

& 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]

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

EGP

[1872]

My dear Mrs Elliott

The Box with your Silver, reached me yesterday, but I have not yet received an answer to my note, asking you to please let me know, at about how much, you value each piece. I am afraid a letter has miscarried. However you may be sure, I will do my utmost for you. But my dear friend, do not feel discouraged if it is sometime before I can succeed in raffling them, for business has been very poor at the North, for some time, & the people are feeling poor. But let us

hope for the best. Both pieces are very handsome, particularly the Castors.

How very sad it is, about poor Cousin Caroline Huger, Mary writes me, it will now be impossible for her, to pay me her long talked of visit. Your eldest Grandson must be 14 or 15 years old, is he not? Hoping I shall be able to be of some assistance, to you, I remain my dear friend, very sincerely

Yrs,

Lena L. Cary

Irvington

Sunday, between Churches.

EGP

64 Mt. Vernon Place

Balt. Jany. 3rd. 1872

My dearest Mother

I scarcely feel settled since my return, as the girls have not resumed their school duties until today, and all have not yet returned. Mamie has been with Mrs. Lefebre through the holidays, and will only leave this afternoon. Mrs L has given the girls much freedom and they have all had huge boxes of eatables from home consequently some of them are complaining Edith among them - but altho' She had fever had last, She is in School today. Emma was here Yesterday rather worn out by the New Year's receiving of about two hundred gentlemen She enjoyed it however-- Said it was very funny & sociable. I heard from a Lady whose visitors commented upon "the Miss Johnstone from Georgia" that She was thought extremely pretty -- of course a poor girl cannot vie with fashionists and birth or manners - are of very little matter here -- I long to hear how You are getting on My dear Mother -- and what Your plans may be -- for the boys -- Their father has not called, and if he does I shall not see him because I do not wish to be rude (something I cannot reconcile with a lady) he called a second time to see Emma but was not admitted. Mamie thinks she heard his voice in the St. Paul's choir on Sunday. If You think of Spartanburg and want further information I am sure You could get it from McKenan Johnstone -- who is living there -- Did I tell You that John Burnett had lost his place in Mr. Porter's School? and that Leila Habersham is sending her children to a Public school with many others in Savh-- I heard from Elliott today -- his letter dated the 31st-- quite well & Sallie going "to receive" at Mrs Young's while he hoped to buy his gun. I missed seeing Aunt Sarah here -- She came on to place her Sister Mrs Screven at the asylum here "Mount Hope" It seems She is only insane upon one point -- the constant anxiety about a man & woman who are pursuing her to kill her -- therefore She cannot be left alone, and has tired out her friends in protecting her -- Cousin Judith has been to see her at the asylum -- Aunt S has returned to Charleston.

I hope when the boys get off - Anne will make up her mind to visit Aunt Meta and if She will tell me in time I am sure I can help her wardrobe with little cost- The change of scene will cheer her, and Dr Willis is extremely kind, and wants to see her to prescribe for her eye -- which I trust is better. Has Emmie any one to help her now? With love to the boys and little ones - and a constant supply for Yourselves believe me ever dearest loved ones

Your anxiously attached

Mary

EGP

Sunday night [January 1872]

Well dearest Mama My visitor has departed -- of course after twelve Years, he looks old -- but was gentlemanly but tiresome -- & with a wretched cold -- I was simply polite of course not cordial-- he asked after the children with all the interest he is capable of Wanted to know if Mr Aldama, who he seems to have been urging on the subject, educated Brosio -- might not Bs present place be filled by Nanno-- he will try and get Mr. A. to select Col Johnstone's School for B near Balt. My opinion is dont wait on him -- so far he has been unable to get anything -- but a place in St Pauls choir at \$300 a Year but he does try -- in every way he says -- being anxious to send You some help!!! I did not ask him to come back, but wished him success in his endeavors. I dont think You need at all fear any interference -- Good night, I am mighty glad this visit is over.

[Mary Barnwell Elliott]

The Baltimore Saturday Night

27 January 1872, 2

OUR SOCIETY COLUMN.

The Soiree of the Allston Association on Thursday evening attracted a brilliant assemblage of members and ladies, which filled the spacious rooms and presented a beautiful array of handsome laces and elegant toilettes. Soon after nine o'clock the following programme of music was commenced, and engaged the attention and admiration of the audience:

1. Paraphrase-Lornley-Mendelssohn. Soprano Solo and Chorus.-Miss Dresel.
2. Trio in D.-Reissiger-Piano, Violin and Violoncello-(a)-Allegretto marzale-(b)-Finale.-Mrs. Seemuller, Prof's H. A. Allen and H. Jungnickel.
3. Baritone Solo.
4. Who Shall Be Fleetest.-Barnby- Chorus for Ladies.
5. Trovatore.-Gregoir and Servais.-Duo for Violoncello and Piano.-Profs. B. Courlaender and Jungnickel.
6. Wanderer. Fesca.-Tenor Solo.-G. H. Martin.
7. (a)-Barcarolle-Schubert-(b)Ballads-Schuman-Solo Mezzo Soprano-Miss Mary Jones.
8. For the New Year.-Mendelssohn.-Chorus.

The whole was beautifully rendered under the direction of Messrs. Sutro and Courlaender, the solos of Miss Jones and Messrs. Martin and Emory being much applauded. The walls of the principal drawing room were hung with a fine collection of paintings, principally from the easels of the best known New York artists, and which were secured expressly for the occasion. Jervis McEntee, the two Giffords, A. W. Thompson, Brown and many others, were represented by new and fine examples. We have not space for a more elaborate notice of these paintings, but they will remain on the walls until Wednesday and are well worthy of a careful examination. After the usual entertainment the company dispersed well satisfied with the brilliant success of the soiree. Mr. Geo. Wm. Brown, the President, and the officers of the Association were present and directed affairs with the utmost success. Among the members present were Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Prescott Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. H. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Johnston, Col. and Mrs. Chas. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. James Hodges, Mr. and Mrs. Dresel, Mr. David S. Wilson, Mr. W. W. Glenn, Mr. Wood, of New York, &c., &c. Among the strangers present were Mr. Collins, of New York, and his handsome wife, (daughter of Hon. Horace F. Clark and grand-daughter of Commodore Vanderbilt,) **General Gonzoles** [*sic*] and others. The next soiree in February, is already looked forward to with interest by those who had

the pleasure of attending this one.

EGP

64 Mt. Vernon Place
Baltimore Feby 6th [1872]

My dear Brosio

I have been wishing to write to You ever since I heard of Your going to B--[Beaufort] to School-- to congratulate You my dear boy -- upon the success of the effort made to get you there. I know You realize full well, the importance of trying Your very best to get all the information possible now -- so that if a higher school is ever offered -- You will not feel deficient. You must let Your friends see that You are in earnest and You will secure their help and sympathy. I was so glad to hear from Oak Lawn that Mr. Fuller was taking such interest in You and Your studies try and keep up this, by Your constant applications. After Your late active life, study will be irksome, but You must resist all [...] notion and persevere.

Now I have preached enough, don't You think? I must tell You about Your Cousins. Edith is progressing nicely in her studies. She is so well trained now that her lessons are easily mastered, and the habit of study once attained, the interest in her lessons increases. Fanny writes that she is hard at work at french and German besides other studies.

Emma is obliged from her surroundings to see a great deal of company. She sometimes goes to parties -- but not often -- for she does not dance "the German" and would not enjoy herself if she went -- besides that I think it absurd for poor Southerners to go into Society -- to feel uncomfortably shabby.

I have not seen Mamie for a month, but hope she will come in this week for a day or two. Now enough of ourselves -- shall I tell You something of Your father -- I have seen him only once-- although he has been twice since. I believe My letters to him have aroused his interest in the education of his Sons -- and *if* he can he no doubt *will* secure plans for You all-- but I do not think his aid will be immediate and it behooves You not to wait dear Brosio-- for what is too uncertain. GdMama wishes me to ask for some pictures-- so I must see him the next time-- and hear perhaps more plans for Your future vague though they be.

Will You give my love to Mrs. Hamilton & the Fuller's Cousin Betsy particularly "Cousin Bet" and the Stuarts. Edith joins me in love to You & believe me dear Brosio

Affectionately Your Old Aunt

Mamie

EGP

Oak Lawn, Feb. 8th [1872]

Yours of yesterday My Darling Boy came to hand this evening. Tis' not that I don't think of talk of & miss you ever so much that you have not been favored with more frequent scrawls from me, but Nanno holds "The pen of a ready writer" & it seems to give him great pleasure to receive your letters -- The cook is weary almost always of an evening -- The boys "[...] their heels & toes" all for nothing on Wednesday. They drove down in the cart behind our spirited old Slops -- & searched diligently but in vain for Mrs. Hamilton & party. The day was dark so we surmise that they may have been too late for the Train -- Nanno sent his letter by the mail carrier - so I hope when you mailed your letter to me you received his. Is the Post Mistress in Beaufort a black woman? How near does the Train come to Beaufort? We are quite pleased with your

improvement in handwriting already & feel so glad that you are at School & away from the pettinesses of our lives -- That you are in an improving atmosphere is indeed our present, one drop of comfort Alfonso seems impressed by your notice of him -- but you can not pile on too much good advice-- Anne is trying her best with him -- but, but, but, "Jordan on a hard road to travel" Aunt Mamies usual Sundays letter came today enclosing one from Fanny -- Mary sends her love to you & says she will write to you. She had not seen Old G. again and he had called. She asked to be excused, he sent to ask after his children. She answered well when she last heard. I don't think he knows that you are *actually* at school. Mary told him we were arranging to send you & he no doubt thinks we are as long in making our arrangements as he is in making a support. He wrote to Ralph quite a humble letter for him saying that he wished him to sell his Spencer Rifle²⁵⁶ & ammunition left at Stelling's in Charleston "for the relief of my children." R. said he would not touch it, & of course we won't. R. proposed via Alfonso sending it to you. Would you like it darling? Mary enclosed a piece from a newspaper mentioning him as one of the singers at an entertainment & puffing him, composed by himself or instigated by him at any rate. He is trying the musical dodge once more. Mary seems to be utterly disgusted, says he nearly made her sick but now she knows him & she thinks we need not fear any interference about the children. He seems to have told her something about claiming from Custis Lee, Genl. Lee's promise to educate you!! & wishes to make your god father who wouldn't help *him* prepare you for a college, but you are weary of such a subject so to another.

You did not say what the trip cost to Beaufort so I do not understand the State of your funds -- Can you get the shoes you wish

[The rest of this letter from Emily Elliott is missing]

EGP

64 Mt. Vernon Place
Febry. 11th [1872]

Dearest Mama

We are blessed once more with a bright pleasant day and I enjoyed my walk to Church on day, after being shut up for so long. We were some what interrupted in our progress by the crowds who were going to visit the Archbishop who has been lying in State for three or four days -- his funeral takes place tomorrow, when Mozart's requiem will be performed at the Cathedral and the Archbishop placed beneath the Altar as his seven predecessors have been. His successor will be selected in Rome. I did not hear Col. G's voice in the choir -- nor have I heard of him since his last visit a week ago. I saw that A. O. Gonzales had sailed for N. Orleans last week -- and I can not help hoping it is he -- for I do not think he will get on here.

I dont think I have anything to tell You dearest Mama of interest. I have seen no body but Emma outside. She went to the "Allston" which is a Club (The members of which have musical dancing soirees once a week) with Jos. Alston after whose Grandfather it was named. She engaged it She said, meeting Dr & Mrs Miles Dr & Mrs Chisolm. The Fergusons and others she knew -- on friday night she went to a ball given by a family from Georgia settled here who happen to be wealthy McKay's, pronounced McCoy -- and please let me tell You the style of

²⁵⁶ The Spencer rifle was manufactured in Boston by the Spencer Reapeating Rifle Company. In 1871, Spencer rifles were selling for \$30 each. [John D. McAulay, *Civil War Breech Loading Rifles* (Lincoln, Rhode Island: Andrew Mowbray, Inc., 1987), 110.]

going out here. Emma was the only one invited from the [...] and expected to decline but a few nights before -- thru "young man by the name of Johnston" were visiting -- and one of them begged to escort Emma -- So Mrs W. always on the alert for beans, secured this one. I went around at [...] to tie her strings, and make her [...] up -- and was introduced to the escort -- a tall manly -- ugly North Carolinian -- thus were six or eight visitors, looking at Emma's dress etc. (the same tartalane) so when she went off to the carriage -- a most unusual indulgence for escorts are only expected to *walk* You to the parties -- the young lady forgot to take the night key -- a city fashion I think abominable but no one sits up for any body here -- and as she had once before failed to make anyone hear her ringing and thumping at the Wyman door -- she came here instead at 4 o'clock. I was awakened by the door gong and ran down to let her in -- while Mrs Lefebre always so good to my children lighted the gas -- made Emma some toddy -- and took her into her bed -- for the few hours before breakfast. I wrote a note for her clothes -- and the Wyman household were in ignorance of her absence -- now is it not a charming way for a young girl to go into society? Emma enjoyed the party -- and said her escort was very nicely behaved -- but if he had not been -- what a risk! I long to see Mamie, who has not been in to see us since N. Year. She has enjoyed sleigh rides -- and
[The rest of this letter from Mary Barnwell Elliott is missing]

EGP

Balt 14th Febr'y [1872]
Ash Wednesday

Dearest Mama

Your nice long letter was most welcome, but please do not steal the moments for writing from Your needful rest. I was so relieved to hear of Emmie's improvement -- her painful feet are from much standing I think. She must sit all She can poor child. I had not heard of the "fence law" what a pity it is You could not (if that has to be done) get some stock to raise. Will no one do it on shares? Tell Annie Col. G. wrote me that no one had condescended to write him of the arrival of his sons from Cuba -- he had written to Mr Dalcour's partner to send them by the Liberty Capt. Reed to Balt. that he wrote to the agent here (Mordecai) to know about them who said he could find nothing of them on his books -- then last summer, he called upon Mr Poujaud in New York who told him the boys were well at the Dalcours poor man -- I believe he really thought these enquiries were proofs of his devotion -- he wrote that *he* was taught to love & reverence his father -- and "so surely as there is a God in Heaven, just retribution would fall upon those who instilled other than filial ideas, etc." I really dont know where he is now. I have not seen or heard of him, and do not even know if Diogenes report of his appearing at the Alston was as incorrect as his having "black hair." I went to the Boarding house at which he was to see Mrs Theobald, from whom I expected to hear all about him -- but unfortunately, She was not at home. I am happy to say Diogenes' last letter did not speak of my little birdie -- the writer is very coarse -- but he shows up some of the evils afloat and will do some good. At the South he would long ago have been horsewhipped but these men submit to anything. Mrs Wyman had a Reception on Monday night-- and several artists were there, who are going to arrange the Wax works. Mrs Sarley, Prescott, Smith, (a great R R man and patron of fine arts, who was bred a tailor) has consented to reappear -- if the affair "is gotten up magnificently" So the ostensible purpose is to make money for the educational society for Southern girls (now bankrupt) but the true reason I think is to have a little fun with rehearsals etc during Lent -- when all parties cease

here -- and with the expenses -- the profits are very small. Emma is to take some part which the artists will decide. No letter yet this week from Fan. Mamie writes, as usual, that was a funny mistake about her being on the Cars, but Anne's solution was right. Sallie was going to see her Sister for a week. The ceremonies for the Archbishop lasted five days -- 12,000 people visited his house to see him on Sunday. He was ridiculously attired poor good Old Man -- his Protestant visitors thought. No one could squeeze into the Cathedral to hear the Requiem. Everyone here has colds. I have had mine. Edith is still suffering from hers. Emma has escaped so far. I have arranged for her to take a music lesson once a week, to keep up her practicing..

One of the High church clergymen here has gone to Rome lately. I predicted it 3 years ago. Mr. Drayton will be pleased -- he was so shocked at the doings at Mt Cavalry. I have not heard from them since I came back. I was sorry to hear of Jim Frasers loss. I saw his wife in Chn. She was a great favorite in the family. Good bye darling Mother with constant love to You all ever Your devoted daughter [Mary Barnwell Elliott]

The lilac tarta[...] was put on double the white single. I am having the black silks A & E gave me made into skirts for Emma to wear with white over skirts, which will be a great help.

EGP

Baltimore, Md. Feb. 25th /72

Wm. C. Bee Esq.
Charleston, S.C.

My dear Sir:

I enclose a New York draft for twenty five dollars with the request that you have the amount safely delivered to Mrs. Anne H. Elliott, for the support of my children.

It is little, but it is the very first money that I have made[...]

[A few lines are missing]

from week to week and from month to month of realizing a handsome profit from the sale of Patents, Real Estate and R.R. Bonds wherewith to come to the relief of my children would make too long & too sad a story.

I have come to this city where I am beginning to make a living. I have a position (until May in an Episcopal Choir & [...]

[A few lines are missing]

I trust that Mrs. Elliott will not fail to receive from me the means for their support until the day arrives when I shall have the ability to resume towards them the full relation of a parent.

Please advise me of the receipt of this by addressing "Ge. A. J. Gonzales, 87 North Charles St. Baltimore, Md."

[A few lines missing]

EGP

Oak Lawn, Feb. 27th [1872]

My Dearie

We were quite disappointed at not getting a letter from you by todays mail. I wrote on Friday enclosing \$10.00 & again on Monday enclosing \$1.10 & meant to enclose some in this but until I hear that the others have reached you I can not trust. If therefore you have got the other letters & write by next mail -- On Friday I will enclose you some more more [sic] money for the Turkey purchase - & for Yourself.

Should you have made arrangements to send Mrs Hamiltons Turkeys The end of this week you can borrow the money for the purchase of a couple of hens to accompany them & on Friday you will get the money to return-- I would not be so particular but you know darling we can not afford to lose money -- I do trust that you have had no return of fever -- Mrs Hamiltons invitation to phoebes wedding were received today & the papers which Mamma appreciates much -- Mamma received a present of \$50. by Express yesterday - it came through Mrs James by New York. I hope you will think it *the* thing that Nanno should go to Beaufort in April We wish to send him & he poor fellow looks very bright at the idea. We miss you extremely & a smaller family will make us feel our separation from humanity more but it is for the best. I don't know what the Shantie is to do -- They have no servant now & must feel forlorn-- We are worried about what you are to wear at the wedding.

Aunt Mamie writes that she had had a letter from you & would write to you some. What a scribe you are becoming. She had not seen Old G. again & he had stopped singing at St. Pauls, but had sung at a concert at Mrs. Semples. I suppose he has quarrelled with some of the St. Pauls Choir. Our garden is growing a little. Grippa is working here & other occasional niggers. The last fence law, is fence in your planting land. Condray has given notice that his cattle are to roam at large & he will follow up every missing one. Good night darling. Grandma, Nan Nan & the children send much love, with your attached

Aunt Emmy

EGP

Charleston 29 February 1872

My dear Mrs. Elliott

The inclosed note from Genl. Gonzales I deem best to transmit to you, as it was evidently written to explain that which has appeared mysterious.

The sum remitted me, say twenty five dollars, I will either forward to you by express or pay to any one you may name here, as you may elect.

very respectfully

truly yrs

Wm. C. Bee

Mrs. Anne H. Elliott
Adams Run
S.C.

EGP

Beaufort, SC March 2d 1872 Saturday

My dearest Aunt

Your note of the 28 enclosing 5 dollars has just come to hand. It is a great disappointment to me not to be able to send You more Turkeys & after all my endeavors & a two miles walk today I have only been able to get one Turkey I priced them about 3 weeks ago & engaged several but now they have all been sold. There are great numbers in & around Beaufort but all have been sold out except those kept for stock in December the greatest quantity could be got for 200 a pair how ever you must do the best you can & if you are careful you can raise several good dinners I will put up the Turkeys & see them off my self on Monday morning & commend them to cousin Bills care. I will pre pay the freight on them also, what must I do with the remaining

cash? I hope you have not sent for any more clothes for me I have enough to last me until April or as I do not mean to take any holiday It will just put temptation in my way. I assure you I shall not be a cinderella I can go to church & see the whole performance & on the following Saturday I will go to the picnic they are going to have if they can get conveyances all the brides maids & Groom men and others who are invited are going to the Grove which is a great place for a Picnic all the People of Beaufort go there for that purpose the Scotch Man that resides there is very good natured & kind to all visitors. have you heard that the Port Royal [rail] road is but tied up the construction of the road is stopped & the cars are soon to stop running the road is not paying expenses. I have nothing to write about so must close with much love to Each and all I remain as ever your devoted Nephew

Ambrose

Beaufort March 2 1872

My dear brother

Yours of the 29 has been received. I am sorry that you have no gun to shoot the cranes and Alligators in the rice field it is very early for their to come in can you not forward Bristol to fix my gun for you or if not can you not sell it? if not you had better get it from him & not leave it to rust away. You ask me if you can get on in Beaufort in lessons you can but you will have to curb your temper Nanno & not behave as you do at Oak Lawn all people are not as forbearing as our old folks. You will be subject to a great many annoyances there are a great many low & bad Boys who will provoke you in every way "as they do me" & you will have to bear with them the only way I do is to have nothing to say to them it is a very hard thing to keep my hands off them some times I never go into the streets but I hear "Gonzales! Gonzales!" calling me Spanyard & trying to provoke me in every way hoever if you come to school I can help you very much as Arthur²⁵⁷ does me. I find I am not at all backward at School I am in the first class is Spelling Geography & history & in the Lowest in Latin & arithmetic of course I mean Mr. Tillers classes & not the Yankey School marm she is the dread of all the small Boys a little more refined than Mrs. Wallace tho. I now must close with much love hoping you will get the Turkeys safely. I remain as ever your very affect Brother Ambrosio J. Gonzales

EGP

March 5th [1872]

Oak Lawn

Nanno has written you My Dear Boy but I have not seen his letter, so I may repeat his items, if so forgive. I wrote to ...] getting you a suit, but as you are afraid you may be tempted thereby & asked me in both letters not to get them I will write & tell her if she has not purchased the same to forbear from doing so. We admire your resolution to study. If you go to the Grove you will remember Dads "spending money" & by the bye Mr Bee enclosed a letter from that individual sending to Mrs Ann H. Elliott for the support of his children \$25, & giving Mr Bee a synopsis of his suffering & disappointment. So Mama wrote to ask Mr Bee to reinclose the draft with a request from her to use it for his own necessities, as the children were doing well & did not require relief. So if he meant to be great & magnanimous in sending his *first* earnings, he will have the wind taken out of his sails. The Turkies & ducks seem quite happy & as in business matters T'is best to be explicit to Mrs Hamilton what *share* will be hers, what proportion of the

²⁵⁷

Arthur M. Hamilton of Beaufort.

progeny I mean. The \$2.00 you had best pay [...] with.

We are going to give

[The rest of this letter to Brosio from Emily Elliott is missing]

GFP

Charleston 6 March 1872

My dear Sir

I wrote to you on the 28th ult., acknowledging the receipt of a check on New York for Twenty five dollars, to be transmitted to Mrs. Ann H. Elliott for the use of your children, and promptly wrote to Mrs. Elliott advising her of the same.

As your letter appeared to have been written in explanation of your previous silence on the subject, I deemed it best to enclose it in mine.

In reply, I have a note from Mrs. Elliott from which I make the following extract "I will thank you to reinclose the draft for \$25 to Genl A. J. Gonzales, 87 North Charles St. Baltimore, with the request from Mrs. Ann H. Elliott, that he will use the same for his own necessities, as the children are doing well and requiring no relief." Having had your check cashed, I must substitute for it that enclosed say James Adger & Co. on Fourth National Bank for the same amount, which I have made payable to your order. Regretting the necessity of this course I am

Yrs truly
W. C. Bee

Gen. A. J. Gonzales
87 North Charles St
Baltimore
Md

EGP

Beaufort March 15th 1872

My dear Brother

Yours of the 10 has been received. I am sorry to hear of Emmy's sickness & your indisposition. Well the wedding has come off at last & every thing seems very quiet, after all the excitement is over there were 26 brides maids & groomsmen & they presented a beautiful appearance as they walked down the aisle the church was prettily drest & brilliant by illuminated after the ceremony was performed the Bridal party repaired to the Mansion of Col. Hamilton where 100 people were present they sat up until 2 in the morning & then repaired to the supper room where a splendid supper was worthy. I made my self useful by carrying some of the Brides maids to church & waiting on the Ladies at supper now it is all over & Arthur & I can now settle down to study. I will be at home in about 3 weeks for the holy days & to get my summer clothes made if my shoes are made. Keep them until I come I hope Mrs Gadsen will make Phares pay up his wife (a very nice lady) has been staying here for several days I wish you success with your black pullet. I will try my best to get a dog to bring with me next month. has Nan Nan planted anything yet or made fences or got her cows yet has Bristol not yet fixed my gun I wish you would get it from him if he can't fix it. I do not think my letters deserve such a flattery & exception for I have very little to say a full account of the wedding was published in the Beaufort republican edited by a Yankee giving a full discription of the young ladies looks crittizing their dresses trains etc etc the ladies were very indignant at it this Yankee sat in the Gallery while the

procession passed & took notes there are 3 young ladies from Charleston staying in the house & I have a good deal of fair tease them some are very easily teased & I never let their rest. I wish Lonsie success with Peggys of sprig Nan ought to make a good chance of money off them I hope the cows are getting on well & giving plenty of milk are there any more young Pigeons now & do they all stay in the house with much love to Each & all hoping to be with you soon I remain as ever your affectionate

Brother

Ambrosio Jose Gonzales

Beaufort S.C.

March 15 1872 Sunday

P.S. Has T.R.S.E. started his farm yet & is he still in posetion of Snow Ball

EGP

Friendville May 1st 1872

[To Mrs. Ann Elliott]

Thank you dear Cousin, for your kind letter, with its enclosure, of forty dollars, which I received by your loved Gd Sons. It gave us *much* pleasure to hear, that you thought the companionship, of our dear Arthur, had been an advantage to Ambrosio. We had certain rules, in bringing up our boys, and as you wish us, dear Cousin, to treat your beloved Hattie's children, as our Sons, while boarding with us, I write to ask if you do not coincide with us, in their attending Service, on Sunday morning, and *afternoon*? The hours 11, and 1/2 past 5 oClock? From the severe fall I received, on my back, at Bay Point (from a hammock years ago,) I, am denied the pleasure, of attending afternoon service, as I cannot play the Organ, for the family to sing hymns, after teas, (as is our custom of spending the Sabbath evening,) if I take the long walk, *twice* I tried to persuade Narcisso, to go with me, to the Sunday School, and felt grieved, (as I listened to the address of Osborne Barnwell the Superintendent,) and our dear Pastors also, that *he* was not there, to hear the *admirable* advice, for time and *Eternity*, which fell from their lips. But Ambrosio said, "they had both graduated," and I now *leave* the matter to *you* dear Cousin, as I cannot *oblige* his attendance. But my feeling is "the *Fear* of the *Lord* is the *beginning* of wisdom", and that we must, (as one good Bishop preached from, on the Sunday he was here) "Seek *first* the kingdom of God & his righteousness and all these things will be added unto us." Life is so *short*, that ones first duty, I feel so imperative is, to prepare for Eternity, and I do earnestly pray daily for the guidance of Gods Holy Spirit, to *help me*, do my duty, and that your beloved boys may receive both spiritual and intellectual good, during their residence here. Will you not therefore, dear Cousin co-operate with me, and if your views, *meet* mine, write and request them to attend *Church*, and Narcisso, S.[unday] School? Arthur is taller than his Father, and will be 16 in Oct. 2, and having confessed his Saviour before men, he no longer attends the S. School but N would find company in Henry & Charlie Elliott, Hal Stuart & Mrs Rosa Rhett's boys also. Another thing, dear Cousin -- Our boys, always tell us, where they are going, should they be absent, in the evenings, and we do not think it well, for Ambrosio to accept invitations out after tea, to play cards, even if it be at my Nephews house, when he is here to study, and improve his mind for future good and therefore I ask if you wish him to continue doing so? I wish you would request him to send you his weekly statement, of report of lessons, and you can judge if he is improving his time, so *precious* at his age. He is not as cheerful as before he left, and I fear, has had a touch of homesickness, the place looked so beautiful the morning he left

They are both so *obliging*, and *willing* to go to the office, and wait upon us, in various ways that it *pains* me, Cousin to write as I have done, yet, I *must* be *faithful*, to their *spiritual*, as well as their *intellectual* interest, or *my conscience*, would give me *no rest*. I feel for you dear Cousin, in the care of the Motherless ones. Pray daily, for guidance of the Holy Spirit to help you [...] in bringing them up, to join the “White robed throng, surrounding the Throne of God,” when their work on earth, is done. You do not know, how much I mind, taking from you the board of the boys, but without it we could not consent to take them, having not yet paid for this sweet home entirely; finding it grievously hard to meet the oppressive taxes, and our Island Home School, being our chief support, my beloved Husband having failed in his *hard* attempts, at Yachting Store keeping, wood cutting &ct. tho’ he ran the risk of his *life*, in the country, and now he is so depressed, at not obtaining work on the R.R. If *you* have any influence with Maj. B. [...] Smith will you not try & get him a place? He has even tried to get a place on the St.[reet] Cars, as Conductor, in Town, but so far failed. Give my love to your dear children, tell *each one*, from *me*, I beg them, to give their hearts to that dear Saviour, who says, “Him that cometh to me I will in no wrath cast out.” While viewing the lovely flowers, may they “Glorify *God*.” (who made them thus) “in their [...] and in their spirits, which are *His*.” Kiss your little pets for me and can believe me your affte.

C. A. Hamilton

The boys are *quite* well & *studying now*.

I was so sorry I had no Cake to send you, by the boys. Our Company was detained so long, by the detention of the Steamer, that the last one, was out for [...], while they remained, and both our loved Phabes Troupeau and wedding entertainment was given by her devoted Sister who is now teaching from 9 to 3 having taken her holiday at the time of the wedding.

I suppose you heard from Ambrosio of our loved Willie’s disappointment in having to leave his fair bride in England, & pursue his lonely voyage, on account of her continued illness from sea sickness?

11 Young persons were Confirmed by the Bishop, five of them were our [...] Scholars. Mary Rhett, Lou & Edward Chisolm among them.

Cousin Henry is still very ill with heart disease Sally’s little Willie, a sweet looking [...], & McPhersonville Gregorie, weighed 12 lbs.

GFP

Beaufort May 14th [1872]

My dearest Grandmother

Many thanks for your nice letter received this morning. A Miss Chisolm in Beaufort who has been spending the winter in Baltimore says she saw G.²⁵⁸ at a concert & heard him sing & that his voice was splendid so it seems he is still fooling some people. Many thanks for the loan of the money for I wish to pay this back before I return home tell Emmy that after the expenses of coming here & paying Manne (1.50) for last months washing I have 1.00 left the washing costs 3.00 now & I will not want any money untill the end of the month to pay for that item. we were prevented from fishing on Saturday by the rain but I trust it has benefitted your crops. I suppose by this time you have plenty of vegetables a luxury which we do not have. I hope your cattle & crops are getting on well & the children are behaving

258

Ambrosio José Gonzales.

like wise. I am very sorry to hear of the depra-dations of the “varmint.” do the dogs not bark? I am getting on very well at school & I think Nano is doing likewise. cousin Emma Barnwell sends her love to you all & with a great deal from us also I remain as ever your very affectionate Grandson

Ambrosio

Wednesday night May 14th

Mr. Henry Stuart died last week of consumption.

EGP

Oak Lawn

Friday Night [May 24, 1872]

Unable to send until today to the Station Your favors My Dear Boys were only today received. We thank you for them & are pleased with them in every respect. We are all well & are getting on just as usual - but have had an event in our quiet lives. Yesterday the Train put out the Rev C. C. Pinckney & Mrs Seabrook who spent the morning very pleasantly with us - & we had the children christened -- Minnie as William Elliott -- with you Brosie as his Godfather -- & baby Harriet Rutledge Elliott-- What will Pater say when he “resumes his full relations as a Parent”? he need never know any thing about it I guess. On Sunday last after service in the Adams Run Church your friend Mr Henry Barnwell asked Mr Bellinger to drive with him to the Marshalls & had himself united with the buxom Lizzie -- bringing her home to the store - in the afternoon -- Alfonso was at the village this evening & saw the happy couple -- Liz inquired after his Grand Mother & Aunts & asked when Ambrosio would be back! & Henry asked him to stay & dine! Well! Well!! Well!!! -- Alfonso has five very fine pigs some black & some speckled -- all of the feminine gender -- Lady Jane *now* Lizzie in compliment to Henry has five very fine boy pigs -- John Gordon - picked up an old acquaintance at the head of the Avenue this morning & has now gone to treat him I suppose & Fonsie has gone along to keep him straight for John got on a bender last Monday & was terribly cut up & ashamed about it -- he is a queer creature & since he has grown fat looks like -- who do you think -- why your lamented father! We all see the likeness most provokingly.

The poultry do not increase -- sundry accidents occur to diminish them. The Turkeys have dwindled to 13 - the ducks to 16 “eternal vigilance” must be the price of poultry. Good Night dear boys -- much love from all of us. Thanks for the Geranium seed. The Gladiolas & [...] are coming to take the place of the departing roses-- Good Night again Ever Your attached

Ancient Maiden Emmy

P.S. Fonsie has come up-- Johns friend proves to be an emmisary of Stephen’s & tried hard to get John off but he is staunch & will not leave.

EGP

Beaufort So Ca May 28th 1872

Dearest Emmy

Yours of the 24th received this morning gave us much pleasure. We heard from Mrs Joe Seabrook that the Rt. Rev. C. C. Pinckney & Mrs Seabrook had paid you a visit for the purpose of baptizing the children. I don’t know what to think of Henry. I wrote him a letter yesterday alluding pretty strongly to the Staff of life. where is he going to keep her, at the store? I went down to Bay point Thursday night at 10 oclock with cousins Bill & Minnie Elliott & 2 or 3 of the

young men of Beaufort. I wish Grandmama had the Sheepshead I caught & which Mrs H. got the benefit of. We had a fine time sailing all over Grandpapa's devil fish ground & cousin Bill spent the whole night among the sharks in the surf diving for a lost anchor We came back the next day & had a stormy passage We have not been swimming lately as Percy Gibbes has been & still is very sick. I am heartily tired of Beaufort & Mrs H & will be more than glad when I get back home Mrs H desires to be remembered kindly to the family & with a great deal of love to each & all hoping to hear from you soon

I remain as ever your affectionate nephew

Ambrosio

EGP

Beaufort, So Ca. Tuesday May 28th 1872.

My dear Emmie

Having escaped from the righteous tongue of Mrs H, for a short time, I seize the pen & opportunity to write you a few lines. We received your letter this morning much to our pleasure for Brosie says as you used to write 2 or 3 times a week to him alone now that there are two here we cant be content with one letter ~~per week~~ only. We heard by Cousin Phoebe (who has come to spend two weeks,) how G Henry has prepared to receive his daily bread & Brosie wrote him a letter of congratulation yesterday. Mrs Fuller went to town today & Mr F. persisted in keeping school though contrary to the secret wishes of a few boys. The reports are too bulky to send so you will see them when we go home. I had the satisfaction of standing first in school last week, & hope to stay there. I have been rising steadily since I came, Mrs H. wishes to know if you want any more geranium seeds? if so please inform me. B Joe is coming to carry Cousin Phoebe home in 2 weeks. Brosie teases her about "Me nar' Cudjo" but she cant be teased. I would write more but Brosio is waiting for pen & ink. Please write to me as soon as you feel like it. With much love to each and all, including yourself. Believe me ever your affectionate

Nanno

Friendville May 28th 1872. To Miss Emily Elliott, So. Ca.

GFP

87 North Charles St. Baltimore Md.
May 29th & 30th 1872

Mrs. Anne H. Elliott
Adams Run, S.C.

Dear Mrs. Elliott:

In the love of my lost one, I brought the youngest of my children to you from Cuba. In the same spirit, after the perusal of the enclosed (which I have found among her papers, in the trunks recently forwarded to me from Savannah) I write to you now. This act speaks for itself and for my feelings towards you and your daughters.

I had hoped to have gone down this Spring, had I succeeded in an arrangement to farm, on shares, this season with a gentleman from this place. As it has happened, I must wait for the coming fall if I can obtain the necessary assistance. My duties at Mrs. Semple's school, keep me here until the end of June, after which, if I have the means to move, I will devote all I can of the summer and fall to the accomplishment of the above purpose. I have spent all my spare time the winter and spring in the study of agriculture and hope to do better for my children in the future,

than I have been ennobled to do latterly. My love and devotion to them has been and is as intense as ever, and my feelings to yourself and family are what I hope is christian like and what becomes one not unmindful of the kindness experienced in the happy days gone by. With my love to the family and to my children, I am still your affectionate & respectful,

A. J. Gonzales

EGP

Beaufort May 31st 1872

My darling Emmy

Yours of the 29th having just reached me and having a little spare time this being Friday evening I will write you a few lines to tell you that we are well & getting on well. Your letter was the most acceptable birthday present I could have received & I thank you very much for it. I wish you would write a little oftener yours letters are all we have to look forward to & even Nanno reads them with pleasure he has a much better idea of home & his real friends & relations since he has been here he behaves very well some times but gets fits of badness now & then & on those occasions he abuses me before any body who happens to be present he is very much elated at standing first in school last week but his lessons are easy & he has not to study hard we have just come from swimming Nanno is very fond of the water & I hope the bathing will not bring on his afflictions Percy Gibbes is very ill & his recovery is doubtful he has been in bed for eleven days with an attack on his lungs supposed to result from bathing one evening he undressed & staid out of the water a long time every one in Beaufort goes round to see & brings refreshments to him every day Mrs Hamilton is now in her glory as she is never so happy as when going to see a sick or dying person telling every body that he has given his soul to Jesus, Cousin Bill has got a place on the road not the one he had before but the conductorship of the construction train. The road is going on well now they have "Palace cars" & 3 engnies [*sic*] & 3 more are expected in a few days. You say ours letters are not long enough we have nothing to write about while you have Yourselves the plantation & Gonzales's numerous & uninteresting family it will be two years in a couple of days since I have his venerable phisiognomy Tell Alfonso that I am glad he is studieng Science & grammar & hope he will continue with work well begun it is getting dark & I must close with a great deal of love to you all & to Aunt Marys family where you write

I remain in haste your affect

Brosie

EGP

Beaufort S.C. June 6th 1872

My dear Bory

Having heard from Emmie that you have commenced Philosophy and other things I take the chance to congratulate you on this and the increase of your family. I would be most happy to receive a letter written by yourself giving us an account of the stock and farm. In the meanwhile I will tell you how we live here.

We get up at half past five study till eight then go to the Post Office are very sorry if nothing comes for us and very glad if anything does. Come back and have prayers, eat breakfast and go to school at 9 stay there till 3 come back and eat dinner. Fly around generally till 4 or 5, then go in swimming come out at 5 or 6 go to the house, go on the Bay, come back have supper

& prayers, study till 10 and go to bed. Then our days work is done. My greatest trial is Mrs Hamilton, and it takes a large stick of patience to deal with her.

Having now come within the given time for swimming and nothing evil having happened from it I can say that Bory and Edmund Cuthbert went in a week after we came here and I went in a month ago, & have been in several times since then. It has not hurt us in the least. Bory please write to us and tell us all the news. We go out sailing some evenings in a small boat much to Mrs Hamiltons horror who says when such is the case that it keeps her from eating her food. After many trials I am able to swim a little and as "practice makes perfect" I hope to swim well soon. If I have time I will go in this evening. We wish we had you here to go in too. And now Bory I must close.

Good bye and Love to all from your affec

Nanno

PS We will be back in three weeks

Please remember and write to me. Give my love to all also Uncles Tom & Ralph
N. G.

To Bory
Adams Run PC
So Carolina

EGP

Beaufort June 6th [1872]

To Miss A Elliott

My darling Aunt

Yours of Tuesday recieved this morning you do not Say anything about having recieved our letters We have written to you twice in the last week & this is the first letter recieved since my birthday Percy Gibbes is better & Arthur & Mrs H. are indisposed Nano has an attack on the stomach from rancid bacon & other bad fare Some evenings we have to get some thing to eat at the bakers we feel so very hungry & boys who study must eat Mr Fuller does not examine the Boys, & we will have holiday in about 3 weeks & we shall be heartily glad to quit Beaufort & Mrs H whose christianity I do not appreciate although strange to say I am becoming a little religious much to Nanno's wonderment tell Fonsie that I am glad to hear of his improvement & hope the aproximation to the Microscope has enlarged his brain I wish he could have the Salt water bathing that we enjoy I think Nanno is learning to swim Edmund Cuthbert & Myself give the *small* boys lessons sometimes & have taught Elliott Barnwell to swim Cousins Emma Barnwell and Rosa Rhett send you a great deal of love. I am glad to hear your garden crops and cattle are getting on so well when will you plant slips? I am getting on well at School all the boys in my classes have left School Arthur included who is going to New York this fall & I say Geog & Hist by myself & only one boy with me in Latin. I have a bad cold and nothing to write about So with a great deal of love to each & all I remain your affect

Boy [Brosio]

EGP

Beaufort June 15th [1872]

My darling Emmy

Yours of the 13th has just come to hand. I am very glad that you are all well and not

suffering from the Steaming weather we are having. I do not think you need give yourselves any anxiety about Gonzales & rest assured he shall never make a swineherd out of me it is now more than two years since he has given me even a *counterfit* cent & I do not think or consider that he has any authority over me & now about Mrs H. I would not come back to Beaufort on any account all the boys and every one that knows it say that 20 dollars is exorbitant with all the annoyance we have to go through & although I have learnt a good deal here yet it is not worth so much expense and the only things I am deficient in to have a good education are Latin arithmetic and handwriting & with Henry Barnwell who has promised to help me in one year I will know enough to get a place anywhere. Dr. Gibbes thinks there is no risk in going home with quinine I cannot get a dog or a pistol but I have had my gun fixed very nicely for 75 cents. I will come home in a little more than a week so nothing will be due for board My passage money 300 for washing & 75 cents for the gun will be all that I will need. Nanno is getting on well but is very unruly and quarrelsome but he has promised me to study when he gets home with a great deal of love I remain as ever your affectionate

Brosie

Beaufort So. Ca.

EGP
(Copy)

Danish Colony

Baltimore, Md June 15th 1872

Mr. Hammerick.²⁵⁹

Dear Sir:

I desire to obtain through you, from thirty to fifty (30 to 50) good, honest, industrious hands or labourers from Denmark or Norway to go and form a Colony on my plantation in South Carolina. I have about 1700 acres of the very best lands in [South Carolina] the whole country, with an abundance of timber for [...] and buildings and for fire wood, and plenty of pasture land. I am situated on the coast region of South Carolina, nearly midway between the cities of Charleston & Savannah with *water* communication by sea with those two cities and also *by river without going out to sea*: and am, besides, but *four hours by Railroad*, from my R.R. Station, to either of those two cities. I am situated on a River, on which and on the large Bay below, called St. Helena Sound, is an abundance of saltwater fish. The country abounds in deer, wild turkeys, squirrels, hares and in winter wild ducks. I have a pine forest on high land, healthy all the year round, where I have lived summer and winter with my wife and five children and two white servants and where some of my neighbors have lived and are living now, in the Summer. The Summer there is cooler than in Baltimore, because there is more air and breeze, and the nights are always cool. The winters are very mild and short; cattle have not got to be *housed* as at the North & West, and they can find pasture in the winter, both in the fields and in the woods. Some grasses grow all the year round,; many things are grown in the winter, as well as in the summer, and of many things *two crops* can be raised in the summer, *upon the same field*.

I will make a contract with said colonists or laborers for five years. I will let them plant as much land as they can put in thorough cultivation, as practiced by good farmers in Europe. All

²⁵⁹ Asger Hamerik (1843-1923). Danish composer and director of the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore from 1871 to 1898.

that they raise on the land I will set aside for them, and every thing they make on it, is for themselves and they can sell it and use it as entirely their own. I will give them all the fire-wood they require and timber for building of which I have excellent yellow-pine, oak, hickory, cedar &c &c. all the timber they want for making fences, stables, pen, and cattle-yards; will let them short within proper limits and the River and lower Bay is free to them at all times day & night, for fishing. I will locate them on high land, on the River which makes one of the boundaries of my plantation, where *they can have their own boats* and go by water and without expense to Charleston & save much, and sell truck or market vegetables and can have large flats to carry heavier produce. They will have no taxes to pay until they acquire property to pay it on. In exchange for all this, I only ask on them *two days* of their time every week; the other five days in every week to be entirely [to themselves] their own. This is for the male labourers. Where there is a family, the grown female will give me one day of her time every week, in work inside of the house, except such time as she may require for cooking on that day. If on any of their own days, the colonists desire to hire themselves out to work, because they may not have anything very pressing of their own to do, and I should be in want[...]

[The rest of this document is missing]

GFP

1872[?]

“Social Hall” plantation, situated on the “*Chehaw*” River which empties, a few miles below it, into the “ Combahee,” (a navigable river for large vessels) and near the mouth of the latter on St. Helena Sound, nearly midway between Charleston and Savannah, accessible these two cities by water, without going out to sea, and nine miles from the Charleston and Savannah R.R.--contains about 1450 acres, of which, over one thousand are in heavy timber, pine, oak etc and the rest rich high land and still richer bottom land, (formerly rice-field), besides 300 acres of valuable marsh land on the River Chehaw adjoining the lower portion of the old rice-field.

The bottom or former rice-land.

This land was considered, before the war, as rich or if not richer than, any other rice field in the State. Mr. Nathaniel Heyward, an old rice planter and a neighbor of mine, has told me that the best rice which he ever saw in his life any where, he saw in this land years ago, and in a letter of his, in my possession, testifying to the value and fertility of “Social Hall,” he states that the rice he saw growing on this field was over five feet high. Mr. John Frazer Mathewes, of South Carolina, owner of the famous lands of “ Bear Island,” near me, where, before the war, he has made, without manure and with the old cultivation, one bale of cotton and 75 bushels of rice to the acre, tells me in a letter of his, in my possession, that the bottom lands of Social Hall are equal in fertility to his bottom lands, that they have the same advantages of irrigation and fertilization by means of brackish water and that they have, moreover, the advantage of having rested for a number of years. For nine years past, this land not only has rested but the dams, (above and below it) having broken during the war, it has accumulated, through the backwaters and through miles of swamp forests above them, an immense deposit of humus, alluvial and decomposed vegetable matter, ready for plant food; while from the Chehaw River below, it has, for the same number of years been receiving, (the lower dam being also broken,) (with the tides that flow into and out of it, twice a day,) river mud and agricultural sea salts which not only give additional fertility and strength to the land, but *lime* it through the lime in the salt water and also fix the ammonia in the soil. On this account, as early as 1865, it was considered by Capt. A. J.

Anderson reputed the best rice planter in the State, capable of yielding, if cultivated in rice, 80 bushels of rice to the acre, which is a *double* crop. Land that will do this, will make with proper cultivation two bales and more of cotton to the acre, and *100 or more* bushels of corn. But since 1865 it not only has continued resting but accumulating much larger quantities of fertilizing deposits.

On the other hand, the effect of the brackish water which floods it twice a day, has been to kill all the fresh water weeds so that for the next two years it will require no cultivation but ploughing, to open the soil.

Now, the whole of this perfectly level and smooth bottom land, (about 300 acres,) is, all of it, irrigable in *two* ways: from above, with perfectly fresh water, from the backwaters and from the Ashepoo River, (which is necessary for rice-culture) and from below, with brackish water from the Chehaw which is available for cotton, corn, grass, strawberries, potatoes, onions, beets, turnips, asparagus etc. It is a long narrow field, with a canal running through it and two side canals for draining and irrigation, as the plat will show, and the main [...] of making it available, not for rice-culture but for the farming I have in view, will be the putting up of the old lower dam and tide-gate near the Chehaw. This may cost \$1,000, perhaps less. Against this small expense let us consider the value of this land for agricultural purposes. The expense of manure alone on the "State Farm" of Massachusetts necessary to produce 89 1/2 bushels of corn to the acre (see Patent Office Report, 1861, page 271,) was \$40 per acre. At this rate, this land has now on it, not *one* layer of manure worth \$12,000, but an indefinite number of such layers, fertilizing it for years to come beyond its natural capability, even were there no river and no backwaters and upper swamps wherewith to resupply those deposits.

As to the incalculable advantages of Irrigation, see article in "Farm and Home," copied in "Rural Carolinian" for March 1872, page 290, where it is stated among other things that a piece of land, in California, has repaid *forty times*, in one year, the expense of fixing it for irrigation; that U. S. Bloodword, of Griffin, Georgia, made last year, by irrigation, out of one acre, 137 1/2 bushels of corn, netting out of one acre \$137.72 after paying all expenses. In the same article, the estimated cost of irrigating lands not naturally *flowable* (that is by machinery, adjoining a river,) is \$3500 for 100 acres, for *four* months. Basing my calculation upon this estimate, my bottom lands, (300 acres) which can, not only be irrigated, but flowed or *flooded* entirely, either from above or below, at any time of day or night, by simply raising a trunk or opening a tide-gate, have a value of \$16200 per annum. In Scotland (See Stephen's English Work on Farming, article on the advantages of irrigation, page 679,) "grass has been mown, by means of irrigation on the same field in June, July, August, September and October, yielding over 5 tons of hay to the acre. In South Carolina with a richer alluvial soil, a semitropical sun and a season three months longer, *four* more cuttings can be made: indeed, with some grasses the whole year round. In Valencia, Spain, (See "Rural Carolinian" page 210 Vol 1870) where an acre of land, not irrigable, is worth \$50, one adjoining it and irrigable is worth \$3,000. One company in Madrid, Spain, (See "Rural Carolinian," 1871, page 560) with a capital of \$1,500,000 has reclaimed 300,000 acres of land and pays dividends equal to 18 per cent on investment. S. S. Cox in his "Search after Sunbeams" says that water for irrigation, in Spain, is an article of lease, trade, sale and auction, for it is as indispensable as the land. A late traveler ("Rural Carolinian" (1870) page 408) says of a farm near Milan, Italy, "the grass I saw was *24 days* old and *was fit* for cutting; this was August 24th; *seven* crops had previously been mown, since the beginning of the year: *the grass in the irrigated fields is perennial.*" This is in Northern Italy: how much more

so on the seacoast of South Carolina! Dr. J. W. Parker, of Columbia, S.C., in a letter to the “Rural Carolinian” dated May 8, 1871, (page 541, Vol. 1871) in regard to the extraordinary corn crop made by him and discredited at the North (Two hundred bushels and twelve quarts to the acre) after substantiating the statement, & referring to his Report for the proof, concludes with this significant remark: “*I attribute the success more to timely irrigation than to any other cause.*”

But Irrigation not only increases the yield, forces the crops and reproduces them on the same soil, but what is perhaps of more importance to capitalist and farmer, it *insures their being made*. In the case of cotton, it is even a protection against the caterpillar as well as against “rust.”

Upon the above data, the value of 300 acres of Social Hall land, referred to, would be:

In <i>excess</i> of fertility (as stated)	
and not considered <i>natural</i> fertility	\$12,000
In Irrigation	\$16,200
Economy in cultivation there being no grasses to deal with	\$5,000
Rent of land with timber, wood, pasture, fisheries, game, &c.	\$2,000
Value of rich high land on the Chehaw available for obtaining force labor white or black	\$2,000
Total, per annum	\$37,200
For three years	\$111,600

I have omitted to include in the above economy in freights especially for bulky crops like, hay & cotton owing to water transportation nor the proximity to Charleston & Savannah R.R. whereby truck farming can be shipped by steam to Northern cities from either Charleston or Savannah on the same day in which it leaves the plantation, nor the value of a high and healthy pine land on my own place for summer residence, nor proximity to Bennett’s Point, which is perfectly healthy all the year round.

There are adjoining the lower portion of this bottom land, 300 acres of marsh land, very rich and on the Chehaw River, which could the second year be reclaimed at an expense of probably not more than \$1,000. This land is on a level with the other and equally irrigable. It requires but a bank on one of its sides, which, when reclaimed, would make a body of 600 acres of rich, irrigable bottom land available the 2d and 3d year.

Against this most rich and safe planting and farming land I only wish, to make it productive, a capital of \$6,000. From the very first crop of any kind the capitalist will be reimbursed the amount expended in repairing of dams, making of trunks, bridges and buildings. At the end of the three years he will be reimbursed, before any division is formed, the balance of the \$6,000 furnished. In the meantime he will have a lien on all the crops raised with the said money, and on all animals, tools and moveable things purchased with it. A factor in Charleston, of undoubted integrity will make the disbursements for the farm from the money deposited in bank for the purpose. After the three years planting the profits, after deducting the above named \$6,000 will be divided equally between the capitalist & myself. I would prefer half of this amount to be furnished by a capitalist and the other half by a practical farmer who would assist me in the farming [...]; or, still better, the whole by four or five farmers.

In order to justify the correctness of the opinions already quoted as to the great value of

such rich irrigable land, let us glance at its capabilities taking only an average yield:

250 acres in hay, (which in Charleston and Savannah sells at from 30 to 45 dollars a ton, according to the season will bring at \$30 per ton and only 5 tons per acre the *first* year

\$37,000

The same 250 acres in short cotton at one and a half bales per acre and \$100 per bale

\$37,000

The same 250 acres of corn at 85 bushels per acre and \$1 per bushel (it sells in Charleston for \$1.25)

\$21,250

The highest yield attained in South Carolina and Georgia, on lands *not equal to this*, has been *three* bales of cotton to the acre and two hundred bushels of corn, by means of very thorough cultivation and irrigation (applied to corn.)

Plan

With a view to distribute the labor as much as possible throughout the year, to obtain quick returns and avoid too great a call for hands for cotton picking, my present plan is to diversify planting, thus:

100 acres (bet. dams C & D in oats; sowed Feb., harvested June).

Same field, in corn, planted June and July, gathered October.

50 acres, (bet. dams B & C) in cotton planted March, picked Nov.

100 acres grass (bet. dams A & B) sowed Jan. cut May, &c, &c.

Estimate of cost.

For lower dam and tide gate	\$1,000
“ other dams & canals & ditches	500
“ Four mules	600
“ Forage (6 months)	150
“ Plows and harrows	150
“ Lime or land plaster	400
“ 1 two-horse wagon	100
“ 1 cart and harness	50
“ wheelbarrows, spades, shovels and tools	100

GFP

Contract

Ambrosio José Gonzales, owner of a plantation called “ Social Hall” situated on the Chehaw River in the State of South Carolina, of the first part, and José Ramón Cucalon, of the second part, agree to the following; to wit:

1: The party of the first part brings to the society herein made, for the period of five years, the use of his said plantation of “Social Hall” with all that pertains to it, and the party of the 2d part will furnish the capital required to work it and stock it, to the amount of four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500).

2: The proceeds of the plantation the first and second years will be used in its cultivation and such enlargement of its cultivation as the contracting parties may agree upon. On the third year the party of the first part will reimburse to the party of the second part the capital advanced, with interest of 7 per % per annum; unless the party of the first part should prefer to make such reimbursement sooner.

3: Until the event of said reimbursement, every article animal or property of every kind

purchased with the said capital furnished by the party of the second part, will be mortgaged to the party of the second part.

4: In the event that, after the expiration of the second year, the business herein undertaken should yield no profits, the party of the second part will be at liberty either to rent or lease the said plantation of "Social Hall," or work it on his own account until the expiration of the five years; and in case of its becoming remunerative under his management he will, on the first opportunity, reimburse himself all the moneys originally or afterwards advanced by him with the above interest [...] added, and from that time forward the society will continue until the expiration of the five years.

5: If the business is remunerative, the society will endure for five years, which may be extended by mutual agreement.

6: In case of demise of either of the contracting parties, the surviving one will continue the business in the interest of himself and of the heirs of the deceased one.

7: All the profits obtained from the plantation in all branches of agriculture, will be equally divided between the contracting parties.

8: Both of the contracting parties will have an equal share in the management of the agricultural purposes of this society and neither of them will be able to do any thing relating to its business without the consent of the other.

9: At the expiration of the five years, (unless the contracting parties agree to continue the society) all the animals, improvements, effects, crops and property of every description will be valued by two referees and the party of the first part will pay to the party of the second part, in current funds, the amount of one half of said appraisement.

10: The amount of \$4,500 furnished by the party of the 2d part, as herein before stated, will be deposited, for the uses aforesaid, with a Charleston Factor of the highest character & standing, to be drawn upon as the uses of the plantation (as approved by both contracting parties) may require from time to time.

(This draft contract was hand-written by Ambrosio Gonzales but never signed).

EGP

64 Balt June 16th [1872]

Dearest Mama

We have had quite a busy, confused sort of week with girls going off as opportunities would occur-- and I feel glad that this is Sunday -- and it is comparatively quiet -- although I expect to have to make the effort this evening to go to a large Hotel to visit the parties Fanny sailed with in Oct last, & who were very kind to her I have sent to Emie that *She* must go with me. The Wymans are not to leave Balt till the 25th so if Fan comes as we hope, on the 22d the Sisters will have two days together. I was at Mrs Wymans three evenings ago -- and as we went in (Mrs L & J) Mrs Wyman rose to meet us -- and two other persons rose too -- the parlor was only lighted from the passage, so at first I did not see that one was Gonzales. As soon as I did I held out my hand -- how do You do, Col Gonzales I did not recognise You-- he went there with a Miss Williams who befriends him at his boarding house. Emie did not come in the room -- and after sitting there chatting with others who came in for an hour Mrs L & I left. Mrs. W. followed us to the door & said She was going to ask "Gen Gonzales to sing So we sat on the steps, joined by Emmie & Charley Wyman -- and heard him sing the "Marsellaise" very well-- tho' his voice is broken -- it made us sad to hear him -- Emmie says -- he made an impression -- and Mrs

Wyman gave him a cordial invitation to her Receptions -- Monday Evgs -- so his perseverance has had its reward. Yesterday I was called down to see Dr. Mearis -- he came on at the request of his Sister [...] who is living on a farm near by-- to buy an adjoining farm but finds it already sold and besides *Knows* it wont do, to farm here-- He is looking for something for his wife & Annie to do -- everything in Aikens has failed them -- He is Crier in the Court in Charleston -- but Annie & her Mother are to board on the French Broad, for \$10 each a month -- he said Your house was represented in such a condition, with no chairs even -- no crockery and leaking so badly -- that Cousin Matilda had so much of the furniture -- in writing to Mr Drayton I asked that he would kindly enquire the cost of repairs -- for I thought if possible it would be best to see to it, while it is unoccupied and before it gets worse If it does not cost too much, I can lend You the money. I have about \$1500 left of Beaumont -- between us and Starvation. I have not been able Yet dearest Mama to take the pictures to have the spots removed -- but it is safe and will do it, before many days. Fan will come perhaps on friday -- Mamie will be here to see her. Edith has returned from the Lignons much improved. This will be a busy week, closing up and settling ourselves for the Summer. Poor Sallie was still weak when we last heard. I hope she can go to Greenville. Elliott has had a chill already poor fellow. I am so glad Ralph is with You. Much love to each & all -- trust Hattie is all right again -- every Your loving

Mary

EGP

Oak Lawn - June 21st [1872]

My Dear Boys -

To mitigate your grief at not coming home as soon as you ~~must~~ wished I send you a line, as an extra.

I have written to Ebet for the money She will either send it direct to you by the Pilot Boy or to me -- in which case I will mail it immediately & suppose in a weeks time we shall have the felicity of welcoming you to vegetables & the domestic circle. The vegetables are very nice this season. Some of the Washington seeds have proven very good. The Phinney Watermelon is large & promising -- if you can get some good melon seeds bring them for a late crop please.

We have seen no crabs or shrimps but when you come will hope for a taste of Toogoodoo. Fanny is expected from Europe today. Emma is to leave Baltimore for Quincy, on Monday. So she will have but two days in which to see Fan. Mary stumbled upon Col. G. at Mrs Wymans the other evening. A Miss Williams took him there. Mary addressed him as *Col Gonzales*, Think! how disgusted he must have been.

Emma was not in the room, & when Mary left Mrs Wyman said she was going to ask Genl. G. to sing S's from the steps Mary heard him sing The Marsellisa -- very well-- but his voice broken. Mrs W. invited him to her receptions. So he has succeeded in getting the entry into that fashionable -- *rich* house -- but as Mrs W. leaves for Massachusetts now & G. is to become planter in the fall it won't profit him much perhaps. Miss Williams may intend to marry him. I don't know who or what she is -- an old tabby probably -- in want of a beau.

Good bye boys, take good care of yourselves & be careful in swimming I don't think Nanno should go into that dangerous swimming place. We are all well & energetic. Leave a good reputation behind you in Old Beaufort & believe me Your loving Aunt Emmy.

EGP

Sand Hill PO
June 22d 1872

My Dearest Mother

Your kind and acceptable notes of Friday & Saturday were duly received. I am rejoiced to hear that you are feeling stronger than of late - and sincerely trust that the improvement in your health may continue - Some gentle stimulant is absolutely necessary to each and all of you ladies in these terribly debilitating summer months. I hope you may be able & willing to indulge yourselves in this small particular. Your news of Fan is charming - may she be as happy as she is clever and sensible.

So you are living well, on nice vegetables and fat chickens. I am so glad of it. & the wild cat turns out to be brother to Agrippa, the hog thief - I thought when first you mentioned it, "that cat is greedy enough for a nigger" the haul was too heavy. Strichnine in milk, is said by some folks to stop a nigger from stealing. but I have my doubts about it. Although corn soaked in it does kill crows.

You ask about my foot; the injured one is no longer painful - but is enlarged somewhat, and cannot bear the pressure of a boot. Otherwise I am feeling better but the succession of cats continues and I am literally worn out, with the annoyance of them - After a faithful trial of Tonics I have concluded that, that is not the thing needful - sulfur & Salts at first seemed beneficial - but evidently some powerful alternative is needed - and unless I am soon better, I must apply to Dr Raoul. although I hate to do so, until I can pay him for his last (useless) advice and prescription - but enough of this - Job nor Lazarus could have been worse off nor Vesuvius mutter more about it.

Brosio wanted me to meet him a Yemassee yesterday for a chat, but I could not, and therefore wrote him - giving him a chance to change his mind about coming here - if he happens to be with you - tell him to let me know by tuesday, if he will come - otherwise Doc Coburn will be written for - I have worked so hard to have this thing gotten up, that I am vexed to think Doe, or John White Gregories, damphool son, may benefit by it. but Arthur is a Heyward & a Romanist - and it is to be expected that he will use his young cousins acquirements as long as he can do so without cause.

Please induce all of the bad negroes who are able bodied, to leave your neighborhood, and come up here - we are sadly in need of, laborers - mill hands - tie cutters - wood cutters et cet - wages \$20, to \$30, & \$40 per month promised.

In the absence of Mr. Caines a good deal of Office and Commissary work devolves upon me. and I am hand worked - until a late hour of the night - steady employment from 5 AM. till 11.PM. at \$20 per month - makes me sometimes think of what I used to was. We have as of yet no mosquitoes, & few fleas - but the whole country seems about an inch deep in Bed Bugs. A perfectly new building put up today, & whitewashed inside & out - will on the morrow will be infected Even Mrs O who has a mania for scouring scrubbing & sunning, and in whose house I am sure no animal would willingly remain "cant git shet of the eternal critters" an alum water bath just before going to bed prevents their bites - but not their crawls.

With constant thoughts of you all and wishes for your health & comfort mingled with regrets at my inability to assist you, I am Dearest Mother Your Ever

Affectionate Son Ralph

EGP

Beaufort Sunday June 23d [1872]

My Dear Emmy

Yours of the 21st recieved [sic] this morning we were very much disappointed at not getting the money as we were packed up and ready to leave tomorrow I wrote to you so long ago & you have not written me for nearly 2 weeks I dont know why Gnmama has written me such a scold I told you that I was not coming back to Beaufort again & Mrs H does not expect us after the holidays but if you do not wish me at home I can go & look out for work some where to support myself Arthur has got a place on the Port Royal Road & I do not think my self too good to work although I know I could learn a good deal at home however I hope to get home if the money comes with a great deal of love I remain your very affect

Brosie

Beaufort Sunday 23d

My dear Grandmother

Your favor of the 19th recieved today I did not wish to anticipate my holiday but as my time was up with Mrs H and nearly all my class mates had left school and gone to Bay point & as I had finished most of the books I was studying I intended to come home Monday as it is I can not go to school for the 3 days more we have to remain in Beaufort as we have brought all our books from school as packed up to come off tomorrow and now dear Grandmother I am always ready to 1 obey you but I cannot come to Beaufort again Mr Fuller will reopen his school in august and his terms are 10 dollars a quarter & I think you had better devote the money to your own personal comfort I think you are quite mistaken as to my being a trial to Mrs H She has never found me anything but polite & obliging & as she said this morning we had never had any quarrels and she would be very sorry to part with me she passes Oak lawn on next Thursday for Edisto on a visit to Mrs Seabrook there is no one in Beaufort with whom we could board Cousin Emma Barnwell is Boarding with her sister & Mr Osborne Barnwell has a very large family & not a very large house so I could not board there Cousin Bill has a place on the Port Royal Road & his wife is in Beaufort his Eldest daughter is at school in Charleston & Cousin Bet is still with Mrs Cuthbert with a great deal of love, I remain as ever your devoted

Boy

if the money comes you can expect us on Thursday next

EGP

Oak Lawn - June 25th [1872]

My Dear Brosie

We, particularly [A]lfonsies -- feel sorry to [th]ink that you were too [we]ak to take our your packed [*torn*]oaks & so could'nt go [*torn*] short this week. Well Well! Well! in our boyhoods days T'was different, but I suppose that antique fossil presure -- Old G. used to feel weak too, on such occasions, & that accounts for it.

Mamma wrote to you as soon as your letter giving us the information that you were coming a week ahead of the holyday reached us, not expecting you before July & that is why you have been kept waiting for your money. I received it by Express today, & enclose you \$20. You will requ[ire] nine or ten for your expenses I believe, & you must pay Mrs [*torn*] what ever she charges out of the remaining money. If you go to the office on Thursday Morning you will get it in time to leave on that day I hope. As the cars need not leave early to connect with the Savannah train which now meets the Charleston train at this Station at 5 oclock P.M.

[ten lines torn]

might take a run on the cars might you not? or get some conveyance. Is Nanno's education also completed? does he contemplate going into business -- I would have thought that you both would have liked to be out of Dads way in the fall.

[ten lines torn, probably mentioning their father]

that was all.

With the love of the family I remain as ever Your attached

Old Girl [Emmie Elliott]

GFP

87 North Charles St.
Baltimore, Md.
July 15th /72

To Ambrosio José Gonzales Jr.

Adams Run, Colleton Co. So. Ca.

My dear Son:

I enclose the key of my old valise, which I shipped to you on Saturday with a few tokens of my remembrance for yourself, your brothers & sisters, this being the first time since I left you, that it has been in my power to do even so little. You will find in it a fine edition of "Don Quixote" with over 700 engravings and a pocket knife I bought for you soon after my arrival in N. York year before last, expecting to return soon to South Carolina. These are for you. To Nanno I send one of Dr. Chaillin's books of travel, a pretty edition; and for Alfonso: "Ten Acres enough" neatly bound. For Tulita & Anita I send a pink dress, another darker dress for Anita and a wrapper for Tulita out of which something may also be made for Anita. I send a brown suit for Benigno. You will find patterns for all these things & trimmings. There are also collars for Tulita and for the same a Cockade (Cuban) I won at the Cuban celebration in New York on the 10th of October last, and two little dolls for Tulita and Anita. There is also a piece of flannel for Anita, and letter paper, envelopes & stamps for yourself & Nanno & a few sugar plums for your little sisters. I have put in the valise some refuse liner, an old shawl & table cloth to fill up & prevent shaking. I have learned from your aunt Mamie how much you have grown, and that your grandmother expected to put you & Nanno at school somewhere. I wrote to you from N. York more than a year ago that I had secured your education. Mrs. Aldama, your godmother, in my representation had been canvassing a good school for you in N. York when she died suddenly. In the fall, Mr. Aldama, promised to defray your college & outfit expenses. When I came to Baltimore last December one of my objects was to consult your aunt Mamie about the schools here, when I found she was at the South. When on her return she told me of the great distress & want of the family, "who had not even servants to wait for them" I wrote to your uncle Ralph, enclosing an order for my Spencer Rifle & telling him to sell it and apply the proceeds to yourselves. I also requested him to ask your grandmother, which would be the best school for you in South Carolina. To this letter I have received no answer. You will see by all this that your education or *instruction*, has been a foremost idea in my mind. When I left Charleston I expected to return in a few weeks, wherein I was disappointed. Some months afterwards I was making ready to go down as Agent for Northern houses when a tempting offer was made to me of several thousand dollars commissions if I disposed of a Patent. I also had the sale of first mortgage R. Road Bonds &c &c. all of which, if I had succeeded would have been worth to me fifteen or

twenty thousand dollars. I was thence forward in daily expectation of selling one thing or another and of being able to give a surprise to your grandmother sending her not only enough for the education & wants of all of my children but for herself & family and this was the constant subject of my conversation with a few friends. Hence, I postponed writing from the very excess of interest in you all. As to Narciso & Alfonso, the letter I received from Mr. Chastrand, and which induced me to send for them, was a terrible one to me and broke my heart, although I have said nothing about it. It was a great “disappointment” to me that children whom I had *educated* to behave well from their infancy should be complained of in the terms of that letter. I accordingly asked Mr. Chastrand (as he and Mr. Dalcour desired) to send them to me (by the way of Baltimore) to Charleston, expecting (as I have already said,) to have been back in time to receive them. Not hearing from Charleston or from Cuba about them, I believed them still in Cuba, yet not knowing but that they might be on their way all the while. In the summer of last year I wrote to Messrs. Mordecai & Co.²⁶⁰ (the Agents of the “Cuba” & “Liberty”) to inquire if they had come. They answered me that they could not find them on their books. Happening to know that Mr. Carlos Poujaud was in New York, I called on him at the N. York Hotel to inquire about my children and he told me in the presence of Mr. John B. Lafitte, that *they were well at Mr. Dalcour’s near Matanzas*. In the expectation of realizing handsome profits out of my sales, I waited, from week to week, *in their case as well as yours*, to send for them at my expense. The first notice I had of their being in this country I received this year from your aunt Mamie on her return from the South.

I have taken pains to state these few facts among many that you all may see that my heart has ever been with you, & believing that you are old enough to reason correctly and that you have it in your nature to sympathise with your father’s misfortunes, (as I always had it in mine) and act as a dutiful son should do.

With my love to Nanno, Alfonso, Tulita, Benigno & Anita as well as to yourself & the family, I remain, your affectionate father,

Ambrosio José Gonzales

EGP

Charleston, 20 July 1872

Dear Mrs. Elliott

I received by last steamer from Baltimore, a valisse for Ambrosio Gonzales, with a request from his father that it be forwarded to Adams Run.

Is not Ambrosio at Beaufort? If so, it would be a needless expense to send it to Adams Run, and it had better be sent direct.

very respectfully & truly yrs.
Wm. C. Bee

Mrs. A. H. Elliott
Adams Run

EGP

Charleston 24 July 1872

²⁶⁰ Mordecai & Co., 45 S. Gay, Baltimore. Charleston and Baltimore, and Baltimore and Havana and New Orleans steamers. *Wood’s Baltimore City Directory 1871*, p. 761.

My dear Mrs. Elliott

Your note of 23d inst reached me to day, and, in accordance with your request, I have sent the valise for Ambrosio to Adams Run, by the freight train of the S & C RRd & to your care.

Genl. Gonzales enclosed in \$1 to pay expenses on the transportation of the valise. The freight to Adams Run has been paid, and the enclosed surplus please hand to Ambrosio.

very respectfully & truly yrs,
Wm. C. Bee

Mrs. Ann H. Elliott
Adams Run, S.C.

GFP

Oak Lawn, July 28th [1872]

My Dear Father

I have received your letter and valise. Many thanks for the contents. The knife is a very fine one, & the edition of " Don Quixote" is the handsomest I have seen. It is one of my favorite books & I will reperuse it with pleasure. The boys thank you for the books & the children for your gifts to them.

Grandmama sent me to school in January. Nanno was suffering then with whooping cough, but he joined me in April. We are at home now for the vacation, & are quite well. The boys arrived from Cuba on the 6th of December 1870, & it was time for them to come -- as in spite of Mrs. Dalcourt's kindness & care -- they were much in the company of corrupt Chinese and Negroes.

Alfonso had lost the little he knew and had to be retaught from the Alphabet. I don't think they behaved worse than they did at home at first. Mrs. Dalcourt wrote, that they were good boys, but the fact is they out staid their welcome. They have improved in every respect since their return. Alfonso is at last beginning to read after nearly two years of hard work on the part of his Aunt. I am sorry to hear of your troubles & hope you are now more comfortable.

The children are well, baby has been christened & given Mama's name. As soon as she could speak she called herself "Hattie" & has clung to the name in a most singular manner. She is very bright & clever. Gertrude has developed into a bookworm, with a book in her hand she is happy & oblivious of every thing else.

Social Hall is a fine lake now, as well as I can understand, there is no communication with the main land, The Bluff Negroes even never go there & the buildings have all disappeared they say.

I expect to return to school in September. The uneducated will be made to feel badly hereafter. Now that even the Negroes are given such advantages & I must make the most of my time. The children join me in love. I remain your affectionate Son,

Ambrosio Gonzales

EGP

Balt Sunday
28th July [1872]

Dearest Mamma

Your nice long letter reached me on friday which was a little surprising as You had only

directed it to 64 Mt. V Place -- Md, some one added *Balt* however so it came straight. The inclosure, of Mr Clarks advertisement, sounds very nicely, and Mrs Lefebre will write to enquire of her friends in Va -- his name (Peyton) recommends him She says. I do hope You can send Brosio to school and Nanno too -- it is so important for the latter to be trained at once . I know nothing of Col. G. Edith saw him a week ago. He did advertise for Summer pupils and I hope has some to enable him to pay his board. Mrs Semple does many kind things in spite of her general hatefulness -- and I dare say has re engaged his services for her School begining (as they all do here) in Sept.

We are having pleasanter weather -- but the supply of water is very low, will not last the city more than two or three weeks, and already it smells so badly, that every one talks of it. We have to filter it for drinking and our baths are curtailed. I spend Yesterday at Cousin Judiths, and am to sit with them to day -- instead of helping at night which my children make a great fuss about. Mrs Draper continues to live on. The cancer has now appeared on her face a hard swelling around her ear -- which the Dr thinks She may not live long enough to have much trouble from -- but it is such a fearful lingering disease. A gentleman whom we know here, was dying of cancer in Jany -- and still lives -- and Mrs Draper lasts in a wonderful way -- taking no nourishment of any kind -- the least thing oppressing her. How torturing to the family to know that there is this disease hanging over them -- as an inheritance. Well! I am afraid in spite of our efforts to be economical here, that it will cost us more than if we had run off and escaped this trouble and heat -- coal -- gas -- milk ice and Cooks [...] -- besides groceries & marketing -- and not being able to [...] the cook's in [...] her visitors -- is hard on poor people. Mamie writes as if she was delighted with the Springs -- from Emmie we have not heard for a few days Elliott & Sallie keep well. We hear from South Island of Wms welfare and other news we have none. [...] R. now that the [...] return to England will probably go to Mrs Rose at F. R. She wrote me that a valise had been sent the boys from their father!! Good bye I hope A & E are getting on comfortably. I am sorry poor Emmie is to have Sewing Machine work added to her labours. She ought to fix the work and let Ralph do the Sewing -- he will like it if he trys. My best love to all.

Fan & Edith desire their love

ever devotedly

Mary

EGP

Charleston, Augt 2/72

My dear Mrs Elliott

Gov. Aiken has just been in to see me about your house at Flat Rock, he wants to purchase not rent his offer is two thousand dollars cash (\$2,000) if the titles are made and the property given up at once, though you wrote me some time ago, that the place was not for sale. I do not feel at liberty to refuse what I think so good an offer without first letting you know your immediate reply will greatly oblige.

yours truly

Wm. E. Huger

P.S. To be candid with you my information with regard to its condition has been confirmed. the stable, ice house fences and all the out buildings are gone except those two little log huts and they in very bad order, the house leaking and the sills in very bad repair.

EGP

Walterboro, S.C.
Augt. 10 1872

My Dear General,

Our mutual friend Col. J. D. Warren informs me, that you intend to bring a colony of actual settlers to buy up some of our tax ridden lands. Our firm has the control of thousands of acres in Colleton and Beaufort Counties which we are desirous to dispose of. They are situated in all parts of the Counties -- suitable for cotton, corn, rice, phosphate mining, for mills &c. on the Stono, Edisto, Ashepoo, Chehaw & Combahee &c &c. If you can unite with us in this matter it may benefit our country and ourselves pecuniarily. Write me your views on the subject.

With regards, yrs truly
F. G. Pehre [or Behre]

EGP

Balt Wednesday
Aug 28th [1872]

Dearest Mamma

Did You intend Your letter to reach Me on My Birthday? Well, it came Yesterday and did *not* I confess add to my comfort -- for it told too plainly of Your being over worked. Please My dear Mammy remember Your age and how much depends upon Your preserving Your Strength to help others -- be content to let things take their course and instead of toiling Yourself every day, with efforts to keep things nice -- let that go -- and once a week hire some one, to clean up, I really so dread now, adding to the troubles of my children by being sick & helpless on their hands -- that for their sakes I am very prudent and I do so wish You would follow my example. What would become of Hattie if You get bed ridden? Which You will do, if You go on so.

I declare it is only by contrast with something worse, that I can bear to think of My Sisters -- When I see Miss K. after 28 years of hard work (She is now 42) reduced to such a condition -- all of her strength ambition & earnings, brought to nought. To be sure, She has saved enough, and only enough, to make her last days comfortable -- and of this none of us, can be secure. but what suffering She has to endure! Not so much I think from actual pain -- as from nervousness produced by Morphia -- She is getting more reconciled to being here, and more considerate of others. I think we are going to have a worrying winter however. Mamie is still here, but will go to Mrs Ligore by the end of the week. The weather is quite pleasant to day-- and we could sleep last night. I am sure tell Anne that Gonzales is too poor to go to the Springs -- he is only saving his board probably, by living on acquaintances (his old peculiarity) His school duties will soon bring him back, I suppose Mrs Semple has reengaged him. She knows *how* to make the most of necessitous friends.

I have been keeping so close from the intense heat not even going to Church -- that My ideas are slower than usual and if I did not know You valued My letters empty as they are, I would not write so often. I feel as if this Summer had been no rest to me -- although I have accomplished no work, and I must now sew every spare moment before School opens-- Keeping the girls in order, and quiet will keep me busy after.

I hope to see Brosio soon. I know he will make good use of his time -- how I wish Nanno could go somewhere is Yorkville impracticable for him? Good bye darling Mother -- how I wish I had the strength & ability to launch out in something that would help You all-- best love to

Anne & Emie Tom Ralph & all the chicks

Your ever loving Mother

[Mary Barnwell Elliott]

EGP

Baltimore, Md August 28th 1872

Ambrosio Jose Gonzales Jr
Adams Run P.O. S.C.

My dear Son:

I have just returned to Baltimore after an absence of five weeks in the country. Your letter was forwarded to me and was a great comfort. I was very happy to hear from you and about you and the children and glad to know that you liked my little tokens of remembrance. It was gratifying to me to see the improvement in your handwriting and the diction of your letter does you much credit. I am most glad to hear that you and Nanno are attending school and that you have the determination to make the best of your time and opportunities. One of the greatest mathematicians and astronomers of modern times, was a private soldier in the french army and learnt to read and write at the age of forty. Many little prodigies cram their memories to the detriment of their intellectual faculties. With a sound body and a sound mind and the power of reasoning you can do more in one year than you could before in three. Write to me before you leave for school and tell me what school you attend and all about yourself and my other children. Nothing is so comforting to me. Say to your grandmother for me that I am very grateful to her for having given to the baby your mother's name. I have spent a week at a farm of a Cuban near Warrenton, Virginia and a month with Genl. Pemberton at a little farm of 200 acres he has several miles from the same town. He & his family have been very kind to me, poor as they are, and I have been saved not only the heat in Baltimore but the expense of living, a part of the summer. Genl. Pemberton, in the active season, works at his garden and he has two sons of 16 & 17 whom he teaches after breakfast and who, the rest of the day, do all the farming work: ploughing, hauling, driving oxcart, &c: the eldest, now 19, did the same until some time ago. He has now a good place in Philadelphia and is a very promising young man. I am now on my way to New York to try if I can to find a Northern farmer who will go shares with me in farming at Social Hall and thus help me gradually to reclaim the place in order that it may become, hereafter, of some value to yourselves. Address: "care of Messrs Mordecai & Co. Baltimore, Md." Kiss the little ones for me. With my love to yourself, the children and the family, I am your affectionate father,

A. J. Gonzales

EGP

Baltimore, Md. August 31/72

Martes

Narciso Gener Gonzales
Adams Run P.O.
Colleton Co. So. Ca.

My dear Son:

I wrote to Ambrosio two days ago, and I wish to write to you before I leave for New York. I hope that you have progresses, as well as Ambrosio. You gave promise of having a good "hand" and you were always so fond of reading that I indulged in the hope that you would have a cultivated mind. I still trust it will be so. I remember the agreeable surprise I received

when I saw Alfonso's first letter. He will write a handsome hand, if he bestows average attention to it. I have seen very bad roads in Virginia, much worse than our own on the coast. From Genl. Pemberton's farm to Warrenton (only 4 miles,) it takes exactly two hours and no carriage that we usually have on the coast could stand the joltings through those stones. I suppose you and Brosio are getting ready to go to school. The papers, here, have two columns of college, boy & girl school notices of their reopenings between the middle and the end of September. Ambrosio & yourself should be very particular in the use of quinine and your clothing on moving from the place.

Write to me at length and tell me all that you can think of about all the children as well as yourself and tell Alfonso to write to me also. Let me know if there is any little thing which you or any of your brothers and sisters would like me to buy for you or them in New York and if within my means I will be glad to take it when I go South, if I succeed in getting some Northern farmer to go shares with me; and if not, I will send them on. Letters addressed to the "Maltby House, Great Jones St. New York City" will reach me, wherever I may be located.

Kiss the little ones for me and with much love to yourself, your brothers & sisters and the family, I am
your affectionate father

Ambrosio Jose Gonzales

EGP

Buffalo Marsh Sep 22d [1872]

My dear Grandmother

I would have answered your note before but I was waiting in hope of getting a letter to day and was much disappointed in not getting one. & now I will tell you something about my abode Mr. Clark lives in a Stone house on a Stony hill & among the blue ridge mountains about 13 miles from Winchester. he has a farm & several cows & oxen & 3 horses he is a nice old gentleman & I like him very much but he has the most disgusting rowdy & unmanerly Set of boys that I have ever Seen Mr Clark puts no restrictions on them because he says he expects every boy who comes to him to be a gentleman they go about the country robbing orchards Shooting peoples hogs & turkeys & getting into all manner of Scrapes. They provoke me in all manner of ways & I can get no redress as they dont mind beating [.] their favorite amusement at present is to tie a string to my toe at night carry it out of the window & pull me out of bed & I never can find who it is as the whole School denies it [.] Mr C. Says that if I expected to stay with him 2 or 3 years he would put me in Latin & Greek but as I told him I was not going to colledge [*sic*] he said the best things I could study would be History Philosophy Spelling Algebra Arithmetic & Book keeping & in one year he would fit me for business life. I was not able to get my clothes in Baltimore but I went to Winchester yesterday with Mr Clark & got a very good School Suit for 10 dollars the weather is getting quite cold now & I will have to put on winter clothes soon I am suffering at present from a bad cold & my foot which is not well yet do write soon & ask Emmy to do so & tell me every thing with love to all not forgetting yourself I remain as ever your fond

Grandson

EGP

Oak Lawn Oct 8th [1872]

My Darling Brosio

I have been wishing every day to take my turn in writing to you - but My time is so much occupied as you know, that T'is hard to squeeze a moment. The dairy now is quite an addition to [m]y cares ' Cato Gibs is at present engaged for a month to milk. He has broken the four heifers & we have plenty of milk - Corn comes in very slowly because the negroes are too lazy to bring it - & as yet we have sold no butter. Nan Nan vows we never will but I think differently. Ruby has just presented us with another little boy calf - much to the disgust of every one. Out of eight to have but two girls is hard - isnt it?

Ralphs wood cutting has come to a stand still. The negroes are all more congenially employed - stealing cotton & lazing - Hamilton still cuts pine for me & it will be [torn] for next week I hope. You must tell us my child when you want pocket money - Remember I will be vexed with you if you do not.

We have had Hattie quite indisposed - from a kind of rash - it attacked one leg particularly & made us quite anxious I think it has been a return of the rash she had two years ago - in an agravated form. I am thankful to say that she was dressed & in the parlor today & takes Minny for her "little jones" with her wanted vivacity. You have some true & true "little jones" in your household - do write & describe them for babys benefit. She talks constantly of "when Brosio came [torn]ck" - Minny too dreams about you & we all miss & talk you constantly. You must think what an exertion Nan Nan makes in writing to you She, who never writes to anyone else - & you ought to appreciate it accordingly So instead of answering me write to her & send messages to me - I will write to you all the same. As I am cook You ought to indulge me with an account of what You eat & drink at Buffalo Marsh. How comes it that you are called Elliott? I trust that you will find at least one pleasant companion among the boys - tell us their names - we may have heard of s [ome] of their kindred. Is Mrs Jones nice & does she look after the boys comfort & clothes? Good Night Darling.

With the love of each & all of us - I am as ever Your doting
Old Aunt Emmy

EGP

[mid October 1872]

[The first page of this letter from Brosio is missing. He probably gives his reasons for changing his name and possibly spoke bad of his father]

and the way I say my lessons and I think that in eight months time I will have what Nan Nan calls an education if not it will not be my fault but to return to my description of Frederick county which although I do not wish to flatter it so much is true I suppose you have heard in history of *Middletown & Newtown*. Well! the former is situated on the turnpike about four miles from this and boasts of 1 dozen houses a *small* church a *large* drawshop a billiard Saloon. a pump which has ceased to (make water) and a toll gate which requires no toll. besides about 15 nigs and 30 crackers, my description of Middletown is now concluded & I will proceed to describe the "Sister city" Newtown is also located in the *pike* and possesses a Street one mile long with a Stray shanty or two Scattered here & there along its irregular outline. A black smiths Shop two or three stores and about 3 doz inhabitants I forgot to mention that Middletown has a Post office noted all over for the time with which letters with money in them stay there and Newtown has a Jail in which half of the population spend the night regularly. You asked me in your last about Mrs Jones & family she is at present laid up with a Sprained Ankle which she obtained cavorting down Stairs the other night. She reminds me very forcibly of Mrs Nickleby in

the way She Speaks of her dear departed Jones She has 4 children A boy 15 yrs of age and remarkable for his worthlessness. A girl 17 yrs of age who makes herself agreeable to the boys by making cake on Sundays. And lastly two small children of the female persuasion who render themselves disagreeable by everlastingly making a disturbance in a couple of pianos. you asked me the names of the boys first comes my friend A. B. Atkins of Chantilly, Va. Isaac Davenport of Richmond Va W. L. & E. V. Newton Esqrs of Norfolk, Va. O. H. Flagg, Charleston, W. Va. W. R. Jones, Winchester, Va. Lawrence Haynes, Esqr. of Jacksonville Fla W. K. Randolph Esq. of New Orleans Lou. and lastly comes your humble Servant H. H. Elliott Esqr of Adams Run So. Ca. Please Write Soon as long a letter as mine. With much love to each & all Believe me to be yr fond Nephew

H. H. Elliott [Brosio]

P.S. Is Uncle Tom going to stay at Savages another year?

H. H. E.

EGP

1872

Oct 13th

Buffalo Marsh

[To Ann Elliott]
My dearest Aunt

I recieved Emmy's letter last night and as she asked me to write to you I will proceed to do so. I appreciate your letters highly and "the more exceedingly" as Gonzales would say as you write so very seldom to anyone that I consider myself so highly honored when I recieve a letter from you. Nano wrote me a letter the other day & I wrote him one which I hope will satisfy him in length if not in information I went out to Winchester yesterday with one of the boys and spent a very pleasant day I had to bring some linen collars as find paper ones more expensive and inconvenient and I had to get a pair of slippers to ease my feet as the bruise I left home with is quite painful. I took the last one of my pills two night ago and have had no fever yet the weather is quite cold now with frost and ice and sharp winds blowing I have had to put on my thick clothes and flannel shirts. I am getting on rapidly with my studies Arthrmatic particularly and Mr Clark thinks I am quite good at it and I am the only one of the History & Philosophy class that gets good marks I have just begun Algebra Geometry & [...] *Leguidre*. and will have to study very hard to keep up my reputation. Emmy asks me what Mrs Clark gives us to eat for breakfast & supper we have hot rolls and plenty of butter and milk as Mr Clark has six milk cows and plenty of bread & his pails Mrs Jones Mrs Clarks sister is a confederate widow of about 40 years of age & weighs about 200 weight but far superior to Mrs Hamilton and really more religious excuse this short scratch it is quite dark and I have to feel my way over the paper with much love to each & all hoping to hear soon I remain Your Affectionate Nephew

Brosio

EGP

Monday October 14th 1872

My dear Brother

Hattie has been quite sick since Emmy wrote you about her & the family were much dipressed about her but to day she is much ~~butter~~ better & is quite lively. Sam Bailey is knocking

down the Tucker house to day & Sony is carting the bounds here. Parson Flood came here this morning saying that Rose, Jacob's wife,²⁶¹ was dead & that she had wished to be buried here. Only three weeks ago Cephas said she was quite well.

Nannan says she thinks you will need a great coat (& the weather here to day seems to confirm it) & that if so, you had better ask Mr C to get it for you in Winchester. Emmy says she thinks that the future Rovers, & Gibbets will be milk white, from the quantity of that fluid their parents consume. T R S E comes here nearly every day & is hopeful as usual. He has kept Warren Clement's commissary all summer & has weighed & paid for 8,000 lbs of cotton & has not received a cent for his trouble. He is quite disgusted with Said W C's meanness. Capt E is at a stand still about the wood business the nigger's making more by stealing cotton than by wood cutting. The family have decided to let us go to "see the show." Gertrude & Minnie will pick pecans to pay for shoes, et, cet.

Adios hasta comida;²⁶² I believe Georgia has gone Democratic by 60,000 majority. They had a row at Macon in which several niggers & one white man were killed. Some of the nigs voted thier [sic] tax receipts instead of votes. Well I believe I have exhausted my stock of news & so I will close. Please write to me as soon as convenient & with much love from all I remain

Your affectionate brother

Nanno

October 14th 1872

Ps Monday Mg. Had ice & frost this morning

NGG

EGP

Buffalo Marsh
Nov 9th [1872]

My dearest Aunt

I recieved your note of the 4 instant yesterday I suppose that by this time you have recieved My letters telling you of My well doing Mr Clark was very much amused at recieving a telegram asking if I was sick there was no cause for such anxiety for although I had Some hard chills I have taken quinine to keep them off. I really have nothing to tell about every thing is so quite [sic] here and weeks slip by almost unnoticed plenty of hard study & Sums. I am improving rapidly & have learnt more in mathematics in the 7 weeks I have been here than in all my life before & yet Mr Clark does not give me much instruction he never looks at my Sums but as soon as I finish one part go to another he has such perfect confidence in my doing right & not skipping. I just learn the rules in arithmetic & do the sums with out any aid. I have now begun Decimal Fractions & Mr Clark Says I will graduate in Mathematics this year. We had a very good debate last night Mr Clark was in the room & making a Speech expressed himself very much pleased with our proceedings. I suppose you have heard that Grant is reelected. Greely has been awfully defeated 28 States for Grant & only 9 for him. I did not think that New York would go for Grant or Louisiana for Greely & yet they did the country around here has been very quite perhaps it is because there is no one to make a disturbance You can hardly Strike a human being

²⁶¹ Rose and Jacob were former slaves.

²⁶² Spanish for "Goodbye until dinner."

for 10 miles around. Do tell Emmy that when I wrote her last I forgot that I was in want of Stationary & other things So as soon as convenient do send me a little change with the money to buy a pair of boots. Mrs Clark got me 1.00 worth of quinine. With much love to all hoping to hear soon believe me to be your fond Nephew

H. H. Elliott [Brosie]

EGP

[*The first four pages of this letter from Nanno are missing*]

[Mid November 1872]

5

fair to decrease in size like the elephant's tail, I have left her entirely to Alfonso who when sent to the depot on business sits in the shoemakers shop (Taylor has another shoemaker) over the stove with Nita by the half-hour. The Edisto R.R. scheme proved to be a nigger concern & bust up some time ago. Rover bids fair to be a very good squirrel dog, but until she has weaned her puppies, she will not stay long away from them. They are very fine especially Tiger, the brindled one. Doves & partridges there are but no one can shoot them without dogs, but TRSE shoots a good many larks & partridges for Hattie. That person (RSE) is now troubled with Job's complaint in a very inconvenient position, which renders locomotion difficult. Although we cannot like you aspire to snow down here, yet we have had & have now some very cold weather, frosts & ice every morning for some time. Oats has been planted in what was the slip feild [*sic*] (the slips turning out about a peck of strings) & barley is to be planted in the corn field. Bory is going to carry out Hattie for a drive in Taylor's buggy now, I suppose that ere this, you will have heard that the righteous city of Boston has eclipsed Chicago in the fire department & shown that granite & stone can burn better than wood. Over nine hundred of the finest buildings & warehouses in the world reduced to nothin!!! also 60 dwelling houses & many wharfs; sich [*sic*] is fire, from 90 to 200 acres & 90 to 200 million dollar's destroyed of property.²⁶³ Shoes wool & Yankee notions will rise. Hear & be rejoiced; I hope New York & Philadelphia will go next? By the way Dad has appeared there it seems, for having in vain tried to open a correspondence with you & me has sent Gertrude a penny paper from there in the hope I suppose that she will write him a nice note of thanks & express a desire to patch Po-paw's breeches. But such is not the case as he will find out. You are mistaken in supposing that Adams Run is in the least interesting to any one & I seldom go there. I tell about all of us, & the farm & I think that you ought to write me longer letter's & tell me more about the place & school & what you do, never mind how uninteresting. I would like you to correct an error about that sow you gave me off your sow Peggy. You had promised it me ever since last year, & I am certain I picked out the one with the largest black spots on it, but Alfonso say's no. That sow is going to have pigs shortly & I only want what is right so I refer the matter to you, for if you remember which I took please be sure to tell me in your next, & if it be the smallest & worst I will abide by ~~my~~ your decision only it is some matter wether I can make some money off her 2 or 3 months sooner than with another. Emmy has got your message about the overcoat & will attend to it, & wishes to know whether you have received the 500 she sent you. Can you remember what you did with the poppy seed we brought from Beaufort. Please answer in your next.

²⁶³ The Boston fire started on Saturday evening, 9 November 1872, spread over 65 acres, destroying one thousand businesses, with losses of one hundred million dollars.

I must now close with much love hoping to hear from you soon

I remain

Yours very truly

[Nanno]

PS We came from Charleston the next morning. I forgot to tell you that the circus had a Giraffe (a young one) but it died & we saw its skin stuffed -

##

EGP

WM. ELLIOTT,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR,

Beaufort, S.C., 22 Nov 1872

My dear Cousin

Your letter of the 11th was duly received.

The amount necessary to redeem Myrtle Bank cannot be ascertained here, but will be given at Washington upon application made for redemption. If you will inform me how the title to the property stands and who are the heirs I will forward the proper application, and upon its return from Washington, you can determine whether or not, and when, you will redeem. I have thought it not improbable that in case of its recovery you would make a change there and I really hope that the costs of redemption may not be formidable enough to delay your plans. I have written to Joe that no answer can be given him yet.

Your experiences at Washington have not certainly been encouraging, and it is perhaps fortunate that the subject matter of your negotiations with Mrs Schoolcraft's free-booting boarder was something so essentially solid as Myrtle Bank or she might have pocketed that too. I will write to Messrs B[...] & Casey for your Power of Atty, though I do not see, from your description of the document, that you have much to fear from their possession of it. I will remember that "dodge" in my practice hereafter.

I am very glad to hear that one at least of you boys is at school again and under such favorable circumstances. It is too bad about Mrs Hamilton and her breads. Perhaps that is the reason why all of her own children but one have left her. I suppose, though, she is perfectly satisfied with the Christian consolation thus, if her breads don't rise, she will at the last. Some time ago a circus passed through here in which the chief attraction was a young man who gloried in the name of "The Living Skeleton." Thinking that the boy was in bad company she sent after him a package of tracts addressed "To the Living Skeleton care of --- Circus, Savannah Ga" Just think what a wonder she in the way of a skeleton she would have made of him if she had had him as a boarder!

With much love from Sallie and myself to Aunt and Cousin Anne and yourself I am Your affte cousin

Wm Elliott

EGP

Buffalo Marsh
Nov 26 / 72

Dearest Emmy

Yours of the 19th was received yesterday and it was very welcome as I had not heard

from home for ten days I am well and learning a great deal I am now studying Surveying & Nan-Nan will be glad to hear that I am going to commence Latin next week Clark says that he means to give me a classical education even if it is to last but six months & he says even if I don't return to school that I can study it myself my studies are so numerous that I have no time for writing and you must be satisfied with a weekly *imposition* but I want you to write me at least two letters a week, And Narciso I trust *he* is not too much burdened with study to answer my letters is he? Tell Bory I will be very much complimented at hearing from him. The weather up here has been bitter cold for the last ten days we have had Several snow & sleet storms and the boys are skating. Last Friday night the boys assisted by the girls & ladies in the house got up some Tableaux we were busy at them all week & Clark let out school early to accomodate us some wealthy English people who are here on a visit and several families were present they proved quite a success & every one declared they were the best they had ever seen at the end we had a minstrel scene over which I presided assisted by Jack's sings & a tin fran a la Stephen Tucker every one was highly elated & after they were done Mrs Jones prepared a treat they had three kinds of ice cream & danced untill near daylight Clark is in a good humor ever since & has not scolded this week. we propose "*God willing*" to have a repetition on Christmas. When is cousin Fanny going South? She is going to pay you a visit I hear. You asked me to send one of my debates I have none written at present but will send you a stray composition excuse bad wryiting I must now close with much love to Grandmother, Aunts, Uncles & small Fry believe me to be your fond Nephew

H. H. Elliott [Brosie]

P.S. Folks up here talk a great deal about Old G. they have seen him lately in N.Y. & Balt but I have changed my name & will only answer to the name of Elliott

EGP

Miss Anne Elliott
Oak Lawn

Buffalo Marsh
Jan 11 1873

My dearest Aunt

Yours of the 4th was received last Wednesday but I have not been able to answer it until now. Mr. Clark has gone to Winchester with his interesting daughter to day and the boys are engaged sliding down an ice coated hill but as it is rather detrimental to the seats of my britches & as I have only one pair I have refrained from that enjoyment. I am glad to hear that the Lawyer behaved so handsomely in regard to "Oak Lawn" and that Mr Bee will buy it in for you. I don't suppose it would sell for more than \$500 and I didn't think anyone would bid against Grandmama. The weather is extremely cold about 25° below freezing and the wind blows fearfully at least for thinly clad Southerners. Florida stays in the house muffled up in a great coat. We have a great deal of fun out of Mr Clark. Some time ago a very wealthy English family moved over here one of them a girl of 23 has won the affection of Mr Clark & another old gentleman a widower Old man Jones by name. Miss Rose for that is the name of the unfortunate lady sometimes visits at Jones house when he has an opportunity of making love to make up for this Mr Clark who has a good pair of horses drives over to her house in a pretense of going to Middletown his sister and all the family know about it & laugh at him when he is gone & the washerwoman complains of the constant demand for clean shirts. Sometimes he lets out school

an hour earlier than usual puts on a clean shirt dresses up makes a great fuss eats his dinner thinks *damn* though he is too priss to say it & drives off at a rattling pace leaving the boys in anticipation of mischief Do write soon with much love to each & all believe me to be as ever your loving Boy

Brosio

EGP

Oak Lawn Jany 11th [1873]

My Darling Boy

Of course of the People of Middletown admire my handwriting I must write oftener -- We females are so suceptible to praise -- but truly when I have the time I like nothing better than to talk to you & Since my Christmas holyday I feel less worried in mind & body I can't say "Estate" there being none of that article visible. You ask about planting here -- My child -- what's the use -- for hogs & cows to break in & steal! The vegetable garden is being now prepared. Ralph is in the wood business but T'is a mighty slow business -- he has no animals & can not get his carting done. A small pine cutting is still being carried on under Bishop Leicester's eye, & that hateful Ben Pinckney "with his beaver on" presents himself & little bill from time to time. I hate that nigger & can't bear to give him 35 cts a cord for his hauling -- To day is Tax day & Mr Grace is presiding at the Depot. Nanan has gone to bring us back the amount -- we having got up an advance on the cotton for the purpose of paying & being done with the hateful business. Last night the boys went to the Station last night to *a show* Some kind of Panorama or Magic Lantern -- with scriptural & other scenes -- Alfonso dressed in his "Sundays best" occupied a part of the [...] of [...] Store with the Taylor girls The edifice being crowded with the elite from Adams Run & Toogoodoo -- it was very very cold & if any ideas were gathered from the exhibition I have not found them out. They are probably frozen up like Manchausen ham, although Alfonso has just remarked that he did not know before that the Virgin had twins! She was represented with two children last night -- Whilst on the Alfonso topic I must remember to ask you to write to him -- direct the letter to him & write it *big* -- he says he will spell it out by himself & it may give his will not his mind, an impetus -- Johnson came over from Chehaw a few days ago -- he is going to begin to clear land next week. I have just sent for axes & hatchets for him -- The butter gives us great comfort & we wish if possible to get a fine cow when ours begin to clock off(as Cato would say)-- with their milk. We have Quash George here now to get wood-- help nourish the calves with canes work in the garden & do odd jobs. We have engaged him for a month-- a month being long enough to look ahead now a days -- Hamilton is making himself comfortable -- Monday has moved back to Kings, having paid *nearly all* of his rent. Morgan may move into his house-- & a cold. family from Charleston propose hiring the Fisk mansion. We hope you have got over the horse desease [*sic*] & that your headaches are better -- Some of the family are having slight colds. The old mare had the desease very mildly & I hope we shall -- A great deal of love from each & all-- to our precious boy--
Ever Your attached

Aunt Emmy

EGP

Oak Lawn Jany 24th [1873]

Thanks for your letter received last evening My Dear Boy -- You do not mention

receiving the pills from Baltimore-- but neither do you mention headaches-- so we may argue that you are taking the first & losing the last-- Mamma & Anne fear that Mr Clark's preoccupation with loses may prevent his cultivation of briars-- or boys-- but I do not think so although the measles & love taken at that age are said to be dangerous. Still it seems to me that teaching has been a pleasure not a task to him & that no new love will make him forget his hobby education! By the by I wish you would forget of your early loves-- That Shanty Song-- You seem to hanker after it. The words must be far from choice-- Is there no English Rose-bud that you can buy & fall in love with? --a nice rich English girl would be a good thing for you-- just think what a grand satisfaction it would be to Nan Nan to have a genuine, full blooded English Calf or niece in the family? Speaking of full blooded stock reminds me of our would be Essex pigs-- Alas! our forty dollars has gone I fear & we have been again the victims of a swindle-- The Yankee must forever be our superior in such things. Bowman is here again having volunteered to come if we would pay his fare on the cars-- to kill our other two bacon pigs-- Yesterday they took their leave of this fair earth & have cut up well-- Bowman, Quash George & an amateur assistant are now as busy as possible with Sausages & the mysteries connected with the same. Mamma is feeling a little better & the children are all pretty well. Messers. Simey & Lowndes will send up some stores for Johnson at Ursham & I hope another year may give us a little more money -- although cotton is selling very badly now-- Tom is still looking out unsuccessfully for business-- Ralph is busy in the garden, but his wood business is at a stand still-- A successful man in our family would be a treat. I wish you were five years older without having to be that myself. Nothing has been heard from or of that imposing gent Your paternal. That Penny Paper comes once a month for Gertrude from Philadelphia -- but t'is not directed in his hand -- although it must be instigated by him. Thinking that it might come from him She won't look at it -- but T'is too simple for her by far-- Leila sent some delightful books in her Christmas barrel-- & Bory is I think improving not hating his book as much-- he loves the Station & the Taylor girls -- Nanno thinks of business, a possibility having arisen of his getting a place with Mr Fishbourne sixteen miles from here -- he wishes a youth to keep his Commissary -- live in his family & receive \$20 per month. The consent to Nanno's applying for the place on condition that he applies his money so gained to his education-- Good bye darling Abundant love from all. Keep a good heart be a good boy & believe me as ever

Your dotting old
Emmy

EGP

New York, Jan. 30th 1873.

Mrs A. H. Elliott.

Adams Run,
Colleton Co; So. Ca.

My dear Mrs. Elliott:

after months of suffering and anxiety, I am, at last, able to say, that my efforts and persevering confidence in a just Providence have been rewarded and that I have secured permanent employment which enables me already, (although I have [jus]t recently begun) to do something towards the welfare of my children, with a fair prospect of doing better in the next few months. I [for]ward you, for them, through Mr. Bee, the first money I have made. I am indebted to my aunt, in Havana, for not starving heretofore. The amount forwarded is fifty

dollars. With my best wishes for your health and comfort and my love to the fam[ily].

I remain, affectionately yours

A. J. Gonzales

P.S. I get my letters at the "Maltby House, Great Jones St, New York" although boarding at a cheaper place.

EGP

Oak Lawn Feb 7th [1873]

[To Brosie]

My Darling Brother, I Mean Nephew

I am mighty sorry that you should have not heard from home on last Saturday as you report in the letter just received by Narciso -- & mighty sorry am I, that you should have to patch the seat of your breeches. T'is hard, I am sure with a little "ingenuity & artifice" those Yankee garments might be made to encompass your rotundity. I am sure if I was near you I would do it. Is there no he creature you might communicate with on the subject. You seem distrustful about females. I hope Mr Clark will get his check before this reaches you. His bill in full including washing for this term was one hundred & fifty five dollars forty cents. I have sent him a check for one hundred & will send the balance as soon as the check I have written for arrives from Charleston. T'is be hoped that Mr Clark will not take the measles it might give him quite an illness & "what would you do then poor boy" -- You will see by the enclosed letter that your imposing father has again appeared on the horizon, he has written to Mr Bee -- & to Mamma & to yourself about the fifty dollars. After consultation Mamma thinks of writing Mr Bee asking him to put it in bank & to inform Col G. that her health does not permit her to correspond with him. All money he may send Mr Bee can take charge of until it amounts to enough for the education of one of his children. We all vow that we will [...] him to say that he assists to support us or supplies us "with luxuries"! Do what you think best about answering his characteristic letter -- if you do not wish to continue the correspondence You might date your letter Buffalo Marsh & enclose it to Aunt Mamie to forward-- it will then have the Baltimore Post Mark & puzzle him -- for he won't be able to "spot" you -- but you are old enough now to shape your own course, with regard to the man with rich friends. Uncle Tom Snow Ball & family are still with us. Nanno has had no answer from Mr Fishborne & I am sorry for it -- for I think if he could make a little money it would make him feel better -- & give him an object. We are too sorry to be unable to give him schooling but this year t'is impossible. Next year perhaps. We may have something from Cheha. Johnson is at work clearing land-- on the 1st of this month he had five acres ready for listing. Roger has undoubtedly swindled us but Carry Mitchell promises that her husband will try & make him refund the money he has stolen. Hamilton is busy fencing in his domain although he hears that the nigger legislature have changed the fence law-- making it obligatory to fence in cattle.

Ralph is making the garden look very promising & we have George & Rachel in the flower garden repairing damages. We are having a mild spell & I hope you are feeling a little warmer. Have you rosy cheeks? & do you take care of your nice teeth? Henry Barnwell can not be as thriving as when a bachelor, for he has no money to pay the rent of his store land. We find Rachel quite an addition to our comfort. Sarah [...] had played out. Rachel washes better -- uses less soap & looks more pleasantly.

Good bye my boy. The potatoes are waiting for me to peel them.

With much love I am your devoted Aunt

Emmy

P.S. You don't want the fifty dollars do you? By the by-- I don't think Baltimore will be a good place for you to get business. Ask Mr Clark to advise you where to go. This Nigger State will have no opening. Tom's son Arthur seems to think Pitsburg Pa -- a good place. You might hear of something by asking questions. There is no harm in looking ahead.

EGP

Oak Lawn Feb 10th 1873

My Dear Brother

Yours of the 1st was rec'ed on Saturday & now while Nannan is churning and Plug is calculating "how many deers there ever was in the world." I take my pen in hand to indite these few lines (merely out of politeness I've see for I have nothing to write about.) Well after having warm or cloudy weather for some time it cleared up cold & last night we had a fine frost & ice & I suppose it will be still colder tomorrow. Last Friday when Hamilton (he has moved into G Woodson's house) was burning the orchard field I took "meat in the pot" & sallied out to kill a hawk. After knocking around for a while & not being able to get within shot of a large one. I lowered my aspirations & followed a sparrow hawk till he lit on a telegraph post when I pulled trigger "meat in the pot" hung fire & the hawk rose, but it went off & the hawk fell with its wing tipped. I caught it & carried it home, amputated its wing & at Grandmama's suggestion put carbolic salve on it. The wing is nearly well now & it partakes of robin breast very daintily. I put him on my hat & walk all about with him. The ladies call me "Barnaby Rudge" but they are welcome as long as I can tame him. I am the only one who can touch "Prince" the big hawk & the niggers have a dread of him, for he sometimes mistakes thier [*sic*] toes out of shoes for rats & pounces at them, causing Cuffee to describe a summerset backward's.

Mr. Morgan with his lovely & interesting family, are at thier former residence on the hill. The pyrus japonica & spirea are in blossom & the willow trees are putting out. also the Judas tree. The green peas, onions, mustard etcet are up. & Capt E has a hotbed in which are cabbages spinach etcet. I wrote to the Dept. Agriculture last night for some more flower & vegetable seeds & in a weeks time a letter & package will come from Frederick Watts to N G Gonzales informing him that his order has been promptly obeyed. Sich is Official Business! I have not heard from Mr Fishbourne & have given him up as a "bad egg." Johnson was here yesterday. I tell you what old boy I long to see you again & yet there is nearly 5 months between now & July. Does it not seem an age since we took that ride before day to the depot. it seems so to me. Henry Barnwell is not rich yet with Lizzie tacked on to him. & Hamlets store is still ready to supply "rot-gut." to the niggers. I dont calculate after my sad experience of year before last, to plant watermelons on any patch whatsoever. In April & May I suppose you will find it very pleasant in the mountains. Tell Miss Clark that I eschew girls just at present, & as my appearance is not very flattering she had better invest her heart in yourself & as she has the opportunity of observing your charms to endeavor to captivate your virgin & obdurate heart. Besides Nannan wishes you to continue your education as Mr Clarks son in law. But good bye dear Brosie with much love & good wishes to you & your virginny bride I remain as ever Your fond Brother

Nanno

PS -- All the family are well but Hattie who has a slight fever. -- Quash has departed for Chee-ha. Madame Rachel is working here on contract for Nannan with her two brats, it's an age

since I have heard a juvenile nigger squale. I am happy to say that Tiger has a decided antipathy to small niggers who are in mortal dread of his teeth.

N.G.G.

Emmy says I must tell you that if you write to Gonzales that you must not tell him anything about us or what we are doing etcet.

Yours truly

Nanno

You must excuse Capt E & myself for not sending you El Toro & snapper for I dont know them & the Ladies would put Capt E in hot water if he did so -- N N was angry at your asking for songs which she did not know about & is trying to get the ploughboy from Minnie.

EGP

Baltimore
Wednesday
12th February [1873]

Thanks for your cheerful letter received Yesterday dearest Mamma. I rejoice in your improvement -- and only hope Your Spring arrangements have not been premature. We are so deep in winter, it is hard to realize that jassamins are blooming with you. I hope the saving of labour in doing without fires may be a comfort to some of the establishment. I am sincerely glad that Gonzales has at last found occupation, his patrons are rich, and he may be able to get help for his children from them. Are You going to answer his letter? I wish he could get nice plans in New York for Brosio & Nanno and send You help for the younger children. I am very glad too, to hear of the welfare of Tom's children he is easily buoyed up. Poor fellow -- and I trust will not depend too much upon others -- (a la Gonzales) to further his plans. I hope Conductor Willie will be straight forward in his dealings -- and his trading rather a precarious thing now a days. Oh what shocking things we are now brought in contact with through the papers. Does Ann remember Edmund Laws Rogers? He married a Miss Plater -- a good family of Maryland -- were her brother -- Wm. Plater is being tried for the murder of his wife a year ago -- he took her in the wood near his house, and strangled her then dropped a paper near the body - marked Strychnine - to induce the belief of suicide. Mr. Rogers is one of the witnesses for the defense of course -- how unfortunate for his family.

We have rainy weather. Emma has a cold and I have not seem her since Saturday. I gave her music pupils (half pay ones) their lessons yesterday. Mrs. Wyman is too funny. She came to tell me Emma was not sick -- only she would not let her come out -- and enlarged at length upon the good care that she took of Emma and the "excellent food" that Emma enjoyed in her house. When really, even for guests, we should have considered her fare scanty. Nothing ever after dinner -- but a cup of tea & plate of biscuits -- and no refreshments ever at her Receptions. I heard from Mrs. Drayton to day Julia & her two babies well. Mrs. Lowndes has a second Gd child -- Alice & Carrie -- Mrs. L. & Alice were in Charleston. Mamie writes of dinner parties -- now that the sleighing is over. No dearest Mama I wont need the shingling money till summer. Best love to all from Edith & self -- ever Your

loving Mary

EGP

Oaklawn Feb 23d 1873

My dear Brother

Yours of the 15th was recd yesterday & I hasten to reply. To the best of my knowledge to day is Sunday (though in point of work there is very little difference from other days) & I have taken a holiday from the garden. That same is buldging ahead pretty rapidly, we have one bed of peas strick & three others yet to be The 4 beds will take at least 1500 sticks which is a rather big job to furnish. The Irish potatoes are coming up well and onions, beets, salad, mustard and spinach are getting on finely. I diddled Commissioner Watts out of 20 packets of vegetables and flower seeds. Gonzales being so unlike Elliott that he can't suspect that when he sends seeds to Mr N G Gonzales & to Mrs A H Elliott that they both go in to the same garden. You must excuse my dwelling on the garden so long as I have become quite an agriculturist. Your determination in regard to the ~~regard to~~ progenitor has given great satisfaction & I will volunteer to consume his epistles. The weather this month has been generally warm or rainy but yesterday opened clear & cold with frost & ice which fortunately did not hurt the garden & to day is quite windy and unpleasant. I must say however that when I think of bedbugs, fleas, sandflies, and mosquitoes, that I would prefer Greenland to So. Ca. Thanks to the Register, we are not in such ignorance of affairs as you would suppose old boy from our isolated position. I have commenced reading Humes Hist of England which I like very much. There is a deuce of a fire on Cotton Hill and I must steer for there, so adieu for a while, Nanno
Sunday night.

I have just returned from old Abram White's hill where the fire has been raging to day. The dead pine trees are burning & present a striking appearance the knots at the top of them burning & shedding a glare over the neighborhood. The day after I wrote you about my little hawk I set him in the garden tied as was Prince. When I came back I found that only the bones of the little one were left. Prince having got loose & devoured him!! the cannibal! To add to this last week at dusk in the eve'ng Prince took the opportunity to break his cord & get loose, & nobody seeing him he escaped. This evening coming home with a load of pine I beheld perched upon a stump at the "Red gate" Master Prince after much trouble I got him in a bag & "his foot is on his native heath again" at present. His usefulness is or has been tested during his absence for when he resided in the garden no fowl dared enter, & since his departure the garden has been infested with them. He is welcomed back as the "prodigal son." Mr William Habersham N. N's old beau has sent her a fine box as he did last year & the other day sent her a bundle of rosehas everbenas & candy. ~~I got~~ Lizzie and Henry are the happy parents of a baby of the female persuasion. Bory is of the opinion that Henry will raise stock rapidly now. By the way what do you think of his sentence of Stokes? Please excuse mistakes. hoping to hear from you soon & with much love

I remain as ever
Your fond Brother
Nanno

EGP

Locust Hill Mar 9th [1873]

My dear Grmother

I received your favor of the 1st yesterday and as this is Sunday night I sit down to have a little chat with you tho I have nothing of interest to communicate. I am glad Mr. Clark sends home such good reports, it is strange because he seldom praises anyone but I do my best to

please him. The winter has left us and but for the bare trees one would suppose it was May, today the heat is oppressible but very agreeable after being snowed up for the last four months. By the way I have never told you any thing about our church & Minister & as I believe you are interested in such affairs We go to a very nice little church in Middletown & our Minister is a Mr Ambler whose only fault is that he measures his Sermons by his legs which as he is six feet three are very tiresome. The congregation remind me somewhat of Mr Drayton's at Flat Rock. They sit laughing & talking in church until the bean pole preacher makes his appearance. I am a member of the choir & sit up in the gallery which suits me very well as I can sit down as indeed nearly everyone does & not take the trouble to rise. I am afraid I will never make the *churcker* Mrs Hamilton designs me to be. We have to walk to church or get there anyway we can but when we return comes the fun. Mr Clark turns us loose on the turn pike to clamber up behind the neighbors carriages & 8 or 9 boys may be seen hidden behind stone fences waiting our chances for a ride. You propose that Mr Clark should direct me where to get work & turn my studies in that direction. He says that depends on circumstances. Arthur whence I have heard from says that Percy & himself have had to struggle very hard & have very poor positions they think they could have done better in Charleston & Savannah. I think degrading as it is that I could get employment in your neighborhood. Tis true Uncles Tom & Ralph have not been able to do so but there is a greater demand for boys than men I would not go to Charleston on any account. Savannah might be better. In regard to the direction of my studies I am learning now all I possibly can & after this year could have nothing more to do in Mathematics & if I had another year at school could only study Latin & a few other things I have now finishes History & am studying an advanced Chemistry in its place. And now my dear Grandmother there is one thing that I would like to set right. You all at home seem to think me so happy where I am & so much better off than in my old country home but you [*torn*] will permit me to say it very much mistaken. Knowing what an effort you make to send me here I am thankful & try to write cheerfully but I have suffered more since I have been here from different causes & from trials which a stranger & a poor friendless boy is subject to than I have since I left Cuba. but don't distress yourself I will struggle on til next we meet & I hope you will always be able to trust me & find me honest & truthful as Mr Clark has done. I am sorry Uncle Tom has not been able to get Employment, he has my deep sympathy. I am glad Uncle Ralph is such a help to you & supplies you with wood. I have beaten anyone up here in that line white or black & *God willing* as Gonzales says I will exercise my skill for yo [*sic*] benefit next winter. Tell Uncle R. that I see a great quantity of tobacco around & wish I could send him some. All the boys smoke & drink & it is very hard to abstain but I do so I have not tasted wine since I have been here Mr C certainly is stingy in that respect he has several [*torn*] & goes to his storeroom several times a day & never offers me any which is *damnable* and if he don't mind some day I will disappoint him in school. He counts on me to say the whole lesson when the other boys miss & when I am absent from sickness he always sends them back to their seats indeed some of them never look into a book & I have to tell them their lessons & do their sums for them Excuse bad writing write me a long letter soon with much love to Each & all believe me to be your loving Grandson

Brosie

I have recd Narcisos letter

EGP

Oak Lawn March 15th [1873]

My Dear Good Boy

Your letter of the 8th to Mamma has just been read & we are very glad indeed that you are thawing at last. We have had it quite cold again since that date but I hope you have had no return of snow. Ann & I both feel as [...] in this month neuralgic weary & old. Mamma stands it better although engaging her pastime of raking whenever she can get a chance. Nothing new has transpired with us save that Uncle Tom has secured a *bully* place. Mrs Dawson the Virginian who runs the Phosphate near here has recently bought the works at Pacific Landing & through Willie has given Tom the Superintendence of the same with a salary of a hundred dollars a month & board! Tom is of course exhilarated & will probably leave us & these forlorn diggings for [...] next week. This place is on the Salt water, not far very, from Beaufort. The Pilot Boy goes there once a weeks & t'is nine miles from Gardeners corner on the Port Royal R[...] Fish bite there too.

My Dear Boy you must not think of coming home to chop wood. We can't hear of such a thing. Jake & Cato can chop wood you are quite too clever to devote yourself to that business. I know you will get in & be able to do your self credit I confidently expect if I live long enough to drive in that little low carriage you used to promise me. I am so glad that you stick to your resolution about whiskey & tobacco. T'is nothing but Willie's abstinence from these things that has got him the conductorship on this road. I make a point to write to you today fearing that you may be disappointed at only hearing once this week. Nothing more has been heard of Old G. (as Hattie begins to call him) a notice of Stockwell, the brother of one of his choice bevy of scholars in a newspaper says he maybe respectable out of Wall Street but his reputation in it is bad. So Old G. has probably got into the very heart of shoddy. I wish he may rest there. We have no use for him. I wish we could get Nanno to school when you come home, but at present we have no star to point the way, but out of darkness comes light however & t'is time for our affairs to take a turn. The children will miss Uncle Tom muchly -- he has had him to talk to & amuse them this winter.

Good Bye darling Love in abundance from each & all to you. Keep a brave heart & believe me ever Your fondly devoted

Aunt Emmy

EGP

Oak Lawn Apl 11th [1873]

[To Brosie]

My Dear Boy

Your letters to me & to Cousin Fanny have just been received & we are very very glad to get them. We are finding much pleasure in Fans visit but speaks of quitting on the 20th but seems pleased with what we can do for her, in the sleeping & country air line. I have but a few moments to give you for my codfish is looking & lying helpless on the dresser. The potatoes are sobbing in the skillet. The coffee asking for hot water. The Spinach for its pot companion & I consequently have little time but wishing to enclose you some small change I must write. You see how hard it is to get the right thing in the country. We could only find a dollar to send in [...] letter & to day I have only got some 25 cts green backs, & will enclose sundry I don't know how many for the letter must not feel too heavy & rich. We are having stupefying colds. Gertrude, baby & Narciso are all under the weather. The Paternal does come out terribly in Poor Nanno -- when in affliction & a cold in the head is aggravating you know.

Good bye some body shall write you a longer & nicer letter in a day or two.
Ever My Darling
Your affecate. & devoted Aunt

Emmy

[In Brosie's handwriting:]
Recd April 15th 73
Buffalo Marsh
Virginia

EGP

Buffalo Marsh May 24th 1873

My dear Aunt and Brother

To my great joy I received your two letters this week and proceed to answer although I feel as miserably as any human being well could. I feel gaseous to night So I will say as Byron did "Fools are my tho[...] let Satire be my song." The moan of an expiring "North Easter" is faintly heard among the branches of the dwarf cedars carrying upon its whistling wings the humming of Mosquitoes and the melodious notes of the Bull frog. The Governer is sitting out on the porch minus his coat and vest, and maybe his britches, with his feet above his head making a disturbance with his flute. He and myself are the only persons in the place. The reason of this is because the Episcopal convention is now being held in Winchester, which town is quite lively in consequence. The gay and festive clergy are having quite a spree taking [...]ous mint juleps and doing a [...] of preaching. There are several thousand Strangers in town now and Mr Clark gave us permission to go into town yesterday. I staid with a friend of mine and went to hear the preaching last night. I know several nice young ladies in town and could have a very pleasant time if circumstances did not prevent. The boys hire buggies and drive them out, but of course such things are "not for Joe." I went into Winchester with the enormous Sum of 50 cents 40 of which paid my passage and the remainder bought a glass of beer. I perambulated the streets till late when I retired. I arose at 4 oclock this morning. went to church this morning and left town disconsolate this evening for which I am sorry as even Winchester is better than this place which in dullness would rival even Adams Run. Mr Clark is so lazy and his daughter who is to be confirmed on Monday is upstairs praying as if the devil was at her door. I don't wish you to think I am complaining, far from it, but I only wish you to know that this place is not the "Eden" you imagined it to be. I have made several friends in Winchester particularly among the ladies. I received an invitation to a croquet party and also to a dance. I forgot in my last to tell you about the flood that we had two weeks ago. It was caused by a thunder storm, and did much damage Several water mills of which there are an abundance in this region were wasted away several thousand dollars were lost in fencing etc and two niggers were drowned and one family had the store house in which they were staying washed from under them. Looking out of my window between the flashes of lightning. Mr Clarks fine clover meadow looked like a lake. The protracted cold has destroyed the fruit crop of this region and the wheat crop is an entire failure. I suppose it is much the same way down south. The trees have all put out now and the country looks a little better the weather is oppresively hot now and summer has begun in earnest. I long for the month that separates us to pass Write soon and tell me "every thing about every body" I long to get into White homespun and blue [...] for this thing of having clothes made is too extravagant besides being uncomfortable I can't reconcile myself to wearing collars and cravats.

I am surprised to hear that Narciso has grown so much. He must be as tall as I am. I am afraid I will be like Willie, or Bill Elliott. I am only 66 inches high and 47 around the shoulders and weigh 147 lbs. Excuse this Scratch I feel despondent. With much love to each and all. I am your loving Boy

Ambrose Elliott

EGP

The Ruins, 6th [June 1873]

Yours discribing [*sic*] Your exertions at Commencement, dear Boy has been received what a Gaby you were to leave the pretty Girls and work so hard now Brosie I am afraid you are a little shy with the fair sex -- and that is *not* like your Grandpapa The Virginia girls have always enjoyed the reputation of being able to put bashful diffident Youth much at their ease and I pray you in all seriousness to take advantage of this amable feminine quality and learn to talk nonsense agreeably and dance the Round dances. Alphonse drove the Taylor girls to the Run and returned in the face of a storm laden with shoes -- we hope that yours will suit, they appear nicely made -- Stephen is no doubt flattered to the last extremely at Your preference for his skill -- Henry Barnwell's baby is dead -- the Mother denied it the Maternal fount and brought it up on *soaked crackers* -- the old blue blood could stand not the trial and succoring bed -- and Henry is jolly on the occasion -- he has become very mean they say -- but we remember he was kind to you and ourselves once -- You ask me to tell you of the "children and Calves" I am truly glad to report all well and improving in flesh Gertrude has begun the Scholars Companion and Science -- Minnie has given me any quantity of trouble in teaching him to read -- his memory is not good and he has no idea of sound -- but he is not unwilling to learn and I think will be a persevering student when he once gets shored off -- his brother especially Alphonse nagg him dreadfully and are fast ruining his temper besides making it very uncomfortable for us -- do write A. and introduce some advice on this score. Baby is very clever -- she would soon learn to read in fact she spell's some words already -- and for poor Alfonsus -- he *can* read and light is beginning to dawn on him through "Mary Queen of the Scotts and Maria Antoinette" but for me "Jordan is a hard road to travel" with the poor fellow I have to fight his dullness and idleness and love of what Nanie used to call idle talk, with no assistance and little sympathy -- of course his Uncles find any amount of fault with him for not serving them more than he does -- but they do nothing to help in his education or morals -- and reconize [*sic*] nothing that I have done for him. Yesterday [...] to separate Mimie and his Brothers I sent him upstairs to sleep it was about two o'clock -- he did not sleep but sat on the window sill in my room overlooking the yard presently he came down quietly and told Nanno "he saw a large snake in the yard not more than six yards from the steps" Nano went out took a stick and killed a four foot-nine rattled snake it was not a pleasant thing to look at I assure you in the very middle of the children's play ground-- We have had the place cleared up and make the chicks very careful. take care of yourself in mountain rambles.

[Emily Elliott]

EGP

Buffalo Marsh June 11th 1873

Yours of the 6th inst has just been handed me my darling Emmy and although I am pushed for time I must take enough to answer. I am sorry you worry yourselves so much about

my comfort I ought to be thankful for my years education instead of wishing to enjoy Myself. I [torn] board at a beautiful place about two miles from here owned by Mr Jones & know him very intimately & have been there often but he charges 35 or 40 dollars per month and I could not think of incurring that expense. If I come home I will come by the way of Richmond and stop a day or two with on of the boys who resides there. I am ready for hard work and hope to get it next fall please look out for a place for me. Percy wants me to come to New York and he says I could get employment. It would be pleasant to stay with him but my expenses would be so great and temptations so many that it would consume all my earnings So as I want to save something to help you I think I could do better nearer home. About my clothes I have had two shirts, a pair of pants, and an alpacca sack made (the cheapest I could get) and even these cost over \$25 [torn] and tell me what I must do as school closes a fortnight from today. With abundant love to each and all believe me to be your loving boy

Ambrose Elliott

K.K.K.

EGP

Oak Lawn June 18th [1873]

Yours of the 11th & 12th reached me last evening My Darling Brosie. I think you show judgement in seeing the benefit of a summer in Virginia & I will write to Mr Clark today on the subject. Staying with him will be a great advantage. We all will regret your absence more than I can tell you -- for "Big Bubber" is somebody the little folks look up to him prodiginously & the old folks base many hopes upon him. T'is cool in Percy to wish you to go to New York -- does he know how you stand in the light of a father to your brothers & Sisters? -- & far away in that Babylon -- how much we would see of you. We are getting old & want our boy near us. As for your staying another year at school My child we can not dream of it. We will *require you to help us*. If it is sickly in September we might arrange with Mr Clark for you to remain until t'is safe to come South. If we possibly can we want to put Nanno with Mr Clark -- he is behaving much better, works & is getting his temper under control. So I think will get on with Mr Clark who I am sure will be pleased with his perseverance & industry. Heaven only knows how we are to get him to school but we must try for it. Our losses have been heavy this year & Juph seems weary of helping us.

I wrote to you yesterday asking you to ask Mr Clark for his bill. We must pay what he has advanced for your clothes, fortunately the rent for the Flat Rock House has been paid in advance & so Mamma has been able to return Aunt Mamie what she paid for shingling the house -- over a hundred dollars of which she was in great need -- to pay for the cow (which the negroes killed) & has some to pay bill with Mr C. The Chehaw cotton has brought much less than last year -- it sells so miserably. You must not forget us. We don't want you to be "weaned" from us -- by the bye You do not mention your fathers residence in N.Y. as an objection to going there. Think of how he would rush into your arms & ask you to support him! Good bye I must write to Mr. C. & ask upon what terms he will keep you. All send much love to you & I remain my Darlings Loving old Aunt Emmy

EGP

Darlington
Hartford Co Md. June 28th [1873]

Dearest Mamma

Your letter Posted on the 24th reached me Yesterday that You all continue well, and not broken down by all of the hard work You have to do, is a source of thankfulness. I do wish You could get a good Irish or German girl -- as maid of all work -- it would be worth any sacrifice of money (obtained from silver or anything You have to sell) to secure such assistance-- Native help as You say is too inefficient I am glad You have the boys to help in Your minage, any work that prevents laziness and selfishness on their part should be encouraged as a valuable branch of education. Is it possible that no more has been heard from their father? He must have hoped too soon for those agencies -- and the Schooling for Brosio -- poor Man-- of how little avail his talents are -- unless his getting himself cared for by Strangers is a proof to the contrary -- but he always was a model sponge -- I am trying to take Your advice, and banish care for awhile -- but the idea of spending \$26 every week -- for board & washing -- for thirteen weeks to come is horrid and does worry me -- I have been suffering exceedingly too from neuralgia -- and am sorry now, I did not go to a dentist before leaving Balt -- to have some teeth extracted -- instead of adopting the more economical although tedious way of letting them break off instead-- The weather has been so cool -- We still use blankets -- and our kind old quaker hostess -- encourages me to rest in the morning so that I feel more ladylike and at ease -- than since I left the South -- We have nice quiet long days -- not interrupted by visitors -- and I often while sewing -- think how nice it would be, if only You and My Sisters, could enjoy similar quiet -- but then You would not have the pleasure of the little ones around You -- a pleasure I never *could* appreciate even with nurses, and others to share the responsibility. I have not heard from Emma since my last to You -- have had two letters from Elliott "Love's Young dream" -- was about to be interrupted by a first separation -- Sallie was to leave for Greenville -- via Charleston -- and Elliott was to remain -- to pounce upon the first vacancy in business to be had -- Aunt Meta had offered him a room in her house -- and he would eat at a Restaurant -- poor fellow -- of course he wont confess it -- but I know he must be [...] disappointed -- at the difficulty in getting work -- thousands are in the same predicament -- even those who have friends to help them - which my boy has not -- The amount of Mrs. [...] gift to Mrs Huger I have not heard -- merely the fact mentioned by Mrs Ravenel - who if She had known it -- I think would have mentioned it-- I do hope it was a large amount--

The girls are quite happy here with their croquet bazique and the cherry trees -- in the evegs. visitors come in -- and Fannie has had a nice drive - with a funny Old bachelor -- the Uncle of one of her School friends -- who promises to take all in turn -- I send you a note recd. from Mrs Lefebre only to introduce her as one of my friends -- We are very Sociable -- which I never could be with Miss Kummer.

God bless You all & keep You from further troubles

Your loving
Mary

EGP

Buffalo Marsh July 2d [1873]

My dearest Aunt

Yours of the 28th ult has come to hand consequently I sit down to indite you this note to tell you of my good health with the exception of a cold and sore throat, very strange for this time of the year. The reaction after the close of school is very great. Having had my self strong up to

the highest pitch of mental diciline for the past 9 months rising early and going to bed late, and now released from all such bondage I can do nothing but lie on my bed in a state of lethargy from which I have just roused myself to answer your note. I suppose however by next week I will recover my self enough to begin study. The wheat harvest is now going on and if there was a decent white farmer in the neighborhood I would go into the harvest field to pass away the time and earn something. Some of the boys have engaged themselves to the only well to do farmer near here who is a negro but of course I couldnt [*sic*] work for a d--d black baboon. Cherries and raspberries are now ripe but I am very carefull how I indulge after a lesson I got last fall with apples. The weather is very warm as much so as I have ever felt but perfectly healthy. I asked Mr Clark to send you his bill. I am afraid you will find it heavier than you expect. The [...]rest necessities are all that I have got and not supplied my self yet. I hope you will excuse this short scratch and accept love for you all from your fond

Brosie

EGP

Buffalo Marsh
July 7th 1873

My dearest Aunt

Yours of the 2d has been received and although I am devoid of all information yet as you desired me to I will answer your note. I feel better now and have commenced studying. The weather is delightful and the nights cold but only the country folks enjoy it for the weather Arthur informs me in Balto is hotter than he has ever known it down South and the thermometer in Richmond stood 100 in the shade some days ago. I worked in the harvest field a day to try the heat of the sun and find that a white man *can* stand working in this climate but the country around here is poor and the land worthless. I spend much of my time in walking over the rocky hills of Virginny, and if I had some one who would go with me I would make a walking tour through the Southern part of the State. I miss the salt water very much the only place around here to bathe is "Cedar Creek a cold mountain stream about 3 miles from the "Marsh" which separates Frederick from Shenandoah County. & do you ever get a chance to visit Toogoodoo? And have you got any fish & shrimps from there this summer? I have nothing to write about in this desolate country. So I must now close. Write soon and tell me all about yourselves & ask Narciso to remember his drawings. With many good wishes for the present and future happiness & prosperity of the dear ones at home, I have the honor to subscribe me your loving

Nephew

Brosie

P.S. Address your letters to me as Ambrose Elliott as I am known in this "virginity" by that name.

EGP

Charleston July 14th '73.

My dear Miss Elliott,

Almost four years ago, I had the pleasure to receive a note from You making inquiry into the Genealogy of the Hutchinson family. I put the letter by, with the intention of soon answering it; some distractions of life interposed, & day after day passed, until years have glided by -- & *to day* in looking over some old papers, I came across your note, I now reply; hoping that you will

pardon me for my seeming neglect & want of courtesy, & with the assurance that nothing of the kind was meant by me; on the contrary, I felt flattered at yr addressing me on the subject; & as an evidence of your forgiveness, let me pray you to answer this note, that I may feel that you are not displeased.

The tradition in my family is that Col Thos Hutchinson Gov of Nottingham Castle in the time of Charles 1st, & husband of his more celebrated wife, Lucia Apsley, left two Grandsons, one went to Russia, & is supposed to have been lost on the voyage, the other, from whom I am descended, came to Massachusetts Bay Colony, & his son came to So Ca & settled permanently on Cheehaw -- His son Thos Hutchinson (my great Grandfather) left one son, who died in 1790, having married Miss Leger -- & he left two sons, my uncle Thomas & my father Leger. Your Grandmother Smith -- was a near relative of my father, & I think your ancestor Col Skirving, married a Miss Hutchinson. Col. Skirving was guardian to my father during his nonage. The family is an old & honored one, tracing back to the 12th Century -- & was originally "Vitonesis" modernized into Hutchinson. The Crest & Arms as given in Bentley "Landed Gentry of England" -- it is exactly the same as that engraved in the Seal which descended to me, & is now in my possession.

It has ever been a matter of great regret to me, now that I have reached "il merro camnism della vita" -- that I had not inquired more curiously into the history of my race, for those who could have imparted the information have passed away forever.

But Youth is indifferent about these things, & we allow opportunities to pass by, which time can never restore.

I most heartily feel with you in the Sentiments you express -- that in these times of wretchedness & degradation, we turn sickened from the present, & call upon the burial places of memory ~~of~~ to give up their dead, that we may live in dreams among them.

I shall feel pained, my dear Miss Elliott, until I hear from you, & know that I am forgiven, & shall be still more pleased if you deem it worth while to continue a correspondence, that at least to me, will be a source of true pleasure. If you have heard of any further family history, from your Mother, or your departed Grandmother, if you remember her pray communicate it, present my best regards to your Mother; I have her sweet face, as it looked in the days of my boyhood before me now -- her smile, I can never forget.

With assurances of great respect & regard, believe me very truly Yrs
Hutchinson

Miss Emily Elliott
Oak lawn.

EGP

Oak Lawn
Thursday July 16th [1873]

Thanks for your note My Dear Boy. I am not at all surprised at your lethargy -- & would like to enjoy a little of the same to forget hominy & the cooking of it would be something most charming. Will it ever come I wonder. The time to forget -- not until the earth covers my old bones, I fancy -- but I did not intend to be so lugubrious. You are perfectly right not to work for a negro. What manner of boys can those be who do? Your companions -- & where do they come from? Has Mr Clark no farm work or Mr. Jones, that you could pitch into "to pass the time & to earn something"? -- it would be very nice if you could. By the bye Mr Gadsden says that it will

give him pleasure to oblige Mamma -- That she must let him know as soon as you come home -- & whilst he cannot *promise* you employment he will make an effort in your behalf. This I believe he will do & you may get a start on this road. I hope you will receive your shoes & that they will fit in case they do not & you may like to swap or sell them I will tell the price -- \$4.00 & to express them cost \$1.25. We are all pretty well Ralph had a good scare -- Three chills in 36 hours -- & fever -- but the latter was not high & not of a bilious type. The rest of us have been as usual. The boys have commenced their usual summer diversions. After the style of the great [...] job -- with his patience left out. Melons have come in & okra soup Johnson has been over, reporting a very promising crop, ahead of anything hereabouts. The cotton being very backward this year. Baby heard your letter the other day read -- & following me into the kitchen said "Emmy is Brosie a devil" No baby. Why he said so in his letter. So you see your words are treasured up.

Good Bye darling all send love & I remain as always your loving Aunt
Emmy

EGP

NOLI ME TANGERE²⁶⁴

Oak Lawn August 1st 1873

I took a trot last night to the depot my dear Ambrose & there received your long expected letter of the 24th for which accept my thanks--

Though I sent you a'scratch a day or two since. I will now indite a few lines to apprise you of the arrival of your "carta." All are well here & roundabout, as well as I am aware "of, with the exception of" un pobre perro que yo se matar el dia antes ayer [a poor dog that I knew how to kill the day before yesterday] The T goes thus wise? Mida Ud? "El dia antes ayer" [You see? The day before yesterday] my venerable aunt A observed a "perro grande que en consecuencia de un calor de aquel virtuoso perro Jibbet" [big dog that in consequence of a heat from that virtuous dog Jibbet] had prowled within the sacred precincts of the "poultry 'ouse" (as "Poor Jack" said) "y mi tia parecen que el quiere comer sus huevos, se llama a mi" [and my aunt thinking that he wants to eat her eggs, calls me] & desired me to "poner su alma a diablo," [sent his soul to the devil] "Dice yo Si señora" & "tomar el fusil del Capitan y se vaya a Donde estaba el perro amando con el intencion de poner no mas que dar o tres "alta pato" en su rabo! pero el infierno [Said I Yes Madam & take the rifle of the Captain and went where the dog was loving with the intention of placing no more than three "high charges" in his tail! but hell] "is paved with good intentions" (as a certain old lady of our acquaintance is wont to say) & "quando yo se toma" [when I take] an aim "a su rabo, el sin verguenza de fusil se poner todo el alta pato en su barriga!!! Horrifico?!! El po-o-o-o-obre perro [at his tail the shameless rifle put the entire high charges in his belly!!! Horrific?!! The po-o-o-o-or dog] "gave up" su espiritu [his spirit] "which" vaya a donde los espirito's de buen perros vaya" a el ratio de mil leguas por minuto" [went where the spirit's of good dogs go at the rate of a thousand leagues a minute] and left "su" [his] carcass "por pobre mi" [for poor me] to inter which "yo" [I] did dropping many a briny drop (perspiration. I'm not sentimental) over his senseless clay-- which done I left him to his last repose under the umbrageous shape of a grape vine. (9000 grapes next year) & "vaya a el casa" [went to the house] when my labors ended. (and you must excuse the edancy of a little Spanish).

²⁶⁴ Touch Me Not.

dont mention it when you write as no one but the old folks know about it-- and as "little pitchers ect" I would be loth for "el maestro" [the master] to "sabe que matar su perro" [know that I killed his dog] for he might take (whoever "el es" [he is]) vengeange on *our* "perros" [dogs]. If a hair of Tiger's tail was injured you must expect fatal consequences to his master.

In yours of the 27th to Emmy you said that I am neither "very strong nor patient." Perhaps I am neither, but I am not the same person you left in Sept last either in strength or temper. I know I have improved in both respects a great deal. 1st I commenced after you left to fetch water from the well to the kitchen, a little at first and increasing every day. I also parched & ground coffee & helped in a variety of ways. In the winter I cut a great deal (for me) of wood & supplied the rooms with it pretty often. Relapsing in Dec to my old state. I was called Lazy Etc in the house. This incensed me & I joined RE in laying out & planting & fencing the garden more as something to occupy me than from liking it, but as I proceeded I got quite fond of [...] & got seeds from the Patent Office both flower & vegetable. I hoed ground & planted flower seeds- transplanted them & worked them until lately after most of the plants had blossomed & it became too hot to continue working I desisted after making all this years flowers. In the vegetables I continued to plant & work with RE and also in conjunction with him planted all the corn & sweet potatoes This lasted some time in June when TE* returning & I having too much to do left off in the middle of April RE being sick. I took up wood cutting and fetching water again I also churned everyday & helped R milk- At present I go to opposite the red gate & cut up & fetch cross-ties on my shoulders fetch water etc. Its so hot I cant do any more. In spring and winter wood was nearer at hand but its all used now & I have recourse to discarded cross-ties. In the winter I went often to the depot sometimes 2 a day- I can say with truth that I have made 2/5 of the vegetables & corn up to July. You may wonder what I'm after - but mark! In fetching water & hoeing & wood cutting I have strengthened my arms in churning & milking - my wrists - in carrying wood my body & in going to the depot & going hunting my legs (modesty begone?) I can there fore state that though not naturally muscular like you, still I have really worked very hard this year & I hope you will be satisfied that while you've been away that I've been endeavouring to work as you wd. have done for the family. Even now when I havent very much to do (as the garden is not worked) cutting and toting wood at midday under a scorching sun is hard work.

I have ascertained since writing about "El perro, que el estaba el padre de Tigre"!!!! Pobre Tigre no tiene Papa's" [The dog, that he was the father of Tiger!!!! Poor Tiger does not have a Father] "Ave Maria" I feel like [...] Matar El Padre de mi perro- ay de mi [Killing The Father of my dog- woe is me] Tiger v. Tiger? I am thy fathers spirit? Doomed for a certain time etc- etc.

* he said when he came back that he was going to work a great deal- But alas his work consisted of reading, and lately of writing all day to his "prodigal" family.

GFP

Aug 9 of 1873
Buffalo Marsh, Va.

My dear brother

Yours of the 1st & 2d inst came duly to hand for which accept my sincere thanks. I think you have quite mistaken my meaning to what I wrote home concerning your coming here to school next year. Certain things have transpired here lately which will make the place a

perfect *hell*. Mr. Clark is a good teacher and does well enough, but all his actions are ruled by the females in the house who take delight in heaping insult upon us boys. So that almost all the old boys are going to leave in Sept. and we hardly speak to anyone in the house and keep out of the parlor as much as possible and I think the Boss will have a rather slim school the next session. if I was able I wd not stay here next year on any account and would not like you to come to a place where you would be unhappy. So you will oblige me by saying nothing more about it. After frequent cracked fingers ect I am learning the game of "base Ball." we have gotten up a club and some of the boys are very fine players. when we have practiced for a couple of weeks we expect to play the "Winchester Senior" club for the championship. the match will be quite exciting and I suppose the Winchester beauties will be out in full force. Tell Aunt Annie however that there is no danger of my getting engaged. I hear through Arthur that Miss [...] (the leapt [...] gal) is now in Winchester and "For auld Lang Syne" I will walk into W. tonight and pay her a visit. I am in correspondence with both Arthur and Percy and heard from them yesterday. they desired their kind remembrances to you. I suppose I am to return home on September 1st. Ask Aunt Emmy what her arrangements for me are. Excuse this short scratch and give much love to each and all at home. Hoping to hear from you soon. I am happy to subscribe myself your fond brother

Ambrose Elliott

EGP

[mid-August 1873]

W. W. Corcoran Esqr²⁶⁵

Dear Sir

At the risk of wearying you by My inoportunity I must again ask for help to educate My grandsons. About a year ago you were kind enough to send me Two hundred dollars -- which enabled me to send the eldest for a term to Mr Clarks school near Winchester, Virginia where he made such progress -- that I made every possible sacrifice to keep him at School another term -- he has distinguished himself as a scholar & won the admiration of his teacher by his unexceptional conduct -- Now, Mr Clark is most anxious for him to ~~continue~~ remain another year but the boy -- grateful for his year at school wishes to come back & earn a little to help me--

Unselfish - conscientious & energetic, I trust he may find some remmunerative occupation -- His brother just 15 -- will do himself great credit if allowed the opportunity & t'is for him I ~~beg~~ ask your assistance. I am told My Dear Sir that you are persecuted by calls upon your manifestance & I am very loth to swell the list of your persecutors but I know that you are benevolent & feel certain that few who have lost as much or who have struggled more since the War, have applied to you. I can ~~bear~~ continue to bear patiently poverty & want -- but I am advanced in years-- & must sacrifice pride, inclination every thing rather than leave my poor boys -- uneducated & unable to make their way respectably when I am gone--

With high regard I remain--

Sincerely & Respectfully Yours

Ann H. Elliott

EGP

²⁶⁵ William Wilson Corcoran. Washington banker who helped finance the temperance movement in the 1850s and raised Democratic campaign funds for the Buchanan presidency. William Elliott had socialized in Washington, D.C., with the Corcorans. See letter of William Elliott to Ann Elliott, 2 March 1855.

August 22d 1873

My dear Emmy

I feel so ashamed that your letters have remained so long unanswered, but the truth is when the answer is only to tell you of disappointment it is hard to write. I tried to get up a raffle for the spoons ladle & bottle stands together, the highest to take the spoons, the next the ladle the next the stands, but it was a failure [*sic*] I then tried the spoons alone. That failed also if they were diamond rings or studs they would raffle in a minute but often the few first chances for silver it is almost impossible to get the chances filled out. I have since your last letter offered the spoons for sale. They showed me drawers upon drawers filled with old silver for which they gave \$1. an oz I saw a large silver ladle much larger than yours for which the [...] had given \$2.50 -only - They offered me \$8. for your dozen spoons I think that you had better keep the silver than give it away for the pittance they offer you - I will return it to you by express if you say so-

I am so glad you all have kept well - We have also in spite of our stay in Savh the last years rice crop turned out so slim that Mother found she would not be able to go away at all not even to Summerland - So we all agree'd to stay quietly where we were & in that way spend as little as possible. The summer thus far has proved unusually cool & pleasant & we have not suffered from heat - George has been invited by a friend to spend a few weeks on St Simons Island to fish & has now been there for a month. Ralph is in Va spending his few weeks holiday dancing at the White Sulphur - Carrie and her husband have both been quite sick & Rob has leave of absence from his congregation for 2 months He has taken Carrie to Clarksville for the mountain air & he is taking walking tours thro the wild parts of the state for the benefit of his health - Mary, Mother the Children (which means Fred Meta & Arthur) & myself form our present household. I am dreadfully busy with my preserves, putting up peaches Ogeechee Limes, & figs. I have not been at all successful this year with my preserves as you were kind enough to enquire - the truth is I went into debt last fall & made too many & this spring had 4.00. jars left on my

[The rest of this letter from ? is missing]

EGP

SAINT TIMOTHY'S HOME SCHOOL FOR BOYS,
RAWSON LODGE,
Herndon, Fairfax Co., Va.,

18 Sept. A. D. 1873

To Mrs. Ann H. Elliott

Dear Madam:

Your very agreeable letter of the 15th inst. is just recd--- right in the midst of a Tournament & Festival for the benefit of the Mission: but I hazard not making myself intelligible & hasten to reply, as I know one likes to realize that "things are settled". I style my school a "Home School" & limit the number to 12 in order that boys in your grandson's situation can be treated *individually*. B[isho]p. Lee of Del. is to send me a lad of 15 who on acct. of ill health finds himself backward; & a lad of 17 from Washington also comes proclaiming himself "backward": so you see your grandson will be quite in the fashion.

You touch my heart when you intimate the old, old story of the war! No pupil can ever come to me who has suffered more than his schoolmaster from the same sad sad cause. In fact, humanly seeing, S. Timothy's School & master are results of the war.

Pay in advance is always a convenience to me for one or more months, ~~in advance~~, but where I feel assured of the ultimate certainty of the bills' being hard I invariably leave the matter to the choice of my patrons.

My wife is quite modest on the subject of her drawing, whereas I am rather vain of it: an advanced pupil she could not be induced to undertake, but I dare say could aid your grandson much. The extra charge for her assistance would be \$2. per month.

I should think \$5 would get all the school-books needed for a start, & perhaps a supply of stationery besides.

Any pupil can enter any day in the year, as you might infer from [*sic*] from the statements on the middle of the opposite page. Hoping you may be directed right in your decision, that its results may be most happy in

[the rest of this letter is missing]

EGP

Charleston 30 Sep 1873

Dear Ralph

Yours of the 22d inst reached me in the midst of the financial panic which exceeds any that I have witnessed in an experience of 45 years.

As soon as it passes over, I will see what can be done. At present, little else is thought of.

If it should be in power to serve you, or any other member of the family I will deem it a privilege to do so

Yours truly
Wm. C Bee

Mr Ralph E Elliott
Adams Run
S & C RRd

EGP

Flat Rock
October 28th 1873

My dear Mrs Elliott

Excuse my not answering your letter sooner. I deferred it until I had paid the Taxes and had seen Mrs Pyatt. I did *not* send your note about the bedding as it might not be as kindly taken as it ought to have been, and I thought Mary would write. Mrs Pyatt also told me that she was comfortable having procured some extra bedding, they are very much pleased with their summer here, and hope to return but wish to purchase a place, your house is very much out of repair and there is no stable. Mr Pyatt looked at Piedmont but says the outbuildings there are in bad condition. I hope therefore he may take your house again. They left yesterday. The taxes were a little higher than last year \$37.85 cts - \$2.85 - more - this \$2.85 - consider added to 8 dollars for Wardrobe. \$10.85 - is little enough for it. The taxes were \$35. last year and for this I kept the Chairs & Sofa - The \$8 for Wardrobe I will send when I get to Orangeburg money is so hard to be got now that it will take all I have to go down with. Everybody up here is complaining of the want of money. Wm Elliott came up for Sally and they leave this week, Charles Pinckney also whose family are at Hymans near Hendersonville. Carrie Mitchell also goes this week, she is quite well looks uncommonly well. I gave her your message she drives every day in her buggy.

Did I write you of the panic about small pox, Sam's wife Elisa had Varioloid at Dr Kings then Mrs P Masyck next her little baby had confluent small pox, this was about a week after Savage Trenholm's wedding at Dr Kings. Dr King is waiting on Mrs Withers Menmminger or they would go down. Rev Withers Menmminger has bought a place at Tampa Bay, Florida and moves there in Jany. Mary Menmminger is engaged to a Belgian Mons. Van Cort and expects to be married in the spring. Mr Arthur Parker and Mr Jon Lowndes expect to purchase Miss DeChoiseul's place for \$800--

Flavius Harts wants to buy five or six acres of your land near the Church and near Barings Pond. He has been doing a thriving business having three Vehicles always busy. Flat Rock was so full that there were always persons wanting to ride. I will give Dr King your tax receipt - Mr Draytons family are well. Julia and Ellie have gone down. I am very glad to hear that your grandsons will probably be educated. I hear they are very smart boys. Remember me to Tom and Anne and Emily. I hope he may succeed at Ball's. There is a great depression about Cotton amongst the planters. Beaufort has been afflicted with fever this summer but all are better

Yrs affetcly

Matilda Fowles

November 1873-March 1874

Ambrosio Jose Gonzales wrote to President Grant regarding the " Virginius" incident.

EGP

Herndon Va Nov 4th 1873

My dear Grandmother

I arrived here yesterday morning & will now give an account of my miserable travelling experiences. I got to the steamer all right, & ~~the~~ she did not leave till 12, She had a very light cargo. (consisting of cotton lumber & rice (the last shipped from Bissele to Cinannnati, O.) & when off Cape Lookout, she rolled & pitched so that I was rather sea-sick, and felt miserably, had to keep my berth all day.

When we got to Chesapeake Bay - there was a cutting wind blowing & I couldn't sleep for the cold. Before the steamer touched the wharf, I was off with my trunk, got a hack & started for the B & O RR depot (Believing from Mr J's circular that Herndon was upon it). Arriving there, I asked if H. was upon it; was told it was. Couldn't get a through ticket, but was told I ~~could get~~ would have to get a ticket to W & there get one to H. did so. When I got to W in the evening. I found that H was *not* on the B & O RR. Got my trunk sent by McClintock's Express to the Baltimore & Potomac RR depot, & walked a mile to there, When I got there I found that the last train had left two hours before.

I had to leave my trunk there and & get lodgings at a 3d class hotel. On Sunday I walked around a good deal, looked at the dingy and dirty old Capital, saw crowds of niggers & Yankees who seemed to enjoy such social equality with the whites that the sight was sickening. The hotel (so called) was disgusting. & enough to craze any decent person. At 9 Monday morning. I started for here on the B & P RR, went to Alexandria junction - took the *Washington* & Ohio R.R- (which is the RR Herndon is on) & arrived at Herndon Station -- an hour after.

Now for Herndon? Mr. Johnston is between 40 & 50 but doesn't look as old, is *very* religious, very kind & attentive to his boys, who seem very fond of him.- Mrs J, is "fair fat & forty-- The boys are 5 in number-, 3 from Washington 1 from Del, & 1 from Alabama most of

them younger than I am-, seem very gentlemanly-, Herndon is a small village, with 2 churches-, & Mr J superintends a chapel & LL. This is all the information I can give now. Please excuse my ~~being~~ seeming so egotistical, & write as soon as you can. Give my love to all at home & with the same to you

I remain

Your affectionate

N Elliott Gonzales

PSS- Please ask Brosie to write to me. I will commence studying in a day or two. My trunk came open or rather unlocked all the way. Mr J encloses a note, He commenced calling me Francisco when I arrived but as it seemed a labor to him to do so. I told him my middle name was Elliott, so he and all here have adopted it as my cognomen. Herndon is 27 miles from Washington & is slightly hilly, & has very few trees. Rawson Lodge is a few hundred yards from the station.

When you write please tell me all that has occurred since my momentous departure I remain

Your affectionate

Grandson

N

EGP

Please address

N. Elliott Gonzales

Herndon Fairfax County

Virginia

Rawson Lodge, Saturday Nov 8th / 73

My dear Brother

Your kind letter of the 4th has just been recd. Many thanks for it. I wrote to Grandmama the day after I arrived & hope to get an answer soon. I told her of my difficulties getting in from Washington to here & so needn't repeat them. When I got to Herndon station I found several of the boys, waiting for me.

Mr. Johnson is very kind, as are his family, which consists only of his wife & aunt. Mr. J. is 35 years of age. The names of the boys are [...] J. Cook, Lewis McAllistair, Wm. Percy Tilghman of Washington, and respectively, 17, 18 and 11 years. J. Rodgers White, of Ala. & Walter Baker of Del. Aged some 13 or 14 Years.

Rawson Lodge, is a few hundred yards from Herndon Station, & the same distance from the R.R. that you are, at home. Herndon is a small village scattered around promiscuously. Mr. Johnson is religious in the extreme & is peculiar in some things. He is not very strict as to study but is very particular about manners, general deportment & tidiness. I have just got my books from Wash. they are Maury's Geography, Robinson's Arithmetic, Holmes's Speller, & Southern 5th Reader, the latter see has a devil-fish hunt, from Carolina Sports, & a complimentary notice of Grandpapa. (N B. Can't you send me a copy of Carolina Sports).

Mr. J. is great for illustrating principles. He is very persuasive with the boys (who study very little) his punishments consist of the boys staying in the ho 15 minutes for every bad mark on Saturday. He seems very fond of them, & they of him. He never scolds & never gets angry. The boys are well behaved & aren't up to anything worse than moving the hands of the clock a half hour or so when Mr. J. leaves the room. I commenced studying Wednesday morning & so

far have a perfect report. I hope it will continue so (one of the boys has 18 bad marks or 4 1/2 hours in today)

3 boys sleep in the room with me. The inhabitants say that there is an average of 9 inches of snow on the ground here through the winter, & splendid sleighing.

There is some pleasant company about here, some pretty girls, & *espescially*, a pretty Post Mistress. Therefore I will be & am, prompt in getting the mail. Fortunately the Pater is not known here, t'is a source of thankfulness. Speaking of the above makes me remark that Mr J *only* has family prayers 4 times a day (week days). Kemper's Dem. majority in the state is some 20,000, in the County 400. Maryland has gone Democratic. I dont know about the other states. Mr J does'nt take other than religious papers, & is no politician so 20 are pretty nearly all around here, so you can imagine yr. brother is out of his element. (for Heaven's sake send me a Day-book or two when you all have finished them) I am glad to hear that you are having some funning & wish you sucess. Am sorry to hear of the Capt's indisposition & hope he may speedily regain his former vigor & hope that as Life grows in age he may grow in grace & in the knowledge etc of woodcraft. Tell Bory that one of the former officers of the M'yland was on the Sea Gull & inquired particularly after him. Please excuse this hasty & disconnected scratch & write me soon & tell me all the news, If it is'nt too great a favor or too unpleasant to any other member of the family & would be rejoiced if they would the same. With much love to all at home including yrself.

Believe me to be dear Brosie your fond

N. Elliott [N. G. Gonzales]

EGP

Rawson Lodge. Dec 23rd 73

Dear Grandmama

I commence an epistle here, expecting to finish it in Washington. I will endeavor to give our valuable news. Mr Davy has just gotten his bell and is as happy as he can be over it. It is 26 inches diameter and cost \$25,000, he will have it on top of the Mission in a little belfry and expects to ring it the first time Xmas Eve midnight.

The next thing he'll do, will be to get a "Cabinet pipe Organ" for the chapel, on credit, & pay for it next year. He gives a tenth of his funds to the Mission, & seems devoted to it. He had the first Episcopal services, ever held in Herndon, 5 years ago. Bishop Johns visited him last year & confirmed several persons.

Herndon contained only 2 or 3 houses 6 years ago, now it numbers some 50 houses, 3 or 4 stores, a blacksmiths shop, carpenters shop, saw & grain mill & 2 churches & the Mission.

Dont you think the inhabitants have reason to hope (as they do) that, it will "one day" be a metropolis.

I will go on the daylight train to-morrow morning. Mr Davy has lent me a valise. I hope no one will take me for my venerable progenitor. I am so sorry to hear of your & Tula's indispositions, please dont expose yourself by that nightly sweeping.

Excuse this scratch please. We have 2 inches of snow to day. When will winter come in earnest

Excuse this scratch

[*The rest of this letter from Nanno is missing*]

EGP

Washington Dec 26th [1873]
Friday night

Dear Grandmama & Aunt Annie

I started from "The Lodge" Wednesday morning before day & arrived in Wash 8 o'clock.

Did not find Harry at the station, waited a good while for him, but in vain. I tried my best to find where Cousin Johnny lived, looked at the Directory, asked policemen etc but of no avail, so I had to take up my quarters for the night at my former stopping place, & subsist on the market for provisions. Saw in a paper that cousin Johnny was to officiate at the Ascension Church on Xmas morning so I found my way there got a front seat & awaited events.

He preached a very fine sermon & there was some splendid singing. After service I stood at the entrance & waylaid Harry as he was coming out much to his astonishment, as he had been to the station several times. He had come too late to meet me however in the morning.

Well I toted the valise to 1005 K St & there remained. Cousin J is in a very nice house. A Radical Senator & Representative on one side & the French Minister on the other. They are as kind as possible to me. This morning Harry & I looked about the Patent Office until we were sick of it. We then explored the Capitol, took a look at the City from the dome, etc. We finished off by going to the cong con'y which Harry hadn't been to before, & w'h was really very fine. We will go to the Navy yard etc tomorrow.

By the way, we ran a mile & a half yesterday evening to see a fire, the engines had it nearly all out however before we got there.

I got a note from At. Mamie to day, asking me to spend a day with her early next week. Ill try to do so. Ive forgotten to ask what kind of a Xmas *you* had. I hope it was better than usual.

Excuse this short note & pencil. Im pretty sleepy. We had some snow to day. Cousin Johnny is working the whole time at his sermons. he has to get several a week, & such good ones necessitate study. His congregation is not large but rich & influential. The church was beautifully decorated with evergreens & japonicas. (Done by the ladies of the congregation), & he had a good many presents. The church is an old one, with no steeple. He is going to get a fine one [...] though, & Mr Corcoran has given a lot for the site worth \$30 000. I saw him in church.

Please write soon and give me all the news & ask Brosie to do so too. With much love to each & all I remain your affectionate

ELLIOTT [N. G. Gonzales]

Sat. Went to the Navy Yard & Smithsonian Institute this morning. The first was'nt much but I could have remained at the latter all day.

EGP

Rawson Lodge Dec 31st [1873]

Dear Grandmother

Arriving here last night, I will give you an account of my visit to Balt.

I left Washington on Monday morning on an Express train, and reached my destination in an hour. I easily found my way by inquiring for the Monument. Aunt Mamie and Edith were out, so Mamie & I walked a little way & met them.

Emma came in for a minute, but soon left, to arrange a Xmas tree for her SS class, (juvenile Africans, whom Fanny designated as "brunettes") & I did not see her again.

In the evening Fan & I went up the monument, where we had a fine view of the city.

Mamie, Fan, a Mr Dorsey, & I went to the theatre, where "Bleak House" dramatized, was played by Janauschek & others. This was my first experience of a theatre, & I enjoyed it very much. Aunt Mamie fixed up a bed for me, where I spent the night. I left Balt at 12 [torn]day, paying "Cousin Judith" a flying visit on the way to the station. Mamie looks in better health than any of the others. Fanny & Emma look pale & badly, I think Aunt Mamie looks much the same as she did two years ago.

Mrs Lefebre seems very pleasant indeed. They were all *very* kind to me. Such a pandemonium as those school girls make, "I never saw before." 'Tis perfectly dazing to a person of my *remarkably quiet disposition*. Miss May fully justifies Brosie's account of her "speed." I stayed in Wash a little while & then took the 4 PM train for here, where I arrived in due season. Please excuse my particularity of narration; you see it is almost like going home to see them all. Mr J is busy decorating the chapel. I was so dissapointed at getting no letter from home on my return; have had none for a week. *Cant* you get someone to write. Harry went to Balt on Tuesday, to stay with Rev Dr Fuller. I got drawing paper, pencils, a Latin book, & a Philosophy. If you wish me to study anything else please let one know.

With the greatest love to you all I remain ever

Your aff Grandson

Elliott [N. G. Gonzales]

Please Excuse this scratch.

EGP

Shanty Jany 18th 1874

Capt Ralph Elliott

My dear Uncle

I ran down here this morning to see how the old folks are getting on and I find them much more comfortable than I expected. I heard from Mr M[...] some days ago of your removal to the Port Royal Road. I am delighted to hear that you have at last obtained employment and I trust you will prosper. I return to Grahamville in the morning where I have left Uncle Tom who has been there since last Friday he says the nigs won't work in cold weather so he paid a visit to Arthur and the "Bitters." I am making good progress in Telegraphy and hope to learn soon. If you can you must run up to Grahamville and pay me a visit

Write soon and direct to A. H. Elliott care

Believe me to be Your affectionate Nephew

Brosie

EGP

Saint Timothy's Home School for Boys,
Rawson Lodge,
Herndon, Fairfax Co., Va.,

January 22, A.D. 1874

Statement.

Mrs. Ann H. Elliott

in Acct. with

David S. L. Johnson

1873 -- Mrs. Elliott Dr.

Nov. 8	To Books & Stationary	6.88	
Dec. 19	“ Board “ Tuition		<u>37.50</u>
			\$44.38

Mrs. Elliott Cr.

1873

Nov. 1	By Cash	50.00	
Dec. 10	“ ” per Elliott		<u>6.88</u>
		44.38	

Difference in \$12.50

Mrs. Elliott's favor

David S. L. Johnson
