

Charleston Jan 23d [1870]

I have received your's of the 18th dear Emily & feel most sincerely for & with you in all your troubles. Col Gonzales is still with us, & I make it a point to speak to him constantly of our dear Hattie, & have told him what a comfort it would be to *all* her friends, as well as to her family, to have her at Magnolia where we all in the course of time hope to be laid. I offered the services of my boys, to attend to all arrangements here for him, but he declines, saying that he will bring the body on himself as soon as he can. I spoke to him in such a way that he must feel that he will disappoint us all, if he fails to do as he says he will -- do not exasperate him my dear, by telling him all you think -- he likes flattery, & I think you can manage him better in this way, than by appealing to his good feelings generosity &c. & I cannot but hope that in the end he will do right. Those dear little children must be a great comfort to you all & I only wish their father had good sense enough to give them up entirely to their mother's family-- he tells me he has a place for Brosie at Mr. Porter's School & I have requested him to let the little fellow spend all his hollidays with us-- he can always be with us on Saturdays & Sundays & whenever else he can.

I am almost ashamed to tell you about your preserves. I sent them to the depository to be packed & sent North, but the marmalade was very dark, four jars were sent, & four jars of the yellow oranges remain unsold as soon as the money comes, I will forward it. Mrs. Raoul has not yet sent for the candle sticks. I think you would get more by raffling them in Sav. I forgot to tell you that I feared the [...] meat speculation was at an end. The Yankees want them at cost, & all our friends refuse that pleasure. Mamie Johnstone came to see me the day before she left for Baltimore & looked wonderfully improved in health. She concluded to sail for Baltimore very suddenly from a letter received from her mother, telling her of the offer of a place as governess, to a little girl. The offer seems to be an advantageous one, & I trust she will not find the duties arduous, at any rate she is full of hope.

I am expecting Mary down by the 8th or 10th of Feb. at wh. time we will be full & not have a bed to spare, as Arthur M. & Willie will have to have [...] their usual accommodation but after all this fuss & confusion subsides & hope you will run down & pay us a little visit. it is so long since we have seen any of you. it will do us all good to have a long chat with you.

My mother is still very feeble. I do not think she has improved as much as I had hoped she would do from change of climate but I hope our pleasant Spring weather will help her.

I know of no news of interest to tell you excepting what you see in the papers. I met Judge Hackett, Recorder of the City of New York yesterday & a friend of his tells me that the Judge says the Rev. Beecher *will certainly* to to [*sic*] the Penitentiary for the part he played in the Macfarlan & Richardson affair, where I trust he will soon be joined by Beast Butler who I fear is to be tried for *theft* from a citizen of New Orleans. "Vengeance is mine saith The Lord" & it is a privilege to live to say some payment.

With much love to your Mother & Sister I am as always your friend

C H

Mrs H sends kind remembrances. Excuse this scrawl, if I had to write a formal letter I never would take up a pen.

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EGP

[February 1870]

[*First few pages missing*]

thing serious, for Mamma is worried already about them sufficiently. Emma, thanks to her Cod Liver, has grown quite plump, and has been exempt from her Asthma for sometime, and the benefit Elliott

has derived from it is also quite apparent; I think he looks better than I have seen him for a great many months. Miss Hannah is well and rather likes the excitement of her position, I fancy. Cousin Judith is just as fat and good as when I left, and, all my other friends are as usual. Now let me ask a few questions about all of you dear Oak Lawn folks, and if you do not find it too troublesome, try and answer them for me. First and foremost, has poor Brosie gone yet to Charleston? When I left the conscientious, ambitious “parient” [*sic*] had not secured a place for him. I understood though, he had then been in the city a week-- and, I do not feel at all sure that the object of his visit was ever ~~gained~~ accomplished. The reason I ask particularly now is because I promised Cousin Sallie Pinckney to let her know. She seemed somehow to know exactly the extrinsic value of that most worthy “trainer of morals”; and begged me, in case he omitted or failed to get Brosie a place, to get your permission, ~~to allow~~ for Cousin Cotesworth to do so instead. He knows Mr. Porter very well, and thinks, he could induce him easily to be liberal in his terms and interested in our boy; and I believe he really is sincere in his offer and would like to do it. Cousin Sallie also asked me if you would not allow her to help you keep Brosie at school. She has had a present lately and says it would give her the greatest pleasure to be able to do any thing for you, and if you will not let her help you in this way she begged me to suggest something she might send you to add to the comfort of yourselves, and those dear little children. She offered in such a delicate, sincere manner that I promised I would find out if she could do anything for you, and, I am *sure* it would give her real pleasure, for she is unaffectedly fond of Grandmama and yourselves. I do hope though that Perriwinkle has, by way of variety, done his duty this once and that your next will tell me that all is satisfactorily arranged. ~~and~~ I tried my best to impress upon him that it was expected of him to put Brosie immediately to school and, that people were wondering at his delay -- but I doubt if he paid any attention. I suppose he told you that he had seen me on the street. I really wished he had had a little more vanity just then, or that I had had less, for I quite hesitated about addressing him before the Pinckneys, he looked so rowdy attired in his usual hunting costume great coat, slouched hat & that hideous old scarf wound around his delicate throat. I think O must be growing very uncharitable & unforgiving -- but I do dislike that man more than I can express, and I am afraid more than I ought too. Mrs Huger surpasses me however in her aversion. It would have done you good to hear her “blaze out,” without any encouragement of mine, & abuse him -- and it appears to me that very few people in Charleston are carried away with his greatness and virtue. I suppose he has returned to Oak Lawn by this time, though he seemed pretty stationary when I left.

Is Baby as fond of his sweet melodies as ever? I fancy when her teeth begin to trouble her that the “boomp -- boomp boomp” will not be quite as highly appreciated. She must be a big girl now, and I am afraid poor Grandmama’s arms ache sometimes. You have never told me Nemmie how your cough is -- does it still trouble you?

*[The rest of this letter from Mary Barnwell Elliott to Emily Elliott is missing]*

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**EGP**

Monticello February 10th 1870

My dear papa

I received your letter last night & was very glad to hear that you & the family are all well. I would have written long ago had I known where to direct the letter. We are all well & have grown a great deal since we have been here & Alfonso is nearly twice as stout as when he came here. He knows how to read well now & he has a copy book now & he writes in it every day. We have been five or six times to Matanzas. On Christmas night it was so warm that I could scarcely keep a sheet

on me. Miss Sophie does not stay with Mrs Dalcour now but she stays at her mothers house & comes here about once a week & stays two or three days with us. They are grinding at Mrs Dalcours Mamas estate & Mr Dalcour has gone there to day & we are going there in two or three days to see them grind. We have been several times & one day Mr Dalcour went to the bay with a party of gentlemen to fish for sharks but they did not catch any. A slut of Mr Dalcours had nine fine puppies but he had to have five of them drowned because their mother was very thin & could hardly walk she was so weak the other four can walk now & last night the folowed thier [*sic*] mother out into the yard. Mrs Dalcours turkeys when they have young they sleep on the ground out in the yard & every night a wild dog comes into the yard a steals all of the young turkeys & Mr Dalcour never can kill him. Give my love to all of the family and kiss Tulita & Benigno & Anita for me & beleive me your affectionate son

Narciso

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EGP

64 Mt Vernon Place

Febry 16th [1870]

Before getting to my sewing dearest Mama I must thank You for Your last received Yesterday. I am thankful that You all remain pretty well but regret very much the delay of Your help. I trust Annie's stiffness has been dissipated, and that You are all able to enjoy this bright day in the open air. Life with You, as with myself is only an existence now, and My darling Mother what can we do but make the best of every thing. Keeping our thoughts steadfastly upon that future which will *not* change, and that *rest* where *ourselves*, *our* actions, and *our* forbearance will be judged-- I *know* Your trials, and those of My Sisters, but they might be *worse* and I fear will be if You do not keep on terms with Your undoubtedly selfish guest. At least he has done nothing dishonorable, and if his temper is rough and soured he was dear Hattie's husband and as the father of Your little darlings he has the authority to remove them from Your care, and may do so if You do not appease his vanity-- dont think me meddlesome,-- and dont refrain from writing me of Your troubles, because I venture advice but I know, how dislike and rancour grows if encouraged, and for that reason among others, I was anxious for You all to change the Scene and be able to forget some of Your troubles-- Of course You wont think of Toogoodoo. I should think, Adams Run preferable to that -- or is there a neighborhood at Toogoodoo?

I am getting on as usual, some times grateful that I am having my children fed and educated, sometimes rebelling at My position of dependance upon others-- often grateful for present shelter from want, sometimes wondering how we are to be sustained during the summer vacation. Bishop Atkinson remarked on his last visit to me, that the superior endurance of women now, struck him very forcibly. So many Men succumbed to their trials, he thought *My* case would have been unendurable by the stronger sex and seemed really surprised that I was cheerful. *My* position in this school helps me in that respect. I have to exert myself. I have not seen Mamie since Sunday nor heard from her. My visits to her after seeing Emma & Fan, proved an interruption, so, as I cannot go out more than once a day I must await her leisure for coming to me.

I saw Emma & Fan Yesterday they are well. Mrs. Semple makes a point of seeing me now -- and is so gracious -- (She can be very charming) I dont know what she is after.

Elliott is looking better but feels the necessity of doing more. What with board, washing, clothing and medicines for himself & Emma he never has a cent-- and he is now shirtless waiting until he can get some material for me to make for him. There have been some extensive & dishonourable failures here lately. Many poor widows and Orphans ruined. Last night one of Miss Kummer's former

pupils was married. Miss K. would not go but sent a bouquet which I should have liked Emmie to see. The florist arranged the flowers in a frame like a parasol, completely concealing the frame of course. it was composed of double violets, heliotrope white japonicas, and white Azuleas. A white ribbon through the handle for suspending the parasol -- it only cost \$12.

Good bye My time is up. Love to Sisters & brothers from Your always loving  
Mary

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**EGP**

Burn our Letters

Oak Lawn Feb 19th [1870]

We were all too sorry to learn by your letter received last night My Darling Boy, that you had been so sick. Your home sickness too distresses us-- it brings back the time when we left poor Hattie at school in Charleston. She fretted so much until she got accustomed to school & strangers. You must try & be brave, & you will be I know, as soon as you get over your fever. Chill & fever is so breaking up to the spirits. To secure you against the disappointment of not hearing tonight (Cousin Ebet would not get the letter before tomorrow or Monday) I send this by Dr. Pinckney to Miss Sep-- who will I know give it to you at once. Don't mind what the boys say about the letters being read-- boys & girls too-- always say so. Make friends of your teachers & if you find the lessons too trifling & your father does not return to day, summon up courage and go to the Principal, tell him that the lessons are too easy & ask him to put you in a higher class-- but even if you are kept in a low one, do not fret. Uncle Tom says I must tell you that in his class at college one of the students when he was 15, was 21-- no one thought less of him-- he had not had advantages, that was all. Try to say your lessons well & no one will think less of you knowing that you have never been to school before. I wish you would try something wholesome for your lunches biscuit & cheese, or sweet biscuits. Miss Sep will give some bitter which I hope darling will make you feel better very soon. We miss you so very much & look forward to April as you do. Ask & let us know the length of the holyday. Uncle Tom says he was so homesick & I was, went [*sic*] I went to boarding school. So we know how to feel for you-- be brave & cheer up. I hope you have seen Cousin Mary-- a kiss & a hug from her will I know do your heart good. Shall I send you some flowers? I send some to Dr. P. today to coax him to take you this. Charly & Maun Cloe both send howday to you & thanks for your present-- he promises you a pair of ducks & she a chicken. Much love precious child from all of the house. Write to me about your suit & for anything you want.

Ever Your Loving  
Aunt Emmie

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**EGP**

Charleston Feb 28th 1870

My dear Emmie,

After two weeks of intense suffering caused partly by the sea voyage or at least aggravated by it, I feel *ominously* well this eveg. and in spite of the predictions of the wise ones of the Earth I feel assured that events will transpire that they say cannot do so until the 10th but my dear I must indulge the hope in spite of Arthurs leaving me last Friday week to be back in three or four days. I am sure he will be glad to find that he is too late for the Fair. Willie's daughter soon three weeks old is a fine specimen of health and beauty, she weighed 9 1/2 lbs when born. She is to be called [...] after old Mrs Robt. Smith. I am very sorry that the bundle sent to Dr. Pinckney should have been stolen

tho it was not very valuable it contained some outgrown clothes sent me by a friend for my babies and as some of them were too much in the girl line for my all I sent that portion of them to your little ones-- hoping that they wld help you with yr Spring arrangements Lena Cary has just sent me on some fine Cantelope seeds from New York. I will send you some in a day or two, do ask yr Mother to send me some Yam seeds, and some Tomatoes, and if you have any [...] to spare do send us some as Grand Mama particularly fancies them and those in market are not worth buying. G Mama looks rather better but I think her a very ill person. She keeps me constantly anxious. I am glad Brosie is with his "dear old folks" his Papa I understand leaves in a day or two for Sav where he expects to stay two weeks. Brosie poor child was very homesick. The whole household is in commotion as Caro is going to a ball at Aunt Sabina's. Oh Emmie the difference between her wardrobe and mine at her age. I have much to say to you but feel horribly restless, hoping that your next will be from some other of the household and with love and kisses for Yr Mother Annie and self and love from all the other members of our circle

I remain as Ever

Yr attached friend

M P M [Mary P. Manigault]

Don't send the [...] unless you spare them. A kiss for Brosie.

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**EGP**

Oak Lawn Tuesday March 1st [1870]

Dear Papa

I had the pleasure of recieving yours & the boys letters yesterday & I was so glad to hear that they were well. I was walking by the gate the other day when a fine turkey gobbler came out & stood not 10 yards from me in the broad road. I could have killed him with a pistol but I had not my gun but a negroe killed him yesterday & we had him for dinner. Uncle Ralph went to hunt the other day & saw 5 deer but did not kill any. I feel a great deal better & hope to be well enough in a few days to return to school. The children are all well & Anita is lovely. Tula & Mino send thier love to you & with much from my Selfe I remain your affectionate Son

Brosio

PS Grand mama has got a competent nurse very highly spoken of for 6 dollars a month & she will keep Lizzy on her own acount.

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**EGP**

Oak Lawn -- March 9th 1870

My Dear Little Grandsons

It gave me much pleasure to hear from you & to learn from kind Mrs. Dalcourt that you were good children. Your father has never given me your address but I feel that I must write to you & so will again trouble Mrs Poujand to send you my letter. Brosio went down to school some time ago, but was only absent from us ten days -- he was quite sick & had raw food & many discomforts at Mr. Porters, where he was one of eighty boarders -- So his father sent him back here to get well. We were all so sorry for him, he had been so home sick that we were delighted to have him back, & have been spoiling him I am afraid So that he will find school harder than ever when he returns there which he is now well enough to do -- but your Papa is in Savannah & has not summoned him. Brosio found Ally Cuthbert a good friend & little Haskell Rhett & many other nice boys go to the school, but I think he would be happier there if he had his little brothers with him. Tulita was charmed with

Alfonso's letter. Did you really write it my little boy? if so it does you great credit. She speaks constantly about you & wishes for you. Benigno & herself are very happy, playing out constantly & delighting in the jesamines & other Spring flowers. This afternoon Brosio gave them a drive on the track in a hand car, which the workmen on the R. Road lent him. Baby is a delicious little creature, with only four little pearls in her pretty mouth but trying to talk indeed She carries on conversations in a language of her own & has learned some nice little tricks. I do not think that there ever was a sweeter or better baby. Your Uncle Tom has a beautiful garden but the very cold weather has beckoned it. The ground was quite frozen this morning. Bell Arp had grown so old that Uncle Ralph exchanged him for a young Mare -- his present owner an old nigger, rides him here occasionally. Whenever it suits Mrs. Dalcourt you must write to me for my children T's is a comfort to your old Grandmother to hear from you. What would she not give to see you.

Your Aunts send you much love. Brosie will write if you will send him your address So write to him first. Ever your attached

GdMama

P.S. Brosio is having a batteau built to navigate the Pond he has shot as many as twenty five robins in one day.

*[This letter was written in the hand style of Emily Elliott, which is identical to her letter of 4 June 1870 to Brosio, and totally different from the writing style of Mrs. Anne Elliott.]*

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*Savannah Morning News*

14 March 1870, 3

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

MARSHALL HOUSE.--...Gen A J Gonzales, SC;...

*[Gonzales is not on the steamer arrivals from Charleston this day. Apparently went by train.]*

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*Savannah Morning News*

14 March 1870, 3

PERSONAL. -- We called yesterday on our old and esteemed friend, Gen. A. J. Gonzales, who is at present in the city on a visit to his friends, having recently arrived from Cuba, where he has resided during the past year. It will be remembered that shortly after his departure for Havana in January, a year ago, a report reached his friends here that he had been arrested by the Spanish authorities and sent to the Penal Colony on the Island of Fernando Po. We were gratified to learn from the General that such was not the case, and that he experienced no molestation from the authorities of the Island, where he has resided in the quiet pursuit of his business.

Gen. Gonzales, for weal or woe, still follows the fortunes of his adopted South, with which it is well known he has been identified for many years, in principle and action.

He has many warm friends in this community who will be pleased to meet his genial face and grasp his cordial hand again.

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**EGP**

Monticello March 28th 1870

My dear Grandmama

I received your letter the day before yesterday just as I was about to write to you again thinking that you had not received my last letter. Mrs Dalcour has been confined to her bed for several days with a billious attack but is a great deal better now but not well enough to write [you] but will do so by the next steamer. Alfonso and [I a]re both well and feel as strong as bulls. Yesterday

[one] of Mr Dalcour's little Scotch terriers had three funny little puppies not larger than rats that look just like their father who is a rough sandy haired little fellow the image of an old Scotchman. We have just finished making [torn] catch partridges like those we used to make at Oak Lawn to catch thrushes and redbirds, only a great deal larger. I have been learning a little Astronomy and Alfonso tried it once or twice and then left off as he did not find it as easy as he imagined when he first began. He thinks that Bill Arp has grown old very quickly & does not at all like the idea of his belonging to a nigger, much less an old one. I have just received a letter from Papa written on the 29th of February. Mrs Dalcour says that if you address your letters [torn] Dalcour, Matanzas, Cuba, They will be sent to us as Mr. Dalcour has a box in the Post Office there. I have written a letter to Ambrosio which is inside of this. Mrs Dalcour says that you need not be afraid that we will get the yellow fever as no one ever gets it in the country and we do not run in the sun[torn] besides the place is healthy and shady. I don't write more because I have to answer Papa's letter and if I do so at once it will be too late for the steamer. So give my love to all of the family and kiss the baby and Tula for me, & believe me ever your affectionate grandson.

Narciso G. Gonzales

P.S. Alfonso wants to know where Maum Rats is and if she has forgotten him yet.

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**GFP**

Monticello

March 29, 1870

My dear Papa

I have just finished answering grandmama's letter and have written one to Ambrosio. Your letter only came yesterday, so that it must have been delayed on the way as grandmama's letter was written on the 9th of this month & it came before yours. A few weeks ago Mr. Astús drew two thousand dollars in the lottery. He and another gentleman had bought a ticket between them and it drew twenty thousand dollars, so that each of them got ten thousand. This morning Mr. Dalcour went to Havana to see a friend who is just going to embark for Spain and will not be back in time to answer your letter now but will do so by the next steamer. Alfonso & I are both well and have not been at all sick not even a headache. Alfonso wants Tulita to write to him again he has picked up a little French and knows the names of all the French dishes that we have for dinner of which he is quite proud. The potrero is full of partridges and they are just beginning to lay. We have set a large trap to catch them and made several smaller ones to catch sparrows & set them in the garden but the hens got at them and broke them up. Yesterday a large hawk flew by, pounced upon a chicken and carried it off about a hundred yards and then let it drop as we were running after him and shouting. There are plenty of crab spiders holes in the yard and in the evening after sunset we tickle the sides of their holes with straws so that they think that flies or other insects are walking over them and as they come out we stamp on and kill them as they sting very badly. Alfonso sends you his love and asks you to kiss Anita for him. Give my love to all of the family and believe me ever your affectionate son,

Narciso G. Gonzales

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**EGP**

Savannah, Ga. April 20th 1870.

Capt. R. E. Elliott

Oak Lawn

Adams Run P.O. So. Ca.

My dear Ralph:

I enclose you by Express \$12. Please give them to your mother for the expense of nurse, &c. I wrote on Monday to Ambrosio to come tomorrow to Savannah, with Dr. Pinckney (to whom I gave money for their passage) and to bring Tulita with him. I would have gone for them myself, but it would have cost me much more. I feel the want of the company of my children and as I cannot have them all, send for those I can properly take care of and entertain. I intend taking them back before the sickly season sets in. Savannah is very beautiful at this time and my stay here is made consoling by the quiet hospitality and attentions of my many friends in Georgia. I am the guest of my old friend Mr Luce, of the Marshall House, and consequently my residence here is much more economical than in Charleston, a great consideration in my present situation. I hope your crop has not suffered from frost of late and that you are all doing well. Please remember me to the Col and tell him that I have not forgotten the sun-flower seeds. If I can succeed in getting them, I will send them to him -- With many kisses to the children to whom I beg you will ever recall their father's name, I remain with remembrance to your brother

yours very truly

A. J. Gonzales

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**EGP**

[late April 1870]

[Mrs. Ann H. Elliott to Ambrosio Jose Gonzales]

My dear Sir

I have read yr note to Brosio wh reached him this mornng. Tulita cannot obey your summons as she is still unwell & has been taking Calomel & requires our constant care for her welfare -- even she were well she has no clothing for making a *decent* appearance in a City. The dresses furnished thro' the kindness of *Adelita* she has out grown, and we are only now engaged in making some [...] thing for her. Tulita says please do not take her from the baby & her flowers, but come to see her if you wish.

And now let me entreat you on the subject of Brosio's education you should remember how precious time is -- being near 13 he probably may have but three years for obtaining one. When he will have to work for his support & possibly (in case of your death) for that of his sisters & brothers. I know that to obtain the advantages of education for her children was the desire of our dear Hattie in leaving her kindred and country. She expressed this to other friends as well as to us. Now if you have not the means be candid with me I beg and let me either advance the money that you may send him to school or allow me to pay for him-- as boys throughout the State are educated by charity surely you can allow a Grand Mother this privilege. As Tulita cannot go I suppose you will not expect Brosio without her. If I had known you were in Savn. (I had supposed you in Florida) I would have informed you of the illness of the Baby. She was sick twice with fever. We were very miserable fearing inflammation of the Stomach. Since we administered Calomel she has recovered & is almost like herself again. She has cut no more teeth-- four being her [...]. Mino has been quite advantaged by the attentions of the nurse we have for the Baby-- he has been well till recently when he has shared the prevailing colds with all of us. The season is very backward, we had ice yesterday, on account of the children I shall remove on 1st of June to Adams Run where they have always thrived.

The Easter holidays being over let me hear at once from you about sending Brosio back to school.

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EGP

Charleston, S.C. May 16th/70

Mrs. A. H. Elliott

Oak Lawn, S.C.

My dear Madam:

Having had the intention of putting my son Ambrosio at Gen. Lee's college in Virginia at the time I went to Savannah, I waited there for the General and became satisfied, not withstanding his kind wish, that Ambrosio has neither the age nor the preparation to enter that institution. I then made arrangements to have him educated under my own supervision in Savannah, but on my return to Charleston have concluded to bond him at Mrs Burnett's and to have him as a day scholar at the Home. I remain in town to see that he resumes his schooling and moves to his new quarters today. I will go to Oak Lawn on Wednesday to see the balance of my little ones.

A letter from a gentleman in Matanzas mentions that my two sons are "as fat as butter" and another from Narciso states that both he and Alfonso have not had even a headache since I left them there.

I am very truly yours

A. J. Gonzales

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EGP

[mid May 1870]

[To Brosio in Charleston]

My dear Grandson

Your aunts having suggested that you would be pleased to hear from me, I will try & make my letter interesting to you by describing the new accomplishments of *your* Pet & *our* darling. She uses her feet not only in walking & kicking, but puts them in her mouth & scratches her head with them at the word of command. She plays Dr. Foster and Fist & imitates her own cries & Negroe's & she retains all of her loving & affectionate ways-- giving such unexpected kisses & squeezes to Emmie Annie & self. She *is* a delight.

When will [...] which I rejoice to say is the case at present. Nigno has improved very much -- he is grateful affectionate & submissive & Nan Nan congratulates herself on the success of her management. The penalty of unbuttoning his pants keeps him apart from Hampton & Co & deters him from going out of the House with out permission. Gertrudes health & appetite & behavior are all improved indeed these dear little children appear happier since their fathers visit. Their fears of being taken to Savh or Cuba they are relieved from. By the way, your father's object is to worry us all by expressing to you the danger of your coming in the holidays to Adams Run. He will probably ignore having said so. When the time arrives for making arrangements & we will do the best we can for your welfare. In the mean while enjoy your present position with your kind friends, and give them as little trouble as you can. Be considerate & attentive to the ladies of the family. They are my very dear Cousins & friends & I shall be extremely mortified if you are not as dutiful & submissive to them, as you should be to myself. The lessons you have recvd from yr. Padre & the Shantee, to the contrary notwithstanding. Aunt Emmie asks if you remember having said on yr return one day from the Cars that you thought you had seen your Padre on board. Well he remarked one day that on his last visit from Savh to Charleston some one threw a brick in the car which broke his head. He was seated in the back seat of the car. You could just aske Sherlock, if he remembers at what time Papa was down here. Was it in March or April? Nothing more. The want of money & the necessity for

working to attain some, makes the difficulty of yr. father's life. Has he told you to write to him? After several days of rain & steam, we are enjoying fine pleasant weather. Cold enough for blankets at night & no mosquitoes. Too much drought & too much water, Yr. planting & gardening uncles complain of. Aunt Annie is well fair & fat. Emmie thin & White. Her banquets afford us the luxury of Wheaten bread. The Stewardesses are greedy for the flowers wh sell well in Savh but they fail to pay any cash for them. I shall defer giving all of our domestic items till you mention in your letters how you spend your time-- when & how do you go to school always on the cars? When do you study your lessons? When do you bathe & how often. Do you walk in the Battery with yr Cousins? Have you been to Mrs Hugers? She has hired our Flat Rock House to Mrs Fitzsimmons for \$1,50.

Mino & Tulita (who is learning Geography) join in love with yr Aunts & Myself to you. Give my love to Cousins Margarita Anne -- Ebet & Annie & be a good boy.

Yr loving GdMother

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**EGP**

Oak Lawn May 18th [1870]

My Darling Boy

Your budget by Dr. Pinckney has just been read & we feel as relieved as you can do, that you are safely lodged with Cousin Bet. Try & keep up your heart, forget the Tyrant as much as you can & be light hearted. Nan Nan says she always meant to give you a share of Bronsie. She sends you \$5.00. Get Bet to keep it for you. When you feel badly you must ride up & down to school & when it is pleasant to walk up in the morning be sure to ride down in the heat of the day. Try some Congress Water from the fount at Dr Raoul's on your way to school & see if it agrees with you -- when you buy lunch buy something wholesome. I wrote to Bet about your clothes, ask her to get you a white vest, or a couple, & not a black one as I wrote, for it would be unbecoming. If she has run out of money, you can lend some of yours until you write & let me know where I will send some. Fortunately for you darling, we have some change now. Uncle Tom did something very clever on his last visit to Marshall's, he sold for us the old fence wire. Marshall is to pay us cash for \$40.00 worth. Then Aunt Mamie or Cousin Elliott has sold the silver very well indeed. T'is very provoking about the robbery of the candlesticks-- but I suppose Mrs Huger will make the Express pay something for them. I hope that you destroyed your G. Mamma's letter. Your Producer wrote a short one to her by yesterdays mail-- he said in it that he would come up to Oak Lawn to see "the balance of his little family on Wednesday" he has been sent for twice by request. Uncle R. vows he will not send down again, all the mules being busy. The crop here wants rain terribly.

Darling little baby is better she takes her Cod liver oil Quinine in Coffee & chicken soup regularly & is begining to play off her little tricks again. Tula is looking better & behaving better. Minnie too is himself again. The Shantie has turned over a new leaf, & is polite & helpful. Mind Brosie don't talk of our folks to anybody & destroy our letters. I will write to Cousin Bet & find out about the board. My child can it be possible that Daddy Noster has given you no pocket money at all? depend upon it-- he was afraid of seeing me in Savannah. I would have been many wet blankets upon his festivities. Good bye darling. Much love from Nan Nan Grandma and self. Your attached Aunt

Emmie

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**EGP**

[18 May 1870]

My dearest Boy

All of your notes have been received as well as your little package by Dr. Pinckney. I hope that you have before this got yourself a bottle of the Plantation Comfort-- and that you feel in better heart-- if you fall sick or look sad the boy's will say that your old Aunts coddle you up too much and perhaps call you "Miss Molly." As soon as the Bathing House opens you must get yourself some Bath Tickets. dont you think that by offering to pay for Allies Cuthberts ticket that he would teach you to bathe? I am trying to sell your Bateau for two dollars. I have turned Bowsy and Frank twice out of it. They are robbing the poor black bird's nests every day. Our garden is still pretty but wants rain exceedingly. Emmie still makes her "posies" and is now up to the Elbows in Blackberry wine. We shall have a plenty I hope and your fondness for the [...] will not be forgotten. Papa arrived safely in spite of the Buggy's wheel nearly giving him an upset. he is very bland so far and will so continue as long as Strawberries Trout and so forth, are come at able. He has told us of course of all the attentions paid him, I suspect that you have his change of plans for you from Savannah to Charleston to the attention of the Mason's at the Memorial Celebrations, by the by you did not mention that you had been either there or to the German frolic. You had better write an account of both for Nanno's amusement. Your note to him was nicely written buy yourself some [...] pen's and a handle and write to us sometimes in Ink. Did you ever get Dr. Raoul to look at your tongue? You will be glad to know that the baby is improving greatly in fact seems quite well.

Mrs Carey's present came to hand yesterday. Tula really looks so fashionable and pretty in her dresses and there are nice and comfortable clothes for the three little ones, hats, under shirts, stockings & socks, dresses quite a handsome thoughtful present and a big piece of long cloth for Grandma. I am afraid that you feel the change from your free and easy life here to the dulness and restraint of the Town very much my dear Brosie-- but remember that you were anxious to go to school, and make up your mind like a man to be cheerful. You will be more used to it in a little time, as to the fractions you must remember that there is no use crying over spilled milk. Your devoted Aunt

[Anne Elliott]

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**EGP**

Oak Lawn May 20th [1870]

My Darling Boy

I was right glad to get your letter yesterday but very sorry to hear of all your aches & pains. We sincerely hope that you are all right soon. Don't fret about Cuba darling. Your Producer says in The Shantie that he will go there if he *can* this summer to bring Coolies (20) to work at S. Hall next winter. We dont think there is any danger of his taking or sending you there & you know if he does-- what to do. So try & forget everything disagreeable & be of good heart.

Cousin Bet says she thinks you are very nicely fitted out with clothes so do not worry about being shabby.

We sent in the basket a bottle of Blackberry Cordial -- T'is strong so do not take more than a wine glass at a time. The pair of white pants you can have altered for yourself if you wish & if not give them to Ally if they will fit him or to Willie Burnet whichever you like.

Let us all try to forget Somebody-- he told Tulita he was going today but is out on a hunt so of course will postpone. Tula says he is going to Savannah. I hope so for your sake-- but don't know. My child do not think of coming up on your birthday. You may hit him some how.

Spend the money in treating yourself to ice creams & other things. Tell us something about

Carrie Mitchell-- how long did you stay with her & was she kind? Baby is fine & the children pretty good. Minnie has a pretty little puppy. Mr Caddin gave it to Uncle Ralph & he has bestowed it on Minnie.

Have you begun to bathe yet? if your shoes are too hot you had better get a pair of low shoes, that you can change to sometimes. I do hope that you will feel better & will soon write cheerfully.

A quantity of love from Mama, Anie & self

Ever Your attached Aunt

Emmie

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**EGP**

Charleston Tuesday May 24th [1870]

My darling Auant

I received your letter in the basket yesterday morning and one this evening. I recieved the \$500 some time ago but forgot to thank you for it. You say I must get Plantation Bitters wich I would be very glad to do but \$500 wont buy every thing I have \$200 & some cents left you see I have been buying car tickets and they charge me full price those which Pater bestowed on me are of no use he thinks that I am using those same ones now & he is allways telling me to be careful of them & only use them in rainy weather because they are a farther's [sic] gift. The bathing house has been open some time and I took a bath yesterday evening and one this morning only and they made me feel a great deal stronger. They charge me 10 cents Next Saturday I am going with Aly Cuthbert and some other big boys in a large sail boat over to Sulivans island to spend the day. Aly says he will teach me to swim in the surfe [sic] I am feeling a little better today but I have my headach [sic] still. I spend my money in car and bathing tickets stamps envelopes and Soda water. I do not squander my money & give it to cousin Bet to keep for me. Producer had not given me a cent he says boys [torn] want money and that I ought to value one cent given by a [torn] hand more than a thousand dollars given by an imbicil woman who did not Produce me. good bye darling give my love to all. Cousin [torn]ner Stock sends his love to all of you. I saw her a day or two ago. She told me to ask Uncle Tom if he has not forgotten her yet. She has been quite sick lately. I saw Mr Hoppock on the cars several times he was dressed very shabbyly and looked very low spirited he was arguing with his wife on the subject of raising fowling by the [torn] have you my young turkey yet how is your crop getting on good bye darling your loving Boy Brosio

Cousin Bet sends her love to all

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**EGP**

My Birthday

Charleston Sunday May 29th [1870]

My darling Aunt

I received your letter last night. You know very well darling that I would not go against your wishes in any thing. I did not go on that boat excursion yesterday because I thought that you would not like it. You ought not to have rinten me such a harsh letter & I am sorry you have such a bad opinion of me for I am not as bad and ungrateful as you think me. I thank you for your present. I have not seen Pater yet I know he will not give me anything, a very poor birth day I have had. It has been raining all day one never sees a fine day in Charleston. Emy I am in a [torn] for clothes my Black and white suit, my Black suites are all shabbed out and I have out grown my other clothes my shoes will soon give out and both my hats are wearing out. Pater had the fancied hat cleaned but it is all dirty

again. good bye darling Give my love to Grandmama & Nan Nan and kiss the children for me.

PS Do you not think that when Pater goes to Savannah and you have moved to Adams Run that I could run up and spend a day or two with you. Write and tell me what you think good bye darling

[Brosie]

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**EGP**

Oak Lawn May 31st [1870]

Thank you for your note darling boy & dont say that your Emmy was harsh. She did not mean to be.

Your father goes down to day & talks of going to Savannah on Friday night. You can therefore afford *to be glad!* to see him & you had better be much interested in your studies. Much may depend upon it-- he has not asked & we have not mentioned that you have been writing to us. I have asked Cousin Bet to get you a pair of pants to wear with your alpaca jacket & hope darling you will feel more comfortable. Try & be happy, Brosie dear & be a man. When you write tell us something about your studies.

Good Bye. Will write again soon. Your attached

Aunt Emmie

[Written on the back folded side of the letter:] For Ambrosio

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**EGP**

Oak Lawn --  
June 4th 1870

My Darling Brosie

Your letter of Thursday has just been read. Your shoe & hat [...] I trust have come to an end for the present for we sent a basket of vegetables by Express yesterday for Cousin Bet & in the basket NanNan sent you a letter with \$3.00 -- to furnish yourself with a hat & shoes for Sunday. I hope Brosie you keep an account of the way in which you spend your money. You should put down every cent? Write & tell us all about your manner of spending your days. Do you ride up & down in the Cars? When do you bathe? Do you walk on the Battery in the Evenings? How about your Record book? Does your alpaca jacket fit you nicely? Do you wear it with Mrs Dalcourt's pants -- have you a block vest & has Cousin Ebet got you a pair of pants? Now put my letter before you and answer my questions. Have you been to see Cousin Carrie since you left her house & how long did you stay with her? If you have not been -- go to see her & give her our love.

Did you tell your father that we were to send you the shirts he gave you by him? He asked for them just as he was going & said you expected them. We have not yet altered them, thinking that you do not now need them. His meanness my dear boy is marvellous -- if he was only poor it would be one thing. You could not complain if he had nothing to give you -- but when he spends freely on himself & denies you requisites -- t'is another. Because he got his feet wet in hunting -- he bought a dollar bottle of whiskey from Barnwell's he said to rub with. Then he smoked daily an average of five segars. We think he was preparing to make a descent upon Adams Run & our defenceless household for the Summer -- but a slight fracas previous to his departure may have determined him to teach in Savannah. You won't get much of the proceeds I fancy.

Do go into Von Santens & price the following toys --

A box of Alphabetical blocks.

A china tea set for a child

a little table & chairs for a doll & have they little *jointed* dolls, & at what price?

About your visit to Adams Run -- *when* we move there we will see about it. You might come we think. Spell Aunt with *one* not two *a-s*. Did your Pater give you a note from Tulita? do write to the child she loves you Brosie. Baby is delightful. Good bye I hope you don't feel badly any longer.

Love to Bet & a great deal from G.Mama Nan Nan & Old Aunt in haste

Emmie

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**EGP**

For Ambrosio

Oak Lawn June 7th [1870]

So My Darling Boy, Papa did give you shoes, or boots! How did it happen -- & why did you not write & tell us? he gave you a holiday too. You had had *so much* school! Dear me, what a good Papa. Ebet says you returned much pleased with your day -- & with a present of high top boots, which she seemed to think not very appropriate or comfortable for such warm weather. What opened his heart? he says he has such a large heart, that t'is like the Mississippi! No I didnt say a word to him, more than I could help, & never do. I did not trust myself to speak, for I should have insulted him. The mean ungrateful contemptible [*sic*] creature! -- & now I have done with him, until some more fitting season. So you drive out every Saturday & we are very glad to hear are quite lively! I am sorry that we have not a drop of blackberry cordial to send you. (That was cordial not wine) & the wine will not be ready for us for a month. T'is all corked up to ripen. We are still here & just beginning to have a little cleaning up done at Adams Run. The rains have made the grass grow & Uncle Ralph is not at all desirous to spare us the mules. So we shall be here until some time next week-- if we can move then. T'is horrible to think of. Did your Pater not tell you anything about your vacation? or anything about his teaching in Savannah? Do Brosie tell us something about your studies. Your hand writing is improving we think, but don't spell Parish, Parrish, & Aunt Auant. Did your Paternal inquire about your studies? The corn crop is promising. Some of it very handsome. The rice good & the cotton growing at last. Your friend Mrs Legare has twins a boy & a girl, four weeks old. Poor little Sallie won't she have to trot? Snooks has run away. Peter Graham has the dropsey! The *six* turkies are now *two* with the black hen, but the Turkey in the hedge seems to have made a good hatch. Nan Nan has no help & nothing but disappointments with her poultry. Oh! My Dear Boy when are we to be on *your Farm*! What do you think about it now you are a city boy? does it seem farther off? The children are well & send love [...] Grandmama ditto ditto

Ever your affecate.

Aunt Emmie

Nan Nan says she never knew your father do any thing for you that did not turn out for your *bad*. She knows those boots will lame you, but you must not let them keep you from school. Get yourself slippers and low shoes.

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**EGP**

Monticello. Thursday night June 9th 1870

My dear Grandmama

I forgot to ask you in my letter wether you wanted vegetable or fruit seeds. We have no vegetable seeds but if you should like some of the fruit seeds of this country I can [*sic*] a good many for you. Please write soon and tell me how to direct them to you if you should like to have them. Give

my love to all and believe me ever  
your affectionate grandson

Narciso G Gonzales

1870 Census, Schedule 1, Inhabitants in the 21st Sub District, City of Savannah, Georgia, enumerated  
9 June 1870, page 104.

Name	Age	Sex	Color	Profession	Value of Real Estate Owned	Place of Birth
Luce, A. B.	54	M	W	Keeping Hotel	20,000	New York
Gonzales, Gen A.J.	60	M	W	Rt. Planter	10,000	Cuba

**EGP**

Saturday  
Charleston June 11th [1870]

Miss E. Elliott

My darling Aunt

I received your letter of the 7th a day or two ago. I write to you with my last stamp & I have not a cent in the world. Nan nan was right about Pater's boots they have galled my feet a good deal but they did not keep me from School. I wrote to you by Wednesday's mail but have not got an answer yet. Pater never asked on[e] word about my studies he never went to the school and he did not tell me to study ether. He says that I can't go to Adams Run in the holidays that if you were living on the salts or in some healthy place that I could go with you. do you not think there is any chance of your going to bay point or some place where I could be with you. I could study very hard in the holidays & get into a much higher class. I am getting on very well with my studies but I have to get up at 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning to go to school ~~how~~ & I never go to bed until 11 or 12 at night how I wish I could get a good sound Oak Lawn sleep but I will get that in the Christmas holidays. Pater says that he thinks that you are turning in to an angel like Aunt Mary he says that a sure sing [*sic*] of it is that Nan nan & Grany mama quarrel with you. he says that they always quarrel with thier [*sic*] Superiors like himselfe. When he made some purchases for Uncle Tom he made him a present of a 75 cent box of cravats he said he pitied poor Tom & Ralph that they have nobody to sew for them just like himselfe. he says when they are sick that they have nobody to take care of them. he is allways bringing up the time when he was in that terrible agony from pain in the belly at Oak Lawn that you never came to do any thing for him only Nan nan came whineng [*sic*] at the door to mock at his suffering. he has told all of his friends & acqantances [*sic*] of it & every body says what a pity Gen. Gonzales has such ungrateful Sisters & Mother in law. he says you are ungrateful to him for bringing the children over to you. I realy think you ought to first hire in the Savannah News, but he is very careful not to say how he mistreated me at Oak Lawn. Cousin Mary can give testimony on that subject. I have the black & blue mark to this day when he boxed me on my shoulder and my arm hurts here when ever I hold it up. have you my Maynard still. Pater says he is going to send for it to shoot birds in Savanah do put it up for me & dont send it if he should send for it.

Sunday. good bye darling do write to me soon do name a day when I can come up & see you I am feeling very badly today. Give my love to Grandma & Nan nan & believe [*sic*] me your loving boy Brosio

**EGP**

Oak Lawn June 14th [1870]

My Dear Brosie

I was very glad to get your letter although t'is very very hard to bear all that you have to tell of that man. One so false to every duty must misrepresent & falsify others to keep up his own self esteem-- he reads me upside down-- when he says I am "getting to be an angel like Aunt Mamie" My dear boy did he really say that? where he is concerned there is something in my heart more infernal than angelic. As to your Grandmamas & Nan Nan's quarrelling with me, t'is an *utter* fabrication. They & I are in perfect accord. We think alike & work together -- our first wish in life is the welfare of our Poor Hattie's children. Do Brosio let truth go before every thing with you. T'is the foundation of all that is noble & good in man or woman. Neither obscure yourself or others, for the devils own children are those who lie to themselves about themselves -- at least I think so -- and people can do so much harm. Your Maynard is in our closet I shall put it in my trunk & keep it for you. As to our going to *Bay Point* (Big B & big P. you must remark) t'is not in the range of possibility darling & as to its being unhealthy for you in Adams Run -- that comes beautifully doesn't it? from one who lost you your Mother in that death hole Matanzas! With quinine you could & would be safe. Where does he intend you to be -- he certainly does not value your possible ill health above \$12-- per month-- he wont leave you to board in Charleston. There is a Summer Sea Shore Resort near Savannah, called the "Isle of Hope"-- he is going to try & get there himself-- we think & if he can locate himself will get you there also -- thats what he is after about the Maynard. May God frustrate his plans. As for his speaking to his friends & neighbors of our ingratitude!! T'is *too* absurd. Does he not see that Tom & Ralph would have sewing done for them perhaps-- if his little motherless ones were not here to be cared for. He wishes to put himself on the same footing with *himself* them to prove us monsters! I am sorry you have to listen to & drink in such absurdities about your visit to us. I think Saturday the 25th will be the day for you to come. We will be settled at Adams Run by that time & will manage to get Toby's war horse to bring you from the station -- but I will write to you again on the subject. About money darling -- we will not let you be pennyles -- but you must be prudent or we shall run aground. \$10.00 besides the two or three you took with you in a month is being a little fast.

Good Bye My Boy. Ever your loving

Aunt Emmie

Much love from Mamma Ann & the chicks

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**GFP**

Charleston June 14th [1870]

Dear Papa

I would have written before but I had not time I was so busy going to school. I dined with Mr. Lafite the Sunday before last & they were very kind to me & I saw Mr. Tobias on the cars the other day & he asked me to come to dine with him. I intend to go there on Saturday. I have not time to write any more. Cousin Ebit sends her regards to you. I remain your affectionate Son Ambrosio

P.S. When you write send your letters to Miss E. Burnet care of Gaillard & Minot, Charleston, S.C.<sup>245</sup>

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**EGP**

Savannah, Ga. June 17th 1870.

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<sup>245</sup> Gaillard & Minott, factors & commercial merchants, 22 Adger's N. whf. W. B. Minott, res. 12 Legare; P. C. Gaillard, res. 92 Tradd.

Master A. J. Gonzales

My dear Son:

Your four lines of the 14th inst. were duly received. You might have devoted, in writing to your father, more than two minutes time, and have said something besides having "dined with Mr Lafitte on Sunday and expecting to dine with Mr Tobias on Saturday." I am sure that in one week's time you have it in your power to write to your father, (in the matter and style of writing,) something else than a sample of your indifference and disregard.

I expect you to write to me, once every week, a letter to be mailed *on Saturday* and to contain every thing of interest to me that has occurred during the previous week, or, what is the same, since your previous letter, and I wish such letter written in your best hand. You may commence it on Monday and finish it on the Saturday you mail it. Your behaviour to me is the more inexcusable that you know full well right from wrong. I warn you as to your first duty. I can hardly suppose that you will fulfill any other when you neglect that one. I hope you will not again give me cause to *turn* your mind, *as you should your heart*, in the right direction.

I have been unwell since I received your scrawl as I would have answered it sooner.

I wish to tell Mr Lafitte that I received the invitation to his nephew's wedding and that that is all I have received from him since I came here. Ask him, in my name, to be kind enough to make a memorandum of all the letters he may forward to me, so that I may know if any miscarry. It has rained here almost every day since my arrival and I fear that the season is getting too wet for the cotton, although it looks very good for corn.

A vessel arrived here day before yesterday from Matanzas, (a schooner,) with fruit, in four days. But, as my friends there do not know of my being here, I received no letters by her.

I went to the Isle of Hope, 7 miles from here by railroad the other day and spent a very pleasant afternoon with several of my friends who are spending a short season there. They board at a colored woman's who keeps a very good house. The location is very pleasant and reminds me of Toogadoo. Tell me if you have heard how the children are at Oak Lawn and if they have been moved to Adams Run. I have not heard a word about them. Remember me kindly to Ebet, the Lafittes, Mr. Tobias and the Matheuxs. Your affectionate father

A. J. Gonzales

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**GFP**

Charleston, June 27th [1870]

My dear Papa,

I did not receive your letter of the 17th until Thursday last too late for the weekly account you desired and as I meant to run up to Adams Run on Saturday I delayed writing until I could give you an account of the children.

I am very glad to tell you that they are all quite well. Baby is delightful and to fat they are merry and lively and seem delighted with the change. I saw Mr. Tobias<sup>246</sup> on Friday and I gave him your message and he asked to be remembered to you I received a letter from Nanno dated the 4th of June they are all well.

A circus was in the neighborhood to which Mr. Dalcour carried them. Alfonso was particularly delighted with a learned Mouse and the Terriers continue to give them much Amusement.

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<sup>246</sup> J. L. Tobias or V. J. Tobias.

I am getting on very well at school, my teachers are very kind to me. I went around to Mr. Laffets twice but he was out but I left your message for him. All of the Burnets send their Kind remembrances to you. With my love I remain your aff. Son

Brosio

P.S. have you heard of any place for Willie yet.

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**EGP**

Charleston Tuesday June 28th [1870]

My darling Aunt

I got here very tired last night and have been feeling very badly all day. I am so weak that I can hardly stand and I have a splitting head ach but I will go to the school this evening & get my lessons marked & will try & learn them for tomorrow. I have finished Paters letter and intend to mail it this evening with yours good bye darling it made me feel so sad to leave you all yesterday With much love

I remain your loving Boy Brosie

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**GFP**

For Ambrosio J. Gonzalez Esq  
Charleston

Monticello

July 2nd 1870

My dear Papa,

I wrote to you about two months ago but as I have not received your answer yet I write to you again & would have done so long ago but Mrs. Dalcour had no letter paper & I have had to wait two weeks before we could get any. There have been two large fires on this place not very long ago. The potrero was set on fire one day by ~~two~~ three drunken fellows who ran away as soon as they had done it. The fire swept across the guardaraya & a fence & got into a field of long grass on the other side notwithstanding all our efforts to stop it, but at last we succeeded in doing so after a great deal of trouble. The second was much larger & more dangerous than the first. A tenant of Mr. Dalcour's set fire to one of the fields in order to get the grass to spring up fresh & green again. But it soon got too large for him to put out so he went away & left it alone.

It burnt on until it reached Mr. Dalcours cane field & all that separated them was a road, but fortunately some men were there who put it out before it got into the field, but if it had done so nobody could have put it out & it would have passed into Mr. D's brother's field, so that both of them would have been burnt. The fire came so close to the house that we had to shut up all the doors & windows to keep out the smoke. We found one of the fellows who set the first fire, lying under a fence dead drunk an hour or so after. Mr. & Mrs. Dalcour are both well as well as Alfonso & myself. I teach Alfonso his reading nearly every day & he really wants to learn, a thing which he did not want to do before. There are a quantity of fine fish in the Canimar<sup>247</sup> no i[...] there is a man here who goes to the river every morning before breakfast & brings home from 20 to 50 Cajisotes<sup>248</sup> & Parvos<sup>249</sup> (I don't know if that is the way to spell their names as I have never seen them written). Another

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<sup>247</sup> Canimar River, flows into eastern Matanzas Bay.

<sup>248</sup> Cajizote (*Neomoenis caxis*). Small olive-colored fish with eight vertical clear stripes.

<sup>249</sup> Pargo (*Neomoenis analis*). Pagro fish.

gentleman caught 150 or 200 one morning.

Alfonso is 4 feet 4 inches high & I am 4 feet 7 and a half inches. Don't you think we have grown a good deal! Our little terriers had a hard fight the other day. Mr. Dalcour wants them to kill all of the wild cats about here & one of his friends brought a tom cat (much larger than either of the terriers & half wild) here in a bag, tied a string around it's neck & the other end to a stake in the yard & set Tip & May the two terriers at him (May was set loose ten minutes after Tip). As soon as Tip was set loose he ran directly for the cat & immediately began fighting it. They would clutch each other about their breasts & stomachs and roll over among the grass. If all cats have nine lives I think that one had more for it took half an hour for them to kill it & they were so bitten & ~~be~~ scratched that the next morning they could not move but soon got well & last week killed another in five minutes. A man who comes here often was in the woods one day when he saw two big hutias in the top of a tree so he climbed up & caught them with his bare hands after having one of them scratched very badly. Soon after he caught a smaller one in a rat trap & brought it here for the dogs to kill. The other day as we were sitting in the piazza Alfonso came running up to us holding the outside of his pantaloons very tight & crying out "Oh a tarantula is in my pantaloons. A tarantula is in my pantaloons!" We thought there could not be a tarantula for it would have stung him before he could have caught it & turned his pantaloons inside-out & what should jump out not a poisonous tarantula but a poor little chameleon as long as my hand which turned green when it touched the ground & afterwards black. This one had run up (inside) Alfonso's breeches while he was standing under a tamarind tree & he was so scared that as he did not see it he thought it was a tarantula. There are a plenty of chameleons here & also of cocuyos<sup>250</sup> & some time ago there ~~wase~~ were millions of them (Cocuyos) both large & small though there are more small ones than large. I love to see them flitting through the air at night like golden stars & sometimes read from their light when it is dark. I have caught as many as 37 in a quarter of an hour. But there are a plenty of less welcome visitors than cocuyos which are scorpions who get all over the house. A man here put his foot into a shoe & was stung by one who was in the toe of it, our ~~wacth~~ watch dog was stung on the foot & Alfonso came near sitting on one. but I must end my letter now. Please tell me where you are staying now & when you mean to come to Cuba. Give ~~my~~ our love to the family when you see them & to Ambrosio tell him that Alfonso & I think of "Bosy" very often. Beleive me ever your affec. son *Narciso G. Gonzalez.*

PS I & two negro men bought a lottery ticket some time ago & only wanted two numbers of getting 500 dollars but did not gain anything. I have a little more money left & will try to get another. Excuse bad writing on the first page.

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**EGP**

Savannah, Georgia  
July 8th 1870.

Master Narciso G. Gonzales  
Matanzas

My dear Son:

I received duly your nice letter dated month back with which I was much pleased as it was so well written & spelt. I showed it to many of my friends as an evidence of your progress and they

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<sup>250</sup> Fire beetles.

thought much of you & the kind friends you are with. I would have answered it, but I wanted to gather something with communicating and delaying from week to week. I have become so borne down by my misfortunes that it has required the great effort I make now lest you and Alfonso might suppose that your father's love could have diminished in his grave distress. I am pained, however, that you have not written again to me, having done so to Oak Lawn & Brosio. I told the latter to write to you and tell you about the Shutzinplats festival I took him to in Charleston and other matters that would interest you. I hope he has done so. From him you have, no doubt, more recent news from your little brothers & sisters than I could give you. I trust you are all well & that you show Mr & Mrs Dalcour a proper sense of their great kindness to yourself & me. Tell Alfonso to write to me -- as per address I give to Mr. Dalcour.

Your affectionate father

A. J. Gonzales

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**GFP**

Charleston Saturday July 9th [1870]

My dear Papa

I wrote to you on the 27th of June but have received no answer yet. I have been round several times to Mr. Lafette but he was not at home but I saw Mr. Tobias and he asked to be remembered kindly to you when I wrote & Mr. Sherlock<sup>251</sup> seemed quite anxious about you & one morning he called me in & showed me the news paper in which there was a notice of some Gonsales being Sent to Fernando po. He really seemd quite anxious about you. I heard from Oak Lawn lately & the children are thriving well at Adams Run. Baby can walk very well now. I am getting on very well at school & I mean to study hard during the holy days & get into a higher class. it is late & I must close. cousin Ebet asked to be remembered kindly to you & I remain your affectionate Son

Brosio

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**EGP**

Adams Run  
July 12th [1870]

My Darling Boy

Your two letters came yesterday & I suppose yesterday you too, got Nan Nans last to you, in which she spoke to you about coming up. I did not write my child I have had very little time lately for I have been cooking! A fancy occupation for such weather isnt it? I wrote to Cousin Bet to get you some car tickets & that I thought your bathing tickets would be out on Wednesday. So that she had better just get you for the little time you remained tickets as you bathed & not a dollars worth. I told her too about stamps, & to pay your Tuition money. So you see we have not been so neglectful of your wants. About clothes my child for the holidays! What you have will do very well for Adams Run. I have quite a way of making old things look new & I can make you look smart enough for this region -- & you will have to have a pair of good nice strong shoes, made here by Stephen Deas, who is a capital shoe maker. We have to think ahead you know, for the fall you will have to have new fall & winter clothing an outfit. So we must economize now.

Have you heard from your Pater? -- & how do you think he has taken your trip to Adams Run? You must write to him if you determine to come up on Saturday telling him that t'is too hot for

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<sup>251</sup> George Scharlooch, 75 Cannon Street, Charleston.

study & your health required you to come to us to take care of you. That you could not have staid so long in this city if we had not furnished you with car & bath tickets. ~~That you were lame from the boots.~~ That you could not walk to school on account of the heat & your being lame & that most of your class had left & that you intend to bring your books & study. If he writes to scold you for not obeying him & writing on a certain day you can say with truth that you had no stamp. We have not heard from Savannah, & have to pay the nurse's wages, we suppose. Take quinine every night get Cousin Bet to buy it for you & you can mention to your father that you have taken & will continue taking it so as to avoid the chance of fever. I send you a dollar & a half in case you come on Saturday, to pay your fare, take you to the cars & buy some candy if you fancy, or lemons but *not* newspapers for Uncles. Ever Your attached

Aunt Emmie

Do bring all of your old shoes & hats.

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**GFP**

Oak Lawn, July 12th 1870

My Dear General,

I owe you an apology for not having ere this written to thank you for executing so satisfactorily my commissions in Charleston, & also to thank you for the present of Neck Ties sent to Ralph & self. They are quite neat & pretty. You are aware of course that the family are in Adams Run & we are enjoying the quiet of the Plantation to our hearts content. So far the children are all well. Tula, Minnie & the Baby visit & play among their little neighbours in the evenings and appear happy. Brosey was up here (Adams Run) about three weeks since, spent Saturday & Sunday & returned on Monday, he was of *course* sent *for* by his *Aunt*. Since his return *I* have been abused here by my Mother & Sisters for what, I know not, unless Brosey could have mentioned any thing he may have heard in conversation from you & now General while I am on the subject let me say that you must be on your guard on talking to Brosey, he tells everything that should not be mentioned & makes mischief. He has been so accustomed to hear you abused by his aunts that he thinks it all right & proper & forgets that you are his Father. The fact is he has been drilled into speaking of you in the most disrespectful manner. I think it my duty to tell you this and I think if you could manage to keep him as far as possible from the evil influence of Ann Elliott, it would be much better for him. I would by no means allow him to spend his vacation in Adams Run where he would run a great risk of getting fever, & have also bad advice given to him. Remember, I do not *say* that you mentioned any thing to him that transpired in our conversations up here intentionally, that it might be brought back. I think I know you too well for that but I only beg that if you did you will tell me, so that I may have a clue to their present hatred to me. I mentioned in my letter to you about the Fan for Mrs. Marshall, that she was making for me some garments with her own fingers & I think I said she was more of a Sister than these at Home or some thing to that effect. I also called Ann the Duchess, either of the above statements heard by Brosey would be repeated & of course give mortal offence. I have not been informed by any of the family what has caused them to use the epithet Viper towards me, which was done in a note to Ralph, nor shall I condescend to enquire from *them*. I only wish to satisfy myself on the point. I know that you are prudent, but in conversation with your own Son you may have mentioned some of my sayings, in relation to Ann, which of course you never calculated would be repeated. It has always been my disposition General, to defend the injured & take up for the wronged & I will not & cannot up hold my nearest Relatives in their abuse of you.

I trust you are making money & getting on as well as you could desire & hope by another year

you will be able to have all of your children under your own care, in order that they may have that wholesome discipline which they all need.

The weather is hot, but the Cotton requires it & if the *King* does not complain his subjects should not. Ralph joins me in kind regards.

Very Truly Yours,  
T. R. S. Elliott

Please let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

T.R.S.E.

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**EGP**

Adams Run  
July 14th [1870]

We will be very glad My Dear Brosie, as your good friends think it best & you appear inclined that way, that you should remain longer at school. You are getting on nicely & I am sure your teacher will think well of you if you shall pluck & stick to your lessons. So I hope you have not written to warn your father of your intended departure, but write to him as usual at the end of the week.

Do try & go to see Mrs Poujand. As soon as the things get here from Baltimore we shall send down the package for the poor boys. How weary they must be expecting.

By the by about your having been to James Island-- Cousin Bet so understood you-- She said you had crossed over to James Island-- & you minded the skiff whilst the other boys landed & got fruit. So we thought there could be no mistake about it, & are glad that you say otherwise.

I am glad that you will not come on Saturday on your own account, as we are very uncomfortable now without servants, & you would have a sorry time.

With much love to you from Your loving relatives

I am as ever Your fond Aunt

Emmie

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**EGP**

Savannah, Geo.  
July 15th 1870

Master A. J. Gonzales

My dear Son:

I have received both your letters, but I am very much dissatisfied with you. You have, firstly, disobeyed my orders by going to Adams Run without my permission. I told you in Charleston, you could not go into the country during the Summer. Your aunt had no more authority to send for you than your aunts in Havana or Matanzas have; infinitely less in contravention of your father's command. Then, you write me but scrawls, full of mis-spellings and showing gross inattention and want of proper pride. The only means I have of judging of your progress is by your letters and the only test I have of your moral training is the cheerful obedience you show to my injunctions or my wishes.

I can very readily open your eyes as well as those of a few others as to what I am to yourself and the rest of my children; and you will, as well as others, find that forbearance on my part can not last for ever.

I wish you to call on the Hugers in my name and give them my kind regards. I expect from you *every Saturday* such a letter as I required from you. With my best regards to Ebet, I remain,

Your affectionate father

A. J. Gonzales

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**GFP**

To A.J. Gonzales, Savanna, Ga.

Monticello July 20th 1870

My dear Papa I have just received your letter of the 8th & am very sorry that you think that I have not written to you again I did so in June as I did not get your answer & hope that you have received it by this time. You will see in it most of the things that I have to tell you. I only write this to say that we are all well & in perfect health & am in a hurry as the letters go tomorrow. Alfonso will write next week or when he has more leasure. I hope that you are well. Alfonso sends his love to you & the family & I send mine also. Believe me ever your  
affectionate son

Narciso Gener Gonzales

PS Both Alfonso & I feel very sorry that you are in such trouble & I mean to write to you every two or three weeks in future so that you will at least hear from us once a month.

N G G

Some time ago I had two or three ugly stains on my cheek & took one bottle of Sarsparilla which took it away entirely. I am now taking a second bottle.

I made a mistake as to the month in which my last letter to you was written. it was written on the 3d of July.

N.G.G.

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**EGP**

Adams Run  
July 20th [1870]

My Darling Brosie

We are too sorry that you should have had another visit from your old enemy-- but if you have no return, it may have given you the requisite excuse for coming to us. I have asked Cousin Bet to write to that man at the Marshall House & tell him that you had been sick & she had sent you to your Grand Mother et cet. Do dear go & see Mrs Huger before you leave & Mrs Poujand. Bring up Nan Na's pen & paper with you & then we can send the things directly to Mrs Poujand , for the Baltimore box has not yet come & t'is so hard for us to get a message to Dr. P. if you can ~~not~~ manage it. Do see him & tell him that the box was sent by steamer from Baltimore more than two weeks ago to his care & beg him to see after it. I have asked Cousin Bet to send sundry things by you-- perhaps they will make you pay some extra freight, but I don't think so-- if you want a little change for anything get it from Bet & get 25 cts to bring another doll for Tula-- baby broke hers, which she admired so much that she asks you to choose another quite as pretty.

When you come we will get an animal to drive & let you take the baby to drive. She minds the heat very much.

Ask Cousin Bet to get a little Common Testament & send with you.

See your teachers before you leave & ask them advice about your studies in the vacation -- darling, They will like you the better for it.

If we could get an answer in time I would propose to you to come before Saturday-- but we cannot.

Good bye darling. Much love from our household to you.  
Ever your attached  
Aunt Emmie

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**GFP**

Monticello July 25th 1870<sup>252</sup>

My dear Papa

Nanno got your letter three or four days ago & answered it immediately but I could not write in time for that mail & had to wait till now. In May there were a quantity of tamarinds on a tree-- in front of the house & nearly every day Nanno & I would take off our shoes get up on the tree by a ladder and pick & shake down several baskets full of tamarinds. then we would get down & pick them up & Mr. Dalcour would send them to Matanzas by some one who would sell them for one dollar a bag full. A part of the yard is covered with the holes & tracks of a kind of large red ant called bibihagua & at night Nanno, I & a man here go to thier holes, stuff them full of gunpowder & sulphur. We then set fire to the powder it catches & bursts killing all of the ants that are inside. They are very troublesome as they eat the leaves of all of the trees that are in thier way.

The other day a chinaman while he was working in Mr. Dalcour's brothers ~~place~~ cane field found a nest with 18 partridge eggs in it he ~~sold them to Mrs. Dalcour for~~ brought them here & gave them to Mrs. Dalcour she set them under a little white bontam hen who hatched them in a few days but only 4 are alive now they run all over the yard & are very small & pretty. But I must not write more now as it will soon be dark. We are all well here. Please excuse bad writing but as it is the first letter I've ever written. Give my love to the family. Beleive me ever your

affec son

Alfonso B Gonzales

PS Next time I hope to write better than this.

Ambrosio J. Gonzales

Savannah

Georgia

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**GFP**

Charleston July the 26th [1870]

To Col. A. J. Gonzales

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 13th containing check for \$24, was duly received, & would have been [...] to before, had not sickness and other interruptions prevented. Brosie has had quite a spell of catarrh fever, & my time for a week since the receipt of your favor, has been almost constantly with him, he is now I am happy to say convalescent & been sent by the Doc, up to his Grandmother, left this morning, He has really been a very sick person, but at *no* time did the Physician think him in any danger, had

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<sup>252</sup> This letter has the same handwriting and style of Narciso, although it is signed by Alfonso, and half way through it the handwriting becomes sloppy. Since this is the first letter Alfonso purportedly wrote, and no other letters to his father have been found, we can assume it was written by Narciso to cover up for his brother, who probably could not write. See the letter from Narciso to Emily, 29 August 1870, saying "you cant get a letter from Alfonso for he can neither compose or write one."

he done so we would most certainly have informed you of the fact, he was looking remarkably well a few days before his fever, but is now quite thin & pale, doubtless the change will be beneficial. I gave him your message about writing, but he was taken sick the following Saturday, & has been unable to write anything of a note since "he requested me to give his line" & said he intended writing soon." His teacher spoke pleasantly of him & volunteered to mention, that she "had been gratified by his improvements since his return to school." Willie desired to return his thanks, for your kindness in trying to obtain him a place in Savannah.

With regards from the family, I remain,

Respectfully  
E. Burnet

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**EGP**

Monticello. Friday July 29th 1870

My dearest Emmie

I have just received your & NanNan's letters of the 4th & 6th of July & was quite delighted with them as much as that I get jealous if any body touches them not excepting Alfonso. We are all well here & happy in getting your letters. Papa wrote me a letter on the 8th of this month & I got it on the 20th it took only 12 days to come here which is a very short time.

Mr Dalcours brother is going to go to Baltimore with his family in a few days & when he is gone Mr & Mrs Dalcour & we boys are going to stay at his estate. It is called the "Reunion Deseada" & I think we are going to have a fine time there as it has a fine house much better than the one here, a grassy yard with a plenty of trees in it & many other things that we like.

But please dont direct your letters there untill I tell you that we have gone there as I dont know when we are going but direct them to Matanzas as before.

We have been to the "Reunion" 4 times, the last time was only 4 days ago & we staid there all day & had a splendid time of it, romping playing & reading. The last I gave myself up almost entirely to as there is a nice library & plenty of books in the house & I sincerely hope they will be left there when they go away so that I may have a chance to read them all. Alfonso contented himself with playing with the boys. Mr. Agustin Dalcour (this Mr Dalcour's brother) has 6 children 3 boys & 3 girls, he looks like Uncle Tom which made Alfonso & I like him from the first time we saw him which was only a short time ago. Mr. Theodore Dalcour (the one we are staying with) has no children. Alfonso & I will be very glad to get the books locket & pencil & thank you & the family very much for sending them to us & thinking as much of us. I havent got Grandmama's Ambrosio's & Tula's letters yet neither have I got the first one which you said you had written to me. Please ask them to write soon. We havent got the books yet. I write to Nan Nan also. Alfonso begs that you will write to him when you do so to me. Write soon to me. Give my love to uncles aunts Grandmama sisters & brothers & beleive me ever your affec nephew

Nanno

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**GFP**

Adams Run July 31st [1870]

My dear Papa

I suppose Cousin Ebet has written as she said she would to inform you of my illness and that the Doctor had sent me up here. I had break bone fever for seven days & suffered a great deal. Dr.

Raoul<sup>253</sup> attended me & came to see me twice a day. Cousin Ebet was very kind to me when I was sick & sat up several nights with me. the Dr. said that the quiet up here would be good for me. I feel better already it is so much cooler than Charleston & the absence of mosquitoes is such a comfort. the village is perfectly healthy this year & Charleston is sickly. the children are remarkably well Tulita Grandmama says is in better health than she has ever known her she is sturdy. Baby has got out four jaw teeth making in all twelve teeth. she is todabbling about & is very smart & sweet . I enclose you a letter from Nanno. Mr. Lafitte supposing it was for me enclosed it to Grandmama & I opened it thinking so too. Excuse my worse than usual writing. I still feel very weak & my hand trembles. the children send you a plenty of love. I remain your affectionate Son Brosio

NA, U.S. Census 1870, South Carolina, Colleton County, 1492, #12.

Schedule 1.--Inhabitants in *St. Paul's Parish* in the County of *Colleton* State of *So. Ca.* enumerated by me on the *5th* day of *August* 1870, *Geo. F. McIntyre*, Ass't Marshal. Post Office: *Adams Run*.

Name	Age	Sex	Color	Profession	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth
Elliott, R. E.*	35	male	white	Planter			S.C.
" Ann H.	70	fem.	"	At Home			"
" Anna	40	"	"	" "			"
" Emily	38	"	"	" "			"
" T.R.S.	50	"	"	Planter			"

\* Male citizens of U.S. of 21 years of age and upwards, whose right to vote is denied or abridged on other grounds than rebellion or other crime.

**EGP**

Savannah, Georgia  
August 7th 1870

Narciso G. Gonzales (Master)

My dear Son:

I have just received your note of July 20th and hasten to answer it. It came to New York by the Steamer that left Havana on the 30th. To know that my children are well is the only comfort I have. I received last week your letter of July 2d., after some delay because you addressed it: "for Ambrosio Jose Gonzales" and did not write "Esq" and Mr Lafitte, thinking it was for Brosio, forwarded it to Adams Run and Brosio sent it to me. Ambrosio has been quite sick in Charleston with the broken bone fever; he got well, but being very weak, Dr. Raoul, who attended him, sent him to Adams Run to spend his vacations, that is, August & September, with his grandmother. Tulita Mino & the baby have recovered, and Ambrosio tells me that the latter is now toddling about and has twelve teeth. I am glad of the flowers and they are quite pretty. I have not heard, out of twelve letters I wrote last, but from yourself. I do not know what has become of my relations and friends. I have written twice to Mr. Artus and sent him an invalid chair he ordered me to get for him, but have not heard from him. Tell me how he is. Mr. Dalcour has not written to me either. Give him & Mrs Dalcour my kindest regards and with much love to Alfonso and yourself I remain ever your affectionate father

A. J. Gonzales

**EGP**

<sup>253</sup> Alfred Raoul, res. 221 Meeting, Raoul & Lynah, drugs, chemicals, etc., 223 King St., Charleston.

Savannah, Geo.  
August 10th 1870

Ambrosio Jose Gonzales Jr.

My dear Son:

I received your letter of Saturday and am glad to hear that you are doing well. You have the same talent for letter=writing that Nanno has; what you need is the *will* to write and the attention and pride necessary to write well. Your spelling is very defective, not that you do not know better, but that you do not take proper care. For instance: you write "Savannah" with one *n*; "August" without the first *u*; "shooting" with double *t*; "gentlemen" you write *gentelmen*. You should devote one or two hours every day during your vacations to look over what you have learnt already and to study ahead, so that you may get to the highest class as soon as possible. You should *copy* every day several pages from a book, as this exercise will improve your orthograph.

I enclose a letter from Nanno received this week. It is gratifying to a father's heart to receive the sympathy he expresses in his short note. Return me the letter on Saturday with the flowers enclosed. Give my love to Tula & Mino & kisses to all the children for me.

Your affectionate father

A. J. Gonzales

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**GFP**

Adams Run August 13th [1870]

My dear Papa

I received your letter of the 10th on Thursday last and was glad to have such late news of the Boys. I thought that I had been careful in the spelling of my last letter and was sorry to hear of the many faults. I expect to improve myself this vacation for I feel the necessity for it. The war news is very interesting; I go for France. Mr. Barnwell has a map of the seat of war & has shown me the course of the armies.

The children continue quite well and send their love. Gertrude thanks you very much for your letter she says I must tell you what Baby eats. She has chicken soup or beef soup every day made thick with rice & eats nearly every thing besides. your affectionate Son Ambrosio

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**EGP**

Adams Run Aug 16th 1870

My Dear Boys

We were made very happy yesterday by the arrival of Nanno's two charming letters to "Nan Nan & Emmie." This time I will write to both of you, so that my God son need not be jealous. I hope he will soon be able to send me a nice little note, for Nanno has taught himself so nicely that I am sure he will soon teach his little brother. Brosie wrote to you a few days ago, but I can not defer / must write / tell you how much pleased we were to receive such good clever letters from our absent darling. We are sorry to hear that you find it so hot. This has been a very hot summer every where in "The States" (as I suppose you have learned to call this country)' but we have not suffered from heat here-- having had more breezes than usual-- and the nights are always cool. There have been hundreds of deaths from SunStroke in New York & some cases even in Charleston. You ask if Oak Lawn is still mortgaged? it is -- & there is no chance of its ever paying for itself. I do not think that Mr. Hoppock will push the mortgage directly, but he has lost very heavily by planting & his old father is wroth with him, for wasting the money. He has had to work so hard for if he postpones foreclosing

the mortgage for a few years perhaps we will get back the Island property & be able to buy in Oak Lawn. The Port Royal R. Road runs through one of your Grand Papa's places-- "Cedar Grove" which joins the Battery where the City of Port Royal is being [...]. The Democrats are gaining ground (North Carolina has just gone Democrat) & when the Democrats get back into power, our lands are to be restored, & you may yet I trust be able to go to college as the grand sons of your grandfather should & be a credit to yourselves & honour to your family. I feel sure that you are learning many nice ways & suspect that you are both polished little gentlemen. Of course you take the side of France in the present war. The South, goes for her, whilst the North goes for Prussia who I trust will be hurled back from the gates of Paris & punished for her presumption. When we see the cable dispatches in the morning paper, dated the midnight previous, from Paris & London, it fills us with fresh wonder daily. What would our grandfathers have thought about reading at their breakfasts of yesterdays fight at Mely or Strasburg? Brosie is going to study this vacation & is to begin Latin next week. I wish you were studying together. He sends you a plenty of love & will write to you soon again. I enclose a letter from Gertrude her own composition. Nan Nan & Grandmama send you much love & with Minie also I am

Ever Your devoted

Aunt Emmie

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**GFP**

Adams Run August 20th [1870]

My dear Papa

I received your note on Tuesday last and was very much pleased to see Alfonso's first letter. There have been several Reform & Radical meetings here and the negroes are drilling and mustering all around with ragtag uniforms & Flags & making ridiculous displays. Mr. Henry Barnwell who keeps a store in the village is a great friend of mine. I go there every day & sit down & talk with him. He has invited me to go down with him to his father's rice plantation on Edisto river & see the rice harvested and to drive down to Toogoodoo and swim. I learned to swim in Charleston. There are a great many half grown partridges in a corn field in the village & I go nearly every morning to shoot them but they are so shy and dodge so in the grass that I have not been able to get a shot at them but I have a great deal of fun in hunting them. This last spell has been the only hot weather that we have had at Adams Run & Grand mama got a Hogshead of Ice which has been a great comfort to us. The family have had very nice letters from Nanno. I am not fond of tamarinds but it must be fun to gather them & I am glad the boys had the pleasure of being so useful to Mrs. Dalcourt. Nanno says the heat is dreadful. Mr. Dalcourt's brother was about leaving with his family for Baltimore & Mr Dalcourt though of occupying his place.

Is it true that the negroes have been emancipated in Cuba? The children send plenty of love & are all well.

I remain your affec Son

Ambrosio

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**GFP**

Wendesday morning, August 24th 1870

Monticello Canimar

My dear Papa

I received your letter of August 7th this morning as I was dressing & now (just

after breakfast) set about answering it. Mr. Agustin Dalcour left the Reunion at 10 o'clock on the morning of the 19th, reached Havana that evening & started for Baltimore at half past four on the evening of the 20th in the steamship "Cuba," Capt. Dukehart commander.

We have been busily employed yesterday & the day before at the Reunion in whitewashing, scouring, cleaning, dusting, rubbing, taking bedsteads to peices, carrying things upstairs, catching hens, roosters, chickens, etcetera, etcetera. I've been there 9 times since July counting today for we are going there now & we boys are to ride behind the volante. I will write more this evening when I come back for I must go now.

Wendesday evening. We have just come back from the "Reunion" & had a pretty good time there. There are plenty of fruit there, guavas, bannannas, mameys, anons, & a good many others. We caught & brought here from the "Reunion" 32 hens, turkeys, roosters, 2 chickens the day before yesterday, from 15 to 20 yesterday & 8 today & there are some more turkeys & chickens left which we'll catch tomorrow when we go there. I've a hundred things to tell you nearly all of them about the "Reunion" but have not time to tell you half as this goes tomorrow & its nearly dark. Tell Brosio that I am very sorry that he has been sick & hope that he is well enough to enjoy his vacations at Adams Run. As for us I can say that we are all very well & I was never in better or as good health in my life & Alfonso also. All of your freinds & relations that I know of are well. Mr. Artús got your letters & the invalid chair a long time ago, he is quite well & so is Mr. Dalcour but I really don't know why they don't answer your letters. I answer all of your letters to me & only wish I had more to answer. I am longing to go to school with Ambrosio. Has he been promoted to a higher class. Perhaps some of the letters you wrote to your friends have got lost on the way as one from Emmie to me was. Ambrosio's sickness accounts for his not answering several letters that I wrote to him.

You say in your letter that "Tulita, Mino & the baby have recovered" I did not know that they had been sick. You may depend that I will write to you more at length as soon as we "take possession" of the "Reunion" which will be very soon. I got 2 more lottery tickets some time ago but neither drew & I'm going to get 2 more which draw on the 3d of September. I hail the approach of Autumn as it has been so hot here lately. Excuse very bad writing & mistakes today for my hand is tired. I am glad that you liked the flowers I sent you. I enclose 2 or three others which I brought from the "Reunion" a few days ago & pressed. Dinner's ready & I've finished, so, with much love to yourself the family "Bosy" & little brothers & sisters.

Beleive me ever

your affec son

Narciso Gonzales

PS

Alfonso sends his love to all. Adios.

For

Ambrosio Jose Gonzales Esq.

Savannah

Ga

I am careful to put the "Esq" this time Papa.

NGG

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*Savannah Morning News*

24 to 31 August 1870, 2

BOOK-KEEPER.

A Foreigner, who was book-keeper and Cashier for the last two years in a large exporting house, is desirous to form a new engagement. He is thoroughly versed in Book-Keeping, Corresponding and general office work. Address P. O. Box 779, C. W.

[Possibly placed by Gonzales]

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**EGP**

Monticello Canimar August 26th 1870

For Master Ambrosio Jose Gonzales Jr. Ams Rn.

My dear Ambrosio

I received your letter of August 13th last night just before supper & as I could not answer it then, of course I must do so now, but you must not expect to hear anything very amusing as we have a pretty dull time of it here. You said that you had got a letter from Papa yesterday & last night when I got your letter I might have said the same thing, & truly, as I got one from Papa on the 24th dated August 7th. Yours reached me in 11 days. But to return to the things that I have to tell you. I suppose that you've heard that we are going to another estate called "The Desired Reunion" but we call it the "Reunion" for shortness. I have been there about 20 times but have not moved into it yet. We have some good fun there. There are banana's, guava's, plantains, anon's, tamarinds, ect ect & "phew! dont we eat a plenty of them especialy the guavas & bananas. There are also 4 peacocks there 2 large males 1 female & 1 young one. We dont trouble the female & young one but the other day I came across one of the males & ran at him so much that he had to jump on a stone fence but I ran up and caught hold of his tail, he jumped over to the other side & got away but left 2 of his long beautiful green & gold tail feathers in my hand. I stuck them into my hat & wore them as trophies of that day's peacock hunt. I am reading now an historical novel called "Napoleon and Blucher" it is at the "Reunion" & I read it when I go there. I have not had a salt water bath since that unlucky one we took at the bathing house in Matanzas just after which I caught the yellow fever & black vomit, so of course I dont know how to swim yet (though I would learn myself very soon if they would let me have water enough to learn in.) But I've learned how to row & paddle very well in only 2 lessons. Some time ago Alfonso & I alone rowed Mr Dalcours boat with 2 men & ourselves in it some 4 miles down & up the river without stopping once, in a very short time. I remember very well what we thought about, Christopher Columbus being our great grandfather, & do you remember also those little green boxes up in the garret in the old house at Oak Lawn in which Uncle Ralph used to [sic] that he carved & ate little children in. I'm very sorry that you have been sick How does the Breakbone fever ~~feal~~ feel! is it worse than the acclimating fever you had. I have not got a single letter from any of you dated June though I wrote several to each of you. I have only got 12 letters from all of you Papa 4 Grandmama 3 you 2 Emmie 1 NanNan 1 Tula 1 & Alfonso has one from Tula that Papa sent him long ago, in all 13. I've sent more than twice as many as I have got. I am very sorry if you have not got them for I write to you very often. You may tell the family that my arms are no longer pipe stems for theyve grown as large & strong as yours when you were 12 years old. I wont say more for I'm going to the "Reunion" to stuff myself with fruit & "Napoleon & Blucher" & as this must go now I must hunt out somebody there who is going to Matanzas & will cary [sic] this there as with a great deal of love to Papa the family yourself Mino Tula & Anita.

Beleive me ever yr affec brother

Nanno

Do you make all the boys in the village jealous by courting Sally Alston & does she like you still.

PS This will go next week unless I send it now & so toure so anxios to get it soon I want to send it soon too & not write more.

Adios

[Letter addressed on outside:]

For

Master Ambrosio J Gonzales

Care of Grandmama

Adams Run August 26 1870

So Ca

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**GFP**

Adams Run  
August 27th [1870]

My dear Papa

I enclose you Alfonso's letter which I neglected to do in my last letter as it was in Grandmama's room & I could not disturb her as she had been up all night with the Baby who has been quite unwell suffering very much with her mouth but she is well now & has some more teeth. Gertrude & Mino are well & fat & I am in better health than I have been in for years. I am afraid that my hand writing will never improve unless I can get some quilt pens. I tried to get some in Charleston but could not.

--Please excuse this short note. I am out of stationary. with the love of the children

I remain  
Your affect  
Son  
Ambrosio

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**EGP**

For Miss Emily Elliott Adams Run St Pauls Par.  
Monticello, Monday -morning August 29th 1870

Dearest Emmie

Alfonso brought me yours & Tula's letters of August 16th as I was reading a book at the "Reunion" on the 26th, & I was delighted to get them. I got a letter from Papa on the 24, one from Ambrosio on the 25th & yours & Tula's on the 26th. Papa's dated Aug 7th I got in 17 days. Ambrosio's dated Aug 13th I got in 11 days & yours & Tula's dated Aug 16th I got in 10 days. Ambrosio, yours & Tulas letters I got in a very short time! dont you think so! We are all well here & one insignificant billious fever (which I had long ago) & a very few headaches, has been my allowance of sickness this year. I could not answer your's letters on the 26th 27th & 28th for on the two first named days we had to go to the "Reunion" & the 28th was Sunday. I am afraid dear Emmie that you cant get a letter from Alfonso for he can neither compose or write one. I & Mrs Dalcour began teaching him reading & writing, a short some time ago but you know too well how he hates his books & so he went on just as he used to do when you & Nan Nan taught him at Oak Lawn. (I mean that he would do nothing but worry & wont learn a thing) which disgusted Mrs Dalcour as much that she stopped teaching him. About 2 months after this I alone began to teach him, but of course as I could not spank him, he would not learn for me either, So after 3 weeks martyrdom I was compelled to stop too, & since then he has not been taught. He wont read not because he dont know

how to (because he knows how to very well) but because he dont want to. The only thing to be done is to put him to a school where he'll have to learn or get whipped. I'm afraid Tulas knows more than he does. I wrote to Ambrosio on the 26th but nobody in was obliging enough to carry it to Matanzas so it has to go on Thursday or Friday next. Tell Brosio that I shall be most happy to get a letter from him soon. he tells me that Grandmama you & Nan Nan have sent us the books ect ect after much trouble, & before I go farther I must thank you all sincerely for being so thoughtful as to think of the very things I wanted most & being as kind & good as to take all the trouble of packing & sending them to us. Tell Grandmama & Brosio not to worry themselves about the letters as it dont matter much if one or two letters are lost. I'll sent you a list of the number of letters I've got from each of you & you do & the family send me the number of them each of you have got from me & the days they were written so that we'll know how many are lost. I enclose the list. Of course we go for France but as nearly everybody in Cuba goes for Prussia, the newspapers are filled with lies. Sometime ago they said Napoleon was badly whipped with a loss of 20,000 men & 48 cannon & mortars next that Napoleon was crazy next that Napoleon was dead next that the Prussians had entered France & yesterday heard that Frederick [...] & army were 40 leagues of Paris & that the non-combatants are ordered to leave the city. Everybody beleives that the Prussians will take Paris. Do you get the same news do you beleive it! & is it true! As Autumn is comeing it is quite cool & we have plenty of breezes, now, & we had them too some time ago (& in fact always) but they were only before 2 in the morning & after 4 in the evening, but now we have them always & autumn & winter are really delightful in this country. To be sure I did not mind the heat much before either as I had been here 2 years already & got used to it. Tula's description of the fruits you have to eat at Adams Run quite make my mouth water. Would you beleive that I counted more than 325 ripe & decaying lemons under a lemon tree in Mrs Dalcours plantain walk & as many more fine ripe & green ones on the tree they fell off the tree they were so ripe & they lie there rotting & yet nobody uses them. We have half a peck in the house to make lemonade out of whenever we want it. I cant tell you half of what I want to say. We are going of to the "Reunion." I write to Tula & Grandmama also. My love to all at home  
Your loving nephew

Nanno

You Grandmama & Tula need not write to Alfonso any more for he cant answer your letters. NGG  
I enclose some flowers which I picked at the "Reunion" on purpouse to send you.

For

Miss Emily Elliott

Adams Run

South Carolina

List of letters received from the family by me

Dated

From	No	Month	Day	Year
Grandmama	3	1 January	1	1870
		2 March	9	1870
		3 May	18	1870
Nan Nan	1	1 July	10	1870
Emmie	2	1 July	4	1870
		2 August	16	1870
Brosio	2	1 May	12	1870

		2 August	13	1870
Tula	3	1 December	3	1869
		2 May	18	1870
		3 August	16	1870
	Total			
	11			

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**EGP**

For Mrs Anne H Elliott Adams Run So Ca

Monday mid-day August 29th 1870

Ingenio Monticello Canimar

Dearest Grandmama

I suppose that you think that Papa has told us not to ~~you~~ write to you or the family, but I am happy to say that he has not said or written a word to us about it & I dont think he ever will; for what good would it do to him or us, not to hear from or write to the family & you besides I am sure that he never would do such a mean thing. So please dont worry yourself anymore about the letters & if you dont get them dont blame either Papa or myself for he has not said anything to me about it & I have written to you much oftener than to him even. I send you a list to show how many letters Ive got from each of the family. But let me turn to some pleasanter subject Mrs Dalcour tells me to tell you that she has received your letter of August 13th & will answer it as soon as she has time enough but she is unable to do so now as she is too buisy.

Direct your letters as before to

“Mr Theodore Dalcour” Matanzas Cuba

You write his name “Dalcourt” but it is wrong as it is not “Dalcourt” but “Dalcour” so leave out the t at the end of the name & it will be all right. Perhaps that may be the reason I dont get many of your letters. Please write often to me dear Grandmama & tell Emmie Nan Nan Brosio & Tula please to do the same for to get a letter from one of you makes me happy.

Excuse bad writing for Ive written a long letter to Emmie this morning & my hand is tired. Give my love to Nannan & Emmie Uncles Tom & Ralph Brosio Tula Mino & Anita &

Beleive me ever

my dear Grandmama

yr affec grandson

Narciso Gener Gonzales

PS Emmie flatters me! She calls my letter “charming” Are they.

[Back of letter addressed to:]

For

Mrs Anne H. Elliott  
 Adams Run St Pauls Parish  
 Colleton County  
 So Ca

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**EGP**

14 Upper Gloucester Place  
 Donsel Square  
 London

[September 1870]

Dear Miss Elliott

I have regretted very much not hearing from you all this time, never the least I have felt sure you felt kindly to me, and that could we have seen each other, I should have found you sympathised in the sore & deep grief that God has sent me, & I have thought that it was perhaps that you knew how unspeakable my sorrow must be, and that ~~you~~ at such a distance & not being able to speak to me, you did not like to write. But I do not want you to give me up, so I write to tell you how much I should like to hear from you, and how often I think of you. Your letters were were [*sic*] always a great pleasure to us *both* & the South and Southern friends were so very dear to the last moment to my dearest husband that besides my own warm feelings for them, I have the memory of his to draw ~~thei~~ me to them. After every other earthly interest had faded, he would always feel the deepest concern for any tidings from the South, and listened to Southern Papers when he had ceased to care for all others. I must not write more of this, for were I once to give vent to my own grief I should but sadden you. God has granted me many consolations, first of all the full assurance of his perfect happiness, and then that whatever my sufferings are, I suffer alone.

I have wished so much that I could send you some tokens of my interest in some things that would add to the comforts of your daily life, but the difficulties and Expenses of the Custom House are so great that it is impossible, and now dearest Miss Elliott -- I am going to ask a great favour & [...] of friendship, just such as I would ask from a dear friend, or sister, knowing how I am situated and that I cannot send the things I wish, will you appropriate the Check for \$100 that will accompany this letter to getting some little comforts, and then when using them forget that you had to buy them yourself, but think of them so coming from a friend who cares very much for you. It is a matter quite between you & myself alone. The Agent I order to send you the money, will suppose I owe it to you, or have sent you a commission for something I wanted You to get me. My only anxiety is lest I might hurt or offend you by sending the money instead of the things I want you to have, but I think when you think it over, your kindness and good sense will lead you to see it in its true light.

And now may God bless and protect you all. With love to your Mother and Sister  
Believe me Always Yours sincerely & affectionately

C. M. Manigault

Emma & Julia are with me, and send you all love. We had to leave Paris in great haste, & only brought a trunk a [...] with us, and at present it seems likely we shall again lose nearly all our personal effects, by war.<sup>254</sup> I send you two Standards. In one there is an interesting letter from Paris  
Direct as at the top of my letter.

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**GFP**

Marshall House  
A. B. Luce, Proprietor  
Savannah, Ga.

Adams Run Sept. 10th 1870

My dear Papa

Yours of the 8th has just been received. I am glad to report the children all right. The cool

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<sup>254</sup> The Franco-Prussian War (July 1870-May 1871). Civilians were ordered to evacuate Paris in late August 1870, and the city capitulated in January 1871.

weather is very agreeable. I drove the little ones to Toogoodoo the other day & they enjoyed it very much. The only severe fever we have heard of in this neighborhood was at Toogoodoo a case of congestive Chill. Cousin Mary Manigault also has been very ill with congestive chill at South Island.

We have just had letters from Nanno he was about to move to the Reunion & seemed delighted at the prospect on account of the nice library & fruits. I think the place you have in prospect for Willie Burnet will be too late for him as he was to go into Business on the 20th of August. Baby is very fond of rice birds & looks like one herself. I am very sorry for France & the Emperor it makes me feel as if we had been whipped again.

Nanno is very much perplexed by the contradictory telegraph reports of the war he is on the French side the people there he says go for Prussia who is too Yankee for me. Nanno has had a slight billious fever but is well again.

With love from the Children.

I remain your affec. Son

Ambrosio

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**EGP**

Monticello Sept 15th 1870

My dear Madam

I have received your letter dated August 13. I am happy to inform you that your grandchildren are quite well. They have written to you ~~also~~ several times, and they have also received your letters.

I cannot imagine why you have not heard from them, their letters must have been mis-laid in Charleston.

Mr Gonzales wrote to Mr Dalcour that he would come in April for his children, they were delighted as you may well suppose, April has come, and passed, and he has not yet appeared. A month ago he wrote again Says nothing of his return, but complains of his strained position. I told the boys to give you a list of all their letters and of those received from you.

I hope this will find you in good health and beg of you to believe me yours truly

Y. B. Dalcour

Remember me kindly to Ambrosio, I hope he is well

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**GFP**

Adams Run, Sept. 18th 1870

Dear Papa

You will be glad to hear that the children are well for I cannot call Baby sick, although she is very languid and fretful from cutting her eye teeth. she is so well taken care of & her appetite is so good for "Extract" of beef that I suppose in a few days she will be hearty again.

Grandmama has quite an assistant at present in Chloe, Aunt Callie's servant, she was obliged to dismiss Susan who couldnt mind Baby and was a low woman.

I study more than I ever did in my life & hope I am making some progress.

Since the evenings have become cool the children walk out and enjoy very much the picking of the beautiful wild flowers. I can think of nothing more than you will care to hear.

The children join me in love & & remain your affec. Son

Brosio

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**EGP**

MARSHALL HOUSE  
A. B. LUCE, PROPRIETOR

Savannah, Ga. 24th Sept. 1870.

A. J. Gonzales Jr.

My dear Son:

I only received day before yesterday your note of the 18th. I am gratified to see an improvement in your handwriting and to hear of your determination to study; without it, the very best of teachers are of no avail; while there are innumerable instances of boys and even men having become eminent merchants by dint of personal effort, in the absence of any educational advantages whatever.

I am sorry the *littlest* darling is not well and hope that you will be able to give me better account of her in your next. Chloe's services are quite an acquisition in her behalf. In picking wild flowers, let the children be very mindful of snakes.

Savannah has been very dull for those who have had nothing to do. Most of those who had the ability to do so, have left the city for the North or for the country. I have not been out more than half a dozen times during the summer. I expect to go to Charleston (by the way of Beaufort) by the end of next week, so that, after your next, you must address to Charleston. I saw Mr. Poujard here, on his way through, for Cuba.

I have been much distressed at the news you gave me of Mary Manigault's health.

With much love to the little ones and yourself, I remain

Your affectionate father

A. J. Gonzales

Say "howdye" to Chloe for me.

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**GFP**

Adams Run Sept 25th 1870

Dear Papa

I am glad to tell you that Baby is no worse though her teeth still annoy her & make her very cross and troublesome at night. One of her principal amusements is to have people to dance for her. She has *mixed balls*. Chloe Betsy (Julia the cook) the children & a small mongrel assisting.

She's a very smart child but does not talk. the only word she will say is hog (which the fair Susan taught her)

Uncle Ralph & Alex Wright went up to white hall station yesterday to hear judge Carpenter speak. Alex is a delegate from his colored bretheren.

I have not heard their report yet. You were mistaken in thinking that I was studying by myself. Mr. Henry Barnwell at the request of Grandmama is assisting me in my studies. he was at school 16 years before he went into the army & teaches very nicely,

With love from myself & the children I remain your affec Son

Brosio

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**GFP**

For A. J. Gonzales Esq. Savannah, Geo.

Monticello, Tuesday, Sept. 27 1870

My dear Papa

I received your letter of the 12th late last Thursday night so could not answer it by that weeks

steamer. I will not write you a long letter now as I wrote to you on the 1st & I suppose that you've got it by this time. Alfonso got your letter to him on the 17th & should have answered it last week but he delayed from day & did not do it. I wanted him to write to you this morning, but he began, grumbled, & left off. He is very stubborn and don't want to do anything that I tell him to do, so please write & tell him to do exactly what I tell him to do for if he don't he won't learn anything.

We had a very heavy rain here also on the 12th & now it is quite cool (almost cold) in the morning but midday it is as hot as in summer. Its raining a little now. Sometimes my letters are cut in two by visits to the "Reunion" as we have not moved there yet. Allow me to answer for Alfonso, and say that Mr. D is obliged to go to the "Reunion" to take care of the place. It is true that there was a great deal of cholera in Havana, Matanzas, & even near here but it has gone off now so don't be afraid that we will catch it.

We have our hair cut very short & bathe our heads in cold water every morning, which refreshes us a great deal. I have letters to answer besides yours. I enclose some flowers that I picked the other day & hope that you will like them as well as you did the others. I dont know what makes your friend behave so. They cannot be true friends who would forsake you now that you are in trouble. I did not know that you paid Grandmama for the childrens board.

With much love to you from Alfonso & myself believe me ever  
your affec son

Narciso

P.S. Mr. D is moving the furniture of this house to the "Reunion" we will move there in a day or two. Adios N.G.G.

Sept. 28 This is the last day we stay here tonight we sleep at the "Reunion." Good bye Papa  
Narciso

[Envelope addressed to:]

Wallace Cumming, Esq.  
Savannah, Geo.

For Ambrosio  
Jose Gonzales Esq.

**EGP**

Monticello Sept 28th 1870

For my little "Sis Gertrude"

Dear little Tula

I was quite proud to get such a pretty letter from you. I think that you will beat Fonsie as a scholar. Fonsie & I are both well & I hope that you are well too. I am sorry to hear of the disasters which have befallen your dolls & I know that Minny is a veteran doll-smasher. We are just going to live in our other house & the furniture is being put into waggons & sent there, I went with a waggon load of beaureaus & books there yesterday, did not go home with the waggon, a shower of rain fell, but I managed to walk back here without getting wett. A sparrows nest (with one little sparrows just hatched in it) was found near here this morning by a servant & he brought it here & now we have it in a nest in a nice cage & now its chirping away while I'm writing. Do you see many birds now at Adams Run. Your birthday is so near now & I have so much to do that I dont think I can write to you then but however it dont matter much. You must be quite a pretty & a big young lady by this time. It seems so long since I've seen you & I long as much as you to see you & hug you & kiss you. I am glad that you & Anita like the flowers. I can also say that pretty girls dont grow in "Monticello" or

ugly ones either so you may know that my heart is not touched yet by any young lady's charms. Ask Grandmama to write to me & you must kiss all of the family & Mino & Anita for me & with much love to you I am

your affectionate

Brother Nanno

For my little "Sis Gertrude  
from her brother Nanno  
Sept 28th 1870

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**EGP**

Savannah, Geo.  
October 2d. 1870.

A. J. Gonzales Jr.  
My dear Son:

I leave in the morning for Beaufort, in the neighborhood of which I will be some days. I will thence go to Charleston; address me there. I hope the little darling is well by this time and I am very glad and thankful of the assistance you have from Mr Barnwell. I have received another letter from Nanno. He and Alfonso are very well and in great spirits. You will be pleased to hear that, God willing, you will see your brothers on their return, next month.

With many kisses to the little ones and much love to themselves and you, I remain,  
Your affectionate father

A. J. Gonzales

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**EGP**

Washington House  
Washington City Oct 7th [1870]

Dear Miss Elliott

I have just read your letter. I have another order for \$20 worth of orange preserves marmalade & figs, from Madame Rufus Buel. So when you send Mrs Beveridge, send Madame Buels at the same time & to the Washington House, corner of 3rd St & Penn Ave.

If you desire me Miss Elliott I will try & get your property returned to your family. I have acquaintances here high in power. So if you will tell me what you want done, I will do all in my power. Gen Sherman could give an order to have your property returned to you, & I believe he would do it were he approached in the right manner. So write me the History of it & I will see Gen Grant & Gen Sherman. "A mouse released a Lion" who knows what a woman might do. I am trying to do something for the orphan children of the South. That is to have the Government return to them their property used for Government purposes. Chief Justice Chase agrees with me that it ought to be done. That is if this is to be a permanent Govmt which I very much doubt. I can for the prosperity of the South only, & for the good of the brave & true hearted of my own sunny land I am willing to devote the remainder of my days. I am very sincerely &

Respectfully Yours

[Mrs.] E. F. Belt

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**EGP**

Adams Run Oct 8th [1870]

My Dear Brother Nanno

I got your nice letter last week & it made me glad to hear about the big rats it must be fine fun to catch them. You ask how old I shall be on my birthday which is so near at hand. I will be six years old. When I look my very best people say I look like you. So do try & be always a handsome boy & Grandmama sends her boys a plenty of love & hopes that you are always obedient & mindful of the kindness of good Mr & Mrs Dalcour. She says she will write to you when she has time. Baby loves her so much that she keeps her very busy. Cloe is her nurse at present but baby cries after us white folks-- Cloe wishes so much she could see you boys. Minny looks like Fon Fon but is much more mischevous meddling with every thing he can lay his hands upon -- digging holes all over the yard -- breaking up & destroying Emmy calls him her trouble house -- I hope you have got the books I sent you Fon fon must read Tom Thumb by himself-- & you must laugh over yours-- & not be offended at my sending you an A.B.C. book-- Brosie sends his love & will write soon. So will Emmie.

Ever Dear Brother Your loving little Sister

Wild Flowers from Adams Run.

[*This letter credited to Gertrude Gonzales, was written by Emily Elliott*]

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**GFP**

Adams Run  
Oct. 10th 1870

Dear Papa

I write as you desire to Charleston although I have not seen your arrival by the inland boat there.

I am really delighted to hear that the Boys are coming home next month, by what route will they come? Will it be by the way of Florida? We heard from Nanno ten days since but he said nothing about it. I know they will be too glad to see us all again & be able to go to school. Nanno is such a clever boy.

We have had some bracing weather but no frost. The children are well & out all day. Baby is still at her eye teeth & very savage. Gertrude & Miny join me in love & I remain your affec. Son Brosio

**EGP**

64 Mt Vernon Place  
Oct 13th [1870]

Dearest Mama

Some hurried work for the girls made me again forget that Yesterday was Wednesday, and so I must make up for lost time this Thursday morning. We were all saddened at breakfast by the announcement of Gen Lee's death which I have no doubt will cause general sorrow. Even the Yankees admired respect [*sic*] him. We have had quantities of rain lately, and it always clears off warm so, we may expect a continuation I suppose. Elliott is really looking better than for a long time-- if he improves much more it may be hard to get him off although poor fellow, he has no prospect of work here and no body to help him get any. Every one must struggle for himself to get on here, and we Southerners-- who *can't push* stand a poor chance.

I recd. a very nice letter from Aunt Mita-- who wrote instead of Leila in answer to my letter-- they will not be in Savh. until the end of Nov. but her sons (three of them) are there and "Elliott must go to her house" John is in California. Mary has taken her boy to NY, for an operation on his eyes. Robt. has been preaching for two years but has gone to NY to study Hebrew for six months -- his

wife & children with Aunt Mita.

I have just had a note from Alice R begging me to visit her at Barn[...] where She is just for one day-- I suppose going to NY. I dont think I can venture by my self-- although I want to see her very much.

Bishop Atkinson was here for a few days, and paid me a nice visit-- he looks well-- and seems infatuated with the climate of Asheville-- which place is being more resorted to now-- and within 18 months a Homoepathic Hospital has been established there.

Mrs King writes, that her large household is being scattered already for the winter. I hope the new settlers from Ohio -- will add to her society as they are on their way I understand. Have You Your plat for Farniente? As there are no fences now -- You had better have Your papers to show Your lines -- or Farmer may dispute them sometime.

The girls are well but all look pale -- they have exercise and good food -- but the climate is not pleasant. Neilson the best singer in the world is to be here next week -- tickets \$4, but my chicks of course can not go. I dont love money any more than I used to, but I feel the want of it *rather* more. Goodbye best love to all

Most lovingly

M B E

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The Charleston *Courier*

14 October 1870, 4

PASSENGERS.

Per steamer Pilot Boy, from Savannah, via Beaufort, and Pacific Landing--Miss Agness Villapuge, Miss Mount, General A. J. Gonzales, W. A. Susong, and 31 on deck.

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**EGP**

Reunion Deseada Oct 19th 1870

For Miss Gertrude at Adams Run So Ca

Dear little Sister

I was very glad to get your nice little letter night before last. I woke up early yesterday morning & while we were in bed I saw a little mouse playing on the bed close to FonFons toes & nearly touching them & he knew nothing about it for he was asleep. I told you about a little sparrow we had in my last letter to you. It is full grown now & quite tame it sits on the finger of one of Mrs Dalcours freinds while she feeds it with grist & when it has had enough it hops back into its little cage & chirps away merrily until next feed time. There is a beautiful little tame partridge here also nearly full grown who roosts up in the trees with the big turkeys roosters & hens. It is very plucky & follows about the old roosters & fights them a great deal. It is very beautiful & has a top-knot on his head & is whistling all day long. We have not got the books yet but thank you very much for them & I wont be offended at the A B C book but will be very glad of it for it shows that my little Tula thinks often of & cares for her brother Nanno. I cant change my looks you know, & I'm not handsome now, but that wont keep you from being handsome & as there are no pretty or ugly girls here to make love to, I dont trouble myself at all about my looks & FonFon thinks that he dont look much like Minny to whom Emmie has I think given a very good name. Thanks for the flowers I'm sorry that I've none to send you as a hurricane has ruined them all except the little ones I enclose which I suppose you know I forget its name It grows wild. Tell Cloe & Sarah I sent them "huddy." Tell Grandmama, Emmie & Brosie that I'll be very glad to hear from them & with much love to you & all the family

I am dear little Tula

Your loving brother  
Nanno

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**EGP**

Reunion Deseada October 22nd 1870

My dear Grandmama

We got the little box you sent us by Mr Poujaud, last night & thank you all very much for them My gold pen puts Mrs Dalcour gold pen quite in the shade & the niggers think Alfonsos locket for is a watch, he tells me to thank you very much for it & please thank Nannan for the pen. The box of books are in Havanna in the custom house & we hope to get them soon. They came by the "Liberty." The locket, pen paper & envelopes are in the little box but I'm sorry to say that the Testament has not come. I have no news to tell except that there has been another terrible hurricane here & another is expected day-after-tomorrow. Excuse bad writing I'm in a hurry. No more today.  
Your affec grandson

Nanno

PD A violet each for NanNan & Grandmama

Oct 29th The weather is delightful now cool & with a delicious breeze or rather wind. I enjoy it so much after the long hot summer. The books havent come yet, they must be in Havana. We saw Mr. Bullet the other day & he said that someone whom he didn't know had sent him a box of books & then we found out that they were ours. Alfonso & I are very well the Cholera is raging all around but we will never catch it as we are so healthy. This is a year which Cuba will long remember. Hurricanes & Cholera have killed thousands of people. The hurricane killed 1550 people in Matanzas alone & the streets were blocked up with fallen houses, dead people, dead oxen, horses, cows, poultry, ect which made an intolerable stench. Its worse than war. I killed a big Vampire bat the other day it was more than 15 inches long from tip to tipof the wings. Good bye dear Grandmama Give my love to all & write soon. I think of you every day. Your loving grandson

Nanno

For Nannan) Oct 31st Dear Nannan

It seems that France is getting the best of it now. They say that Prince Frederic Charles has died of Typhoid fever & that Von Moltke & the Duke of Mecklinburg-Schwerin have been shot & killed by the sharpshooters of the Vosges then that 50000 spaniards & 10000 italians & Garibaldi have joined the French & even Uncle Sam sends out volunteers to help France. a hundred & fifty arrived in France the other day. We hear also that the Prussians made an unsuccessful attack on Mont Valerien & were splendidly beaten & that Gen Beauregard has joined the French. I hope he will thrash the Prussians as he did the Yankees at Mannasas. So Gen Lee dead! They say he is. How sorry every Southerner must be. Old Farragut is dead too I hear. King William gets drunk every day after dinner & beats those who come near him when he is in this state. He is a perfect bear. Why dont Emmie Brosio & Grandmama write to me. My love to all at home. write soon Your loving

Nanno

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**GFP**

Adams Run Oct. 27th [1870]

Dear Papa

I wrote to you more than 2 weeks ago but have received no answer. I write now hoping that you have arrived in Charleston by this time. Have you heard anything of the Boy's poor fellows what

a dreadful hurricaine they have felt. We are very curious about them. Baby has been a great sufferer this week with a teething rush which gives her fever. Grandmama has just received a letter from Nanno dated Oct 5th they are settled at the "Reunion" He seems in low spirits & says nothing about seeing us next month. have you told him about it yet? The children join me in love. Your affect. Son

Brosio

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*New York Tribune*  
7 November 1870, 6.  
CLASSIFIED ADS

**Teachers**

AN EXPERIENCED "TUTOR" in the Classics, Modern Languages and English Branches, wishes an engagement in a private family or school. Music, Piano and Organ taught if desired. Address TUTOR, care UNGER & KEEN, 23 Maiden-lane.<sup>255</sup>

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**EGP**

Washington House  
Washington City Nov 10th [1870]

It is with real pleasure my dear Miss Elliott I write to you this morning. I have just seen Gen Sherman he told me to say to you Your property is not among the Abandoned of the Negro Bureau but have gone into the U.S. Tres. he says he wants you to have your property back -- & he has no doubt in the world but that you will recover it. Your titles are the only ones that are good.

I send you a copy of how you must proceed give [*sic*] me by Gen Howard.

Suppose you visit Judge Piagent at Charleston & consult him. Make his fee contingent upon the recovery. If we cannot recover it from the Commissioner refered to in Gen Howard's instructions get him to make out in proper form a Memorial to Congress. I will get it passed for you. I have got to remain here until after the El Paso R.R. bill passes. I send also a copy of Gen Sherman's note to Gen Howard. Gen S. seems to feel quite an interest in this matter & says you ought to have your property. Written on the back of the petition you sent me-- "Gen Howard -- Please give this lady such information as will enable her to take the necessary steps to get possession & rents for this property.

W. T. Sherman

Genl

Nov 5, 1867

Send me the papers just as soon as you get them prepared Congress meets in 13 or fourteen days. I feel assured of success here.

I was informed Mrs Buel & Mrs Beveridge received the preserves some days ago. I have not heard from either of them yet. I will see them in a few days try & collect your money & send it to you in a Post Office order.

Truly Yours

E. F. Belt

Copy from Original Prepared at Gen. Howard's Office--

The property of Mrs Ann H. Elliott is part of a large tract placed by act of Congress under the direction of Ten Commissioners. *These* being appointed by the Senate with the nomination of the

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<sup>255</sup> This ad, probably placed by Ambrosio Gonzales, ran for a week from November 7 to the 14, then appeared again only on November 16, 1870, shortly after the time he arrived in New York.

President for each State. The names of two only of the Commissioners for the State of South Ca. are known at this office W. H. Brisbane & W. E. Wording who reside at Beaufort South Ca & are under the direction of the Sec of the Treasury.

The Bu of Refugees Freedmen & A. Lands has no jurisdiction of these lands-- nor control over these Commissioners.

*The original owners* of these lands should first ascertain the action of these Commissioners & apply to them for the restoration of their property on other redress & *have the right of appeal to the Sec of the Treasury*

You can show this opinion of Gen Howards to these Commisnrs Gen Sherman says if you fail with the Commissioners write immediately to me giving their objections & then I will appeal to the Sec of the Treasury if I fail then he says a Special Act of Congress I can get passed as soon as they convene.

The following Acts of Congress are cited as relating to this subject

Chapter 98 2 Sess 37 Congress app June 7th, 1862

In Laws U.S. Vol 12th page 423

Public act No 114 Laws Sess 39 Congress

Chapter 87 2 Sess 38 Congress

Laws U.S. Vol 13 page 501

Proclamation of the President U.S. Aug 16, 1861

Laws U.S. Vol 12 page 1262

With the influence give [*sic*] me here I feel sure from what Gen S told me this morning I shall yet see you reinstated in your Inheritance-- rest assured you have my earnest endeavors & heart felt wishes for your success-- hoping to hear very Soon from you that you have seen the Commissioners & the result.

My Kindest regards to your Mother. I am most Sincerely Your Friend

E. F. B.

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**EGP**

“Reunion” Nov 19th 1870

Dear Grandmama

We only heard last night that we were going home at last & how glad we are. I think we will start on the 27th, we were to have done so on the 6th but were not ready in time for the steamer. I am so impatient now to start that each day seems a month. How are you all I suppose we are to go to school but I hope Papa will let us stay a few days with you before we do so. Why dont you write to me Dozens of letters come here every week but none for me & I'm very much disappointed in consequence. The books havent come yet. If they come after we are gone Mrs D will send them back. Excuse bad writing am in a great hurry. I daresay we will find it very cold in Baltimore. I'd like to see ice again. Its cold here in the mornings & theres been a norther blowing since night before last. Give my love to all

Adios. Your own

Nanno

[Letter-envelope addressed to:] Mrs A H Elliott

Adams Run S C

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**EGP**

Sunday 27th Nov [1870]

Dearest Mama

Your last letter was unusually welcome, telling of the good health of Your household. I did not like the clause about Emmie though, and hope she may soon be able to disipate the threat of liver complaints -- has Emmie been taking quinine all summer? *that* may have caused her pains & aches-- or it may be the effect of cold-- or (which is most likely)-- overwork and standing too much do try and persuade Emmie to save herself for that fortune which must come when the lands are restored. I have not of course heard ~~from~~ of Col. Gonzales -- but if he succeeds in getting anything for You-- we can afford to forgive him for being so disagreeable I think. Has Hoppocks sudden death affected You any? I mean of course Your interests at Oaklawn. I was asked the question by Julia Drayton yesterday -- and I suppose the matter has been discussed in her set. You know Mr Hastie is also a Grocer -- they came to visit us having stopped for the day only in Balt -- Julia is just the same nervous excitable creature -- not handsome, and *She* says not strong. Mr Hastie impressed us rather favourably -- he is good looking and polite aged 27 -- they left last night for Phil -- thence to morrow for New York -- Julia says Ellie has not sung a note for four months -- her voice being lost from a severe cold.

Emma & Fran have been enjoying some extremely fine music of late -- a quintette club from Boston gave two concerts to which they went -- the first night I gave them tickets -- the second -- Old Mrs. Penington sent them by Harper -- it hailed, sleeted & poured -- but it was close by and I borrowed waterproof cloaks india rubber shoes & umbrellas and they went safely -- the third night Emma having a ticket attended a Peabody concert -- So She had music a plenty for one week. Mamie's pupil is going to New York for several weeks at Christmas -- and Mamie will come to us -- boarding here, at the same price that Mrs Lefebre's daughter does. Miss Kummer has so tied up Mrs Lefebre that She can do nothing that is not "in the contract" poor woman her plans are all thwarted by the war -- and She is in a very nervous condition -- making her write hateful letters sometimes to Mrs L. All of her treasures -- her library (quite a handsome one) her china glass, ornaments, clothing etc are in Paris -- where she intended establishing herself-- and is restless and miserable at being shut out of Paris and her schemes. If She returns -- Mrs Lefebre's association with her cannot last.

My position is infinitely more agreeable with Mrs Lefebre and I certainly could not stay under Miss Kummer's regime were she to return -- but sufficient for the day etc -- and I never look beyond. The girls heard a few days since that a pupil at Mrs Semple's who died a week since -- had had Scarlet fever -- and that another was ill -- We have no means of finding out the truth and I am quite uneasy about it -- I think it more likely twas diphtheria.

Good bye with dearest love to all -- I am as ever Your loving

Mary

Elliott we presume is at Santee he was to have left on the 23d

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EGP

64 Mt Vernon Place  
Balt Dec 10th [1870]  
Sunday

Dearest Mama

Mrs Lefebre has gone in my stead to Church today -- and given me the chance of indulging my neuralgia or rather of not increasing it as the weather at last (after a long bright spell) threatens snow. While the house is quiet I have been writing letters -- and still have time for my Sunday talk

with You. Your last was a great surprise to me -- and I was extremely disappointed to find that Nanno & Alphonso, had been so near me, without my having seen them. Had the boys come in the Liberty, Capt Reed would have known where to look for me. Knowing Miss Chiffle -- as well as myself -- I am so glad they are safe with You -- poor little fellows, if Aunt Annie only had time to teach them and they could be made obedient they could both learn -- and be made very useful besides in the minage. Elliott says his brother Wms children are so useful in every way. How grateful I am for Mrs Manigault's timely present to Anne. I hope She will write fully to Mrs M, who I know will feel it a privilege to help-- (perhaps in the education of the children) Some one told me lately I forgot who, that the immense Morrisama estate had been divided among the heirs making all rich. Mrs M. must have her share of course.

We are having sleet. The girls just got in in time. Mamie ran in too for a moment, with a nice colour, and looking so comfortable in her 40 dollar furs. I am glad Lida is generous to her -- it secures comforts to her which an increased salary would not, as She always spends her money on us. Since Sept. We have spent \$675-- 365 of which for tuition-- the rest in clothing absolute necessities-- for the girls (a pair of shoes & pair of gloves *my* only extravagancies). When I remember-- we have no income it really frightens me-- but I should not mind for us-- if I only felt sure that You all could keep Your heads above water. The ups & downs. Emma dined Yesterday with a schoolmate-- dinner at 7 o'clock seven courses-- no company save one other girl-- Mr & Mrs Garret & daughter-- the entertainers. *He* quite an Oracle in Balt but comparatively mushrooms.

Last evening. Old Mr & Mrs Penington came to take the girls to a concert -- quite a compliment from the Old Couple. Fannie went and enjoyed it much. Elliott writes he will run up and see You next week. Probably he *has* been -- and is off for Mr Heyward. I want him to be ready after Christmas for work if it offers or rather if he can find any. We have written to him today to Charleston-- as he finds so much to attract him there. The girls are well and desire their especial love to all. I do hope Emmie is stronger and will let others do the work of the house while she takes better care of herself. Good bye darling Mama best love *to all* Your loving Mary

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**EGP**

Charleston 18th Jan 1871

Master Ambrosio Gonzales

Adams Run

Dear Ambrosio

I have received your letter and in reply would state that I have not heard from your Father since he left here for New York. I gave him a letter of introduction to Mess Le Count whose address I give you below, a letter for your Father addressed to their care would probably reach him.

Very truly yours

E. Lafitte

H. M. & W. Le Count

P. O. Box 1161

New York

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**EGP**

Charleston 28th Jan 71

Dear Mrs Elliott

I trust you have not thought me negligent for not answering you ere this; but the day I received your letter I was busy with the Cuba mail, and for several days past have been suffering from an inflamed eye.

I cannot give you much information respecting Mrs Cartaya's whereabouts, except that they were living in Philadelphia when I came home in July; and the Doctor intended practicing there for a living, as all his property in Cuba was confiscated as soon as he left.

I however wrote immediately on receipt of your letter to my husband asking Adelaidas direction, and further information that might be of service to you. I can easily understand your feelings on the sad subject contained in yr letter, and the desire to have the remains of your dear daughter removed: I lost my eldest child in Cuba & it was a great comfort to have the body embalmed & brought home. However I think you have been somewhat misinformed as regards the custom of removal; the common mode of interment there is awful, but I am almost confidant that the remains were placed in a family vault.

Col. Gonzales' friends (no matter on what terms they were) would never have allowed any other, -- for all families of means there, have their private vaults. Of all this I will hear & inform you abt. in the course of fifteen days.

My intercourse with your daughter was short, but pleasant & friendly; it was sufficient that she was a Southerner &, I may say, a fellow sufferer during the war, that I hastened to see her & try to make her feel *at home* in a strange land. Her death was one of the saddest occurrences I have ever experienced, & believe me dear Lady, tho' an entire stranger to you, I have always entertained the deepest sympathy for you, and those little ones, who were so cruelly deprived of a lovely Mother.

I regret much that it is not in my power to act the part of a true friend to you; fortune is still frowning on us, I am consequently separated all the time from either husband or children.

Should you come at any time to the city, I shall be most happy to meet you, and would like much to see the dear little ones again.

Yours most sincerely

Cecilia M. de Poujaud

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EGP

11 King St. Feb. 9, 1871

My dear Aunt

I have received your letter about your lot at Magnolia, & will attend to your wishes with pleasure. The sum you mention will be sufficient for a head stone, & have enough to put the lot into good order.

I speak from my own experience, not having had time yet to visit the cemetery, or make any enquiries on the subject. More exact information I can give you after making such enquiries.

We hear so little of you, that I felt glad of some communication, even tho' the tone of Emily's letter to Sally was any thing but cheerful.

You have all the children with you I find, & tho' the burden is heavy in these sad times, I hope their presence helps to comfort you amid this trials of our present lot.

I met lately the lady who was near Hattie in Cuba, & had much conversation about her. But as she is intimate with Mrs. Stack, I suppose that you know all that she can tell you.

Sally joins me in love to your daughters & yourself. We have also had our share of colds & cases of fever, but are getting over them now.

Your affect. Nephew

EGP

64 Mt Vernon Place  
Ash Wednesday [15 February 1871]

Dearest Mama

Your nice long letter of Friday was read with much interest, Yesterday -- I felt so sorry for poor Brosio's disappointment in having a check put his ambition so speedily -- and for his suffering and Your anxiety -- good nursing will soon make him well I hope -- and he will have to make up his mind I suppose to bear the horrors of a boys school -- They are all alike I hear complaints here of the boys schools rich people's Sons have to put up with, and the fare at the Colleges is just as bad -- even in girls Schools dishonesty abounds -- and altogether -- One has to learn experience -- good and bad-- the latter often very painful, and humiliating. I hope the Col's flitting about will result in something splendid. We can all forgive his selfishness, if He would strike out in the money making line. I am glad to think Ellen King will rent Farniente. I hope the Portico will not fall upon her children. That and the front door were the only repairs needed when I left. There is not too much furniture or bedding there for a large family -- I disposed of two of my mattresses before leaving. I hope You may secure her as a tenant -- for I hear the Hazzards & Trenholms are going to So Island and there will be few renters for Flat Rock. We are having blustering March weather. I have been afraid to venture out to day especially as the Church goers said their skirts were blown nearly over their heads. I saw all My children Yesterday. Emma has been shut up again with cold -- *this* climate is not a good one. Fan & herself have taken no exercise this winter. I almost long for the Summer Mrs Izzard was here to day I have not seen her for months John Creighton is staying with her, looking in *this* neighborhood for a dairy farm -- his wife is in Newport, but it is too Yankee for them. Mrs I. mentioned the death of Mr. Robb Habersham of which I had not heard.

We have had no letters from anybody of late -- excepting Julia Drayton to Mamie. She appears delighted at any rate with Mr Hastie and her engagement ring. Mrs Pringle wrote me that the Young Man was "well though of"-- I am afraid poor Mr Drayton is worried. I have not heard lately from him.

Dear Mama I have nothing to write about. My days are all spent alike. I sew all the mornings, excepting for the little walk over to see the girls Shirts, Nightgowns, chemises, all to be made -- in the evenings I sew again. We rise at 7 o'clock I read prayers a little before 8 for the borders -- We breakfast -- and at 9, I help a little girl with her music. I go out at 12 for half an hour -- at 2 1/2 we dine -- I sew & look after the boarders, direct their exercise etc -- at 6 1/2 we have tea -- at 7 -- prayers -- and then keep study hours until 9 1/2 -- then to bed-- My stay at home propensity I think suits Miss Kumer, as She can go out more freely -- Much love to each & all & excuse My humdrum letter -- Most lovingly dearest Mama Your Own

Mary

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EGP

Washington City, D.C.  
Feb 27th 1871

My dear Miss Elliott

Yesterday on my return to this city from my plantation in Mississippi, Judge Casey informed me, the Attorney General of U.S. had decided to return to your mother & her daughters the *entire*

landed property of your Fathers Estate & I my dear friend felt like falling on my knees & thanking God for making me the instrument of his mercy. The door will be opened I hope for others to get their just rights. I expect you have thought strange not hearing from me. I was called suddenly to Miss. soon after I wrote last to you -- on my return I found your two letters. I have worked for you dear friend as I would have done for myself earnestly & untiringly. I felt secure when the case was placed before the Att Gen-- *he was* formerly a [...] in my husbands family in Geo -- & when the case was laid before him, he said I would like to accommodate Mrs Belt & her friends. If you desire it I will send you the Case-Brief & that I made & used -- for the restoration. You will see I have not compromised either you or myself. My mission in Washington *is ended*. I have secured your homes-- & arranged my own business satisfactory so I go home, to Build up, The Estate of "Belt" on the Tallahatchie River in Miss. I shall leave Georgia forever -- with its old association of the past, and make a new home in the Yazoo Valley for myself & children -- then I shall build the "Town of Belt" which will be the county site of Tallahatchie in a year or two. I will write to you again before I leave Washington. My warmest love to your Mother & Sisters & believe me always sincerely & devotedly your friend

Mrs. Belt

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EGP

New York, March 27th 1871

Ambrosio Jose Gonzales Jr.  
Adams Run S.C.

My dear Son:

When I left Charleston for this city, intending to remain but a few weeks, I asked you not to write to me for fear of hearing of illness of the children, which I could not remedy and the thought of which, added to my other anxieties, would incapacitate me from the purpose, which for them (you, of course, included) I set out to accomplish.

I have succeeded in obtaining the Agency for the Southern States of three large concerns, in this city, out of the commissions of which, I have every reason to expect, when I get fully under way, ample means for the support of myself & children. But what more than any thing else is a source of the intensest satisfaction to me and to state which I now write to you, is that I have secured for one year & a half to come your education in as good a school as can be found. By that time you will have acquired the age and, I trust also, the necessary learning to enter a higher institution. I had hoped to have been able to send your grandmother the arrears due her for servants for the children and something, besides, for other expenses, but it is as much as I have been able to accomplish, ~~in that~~ to have supported myself here with the greatest economy, and at times with very great difficulty. But my object is attained; *you* will be, first, educated and next will come Nanno & Alfonso, and I shall in about two weeks return to Charleston to commence my labors and to earn wherewith *to support you all*. I still hope, before I leave, to be able to send or to take with me funds for your grandmother, for the purposes mentioned above. From a letter (a very old one) forwarded to me from Charleston, and written by Mr Chartrand<sup>256</sup> (a partner of Mr Dalcour's) dated at the "Reunion," I imagine that your brothers have not been sent on. I wrote sometime ago to Baltimore to inquire if they had come

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<sup>256</sup> Col. John Chartrand, owner of the Ariadne plantation in Matanzas, where William Rufus King took the oath as vice president in 1853.

by the "Liberty" (Capt Reed,) and the consignees answered me that they had not, as far as they knew.

I shall write again to Cuba, now that I begin to see my way clear of my distressed condition, to have them sent by the way of Florida, so that they may arrive in Charleston in April and that I may make the best arrangements in my power for them.

Write to me on receipt of this letter and address to "39 West Washington Square, New York City--".

With a father's blessing and love to yourself and your little brother and sisters and many kisses to the latter,

I remain

Your loving father

Ambrosio Jose Gonzales

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**JDW**

New York April 7th 1871

J. D. Warren Esq.

Walterboro, S. C.

My dear Sir:

I have been necessarily absent from South Carolina for the past six months and will not be able to return until next month. I have been struggling hard to secure an independence for myself and have now a fair prospect of doing so. I have seen or received no notice, official or otherwise in regard to the payment of taxes in Colleton County and am therefore ignorant of the time when they are due. Under these circumstances I beg of you as a friend and neighbor to pay my taxes for me on "Social Hall" plantation, which I will thankfully refund you on my return to Charleston, together with any expenses you may incur in the matter.

Hoping that you and your family are well and with kind regards to your children and our common friends, I remain

very truly yours

A. J. Gonzales

P.S. I have written, under this date, to the "County Treasurer" of Colleton Co. (whose name I know not) giving him notice of my forced absence on business and asking delay for payment, should I be too late according to the published notice not seen, if any, by me. But I would *much prefer* the matter being closed *at once* by payment through your kindness.

Respectfully,

A. J. G.

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**EGP**

Washington April 10, 1871

Mrs or Miss Emily Elliott

My dear southern friend, since I received your note inquiring about some preserves, that you had sent to Mrs Belt, to sell for you; *that* lady's character was proved so infamous, here, that I must tell you what the report is, about said preserves. It seems she owed a large board bill, at the Washington House, and sold your preserves to the landlady, and made her deduct the sum from said board bill. This is what Lawyer Morris, who boarded at the same Hotel, tells me was the fate of your said preserves. If I was you I would write to her, & tell her, you had heard such a report (of course not mentioning my name at all at all) and beg her to let you know if herself, or the Washington

House, is in debt for to you for the preserves. I regard Mrs Belt the most audacious swindler, that ever came to this metropolis. How such an experienced intrigueant ever was raised on a cotton plantation is a wonderment to everybody here. [*One line torn*] years ago, and took lodgings in the famous [Wil]lard Hotel, for her daughter, self & son, then she placed her daughter at the Georgetown Convent, to be educated; then she took lodgings in the most extravagant boarding house in the metropolis -- where a parlor, & bedroom, on the *first* floor, commanded two hundred & fifty dollars per month. Her landlady begged me to call on her, which I hesitated to do, as she brought no letters of introduction. Finally I *did* call, & found her elegantly at ease on said first floor, with a private parlor, & large chamber opening into it. She talked like a millionaire; -- went to see the President, the Senators, Representatives, Cabinet, & foreign ministers; wrote articles for news papers, & finally got her name notorious in a snare with the President, & some Senators. She seemed hand in glove with those who hated the South. But everybody regarded her fabulously rich. Then she moved to the Washington House and I visited her *there*, & finding her discontented with the accommodations she agreed to rent a parlor, & bedroom from me, for like the other Southerners [*One line torn*] and rented [*torn*] half my house [*torn*] a living [*torn*]. When Mrs Belt [*torn*] to my house, she threw her arms around my neck, told me she would bring me out of all my pecuniary sorrows, as she had five hundred dollars sent her from the South every month, to pay her expenses here. She said "She had owned three hundred negroes, & still owned all *all* her thousands of acres of land, in Mississippi, and Georgia. She talked as if she had luxuriated in all the splendor money could command, & I actually believed all she she [*sic*] said, as she showed me receipts for all her extravagant board bills. Judge then my amazement, to hear one of our first gentlemen say "she was living here on the mere charities of the community while she tore to tatters the character of every one of her creditors." "That he was crowded with questions on the mystery of her living here without money, & having *all* her bills paid by gentlemen" "That he as a Republican was determined she should not compromise *his* stand in [*one line torn*] she had [*torn*]ved seven hundred dollars) in [*torn*]ded to have her arrested for getting money on false pretenses." Mrs Belt went to see grandest Banker, W. W. Corcoran, to borrow fifty thousand dollars-- & because he did not know her, & would not of course lend such a sum, to an adventurer, she wrote him a most venomous letter. She borrowed four hundred & thirty dollars from a poor old man here, a Mr. Galligher, who has a large family; three hundred from Dr. Cox, & owes Mrs Nodyne, for meals these months four hundred dollars. She lived with me thirteen months without pay and I would as soon live with a Bengal tiger. My judgement refuses to believe one word she says, or writes; I never knew a more unprincipled or dangerous woman, in *any* family circle. I waited until her son got a Messengers place in the Patent Office, and then requested her last December to leave my house. She raved like a maniac in her abuse of me, and even talked blasphemy against Christ. Write me all the particulars of how you came to trust her with your preserves.

Affectionately                      Mary H. Schoolcraft

[*torn*] have her note for eight hundred dollars [*torn*] to sell. She wrote me a few days since that [*torn*] She made a present of one jar of orange marmalade & gave two jars to Commissioner Dole, who was one of her cred[*torn*] you inform me if she is a Georgian and [*torn*] has any land there, where it is located.

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**GFP**

Check No. 43

New York, June 3rd 1871

The National City Bank  
52 Wall Street

Pay to the order of *the Bearer or A. J. Gonzales*  
Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars  
\$250.00

Rafael Carrasco  
New York

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**EGP**

Savannah, July 20 1871.

[To Mary Barnwell Elliott]  
My Dearest Mother

While sending a letter to Fannie, I will slip in one for you too, as it is five days since I last wrote. So much of my time -- daytime-- is spent on the street, that I really don't have as many opportunities, for writing as you may imagine. The evenings are too [...] to write by lamp light & in my room I never strike a light at all, for fear of attracting outsiders in the shape of mosquitoes, which otherwise keep out. Then I really have nothing to write you about but the same old story over & again of my being still on the lookout for employment and not successful in hearing of an opening. Mr. Archy Cole has now at his disposal a very good place which he ought to give me, but he won't tell me yes or no and puts me off for an answer til the 1st. It is in a Steamboat Company of which he is agent -- N.Y. Steamers. I have got Mr. Huger, Young, Heyward and several others to speak to him in my behalf, but he says he has forty or more applications and can't tell yet who he will engage. I will get it if I can.

People are very polite & when I go into their offices ask me to sit down and have a talk which I sometimes do. Every one says there is no doubt that eventually I will succeed, but at present it is useless almost to try. No one is doing a thing. I don't go out at night at all and am very pendent. Tomorrow I will move to Cousin Leila's and expect to visit the old ladies at this house very much. They are very kindhearted old souls and try their best to amuse me by offering to play cards or read aloud, &c, &c. When I have a cold, as I had a week ago, they make the nicest flax seed in the world for me & offer other remedies. Sallie writes me every day except Sunday & I return the compliment. She is well & went a night or two ago to *chaperon some girl* to a Calico Ball at the Mansion House, which she describes as being quite pleasant. Only Square Dances. She says she misses me & I'm sure I miss her, but we are both very brave under the circumstances.

I wish she was with you this summer & will try & arrange it so the next. How is Emmie enjoying herself? I don't get any more letters from her. Giver her much love from me when you write & remember me too to Mr & Mrs. W.

Please write often & tell me exactly how *you* are. I was *very very* sorry to hear of your neuralgia. With a quantity of love. Your ever warmly affectionate

Son [Elliott Johnstone]

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**GFP** [French Translation]

Boston 8 November 1871

My dear General,

I was enchanted to receive your news, by your letter of 30 October; here is [...] but that we don't [...].

I don't know how much time my sojourn to Boston will last, but a successor has been named at Baltimore, M. the Count of Montcabrier, an old officer of carabiniers. [...] has said. You know

that the Carabiniers are the men most high in the French army. The young ladies of Baltimore who like so much the beautiful and tall, you appeal to their fancy.

I have even been named to a [...] post; but my journey to Boston not only [...]; but some times the [...] lasts a long time; only that he will be [...] for me.

I approve very much your idea of colonies of Alsacians and of Lorraines on your land; but it isn't the Consulate General who can help you in this circumstance, it is the Alsacienne Lorraine Society of New York; in your [...], of my [...], [...] to president M. Joseph Strauss, 110 Spring St., to the Treasurer, M. D' Ouvre. 717 Broadway, [...] the desired assistance; I don't know [...] but I have [...] member of the Society.

It's been a long time since I have had any news of our friend [...]; [...] that he hasn't received [...] tentative news of commerce [...].

Keep me current of your affairs and [...] of your news, that will always give me great pleasure,  
A thousand regards

G. Decourt  
22 Devonshire St.

Envelope postmarked:

Boston, Mass Nov. 8

Remittance: Return to THE FRENCH CONSULATE,  
22 Devonshire St., Boston, Mass.,  
if not delivered within 10 days.

General A. J. Gonzales  
Maltby house, Great Jones street,  
New York