torn appearance. Your letter had part of an envelope with Government stamp on it. Was it put by Dr. P. to render legal his bringing it.

Family letters are in the large tin can. Day books returned many thanks.

²¹² Irish housekeeper Margaret Fludd.

EGP

Boston March 25th [1867]

It is with great pleasure, My dear Miss Elliott, that I acknowledge your letter of March 20th received a few hours since & I hasten to express Mr Amory's sincere regret that you should have felt any uneasiness lest he might not have received the one you were so kind as to write some weeks since. I cannot rejoice enough, that you have found comfort in, & were gratified by the small sum very hastily collected among several friends, many of whom recollected your Father, your Sister, & yourself in those happy days, when we thought no evil could overshadow our peaceful Continent. I have not forgotten your presence among us at a ball, at my Mother's house, when we both were very young, with the world & its pleasures very attractive, & it gave me great pain to hear of the sad change in your life. Few reach our age, dear Miss Elliott, without many sorrows, & find the illusions of those pleasant days, vanishing forever, but let us hope that a better prospect is now before you, With my best wishes & sincere regard

believe me your's

Anna Lears Amory

EGP

Social Hall (so called) March 27 [1867]

My dear Emmie

I write a line to say we are all well & to thank you for the long & interesting letter you sent me some days ago. Your account of Alfonso is very [...]ing but I am sorry to hear that he pays so little attention to his book. Tell him even Tulita is anxious to learn & was lamenting the other day that she "did not know how "to read." You really *must* not let him have nice things from the commissary if he does not learn. indeed I am afraid from your account that he must deduct considerably from your gains in that department, do tell me some of the prices you ask. Mama said "two per cent" but this must be a mistake. I may have to trade with mill hands on a small scale & should like to know what to ask. Margaret has served in a store in Charleston & likes the idea of a little trade. There is no store at Green Pond even Major Willoughby (I did not know his name until you wrote) does not keep one -- nor did he offer me anything, except "cold water" -- indeed his dejections & apparent poverty made me imagine him to be a confederate -- Well, is it possible my dear that you have failed in consideration, to an inferior too. Mrs Sheen is so worried at not hearing of the safe arrival of the cow, after the trouble they had with her & went or sent twice to the Hugers to inquire if they had heard, which I believe they hadn't, but I have no doubt you have ere this relieved the old womans mind. My cow when fed on peas or husks & fodder gives seven quarts. She would give *I think* nine, if fed on grass & later I shall have her tethered where she can get a plenty. I sold her baby calf & am afraid to let her wander -- Make Alfonso curry yours it will be good for her. I or M. rather, churns every day sometimes twice a day. I trust you got my letter thanking for the nice things sent. Now I wish I had something nice to return in the empty basket, but alas there is nothing. The boys pants are loose but not too loose for washing material & summer time. They are too long and A's too loose in the waist-band. Don't you be getting them any more clothes it would be folly to get anything now -- They ~~boys~~ are well enough supplied for the place they are in. The boys send love Tula speaks of her Grandmama with affection. With much love I am yr attached Sister

Saturday, all well, write on Wednesday.

EGP

Paris [Saturday] April 20th [1867]

I was very glad to receive your letter my dear Miss Elliott, and to hear something of your affairs, and prospects. If you succeed in making a Crop, which I trust you will, you will be able to realize a handsome profit on it, and I hope it may prove the dawn of brighter prospects for you. Your first letter to me was dated Charleston, where you began it, after going into the country, you continued it, telling me you had been interrupted but without putting any other date. You mentioned in your letter, that you were living in the only house left you by Sherman. I never saw your Place, after that day I bid you good bye, by the front door, but we were told in Adam's Run that the same man who burnt us out, had also burnt every building on your place, so when I heard that you were living in the only building remaining to you, I inferred that it was your house in Adams Run, which I left standing, and believed it was the only one you had. I thought it likely that you were staying there while firing up something to live in, on the Plantation. I suppose you will not be able to remain at Oak Lawn long now, do you think of returning to Flat Rock for the summer. The time draws near for me to leave my present quarters, and I have been going through the disagreeable business of Apartment hunting. The children are to come during the summer, and I must be getting ready for them. I have not been yet able to decide, but am expecting an answer this evening from a man who owns an Apartment which we will take we think, if the price suits us. If we take it, it will be for a year, as they are more reasonable to have in this way, and though Paris may be hot in summer, yet we should be inured to that, and it is such a pleasant city, with the Bois de Boulogne, and the Banks and Champs Elysies where one can get cool in the evening, that one cannot suffer here much with the heat I think. This summer particularly there will be much to see. All the Palaces, Museums, and Galleries have been thrown open to the Public, without the necessity for Permits which heretofore had to be got for many of them. I have been to St. Cloud & Versailles but have not yet seen Compiègne on Fontainebleau both of which one should see. One of the most charming Palaces I have seen is that of the Elysees, did you see it when you were here. It is not so grand as many others but so lovely with its large garden stretching off in front of the windows. No one lives in it now, but it is to be the residence of the Prince Imperial in a few years, if he lives. He is a very delicate child, and lately had a fall from his horse, which caused an injury to his leg, and he was obliged to have two operations performed on it, for the first he took Chloroform, & they thought it injured him, for the second he would not take the Chloroform, but said they must not tell his mother when it was to be done, for she suffered so much for him. He bore it with the utmost fortitude, though it was most painful unhappily though it did not get well even She, but just about the time of the opening of the Exposition, it was thought it would have to be taken off, but wont. The Papers say he is recovering. I tell you this little incident of real life for the benefit of your little nephews, for I suppose a little story of this kind would interest them. He has not been able to appear at the Exposition at all. I hope you got the Papers I sent, and the Plan of the Exposition. I have only been to it one day, the day after it opened. I have been quite busy as I told you, and then I found it that day in such a state of backwards and confusion that I determined to wait some time before going again. There are immense number of beautiful things there to be seen, but one can by no means forsee Yet a just idea of the whole, for there is still so much to be done in opening boxes and arrange the goods and the various objects of beauty and of interest. They have in the grounds, several Churches. The Catholic one is small, but beautifully ornamented & decorated internally, but was not finished when I was there. I go here to an English Church with Mr Manigault, there is an excellent clergyman there, and Mr M never goes any where else. I have been to some of the others. I never like to leave my own Church, but some times after a service there

I go to one of the Catholic Churches, as I did yesterday to St Eustache, which is now celebrated for its music, more than any other Church in Paris. It was Good Friday, and I heard the *Stabat Mater*²¹³ most splendidly performed. I thought of Col. Gonzalez, who used to be so fond of it, and sang a solo from it so well. I have not yet been to the Madaleine, but intend to do so soon. I suppose you would think it prejudiced of me not to have the services of my own Church to go to theirs, but I should think it very strange if they left theirs to come to mine, however beautiful the music might be. I have no prejudices against Catholics, only I cannot agree with many of their doctrines. Their charity I have always admired and appreciated, and I honor them with all my heart, for the noble efforts they are making for the South, and trust they may reap a full reward here and hereafter. I could not finish my letter on Saturday so this being Monday I continue again. Yesterday afternoon I went to the Madeleine to hear the Hallelujah Chorus and wished sincerely you could have enjoyed it with me. The Church was packed with people (a strange word to use but nothing else can express it. A frenchman who had to [...] to himself, and was made by one of the Church officials to give up one to me, spread himself out stiffening himself like an iron man, and as I hopped into my seat, I found myself in contact with a figure more rigid than I ever imagined any thing human could be, he looked straight before him, and as unsympathizing as possible, as I knew there was no use in appealing to his sense of right, or justice or even pity. I was however necessarily pushed over on my neighbor on the other side and she after a while finding the space too small for her comfort, went off, getting some one to carry her chair farther up the Church, and I was able to withdraw a little from my unaccommodating neighbor who looked triumphant. I think the second and lower classes of french people rude generally. Whenever I have to ask them questions by addressing them with politeness I find them always answer politely but in a [...] standing on the pavement they never give way to a lady but do not seem to care in the narrow streets even if you have to leave the pavement to pass them.

The Music was very beautiful but I liked the *Stabat Mater* at St. Eustache better. I have crowded my letter on one sheet so as to send you Mr Manigault's Photo on another time. I will send you [...]. I do not think [...] is as much of a success but I flatter myself you may like to have it as a remembrance. Give my love to your Mother and your sisters. I am truly sorry to hear that John is not quite his old self, but it is pleasant to hear that loyalty still lives in Dick. I think of you all very very often and shall feel very anxious to know the progress of your Crops. Mr Manigault sends you his kindest regards [...] pray give also. [torn] there for us both and believe me always yours affectionately

C. M. Manigault

EGP

Social Hall, Easter [22 April 1867]

Enclosed my dear Mama is the piece of hair -- you desired me to send you -- it belongs to a very obstreperous little fellow who when angry pulls the nose of the person who offends him. Poor Margaret (as well as myself) has many tokens of his strength & skill in this respect -- he is a Baby that I think Annie would delight in, he shows so much character & is evidently clever. he gives little trouble & has out, eight teeth -- Margaret never allows him to feel hungry & even keeps him with her while she takes her meals. She says she feels as if she did not do enough for one & hopes Benigno will soon walk when she can accomplish more, is grateful for your message & "pray's that you may live long & die happy." Tulita's hair has improved -- but I think I shall try Mrs. Haywards plan & cut

²¹³ Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868) composed the *Stabat Mater* as sacred music.

it very close as soon as the weather permits. She is very interesting, affectionate & devoted to me -- follows me every where like a little lamb -- Says often "Hattie come in the woods & let us pick the pretty wild flowers" -- she is devoted to flowers pictures & dolls has quite a large one -- made for her -- by her friend Mrs Wilson, who sent two heads for it in case the first should get broken & a chair also almost large enough for Benigno. You ask if Margaret cuts clothes. She has cut & made a dress for T. & is making another. She keeps the key of the boys trunk & gives them out what they require. They sleep in her room on a cot & mattress, an old white curtain on a rod, divides their apartment, which is kept clean & is naturally ventilated. The servants are both kind to & interested in the children. The Babies sleep in our room Tula in the crib. I have sent for a pavilion for her. We have up the scarlet one & with the bed room furniture & Marseilles quilt the interior of my cabin is respectable, an aged dimity, well darned & starched is hung between the sleeping & eating room -- & is pushed aside when desirable. I have not the screen from Cornelia. Of the other cabins, one is the store room, the other, the kitchen. We have three lots or enclosures, one with the store room, is covered with beautiful oats, the other has our cabins & the third the stable & cow house & now I think you have had a complete view of our menage. Oh under the awning in front, there is the safe on one side, & a large white table on the other. I keep a *clean* yard the wood even is cut up on the outside -- Mr & Mrs Alfred Rhett called, on last sunday, unfortunately I could not see them. G. had to go -- (they having seen him) & make my excuses. R was compensated I hope for his warm drive by a drink, & the sight of a bigger dog, than his own.

In answer to you & Emmies request of a visit from the Boys, I will say that there are many difficulties in the way. We live at a terrible distance from the Station & I should not like to trust the boys on the cars, but with their father -- how lonely I would be without them all! I shall consult with the Genl. & see what can be done -- he was willing that I should visit you & proposed that I should take R as nurse -- or R & M both. He could make out with Louis but I know that my place is now at home although I feel deeply your disappointment & my own!

Tell A. the Boys study very much the same lessons that they did with her. They are reading the history of France, studying that of England, spelling with meaning, Geography, Spanish, writing, their father will soon take up their arithmetic -- which I am a poor hand at -- & later they will learn french. Tula says "send Dammumamma a piece of my hair too." Love to A. E. & a kiss to Beau from yr attached

daughter

Chicks shook my hand & spoilt my envelope excuse it. I am aware that I often spell funnily. Let me know when I do I hope that I am not too old to learn.

EGP

Social Hall Wednesday 1st May [1867]

My darling Mama

A man is about leaving for the R.R. & I have only time to say that we are all well. I have had no opportunity of writing until now -- will write to Alfonso when I can. We were all delighted with his letter. See no chance of the boys getting to Oak Lawn just now & dont know when can get A. home will write though We have any number of difficulties. Many thanks for the nice things They were all received in good order -- The wrapper is sweet -- if you allow me I will make a sun bonnet for myself of what remains of the pattern. T'is not enough for Benigno & Tula has some aprons. Good bye in great haste I am always your affate. daughter

EGP

[2 May 1867]

My dear Emmie

Your letter, which I read hastily, has since disappeared unaccountably, but I still hope it may "turn up." I wrote Mama yesterday thanking her for the letter & package which I had just received -- it was not the fault of any one that it did not reach me sooner. Thank you for your statement in regard to the taxes. Your hint shall be taken & I will ask to have the returns made according to the real value of the place -- Some six or seven thousand I suppose -- in regard to the protest against my residence here I would remark that t'is very easy to protest -- & in case anything should happen to be able to say "Did I not say so" "I never wished them to purchase that place"-- True -- but did you propose how my bond was to be paid, which if my memory serves me was due within ten years. Tis well not to discuss this matter. We can not think of it in the same way & it will only serve to create bitter feeling. I *try* not to feel bitter -- when I see the terribly broken [rice] banks, the lands without a solitary building & the loblolly pines Magnificent looking to the uninitiated. Enough & *too much* -- We have to make the best of a very bad bargain, what I mind is debt. Give my love to Alfonso & tell him I am afraid he has become silly to be indignant at the idea of cleaning the cows house, in Charleston it used to be his *favourite amusement*. Tell him everybody works here & are obliged to. My boys bring the cow from pasture, cook for the dogs -- feed them -- go on errands & rake the yard -- besides learning their lessons .. & having plenty of time to play. Louis helps them often & they are never overworked & enjoy better health & Tempers than ever before. Joe Huger's sons are an example of the benefits to be derived from being made useful & independent while young! They were brave soldiers & are now I believe supporting themselves. Mrs. Sheen made the just remark that what a boy could do well, a man would idle at, & we can not afford to hire a man to idle. Wages seem to be much higher here than with you. The Ploughman asks 75 cts a day & rations those who work with the hoe 50 cts Quash G told B. that he had been to Oak Lawn Mass R. had cussed him Miss A. would not speak to him &c &c. In my opinion we must take the freedmen as we find them & where they are kindly disposed & civil-- not discourage them. They are "none of them good No, not one." See since the war how your household has changed places. Dick has been good then bad, then good again. Jacob, Kate, John, I have never been afraid of Negroe's nor am I now -- but I think it desirable not (unnecessarily) to make enemies of them -- for many reasons. I sent Mama such a shabby note I must write as I promised & answer some of her queries. So good bye Boys send their love & I am always
Your Attached Sister [Hattie]

How I should like to see the font of St. Lukes to-day. No doubt your bouquet will make a sensation. Brosio remarks "he is sorry Lent is over" it was very satisfactory to *him* for M. & R. seldom eat meat & left more for *them*. N. says "oh for shame Ambrosio" but I cant help laughing *at* this Boys speech. They get always enough to eat.

EGP

Social Hall, Friday [3 May 1867]

Master Alfonso Beauregard Gonzales

My darling little Boy

Papa is going to the Station to-day & so I have an opportunity of writing & thanking you for your beautiful & interesting letter. We were all delighted to hear from you & very much pleased to hear about the mules & the pony & the ploughing.

We have some mules two of them are noble animals. Mr. Sheen bought them for Papa & a dear little pony who pulls the "dog cart" & is very gentle to ride he only gave seventy dollars for him. The boys ride some times on the bay horse, he is gentle too. The horses & mules eat nice fresh marsh instead of hay, it is cut every day at the mill & brought up in the wagon every evening the animals all like it very much. None of our mules kick they are all good mules. Papa has been having very pretty work done at the mill. There is a pretty dock for the rafts to come in, a rail road & nice little car & many things that will interest you. The mill is not working now for want of water. The well was so badly built it is caving in. Papa is trying a new pump which he hopes will succeed & give him a supply of good water but he has now to send for a man to mend the boiler which is leaking. When you come you must help your father with the farm he has so much to do at the mill. I have only time to send you a very short letter to-day. I trust you are a very good boy & learning to read. Tulita speaks of you every day. She is a dear little girl & Benigno is a very clever boy he can almost walk now. I am afraid he does not remember you. All the boys send their love to you & are so anxious to see you. Kiss Grandmama & Aunts for me Emmie her flowers were so beautiful. Dr. Pinckney & Mr. Crovat wanted them very much. Papa is waiting & I must say good bye Darling.

Your aff. Mama

EGP

Social Hall May 3d [1867]

Dearest Mama

Intending to have a long chat with you I begin my letter to-day when I have comparatively few interruptions. I sent a note to Alfonso by his father, or rather I sent it as far as the station for the Gen. went on horseback to Salkahatchee, not expecting to return until to-morrow. I had much more to tell Alfonso about the mules &c but his Papa could not wait longer for my letter. I dont know when I can send for him, when do you think it would be prudent for him to leave? The late cool spell should render the country healthy for some time, but there is so little vegetation *here* that I can hardly judge of the season. We have had for several days real sea breezes even the sand flies forget sometimes to bite -- & the mosquitoes are not at all troublesome apropos of that, you can get enough mosquito netting to serve ~~for~~ you for 1,75, 8 yards, Mrs. Sheen bought some for us. While I remember it, there are two articles I can recommend to you to get. One is "Hegemans Ferrated Chair of Bark" or "Elixir of Cahsaya Bark." T'is very pleasant to the taste & quite superior to the Cahsaya we used to take I know it would be useful to you this summer, it has of course quinine & iron. The other tonic is for the *hair* alone I am sure Anne will find it beneficial. E. can get it for her when she visits Charleston it keeps the hair soft & silkey -- has a pleasant perfume & restores the hair to its natural color "Hall's vegetable Sicilian Hair renewer" T'is no humbug & I am sure A. will like it.

Is Joan from the Bluff "a great scamp" too, Mama? She came to be paid for some work she had done on the farm & spoke with tears in her eyes of her "good old misses" Grandmama said Minie was the image of you & that Tulas was "so like your mother spoke to her as Miss Nancy" said her name ought to be Nancy. By the way, I am not generally suspicious but I think Dick must have persuaded Rinch not to come to me, for after making the arrangements & agreeing to come when the things were removed she has since said that she can not come, fortunately t'is not of great consequence. We have *lost* a *valuable* order for lumber from Edisto in consequence of a report that the Genls mill had "blown up." I wonder who started this report! So William Simmons prospects are not promising; Well I suppose Mrs. S. will be sorry should he fail entirely *he* is a wonderful man -- I saw a gentleman lately just from Tom's, he spoke pleasantly of your younger Gd children Then

singing &c -- Tom was still "The Master Bountiful" in the neighborhood & does not appear to be in the melancholy condition supposed. perhaps poor Thomas is used to the thing -- but I am getting uncharitable -- I am surprised that A. & P should ignore the existence of their Aunts, who were very *very* kind to them but they are all the while changing. Such affection is of little value I am afraid Maries girls will have their heads turned in the convent Catholics *dont* mind telling fibs & if they can get influence over their charges by flattery they will use it. I was glad to see the girls letters & they certainly are not discreditable.

We have been much enlivened by the arrival of some poultry, the Gen brought me some from Tom we have not had even a rooster to tell us the time of night & since the arrival of one the cook is inclined to keep early hours. We are not quite as energetic as you are & seldom finish breakfast before half past seven -- but then we are busy quite late every evening, hands coming for rations & buying provisions all the work man at the farm but one are paid in provisions or cloth. I determine the prices of the last. The Gen. thinks I am too exorbitant but I tell him I *am sure* the nigs do not do full work! A piece of nice blue check which cost 22 cts by the piece, your Jewess of a daughter gets 60 cts for -- & the freedman get 12 yds at a time & I have now a box of assorted candy to tempt them -- but as these articles are paid for in work of course my satisfaction at getting high prices is greatly diminished. Dont imagine that I allow my children to be with negroes out of my presence, on one occasion only have they been so with my knowledge. I was too glad to get the boys out of Charleston. The boys there are so profane & vulgar. Good bye dear Mama

This scrawl must go when it can, but I like always to have a letter ready for any opportunity that offers -- much love to all from your affate. Hattie

EGP

Boston 14th May 1867

I beg, my dear Sir, to proffer to you a slight reproof for your precipitate departure from our city without having again seen me as I do not happen to believe that the gentleman you visited is the only one in it. I was exceedingly disappointed at yr. non-appearance as I desired to send to your sisters a small sum as my testimony of remembrance to them in their adversity. I now write to ask you to inform me the best way of forwarding it, will you please give me the requisite information and oblige

Yrs faithfully
E. Henderson Otis

GFP

Social Hall, Monday, May 6th [1867]

My darling Annie,

Your letters were received several days ago & I need not tell you how much appreciated they were by Brosio & self. Tis a pity that you, who write so well-- should indulge your relations so seldom by the perusal of-- but I won't pay compliments my dear you know what a wonderful woman I think you & would prefer a great deal that I should tell you now something of the Babies. Tis strange that I should always have something new to tell of them-- but the reason is that since they have been more dependent on me I have become more interested in them & see beauties & attractions that did not formerly strike me. So if my present isolation continues, you will soon have letters such as Aunt P. used to be laughed at for writing all nursery. I wish by the way that I had a nursery but carpenters make promises only to break them. Although the stuff is already in the

yard our house is not yet put up. Brosio & Narto have gone on the pony to the farm with their father to bring home vegetables-- Margaret having discovered yesterday that there were a plenty of green peas & other vegetables ready & willing to be picked. The Chinaman²¹⁴ drove M.R. and all the chicks to the place yesterday evening when they made this discovery-- a great relief to my housekeeping-- for I have nine whites to provide three meals each day & Roseanna²¹⁵ has no imagination to assist me with & can suggest nothing but roast mutton & beef. So much for being so long with the Scotch parson-- she does make however very nice bread & without half the fuss of Miss Hannah. I churned to-day for the first time & my butter looks very pretty. M. has made beautiful butter & it made a sensation among the friends to whom we sent it in Charleston-- but who would not give rich milk with such a pasture as is afforded by Green Pond. Another year, if we escape this, I shall have our garden there. Tis a capital place & very little drainage will be requisite & where violets flourish I think strawberries would do well.

I was delighted at your account of your successful gardening. Your energy is wonderful, do take care of yourself & keep your health & strength for next winters work. I am giving Tulita a little spring dosing, not because she is sick, but for fear she may be-- she is *too* fat, since I have shaved her head she is the image of James Elliott, occasionally she looks like Aunt Tidy. Benigno & herself are devoted to each other-- on one point only do they disagree. Tula considers that B. deprives her of a part of her nourishment. She says that *one* belongs to her & teases me very much at times. B. bellows whenever he sees me & Margaret says will never be good until he is weaned but I will nurse him until he is fourteen months. Tis seldom you know that I have had such an opportunity of petting my youngest & I feel partial to him in consequence. perhaps he is my Benjamin,²¹⁶ God grant it! You will be glad to know that Brosio is quite a comfort to us-- helpful, obedient & useful. Narto & himself speak Spanish quite prettily & you would be surprised & pleased at their fluency. B. says he will answer your letter very soon. He will not be ashamed he says, to tell Nan Nan "all about the chickens" he was charmed with your letter & much excited on its reception. Good night my dear sister I am called to [...] supper. excuse this hurried & scramble & believe me with much love, your ever

affcte child
[Hattie]

Do give Alfonso a little quinine if you think there is danger in his delay in the country & bid him be careful of snakes. I killed a young rattle snake with my own hands some days ago. I hope E. has returned to you & that she had a pleasant visit. G. takes this to the station on his way to Walterboro where he goes tomorrow.

EGP

Boston May 6 1867

Miss Anne Elliott
My dear Miss Elliott

As May has come round without hearing from you I write to inquire at what time this month

²¹⁴ Luis, aunt Lola's coachman, lent to Gonzales for one year.

²¹⁵ Irish housekeeper Rosana Roach.

²¹⁶ "Benjamin," the youngest son in the family.

I shall have the pleasure to make you another remittance & how much I shall send you from the fund I have in my charge belonging to you, & now amounting to between \$800 & \$900. The addition of \$200 was sent me this A.M. by a friend of Mrs. Amory, who happening to be absent from Boston at the time I sent you the first money, & since learning the great interest Mrs. Amory had expressed & felt in you, now sends & insists upon my receiving the same -- which, of course, I do with the greatest pleasure, & hold with the rest subject to yr order, & on interest.

I think, my dear Miss Elliott, that you will readily see from our interest in you & yr family, that, if in the expenditure of any portion of this fund in Boston in such articles as may be more economically or better procured here than at the South in the present unfortunate condition of the country, you may require my aid, or that of Mrs. Amory, we shall be only too happy to lend it. With my regards to Mrs & Miss Elliott & hoping soon to hear from you I am very sincerely yr friend

W. Amory

P.S. Mrs. Amory & myself both wrote you about a month since & trust our letters reached you in due course. My letter inclosed hers.

EGP

Social Hall Monday eve -- [13 May 1867]

Your letter with enclosures was duly received my dear Mama, & I am grateful to you for not forgetting me in the excitement & confusion of preparing for your young faciton [*sic*]. I am glad to hear that he is so good a man. We heard before leaving town that he had "torn up the mortgage on your property--" if he is a genuine Yankee he must be touched in the upper story! I trust the visit passed off agreeably & that you are back again in your old quarters. I am much disturbed at hearing that Alfonso needs control, & which I am sure means that he is racing about in the sun & wont come in when he is called. I now regret very much that I did not assent to his coming home in April when his father was returning & proposed bringing him, it is impossible to say now when he will be called for -- for the Genl has so much to do & can not tell one day what he may be called on to do the next. A. must therefore take his chance & I hope he will not consume all your quinine. Tell him that early last week a gentleman with his hounds & driver went down to the mill where his Papa is to order some lumber, G. rode back with him, & on the way to his home they started a magnificent old buck. The gentleman fired & missed & G. fired sometime after with his little shot gun & killed him. The gentleman insisted on taking it to his house as it was so much nearer than this & promised to send G's share early next day -- it did not come until late & then it was not near his share. The gentleman did not behave a bit like a gentleman & I told the driver who delivered me the venison that I was a hunters daughter & knew what was the hunters law & he said, "You is quite right missis" I was brought up with white people & I know what is proper. Captain Colcock was the individual -- all the housekeeper was aroused in me, it was delightful not to have to think up a dinner for five or six days. I have had an additional mouth to feed for several days past -- the engineer from Charleston -- all his meals are cooked & sent down to him so you see the venison was a god send & I was only provoked that it was not more. T'was the value of the thing as well as the nature of it that affected me. I meant to have written a note & I find myself on the third page, you see I dont know when to stop when I am writing to you. Ambrosio has written to his aunt tis so long since he has had any practice she must make allowances on him Good bye love to all from your affate. Hattie

EGP

Friday [17 May 1867]

Your letter did not reach me until yesterday My dear Emmie. The necessity for corn, making it requisite to send down to the station for some that had been left there -- afforded me an opportunity of despatching a letter to Mama, written some days before -- in it I told her of the sickness of Benigno he has since, dear little fellow, been quite indisposed, is cutting a number of teeth & although his appetite is good & he is without fever, still I can not be happy about him, We use the utmost care with simple medicines. I trust my darling will soon be better -- he has an appetite for his soft rice & milk & I am dieting myself in order to suit him the better. There is a very good Doctor at Ballowrille & I have a man & horse to send for him whenever there is a necessity, Dr. Bissell, recommended strongly by Dr Pinckney to the Genl.

G. is obliged to go to Charleston -- will most probably return on Wednesday but may be delayed until friday. I am sorry that I can not tell the precise time as it may give you all the trouble of sending twice to the station, but it cant be helped-- I mean of course, the sending down of Alfonso -- pray have him in time for the cars on Wednesday or friday if his Papa is not in the cars on the first named day -- dear little boy I long to see him but I suspect he will miss you all sadly. I thought I had mentioned before how perfectly well Brosio was -- his eyes are not in the least affected & he is so fat & handsome -- Narto is much better since his dosing & Tula is looking pretty & delicate. Margaret & R. are still satisfactory. The former is a careful nurse. I have no need of the patten of a sack for Baby Much obliged for having one for Tulita. You must excuse my expressions I am confused -- Crabs & yellow G-- abound here but I have no one to get them for us. You know we have no man servant about -- Louis is not an expert fisherman & has too much else to do to waste time at it we hope to get a steady old Nig-- to garden & fish for us -- an a white to be imported from Walterboro.

Thank you for your news of Charleston. G. heard in Walterboro 3 days ago that Jeff Davis was free -- so out of the world do we live. The boys were pleased to hear of Phili's wedding. Should have liked to have seen her fair face myself do give her our best wishes & compliments Hope Tulita will be able to present her with a baby frock one of these days. Good bye till the morning when I will add a line to say how B is. Much love to all from Yr affectionate H.

I am very sorry to hear of R-- indisposition you do not mention the nature of it.

Saturday

Baby slept well seems much better today.

EGP

The Cabin May 19th [1867]

My dearest Mother

I avail myself of the quiet, which we only enjoy on Sundays -- to begin my weeks chat with you -- There must be a letter from some of you at the Station but I have had no opportunity of getting it. G. is absent hunting up Timber & Carpenters & will return I hope tomorrow when he will probably bring me your letter. I trust he will soon be able to visit Charleston & on his return can relieve you of the care Alfonso. The weather here is so cool. I can't but think that the country is still healthy. You are not singular in remaining until 1st June on your place. Rosa Means Rhett & her young family do the same. Their summer house is now being built in sight of this -- uncomfortably near -- perhaps Rosa will send over her little girl to take supper with Tulita to save the trouble of cooking at home for only one. Seriously, I am much disturbed at their proximity. No acquaintances & of course no disagreeable ones has reconciled me to being so far out of the way. No slander, no gossip -- & now to have to see people whom I don't respect, Tis too bad. I think their house is on this tract too. On Sunday last young Edmund Rhett, the invalid warrior, came here to beg the Genl.

to accompany him to the spot where H.R.'s house was being framed, Alfred & himself wanted to put up a house where they could visit their plantations from, during the Summer (They live some 16 miles from this) & did not want to be too near their uncle's house. Proposed building on a spot which Haskel said was on his land, but G. thinks, belongs to this tract. Haskel says he has had his place recently surveyed by Camel -- if it ~~has been~~ was done during the war I have no doubt he took what he wanted. Does Jacob know the land marks here? G. says he seemed doubtful -- when they rode over the place last year. Haskel may be right but you know -- "Tears we can never trust though they should speak the thing that's true" -- & I mean to keep my eyes very wide open on all transactions with him -- he has his corn ground at the mill & his plough has been mended by our black smith, such a clever nigger & working all of them so well & at so much less than the last year -- if we only could get a cargo off for Cuba I should breathe freely. but alas, so much had to be done to the mill, that to get out a few local orders has been all that there has been time for -- The work that *was* done, was done so badly that it had to be done over. The well built so horribly that it was caving in & threatening the engine. The men (*white*) high & low, entrusted with these things, eat drank, received high pay & did nothing -- The freedmen now employed there seem really to have more conscience. I trust the Rail Roads in Cuba are as dilatory as the people are in the transactions of business & that they will be able to wait for the orders -- too long delayed! our good friend Ximeno²¹⁷ has lost heavily by the recent failure of a Bank. I am truly sorry for it. We are still benefiting by his kindness, all the sugar we use & sell, was presented the Genl by him! Well, if we fail here entirely we can still find a home & something to do in Cuba. A freeman by the way told Margaret a few days ago that "They were soon going to Cuba to set the Negroes free." I hope the Spaniards will soon pass an act similar to that in Brazil & save Cuba from the clutches of the detested eagle!

I am feeling quite dilapidated owing to having been much disturbed for several nights past. Benigno has been feverish & quite out of order, he is cutting his stomach teeth & nurses all night -- fortunately I am able to supply his wants. Roseanna's Tea & Louis chocolate -- making it pleasant to play Mama even to so old a calf -- he is decidedly better to day. Rhubarb, Magnesia & Mint have done wonders for him. Margaret is to be trusted I think, but I am just as careful, as if she was not, & don't allow her to take him in the kitchen on account of the heat & the temptation [*sic*] to gore him improper food -- & make her understand that all other business is to be put aside, in favor of Benigno. Tulita's liver has been out of sorts -- she has been taking wee blue pills with marked benefit. Narto too had an attack similar to Brosio's last summer & I used Dr. King's powders (the receipt he gave me) with success he is all right again. You see I have had lively times since my last to you. While I write I hear the boys chattering Spanish & laughing with the Chinaman. I don't know what we should do without that boy. I trust he may not get disgusted & return to Cuba for we could not supply his place has his faults no orders & likes to change his occupations but he is invaluable to us -- so honest -- & so watchful over every negro that comes to the yard. Sleeps in the store house & guards it with "macheta" & pistol, weighs rations, goes to the R.R. works at the mill, paints has made a nice boat in the last two days -- cuts wood & draws water for the cook -- & gives us delightfully cooked dinners when we feel self indulgent & is besides a safe & kind companion for the boys who are perfectly devoted to him -- Tis well they have such a companion for they would be lonely enough & I don't think will take to the little Rhett's. I don't know that I told you how delighted they were with

²¹⁷ José Manuel Ximeno.

the little papers you sent them & tell their aunts that they devour the old guard. You did not send me one of the numbers -- the April I believe -- Do you hear from Mrs Manigault & how does she like France her country town seems to have found its way to Paris. Write me a plenty, & everything & write *very pure English* -- for you see I hear little but irish. G. is so often away & when he is at home at the mill & farm all day & when he returns he finds me using some very unenglish expressions caught from R. & M., better at any rate than "the Gulla." Good bye my dear old nanny goat of a Mother, you must allow your youngest kid to play a few antics.

Kiss Tuly for yr. aff. daughter

Wednesday night. G. did not return by way of the R.R. dear Mama so I have not got your letter. Louis goes down in the morning for corn & I send this by him. The babies are both doing well. Tis Alfred R. & N. Heyward who are to be such near neighbors of ours not H.R. as I supposed. Good night. I must hear from you to-morrow.

EGP

Convent de Notre Dame
May 19th 1867

My dearest little Sisters

As Mamma said she did not care who we wrote to at home-- even if it was to her bed-post-- I will write to-day to you three, to thank you for your letters of the 10th and for the news contained therein. Mama's nice long letter came last Tuesday -- for which please thank her a great deal for us. I am always so sorry I cannot answer her letters immediately-- but the vacations are only six weeks off, and then I will write to you all very often. Imagine our delight yesterday on hearing, for the first time, from our good Aunt Kate! She writes in the same sweet way as Aunt Emily -- so we fancy she is very like her sister in everything. I will enclose her letter so you may also see for your selves what a dear lady she is. Yesterday we had a very friendly visit from a Mrs Loullard of Sav. She brought a note from Lucy Huger who wrote to ask me *who* and *what* our good Aunt Emily was. That Aunt E. had written to offer them (Lucy & Katie) places in St. Louis which they had accepted -- when somebody wrote them some very unpleasant reports of Miss M. which made them write to Mrs Loulard & myself to hear if the reports were correct. Mrs Loulard has a very correct idea of what an angel our aunt is, and is going to write to Mrs Huger to advise her by all means to send the girls. On Thursday we had a pleasant visit from a pretty young Mrs John J. Middleton -- who invited us to spend the day with her and to look on her as a *friend* -- because we were from the same place her husband was from -- Charleston. She kissed us and told us to write to her whenever we could spend a day with her and she would come for us. She is very kind dont you think? A Mrs. Izzard came to see us also -- who said she knows Mamma well and has seen us very often at the Charleston Hotel. She also invited us to spend some day which however we cannot do until vacations. Cousin Emmie and Mr. P. paid us a nice long visit also-- the former says she is going to write to you. (I mean Mamma) very soon and to Elliott too. Cousin Charlotte is still suffering very much-- but expects to go with the Ps to New Port in June. The vessel in which the ArchBishop and aunt Emily sailed has arrived safely in England-- they very considerately sent a telegram to inform anxious friends of their safety. Have you heard that at last our unfortunate President has been liberated? We were delighted to hear it-- Mr Penington says however that his health is still very wretched and that he is a mere skeleton. You said you wanted a list of our lessons' here they are, if I remember rightly. Philosophy-- Familiar Science-- Geography -- Grammar -- Rhetoric, Modern & Ancient History -- Arithmetic, Algebra -- Poetry -- German -- French -- Singing -- Music -- Drawing -- & Fancy Work. As you may

imagine we are always very busy. Please asked Mamma if She can spare us a half dozen doilies -- and send them by Lucy when she comes. Elliott sent to invite us to Georgetown last week to a Dramatic Exhibition -- but of course we could not go. I hope he will not be obliged to leave ~~to town~~ school -- he seems to be getting on so nicely with his studies. Give our love to Grandmama and our Aunts -- but please dont send them any of *my* letters, they are not worth wasting stamps on. Give much love to our F. R. friends -- tell Mary L. I will write to her during the holidays. How is Brother Willie getting on? We think of them all very often & wish we could write to them. Kiss Miss Hannah for us & tell her I always thought she liked Mr. Miles better that the Poor Dr. and now that he is no more -- she smiles and waits for Mr. Miles with a very "calm & serene" air. It will be so convenient for her to stop in Portsmouth when Mamma is coming here with you all one of these days. Write to us often -- your letters are always very interesting *excuses* & all. Mamie says she wished to write but is writing to Aunt Kate and Elliott so will wait till next time. Tell Edith Sister Nonna says she must be a *smart child* judging from her letters. Kiss dear Mamma for us & kiss each other

Yours always
Annie

How is Uncle Ralph's health
our Love to him

EGP

Social Hall -- Tuesday [28 May 1867]

My dear Mama

Your letter, the lovely flowers & the Basket of nice things have reached their destination & created the usual sensation & enjoyment. *I'm* provoked though, that you should continue sending ale please -- please let this be the last! I enjoy much more the idea of Annie's growing fat on it than drinking it myself. We are all so hearty that we do not require it. Tell Emmie if the Yankees could see her flowers they would feel that they had not done their whole duty by Oak Lawn. I am so glad to hear that the garden is so beautiful. Is there anything left of orchard & Billiard room garden?

You should not have sent the shoes Dear Mama -- surely they would have suited E -- You are inclined to extravagance where the children & myself are concerned. There is not much occasions for clothing here, except to keep from Mosquitoes & sandflies. I will take your advice of a portable smoke -- only I have no piazza but I hope soon for a large shed. I heard Brosio murmuring about the plagues of Egypt lately. They are very bright & are becoming great companions to me. Should they visit you I would feel lost until their return. G. did not return yesterday & wrote to say that he found so much business to attend to that he might not return until friday. I can only hope that it is business of a pleasant nature which detains him. He has enumerable trials & anxieties -- & still occupies his old quarters at Mrs. Sheens at her invitation & saves the expense of a hotel when obliged to go down. You ask what we plant, & how the garden gets on -- Nothing but corn & peas. We have not yet seen the first fruits of our garden but t'is coming on. Old Simmons departed last week -- didn't like to get up early, & feed the horses, said the sun rose at 4 oclock. He could work himself but could not direct others & was so afraid of negroes that he would not stay by his garden to guard it at night, his wages too were much too high & we were glad that he left of his own accord. Mr. S. picked him up at the last, neither of the first he recommended could come with us. A freedman with gun & dog guards the garden, he has his family with him fortunately a small one to steal for. R & W do not weep for their countryman, he used to curse them when provoked. A "Pine Knot" stays at the shanty near by & affords additional protection in Gs absence. When a horse or mule gets lose at night, I make one of

the boys (who sleep with me in their fathers absence) blow a horn when Louis or the white man comes to the rescue. The other morning I was aroused from a pleasant slumber by the exclamation of Margaret -- Roseanna, Roseanna, Glory be to God the big dog is lose.[sic] I sprung from the bed & opened the door -- in walked Leon. I shut the door & shouted for N. to bring his chain which he ran in shirt tail to do. The whole establishment retired within their cabins & shut their doors, poor Leon meanwhile walked around my room wagging his tail & as quiet as a Lamb. Nanno brought his collar & the brave little fellow helped me put it on & carried him back to his station by the store house -- he is a noble animal & oh how the negroes fear him. They say no money would induce them to come near the place at night! You desire me to send a pattern of pants for Tula -- she has 5 pr like the one sent. They fit her perfectly & I think will last the summer. Benigno has at least six pr of those that T. first used at Springville & they are quite good also -- so you see it is unnecessary to make others. I send the pattern to satisfy you & you can return it by Alfonso -- about his returning to you, indeed dear Mama I am not willing to part with him so soon again. I know his father would not consent he has seen Alfonso but *ten* days in the past eleven months & has been for some time most desirous to have him at home -- of course he can not have with me the undivided care & attention he receives with you, but he will fare as well as his brothers & must be satisfied to share their lot what ever it is. I am very grateful to all, but particularly to Annie for the pains she has taken with him. I *know* what it is to teach him -- can appreciate her efforts.

Dick has not appeared -- suppose he will be here by evening. Many thanks, for strawberries & cake & other nice things & for the receipt & seeds. Ask E. to remember & ask Mary M. for a good apron pattern for Benigno & the pretty one for Tula. Brosio complains that neither E nor yourself say much about Nannan. The boys say that they never in all their lives tasted such nice cake. Nanno says "T" is strange that Emmie never burns her cake." Poor Rosanna's suffer in the contrasts. Good bye my darling Mother this is a genuine scrawl but I know you will excuse it. With much love I am your ever attached H.

I send you 2 lbs of real good chocolate in the tin can.

EGP

Social Hall, Saturday [1 June 1867]

I owe a letter to Emmie, as well as to yourself my dear Mammy but she will I know ~~will~~ wait on me for it can matter little to whom my scrawls are addressed. You can imagine my pleasure at receiving my little boy se well, pretty & *new* looking. You are real good Gd Mother & Aunts. I suppose my thanks must be due to all for the pretty & useful articles sent to myself & children. Tell Emmie Tulas apron in a love & she looks lovely in it. My balmoral & sack are *too* pretty for the woods but I will keep them "until we get out of them." The boys are charmed with their presents & send their best thanks to grandma & Aunts -- who are the pants for? Brosio says he will be grateful to you for making him 2 pr of drawers like Alfonso's, he has new ones, but he finds them too heavy for the season. He is ~~to~~ 2 inches taller than Narto & N. is 4 inches above Alfonso. I send B. sack pattern dont hurry in making them please. Benigno is bright again, Tula is not yet well but her father brought her a prescription which I hope will be of service. I keep her on strict diet a hard matter as you may imagine-- when you consider that our eating room is her sleeping room. I *am* surprised that R. should place himself in the same category with the men who have been here! I desire that he may reserve his "letter of justification" (a paper of great eloquence no doubt) until he is accused. The General wrote to me last fall to say that he thought R. had done as well for him as he would have done for himself. I have no doubt that he did-- & I trust he may do for you better even. The Chinaman

has gone to the farm to get some plums which I hope to get to you by express to-day. By the way the Gen. is much obliged for the paper you sent referring to fish shrimp &c. He says it will be of great use to him. You see he has nobody but strange negroes who dont care to tell where these things are to be found. Fonsy has discovered that we have one of your turned off ploughman "Nero" a pert scamp I think, but the corn is in gross & N. Hayward with your factors money scrapes all the labor from the neighborhood. Beg E. to send me all her nice receipts-- blackberry jam &c. Alfonso sends his love. The nurse & cook are delighted with him, much love dear Mama from yr Hattie

You ask who will be affected by Trenholms failure.²¹⁸ *We* are. Our good friend Lafitte does not know if he owns a dollar-- & Charleston is terribly depressed, the business part I mean.

EGP

Boston June 4 1867

My dear Miss Elliott

On the 31st ult. & 1st. inst. I wrote you two hurried letters, & in the first sent you \$200 in check on N.Y. I have since, upon inquiry, ascertained, that the cost of a simple, plain, but substantial iron fence, suitable for a Cemetery Lot, from 2 1/2 to 3 ft. high would be in Boston from \$2 to \$3 pr. running foot -- so that the fence *here* for a Lot of 25 ft square would cost from \$200 to \$300. If to this you add for freight to yr place say *about* \$25 as I *suppose* -- & the further expense of stone-work &c &c -- as to which, of course, I can form no opinion, you will have the cost. Perhaps a lot much smaller is sufficient, & the cost in that case will be reduced in proportion.

Very sincerely yrs

W. Amory

P.S. By a plain fence I do not mean a perfectly plain one, but a fence by no means elaborate -- say about as the average in our Cemeteries near Boston. The iron is of course Cast Iron, & the iron posts to be fined into the stone work are included in the cost of \$2 to \$3 pr ft.

W. Amory

EGP

5th June 1867 Charleston

Dear Madam

What evidence is there that your cotton was burnt in Charleston? Some cotton was burnt, but a great deal was also captured. May not yours have been captured?

How many bales were they? I ask these questions because the Commissioners of Claims are here now and it has occurred to me from what I have heard of their doings that something can be made of this. Let your Son Ralph or Genl Gonzales come down & see me for a day or so. I think that the claim is worth the effort.

Did you lose any cotton in Orangeburgh?

Very Respecty. Yours

Rich'd De Treville

EGP

[Sunday] June 9th [1867]

Dont be alarmed, ~~my dear Emmie~~ at the appearance of this sheet my dear Emmie, I have a

²¹⁸ George A. Trenholm's business, "John Fraser & Co." was reported by Dun & Bradstreet on 1 June 1867 as "failed in Liverpool, New York & Charleston, recently."

plenty of paper -- but G. has the key of the trunk where tis kept & he is now absent. So I have taken a piece of his account book. I sent Brosio to Walterboro with his Papa. They left on Thursday & should have been back yesterday but I suppose the rainy weather prevented the transaction of business or perhaps Mrs. Wickman was so hospitable she would not allow them to leave. I do hope to see them today, the ride & the visit will be a great treat to Brosio & he deserved some recreation he is a most industrious boy -- & does everything so satisfactorily that there is danger of his being called on too often -- while Narto has a very easy time -- & curls himself [torn] & reads [...]. Alfonso I find extremely [torn]ul as he does not study, but when I am with [torn] he can assist me in many of my household duties. The first two days after his arrival, he *wept* [torn] his lessons but I took no notice & was very [torn]ntle with him & he learns now *almost* cheerfully. On the *rainy* day I heard him express the desire to learn to read, for then he said I can always amuse myself-- he was quite pleased at Pats remembrance of him -- & not displeased at your's he had told [torn] before that Nanna & Gdma had almost cried when he left, but that you had *laughed* -- which [torn] seemed to consider very reprehensible.

I am much obliged for the blackberry receipts -- they are too late for the low bust -- which we have had only *three* times. The nigger told me yesterday the [torn]ows had eaten them all-- but the high bush are delicious & they are fast coming in & as green pond is bordered with them, I hope we shall be able to get some. You will forgive me I hope for saying that I think that you have a genius [torn] cooking. I wish all cooks who make it their [torn]ion, had as much. I follow your prescriptions to the letter -- but my ginger bread wont [torn] yours. Do tell me, are there not two kinds of [torn] which is the kind used for cooking? Mine [torn] & powdered & tastes more like medicine. [torn] yesterday a nice plum dumpling -- but t'is cheaper & far less troublesome to eat that fruit -- as it is. Im glad you found those nice we sent they were picked in the rain [torn] feared might be sour. I am sorry you are suffering from musty flour. We got a barrel for which was paid 16 cts per lb & t'is not white either. We ask the nigs 25 for it & they grumble a great deal -- say they can get beautiful at N. Heywards for 10 &c. I hear it sells at 19 in Charleston now -- perhaps the failure of Trenholm & Co. has affected it. The buying of corn for horses, hands & ourselves is a fearful business, drayage R.R. expense & carting here -- it is a cash article too. The negroes (outsiders) will only work for corn²¹⁹ -- which we must get or have what we have planted ruined. The scarcity of money (valueless as it is) is fearful! A gentleman w[torn] had ordered & had sawed \$35 worth of lumber came to entreat the Genl to let him off. he found he could not raise the money in Charleston, to pay him. [torn] for two saturdays past has not given us any t[torn] suppose it must go to A. Rhett's for Haskel who sent to borrow corn week before last, sent [torn] off somewhere although it was our grinding. The Rhett's have not moved here yet. A freedman [torn] their log house was unfinished the negroes having left because they were not paid, so poor Rosa is still on the plantation. I am sorry for he has sent twice to borrow whiskey, which we did not have. Their house is in sight of this but not so as the one which A. Rhett & N. Heyward are to ours & which the former brought from his plantation a nice house rather. Mean of him not to buy f[loor] boards from our mill I think. R. Chisolm has o[rder]ed a little lumber. M. Stuart who manages for one of the Seabrooks on Edisto had to send Stou[torn] his assistant, to ask for \$20 worth of lumber to shed themselves with -- having sent their grand order for several thousand worth of lumber to some [one] else -- who has delayed

²¹⁹ Corn could be eaten boiled or parched and served to make corn bread, corn meal or whiskey.

so long that the [*torn*] not the means of building a house for them[selves]. G. sawed it for them -- which I would [*torn*].

There is little timber to be bought now the low prices have discouraged the cutters & Raftsmen. This is G's second visit to Walterboro in quest of some for the long waiting Cubans. My dear -- if the world was to come to an end to-morrow, our chief regret would be, that we left it owing. Thank God at least, no one can say we are extravagant nothing do we buy but the bare necessities of life. Our servants are not paid by the month dont desire it & if their wages are higher than the blacks they work harder, & save much by their honesty. Margaret is a great sufferer with her fingers, has lost one nail & may lose several more -- an inflammation & swelling around the nail. She has tried many remedies & a course of blue pills & quinine but she still suffers much -- & her temper suffers too, she is cross I think that she can not work as much as at first. They are as I said, excellent servants, but they lack the refinement of language so striking in ~~their~~ our former slaves. The house servants I mean, of gentle people. My log house is tolerably cool I have had some of the weather boarding taken off so I have now as much circulation as we enjoyed in Dr. Smith's house -- & far less glare. I have an immensely long bonnet completed for since I have heard so many pretty things of myself. I think it due to my family to take care of the complexion which in my opinion is my only good point. That horrid hat of H. M. Construction has caused me several freckles -- & Gs mute look of anguish when he saw me in it without a veil, was touching & amusing. The poor Cubans. I hope none of them will die before they see me! This is somewhat in the style of niece Annie -- it is not! Do you ever hear from those young ladies? By the way -- speaking of Cuba -- makes me think of Pedro²²⁰ who was on a visit there this fall -- his first visit for many many years, G. says he is *now*, a splendid looking man -- *rosy fat & straight as an arrow*. Think of our poor old Pedro -- as this portrait represents him. The Cubans dont understand it at all & can scarcely believe it is the same man, his two daughters are admirably married he has another still on the Tapis Rues would have been *so glad* to have helped us when this war ended he assisted so many that he cared less for. He gave G. his wifes picture & that of his little girl also -- an ugly little monkey like himself -- he has not yet "a little citizen." I am sorry to hear that you think it impossible to make money with free labor -- but I agree with you, it *distresses* me to see what the negroes get, for one days work -- which I know to be badly done. I forgot in my last letter & am likely to forget in this, some news which I heard & as it did not come through Brother Tom there may be something in it. T'is at least too cruel a subject for joking. John Scriven asked G. on the cars if he had heard of the "wind fall to our family." Mr. Leverett the Rev, now in Columbia, had received a letter from England asking if there were any relatives or descendants of the "Waights" in the State. An old maiden lady had recently died leaving one million dollars or pounds I forget which -- & her friends had written to ask -- or discover the heirs. Scriven said it was calculated that there were about 35. T'is strange if there is truth in this that you have heard nothing of it. I hope you are not weary of my long writing. I must have a space to add to this. Benigno is well, Tulita better. She has had regular summer complaint I have a good mistare recommended by Mrs. Mathews & prepared by Pankine for them both. I did not get your letters till yesterday. Tell A. Narto was delighted with her response to his effusion. The cake, did I not say how delicious it was, but you sent so many nice things, tis no wonder I was too bewildered to thank for them all. Benigno's dress too, was so pretty. Tis enough for two -- & the books a real god send they

²²⁰ Pedro Guiteras.

are. Nigno is walking alone to-day for the first time & is charmed with his new accomplishments. Write me long letters & tell of your life & arrangements in the village²²¹ -- where I trust you may be more comfortable than you anticipate. One can always detect a move, by your spirits. Tell me if Behlings Mill has blown up, & who did it belong to. Our vegetables are turnips, cabbages, leeks, squashes & snap beans. *No* cucumbers, tomatoes, ockra & potatoes, not ripe yet. Peas planted in such sandy soil they were hardly in before they were over.

Tuesday morning; sorry my enclosure is not more pleasant dear Emmie. Brosio [*torn*] &c. The [*torn*] soon [*torn*] his Aunt. Pray write soon to your affate. Sister [Hattie]

I suppose you will visit Oak L. this delicious day.

H. Rhett has two children sick with fever on his plantation.

EGP

Thursday morning [13 June 1867]

My dear Mama

I scribble a line on the back of A's letter to thank you for your nice long letter received yesterday. I am very glad to hear how pleasantly located you all are -- & beg you not to enjoy your situation the less from thinking of my cramped quarters. We get on better than you would imagine in such a small space. A graduate of the Citadel Cotesworth Pinckney Camel offered his services to the Genl as carpenter, & may come on Saturday -- he has a wife & three children who must be fed & will work for 25 per month. I send you to day by G. some plum's & a loaf of Rosannas bread as often happens when she wishes to do better than usual one does worse & her bread is not as nice as it should be but it may be better than what you get on the cars. I made a big mistake about the flour, founded upon the supposition that a barrel contained one hundred lbs -- so it was cheap after all. You got I suppose the letter I mailed on Tuesday. I am so sorry that some of the money you expected to spend in comforts will have to go for those horrid taxes.

The sheriff did not know that O.L. was planted this year, which accounts for his selection of this place whom he supposed would some one to vouch for it.

Good bye dear Mama write constantly to your aff Daughter [Hattie]

My dear Nan Nan

I have been on a visit to Walterboro with Papa and had a real good time. We staid with a very nice lady Mrs. Wickman. She has a little boy and girl she was very kind to us and gave us many nice things to eat. I like Walterboro so much there are no mosquitoes or sandflies and there is such a pretty girl there, and Mrs. Wickman has such nice chicken pie and Jelly & lemonade for dinner. I do hope Papa will take me again. I wore the new Pants you were so good to send me and the straw hat. I am so much obliged to you for the book I like it very much but have only read a part of it. I have so little time for reading everybody calls on Brosio I say my lessons and read a chapter of Grandfathers tales when they are not too long but on Saturday I have some time to read and enjoy the book you sent very much. Alfonso sends his love to all he requests Emmie to hug old Pat and uncle Ralph to kiss Jenny for him & begs him to look into Pats mouth and tell him how old he is. he hopes his pig is well. I have my lessons to say so must stop now give my love to all and take several kisses from your affectionate

²²¹ Adams Run, South Carolina.

Ambrosio

Nanno would send his love but he is lying on the bed reading Alexander the great.

EGP

Adams Run Friday 14th June [1867]

Dear Hattie -- Yr. long & very interesting letter to Emmie of Sunday & Tuesday had scarcely been read & reread by myself, when yr. letter & Baskets of yesterday Thursday was presented to us. How grateful Tis to me to be drawn near together again, if however we only *knew* where we were to communicate t'would be so pleasant to prepare for the opportunities. Yr. delivery has prevented you I am sure from telling me when the Col. is to return. I shall prepare a Basket however for him to take tomorrow shd. he be on return & if not on the Car, the basket will be brought back & only this letter forwarded. Yr. sister has been so anxious to get you some of her fine potatoes since hearing you had none ripe & cucumbers also. She had supposed an irish gardener wd. have secured you an early supply of [...]. She wd. likewise have sent by the Col. some Potatoes to Mrs. Sheen. The Expressing of our Presents is too costly. What a pleasant surprise yr. Basket was, so nicely put up. The Plums are very nice & Yr. bread extremely so. It offered us a delightful breakfast. This [...] & was first what I required with the shrimps Emmie had prepared. Annie thinks I am becoming a rival. My appreciate of nice things to eat is equaling hers. 2 grs. of Quinine every night gives an appetite. I cannot help unchange, tho silently, that R. & yourself cd. partaken of anything I enjoy. Emmie slept without a wrapper on the coldest night we have recently had & has her a neuralgia attack. She is taking quinine & finds relief to her head but having when she is able to write to day several business letters. I am writing to you in her stead -- if I make nonsense of any business items struck up on, you must excuse me for sake of old age. 1st tho' tell Brosio Nan Nan is quite pleased with his letter & we are all happy at the good acct. you give of him & are glad he liked his trip to W[alterboro]. Do you not remember hearing that Dr. Gibbes eldest daughter Mary ran away with a Campbell a carpenter of good family, a widow with children, who drank. I fear if t'is the same individual he will not prove a *reliable* assistance to you. Behling's mill has blown up. The Mill belongs to Wm. Simmons (his *well* was caving in) he leased it to B. for some time. Glover from whom we get our lumber has stopped sawing for want of orders -- he has heard that Col. Gonzales has a large order from Cuba -- & enquires if he wd. give him a sub-contract for some of the lumber -- he Glover taking the usual price -- the Cols gain being the higher price pd. by the Cubans. Glover said this to Ralph -- some days ago -- perhaps the Col. & himself have communicated on the subject -- *business agitates* me. I've just been seeing Mr. Clement on subject of Oak Lawn Tax. I consulted him as to those of the Checha lands. He goes to Walterboro on Thursday & will see the Sheriff. Says Black the Tax Collector had no right to Tax those lands. They like this land were in the hands of the Bureau. He *cd. not* either have taken Oak Lawn. I may pay it if I *can* Mr. C. says -- & petition the Legislature to reimburse me!!! It will be settled some how before next sales day. Black has been serving many persons in a like illegal way &&. We'll write to Mr. De Treville. We expect to ability for leaving the Country -- with my whole family. Taxes are to be doubled this year & what *cd.* I have done *now* without Mr. A s²²² gift. Our factor *loaned me* the 100 dolls. to pay for the removal of the furniture. I was to return it *now* -- but the Taxes must be paid out of it. My one bag of cotton has just been sold at 40 cts. Fraser & Dill repaid themselves the 50 they loaned me in Decr. & Ravenel the 12 they loaned me. The tax on the

²²² William Amory of Boston.

one bale being 10 dollars & other costs left me but 25 dolls. with wh. to pay my lumber bill for *this* house. Sickles order Mr. Clement says sd. stop Sheriffs sales = well well ain't I gambling = Yr. sisters had determined to send down for biscuit for the children next time their father went. What cold nights we have, & pleasant sea breezes. Ralph with outside labourers. Women to thin the cotton -- is getting his crop in satisfactory condition. Wm. Simmons called to see us. He has a trouble life of it with his labourers. He lost as I did not mention to you -- 190 acres of his rice after it was up -- had to cut up and replant. Mrs. S. & her 2 nice little boys came over yesterday. She is full of spirit & energy & is amusing. Yr. picture Em did not mention for Mary Man said there was no occasion to hang it up as you intended to sell it. Mrs. M. took the carpeting off for fear of moths & Emmie says t'was in good condition. The frame you know was left at O.L. It was bought from a respectable picture dealer -- who said it was Poussin's. The frame showed the antiquity of the Picture. Yr. Sister asks if you have Borax -- if not she will get you some. A Teaspoonful of its Powder & put into a bottle of water with a teaspoonful of Canphate Spirits makes a charming wash for the face, good for sand flies & mosquito bites too. She thinks of Yourself & of Mrs. A. nr. every day whilst in the Tub. Alfred Rhett, Bet Burnet writes, is to take his wife (now I believe being confined) to yr. neighborhood. Bet recommends to you if you choose -- as a pleasant amiable quiet person. Is it because Nanno [...] be useful that you did not mention drawers for him, or is he too proud to ask or to wear such. Their frocks Emmie cut by the pattern Mrs. Seimond so [...]. She took up large seams. The drawers I hope will suit Brosio. I've now to make for R. & shirts for Nigs. Little Segur's toted yr. basket from the Depot & the little barefoot & bareheaded daughter brought it for me. I sent her a plate of Plums for her trouble. I have no very late news from Mary. I recvd. yesterday a Mis. sent latter of last month from me, in relation to the reported future. Taking advantage of a letter he kindly wrote on the subject of our letters -- he wished to ascertain if we knew it was burnt -- as we might recover some thing from the Yanks &&. Thought we might get the Col. or Ralph to go down for a day or so to [...] abt. it -- as neither of them could know more abt. the same than ourselves & R. cd. not possibly [...]. The Col. could not be communicated with, we replied to him on that subject. We of course did not know the cotton was burnt &&. We asked him to enquire of Trescot of the how he heard of the Waight Sovereign [...] had heard of the \$9000 from Mr. Trescot. I [...] to congratulate R. [...] many of the Elliotts were on the [...] darling tis a cruel report if untrue -- & we wd. not mention it to you till we cd. hear further. Our 1st [...] was recvd. from Flat Rock. Mrs. Seabrook recvd. a letter from Mrs. [...] wh. if I can find I'll enclose you. She asked yr. Sister to enclose it to her uncle George -- she being too much excited. Mary made Fannie copy it for us, before forwarding it to George & Emmie in writing to Bower for receipts took [...] to request G. when he ascertained the facts to inform us. A reply was recvd. from them, George writing for Bower only last night -- George does not credit it -- but his reasons being no reasons at all. Emmie & self have not given up the idea that something [...] it. Annie & Ralph have said they did not credit it -- or at least the amt -- poor me, I had built this castle. Tho John gets us nice little dinners at Toogoodoo Bridge, of little mullets, shrimps & crabs. Dr. B. Smith says must begin to take quinine in July. Mrs. Drayton has begun her constant attention to Mary & Emmie & Fannie [...] to Mr. Drayton at his house. Not having noticed my Grdaughters letters to me we in consequence do not hear from [...] George mentions a visit from Annie a beautiful girl he says. If the boys want long [...] shirts send us a pattern & we will be glad to make them for you. Of course we must give up the [...] we had hoped for. A visit in the horse cart driven by Ralph once a week will suffice. Yr. Sisters & I can take exercise in the [...]. Did I tell you that my buff curtains buff quilts & [...] towels were all taken from the trunks from Margaret. I

remember how [...] fretted when her finger hurt her -- that she could not work as usual. Soap & Lime application Iodine may be used with benefit & such a nice kitchen as we now have arranged with Dresser & Bin, but John has to be the cleaner of it. Mrs. Smith is so dirty & unwilling. If Francis was not so good a worker & so quiet & civil a Man, I wd. dismiss her. The goose appears to think she is only to cook & to wash for her husband. The sashes are too heavy for her to raise! Yr. Sister writes of a shocking cold. Mary Man also -- for herself & her father.

I trust that you will take care & avoid Neuralgia in Minor changes of weather.

A delightful pudding of [...]kle berries E. makes by the receipt you have for blackberries. Give my love & remembrances to all of the children & very particularly to Alfonso who is very observant of neglect. Tell him the partridges have a nest of 13 eggs in the hedge by the Summer house. They are whistling all day around us here. Dick brought me a Partridge & a Dove who were destroying his corn -- & we discovered my wine very good even at this season.

Ralph has dismissed his last white hireling of the 29 he has employed last summer & this year. He has required but one. tis a pity to see the low condition of the poor -- They are so [...]. Mary Man still speaks of going North -- or they speak of it. She thinks it wd. be too disagreeable to be amongst rich people. Her little boy can walk.

Is Nigno changed in face & how is Tulita's hair since you cropped it, is it thicker? Emmie has written to her uncle George this eve. a letter I [...] you could see. She is somewhat relieved by the Quinine she has taken to day. Annie is prime -- Such an appetite the [...] The Tuber from her.

I do regret to hear of poor Rosa R's situation -- if A.R. is so near you it will afford you constant opportunities for writing. The old Celeret has been fixed up into the nicest of dairies -- & a log house has been completed for John & his family. The Virginians are having country fever & wish to take quinine every day. One of them is a free born Pensylvanian & cannot read. He depends upon Mrs. Elliott for advice in all matters. Penela Frank's wife is glad to thin cotton for Mass Ralph -- at 50 cts per day -- out of the Commissary corn is what they want -- but they do not get their whole pay [...] corn & bacon. Hoppock has to buy -- all other articles he furnishes from his store.

Powdered ginger is not good. The root ginger is best.

Yr bread or Roseanna's is a treat as I said.

[Mrs. Anne H. Elliott]

EGP

Monday June 24 [1867]

My dear Annie

Your letter of the 17th & the two baskets were safely received & considering the inclement weather to which they were exposed were in excellent preservation -- I did not receive them until Saturday night, in the wagon which had gone to bring the ever needed cases. G. did not come but sent a letter explaining his delay & although very lonely I am glad that he was not exposed to the terrible weather although we have [*torn*]anged the [*torn*] our cabins, the seals were not water proof & everything was very wet & unwholesome. To-day I am having great scourings airings &c & every one is in the happy mood which usually accompanies such clearings up. Should we ever have money again dear sister -- would we not enjoy it? The boys were very thankful for the clothes, gingerbread &c. Your potatoes *are* admirable & the green corn very early, many thanks for both. One fortnight ago our gardner sent some small potatoes --, I forbid his gathering them until they were larger, knowing that when they once began to "gravel um" I should have very few -- it worries me very much this planting for the negroes! Nero threatened to whip a boy & (did frighten him from the

place) because he showed me the fine size of some of the mellons, "They would never be able to take one without its being missed" This has happened since G. left & I have taken no action in the matter -- N. informed Margaret, who will talk to them, some days ago that he, *Nero* was as good as Mrs Rosa Rhett even if she was as rich as a Queen. The Day book you see does not draw too dark a picture of the fate of our wretched country. I had read & admired the letters of "Framinch" the books & papers are truly a God send. The companionship of children even the most intelligent is at times irksome (They can understand so little of our anxieties) & the irish mind can only hold two ideas, The glories of Ireland & the wickedness of the Negroes. Well, T'is well as you say not to think too much -- so dont incite me to indulge in it or Brosios shirts will be unfinished & Alfonsos lessons unheard. The last duty I do find irksome after my long holiday -- Tell Mama her packings were admirable & the beef created a sensation throughout the household. T'is so long since anything but bacon & ham has been seen here, but I am ungrateful for Gonzie did get me some corned beef & brings me fresh whenever he can -- but never the less I have eaten & seen enough "sugar cured ham" [to] last a lifetime [torn]sted sisters." piece, I should have reconized [*sic*] if you had not told me. I hope Sickles will see the piece, could you not get it to him The Charleston papers will be afraid to republish it. The boys jackets are very pretty but enormous. Margaret must have been dreaming of the fattest of Paddies when she cut the pattern -- She will have to alter them, thats all. I have been called off to weigh quinine for our sawyer, who nigger though he be, has the fever. *This* place must be a little more healthy than the surrounding country -- I have many things to look after so must now close. We are all well-- I make the girls show their tongues every morning & keep the irish stomach well regulated. They are not fussy & very grateful for attentions when indisposed. Would be glad of a kitten but dont know how to get it. Do want E. receipt for corn pie am very sorry for her affliction. Write often to your aff -- Hattie

There is to be (I hear) a barbecue on the glorious 4th, for the young nigger soldiers who are drilling in this neighborhood.

Important nigger just come from the mill had fever several days *must* go home. The sawyer with fever the mill stopped *he* must go home too. These are *a few* of our trials, but dont tell them to *strangers* or people who would *like* to hear of them.

EGP

Sunday Night June 30th [1867]

A direct opportunity offers itself Dearest Emmie & I must avail myself of it to thank you for your letter & acceptable basket, which did come this time by the Genl. You are all very good to write so often & I am very grateful to you for it. I can only send a shabby note to-night for tis late -- & I am weary. Thank Mama & Annie very much for their letters, which I will answer when I can. Tell A -- upon the receipt of her letter I began with quinine for the chicks I will begin to-morrow myself. De Treville met G. in town & told him he ought to go & see "Mantoue" on the subject of the cotton & he did so & told R. whom he met at the station the substance of the interview -- did not of course commit you to any sum. Mantoue assured G. that he would not "defraud Mrs Elliott" -- he says he has the "bill of sale" the R.R. receipt &c. & that when the french consul returns from Eddings Bay he will present the claim & will require your affidavit. You ought to make some efforts to rent these lands Emmie "The Bluff" & Middle Place are as good as Harley on the Ashepoo, dont you think so, he gets three thousand per annum for his place & goes to Europe to spend it, this comes from a more reliable source than himself. Alfred R. does bring his wife here. Haskel is making his house comfortable with boards from the mill. I wish he could pay for them. Our sawyer cant return must

look out for another. The mill hands I put to ploughing corn (in order to get rid of Nero) & to making a new road. Good night N. was delighted with your letter & the ginger bread. The [...] were very acceptable but dont send me any more for mine are now “doing well” a small talk to the gardener brought me green corn okra & Tomatoes. I have *no* cucumbers & when you have them to *spare* you can send me a few much love to all your affcte. Hattie

Tell Mama Brosio says she *must* write to him, *not a* crossed letter for he wont be able to read it.

TRE

Oak Lawn July 7th 1867

[To T.R.S. Elliott]

My Dear Brother

I very much regret to [lear]n through yours of yesterday, of your [torn] depressed spirits, & pecuniary difficulties. Would to God, it were in my power to help you. One month ago, had I known your condition I could have procured aid for you in provisions & animals-- but I could hear nothing from you, though I wrote several times, & report said you were [“doin]g finely.” Hoppock is now [in] N.Y. I will, as soon as this is finished, [send] him an urgent letter in your behalf. Without however, committing you in any way-- I would come to see you, as I promised the girls-- but have no one to help me, & must stick to the post-- Even though I die at it. I have done my “level best” but the freshet & grass has utterly destroyed our prospects, and we have to sell mules, to eke out provisions until the corn ripens. I have no hope of being able to do more than pay Expenses this year, & fear that Even may not be accomplished. We are a doomed people.

Our Mother & Sisters ar[e at] Adams Run, tolerably comfortable and in good health. I pass an hour or two with them on Sundays. If you have no time to write, why should not your daughters keep up a correspondence with their Grandmother & Aunts. In times of [torn] & distress like these, near rel[torn] at least communicate & sym[torn] with one another, if they can do [nothing] else. We certainly cant help, unless [we] know that help is needed. I am vexed that I did not know of your extremity a month since, when I could have been of some service to a brother, who has ever possessed, and deserved, my warmest regard & sympathy. I still hope to help you, but do not calculate too strongly upon me. Love to all from Yours

R.E.E.

EGP

Oak Lawn, St. Pauls Parish

Adams Run Post Office

S.C.

July 11th 1867

Mrs. E. Henderson Otis

You must excuse my want of courtesy My Dear Madam in not acknowledging before this, Your letter of the 14th of May. You will understand why it has not been answered before, when I tell you that it has just reached me. In Beaufort, I once lived when this was a State, & we a free people, but I would be a stranger there now, without a habitation. Our lands in that neighborhood have been *confiscated*. Plantations owned by our ancestors, and in our family over a hundred years, are held, or have been sold by the U.S. Government. This is why your letter directed to Beaufort was so long in finding me.

I am sorry that you thought, my departure from Boston precipitate. Having failed to negotiate the loan, upon which, my future & that of my family depended, I was in no frame of mind to remain longer, among the happy & the prosperous. This must be my apology, whilst I remain

Dear Madam
Truly & Respectfully
Yours
Ralph E. Elliott

EGP

Friday July 12th [1867]

Mrs. A. H. Elliott

My dearest Mama

I feel uneasy at your silence & little inclined to write, but the opportunity is too direct to lose -- & I must avail myself of it as I know not when another will offer. I expect the Gen. back tomorrow & hope that he will be able to give me some tidings of you -- not having heard for at least 12 days makes me, as I have already said uneasy. I trust that you are all well & have only forgotten me-- I am feeling rather badly from an attack of Neuralgia in the shoulder, which was quite severe while it lasted. The nights here as at Adams Run are very cool & I did not prepare for a cool change by wearing a wrapper, & I suffered in consequence. The boys are well & are now enjoying a cold bath in the piazza which they enjoy the more perhaps from having to draw the water for it themselves. Tula & Benigno have large crops of prickly heat, & small cuts, which disfigure them very much. Tula resembles Mr. Petigru at present. She is very merry & not at all unhappy at her appearance. Benigno walks prettily & talks "a leetle" he is very fond of [...] the dogs, running the chickens & poking the pig & promises to be an intellectual Alfonso. The last, I have taken to sleep in our room on a nice cot -- he keeps the Nurses & boys in a constant row, & all parties including himself, are pleased with the present engage arrangement. You asked that I should tell you when my cow improved. She has treated me very badly, she had a calf just a week before we left Charleston. This Mrs Shehan advised me to sell, which we did & have always been sorry for the cow has never been willing to come home of her own accord & having spent a night at James Rhett's on her way here, has constantly been moving off, losing her rope & eating their corn & now after giving out more than 4 qts a day, with plenty to eat, we discover that she has prospects for November -- provoking is it not -- but you must allow she is a smart cow -- of course we can't [...] & Margaret is unhappy. She says by the way that your prescription has been of great service to her finger. 'Tis well & she is again amiable. Rosa R. sent yesterday a note asking for quinine to stop her children's fevers. I was glad to be able to send it. We have constant application for medicine from Whites & blacks, the last indulge in much sickness. Our house is at a stand, Prince not having returned & what is worse I fear the garden will be ruined by his absence. The man he left in charge I know is a thief -- but I won't worry & am grateful when they allow me a dinner from the garden.

I got a few crabs for the first time yesterday. They were delightful. Goodbye my dear Mama give much love to the girls & believe me ever to be your affectionate

daughter [Hattie]

Saturday all well.

EGP

Monday Night July 15th [1867]

My dear Emmie

I had just been admiring Mr M's photograph & rereading Mrs Manigault Epistle when your letter was given me, it was an oversight my not returning both by last opportunity -- it will not be safe to do so now as I must sent this in an unstamped envelope -- by first safe opportunity you will receive them. Your ginger bread was appreciated my dear but you should not put yourself out to make nice things for greedy little nephews in such warm weather. Annies mellons were delicious & must be of the Molyneous breed. Mine decay on the vine they tell me perhaps they do. Thank Mama for the bodies they fit exactly & Margaret says are elegantly made. Brosio is quite proud of his pants -- Do you know that this place is not near so hot as Springville the chicks still wear their flannels. I prefer the warm days for we have breezes in the evenings which drive away the sand flies. This evening they are terribly & they are piquing the poor children unmercifully. Twice since I began this scrawl I have had to nurse & comfort the Baby -- so if my letter is confused make allowances. I am sure that I have missed some of your letters for I did not know that you were without a female servant. Has Philis left? I am so glad the crop is improving -- how does Ralph keep from fever? Does he take Sholluhengus, I am sorry you feel weak & badly You ought to drink whiskey & only work in the cool of the day. Thank heaven there are only six weeks more of summer -- & the wash is over. "Prince" has not returned from Beaufort. Lamar says, that he has been made a "full General" & will soon leave for Mexico. I wonder if this is the man that used to belong to the Stuarts, he says he belonged to Mrs. T. Tullen -- well -- well. I have read the letters Day book & both books, & will read them again before returning. Very greedy but it does me good to forget big & little troubles for a while. The chicks are well but dont look pretty, very much burnt. Thank Annie for the borax I will try it on my sallow face. I wish you had a big dog to keep off two legged & four legged animals when the gates are fastened at night & the nigger safe at his camp. I unchain "Leon" he lays his big ugly head in my lap & wags his tail as much as to say "Mistress" go to bed & leave every thing to me -- & so I do but last night the animals broke through their fence & took to promenading the piazza so I had to dress, shut Leon up in my room go across the yard woke up Brosio to "blow the horn" (*I can't*) to bring the darkey to shut up the mules -- all at midnight "any thing for a little excitement" & now good night my darling much love to all from you aff. Sister

I am surprised & delighted at Elliotts good stand *very* glad Mamie is comfortable.

EGP

Friday evening 26th [July 1867]

I feel grateful dearest Emmie for your long letter of yesterday t'was kind to give up your sweet morning slumber for my sake & your unselfishness is duly appreciated. I am so glad that you all continue well. Taking quinine & not visiting the plantation. I see no reason why you should not "keep your health" the entire season. What quiet cool times you must have. I often think how you must enjoy the absence of the chicks especially at meal time when they used to torment you. I am very glad that you have ice cream & that Mama enjoyed it so much -- by the way a very nice disk (for tea) is made of boiled milk very hot eggs sugar cinnamon & "hard tack." The last soaked for some time before its immersion in hot water. We have sugar, but can't indulge in nice things for lack of butter & milk. Sallie has behaved too badly. Yesterday we had the first fowl we have had since our advent in a Pie. R. makes rather good pastry & is a hard working good creature. I enjoyed dear Annies letter very much & wrote on last Saturday to her, & to thank Mama for her letter to Gonzie. Tis strange she has not received it. I shall be very glad of the books & papers you propose sending me. I return those I have read in the basket tomorrow & many letters from Mary &c. My cabin is really

delightfully cool & the sea breezes are a treat. I prefer the summer to the spring in this locality. The insects are far less tormenting at this season. You will think Brosio quite a man when I tell you that he has driven his brothers in the buggy to the farm, to bring back corn & pease (from the fields) for our tomorrow's dinner. Our garden has expired & our field was abandoned by Gen. Prince Wright, who has returned to the neighborhood after his fortnight's absence in Beaufort -- but has not let us see him. Well he is one of the untried rascals that you think preferable to the discovered ones -- he had taken in different articles a month & a half pay in advance & as soon as we began to make him useful in carpentering he skedaddled. We will put a mill hand to take care of the corn & pease that the nigs & raccoons have left -- & perhaps before the season is over we might see a fish or a shrimp. I have added another to my list of white scamps, a Mr Duc, engineer & sawyer strongly recommended came up on Saturday, had engaged carpenters &c to come with him, came without them, said it was useless for him to stay without them, would go down & bring them up on Thursday -- took letters orders &c. Sent on Thursday for him & the other hands, only a letter, saying that somebody had offered him *higher* wages & he would not return, sent letters back undelivered & his bill for the four days he had been here doing nothing! The worst of it is that he never meant to come back for he took down everything that he brought with him & it puts us back two weeks more with work. We might make a little money now if the mill was working for planters are wanting lumber to build barns &c but t'is our luck -- honesty don't do in this country now I don't see how we are to remain in it, even if the Yankees allow it. Willoughby told Du Pont last fall that all land within 20 miles of the coast was to be confiscated. I am sorry about the Waight property -- tis a pity tis not true. Good bye my dear . The Rhett firs look cheerful. R. Means "is much prostrated by fever." Alfred R. is very desirous that I should visit his wife, which I suppose I ought to do but several things are lacking, frock, gloves & the desire to go! I weigh 96 lbs. sans petticoats, Mino is a tight Manssa & is getting out ever so many teeth. Tula is a darling little foreign thing, very dark, & graceful, & a natural coquette. Boys returned with corn pease crabs & ockra & tomatoes which they discovered.

T'was wise having my three eldest boys don't you think so. G. is uncertain about going tomorrow so I may not be able to send the basket with books &c. Will try & get this to you, in my letter to Annie I told of the pleasure the biscuits gave to all parties. Much love to all from yr affate

Hattie

EGP

Social Hall Sunday [28 July 1867]

Dearest Mama

Your acceptable letter reached me yesterday & it made me happy to hear how well & comfortable you all are. Tell Annie her letter to Brosio was appreciated by us *all* & I was much instructed thereby. The boys have been devouring the papers & history she sent them & are delighted at the prospect of studying [*sic*] so pleasant a book. T'is very apropos for they were just concluding their history of England, a dull book which I did not care for for them to recommence. The Novels & papers are as acceptable to me as they always are-- I shall take good care of them a difficult matter where all the boys are so anxious to overlook & read. Narto is shocked that his letter should be sent to Mr. D.! Brosio consoles him, "he does not mind who sees his letters." B. is thin & is growing very fast. He works hard & is much exposed to the sun, but quinine & a fine appetite keep him up & I trust he will continue to escape fever. You ask how Benigno takes quinine, he takes a 1/2 gm pill every evening in a little clobber without fuss & Tulita *begs* for her dose -- making pills for such a household consumes a great deal of time, but I suppose I should be grateful that I have the quinine to make

them. My Irish girls go without shoes or stockings & with the lightest clothing. Margaret exposes herself to the sun & dew & gets wet often to the knees looking after the cow which is a mania of her's I have warned her, & when she gets a fever she will certainly have won it. Tulita is very charming I wish you could be with her. She has discovered already her influence over her Papa, who idolizes her. M. threatened to tell him of some misdemeanor of her's when she remarks, "You can tell him," Papa is not going to "Spanish" his only little daughter." She uses big words, pronouncing them very funnily-- treats me just like a companion but is so boring that I can not object. She will enjoy the chickens you propose sending exceedingly & is delighted now to get a piece of fox, squirrel, which is not bad in soup with curry & rice. I did not mention that we had no chickens, for I did not wish you to deprive yourselves of them for my sake, but that they will be acceptable you need not doubt. The Genl goes down tomorrow & will probably return on Saturday so it will suit exactly to get them to Green Pond. about clothes from the North-- My dear pe[torn] I dont need anything but a few yds of flannel for the boys, bobbins, & petticoats for Benigno. A plain black dress of strong & not expensive material I can't say would be unacceptable, but as I will live here always (unless we leave the country -- it matters little what our outside garments are composed of. Tis very sweet of Mary to say that she does not need her interest just now but from what I know of her self denial I fear she would say so even if she was in want. Our silver, (such as it is) went long ago to Baltimore but we have not yet heard of its sale. Our furniture has only been partly paid for -- & we can not press the purchaser -- Chisolm, Colcock & others who bought lumber "for cash" can't pay for it. Men who were to furnish timber have had fever & could not cut it. Mill not working, hands to be paid & family to be fed! Nothing sure but debts. Poor Gonzie, he does not sleep at night, & is up at day light & is looking very badly. I trust something may "turn up" for him soon. The fore going is, for your sympathy-- not for M. Simmons & D. Smith's edifications. You ask about Louis, he left, some time ago & sad to say we do not miss him. Leon loose at night answers every purpose.. Much love to all from yr loving daughter [Hattie]

EGP

[3 August 1867]

Dearest Mother

A wretched little fly got in my eye night before last -- inflamed it so, that I have to be careful & not try it by writing too long a letter. The coop of fowls, basket & can have all been received-- eighteen fowls, what a help to my housekeeping. I am very much obliged to you dear Mama & to the sisters. Tell Emmie her shrimps & fig pudding were a treat. The babies enjoy her [...] exceedingly-- & Tula looks lovely in her dress. I am too sorry she sent her sacque but will hurry up & pay Mrs R's visit & send it back to her. Mrs Rosa sent to beg me to go & see her. She was not able to leave the house. Mrs Alfred is being made very comfortable, nice surroundings, dresses in white & drives or walks every evening her infant I understand is wet nursed by a nigger! Their fier's are to be plainly seen. A. R's house too near for my comfort. To-day we buried our poor "Leon"! We dug his grave & buried him ourselves. No Negro approached him in life & none should come near him in death! They do not even know he is gone & will I hope fear him for months to come he was a noble dog. With my own hands I would open his mouth & pour horrid physic down & he would only look at me reproachfully for so tormenting him. Well, one ~~can~~ should not weep for a dog, but I feel that we have lost a true friend -- one, that could not be tampered with. T'is kind of you to propose our visiting you in october. I should like to but know not if it can be managed. I dont look for word-- Give much love to my sisters & believe me dearest Mother your always affate

Hattie

I knew "The Grove" before reading A.S. letter. Give her my love please.

EGP

Social Hall Sunday [4 August 1867]

Dearest Annie

Your letter & *the basket*, were safely received & enjoyed. Tell Emmie her shrimps were delightful at breakfast this morning, she certainly understands how to preserve as well as dress them. The fig pudding is for dinner to-day-- which by the way is to be a grand affair for we have okra soup, roast lamb, & your squash-- which with sugar fried is delicious. The lamb & vegetables came of course from the City --Gonzie brought a great surprise with him no less a person that "Louis"-- poor fellow I did not know him --so badly changed is he-- ill for nearly a month in a hospital, his trunk of *beautiful* clothes sold for a trifle his diamond brooch gun pistol sold to pay his nurse & food -- he is thankful to come back to us -- & only cares to go to Cuba to spend Christmas. I did not mention why he left us, for I was mortified at his behaving so like a colored person, but the facts were that he was carried off by a rascally Chinaman whom Roberts, our old cook, begged G. to employ at low wages, & G. had him to cook for the hands, & thought it would be a comfort to Louis to have a country man with him -- but he was, I suppose, indignant at not being treated with the same considerations & did his best to take Louis with him when he left & succeeded, but Louis has found out he says what a bad fellow he is, I am glad to see him again for the children are truly fond of him & he saves them some trouble by cutting wood &c for the cook. You hurt me a little my dear by supposing that it was Brosio's *regular* occupation to provide wood. The Negroes *always* bring it from the woods, & generally cut or saw it but when G. is away they take advantage & I cant bear to direct them so Brosio occasionally has in the evening cut some wood, but we take care of our eldest boy, I assure you-- & would not suffer him to hurt himself. I told him to tell you of all his occupations-- for I thought that you did not understand what a helpful amiable child he is. I am not in the least offended that you should [*torn*]hinny what you did, enclose me money but you see it is not required & I therefore reenclose it, with many thanks for the thoughtfulness. Tell Mama Benigno did get his toy (quite a pretty one) Mary M. sent it by his father-- he is much pleased with it. Tulita is enchanted with her doll-- she will not part with it & last night nearly made me rise & light a candle to find her baby that in the dark she had mislaid. She carries the bundle of silk about also, & desired me yesterday to "fold up her doll's silk dresses--" This I did to the best of my ability, but I heard her say in return for my efforts "I *declare* Ma is a *stupid* lady," she does not know how to fold my babies dresses. I dont know that I would be so pleased with such a speech twenty years hence! --but now I can afford to laugh at it. Benigno is getting his "bad teeth" but is never the less quite strong Margaret thinks his daily doses of quinine keep him up-- & I would recommend it to all teething babies-- by the way Mrs Rhett does not nourish her infant. Col. R. does not allow it. I suppose it was not Mrs Buloc's habit, he has a black wet nurse, a dry white nurse & three cows! Well the nigger ate spoiled fish, killed her own Baby by it & made little Rhett quite sick & people think it very great nonsense-- but then he is talked about-- & his wifes bust made an object of interest & importance to the Charleston public. M[argaret] & R[oseanne] are not pleased at the idea of having a companion in the neighborhood. They enjoy going without clothes too much-- to desire intrusions & I fear wont be civil to Mrs R's nurse. The boys are very much pleased with the pens & books I have no doubt they will improve their penmanship. The magazines are a great resource to them, but my dear you are really ~~are~~ *too* magnificent. I am afraid & it worries me that you will need next winter the money you

are spending on us! You dont tell me how you stand with regard to crop-- & if it was true that Hoppock refused to take the mortgage on Oak Lawn, or tore it up rather.²²³ I should be glad to know that this is *a fact*. We expect an engineer on Tuesday to repair that tormenting boiler & then if we “get the means” we shall commence sawing. Joe Seabrook expects to come to the Mill this week & see if some of the lumber will suit him. We hope he will, for *he* is good pay, R. Chisolm is shabby, he has money at his factors but wont pay us what we are so much in need of, gets up barrels of ice to his plantation &c but I cant understand how people can have the means of paying & yet not do it --few people have money now but Yankees. Our Cuban friends are trying to borrow money in N. York to carry on their business! Spains Tomfoolery with St. Domingo has drained the country of gold & they look at & admire a gold piece when they see one. G. saw Frank Johnstone in Charleston, he has had a vessel put at his disposal by the B.G. to go to the Bahama’s, & was on good spirits. The Gen. saw Mr Jervey & got his affidavit that the cotton weighed (each Bale) over three hundred lbs & if no better can be done, the affidavit will be used. Two Yankee agents were employed to ~~steal~~ take cotton from the Confederate fire & one has it recorded upon his book & has sworn to the fact, but Mantoue had to pay them for their testimony it seem’s now that little of the cotton was really burnt & as soon as the Yankees took possession men were employed to remove it. Well I trust it will succeed. Gonzie had forgotten the fact that the cotton was sold to Mantoue -- or was not aware of it. Alfonso is indignant that Brosio should have been amusing himself at his expense. He does not call because “cause” as B makes him do in his letter he is learning geography & reads Carolina Sports, it is a treat to teach him but he wont learn from his brothers who would assist me in teaching him. Excuse this scrawl I have no time to choose my words & have constant interruption. Tell Mama Roseanne cooks her chickens delightfully & we all enjoy them. I had been wishing to get some one to spin me some yarn to knit for the boys-- so of course your yarn was most opportune.

I am very sorry Mama does not sleep well, she no doubt requires exercise, does she ~~ride~~ walk in the piazza. Pine lands are such dirty places. There is no pleasure in walking out. I remember the perfume old Mrs Yeadon used to object to! There is only one of those interesting animals in our village!

Monday

all well.

Would Mama like to read “The Life of Stonewall Jackson.” Tis very good for Sundays. The boys began it but are not over interested. Narto is a little nervous at Mrs Wayne’s return, he thinks she may have some claim upon him-- he is looking well again-- has been much troubled ~~with~~ by B. last summer acquaintances. B. is taking bitters as well as quinine & has an awful appetite, forgive my rigmarole & believe me with constant love to you all yr affacte

Hattie

EGP

Social Hall, Thursday [15 August 1867]

My dear Emmie

Thanks for your letter & for the perusal of Hoppock. I can only detect the Yankee in the phrase “not inclined to give you up *just yet*.” T’is a great satisfaction to me that you will be

²²³ Anne H. Elliott mortgaged Oak Lawn plantation on 28 February 1867 to George H. Hoppock, a Yankee factor in Charleston.

comfortable, for two years, longer at least & you are such good managers that I doubt not you will come out all right. Should I be enabled to visit you in October it would be impossible to take all the children-- The younger ones & Nurse, would have to accompany me & the others wait for another opportunity -- indeed the boys very much prefer a visit to Oak Lawn & enjoy the idea of keeping house in Mama's absence. Brosio is an excellent manager-- I wish you could taste one of his omlets, made by Louis' receipt-- he is desperately fond of cooking. Ask Annie how she enjoy his being a "Soyes."

G. will probably go down on Saturday or Tuesday. I will return your basket & books by him-- am anxious to send your jacket but have not been able to visit Mrs. R. & dont like to send it back before the object of *its* visit has been accomplished-- No news. The Bears are destroying our patch of corn & the deer are very numerous. G. spent two whole nights in the farm, or corn field, on the watch for them, & *fresh meat*, but the rascals kept clear of him. Louis who accompanied him on one of these expeditions said that he would not undertake another for \$1,000 the sand flies were so dreadful--! What a dreary day! Love to Annie & Mammie from yr affate

Hattie

I enclose the measure of the track of an enormous bear who visits our field every night. Hoppocks reenclosed.

EGP

Social Hall Saturday eve [7 September 1867]

My dear Emmie

I am "under the impression" that I owe you a letter & am sorry that it must be more dull even than usual. I am so stupefied by a cold & tired with overlooking, repairing & c ~~over~~ sixty pieces of clothes (the week's wash) that nothing but the hope of getting an answer would induce me to write. I have been cropping the boys hair too-- & making quinine pills-- & you know how pleasant both occupations are in warm weather. I fear the weather is making up a gale, which I would regret on account of your cotton. Such a stormy season should have exempted us I think. The only crops that I have heard of as being at all succesful [*sic*] are those of Nollie Vanderhost & John Lewis. The former can afford to employ ten carpenters. *These* people do not seem depressed by *their* failure for they made no outlay & have had no wages to pay-- & what ever they made is their own. I hear that darkey in this neighborhood does not mean to contract next year. A white man came down from Charleston made them a speech in which he told them that if they contracted they would "forfeit the Union" Niggers own words. They are very provoking now & people seem very desirous to get rid of them as house servants. Mrs Col. Rhett is anxious to get a white cook, & Rosa Rhett after inquiring of me of wages & c has written down to engage a friend of R. & M.'s at higher wages than mine are satisfied with. She tells me that she is often without a servant of any kind-- & cant stand such discomfort longer! You asked if we had any guardian dogs. Marengo is alive & very efficient, we have besides a young dog called "Chino" who is very much dreaded. We appreciate these dogs, for we have lost nothing while our neighbors have met with serious losses. Why Alfred R. lost his puppy from under his house, his fine fox hound pup "Taken from its Mother) & carried off, on his own mule to parts unknown. & Mrs. R's most valuable brooch" Taken from her dressing table-- & nothing seen of it since (irish authority) Then Mrs Haskel looses her ducks, vegetables & I don't know what besides-- & several people have had their mules-- stolen so our dogs are at a premium. You see how stupid I am writing you about servants, dogs & Rhetts. Truly t'is a bore to have neighbors. They walk down the Mill road & close to the fence every evening, taking away the only

comfort of the place, its privacy. I hope they will go away early-- for I am anxious to get out grass burning &c. Tulita is immensely admired she dresses up and goes out every evening-- is met & receives compliments, if she was older I would not stay here-- sometimes four little Rats come here, little Rosa is just 5 months older than Tula & t'is delightful to see my darling do the honors of the cabin when she comes to see her-- she is a lady born & no mistake I give the little Rats candy & lemonade. The last is made with citric acid & has been of great comfort to us this summer. Brosio makes it delightfully-- he is a trump Emmie he says his lessons *better* than Narto & yet finds time for being so useful-- & he is so Tender & considerate of his Mama-- & yet strange to say he can't stand praise-- it makes him cry & become cross immediately! he is quite strong now & they have all got over their colds-- N. has been tormented with what old Ford's grandchildren suffered from but he also is better. Alfonso is a hard case -- but I have taken up a [...] lately at the same time with his book-- & the improvement has been marked. Good night now my dear T'is Friday & not Saturday, as my letter says above. You dont know what a business woman I have become I keep a book & an account of all that is sold & supplied the hands white & black all sick days -- loss of work. Then I prescribe for people who take the fever at the mill -- & send them nourishment too. T'is very pleasant to be of use-- & I think you must have a happy time of it. Kiss Mama & Annie T'is really clever of Ralph to have escaped the fever if he gets through this month I suppose he will be entirely safe -- enclosed is the length of Tula's skirt -- her frock, I forgot to send it last time.

Saturday

All right

[Hattie]

EGP

Saturday[?] Sep. 16 [1867]

Your letter "of Monday" was a great treat my dearest sister -- it reached me last night & was most refreshing after my evenings exertions for after a proximity of nearly three months -- I thought it but decent to return Mrs. R. visit of five months standing & Mrs. Rosa having sent to beg me (to visit her & tell her all about M. & yourself -- I felt bound to exert myself & now feel happy that t'is all over for some months at least. Well, she, Rosa M. was "in bed" but did not tell me so until she come out. She is such a wreck [*sic*] & speaks so hopelessly -- suffers from fevers & constant debility -- has seven children quite a pretty daughter who, calls herself "Mrs Rhetts cook" she spoke affectionately of you all. Mrs Alfred appears to be her husbands wife & housekeeper & nothing more -- she is alarmingly like Mrs Buloc -- but has a subdued & not over happy expression. The two Rhett men talked to me & left her to Gonzie so I cant say much about her -- but her husband & brother seemed grateful for the visit late as it was. Next summer, this spot will I presume be called Rhettville. James R -- N. Heyward & others I believe contemplate building. Mama mentioned that you were teaching little Simmons but did not say how it came about & I supposed it was for love of teaching or partiality to its Papa or Mama. Your account of Mrs. L. amused me greatly -- her father told me some years ago that she was "very foolish" but she seems to be able to make her way. I dont like to speak of *him* I might use violent expressions & hearing my irish girls talk has given me I trust, an everlasting dislike to strong expressions. My household have all of them colds but not serious ones. Although with two servants I have a great deal to do. Benigno takes up so much of Margarets time & I can't mind him for he is not happy with me unless he is nursing. I think t'is best to wean babies at 7 & 8 months. Mino is *too* obstreperous he kicks, scratches & even beats me -- because I stop his dragging at me all night long. T'is no wonder I look "pale & thin" but I look & feel better than I have for some months past. G. left on Saturday at 9 in the morning & returned at 7 at night, having been

all day on the road in the rain & mud -- when near Green Pond the road for lack of bridges became impassible & he was obliged to return. He hopes to be able to pass by another route to-morrow. every trip to & from G.P.²²⁴ is a journey. You can not sufficiently appreciate your proximity to the R.R. I hear that Charleston is very sickly Beaufort also several of the Stuarts have been sick, many people have gone to Bay Point. Johnny Elliott (parson) to Saratoga for his health. Mrs R. thinks it strange that Rosa H. so pretty young & gay should fancy clothing "A Munster & in such bad health" Carolina manners but I wonder at her fancy too -- I shall be thankful for the magazines I send Mama a wee loaf of my own making -- T'is only my third attempt so she must not criticize. Our irish genius has just discovered that the stove is uneven & until it is raised we shall have uneven bread. The sweet meat has lost so much by its delay that it is not worth sending so if t'is acid as well as dry pray do not eat it. Good bye with much love to Mama & your "Luxury" I am your affate. Hattie

Tuesday -- colds better to-day

EGP

My dear Hattie

We have been very much disappointed at not hearing from You for so long a time tis a fortnight to day, since you wrote last. I hope tis only low spirits and not sickness my child that has made you so silent. We will send you by the Col. who I hope will go up tomorrow some papers letters and pamphlets. You will perceive from the picture in Nanno's book of "Africa making war on Turkey" how the public sentiment of the North is being twisted too late for us poor victims. be sure and read Burr's "Votes or Bayonets" tis splendid indeed. The whole number is excellent. Emmie and myself are anticipating a pleasant day in the Country tomorrow. We put chairs in the cart and dont feel the joggles at all. Boles is our escort and Charioteer. I do wish John would go to Liberia or to the United States Senate, and leave the nigger to our care and moral development. He is the only thing of his race who is not aggravating. We have made the only article a big pea crop at Oak Lawn and can hardly get it picked in. Are you in the neighborhood of green seed cotton. Our cow devours it cooked with husks or peas. She gives not much milk now, but tis very rich and Emmie still makes some very nice butter. We are so sorry that you have not sent us the boy's pantaloons pattern. They must be sadly in want, if you have an opportunity before you come please do so. This would have been nice weather for you here but we must have patience. Dont you think I must be growing old when I quote patience. I must warn you that you will see some wrinkles when we meet. Mrs. Simmon has gone away to her Mother in St. Stephens and carried her precious progeny. She is a miserable Mother leaves them day after day alone with a negro girl and boy while she goes to the plantation to jew the Negroes. I should never have permitted the liberty she took with me about those boys. She never taught them one word -- thought herself too clever for such drudgery. Not the simplest nursery rhyme or story had they ever heard, not even Dr. Foster but when she "read Byron to Morton he would say do go on Ma." Morton who after three months teaching did not know b from d. That woman in your neighborhood would have worried you to death.

Tell Brosio Edith still seems very fond of him in spite of all his coldness and neglect. He ought to compose a piece of poetry on her. Tis Mrs. John Screven who has brought from the mountains the news of Carrie Pinckney's illness, Mary did not mention it. I must say I am very sorry for them but as honie used to say "they brought it on themselves" still the rise and progress of their intentions and

²²⁴ Green Pond, South Carolina.

expectations. The whole summer has been rather monotonous to those who had no expectations. Dr. King complained to me at Lucy's wedding that Drayton was making all the money it [...] of confidence in the future, for he has reaped the result of Mr. Drayton Clerical vocations.

Mama has sent you all the family letters I believe so I must cease scribbling with love from us all to you and the dear ones I am ever your devoted Sister

Anne Elliott

Adams Run, Wednesday Night

EGP

Pine-land Wednesday [18 September 1867]

My dear Sister

Your letter & two pamphlets reached me on Saturday night & Mama's letter & parcel on the morning of the same day-- pray thank her for me & tell her I am now using her needles & thread in making a dress for Benigno -- he is so fond of playing in the dirt that his Nurse does not enjoy the constant washing which the wearing of white entails upon her & so we dress him in blue check, which fortunately is becoming -- he is *not* a pretty boy & is fearfully obstreperous -- but intelligent & interesting as I think I mentioned before .. Tulita is fat & *so* yellow! poor little thing I trust the winter will bring back her roses, she is not fond of walking & when *I go* out, screams until my return -- which of course is as speedy as possible. Her father brought her from Charleston a kitten & although sorry for the poor little wretch I am thankful for the diversion it makes in my favour. The boys are well & are studying, reading & working. They spent a cool evening last week with the little Rhett's, after repeated invitations to play with a tame Nanny-goat -- poor Mrs Rhett was in bed with fever -- if I had materials & your culinary talent, I should certainly bestow some attention upon Mrs. R. who in spite of long association with her husband is a lady, as her notes testify. Mrs Alfred & myself have made acquaintance through her Baby & Sallies milk, for which she has applied several times in great distress at the failure of Mrs. Heywards cows upon whom she is dependant for her infants nourishment. The poor baby looks motherless. I feel too sorry for it -- with out shoes or flannel & out at sunset when it had had fever in the morning. You will think I am getting old when I can feel so interested in a Rhett baby! I think so too, he sent me some nice birds in acknowledgement of the milk I suppose, but his animals have been destroying our little corn patch since the Genl left, & he does not seem able to control the negro in charge of them. I am grieved to learn that your prospects for a crop are so unpromising one consolation you have, Your failure will have been caused (as you remarked) by providence. T'is harder to beat the evils, which come through the want of faith -- & rascality of our fellow beings.

Are you not glad that the winter is approaching. I am although we must suffer unless we can get a carpenter to make our cabins close. We had a white man *engaged* to come on saturday, but he has not come. One would think that "Sodom" was the veritable name of this spot. I read to my boys last night the battles of Virginia, poor Brosio wept & I did too, internally!

Kiss dear Mama & Annie too for your always affectionate

Hattie

Does Mama not write to Tom & why do you never mention him. What are his *particular* troubles. Brosio begs you to write to him.

EGP

Saturday Sept. 28th [1867]

Dearest Mama

Your nice long letter was received & read with great pleasure. I was too sorry to hear however that you had been suffering so much with your ankle [*sic*]. Pray take exercise in the piazza dear Mama & keep up your strength until you resume your trimmings &c at Oak Lawn. Too much sewing is not wholesome, & I am afraid you are overtaking yourself. I trust to hear to-day of your entire recovery. I thought of you all some days since, while working in the vegetable garden, & wished you had a garden at hand to exercise in these cloudy fall days. We all enjoy working in ours. The Jackets are very nice & comfortable & the chicks thank you for them. Tula enjoyed her potatoes very much. She talks constantly of Grandma & of your night cap which seems to have made a great impression on her. The boys have been very busy picking [...] to send some of their little friends in Charleston. I will look up for the letter you desire but hope my two Mamas don't mean to quarrel about such a small matter. Gonzie is waiting & I must close with very much love to all. Tell Annie I have only received *one* of her letters.

in haste your affectionate

Hattie

EGP

Pine-land [Wednesday] October 2d [1867]

Dearest Mama

I had the pleasure of receiving on Saturday your letter. Emmie's & Annie's to Brosio. The last had made a trip to Charleston & must have spent several days there. Emmie says you are all well so I presume you are no longer suffering with your foot. I was a little uneasy fearing it might be something worse than gout. I was glad to hear such pleasant news of Mary-- is it as teacher she would go to the Bishops school? or as an example to the scholars? I think the girls would have better chances in Balt. I have a dislike to the land of flowers since the niggers are being sent there, but Fernandina may be a nice place. I don't think there can be *an advantage* in having a large body of undisciplined blacks near us ~~you~~. They would steal every thing we made. Do you know they have taken *all* of our corn. Billy, old Davids son was in charge of the field & says Mr. Rhett's mules ate it but the white man says he sees where it has been plucked ~~stolen~~. While on the subject, do let me beg that you will plant or hire out "The Bluff" tis nothing now but a harbour for vagrants who steal where they can-- a wretched, starrng Negress with her Yankee infant & I dont know who besides, the negroes tell me tis very much "grown up." I dont know how we can make anything if you dont do something with it. We have not had the means of repairing the broken dam so far-- & would have been without ~~of~~ the necessary money for corn & bacon were it not for Gonzies old Aunt who sent him some money a few weeks ago, which enabled him to buy some supplies for his family & stores for feeding the mill hands. You know that the mill has been idle for months. We have now an admirable manager & *so* far an honest man. He has removed the mill to the very bluff (where it should always have been) saving a great deal in the future thereby. I must tell you of a trick played on us by a Beaufort man, "Talbot" a carpenter. He had a contract for some buildings from Joe Seabrook, came to the mill & found the lumber there to fill it, with the exception of a few pieces. These the Genl promised to saw at once for him & did so. Seabrook was to pay as soon as the lumber was delivered. Talbot goes to Coosaw & gets the lumber from a Yankee who has set up a mill there. The whole matter was arranged so it was *very shabby*. The order was worth to us over three hundred dollars! I am sorry *your* neighbors are so shabby. A. Rhett has sent me nice birds twice & venison once, & his wife sends over for Baby patterns of dressing gowns &c. Mrs Rosa sends so often to me for what

she wants that I shall not feel bashful when I may have to call on her. I think we have all the inclination to play neighbours if we had the means. Is not this a hot stupid day for a birthday. Can you tell me how old I am. You ought to know best -- & please tell me the year I was born-- & I will tell you the exact length of Tulitas petticoat, 2 1/2 fingers. Now Mammie dont you ask me that again for I am sure I sent it to you before. I am sure if the edisto scandal had ocured a year ago, Carrie would not have married Mitchell. Mikell told Gonzie that every-body at Edings bay was down with fever, & that the mosquitoes were horrible. Did you suppose me selfish & inconsiderate enough dear Mama to worry you with all the little indispositions of the Bairns when you could not help them & would only be made miserable when you did not hear fearing they were ill. Now that the summer is over & you can not be fearing bilious fever, I will tell you that the chicks have had some fever-- & no doubt we owe it to quinine that they were as slight as they were -- when you remember the terrible weather the necessary exposure in going from one cabin to another --The same exposure to the sun & dew --& a great many pranks which boys will play-- you will not be surprised, & I am only too thankful that they have got off so well --I should not have mentioned this *now*, but for a phrase in your letter. When I have said the chicks were well, they always were, & ~~when~~ this place is thought to be wonderfully healthy by the negroes, some of whom have died in Walterboro of bilius fever. I advised Mrs A. Rhett to take quinine but she does not, & walks out late every evening-- as a stranger she is constantly liable to fever-- but has been perfectly well-- You ask what tonic *I* take, gin & whiskey, iron does not agree with me. I am going to wean Mino I cant stand him any longer, he has taken to biting besides kicking & wont cut his teeth on purpose. I think he is fat & is growing pretty All the boys are fat & have good complexions, very different from the little fever chicken Rhett's. Tulita is delicious, she sings a great many little songs--very little voice, but *great* expression. I have got the *carpenter* here to-day making over a moss mattress Aint I like you!! he says he never did such a thing before & is slightly amused. Next year I mean to have a close house & a waiting boy white if possible & give the chicks quinine from 1st June. The cotton flannels will be a great present.

[Hattie]

EGP

Pine Land [Monday] 7th October [1867]

Dearest Annie

Your letter & the contents of that bundle & can quite overwhelm "little Hattie" who thinks you must be thinking of her *all the* time. My dear, everything is delightful, & most comfortable. The cotton flannel wrappers are prettier than, I supposed it possible for such articles to be & fit very nicely. The jackets cover my neck bones, except just in front where they are about 2 inches below said bones. Tell Gd Mama Tula is wearing the drowers, they fit her very n[*torn*] & are beautifully made. The carpet is very acceptable-- also p[*torn*] & tell Emmie her cake was delightful. The rose & myrtle [*torn*] quite improved the flavour. We are all well & enjoying [*torn*]ence of cold & heat. I trembled for your cotton some [*torn*]ts ago & am greatly relieved at the change of weather. Is the [*torn*]d you sent me a sample of the crop? T' is very beautiful. G. writes me that the failure of the Sea Island planters, Seabrook, Jenkins, & others (he is told) is complete & that there is no money & scarcely any business in Charleston! When is the good time coming? I have had little time for reading this week & indeed I keep all political articles to read to Gonzie in the evenings-- but we have all enjoyed the caricature in the old Guard & if you find it much thumbed you must give your hope-ful nephews credit for it. While I remember it, please send me the prescription for dropsy-- whiskey, salpetre, & snakeroot, was it not? but in what proportion? The wife of our carpenter is very ill with it & chill &

fever as well poor creature. I am anxious to do what I can for her. I think I have saved his little daughters life by means of iron, Turpentine & quinine. You would be amused to see what a doctress I am considered by the nigs & poor whites-- & T's lamentable to find what ignorance prevails among these people. They die for the want of proper medicine. To my disappointment I find that Margaret knows little or nothing of medicine. She can tell when oil should be given-- that's all-- so I have had to judge for myself & am satisfied so far with my judgement. I expect the Genl tomorrow & hope this last visit will determine if our business is to go down entirely, or *go on* for a while, --success I do not dream of-- The expenses of the mill are too enormous & labour too high to permit it. The lost crops, of course diminish the demands for lumber planters need to build houses when they have nothing to put in them. Enclosed is the pattern of T. apron. The yoke does not allow for seams by this pattern, also the size of her waist. please to make the least pretty of her dres[torn] [torn]ist -- as t'is an experiment-- the high neck I mean. [torn]ished to know when it will suit me to visit her, sometime this month towards [torn] if it will suit you, for then my pretty cook can have the companionship of Mrs. R's nurse who has invited her to go over & sleep with her during my absence. Mrs. R. wont go to her plantation until after frost of course. I shall bring 1 or more of the boys, if agreeable. Brosio says his father "can not possibly do without him" & that he intends hunting in my absence" & will pay his visit to Oak Lawn or rather, when you are all there. I can sleep any where, rather like sleeping on the floor. Margaret takes Mino now at night, the relief is unspeakable, he still nurses in the day & Tula & one of the boys [...] with one for the present. I do long to see you all & it will be such a treat to not have to keep house for a whole week! Do try & find out for me to whose care the pictures should be sent. Mr. Armistead says that Baltimore is "over stocked" with Southern paintings but I *must* try & make something out of mine.

Much love to all from yr Hattie

EGP

Wednesday night 16th oct [1867]

I send a line My darling Mama but fear it may not reach you as I am without one of those regulation envelopes. I trust to some benevolent person to ~~send~~ leave it at Adams Run however. I received the day you sent them the bundle & jar, & can only repeat my thanks for your kindness. The flannels are beautiful & thank E. very much for the trouble she took about the dress--is it to be worn without a hoop & on which side fastened? She must excuse my stupidity but I have been out of the fashion so long I find it difficult to accommodate myself to the present style. Alfonso is delighted with his pants & is wearing them. They were very acceptable. Thank E. for her letter & the seeds. Tell Annie Thompson's dutch turnip salsify & salad seed & onion sets are excellent. We had "greens" from the first to-day. I received yesterday three letters (which should have come before) from the Genl he writes in great anxiety at his prolonged absence & in great suspense kept waiting day after day upon the Gentleman who expects money & who has partly promised to lend it for carrying on the milling. We are so much in debt that failing to get this money--will be complete ruin--but I am perfectly prepared for the worst. I am most anxious to leave this country for ever. The only ~~possible~~ attraction here is yourselves & although so near the difficulties of meeting are innumerable. ~~I trust not our~~ We are all well & you must forgive my gloomy news I have written to Gonzie to tell him not to be anxious about us & to remain until the business can be settled one way or the other, so he may not be here until Tuesday--but write on Saturday for I shall send to the station, & will receive your letter. Tis late & I am tired or I would give you my news regarding Jacob, James &c. They are *both* on friendly terms with R. Chisolm who employs Betsy as washer.

Jacob came to offer his services to plant. If I thought he would make a crop I should like G to employ him-- but we may not be here at that time.

Always yr aff.

Hattie

EGP

Wednesday Night [16 October 1867]

Its the third time dearest Hattie I shall send to the Rail Road tomorrow a little Basket of Potatoes for Tulita with a few cakes Aunt Emmie made for her birth day & the curried oysters wh. accompanied the basket on its two first trips. We have been unable to expect on this. I sincerely hope that your disappointment in seeing the Col. by the cars tomorrow may not be repeated. We four continue well, & God grant that you may impart the like intelligence of yourself & the dear children. Your are all we trust still taking the quinine as preventive to fever. I have just recvd. from my poor son a letter informing me of the death of his little son Apsley Hutchinson on Sunday night of congestive fever.

He was so remarkably intelligent & clever that if he could have been properly educated he might have been an [...]ment to his name & family -- as it is -- I can only regret his loss to his father for they were mutually attached. Your brother was sick he is coming to see me here if I remain till the 1st of Nov. I fear the Cols. delay in Charleston may cause your further postponement in coming to us. How hampered we are by poverty. do you know that you could come from your mill to Wilton Bluff in a boat, wd. make us neighbors. We too are out of Regulation Envelopes, but as Dr. Pinckney has recently carried *up* other Envelopes for us I trust he *may this* & yours too if you have written to us. Good night my dearest child. Yr. Sisters join in much love to yourself & dear little children.

Your ever affect. Mother

GFP

Southern Express Company
Express Forwarders

Charleston, October 18th -- friday afternoon 1867

Mrs. A. J. Gonzales

My darling "little girl":

I have received today your very welcome letter for which I thank you with all my heart for it is very comforting. I have barely time to say, from the Express Office, that I can not go tomorrow: yet I have better hopes than I had yesterday of making an arrangement. I send by Express 63 lbs. of bacon, some nice crackers for the family & 1 oz genuine ham which I got in a hurry. Tell Mr. Stubbs²²⁵ I have not the time to send corn from here and to buy for the family & hands whatever he needs and grind it before he leaves, if he comes on Tuesday. If he should come on Tuesday I don't want the mill to work in his absence. Let him see me (if he should find it necessary to come) as soon as he gets to town. I wish you would send for me in thursday next when I hope that some arrangement may be had. Tell Mr. Stubbs I have not the time tonite or I would do so. I put in some *stamps*. I will note your items and when I get means & attend to them.

With love to the children & many kisses and in great haste, I am, my sweet "little girl"
your fond husband,

²²⁵ W. W. Stubbs, Mount Holly N.E.R.R. sawyer.

TRE

Mill Ville Oct 20/67

My Dear Mother,

Your letter of the 18th was received yesterday, whilst I was sick in bed with fever & I was not able to read it until late last night. I thank you heartily for it, as it assures me that I have still a Mother's love & affection to fall back upon.

The base & false accusation of my jealous Wife²²⁶ & ungrateful Daughters, have been derived from Negroes & low White People, (as you may justly surmised) & the whole matter has originated from the fact of my having placed the Servant Emma (that I employed to Keep Home & nurse poor William) over the rest of the Servants in the yard, she had my orders not to waste or give away my groceries, & she has frequently told me that they, both black, & white have abused her for not stealing my goods & giving to them, & this now is the revenge. When My Family came here in the Spring I wished my Wife to have no trouble with House Keeping or any thing to do with Servants & Therefore continued Emma in her office, as she was most efficient, & saved me much scolding & vexation of spirit, but Mrs. Elliott not viewing my intentions justly or appreciating my proper motions, thought that I wished to put Emma over her, (a foolish & jealous Womans idea) & I had to send her to the Plantation for peace sake, where she was on the twenty second day of September delivered of a Mulatto child, *She* herself being of the same colour.

This child was begotten during my absence in Charlotte & Charleston from the middle of December until nearly the middle of January, & the Father of it was seen night after night in Emmas House, this I heard on my return, but as it was no concern of mine I did not give it a thought, she was *free*, the Mother of 5 Children & could have a dozen lovers if she liked, *I* had no control over *her* virtues. The truth of the whole business My Dear Mother is simply this-- I am financially Ruined my Crop will yield me nothing & my fool of a Wife & impertinent conceited, & vanity stricken daughters are discontented with this secluded & poor style of living & desire to be their own mistresses & live in Baltimore or Charlotte where they expect to make a display-- to this end they have been striving the whole Summer, writing letters to N.Y. Philadelphia & Baltimore to engage places as Governesses, without saying one word to me about their intentions. Whilst I was absent from them during their stay in Charlotte they ran me into debt \$2,800,-- \$600 in luxuries alone & \$1400 dry goods, besides running up a Mantua Makers Bill in Charleston of \$550 (Five hundred and fifty) selling my Silver by piece meal, until I was obliged to send it all to N. York for safe Keeping. There was no necessity for this wild extravagance, for when I came to see you in Darlington I purchased \$1000 worth of clothing & \$700 worth of groceries for their use.

You in quoting from one of her letters say, "Advancement for separation is already in the hands of a Lawyer." Willie, as will all of my elder sons who side with me, informed me that he did his best to dissuade his Mother from taking such a step, but self willed & obstinate as all of her Generation, she persisted, & the reply she got from W. F. Hutson gave her but poor satisfaction, he informed her that he must see both parties before he could do any thing, & that she had better remember that she had young children who would suffer by such proceedings. She also applied to W. F. Hutson to turn over the Bethel Plantation to *her*, (what ignorance & malice combined) the

²²⁶ T. R. S. Elliott married Mary Cuthbert in 1839. They had thirteen children.

Plantation you know had been mortgaged to the Prescott fund ten years previous to my purchase & is still mortgaged & is all that I nominally own of Landed property & cannot be levied on for my debts, if an attempt is made by any of my Creditors to sell it, Hutson steps in buys it & returns it back to me, this he has promised to do. --So I am Safe.-- I feel weak & tired & must close, but will come & see you ere long & spend one or two days with you, it will be refreshing to my crushed & broken spirits.-- I tell you candidly my Dear Mother that my love for my Wife & Daughters has turned into bitter hate & they never shall, under any circumstances Speak to me again. I will show them yet that I am & still will remain Master in my own House. As for Separation I would like nothing better, if it pleases the Woman to whom I have been most unhappily tied to have a public one so be it, the disgrace will not be mine.--

I will see you ere long & have a talk with you. Give my love to Ann, Emily & Ralph & believe me your attached & affectionate Son

T. R. S. Elliott

EGP

Wednesday evening [23 October 1867]

Thank you for your letter dearest Mother-- & for the basket which the children were made happy by. I trust you received the letter I sent you. Other people send their letters with common stamps so I suppose Dr. Pinckney has relaxed his vigor-- if it were not for fear that you would be anxious, I should not write this evening, but all I can do in return for your constant love & remembrance is to write & assure you of our health, about all this war has left us. I trust to see Gonzie tomorrow-- he writes most sadly but not ~~despondently~~ hopelessly in spite of his great trials! I am too sorry for him & dare not look forward so forlorn are our prospects. Dear Mama you must not be depressed by our troubles. Tis a relief to me to write for I know your sympathy, but tis selfish of me too, to cast my troubles upon others. I dont know yet if the mill will continue working-- lumber has risen enormously so it will be our luck if we are obliged to stop. No one now seems to care about breaking their engagements. We have been put to great inconvenience & suffering by the failure of N. Heywards son to fulfil *his* engagement of paying for his lumber in corn-- his own arrangement too. We sent for the corn & he said he had not harvested it, & some days after sent an order for the money-- useless here, so yesterday I had to send Brosio out with a man to borrow a few bushels. Meanwhile a mule turned out to avoid starvation has disappeared & I fear has been stolen! Nice news for poor Gonzie when he returns! The miserable negroes refuse to sell their corn but tis wise of them. You said that you heard that Mrs Snowden could tell about the "Ladies Depository" Would Emmie mind writing 'in my name' to her? to inquire about it I would be very thankful to her as I am crazy to turn those pictures into money but perhaps t'is useless-- nothing we have will sell! Margaret has become so insolent that it will be necessary to part with her T'is well, perhaps, that she has turned out so, for her wages are too high for poor people & one servant is as much as we can afford to keep. Mrs Rs nurse has been putting notions into M. silly old head. I think, *she* Mrs R nurse was formerly with Alice Ravenel who said she got into such horrible tantrums she became unbearable-- "she spoilt her" she was capital at first. Good bye darling Mother-- forgive this selfish letter. Write me all about yourselves & write often to your ever aff

Hattie

The boys send their love & Tula thanks Emmie for the cake & taters. Kiss the sisters for me.

EGP

[Friday] 25th Oct [1867]

Dearest Mama

Your letters enclosing Mamie's & parcel reached me yesterday. I was very glad to hear again for your silence was increasing my already sufficiently numerous troubles. Gonzie is still in Charleston & has been most terribly troubled. I hope to see him tomorrow & to learn if he has been able to make any arrangement. I should be sorry if tis impossible to go on with the milling, for we have now a most excellent & experienced manager at the head of affairs & things go on v[ery] differently now from last summer. I [torn] to Talbot or to Seabrook rather to say, that [torn] must have repented him of the Yankees, he has been getting some lumber here & the mill is now sawing for him a new Order. I had hoped to have been with my dear Mama & sisters ere this but you see how impossible t'is for poor little housekeepers to form [torn]. The sensation of being [torn]ful is some small comfort however. Well I suppose I must now wait until you move to Oak Lawn. I must manage to see you some time if not this fall, this winter-- if Roseanne gets in a rampage & goes off-- I wont fret, but get another. I dont think R. would like to repeat his offer could he see her. I am not in the least attached to my two beauties-- for the first 3 or 4 months no broom could sweep cleaner than Margarets but latterly she has not cared to sweep at all; she has *just emerged* from a disgraceful *rampage* of *five* days which she got into without cause & has come out of, without reason. She torments her fellow servant & is never satisfied until she has made her cry or fight her. I know few people who would have put up with so much as I have -- but if there is not speedy improvement I will send them both sailing & get a "pr fine Germans"-- or Scotch. Now dont tell Mary Manigault that my girls give me trouble for she always said I would spoil my servants & I am afraid that I have let them have too much of their own way -- & considered their likings, when they should have considered mine -- but considering sandflies, fear of fever, absence [fro]m the Priest (what a mountain they will [ha]ve to confess) & want of company-- tis to my [cr]edit they have stayed as long dont you think so? but good bye to Ireland for this letter at least. The children are well. Ambrosio eyes have been out of order & I have been giving him pills by Dr. Kings receipt, & tonic, some of which I still have, with apparent benefit -- he rides a good deal & has been twice to the plantation to-day he is very good at mental arithmetic. Tell Annie he is of great assistance to me in this weakest of my weak points. Narto gazes at the stars "so to speak" & knocks his nose & toes against earthly objects. he wears out his pantaloons -- T'is about only the decided thing he does do -- poor fellow he was intended for prosperous days -- he is

[A page appears to be missing]

Ask E. to write me how things are made with gelatine receipt says "use like isin glass" but I dont know how that is used.

Hattie

EGP

Pine land Sunday night [27 October 1867]

My darling Mama

Your most acceptable letters & present were received yesterday. do thank the brother who killed & sent the venison most cordially-- it was extremely acceptable. I am so glad to hear that Tom is so much better & that he means to pay you a long visit.. it does *you* so much good to have him to pet. Your last letter is much more cheerful than the one previous to his arrival. My dear Mama you must not be so doleful. We shall meet before very long & meantime tis something to look forward to-- & there is a great deal in that. I fear that I h[ave] [ma]de you uneasy about Benigno but

he has [*torn*] much in the last two days & I have found out where I can purchase milk for him from a rich darkey who owns two fine cows & sells milk, as a favor, at 20 cts qt. Brosio has gone for it for the last two mornings & Mino has had it with his rice for breakfast.²²⁷ Brosio rides famously-- & is "cut out" tell Annie, for a successful merchant. Narto is quite well again. The [chil]dren do not study or even read now, but [...] occupations engross their time & thoughts. I taught them steadily through the hot trying summer & tis well for our healths & tempers to have some holiday. I *had*, thought of sending the boys to see you when their father went, but they were minus caps & proper shoes, & their warm clothes were not finished & there was literally no money to buy their passage. When the Gen. returns I expect to receive hats & shoes, for them & before the winter is over you will be blessed with a sight of the precious boys-- Oh dear, I wonder what you can find so charming about them. Yr particular pet Alfonso is a lazy little scamp & is never energetic but when he riding or driving a mule. Stubbs told his timber haulers to-day that A. could beat them all at driving. I have no doubt he is ~~the~~ equal ~~of~~ with some of them. Do tell the sisters that I found a parcel of their books some days ago will send them by first opportunity-- in the first basket of potatoes which came from A.R. [Adams Run] Brosio found a heavy key with a string attached to it. I have been most negligent not to mention & send it back, for it must have cost you serious inconvenience. The baskets & bundle did not come yesterday I suppose you kept them to come by Gonzie. I dont know how to thank you for your kindness to us all. I am sure you deserve the prize medal as a mother & gd mama but Mama I can not hold you to such an ext[*torn*] offer of rice, it must interfere sadly with [*torn*] to get it beaten & I am afraid you make Ralph bless me the wrong way *too* often-- rice is a great luxury with us we never have it but of rare occasions when the grist gives out. Tell Emmie she should not have minded my saucy little girls message, her flannel has been washed (beautifully) & is ready for her to put on I am afraid Emmie has been overworking herself. Tell her I want to see h[*torn*] rosy when I come & Annie too. How I wish I could see you all-- to-night-- however, never mind. Oh Momma are you not sorry for people who are setting up new babies now! it does seem dreadful poor Alice & Carrie M. as t'is her first must be congratulated I suppose so do beg [*torn*]mie to do so for me, give love to M. & family when you write & take & great deal from us all for your household including T. [Tom] & my great pleasure at hearing of his recovery. G. did not write yesterday & should he not arrive tomorrow I shall fear sickness or some fresh trouble for him. T'is late good night my dear Mama

Hattie

EGP

Adams Run, Monday [28 October 1867]

My darling Hattie We are in receipt of your two last letters. The 1st was brought by the Turpentine Man from the Depot on Saturday, but remained in his Pocket till the following Thursday he sent it with many apologies just after our last was despatched to you. Yr. 2nd letter came via Charleston. Your husband I trust reached you on Thursday. His long & delay & your disappointments & *loneliness* I have & do deplore. We have been unable to enjoy this beautiful October weather, our fond hopes of seeing you have been so frustrated. Your brother intended he said to visit me here if I remained till the 1st Novr. I have arranged for his comfortable reception & he too has failed me. I blame no one in these days for not adhering to their intentions. We are all so dependent on the ways & means for locomotion. Your Sisters visited O. L. on Thursday (their drive in the Cart gave the

²²⁷ The cow they previously owned appears to be gone.

Neuralgia, Headache) They were pleased with the renovation of the Loft & promise me an agreeable chamber, with a pretty view from each of the three large windows, of Chloes apartment & a fine commodious clean chamber for you. We hope to remove from here on the 8th & shall again be looking for your sweet presence. Emmie was charmed in finding a Japonica in full bloom, 4 of the largest she ever saw. She sent three of them to Dr. P. & Mr. Crovat. The 4th formed with a Devonensis & other roses a charming Bouquet wh. is still refreshing to us. I have seen Ralph but for an hour in fifteen days. You may imagine how glad I shall be to be nearer to him. His sisters could assist him in his multifareous cases. I have just realized that we have made no cotton, tho' R. has been telling Hoppock so all along. The fields make a show with this green seed cotton & after they pick it the fields are run through without gathering much. H. wanted some cotton to sell. R. sent him two bales, wh. he sold at 17 1/2 cts. only 110 for the two bales.

I suspect that when N. H. J. went to harvest the corn he promised you he found it wanting -- ours was so -- the Crows & the Beasts (the Nigger is one you know) had taken it all! We have any quantity of Peas. The [...] is to harvest it. Hattie, tis a consoling idea that every one, the most acute Merchant & Planter, has failed. We have worked hard & must submit to our doom. Emmie wrote as soon as she got yr. letter to Mrs. Snowden abt. the Pictures. She has written to Dr. Bachman to ask his opinion of that wonderful Pamphlet (The Negro) E. & A. thinks Father Ryan is the Author, it was sent to us for a few hours only, perhaps the Col. can tell you of it. I enclose you yr. sisters last wh. will inform you of the Pinckney family & of herself &&. She will have Light for many nights to come if Miss Hannah does not light those candles at both ends.

If we could have accomplished your sisters wishes & had farmed a little & bought a few cows, we cd. have supported ourselves. We can get corn for Sour Milk *but* the Yankee wd. only loan the means for Planting Cotton. We have mortgaged our lands & fed the Negroes who do not work!

We have two more *flannel* frocks for Tulita & for Nigno to make. When Nigno puts his on, he shd. have on the flannel to change to. Oh, yr. handsome Balmoral \$1 d 75 cts, & we each have one like it. We are anxious to make the Pants for the boys who must need them. This good cloth costs less than their last [...]. Embrace the boys for us, & kiss & hug Tulita & Nigno for their ever affecte.

Gd. Mother & their loving Aunts.

GFP

Charleston [Friday] November 1st 1867

Mrs. A. J. Gonzales

My darling wife:

I would have gone yesterday but I was obliged to take to bed night before last and only left it today. I have had awful pains in my back; a combination of a cold I have been suffering from for some time past and a great disorder of the liver. I called to-day on Dr. Ogier²²⁸ and he told me I must not go tomorrow as the journey would be to tiresome. He has prescribed tonics and two pills I am to take tonight. I write from Mr. Pennal's store²²⁹ to show you that I am able to move about, I only want a little more strength & get the liver in better condition.

I enclose list of several things that I send. The 5 gallon whiskey you can have transfered to

²²⁸ T. L. Ogier & Son, 80 Tradd Street, Charleston.

²²⁹ R. E. Pennal, Grocer, corner King and Calhoun Streets, Charleston.

smaller vessels & have it dealt out to mill hands. The five gallon keg of molasses likewise. The one gallon demijohn of whiskey & 1 gallon demijohn of syrup are for *home* use. The self raising flour is in a box for Rosanna. Anxiously hoping to see you darling, on tuesday & the little ones I am with constant love your devoted

Gonzie

Write to Mr. Stubbs and tell him what has kept me & is keeping me and that I have got the lard oil but too late for the Express.

EGP

Liverpool 1 Nov 1867

Dear Miss Elliott

Immediately on receipt of your last letter (not dated) I communicated with Mr Bentley thro' Mr Spence. What Mr B wrote in July must have been at hap-hazzard-- his Cousin had acknowledged receipt of the plates long before and his son who chiefly attends to the business now writes that he decided to publish the book without the plates because he thought the sale would be larger at the lower price at which the book could be offered without the plates. Should you wish the blocks returned to you please inform me and I will at once apply to Bentley for them.

The book has been published some time and I send you with this a review in the Athenaeum our leading literary paper and one usually merciless upon American books which you will read with pleasure.

Mr. Robt Gourdin who returns shortly will be the bearer to you of a copy of this English edition offered to you by Mr Spence whose little preface or rather introduction is I think in very good taste and feeling.

I only hope the material success of the adventure will be considerable but as to this nothing can now be said.

I am dear Miss Elliott

Yours very truly

C. K. Prioleau

My sisters desire their kind remembrances to you -- they are all well and bearing in great change of fortune as it behooves Southern people to bear what seems to be an unavoidable doom -- poverty.

EGP

Friday Nov 9th [1867]

Dearest Annie

My two last letters home were written in such worry & hurry that I feel ashamed of them. This I fear will be hardly better -- but you will I know be content to hear that we are well & the opportunity offered is too direct for me not to avail myself of it, to tell you this. how fortunate I should esteem myself -- in the comparative health of my little ones. I have had a great many fevers to contend with but believe that I have conquered them all. Brosio is very much troubled with his old enemies. I wish I knew of some simpler remedy than the calomel & aloes prescribed by Dr. King. I begin giving him pills to-night which I trust may relieve the nervous affection he now suffers from. I never expressed the sympathy I felt for poor Tom in the loss of his little Apsley. I was grieved to hear of it & am truly sorry for his parents & Annie too, for she was very fond of him. What a year this has been. I suspect that yours is the only family that can boast of a summer without sickness. Mrs.

A. Rhett has succumbed to the climate at last, & a few days ago had fever. She sends to me to weigh quinine for her baby & for "blue pills" -- poor soul, she seems desolate enough. her husband & his brother hunt incessantly -- but all this season have killed but two deer -- although the woods are full of them. Gonzie has been with them several times but thinks he will go no more for they let their dogs run foxes all the time & what he wants is meat for the family.

Charleston is very unhealthy, fevers, congestive, & membranous croup. G. was at the funeral of a lovely child who died of the last disease -- *he* is obliged to go again to-morrow to collect bills of lumber or money rather for lumber bought at the mill. Tis hard work to get this money for the factors are rarely in funds for their patrons & it take a deal of coaxing and teasing to induce them to pay up -- by the way I think there is going to be a smash up financial, I mean things are selling wonderfully cheap & it must be because storekeepers "smell a mice" -- I enclose a sample of cloth which cost at "Betts" 37 cts & very nice men's merino shirts are selling at 1.00. I send the pattern of pants which Brosio says fit him best. The waist band should be a little deeper I think, Alfonso says the pants you sent him fit exactly "only a wee wee scrap too long" & Narto's must be "betwixt & between" his brothers, -- how fortunate I am to have you all to help me. The chicks are sadly in want of pants & I must make M. make the 37 stuff up at once before the next cold spell so dont hurry too much about the grey for I am afraid it is too nice to wear every day. I have not told you that I am to lose my pretty cook next month -- she has given a months notice. When I see you I will amuse you with my experiences of Irish servants. Their tantrums are so sudden & violent that were I not sure that they did not get liquor I would be inclined to think that they were suffering from whiskey. M. has recovered her temper but I dont think we shall keep her. We must come to niggers after all. They are cheaper I suppose & wont steal more than what from consideration we allow white servants. I am very sorry to hear that I shall see [...] so small a wrinkle in your dear face. These times by womens souls as well as men's dont they. I have three ridges in my forehead & my hands are as hard as bricks &

[*Some pages missing*]

Much love to all your affate. Hattie

Saturday Morn. I send the basket with some of your cans &c The rest must wait for another time.

EGP

Monday 11th [November 1867]

Dearest Mama

The green top basket was all prepared for its journey on Saturday & was actually on its way to the station when the mule which had been drawing the buggy refused to go one step further in the direction of the station, every thing was done to induce him to change his determination but in vain & Gonzie was obliged to give up his trip until tomorrow--much to his disappointment. I had written to Annie, which letter is also the direction to the basket -- The Genl expects now to return on saturday when I hope to hear from you. if you have moved to Oak Lawn I suspect you are regretting the change from your open house to closer quarters. The weather is so warm -- & the sand flies are so annoying, but I believe these are seldom troublesome at Oak Lawn. The place must be looking sweetly now for the frost has not been sufficient to kill the cryson therminus which I remember used to be so gay at this season. Have you determined to have Grace as washer &c, it would be a good move if she would go without husband & children. What is your objection, to John or Sarah, she is not remarkably honest, I know but she was not imprudent & was certainly industrious & cleanly, & without husband & children. Is Mamies new *servant* (I call things by their proper name) white or

black? "Help" is a northern word -- which has, helped, to bring about the present state of affairs-- I am more aristocratic now, than I ever was & the poorer I am, the more proud I am of my good blood -- perhaps in *heaven* two classes might live together on the same footing, *religious* making ladies & gentlemen of all, but on earth certainly not-- Benigno has been quite sick teething for several days past, he did not have fever last night & is somewhat better to-day -- his stomach teeth²³⁰ are the trouble just now. Brosio is better & walked to the plantation this morning to take his pants to be made, by the woman who lives there -- I took a pleasant drive with him some days ago of over six miles & he did not give me one jolt -- a most practical & useful boy -- disliking nothing, but his *book* at which he is also, quite bright -- he would write to Edith but has not the time.

You offered sometime since to "dun John" for the change Gonzie lent him I would thank you much if you would do so. G. lent him \$.00 to buy "seed rice" & as John must have harvested his crop long ago, T'is only fair that he should be willing to return it. The Rhetts have not moved yet -- I be-- she induces him to remain on account of her nurse who dislikes to move so soon from the neighborhood of M & R as she sleeps with their baby, bottles it & takes entire charge of it. The selfish couple are found to consider her a great deal -- but I firmly believe that my servants would have given me no trouble but for her proximity & am provoked accordingly. There will be families in this neighborhood but I dont care for neighbors, living in such a cabin as I do -- so low to the ground & so impossible to keep clean. The poultry, pig & even the pony "roam at their rise" & come into the shanty when ever they *plaise*" [*sic*] I dont object to clean poverty but I do rebel against *dirt* & dirty we must be as long as we are in such a low building. by the way should you not *hire out sell or plant the Bluff yourself* . Do you or will you rather give us the right to keep off squatters vagabonds &c. Mr. Warren desired G. to keep people clear of his place & he has succeeded to his advantage & ours-- so let me know when next you write if we can keep people from settling there who have no business to do so -- Good bye dearest mother much love to all from yr always affate. Hattie

Alfonso asks Uncle R. if his legs have grown any longer & begs him to give Pat 5 qts. corn at each meal. He wishes to know if "Old Sam Baron still says "Gee" Yea" Mr Hops" to his mule. Brosio begs you to tell Nan Nan that he longs to sleep with her again.

Narto sends his love to all, he is a little distressed at the non arrival of the Oct number of his magazine, the Nov. has come.

Brosio says Nan Nan must make his pants without delay "as he intends going to Walterboro to be married" as soon as he receives them. Alfonso says tell you he loves you *very much* & wants to see you *very much*, spontaneous.

EGP

Oak Lawn Nov 11th [1867]

Here we are My Darling Hattie at home again & glad to be so. We moved on Saturday & Tom came by the train from Pocotaligo -- looking very ill & having been ill for weeks. I think we would have passed him in the street without recognizing him -- but he looks better & has some appetite so that we hope that the change will do him good. Your letter to Mama she received just before we left Adams Run -- it made her very sad. We were sorry to hear that the Col. had been sick & that he had only had worry without success in the City. Money is scarcer than ever -- & we hear of nothing but failures & losses. We are up to our ears in debt for the crop -- won't think of paying

²³⁰ Benigno was also cutting his stomach teeth on 19 May 1867.

& even had we made a crop the prices forbid profit -- \$9.00 tax on every bag of cotton -- think of it? Of course my Darling we can not give up your visit to us -- we can't trust to receive one from Cuba dear -- we'd rather have it in advance. You dont know how much Mama lones after you & your little ones -- if you mean that you have not the where withal to pay in the cars We will contrive to get it to you & if you can not come immediately can't you send us advance couriers a couple or so of boys. They must want their clothes & I want to make them for them badly. We have contrived a pair of pants, but they had to be cut according to the cloth & I suspect will only fit Alfonso who will think himself the lucky boy. Your body is finished -- I suspect it will come near fitting you & will be comfortable. Tom will probably return next Saturday if he is sufficient recovered. We won't let him go unless he is decidedly better. If we do not hear that you are soon to be with us we will send the above to you by Tom to leave at Green Pond -- in passant. I enclose you something to make you laugh as it made us all laugh yesterday. We suspect t'was written by Bill Arp -- We are tolerably comfortable & expect to be more so when our [...] & kitchen are finished. We can make you comfortable & I hope we shall be blessed with your presence before very very long. Did you ever find your missing mule. I do hope so -- & that things are looking a little brighter for you and yours. Kiss the children & hug them for me. Nigno must want another frock & Tulita too -- Good night. Annie & Mama join me in love to our darling

Your attached Emmie

EGP

[mid-November 1867]

[*First page is missing*]

Yet I have had an easier time than too many others-- but managing a household of obstreperous boys & irish maids has been more trying than very hard work. I dont suppose we shall be entirely without servants when these depart-- The wife of the carpenter will come & wash by the day & *her sister a colored gal*, will cook & do what I wont-- only her brother in law, says "she will work well for a while" but then she likes to "ramble" Queer people these, from Whippy Swamp; by the way, the black root has almost cured the poor woman she thinks she would have died in a week, if she had not got it-- pray excuse this "*rambling*" letter dear Annie I am writing in great confusion. The boys desire love & kisses to Grandma & Aunts. Alfonso is much delighted at being called "Mass Ralph" by one of the mill hands "Cuffee" who was here when R. was last year. I suppose you are all together now, at Oak Lawn. I like best to think of you there-- Have you a new Kitchen & on which side is R's room? How is your garden coming on-- & the pigs & poultry? Has Rosa prospects? Our Sally will not be as unfortunate I hope as Cotesworth Sally. Ask Emmie to send me a lot of nice receipts I am going to take to the kitchen, nice place in cool weather. I did not tell you that Alfonso's squash come to nothing, the blossoms & vines were splendid-- but from some cause unknown they perished. I have not yet a chimney Carpenter been sick all the time with fever & now has "a bad foot." What does Chance work for per month? & will you finish with him this winter, I must be more comfortable if I am to remain in these diggins. Carpenters from this neighborhood niggers, are full of airs & ask 45 per month.

[Hattie]

EGP

Social Hall Nov. 18th [1867]

Dearest Mama

I received on Saturday Emmies letter Annies & yours -- & the accompanying baskets of good things. The potatoes and rice were extremely acceptable & so were the pecans, for the negroes have robbed us of nearly all of those at Social Hall. I was grieved to hear how ill poor Tom had been. Gonzie describes him as sadly changed -- but people told him that he was looking wonderfully better than a short time before they thought he could not recover so ill he appeared. I can not understand how Tom's family could be unkind to him. He certainly has been a most devoted father. We are well & working hard taking advantage of the beautiful weather in getting a supply of wood for the winter. Trading for corn, peas &c. The darkeys are all going to vote tomorrow & have taken their departure for Walterboro, Jacksonboro. They came to sell their produce in order to get money for their journey which they seem to think will be expensive -- perhaps the Yanks make them pay for the privilege of voting who knows? The mill hands all went off yesterday. Nothing in the world could induce them to miss the election, they said, so the mill lies idle until Wednesday when the sable patriots expect to return. G. goes to the station tomorrow to post letters, complete a trade with Dr. Pinckney of a gun Dr. P. wants to buy & G is only too glad to sell -- & to bring back. Mrs Stubbs wife of the mill agent -- who comes up on a visit to her husband now expects to be here permanently after a while.

We are trying our best to make the mill pay but it has done little more so far -- I have to ration the hands. T's is awfully expensive, all the time requiring something which costs money & does not return any. The present manager is very capable, hardworking & is altogether a businessman so I trust something may be done to make the speculation not altogether so forlorn a failure as it now appears to be. Mary Manigault seems to have a special spite against the Generals hopefulness. T's is the last thing to grudge a man I think, but perhaps he has not been so hopeful for some time past as she imagines -- few men like to turn themselves inside out, for the inspection of even their most intimate female acquaintances -- & Mary often asks questions that I would not dream of asking a brother, interested as I might be in his welfare. by the way tell her if she contemplates keeping store -- bacon, molasses & whiskey is what the freed people care for. They have passed the stage for fancy hats & Jewelry at least in these regions. T's is very amusing to see Gonzie trading with them, several times he was about to cheat himself badly when Brosio & self came to the rescue -- he is an excellent shopper however & has made some wonderful bargains lately -- by the way Mama t's is shody of old John to *deny* his debt -- if he can not pay it -- the Genl is *positive* that he handed him *one* bill, & that was *five* dollars. John must have spent 2.00 immediately on whiskey or he would certainly remember the fact.

I am so glad to hear of your lively surroundings plantation life in the fall & winter is truly delightful. Our pine woods however are neither cold nor dark & crowds of black birds which are constantly passing & setting on the trees near by, make it lively enough. Did you ever eat a black bird? The flavor is almost identical with the rice bird & they afford a much larger mouthful. I am glad you think of raising stock at the Bluff. G. met on the cars on his last trip a respectable farmer from N.C. who was on the lookout for lands to raise stock on, he wanted to hire or buy, was going to look at Gregories Neck. G. recommended these places & gave him your address in case he wished to make application for them-- Have you heard from Mantoue? he saw Gonzie lately & told him that finding that his Gov. did not mean to act until the english gov. claims had been liquidated interminable business -- & G. having told him sometime since of some gentleman who had got their claims through means of lawyers at Washington he determined to pursue the same course -- & how hopes to receive the money next month. The cotton was valued at over \$10,000 the lawyer claims 2 per ct. The Secretary of the Treasury 2 1/2. Other demands he will have to satisfy as you may well imagine &

when he divides it with you (as he spoke of doing) your share will be about 35,00 G. supposes -- much better than nothing. I suppose you will think Mantoue entreats secresy [*sic*] upon the subject upon his account I suppose!

I must not forget to tell you how delightful we found the veal, it was a *great treat*. Emmies candy gave us nice desert for three days & Narto insists that the pants just fit him & has appropriated them with great joy. Mino's frock is sweetly pretty & I hope you will not consider my expressions in the style of Alice Ravenel. They are genuine at any rate. I have not tried on my body but it does look most comfortable. I can not tell how Emmie finds time to do so much work, do thank her for her affte. letter & Annie too. I was so sorry to hear of the death of Belle Elliott, Willie's wife of fever. Charlie Pinckney told Gonzie of it so I suppose it must be true -- her poor Mother & little baby -- how sorry I am for them! Benigno is better but not well he eats only rice & ham, the last he cries for, & I remembering that Grandma thought it good for teething children, let him have it, he walks very little now but we draw him about in a little cart which Louis made for him & with which he is delighted. Tula is well & rosy. The boys "all the same."

T'is late dear Mama & I am sleepy. I have been weighing physic for poor old Margaret who is quite unwell & writing an answer to an invitation from Rosanah sister in Cork to her to go & spend the rest of her days with her -- she is "so comfortable" has six feather beds & the servants in Cork are just like ladies. Rosanah has consented to return to her native land; independence is sweet, but *six* feather beds have carried the day! Give much love to Mary & family when you write & give *Gonzies & mine* to Elliott. I am so pleased to hear such good accounts of him. I am getting uneasy about Carrie Pinckney. Could she have been mistaken after all -- she was too old to *begin* such frivolities. Write me long letters & don't suppose because I write of myself that I don't like to hear of other people. Tom gave G. for me a lovely [...]opomas & violets which came from O.L. my bunch of flowers were much appreciated. I did not dream of Grace for myself. What made you suppose I meant *me* when I said *you* oh Mammie your little girl aint self seeking. You never told me what you gave "Chance" a 45 man we could not afford. Much love to all from your affate. Hattie

I am getting some *whole* clothes made for the boys of the material I sent you a sample of. Paddie jackets are better than none at all. I have not given up my intentions of visiting you but I must bide my time.

EGP

Social Hall [Tuesday] November 26th [1867]

Dearest Emmie

I sent Mama four pages foolscap the last week. I hope she received it. I now write to say we are all well, Benigno has been quite sick & had fever for several days he is now very much better, has a good appetite & is gaining strength -- but those troublesome teeth have not yet made their appearance & I fear will cause me future anxiety. How glad I am that he was prudent enough to keep from teething until cold weather; it would have been too much to have had this additional trouble in the dog days. Tonight is so warm it reminds me of summer & the mosquitoes are very lively. Great place this, for insects of every description, & they "never say die" fleas "skeeters" sand flies, house flies, cockroaches, crickets, grasshoppers & moths of every kind -- a splendid situation this for a Naturalist. Narto ought to be delighted, but isn't. I don't teach the boys now t'is impossible, too much to do & too little time to do it in. Our servants do very little: Margaret only minds Benigno, & Rosanah confines herself to her very little cooking & washing. T'is a big family (ten) to look after & I am sorry now that I did not get country servants to begin with city people are above country

duties, & I wait more upon my cook than she does upon me. I have not told you about our carpenter. Well, we were "uncommon kind" to that man I took *his* word for it that he had been a "good soldier" & when he came here to work, or make believe to, would send him his meals, in addition to his rations, coffee, whiskey, &c. I took his wife in hand & "helped her uncommon" & would send Brosio to the farm with physic lemonade & soup for his sick children & the wretched man has not built our chimney yet he is perfectly well. Thanks to medicine Gonzie brought him & has been living finely drawing freely of flour, tobacco, whiskey, owes us ever so much! but wont finish the miserable clay affaire he has been about for weeks & quietly goes away & leaves as in the most open condition. Tomorrow, I expect a man from the mill to finish that much longed for chimney & when Fields finds we dont need him he will be glad enough to come -- our poor whites are just as mean as niggers! The mill hands have returned after an absence of one week. The delight of voting for the first time seem s to have intoxicated their wooly heads. I trust they will be in their right places this time next year. Xmas is just one month off & think what I have hanging over me, a visit from Mr. Lafitte & his little nephew, who are desperately fond of the country hunting &c. Long time ago when we had better prospects G. invited them & they hold on to the offer & wont be discouraged by log cabin or any of the horrors of our present condition. He is a perfect gentleman & has been most kind & considerate of us, so I ought not to feel badly about it -- only cant help it being such an old young housekeeper. Ma has got to lend me 3 or 4 spoons & forks because I only kept half dozen of mine-- & it certainly would be not true hospitality to oblige a guest to take to his fingers. Mr. L. has been ruined through endorsing for the Trenholms whom he believed to be good pay. Now all he has is at the mercy of their creditors even the house he lives in is not secure from them. He would have assisted us through all our very big troubles, he says, if it were not for this, so you see we suffered from T. failure & considerably too. I hope to hear from you to-morrow & with as good accounts as hithero. T'is very late & I must say good night with very great love to all

Yr affate. sister

When you get tired of my long scrawls you must say so, for I wont find out without telling. Thank you, the frock fits nicely only tis so very short waisted if t'is the fashion I must submit I suppose but if it is not, you must write & say so & Margaret can easily alter it by letting down the belt -- perhaps I have become like the long backed crackers from too much pine land.

EGP

Social Hall Friday night [29 November 1867]

Dearest Annie

I read last night Mama's letter enclosing Mr. Prioleau & I am very happy to hear that Carolina Sports has been well received & spoken of & do hope it will be as successful as it deserves to be. Mama mentioned Ralph's indisposition I do trust that he is again all right. Neuralgia I am too well acquainted with & was ill for a short time last summer with an attack which I shall not soon forget. Poor Narto has been quite sick with fever he is much better to-night & enjoying our first fire in the new chimney which was completed after dark this evening & which is already a great addition to our comfort. Benigno improves daily he is very delicate looking still & diets on Grandmama's rice- - wheat bread. Tell Mama I would not trust him on the cars with Margaret alone. Experience (which might have proved *very dear*) has taught me not to trust to the most competent of nurses. I dont see any possibility of leaving this before Christmass-- old cook going cracker cook coming. Mr. L's visit in prospect-- garden to be made-- innumerable things to look after & not a cent to travel on. Dont misunderstand me if I had the means now I should apply them to some debts which annoy me so you

see it would not be safe to trust me with the means of travelling just yet -- perhaps Mr Mantoue may afford the means after a while by the way Mama wants to have my opinion as to how the windfall should be divided [*sic*] of course I know nothing about "The Law" nor do I think that we should have reference to law in such a decided God send as this would seem to be. I think therefore it should be shared equally between us five females -- Gonzie says he thinks that ~~you are~~ Mama certainly entitled to a share & Tom & R. also -- but the former has too big a family & I think R. has none, but I will agree to anything & thank God if I get anything at all. I find I have been scribbling as if to Mama but I am writing as I often am in great confusion. Good night now, much love to all from yr ever aft Sister

I reinclose Prioleaus nice letter return yr baskets books &c. The Oct. No. of Narto's magazine is the missing one he received the Sep & Nov Numbers.

Do you ever hear of Cornelia?

Tula says tell Emmie "she has not a single dress to put on" in accordance with this request I send poor Emmie the yellow apron which may help her as a guide. The apron is a little too long in the waist, a little too short in the yoke & not quite wide enough behind where it buttons.

Saturday. Narto all right to-day excuse this horrid scrawl I am ashamed to send it but cant help it.

Hattie

EGP

Friday evening Dec. 6th [1867]

My dear Mama

I write a line to send tomorrow by the conveyance which goes for the Genl. in my last to Annie written very hastily, I forgot to say that we shall be glad to engage Chance at the rate you mention \$30 per month & mill hands rations. Should we be enabled to plant Social Hall, there will be sufficient work to occupy him all winter. The only carpenter now in our employ is building a nice boat to bring corn &c from the neighboring islands he expects to complete it to-morrow & to begin ~~our~~ the addition to our cabin next week. I have lived for so long a time in one room (nine months) that I shall hardly know how to dispose of myself in two -- before I forget it I must mention that George Sanders, your former slave, was here yesterday & requested me to say to Mass Ralph that he had engaged eight hands to work at the Bluff this year. He wished to know if you would like to see him upon the subject & if you would like him to remove to the place at once -- people he said were going there & taking off the boards from the houses cutting banks &c -- he requests an answer. What lovely weather this is, so admirable for gardening. T'is very tantalizing to me -- for I have any quantity of energy & to have no one to work is a trial Boys are "no good" as the irish say. They are unsteady & I cant work myself without getting so fatigued as to make me useless for some time after. With my usual forgetfulness I did not supply myself with envelopes from Gonzie store before he left & so you must excuse the shabby out side of this. Should Mr. Lafitte come I should like to borrow, if you are willing to lend, besides the spoons & forks a ladle, carving knife & fork & common Col. Lable cover. I dont know if you have such articles to spare even for a few days & if it inconveniences you pray do not scruple to say so. You may be sure U should not be vexed a bit -- They must come by Gonzie or Express I paying the damage of course & *here* they would be watched closely. Benigno is so thin & pale you would be grieved to see how he has fallen away, poor little fellow, if I could have foreseen how Sally was going to postpone matters, I should not have weaned him. We have not had a drop of milk for nearly a fortnight & have been out of sugar, & butter too, from the failure of

the express -- so poor Baby has seen hard times -- he wont touch arrow root & cries dolefully after corn bread. We give him coffee & gin & water, very weak. The teeth are nearly out so I trust he may soon be better. I should have called upon my neighbors for if they had been other but than Rhetts -- but I do so despise them that I hate to borrow although I dont dislike to lend to them. Mrs Heyward was riding about hunting for this place last week. I am happy to say she did not find it. Ask Annie to excuse Brosios note its spelling &c he hates writing as much as she does. Let me hear of Mary Tom & everyone when you write & with much love to all I am darling Mama yr affate. Hattie

[Envelope addressed to:]

Mrs Anne H. Elliott
Oak Lawn
Adams Run Station
S & C. R.R.

EGP

Pine Land [Monday] Dec. 16th [1867]

Mrs. A. H. Elliott

Dearest Mama

I should have written to acknowledge the reception of your acceptable letter & Christmas presents, long ere this, but was prevented by several occurrences which I shall mention by & bye. The good nice & pretty things have all been admired & appreciated. Tell Emmie I am extremely obliged to her for the trouble she took with Tulitas dresses. They are beautiful & most economically made for they are large enough to fit her next year -- (I am brave to look forward am I not.) The silver I have not yet taken out of its casings, but am sure t'is all right it was very kind of you to send it. The table cover will answer very well indeed. When I tell you that our grocer has been "getting married" & neglected to send the bacon & other supplies expected you will understand how acceptable the pork & potatoes were. What terribly cold weather this is I trust you have not suffered from its effects for I trust your house is snug & John was always remarkable for his good fires. Where is your kitchen located, & which is your room? Will Tom spend Christmas with you? I hope so on your account as well as his own. The carpenter comes tomorrow to put the addition to this cabin, he expects to be occupied with the noble structure for a week at least -- it would have been up before but for the occurrences already alluded to. Gonzie got home on Monday night quite late (His letter ~~announcing~~ telling of his delay in Charleston did not reach me until days after his arrival here) although he was not paid the paltry sums due him by a "big planter" he was cheerful for he had the prospects of forming a lucrative contract North -- Money to be paid as cargoes left the mill. The next morning early Mr. S. & the mill hands appear & announce the giving out of the boilers (which have been for some long time in very bad order state) Well to make a long story short they all went, anticipating their Xmas by a few weeks & we were left "all in the downs." Mr S. remained several days longer went to Hutchinsons & other islands to look at boilers for sale there. He hopes to return as soon as the purchase can be made & will not reengage himself for some time. He is an admirable manager & sawyer & has put everything around the mill in the best order possible -- Well, we are fortunate are we not, to have to stop work now in the healthy season & when things were looking not so dismal as they had been -- but I have not got to the end of our disasters. We have lost a fine mule & the Genl buggy all broken & left at Green Pond so that he has no means of getting down to the station. Louis is the cause of the last disaster. We have suffered too much from not having one

negro who felt intrusted sufficiently to care what became of them us in this respect we are worse off than every body else for all who live on a plantation have some of the former domestics about them but we are left to the tender mercies of the turned off scamps in the neighborhood -- & not one grain of anything have we got for the bacon sugar corn & whiskey demolished last summer by these [...]. The Genl had to bring his corn from the City last week. The negroes wont sell even at \$1.50. Whiskey

The Genl had to bring his corn from the City last week. The negroes wont sell even at \$1.50. Whiskey is the only thing that will open their corn bins -- excuse me dear Mama for all this grumbling. I will turn to a more pleasant topic, the Children! Benigno is quite bright again, & is getting fat & rosy. Tulita also. The boys thin & pale but with enormous appetites. Narto & Alfonso are growing very fast. The former has improved in strength -- since coming into the wild woods. I have delivered your messages to George Sanders. Mantoue desired the Genl to say that he had received your letters -- but had nothing definite to communicate. G. told him that he should answer your letter as he did not expect to see you. M. told G. that he was daily expecting his lawyer to take affidavits &c.

The Gen. stayed with Mr. Crovatt by special invitation on his last trip down & was most hospitably entertained. They gave him a party, at which were present very respectable people. Among the guests was Julia Drayton,²²⁹ the parson's daughter, Mr. C. lives in comfort & style. All the arrangements about his house in the best taste. Emmies flowers in a conspicuous place. I wrote some time ago to ask Emmie the method of useing gelatine suppose I want to make chocolate or coffee cream is the gelatine to be boiled with the milk? can you spare me a cookery book for a few days if so please send it by Gonzie. I dont think I can attempt anything sweet for neither Louis nor Ireland know anything about cakes & puddings. I counted the silver since writing the above 16 pieces. The spoons & forks recalled the good old times & made me melancholy. Ask Emmie please to send me her receipt for the nice breads formerly made at Oak Lawn. The one of whole rice & the other of the flour only & pray excuse this fumbling letter-- & pity the sorrows of a housekeepers for the first time. Give much love to all & believe me to be always your grateful

Affectionate daughter

Please tear up at once this disgraceful letter if I had the time I would rewrite it but t'is impossible. Write & send book by G. on Monday.

On the 1st Janry stores in King Street are to be shut up. Large numbers of clerks are being dismissed. Charleston is in a bad way.

²²⁹ Julia Drayton, born 30 October 1848. Married William Smith Hastie on 22 November 1870.