

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

EGP

Altman's Station P R R R²⁶⁵
Sunday 25th [January 1874]

I have been waiting all day, my dearest Mother, for a quiet moment to thank you for your very nice letter of Tuesday last -- as the quiet will not come, & the daylight is waning -- I must content myself with scribbling a few hurried & disconnected sentences.

²⁶⁵ Port Royal Rail Road.

I am grateful to Emmie for the trouble she has taken about Cousin Cotesworths letter and the wood business -- and she is fully authorized to act for me in the matter.

Mr Taylor holds an order from me prohibiting the removal of the 48 cords until Marin pays him one Dollar per cord -- \$8 1/2 -- belongs to Taylor -- \$26-- to Cousin C as interest on his loan -- and the balance I want as soon as he collects it to buy some underclothes.

That infernal nigger Trial Justice has swindled you, in the cotton affair shamefully.

Alfonso's constitution will be ruined unless his fever is eradicated before spring -- by Shallenberger -- or persistent, regular, and liberal doses of Quinine.

I dont understand about Gonzales, Warren, & Social Hall. Tom I fear, has as usual, caught the statement of Warren by its legs & wings & jumped to the conclusion that the place is still in his possession.

Taylor will, however, if Alfonso will ask him, find out *the facts* in the case from Shaffer, when he comes to collect taxes on the 28th.

Please don't let Ambrosio's position & condition worrie [*sic*] you. We have all been too comfortable at home, and sooner or later have to rough it. The sooner the Easier, as I am now fully convinced.

I have no fears about Brosio -- his head is "level," as Bill Arp says. His temper is peculiar, but his judgements, sense of duty, Earnestness, and desire to do what is right, because *it is right*, are characteristics which will get him through life with honor & profit.

Tell my little darling Hattie, that I long for the time when I can once more enjoy her charming hugs & kisses. I had no idea how completely she had wound herself around my seared old bachelor heart. She must be a good and obedient grandchild, and be careful not to interrupt & worrie her overworked aunts.

Mr. Owen, who is a kind, good man, (though not a money making one) and a brother mason, is satisfied with my Efforts to do my duty towards him, and will when opportunity offers, put me in a position to support myself decently, & help to lighten the burdens of those who, I truly believe, I love better than myself.

He intends, ere long, to carry me on a Sundays trip to Battery Point -- when, if the weather is favourable we will hire a Yacht and visit Myrtle Bank. If possible, I will notify Brosie in time to join us -- pray, when you write to the latter tell him I was much pleased at his writing to me, and will, if not able previously, write to him next Sunday.

It was only the severest exertion of *will*, that I was enabled to get through the first four days of the past week -- besides 'cats' & other things-- I suffered from a violent attack of influenza and bronchitis-- for two days I could not speak-- and was obliged to direct my laborers by signs. I am once more able to articulate however & trust with a little prudence to be all right in a few days. Mr O has ordered our room lined, and some additional bedclothes furnished-- which will probably prevent a recurrence of my attack.

With much love, & my best wishes for the health & comfort, of the entire household, I am dearest Mama

Your affectionate Son
Ralph E. Elliott

EGP

Oak Lawn
Ash Wednesday [February 1874]

My dear Ralph

I received yours of the 9th from the delatory hands of Alfonso late last Eve. I was thereby deprived of the gratification of sending you a letter in return by todays mail. I received one from Tom also, he wants a wool mattress for his aching bones & I have just arranged with old Cato the [...] to convey on this Eveg. to the Depot to be in readiness for the freight train on friday Cato will likewise be the bearer of this to the mail for you. As you are without any of the needful, I am glad to enclose you some, say five dollars in this, & five more in another letter on friday or Saturday. When you receive these ten write & say whether you wd. like a further loan? How grand we are!! The Speedable Man Allen has not responded to Emmies request. So Emmie has to enlist Ebets services in the matter as well as the procuring of Brosio's watch wh. the same individual. Allen has still in his hands, Tom tells us. The Burnets have sold the Dalton plantation to Bissel for \$10,000 *Cash*. Barnwell is to plant old Combahee on his own acct. without factors aid. Bet has mentioned the last to us. I am too sorry the aid yr. eyes may have received sd. thus be delayed. The reading of the Mobile Register & The Nation too, having become quite interesting. Anne likes [...] as you observe but will not venture on the help you offer 140 years wd. be an undertaking, & Emmie says old people eat as much as young ones. Alas she knows this, in my case. Her culinary efforts have decreased with the size of the Household & the responsibility of feeding so many Male creatures & above all of looking for a Nig (wh. riled her) is quite a relief. She is no correspondence now for the disposing of Pecan Nut bees & Laurels. The Seedsman in Augusta, refers her to an order he recvd. from Florida, for 26 Pecan. No demands for Laurels Now I wish the cotton claim wd. come in. We seen an allusion to the subject in the papers. I was mistaken in Gonzales' whereabouts. He is still in New York.

I must close, having other concerns on hand. With love from Sisters & the children, Yr loving
Mother

Hattie takes two sometimes four grs. quinine daily. She is nearly & hight again.

What a treat. Those two winter days were so bracing & pleasant even to me.

We have nice fires & planting the garden & removing fruit bees have given Yr Sister a happy diversion from the dairy [...] and low is all the milk we have turned out. The [...] to shift for themselves. Cato has cleared up our shrubbery & we shall be better ventilated. He cannot spare us any more of his time at present.

EGP

Tuesday Night, Feb 17th 1874.

Dear Emmie,

Your acceptable favor of the 12th inst. was rec'd this morning, for which allow me to express my thanks. I am just sick of the place, & everything about it, & feel pretty much like going up the spout.

If you find three or four demerits this month, on my report, dont be surprised, as the old man has become "awful" strict (to use the words of the eloquent Baker) & is scoring them down in style.

He proposes, "with the grace of God," to be more so next term!

He scenteth Bory, "afar off, "& hopes to have "the pleasure of his instruction," one of these days.

The St. Timotheans & a select few outsiders, held a meeting last night in the Mission, & organized a Base Ball Club, & officers. Have made a fine ground, & expect much fun. Tomorrow commences Lent, & the professor dont want to have any playing going on, he's a queer mortal.

Litany Wednesdays & Fridays, Service on the latter evenings, & ~~Service~~ also 2 tomorrow,

[*torn*] am [*torn*] attractions the coming season offers to us. Things are as usual; in about 2 weeks the public school breaks up & we will have school hours there, & the eldest will sleep above stairs there, where we expect to kick up "heaven." In the words of my fraternal predecessor, "I am penniless."

~~I get very few things, but they are so high that here as I cant get them anywhere else, that it swallowed the tin in short order.~~

I get very few articles here, ~~but~~ and they are very high, so, as I cant get them any where else, it sends the tin up the spout. My clothes are getting rather dilapidated.

Mr J says, he thinks that at the end of this term I can either keep books, or teach school; or study draughting, & get a good living, or be a reporter.

He offers to get me a school or a place as a bookkeeper near here, this fall if I give him notice, where I can go on with study also. It depends on what you say about it, & which you think best (if any).

Please answer soon.

Thanking you for your letter, & with much love to all.

I remain ever your aff.

N. E. [Narciso G. Gonzales]

Excuse this scratch; tis near midnight & I'm sleepy.

We have organized a newspaper, something in the style of the "Yellow Jacket," & the members of St. Timothy's are to contribute in it. We are to edit it by turns.

Ash Wednesday

Thus you see that Herndon is progressing under our supervision.

The Professor is commencing to stain himself peace meal & recommends us to "go thous & do like wise."

EGP

Herndon Va. Sat. Feb. 21 1874

My dear Brother,

Your favor of the 18 inst, has just been recd, & is duly appreciated. I am at a loss for news, so you must excuse this scratch.

I am glad to hear of your dissipation, wish I had [*torn*] the kind, though [*torn*] encircling wrists, I am perhaps better off, as my muchacha²⁶⁶ is only about 100 or 200 yards off. Last night, I had considerable experience in that line. You seem to be Arthur's right hand man. How long do you expect to stay at Grahamville? & have you formed any attachments, & forgotten Ada? I am directing my study to only useful ends. I like Book-keeping, & am making good progress in it, as Mr D. says he can get me a place, with the old folk's permission, I will take it.

The old man has taken a turn since Lent commenced, & is giving us all a h--ll f--d lot of demerits, "just for fun."

I intend to give him a rowing up for it. With the old lady on my side, I can make him do pretty much as I please.

Nothing of any account has occurred last week, except the first issue of our paper, (S. Timothys Home Journal) & the formation of a Base Ball Club.

The journal is composed of articles from the boys, (day & boarding) on different subjects.

²⁶⁶ Spanish word for young lady.

Every one has a hit at another & it is quite a success. For information concerning BBC, I refer you to the enclosed production, my contribution to the "Journal." Tis'nt much, but will do instead of better.

I heard from Emmy, this week, what letter she can make!

Dont you think things are getting on a little better now? Tomas, & Rodolfo,²⁶⁷ are making their livings, & the ladies are consequently more cheerful.

I havent any more to say so with much love to yrself & family,

I remain ever your fond Brother

Narciso Elliott

E. G., J M G.

EGP

Grahamville So Ca March 8th 1874

I received your kind and affectionate letter my dear Uncle some time ago and I owe you an apology for not answering it before. But Arthur (who reminds me of Uncle Tom and the paper collars) having used all my stationary and the Telegraph Company being loth to give him more. I have been unable to reply until now, trusting that the old saying "Better late than never" will be applicable in my case I begin. You ask what I think of my cousin. He is much like Uncle Tom as regards extravagance Ect. But without the old gentleman's warm heart. We get on very well together and He finding me useful has not the remotest idea of parting with me. So there is little danger of my losing my place as long as I want to keep it. He put up a Barroom in addition to his store some time ago and desired me to keep it But I considering it demoralizing to retail bad liquor to Nigs refused, and now I never go near the Bar or even the store my duties consist entirely of office work I have entire charge of the Freight & Express departments and all the books of the Establishment. I make frequent visits to Savannah and Charleston on Business for Arthur and the Conductors don't pretend to ask me for fare. So much for being asst Agent. I like Telegraphy and in a month more of study will be able to take an office like Adam's Run. Reading by sound however is a thing that requires months of constant practise. I saw Uncle Tom at Green pond sometime ago. He pulled me out of the train to see a gaily painted wagon and a fine pair of mules which Willy sent him. I saw Doc Coburn a day or two ago at Hardeeville. He *was* sober and inquired after you I have many things to tell you when we meet but have not room here.

Write soon and believe me to be your fond nephew

Brosie

Excuse handwriting

B.

EGP

[March 12, 1874]

My dear Bory,

You must excuse the scratch I am going to give you, on account of sleepiness, etc.

There are some fine farms around here, I will try to tell you about them, as I go sometimes & help work, "for the fun of the thing." They have orchards around them, (the houses I mean), & outside of that, are the fields. They plant them in different things each year.

²⁶⁷ Spanish names for Thomas and Ralph, referring to his uncles.

The cows are housed in winter, & fed on wheat straw, bran, & flour wetted, & in Summer they pasture out.

They have Spring houses, where they keep the milk in cold water, then skim it & send the cream to town, in large cans with covers & locks. They sell all their calves, young, & raise a good many horses, of which there are some fine ones around. The farmers go to Washington every week in big wagons with farm produce, which they sell in market.

Nothing is going on worth telling about. Write soon.

Your fond brother

Nanno

Rawson Lodge, Thursday night

My dear Aunt

Your Sunday letter was recd yesterday, & now I will try to answer it & express my thanks.

I wish you would write oftener though, as I've not heard for a fortnight & was consequently much disappointed every day. Of course I mean when you have time to do so.

Your description of the garden makes me a little more homesick than usual. To think of those flowers being with in three days journey of this bleak & ugly place, & yet inaccessible.

Herndon's population has been increased lately by a brace of twins, "produced" by an enterprising farmer, hard by.

Hos is the City of Port Royal progressing, & is Savannah more jealous?

By the way, old "nigger loving Sumner" has just gone up the spout. It took a long time for that horse whipping to send him below. Gradmama must be distinguishing herself in the garden.

Old man David's mother is not [...], & is a mere circumstance to her in everything. Do you mean that Johnson is to take care of part of the "stocks" at Chee-ha? I am glad you are going to invest in eatables this year.

I have sent to my friend Fred of Agricultural memory, for some flower seeds, with which (if [...] is [...] evil generous enough) I intend to astonish the natives, this summer.

Good night, with dearest love to all. Write soon. I remain as ever,

Your loving Nephew

Elliott [Narciso G. Gonzales]

EGP

Altmans Sation P R R R

April 26th [1874]

My Dearest Mother

Your most kind and acceptable letter of the 22d was duly received. I wish it was in my power to write as interestingly as my old mother, she would have as many pages, as she now has lines to read, from the son, who with all his faults, loves his mother more than he can express. It is a source of constant mortification to me that with all my industry, and good intentions, I am still unable to do anything to prove my desire to help you all. I believe I mentioned to you the failure of the old firm, and the formation of a new one -- in which I hold the same position, with the promise of the same paltry wages. My first 2 1/2 months services have been requited with \$700 in greenbacks, and since the new firm has taken possession I have lost 10 days from sickness -- so that in fact, I am pecuniarily in the same condition in which I came here. How I wish I had followed my instincts and shipped to you the full amount of my wages, in groceries, just before the bubble burst. Things appear to be on a sounder footing now, yet I have no faith in the success of any saw mill concern conducted on the

credit system.

I wrote to Brosio yesterday telling him of the prospect of obtaining work here, and asking him if he could afford it, to visit me on next Saturday, and see & hear for himself the proposed arrangement. It would, of course be most agreeable to me to have him here, while I remain but I shall not let that influence me in advising him. He must act for himself, & with the approval of yourselves. Nanno's continued good conduct gives me unfeigned delight -- give him my love, and send me one of his letters. Wont Alfonso send me a line and give me the interesting stock news? When I go to my work at day dawn I picture to myself-- his willing fingers nimbly manipulating Ruby's lacteal font-- and as the sun sets, I fancy, as the last echo of the 'cease work' whistle dies away, I can hear his favorite song as he returns with his second installment of what is really your staff of life-- of course in these long days he milks twice. O, how happy it should make him feel, that he is in a position where by exerting himself, he can do so much to assist those around him. while the rest of us older, & more able than himself are barely self sustaining. Tell him to write and tell me all about it.

Your news of Elliotts asthma, distresses me-- his selection of Savannah as his home has often made me think that he had no confidence in the strength of his lungs-- let us hope for the best however-- Emma's escape so far, is encouraging.

Am glad to hear Carrie M is better, & hope Mary P has made her promised visit. Congratulate you on your garden, & trust the cutworm has not injured your prospects. They have annihilated our horticultural efforts-- and I have neither time nor strength to renew the attempt. My health is improving, but I am still a sufferer from the feline pests. With much love to sisters & chicks, I am affectionately Yours

R. E. E.

GFP

State of South Carolina,
Colleton County.

Whereas, by the provisions of Section 17, Chapter XIII, Title III, General Statutes of the said State, the County Auditor of each County in the said State, is authorized and required annually to cause the list of delinquent lands in his County to be published weekly for two weeks in one newspaper in his County, and to which list there shall be attached a notice in the following form, to wit: "Notice is hereby given that the whole of the several parcels, lots and parts of lots of real estate described in the preceding list, or so much thereof as will be necessary to pay the taxes, penalties and assessments charged thereon, will be sold by the Treasurer of Colleton County, South Carolina, at his office in said County, on the eighteenth day of May A.D. 1874, unless said taxes, assessments and penalties be paid before that time; and said sale will be continued, from day to day, until all of said parcels, lots and parts of lots of real estate shall be sold or offered for sale;"

AND WHEREAS, there appears on the Tax Duplicates of Colleton County, for 1874, one thousand four hundred fifty acres of land, valued at Three Thousand five hundred dollars, assessed in the name of A. J. Gonzales, the tax, cost and penalties on the same being Eighty three 88/100 dollars;

AND WHEREAS, the above A. J. Gonzales neglected to pay to A. C. Shaffer, Treasurer of Colleton County the above tax, cost and penalties as prescribed by law, and, in accordance with an Act of the General Assembly, "Providing for the extension of time for the payment and collection of taxes for the fiscal year, commencing November 1, 1872," approved January 16, 1873, the above real

estate was duly advertised as delinquent in the *Walterboro News* to be sold as above required;

AND WHEREAS, at the aforesaid sale so held by A. C. Shaffer, Treasurer of Colleton County, on the eighteenth day of May 1874, one John D. Warren, promised to and did pay to said A. C. Shaffer, County Treasurer, the sum of Eighty three 88/100 dollars, (being the tax, cost and penalties on the above described property, and assessed in the name of said A J Gonzales, for the least quantity bid by any person then and there present, viz: the whole less one eight acre, and to whom a "Delinquent Land Certificate" was issued specifying the above fact;

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with an Act of the General Assembly, entitled "An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act Providing for the Assessment and Taxation of Property' passed September 16, 1868, and all Acts amendatory thereto" approved March 12, 1872, it is the duty of the County Auditor to make and deliver to any purchaser, his heirs or assigns, a deed of conveyance for real estate so sold, and not redeemed in accordance with law by the party in whose name it was assessed, or any other person interested therein, within ninety days from date of said sale, on payment of the legal fee and surrender of the aforementioned Delinquent Land Certificate;

AND WHEREAS, the real estate so sold as aforesaid has not been redeemed within the time and in the manner so as aforesaid prescribed by law;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wm F Myers, County Auditor of the County of Colleton, in the State aforesaid, in consideration of the premises, and in further consideration of the sum of two dollars, good and lawful money of the United States, to me in hand paid by the said John D Warren for, and in behalf of the State of South Carolina, have granted, bargained, sold, and released, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and release, unto the said John D Warren, all that certain lot, tract or parcel of land, bounded and described as follows, to wit: Known as "Social Hall Plantation" containing one thousand four hundred & fifty acres, situate on Chehaw river in Lowndes Township and bounded on said river on the South and South West, on the South and East on land of the said John D. Warren, and on the North on Land late of A R Chisolm now of J. D. Warren, and on land late of H S Rhett now of J. D. Warren.

TOGETHER with all and singular the rights, members, hereditaments and appurtenances, to the said premises belonging, or in any wise incident or appertaining: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the premises before mentioned, unto the said John D Warren his heirs and assigns forever AND I, W F Myers, County Auditor as aforesaid, DO HEREBY BIND the State of South Carolina, to warrant and forever defend all and singular the said premises unto the said John D. Warren his heirs and assigns, against the said State of South Carolina, and against every person and all persons whomsoever, lawfully claiming or to claim the same, or any part thereof.

WITNESS my hand and the Seal of the State, this eighteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy four, and in the ninety ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of W. F. Myers
Co auditor

J. D. Warren
John W. Rubidge
State of South Carolina,
Colleton County.

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME and made oath that he saw the within named Wm F Myers, County Auditor of the County of Colleton in the State aforesaid, as before mentioned, sign,

seal, and as his act and deed, for and in behalf of the said State, deliver the within Deed; and that he, with John D. Warren Jr., witnessed the execution thereof.

SWORN before me, this 18 day of August A. D. 1874

Charles Witsell

John W Rubidge

DEED

W. F. Myers
County Auditor
of Colleton County,

TO

John D Warren
Filed Aug 18th 1874

Co. Auditors Office

Colleton Co. Aug 18" 74

Recorded in book of Sales or Conveyance of Real Property.

W. F. Myers

Co. Auditor

Page 202

Mesure Conveyance Office

Colleton County

Recorded August 18th 1874 In Book HG Pages 793-794 and 795 and Examined By

J. M. Martin

R. M. C.

Fee \$2.50 Paid

The State of South Carolina:

For valuable consideration I do hereby assign to Emanuel Witsell his heirs and assigns all my right title and interest to the premises mentioned and described in the annexed deed and conveyance.

Witness my hand and seal this twenty-fifth of October 1881.

Signed sealed and delivered in presence

J. D. Warren

B. G. Hyne

John W. Rubidge

State of South Carolina

Colleton County

Personally appeared before me John W. Burbidge who on oath says that he saw J. D. Warren sign and seal the within transfer and that he with B. G. Hyne witnessed the due execution thereof

John W. Rubidge

Witness my hand and seal this 26 Day of Oct 1881

B Stokes

Not Pub

Office R M C Colleton County. The transfer from E Witsell to M. L. Chaplin Recorded in Book T p 438

E W Fraser
R. M. C.

Fee 50c.

Office R. M. C. Colleton County. Recorded in Book T page 61, Oct 26 1881

E. W. Fraser
R. M. C.

Fee 50c.

Recorded in Auditor's Office this 26th day of October 1881 in Book "E"

Jno Smith
C. A.

Fee 25c. paid

State of South Carolina
Colleton County

I hereby convey to M. L. Chaplin all of my right title and interest to this Deed for the valuable consideration alluded to in the deed & to fulfill with Mr Jno D Warren the agreement pending between us in reference to the same (She M L Chaplin) This agreement to take effect on first of July Eighteen hundred & Eighty two

E Witsell

Jno M Klein

Robt H Witsell

State of South Carolina.
Colleton County.

Personally appeared before me Robt H. Witsell and made oath that he saw E Witsell sign seal and as his act and deed deliver the within written deed. Sworn before me this 1st July 1882,

Robt H. Witsell

Recorded in Auditors Office Colleton County this 1st day July 1882 in Book "F" under letter "H"

Jno Smith
Co. A

Fee 25 c Pd.

The State of South Carolina, Colleton County.

For valuable consideration I, M.L. Chaplin do hereby assign and transfer to John D. Warren his heirs and assigns all my right title and interest in the premises mentioned and described in the foregoing deed of conveyance. Witness my Hand and Seal this 10th day of July A. D. 1882.

M. L. Chaplin

Signed Sealed and delivered in presence of

W. H. Miller
[...] Chaplin Jr.

State of South Carolina, Colleton County. Personally appeared before me W. H. Miller and made oath that he saw the within named M. L. Chaplin sign seal and as her act and deed deliver the

within written deed.

Sworn to before me this 11 day of July 1882

W. H. Miller

E. W. Fraser

Clerk Court

Office R M M Colleton County

Recorded in Book T p. 458 July 11 1882

E. W. Witsell

R M C

Fee 50

Auditors Office Colleton County

Recorded in Book F July 11 1882

J. W. Smith

Co. A.

Fee 25

EGP

Grahamville SC

May 26th 1874

Dear Grandmother

I received your nice letter on Saturday and have delayed answering it until the present time, because I did not want to answer t'il I had fully thought over your proposition to come home and spend the summer with you. I really think it would be a foolish thing for me to do; I can help you a great Deal more where I am at present than I could possibly Do at Oak Lawn.

As far as I am concerned my health is good and I am taking Quinine regularly. Arthur has just returned from a visit to Uncle Tom at Cheeha. The old gentleman has got him a cook at last who will be up here on Friday so there will be no more *irregular meals*. I am learning Telegraphy fast and Arthur who is going North in three or four weeks expects to leave me in charge. It will pay me something and I will be able to help you through the summer. When he returns I will then spend a month with you if you Desire it. This is my *only chance* of ever getting a start and of being able to help you & support myself. I will do it if possible.

Excuse haste and pencil. With much love to each and all Believe me to be your affectionate Grandson

Brosie

EGP

MAULDIN, OWEN & CO.

Manufacturers of Lumber and Timber,

MILLS LINE PORT ROYAL RAILROAD

Sand Hill, S.C. June 6th 1874

Mrs A H Elliott

My Dear Mother

Mr Carnes promises to leave a small box for you, at Adams Run today. It is very hastily packed & I hope its heterogeneous contents may not be too much mixed. I am sorry it is so small, but no larger could be had. 2 lbs fair Tobacco-- 2 cans Salmon -- 2 do Lobster -- & 2 Pkgs S

R Flour. The lb of Lemon Crackers are intended for Hattie -- they are fresh & wholesome.

I hope you have had a share of the recent showers. The heat is intense. I am at work, but neither strong or well.

Very affectionately Yours

Ralph

Excuse blots

JWP

Walterboro, 6th June 1874

Genl. A. J. Gonzales

Dear Sir:

I have been expecting to hear from you for some time. In your last letter you requested me to inform you when the land sales for tax would take place, which I did. But have not heard from you since. The sales commenced on the 18th and were closed in five days. Most of the land sold in the low country has been forfeited to the State with the view no doubt of cutting it into small farms and dividing among the Negroes at some convenient time, and they peopling the whole of the seaboard with them as they are being gradually driven from the up country by immigration. As it is my misfortune to own a large quantity of land on the seaboard, though over burdened already with tax, I have been obliged in self defense on several occasions to buy more land in order to protect what I have. I therefore purchased your land for \$83.88, the amount of the tax and expenses, subject to redemption by you in ninety days from the 18th May. If not redeemed at that time, I will have to take a fee simple title from the State as the law requires, and have it added to my other taxable property. To refund the money I have already paid, and to pay the tax in future, I will be compelled to make some use of the land that will do no permanent injury to it, such as cutting timber, and renting it out, and when you can make arrangements to turn the place to some account that will be advantageous to you, I will be perfectly willing to restore it to you on equitable terms. Mr. Wichman informs me has a claim on the land for one year, tax paid by him several years ago, and I also paid a years tax before Mr. Wichman. I have not the papers before me so cannot state the amount but suppose it to be about \$70. What has been done I hope will be satisfactory to you, and I will be glad to hear from you to that effect.

I cannot conclude without advising you to do every thing in your power to bring our lands in the market, to the view of the European Companys who appear desirous of purchasing large tracts on our great rivers.

Yours very truly,
J. D. Warren

To General A. J. Gonzales
Maltby House
New York City, N.Y.

[This letter was unclaimed and returned to Mr. Warren].

EGP

The Ruins June 11, [1874]

[To N.G. Gonzales]

My dearest Boy

Since I wrote you last I have been feeling more ill and altogether dilapidated than has been

pleasant to myself or others but to day I am feeling stronger and less savage - for which I am thankful - we have had some of the rainiest hottest days. And then a cool change requiring blankets - but I suppose you feel the same varieties of climate - Tom came back from a visit to Rufus Mew last evening so full of news or what, he thinks so that if he could have been held up by the boots and had it shaken out it would have been a relief - he had gone to Mews (who is Road Master and lives near Grahamville in most comfortable style - his father used to be an overseer -) to engage a place on the road for himself - but it seems the fair Annette was there staying with Mews wife who is a Catholic and she flung herself in his arms and now we have to listen to all her brag and Angelic goodness and how well they live in Washington and how much money they make all in the Treasury and how she has had offers from the same man worth four millions - and how *she* can get back the Island lands with the greatest ease- Mrs Belt number two -

Your Uncle is the most curious creature imaginable he is just as delighted with his progeny as if they had never maligned and turned him out the doors and seems to expect us to be the same - tis too exasperating Well Millet has been turned off the P R road and a Georgian put in his place Bill has been making some of *his* remarks on the occasion but they will keep - the Grove has been all laid out in streets - but no purchasers as of yet for want of title only think the Battery has passed from the family Uncle Stes widow having a mortgage on it - sold it to some Yankee, if it succeeds wont her step son's revere her memory

Ralph is trying to raise one hundred dollars to redeem Social Hall which was bought for taxes a month since by one Paul & it can be redeemed within ninety day's and as there is phosphate there it has to be bought back - Mr Warren paid the tax for one year and a Mr Whittaker for another and they seem to think that they have done enough for the support of their country - there is still a great demand for Phosphate - in the Beaufort river shark's teeth which would require the owner to be sixty feet long - have been dug up.

Do find out what Virginia understands by Gen Wise going over to the radical's - Your report has come - perfect what a pride your Grandfather would have had in you

Good bye
your loving Aunt
[Annie Elliot]

EGP

Charleston 22d June 1874

Mrs Ann H. Elliott
Adams Run S C
S & C RRd

Dear Madam

Mr J. B. Pryatt is in the City on his way to Flat Rock, and has authorised me to pay you One hundred and fifty dollars in advance of amt of your favor, which we will either remit, or pay you dft for, as you may elect.

Mr Pryatt requests us to say that he would pay the whole amount in advance, but, in consequence of a bad crop, will be compelled to borrow money himself. With much respect

Yr &c

W. C. Bee & Co.

EGP

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

June 30, A.D. 1874

Dear Mrs Elliott:

My satisfaction is so great at something I have just accomplished, that I must give vent to it a little.

An arrangement has been effected, (where by several good ends will be answered,) with regard to Elliott.²⁶⁸ He is to go & stay at "Whitehall" with Mr Nathaniel Fitzhugh's family. They are one of our most reputable old families, living on the same place their ancestor Maj. Jno. Fitzhugh, of Gen Washington's staff, lived. Of course, like all Southern gentle people, they are terribly reduced but they are emphatically, *Fitzhughs*.

They have 2 sweet little boys, day pupils of mine, (in fact they stay with me & my boys half the time,) whom Elliott is to teach for 1/2 hour or so each day; then he is to learn what he likes of farming. Mr. Fitzhugh has a nephew living with him, 20 & some odd yrs. old, who is one of my model young men so far as deportment is considered, & I expect he & Elliott will be a mutual comfort & benefit to each other.

Elliott is perfectly enchanted with the arrangement. He likes what he has seen of the Fitzhughs, he likes farming, & horses to ride, & more than all, he likes to save his dear grandmother expense.

He will be at no expense there. When the \$25 arrives of which you recently spoke, I will give the overplus of \$10 to Elliott. He will only be 2 or 3 miles from us, & I shall watch his interest as if he were my own son. The thing that pleases me most, & I expect displeases Elliott equally, is the teaching of my little Newman & Norman. Elliott was made to teach, & he may as well find it out. Hoping you will be just as contented about the dear boy I remain

Yours devotedly

D. S. L. Johnson

P.S. When my new circulars are ready, can you suggest any directions -- addresses for me?

D. S. L. J.

EGP

Ridgefield, Fairfax Co. Va.

July 5th 1874

My dear Aunt:

Your favor of the 3d. inst. is just at hand, for which accept my thanks.

You see from my heading that Herndon has at last lost my distinguished self, & that Ridgefield, the Fitzhugh's farm, can boast of a brilliant & noted citizen.

Last Tuesday evening I came here from Herndon, which is 3 1/2 miles distant. The inmates of the house are Mr. & Mrs Nat Fitzhugh, Mr F's father, (age 76) his sister (a maiden lady past the meridian, vulgarly called an "old maid") Miss Eliza, his nephew Henry, (age 22, a type of a young farmer, & a good-natured chap) & several "offspring." (small & disagreeable brats.) My hours are, viz; I work 1/2 day; have the rest of the time to myself; have my board & washing, but no pay. My

²⁶⁸ Narciso G. Gonzales.

work is varied, fruit picking, hoeing, waggoning, wheat stacking, & innumerable other farm occupations. Mr D. has been wanting me to follow teaching as a profession which I abhor, (perhaps on account of my early experiences with Bory) & finding me resolved not to, when he spoke to Henry Fitz for me, agreed that I should teach a couple of the boy brats, (about 8 or 10 years old) entirely without my knowledge or consent. Of course I have to keep an agreement made in my name, but dont thank Mr D. for it. One of my pupils is very sick, the other is a small sized Satan, & all my spare time is taken up spanking him.

The farm is of 598 acres, the best land around. There are five horses, a good many cows, pigs, etc.

The people are very kind, & don't give me near enough to do, so that I have to hunt about for work. There are a great many inconveniences, but I manage to get along. The Fourth was celebrated by several very large pic-nics, near here. Some "loyal" chap hoisted a Yankee flag on his carriage, whereupon some good rebs who were near had *their* equipage driven away from it, as it "made them mad" to behold it.

We are great rebs here, especially Miss Eliza. I rode through Herndon yesterday, visited Mrs D. & attended a Methodist prayer-meeting at night, & had a good time. I go on studying, & am at it some 5 hours per diem. I kept "the fourth" by hoeing cabbages, & Bookkeeping.

You must excuse writing; I am just from the wheat field, having been some 5 hours, replacing the caps on 20 acres of wheat shocks, which were blown off by a small gale of wind Sat. night, & my paws are scratched. I am busy from morning to night & have no time for intellectual (or other) amusements.

However, if I lessen your worry in the least, I am perfectly content. I have an abundance of clothes, thank you, & have no need for any here. The place is so isolated, I can actually luxuriate, in being minus collar, coat, & vest, most of the time, which is a great relief, these hot times. You must wait for the rest of the news, & mean while

Believe me ever

your fond Nephew [Narciso G. Gonzales]

P.S. Have you seen the comet? It has been visible here for several nights past. 'Tis not far from the Great Dipper.

N.G.G.

Have just heard from Brosie. June [*sic*] 7th.

EGP

Savannah August 16, 1874

My Dear Grandmamma,

Your most appreciated & welcome letter of the 2nd inst. to Sallie, ought to have been answered sooner than this late Day, but while my occupation is lighter in one way, it is increased in another. I mean that while the work of my Books is very trifling at this season of the year, I am kept busy attending to the correspondents of the Firm, both members of which are absent, and *all* the letter writing to be done by me.

We were well pleased to hear of the continued good health of your family and trust through the agency of Quinine, you will all pass over the present season in safety.

I am indeed unacquainted with my cousin William Elliott Esquire, of Beaufort-- that is to say, personally; but I have heard of his increasing reputation as a Lawyer and of his popularity as a high-toned gentleman. I am convinced of both facts, from the excellent letter you so thoughtfully sent me

to read-- and which I now return. So "Myrtle Bank" is restored to its rightful owners at last! And now that you repossess it, you say you do not know what to do with it. I regret, that as far as I can see, I am powerless to aid in the matter. You refer me Dear Grandmamma to the "Carolina Sports" for a description of the place, but I do not own a copy and my memory is not fair enough to serve me accurately in this instance. If Aunt Annie or Aunt Emmie (would not say yourself, from fear of taxing your strength) would write me a precise description of the place, stating its exact situation, the numbers of buildings, if any, upon it, the Distance from Beaufort, &c, &c, I know of one "speculator in Southern Lands" who *might* be persuaded to purchase. Or else if they would write out an advertisement, I would insert it for you in Northern & Western papers & might in *that* way find some one to buy. By the latter mode we have sold several plantations & Groves in Florida. It might be offered to a N.Y. or Boston Yacht-club as a rendezvous or fishing station, During their annual cruises along our coast. But it must be fully discribed [*sic*] & a price (with limits) fixed. Let me hear from you & if I possibly can aid, you may rest assured of my perfect willingness to do so. With warm love to all, in which Sallie joins,

Your Ever loving Grandson Elliott [Johnstone]

EGP

WM. ELLIOTT,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR,

Beaufort, S.C., 20 Aug 1874

My dear Cousin

I received your letter a few days since and am glad to hear that you are all well.

I dont think it practicable to dispose of Myrtle Beach to Italians as you suggest. Some attempts have already been made in this county in that direction, and none have succeeded. The presence of such swarms of negroes on Hilton Head would alone I think make the attempt there a failure, and you know the lands on that place are not at all, rich. Still there is a firm in N.Y., clients of mine, who are engaged specially in Italian immigration, and if you say so I can get their views.

I am much obliged to cousin Caroline for her good accounts of me, but I am sure you would die laughing if you saw the "*coach*." It's nothing but a very rusty buggy of which I must confess I am very much ashamed of.

I write in something of a hurry as we are about leaving for Bay Pt for a short visit. If I can get over to Hilton Head while there I will inspect Myrtle Beach and "interview" some of the inhabitants.

With love to all I am Your affte. Cousin

Wm Elliott

EGP

Grahamville Sunday Oct 25" /74

N. E. Gonzales Esq

Dear Brother

Thanks for your *letter* received yesterday, it might have been longer without taking away from its charm. What are you doing to amuse yourself? I think you could find some birds at Mitchells, and there ought to be some Ducks at the Back Dam. Tell Plug not to be disconsolate that I will run down some Day this winter and take a Drive with him. I hate to ask you to such a place as I am living in but you must come down and spend a few days with me. I can give you a bout with the Grahamville girls, and you will find plenty of doves down here to shoot, and may get a shot at a

Deer. Let me know when you can come and I will get Pinckney to bring you down, on the Freight Train. I long to see you old fellow and will appreciate your visit. Write me soon and Believe me to be your

Fond Brother
Brosie

(over)

The Blackberry wine belongs to me I suppose as the "Late Boss" is in my Debt \$50 and besides instructed me to Destroy the beverage in his absence

B

How are the paps?

EGP

The Western Union Telegraph Company

Dated, Charleston, Nov. 21, 1874

To A. J. Gonzales [Jr.]

Give yourself no trouble about your business. Remain where you are till you are able to attend to it. Sanders is all right. He sent in your report yesterday. Need have no fear of your business getting behind -- I got a letter from Arthur yesterday. He wrote in excellent spirits. I hope you will soon recover. If you want anything that I can do, just command it.

S. C. Boylstone

GFP

Phelps Dodge & Co.

Cliff St. between John & Fulton,

New York, Jany. 26, 1875

My dear General Gonzales,

We are exceedingly sorry to lose your good services at St. Bartholomew's.

You have become so rapidly familiar with the peculiarities of our music -- & have such a large, powerful voice, under good control & read *so well*, that it will be very difficult for us to replace the same.

You ought to have no difficulty whatever in obtaining a real good position in any of our Protestant Churches & if I can help you toward this end at all, do not fail to inform.

Yours with kindest regards -- very truly

Chas. C. Dodge²⁶⁹

EGP

WM. ELLIOTT,

²⁶⁹ Charles Cleveland Dodge, born 1841, Plainfield, N.J. Son of William E. Dodge and Melissa Phelps, whose marriage cemented the copper firm of Phelps Dodge Corp. On December 10, 1861, he was mustered into the army as captain of the 7th New York Cavalry, a regiment originally called the 1st Battalion New York Mounted Rifles, and was its Colonel by August 13, 1862. His entire Civil War service was spent around Suffolk, Virginia, under the immediate command of General John J. Peck and the department command of Major General John A. Dix, a New Yorker. Resigned his commission as of June 12, 1863. During the draft riots of New York, suppressed by General Dix, he volunteered his services. After the war he was connected with innumerable business enterprises, including a partnership in Phelps Dodge Corp. He died in New York on November 4, 1910, and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. (Ezra J. Warner, *Generals in Blue*, Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1964, 126-127).

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR,

Beaufort, S.C., 22 March 1875

My dear Cousin

Your letter of the 19th has been received and also one from Mr Tracy²⁷⁰ stating that he had seen the Measures, but learned that you had already paid the taxes. He also gives me some information about "Oak Lawn" from which I judge the title to it must be in rather an unsafe condition. His statement is that the place was mortgaged to Hoppock to secure a large debt; that the mortgage was foreclosed by him and the place bid in at the sale for Hoppocks Estate at \$800-- That Mr Campbell who represented the Estate in Charleston promised to have the costs &c paid, but failed to do so, and that, consequently, no conveyance has ever been executed by the Sheriff. That after some delay "the place was advertised to be sold at risk of former purchaser & Messrs Wm C Bee & Co came forward, paid the costs and have done and said nothing since, as far as I know. The title is yet in Mrs Elliott." I do not know under what arrangement this money was paid by Mr. Bee, and possibly there is something yet to be done to perfect the transaction. I simply wish to call your attention to the unsettled condition of things stated by Mr Tracy, so that if all the money that is to be paid has been paid, the title maybe perfectly arranged.

I will get a reminder to Joe Jenkins as soon as I can and hope he will up to time.

I sometimes see the Day Book and like it very much, but have for a long time been taking the "World" and the "Nation" and [...] them unequal in their respective lines and to undertake to read these N.Y. papers would, I fear, leave me very little time for the study of that terrible science, for perfection in which some crusty old [...] Chancellor has declared the ordinary limits of a lifetime to be wholly insufficient. Unfortunately the old gentleman did not suggest any remedy for this inconvenience before he left us.

Very truly your
Wm Elliott

EGP

Walterboro, So. Ca.
April 28th 1875

My dear Madam

Yours of, inst has been recd. Yr lands will not be sold; Mr Binbidge will write you as soon as he can hear from Columbia; Your Petitions have both been granted.

Respectfully
A. C. Shaffer
T.C.C.
pr E

To Mrs Ann Elliott
Adams Run So. Ca.

EGP

J. L. OWEN
Manufacturer of Lumber.
Mill, Line of Port Royal Railroad.

²⁷⁰ Carlos Tracy. Confederate captain and staff officer of General Johnson Hagood in 1863.

Varnsville, S.C., May 9th 1875

Mrs A H Elliott

My Dearest Mother

I have deferred writing until today, in the hope of something turning up which might be of interest, but can think of nothing more entertaining than my own flat stale & unprofitable self.

Varnsville contains 2 saw and one grist mill -- a turpentine distillery, three stores, 2 commissaries, a church, RR depot & Tel Office. J. T. & myself occupy a large store-- with our bed room latticed off from the commissary & Office-- cool & roomy, but neither quiet nor private. Our meals are cooked and served to us nicely & regularly, a very clean & pretty black boy bringing them in a tray, setting the table & waiting upon us. With the exception of an occasional dozen of eggs-- or a string of mullet from P.R. our fare is confined to the ordinary commissary stores. Neither fresh meat, chickens, butter milk or vegetables are to be obtained in the vicinity. My daily life is as follows -- up, dressed, and at the stables at half past four, having the mules looked after, carts greased -- and started for the day, until 6 1/2 -- then breakfast-- at 8 mount Taylors horse and am in the saddle between the mill & the point where the log cutter are at work (until 12) -- at 12 see the mules fed, watered, & inspect carts & harness -- at 1 start them again, half hour after dine -- rest an hour -- then walk to the woods and remain until sunset-- see mules fed & locked up-- sup at 8-- when if we have anything to read T. reads aloud to me, if not, we call in Owen & a Turpentine man (a gentleman too) and play whist or Euchre until 10-- Then bed-- and solid sleep. Now, if we were making money, and I could be assured of my poor pay of \$35-- per month-- I would not be so unreasonable as to grumble (inaudibly though) at my lot, but O is going behind hand daily -- and break he must. So there is no telling when poor Taylor (with his large & dependant family) may be thrown out of employment-- or your well meaning but very good for nothing son may once more be compelled to seek "Mamy's chimney corner". dont be frightened however-- the danger is not imminent.

On arising from the woods yesterday at 12 M. I was nabbed by a constable, and forced to serve upon a jury. The Court was that of a Trial justice the court room, our Commissary. The offence Hog stealing. The plaintiff was a very pretty girl, with a beautiful infant in her arms. The defendant a well to do farmer. Two lawyers and a very respectable & highly intelligent jury-- R.E.E. foreman. I tried very hard not to be influenced by beauty, nor by the remembrance of the losses you have sustained by the stealing of your stock, and also dwelt upon the anguish of an aged & respectable mother when she should learn that her son was convicted of Hog stealing-- but the evidence was too strong against him & the man was found Guilty.

And now dear Mother having sufficiently tired your eyes and patience and with much sympathy for Annie Emmie and your darling old self, in all your daily troubles and anxieties, and abundance of love to Mamie & family-- to sweet little Hattie, good & clever Gertrude-- brave and obliging Willie, and (what shall I say?!!) Alphonso

I am your ever attached son

Ralph

GFP

J. L. OWEN
Manufacturer of Lumber.
Mill, Line of Port Royal Railroad.

Varnsville, S.C., June 5th 1875

My Dear Mother

I send a line to ask how you all are-- not having heard from you directly for over two weeks. I know it is a great tax upon your time & eyesight to write-- but will feel grateful if you will send me a line. Even if it be a postal card. once a week. My Sundays are not pleasant, unless I have seen your handwriting during the previous week. I am well again after suffering from a severe cold for 10 days.

Not being able to find anything nice to return in Emmies basket I sent it back yesterday with some freight Mr. Taylor was sending his wife-- directed to him-- to save cost. She will have it sent to Oak Lawn. Please return to Mrs. Taylor two of the five boxes of Lye contained therein. She also has for you a few lbs of Bacon which may be acceptable to Old Giles. I feel ashamed to send you so mean a gift but the times are hard, and will be harder.

Tell Nanno I hear often from Brosio, and would be glad of a specimen of his chirography. By the way, in his researches among the old papers please let him look up his grandfathers address on Free Masonry & forward it to me. I will read & borrow from & return it.

Excuse haste & pencil. I am in the mill & the train is in sight. Much love to each & all from your ever attached Son

Ralph

EGP

United States of America.

CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE

Whereas on the 13th day of March, A. D. 1863 , the following=described tract , lot , or parcel of land situated in the County of *Beaufort*, in the State of *South Carolina*, and particularly described as follows, viz:

South West Quarter of Block 108 according to the U. S. Direct Tax Commissioners' plat of the town of Beaufort, South Carolina was sold for the unpaid tax charged thereon, under an Act entitled "An Act for the collection of direct taxes in Insurrectionary Districts within the United States, and for other purposes," approved June 7, 1862; and whereas *Anne H. Elliott, Executrix*, has produced satisfactory evidence that she *is* legally entitled to redeem the above=described property, and that she has paid into the Treasury of the United States the amount of tax, penalty, costs, and interest required by an Act entitled "An Act to provide for the redemption and sale of lands held by the United States under the several acts levying direct taxes, and for other purposes," approved June 8, 1872, amounting to the sum *Seventy-five* Cents, the receipt whereof, in full, is hereby acknowledged and confessed:

Now, therefore, this is to certify that the property hereinbefore described, is hereby henceforth discharged from all lien, charge, or claim by reason of said tax, penalties, interest, and cost.

D. D. Pratt

Commissioner of Internal Revenue

Approved by me, at Washington, D. C., this *Seventeenth* day of *July*, 1875

Chas F. Conant

Acting Secretary of the Treasury

Original

No. 206

CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE

OF

Lands owned by the United States under the U. S. Direct-Tax Acts, situated in *the Town of Beaufort*,

South Carolina. "S.W 1/4, Block No. 108."

UNITED STATES, To

Anne H. Elliott, Executrix.

Amount paid to redeem..\$0.75

Date:

20 Aug 75

EGP

Varnsville, SC Sunday Nite [late Oct. 1875]

My dearest Grandmother:

Your letter, rec'd 2 or 3 days ago, was a *great treat*: I did not answer *at once* as I had that day written, & really, I am so *very* busy now, that I find it difficult to write you at all. Please bear this in mind, & have patience with me when I fail. Im sorry to have distressed you by my writing in pencil; 'tis quick, & as time is precious, I indulged in it: shall not do so hereafter. I was happy to have a chat, short though it was, with Brosie as he passed Yemassee yesterday, I hope that he will be able to pay you the contemplated visit of longer duration.

I conversed with him again today, hearing that you were all O.K. I saw Jack Plume as he returned to Yemassee, & intended telling K. to get him first but lo! that individual has already engaged him, which is good. He insists on my going with him, which I shall enjoy doing, if I can possibly get away. Please don't let K. entertain the *least idea* of getting me clothes; I wouldn't wear them if I had 'em, & have not even tried on the dyed suit, which please persuade him to re-habilitate himself in. Let us congratulate Sallie-- "still they come!" as Mrs. Orr says. Elliott must feel nervous, eh? I hope you received those M. T. Baskets & my letter, so-called, the other day. There has been a serious stabbing case here (Z. still in the front rank!) & I sat up all last night with the wounded man, & today consequently feel stupid, yea, extremely so. I'm reduced to scraps of paper just now, as you see. Please "put urself [*sic*] in my place" & excuse all this, on my plea of "general cussedness." Write me soon, dearest Grandmama, & believe me, with abundant love to each & all,

Your Fond

E-- [Narciso G. Gonzales]

EGP

Copy
Superintendent's Office,
Savannah & Charleston Railroad Company,
Mill Street Depot,

Charleston, S.C. Nov 20th, 1875.

Mr. N. E. Gonzales

Dear Sir:

Yours to hand & contents noted. At present I do not see anything I can put you at, but I will remember your application, & *should any position offer itself, such as you desire, I will give you the refusal of same.*

Respectfully,
C. S. Gadsden
Eng'r & Supt.
for Seabrook

Envelope addressed:

N. E. Gonzales Esq

Tel. Opr

Varnsville P.R.R.R.

S.C.

One of his excuses in his letter is, that he only meant to assist me to employment, as I was out of work at the time, but is released on account of my having a better position here. This copy will show that I had an office at Varnsville when it was written.

P.S. Will's samples which looked so fine turned out like the apples of Sodom to dust between the teeth. I challenged him to take them out with a knife, and sure enough they crumbled like Gadsden's promises, and what more can I say in the way of illustration. My boy, I'm afraid we were not born for speculators.

N.

NA, R.G. 59, Letters of Application and Recommendation during the Administration of Ulysses S. Grant 1869-1877, M968, Roll 23, Frames 283-286.

44 Great Jones Street
New York, January 8th 1876

To His Excellency

The President of the United States

Sir:

I had the honor to address you at the time of the "Virginius" controversy. On the eve of important action on Cuban affairs, as foreshadowed in your Message, I beg to repeat, in substance, what I then said, as far as I can remember.

I was born in Cuba and educated in New York city, graduated in law in Havana and was sent by the Cubans to this country in 1848 on a secret mission to Genl. Worth; was a member of the first Cuban Junta in 1849; was then sentenced to death by the Spanish Government and have been since that year a citizen of the United States. I raised, in New Orleans, the first Cuban expedition and went, in 1850, as Chief of Staff to Genl. Narciso Lopez, to Cardenas where I shed the first Cuban blood in the cause. I was recommended by nearly all the delegations in both Houses of Congress from the Southern States to Presidents Pierce and Buchanan for high diplomatic positions in Spanish America. Previous to the "Ostend Conference," Mr. Soulé, our appointed Minister to Spain, brought me from Washington to New York and introduced me to Genl. Dix, then U.S. Treasurer, with a view to my going as Secretary of Legation to France had Genl. Dix received the appointment of Minister thereto. In 1856 I married a daughter of the Hon. William Elliott, of Beaufort, the head of the Elliott family in South Carolina and a cousin of the late Episcopal bishop of Georgia. The civil war found me a citizen and resident of South Carolina and I became the only Chief of Artillery of the Dept. of S.C., Geo. & Fla. until the evacuation thereof when I acted as Chief of Artillery to Genl. Joseph E. Johnston until the surrender at Greensboro, N.C. Although my sympathies have always been with the Cubans, I have taken no part in Cuban movements since the time of Lopez expecting to act in the future as a citizen of the United States.

When you were in Charleston, after the War, on a tour of inspection, I was one of a deputation of merchants and planters who called on you to request the removal of colored troops and was introduced to you by Genl. Sickles then in Command of the Department. Ruined by the war, I

have been to Cuba four times since its close, the last one with my wife and children. Mr. Henry C. Hall, who knows me well, then U.S. consul at Matanzas and since Consul General at Havana, attended my wife's funeral. I have been in New York for the last five years supporting myself as Professor of Modern Languages and have recently been appointed by the Board of Education to teach the English language, to a very large class of Cuban exiles, in the Public Schools.

I referred you in my former letter to the Hon. Caleb Cushing, then practicing law in Washington. I will add that I have the life-long friendship of the Cuban leaders in New York.

Having been one of the pioneers in the Cuban movement, and having, in consequence suffered a score and a half years of vicissitudes, it is very natural that I should desire to be at what I hope may prove the last scene in its history. I have, for many years, been well known to many of the prominent men in all parts of the country, and hope that I may indulge in the belief that I may be considered an instrument at hand for the Government of the United States.

I have, Sir, the honor to be,
very respectfully,
your obt. servt.
Ambrosio José Gonzales

EGP

Varnsville, S.C.

Feb. 14," '76

Dear Ladies:

Letters, book & papers recd. Many thanks for same. I enjoyed Cousin Carrie's letter very much, & it gave me a longing to visit "old England" too. I am dull as usual, & this horrid weather helps to keep me in low spirits. It is raining in torrents tonight, a thing I like when in a snug house, but in this windowless & rough "shebang" 'tis *not* a luxury. Brosie writes me that he fears that Monteith is "gone up," which is about the last straw for me; I dont know how to face an indefinite prospect of Varnsville. It is gloomy enough. Tomorrow, I will have been here five months, & I can truly say, that I haven't spent a pleasant day here, not *one*, since my arrival.

Of myself I can tell you nothing, all has been stagnant since my return. Brosie & I will try & run down to see you some Sunday soon, & monopolize you all, without the "adored" Booth to divert our attentions. You ask what I think of "war with Spain." Well, the people dont fancy it a bit, nor the Press, (The "Nation" dont, of course, for in the event of a war, "where would its hands go then, poor thing?"; answer, "up a spout") but Grant is just fool or knave enough to start a row, & then for a while, Uncle Sam's ships will collapse into the jaws of the "bloody Spaniard." Altogether, it wont be pleasant to either "Nation", so-called.

Of outside politics, I suppose you are well informed:-- in the State, the different Counties are rapidly organizing for the Democracy, & the party will be in good fighting condition when the National Convention is held. The Moses-Whipper gang have had some reverses lately; that speech of Whipper's has been obliterated from the Journals of the House by order of the Legislature, & said W. is quite humbled. The next tax is reduced to 8 mills by persuasion of Chamberlain, &c &c. I feel very weak & badly tonight so please pardon my imperfections.

With much love, & hoping to hear soon from you all, I am as ever

Your loving

E. [Narciso G. Gonzales]

EGP

Varnsville, S.C.
Apr. 25, '76

Mrs. A. H. Elliott

My Dear Grandmother:

Thanks for your nice letter and its enclosure. I am so sorry to hear of Emmie's accident & trust that by this she has entirely recovered from its effects. I asked one of the Beaufort operators if he had heard how Willie E. was: he replied that he had not, for several days, so I am quite in the dark. Did not know of his sickness until you wrote, but noticed that his work as County Dem. Chairman had been delegated to some one else for the present, & presumed that his ill health was the cause. Brosie persuaded Yemassee to connect our wires for a while last night, and I enjoyed a half hour's talk with him. Am glad to observe that his sickness hasn't diminished his capacity for "slinging lightning" at a tremendous rate, tho' he says he is not quite well yet. He promised to write me today, and I hope will tell me something about his visit, for of late the old fellow's letters have run thusly: "Yours rec'd. Thanks. Excuse haste. Your Fond Bro: "K"." If the night line will run next Sunday, I will be sure to pay you a visit: I hear however, from Augusta that, on this Road at least, it will be taken off by Saturday. I hope not, for it will be my last chance of going minus a "substitute": if possible, I will get Charlie Coburn to work for me a week or ten days next month, so that I can get more than a Sunday's glimpse of you.

Ex. Gov. Joe Brown of Ga., accompanied by a party of kindred spirits, goes down to Pt. Royal today, and the citizens and R.R. men are getting excited about it. I think Joe's motive is to try to sell some of his Georgia coal to the fleet. Heard a Yankee Naval Commander telegraphing to the Mayor of Augusta for a Georgia State Flag to welcome the illustrious guest with.

Things Varnsvillic are dull, *very*. They tell me it's awfully hot here in summer, and I don't doubt it, as some days already have been almost unendurable: And now Ulysses Simpson²⁷¹ is in a hot box: hope he wont get out of it. I am getting as bad on marginal notes as "Cousin Catharine"!

The only way to keep in the office was to splash myself & the room with water every now & then. If things go on in same way, I don't know how I will endure it. I see plenty of dram fish on the road, but they are un-appetizing looking & I wouldn't accept one as a gift. I hope you are all O.K. and that this warm spell is advancing the gardens. Charleston is shipping a big amount of truck North. Tell Capt. Mrs. Derwith has died of -- Opium I think. Has the name been recovered? I hope to receive better news of W.E. when you write.

Give my best love to all, and believe me as ever,

Your Attached

Grandson [Narciso G. Gonzales]

There have been several Dem. meetings near here: the people seem to be waking up a little. I would have visited you last Sunday but my finances didn't warrant the expense.

"Sn"

EGP

Balls May 30th 1876

My Dear Nephew

²⁷¹ President Ulysses Simpson Grant.

Thanks for your prompt attention to my wants. The writing materials Papers & all came safely to hand & I now am able to write to my Friends. We have been blessed with nice showers recently which has given vigor to the Garden & things are looking blooming. My Watermelons are as long as my finger & Cantaloups the size of my fist, which is early for May.

June 13th 1876

Rather a long interval Dear Nephew since I commenced this note, but I have been very ill, -- ten days ago I was seized suddenly with a spasm of the Brain & Spine & in two minutes I was to all appearance dead, my hands & feet were as cold as Ice, I could not speak see or hear,-- Libby acted promptly, sent for the Dr. (Bissell) & then got the Bot of Camphor & rubbed my face & head & got some in my mouth, which restored me to life, a cold clammy sweat broke out all over my body & I felt a little easier. The Dr. came & as did me well, with Pills, Iron & Quinine Morphine && -- & I am now tho still in bed better, but very weak. The Dr. says it was caused from constipation of the Bou[...]. I hope to be much better in a few days. The last Papers you sent me reached me safely. Give my kind regards to Mr & Mrs [...], I will try to pay them a visit this Summer if only for a day. Since writing you about my Water Mellons, I have some as large as my head. Good bye.

Your affectionate Uncle

T. R. S. E.

I have a fine prospect for a Rice crop & it will cost me almost nothing as Irvinton Bissell presented it to me in exchange for water. He has not planted any of the ploughed land you saw.

Yours T R S E

The Charleston News & Courier

15 July 1876, 4

Obituary.

ELLIOTT.--Died suddenly, at his Plantation, on Ashepoo, on morning 14th July, Col. Thos. R. S. Elliott, of South Carolina, in the 58th year of his age.²⁷²

EGP

Charleston [Monday] July 17th [1876]

Dear Emmie,

I was greatly shocked to see in Saturday's paper Your brother Tom's death. He had always been a pleasant and affectionate Cousin to me, and I truly grieve for him, and sympathise with you all, in your grief. Do give much love to your Mother, and tell her, how deeply I feel for her, in the many bereavements she has been called upon to sustain in her declining days. Ah! one can stand poverty, if the pain of separation and death is not added to its burden. That God will grant her, and also to both Annie and yourself, all strength and consolation, in these your dark days of trial and affliction, is ever my earnest prayer.

I feel that an apology is due you for not writing sooner to say how utterly impossible Mary Pinckney and myself found it, to visit Oak Lawn this Spring. My school duties this term have been exceedingly onerous, having been called to advanced classes, so with teaching all morning and studying hard out of school, I have had little or no spare time, either for letter writing or visiting.

With much love to each of you including Ralph. Believe me ever your friend and cousin

Beth Elliott

²⁷² Thomas Rhett Smith Elliott died at the age of fifty-seven.

Charleston [Wednesday] August 23d 1876.

My dear Sister

I received your letter a few days ago, it having been forwarded to me by Henry. His Wife & children & myself left our Pineland residence the last of July. I see by your letter that you must know few particulars of your Son. His sudden death, was a great shock to us. I had received a note from him a few days before saying he felt much better, but oppressed by the heat. Every few days there was some message passing, as he would send us Musk & Watermelons which we had not. Mary, Henry's little daughter, (over 4 yrs old,) went several times to see him, when her Mother would send some trifle to him. On that fatal Friday, he had written a note to Dr. Bissell, and walked all over his fields, returned to the house; and very soon walked to the stable, where in about 1/4 of an hour or so, he was discovered lifeless. One of the Men instantly came to the Pineland house, for Henry, as he was never there in the day, we hurried the Man to the Plantation. Henry immediately sent a messenger to Green Pond, with a dispatch to you, and to his Son William. The latter never received the Telegram, until daylight Saturday morning. He started at once, but had 18 miles to ride on a Mule, & a troublesome ferry to cross, consequently it was late in the day, before he arrived. Not knowing whether he had heard, Henry made all necessary arrangements. Many gentlemen of the neighbourhood were there, & he was never left alone, with only negroes. At Sunset on Saturday he was laid in the burial ground of the Hutchinsons. It was a painful fact, that there was no clergyman, to call on; I told Henry how much I regretted, as it would always be to his family another bitter drop in the cup of sorrow, he agreed with me perfectly; and that the service must be read. He requested Mr Colcock as the oldest gentleman to do so, but on his declining, Henry performed that last act for his cousin. Dear Sister Anne, if you do not know this fact, I am sure it will be a comfort to your afflicted heart. No words that I can say will allay your grief; each Mother's heart knows the agony of parting with a child, and you are again called on in God's Providence to suffer this loss. May He the Comforter sustain you, & his Sisters under it. William had not seen his Father, since his illness in May, as he had had a Sun stroke, & been very sick for 2 weeks. He stayed with us at the Pineland, that Saturday night, and part of Sunday July 16th. The Weather, as you know had been extremely hot, and in Tom's weak condition, he could not bear up, under the pressure, of Congestion of the Brain. I can truly sympathize with you, under so sudden a death. Was not I called upon to bear the same when My Husband was wrenched from me in an hour's illness? and affliction after affliction was heaped upon us. But I trust we all can bow to the Will of Him who knows what is best for us. How do you all keep your health through the Summer on the plantation? I believe none of you have ever left it since you returned. I have often wished to stop & see you, as I have passed by, but there were too many difficulties in the way. I hear of you sometimes thro' the Pinckneys, & thro' Lessie Burnet. If either of my neices would write me, I should be very glad to hear more of you all. I live with Henry the most of the time, he has 2 children, the 2d a boy called Ralph Emms. I grieve to tell you that John has just lossed his only child a boy nearly 2 yrs old. It is a dreadful blow to them. Do give My love to Mary when you write to her, I am glad she has an opportunity of recruiting with her daughter during the vacation. I do not think that any of you know May, Henry's wife. I send for him his love to you and to his cousins. Much love from myself to Annie and Emily. Your Grandchildren I do not know, the girls must be a source of much pleasure to you all, and of constant occupation in teaching them. I am really much obliged to you for writing to me, and giving an opportunity of saying any thing that might comfort you, and opening a correspondence. Families ought not to drift apart in such

trying times as these. With love believe me your affectionate sister
S. G. Elliott

Address care of L. D. DeSaussure

La Verdad (New York)

7 October 1876, 1

IMPORTANT.

TO THE CUBAN EMIGRES.

On Monday 9 of the next month of October will start the nocturnal classes for the Cuban emigres in the building of the school of Grammar No. 25, situated on 5th Street between First and Second Avenues. The English class will be in charge of the distinguished professor General Ambrosio C. Gonzalez.

All persons who wish can assist to the classes whatever their nationality.

New York, September 30, 1876.

HILARIO CISNEROS

EGP

Grahamville S.C. Oct 11th 1876

10.30 P.M.

Dearest Grandmama:

As you requested me, so to do, I write this to report myself well & everything serene in my neighborhood. Was grateful for your Enclosures & will return them. Trust you all have got through with the rainy spell O.K. T'is getting cooler tonight & I hope ice will soon put an end to the prevailing fever hereabouts & in Sav'h where ti's as bad as ever. So few whites left in the city now that its consuming the negroes. I suppose in obedience to the Governors (?) proclamation. Dumbie will at once forward to the state armory, his "Maynard," and Bory, an old Razor which he boasted some time since. Dumbie had better state that his Maynard is of "approved pattern," & write its history & peculiarities. Coburn tells me tonight that the Captain & Dumbie propose attending another Democratic meeting tomorrow. Its "root hog or die" with us now. The returns up to now give Indiana a Dem. majority & Ohio a Rep. majority of 5000. You will know by time you get this though.

Thank Gertrude please for her note & sketches, which were duly appreciated.

Good night dear Grandmother, take care of yourselves, & with much love to you all, I am
your

Fond Grandson

Brose

Do beg Emmie to take extra care of herself & not to be so economical with her writing paper.

B.

EGP

Baltimore Nov 10th [1876]

Dearest Emmie

Mrs Buckler has just been here -- and asks me to reply to "Your very nice letter" -- She says, as You do not say that Gertrude needs education for teaching purposes. She does not think it would be right to spend so much money on a girl -- who has other chances of support etc besides which her "twelve summers" are an objection -- as she had comfort in the two pupils of 10 & 11 -- ans has now at all in those over -- but -- as I told her I would bring Gertrude to Balt with me, when I visited You. She said She would then see her -- & determine what she might be. She is a good woman everyone

says-- but as "thick headed" entre nous -- as possible It remains then for Gertrude (Anita as She said *She* would call her) to get ready to come on with me -- and as I can spare only two weeks in all, from duties here it is best, to arrange for her before I see her -- let me know exactly the things She needs -- and we can concoct to get her a suitable wardrobe for the dear child. Mrs Lefebre is anxious to have her -- and has secured some help for her School expenses & we can be independent of Mrs Buckler's aid -- if we choose. The education She will get here is thorough enough for anyone -- who is not found to pass examination in *speaking* languages. American girls, cannot be *made* to do this. I hope & trust the election did not disturb Your neighborhood-- & that You are all safe & well -- write soon
ever most lovingly

M B J[ohnstone]

of course You tend but be prudent in speaking of Mrs B.

EGP

Varnsville, S.C. P.M. Nov. 10" [1876]

Dear Ladies:

Aunt Annie's favor of the 6" was duly received, as also the various & varied packages shipped me, for all of which accept my thanks. This gloomy weather is very depressing to my usually volatile(!) spirits, so please excuse (as you are always obliging enough to do) the great & numberless defects of the following. I *think* that it is before sunset, & yet I am obliged to pen this by a lamp's rays. I am indebted to you for your kindness in getting the things; the last consignment of which, came to hand today. You may feel indignant at my delay in replying to Annie's letter, so I will explain that I sent you a note (if it could aspire to that title) on, I think, the same day which I recd it. (The above mentioned letter) Further, engrossing events, which I shall herein allude to, kept me occupied; & then I've lots of business, seven or eight Commercial messages today; "Locals," of course unnumbered. Finally, you will agree with me, that this is an elaborate excuse for a very petty fault. How about your affairs. Congratulate Mrs. L. on her "new departure" in the line of "boxes"; we "muchachos"²⁷³ have hither enjoyed too much of a monopoly in same. While not desiring to "look the gift horse &c.", I will tell you that there was absolutely no occasion for the sending of those clothes, as I am fully provided: I wear one pair of breeks & a clean shirt all day, (coat, is superfluous here) & this is everything necessary. I dont intend to send for anything to Freeman & Burr; this winter at least. I have got perfectly indifferent to dress, & am content as long as what I wear is clean & warm enough. Why, I haven't worn a collar for 1 1/2 month: "bress de Lord, I'se free niggah!" Independence is sweet! The dyed suit looks nice; wouldn't its former possessor wear it again? Ask him.

The papers were much appreciated: "Countless Gisela," I read once & am now going over it aloud to Master James P, so you may know that I admire it. Will return it soon. Regret that, after canvassing for some 1 to stay for me, I find it will be impossible for me to visit you until some indefinite time "in future." Oh! for a "substitute"! Let *no one* decry that *blessed class* again!

I hope that this horrid weather has not affected you in the manner it has been pleased to afflict me. Have a wretched cold: some days ago I was pretty "indisposed", but am now O.K

Well, Hutto has "been & done it." I told the diluted matter to Brosie, & as it is (to me) hateful to repeat an item, this account will have to be extremely concentrated. H. indulged in a "bloody

²⁷³ Muchachos is Spanish for young men.

drunk" on Friday a.m.: while here, he shot at even his most intimate chums, and at almost everyone, (luckily without effect) until the population was throughly affrighted & enraged. All the stores were closed. The same day he proceeded to Allendale, where there happened to be *some* law. That P.M., while still drunk, he observed the Town Marshal watching him, & immediately shot him down. Hutto then took for the swamp, turning & firing at his pursuers, (abt 20 citizens) & although they hunted him that night with dogs, he escaped. Saturday P.M. the Marshal died, & Wilson, the Sheriff of the County went to Allendale with his posse. Sat. night, as I was in my Office reading, I heard a knock at the window: I opened it, & there stood Hutto! He had walked the 20 or 30 miles from A. & had lost his "Hannah Jane." Well he said a few words, got his boots, which he had left with me, & then adjourned to the barroom. I immediately notified Allendale by wire, of his presence, & Wilson &c. started

[*The rest of this letter by Narciso G. Gonzales is missing*]

EGP

Grahamville S.C. 29th Nov. 1876
Wednesday night.

My Dear Emmie:

Your Tuesday's favor just received, Four bags (about 2000 pounds seed cotton) are now at Green Pond Station. I can't get the cotton here before Friday, when, the bags will be returned to John & he can send more to make the two bales you wish shipped next week. I think you can count on two being in Char. on Thursday, or Saturday at furthest. The balance of the crop can go down week after next if John keeps on hauling. He will be at Green Pond again during the next two days I think, so I can communicate with him by Telegraph. If you have any commands for him other than concerning the cotton (about which I have already instructed him), send a message to Coburn & I'll see that John gets it. The ginning will of course have to be paid for here, but I'll have it done on "tick" & Mr Bee can send the amt. when the 2nd shipment is made.

Don't worry about Trudie, its all for the best, & you'll see her next Summer. I promise you that.

You remember how hard "The Family" found it to part with Dumbie & self when we went to the Virginias?

We, however, overcame the scruples of "The Family," persevering in our laudable determination, we went, we saw, & we didn't conquer worth a cent. Graduating with all *due* honors, & a few more *not due*, we returned -- Behold the result!

Take comfort unto thyself therefore, and be not discouraged.

Things politically are indeed mixed up! I am confident t'will all come out right tho: "We will see, what we will see". Good night. Write to me whenever you conveniently can. Love to you all. Ever your fond Nephew

Brose

[This letter includes a rough drawing of Brosie working at a telegrapher's table]

GFP

Charleston 13 Dec. 1876

Gen. A. J. Gonzales
44 Great Jones Street
New York

My dear Sir:

I am in receipt, to day, of your note 11" inst, enclosing letter for your son Ambrosio José Gonzales Jr in which was enclosed a certificate of deposit of one hundred dollars, subject to his order on Oak Park Bank, New York. I have forwarded the same to him, through Miss Emy Elliott, to whom I had occasion to write to day and tender my services in having the certificate cashed here.

I regret to learn that you are still contending with adversity. Here, we are under the heel of the oppression, and God knows what is to be the result.

Yours truly,
Wm. C. Bee

EGP

St[eame]r City Point Dec 29th /76
Charleston S.C.

Mrs William Elliott

My Dear Madam

I hope this will find you and your family well as it leaves me quite well at present, I sent you A Box of Oranges last week which I hope you have recived by this time and will enjoy them

Give my respects to the young Ladies also to Mr Rafe Elliott

Wishing you A Merry Xmas and A happy New Year

I Remain Your Humble Servent [*sic*]

Edward Stephens

[Back of letter marked: Attention from a former *slave*.]

GFP

Charleston 8 Jan. 1877

Gen. A. J. Gonzales

44 Great Jones St

New York

My dear Sir:

I am in receipt of yours, 3d inst, and regret to say I am unable to give you any information whatever upon the subject you have so much at heart.

My correspondence with the family is confined entirely to small matters of business which it affords me pleasure to attend to for them. That their means of subsistence are very, very small, there can be no doubt, but I never receive a complaint, and it is marvelous how they do bear deprivations for which they would seem to be so unfitted. I know that one of your sons occupies the position of agent on the line of the S & C RR as I see "Gonzales" signed to notes of shipments therefrom, but with regard to your other children I am without any information whatever.

The certificate of deposit you enclosed me I sent to Miss Emily Elliott, and offered my assistance in obtaining the money for it, but have received no reply.

Regretting the necessity of sending you so unsatisfactory a communication.

I am very truly Yrs
Wm. C. Bee

EGP

Sunday Jan 21 1877

Dear little Minnie

Many thanks for your nice little note Mini [...] the violet. I wish you could have seen what I saw yesterday it was so beautiful It was about an emperor who fell in love with and married one of his slaves (Slaves were white in those days you know) and such a beautiful flower dance twenty or thirty girls dressed in flowers with wreaths and bouquets whirling round then there were such queer old soldiers in long gowns and big shields [*sic*] and lances Tell Nannan Madmoiselle says my pronunciation is 'tres bien' she'll know what that means Give my love to Grandma please and kiss Hattie for me

Goodbye
your loving sister

Gertrude

[The following was written in Mary Johnstone's handwriting:]

Gertrude has gone out with Mrs Lefebre for a walk and I have seized upon her letter, before the mail closes. She is getting on bravely -- with her work and appears contented. Every one is kind to her & She is thought very natural & very bright. Much love to all.

EGP

Sunday, Jan; 28, 1877

My Dear Emmy

As it is Sunday afternoon I think I will sit down and write you a letter a longer and better one I hope than my last which my Aunt Mamie sent off before I had signed or finished it. though you could not have supposed that anyone but me could have written such a letter.

I am so much obliged to you darling for your note and the inclosure of Brosie's I know how many letters you have to write and how they do bother you and so I wont ask you to write to me oftener than you wish to though I never knew till now what a delight it was to receive a home letter so I want you whenever it is most convenient for you to do so to send me a nice long letter but you must not hurrey yourself I have got through this week without a mark which is a marvel to myself because I was so very much frightened that I did not know whether I was saying my lesson right or wrong but I got along better than I should have thought considering how I felt while I was saying them Tell Nannan for me please that I shall be everlastingly obliged to her and Magnals Questions for my history for I know more of it than any other girl in my class almost. The teacher of elocution here is a Mrs Fields and she wanted us to read a piece of Yankee poetry so when Jennie Lee's turn came she slammed the book down on the floor and would not look at it I do respect her for it.

Meta is very good and sweet to me and some of the other girls are so nice Cousin Emma is just a lovely and sweet as ever and she sends you whole "heaps of "love" she says It is getting dark. Goodbye give my love to everybody

Your own loving child

G E G²⁷⁴

EGP

[12 February 1877]

My dear Miss Williams

Since seeing you on Saturday, I have told my Niece of Your intended visit to her-- (in her next

²⁷⁴ This letter from Gertrude had erasures and spelling corrections, apparently done by her aunt Mary, who possibly crossed out the last "G" in her signature.

leisure afternoon)-- and She expresses her unwillingness to receive You-- feeling a most natural shrinking from discussing with a perfect stranger, her family relations. She has a proud spirit, unlike her father who seems to have been willing to bemoan to others his ills and sufferings, and She is content with the love lavished upon her by those with whom She has lived and been cherished. I am acting (as I think) only judiciously in asking that You will oblige Me, by letting this matter rest. Col Gonzales is You tell me in correspondence with his eldest Son, who will give him all the information of his children, which he may desire. Begging that you will excuse my apparent rudeness, in declining Your visit to my Neice (at her request, and I must add with My approval).

I am very truly

M B Johnstone

59 Franklin St

Monday Feb 12th

EGP

Baltimore 20th Feb. [1877]

Dearest Emmie

Your letter received Yesterday, has greatly distressed me, for our darling Mother and I waited until this morning hoping to hear before writing that She was benefitted by the prescription You were expecting from Dr Raoul. I hope you have had chloroform linament with which to rub her back, and I do hope Betsy is with You to attend to other matters, while A & You are doing all that loving hands will do for a previous good unselfish Mother. I do envy You both, for the priviledge of caring for her -- how wonderfully independent of help she has always been. I fear it worries her now, to require help. The pain I expect is neuralgia, and only quinine will help that.

I am so glad Brosio runs down to cheer You up.

So Miss Williams -- did not say anything about the "money returned" (perhaps *that* was not copied -- but She made Me very angry, by stating that *whenever* Gen G. had sent down money, it was through Mr W C Bee I told her *no* money was expected of him. So She will not come again I am sure. She is ugly & about 50 -- I should judge & poor besides -- glad of the confidence of any Man I suppose & he glad of her sympathy.

Gertrude is well and busy. She wrote Nanno on Sunday.

My cold is better, though not well. I take C L oil, and rub under my collar bone with [...] oil -- keeping up an irritation there. The weather is cold again. A card from Elliott said he had not been out of the house for two days on account of wet weather. I fear his recovery is slow.

Good bye dearest Emmie. Kiss our darling Mother for me, and tell her how grateful I should be to be with her.

Best love to you all

ever Mary

EGP

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Dated Oak Lawn 21" [February] 1877

To A. E. Gonzales

Your Grandmother is desperately ill. If possible come today. answer.

R. E. Elliott

GFP

Grahamville, S.C. Feby. 21, 1877

Gen'l A. J. Gonzales
44 Gt. Jones St., N. York

Dear Father:

Yours of 15th, received yesterday, & tho' I'm very busy, will answer at once lest you should again misunderstand me. Your letter of eight pages was duly answered. Ti's strange that you've never received it. I gave you a full account of your children & answered all questions. I have certainly no object in concealing anything from you about Gertrude. She has only been in Balto. a few weeks, as your friend in B. keeps you posted about her, I need say nothing, except that she is a fine girl, very clever, & will have every advantage that a boarding school can afford. Tis a great comfort to have her with Aunt Mamie & she is surely fortunate. Nanno is with me here for the present, says he will write you soon. He is also very clever. Beauregard is at Oak Lawn with the family & Uncle Ralph. You have heard of course of poor Uncle Tom's death last July. He was planting at "Balls" on Cheeha, & was alone & unattended, his death was very sudden and a great blow to us all. "Minnie" is a fine boy, very manly, a great sportsman & an excellent shot, indeed he is the best of all of us. Hattie, our little pet, is very bright, & a fine child. Aunt Annie has been teaching them for years & they are well advance, learning French &c.

We are much worried about dear Grandmama. She has been quite ill this winter and a Telegram from Oak Lawn received this morning tells me she is worse, so I'll have to go down on the morning train in a few minutes.²⁷⁵

Things are in a deplorable condition in our state now. Everything quiet enough, but the people desperately poor. We can only hope for a change, & wait patiently.

Well, my train is near & I must be off.

Excuse this hurried scratch. Will write again soon.

I am Your Affectionate Son,
Ambrosio

I'll mail you some Chast'n papers in a day or two.

EGP

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Dated Charleston 23" [February] 1877

To A. E. Gonzales

Adams Run

S.C.

Will send coffin, meet body at Depot, do you wish funeral service at church? say at Ten A.M.?

C. C. Pinckney

18 Collect

J.

EGP

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

²⁷⁵. Ann H. Elliott died on 22 February at Oak Lawn of "nervious disability" at the age of 74. She was buried next to her husband and daughter Caroline in the Elliott lot 1172 in Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, on 24 February 1877. *Register of Burials*, No. 2, p. 2.

Adams Run Feb'y 23rd 1877
To Rev C C Pinckney
64 Tradd St
Charleston S.C.

Your telegram received. That arrangement will suit. Her age would have been Seventy-five years, on fifth of April.

A. E. Gonzales

18 D H Local

EGP

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Dated Charleston 23" [February] 1877

To The Condr--

You will pass the body of Mrs Elliott to Chas-- & the friends of the deceased from Adams Run to Charleston & return.

C. S. Gadsden

Supt [Savannah & Charleston Rail Road]

The Charleston News & Courier

24 February 1877, 4

Funeral Notices.

ELLIOTT.--Departed this life at "Oak Lawn," on the 22d instant, Mrs. Ann H. Elliott, wife of the late Hon. William Elliott, in the seventy-fifth year of her age.

Her Relatives and Friends, and those of the family, are invited to attend her Funeral at Grace Church, This Morning, at half-past 10 o'clock.

EGP

Saturday [March 1877]

Dearest Sisters

I have the inclination, to write You every day, but not of course the ability, for interruptions in a household of over thirty people are incessant. I do so long to know how You have gotten through with this long sad week -- it has seemed never ending to me, and my thoughts are constantly with You. It is harder for You whose every care and anxiety were centered in one particular object, to have to relinquish that loving charge-- and turn to other thoughts-- but oh! how lucky for You, to still have those for whom You *must* think and act. Dear Emmie I dread to hear that Your strength has been too much strained by Your labours-- kept up-- by that strong will of Yours -- do tell me if You have taken the rest so much needed and if there is a servant to aid You.

The weather is mild and I think my cold of three weeks standing decidedly better. Your pet is also well again, the quinine curing her headache. She is growing fast-- is really a big girl, very large for her Years. Her Music lessons begin on Monday. She is very bright and Mrs Lefebre's says all the more interesting for her slight stammer. Well Hayes is President. I wonder if Grant's last act will be to recognize Hampton, as they say

Good bye God bless & Keep You all
ever Yr devoted Sister

[Mary B. Johnstone]

EGP

Grahamville S.C. March 3rd 1877
Saturday A.M.

Dear Uncle:

I wrote you some days ago asking for instructions in regard to Cheeha, & when you desired me to go over there. Soule tells me the letter was only sent you yesterday, I am expecting an answer today. The grist & coffee were ordered on Monday last and I believe went up next day. I send you by Freight train today a Five gallon can Kerosene Oil which will last you a while. The article has been very high of late, & seeing a notice of a sudden reduction, in the Sav'h market, I immediately engaged a couple of Barrels to parties here and telegraphed down for it. I made 25 Gallons by the transaction so have a supply for all of us for several months. The Cotton Seed I am expecting from Mr Howards today. I have also about 12 or 13 Bushels Rice Flour for you, which I'll send down from time to time. So as not to crowd the Conductors. Will try & send a couple of Bags by Passenger Train today. I send you some of the Ku Klux Corn Seed. If you can manure your little patch & give it a trial twill pay for the planting. I have some to carry to Cheeha with me. I send you an oil feeder that you will find useful in filling Lamps & Lantern, & an extra burner for the latter. Will carry plough lines &c to Cheeha & order one, or two ploughs as may be needed. If you want me to go over to the Bluff on Monday, do telegraph me this evening. Nanno said he though Bory would go over on Monday with the mule. Nanno went to Green Pond night before last at the request of the Journal of Commerce to report the riot, but as everything quieted down yesterday, he returned, after writing a letter by mail. He joins me in love to you all. Hope the Ladies are well, Will be there soon.

Very affectionately Yours

Brosie

EGP

Sunday March 11th [1877]

You will think I am long about writing my darling, but I have not had time until now so I will take the first opportunity of sending you a note though everything is just the same, one day is more like another here than it was at Oak Lawn for these I could remember what came on one day and what on another but regularity mixes me up Im sorry to say and I cant even remember what day I write letters and what I do not but Im going to try and write to you three times every week on Tuesday Friday & Sunday and keep to my apointment so you will know when to hear from me. I dont know how many times I have read your last letter it was so sweet just like your own dear self. I did not mean Willie to know that I found fault with it and I am glad you did not please try and get him to write it would give me so much pleasure if he only would. ~~Is de~~ Does dear little Hattie miss me very much? I think if I can Ill put in a note to her. I am glad you are going to call Minnie Willie. Ill call him so two since Grandmama would like me to. I sent a letter to Brosi yesterday not much of a one for I cant write all I want to say I am so glad I had Excellent in spelling on my report, you would not think it from my letters would you? I am sorry Betsey has gone as she was much a help to you I really dont know what more I have to say my darling M. Emmie I should like to know about everything at home I feel just as much interest in everything around these as if I were with you.

Is Bory going on just the same? and has he any more liking for books? Do you think if I was to write to him that he would (as soon as he were able) answer me? give him my love I feel so much for Uncle Ralph tell him I think of him very often. We are quite well and I am not at all thin that I can see. Ask Nannan if she thinks that my report does her justice and tell her that it is only owing to her nice teaching that I like my lessons and get on so well I never told you what that mark was for. It was

for Geography & she must expect to see another for Grammar but I hope these will be all. Meta sends her love and a kiss for Hattie Well darling I must say goodbye now Love to all & a great deal for you my precious. Your loving baby

G E [Gertrude Elliott]

PS No other G on to *my* name I have not heard any thing more about the Old man or Miss W. that letter was a hard pill to swallow I expect

EGP

[New York] Monday afternoon March 12th [1877]

I feel as if I had written you a very crazy letter last week dearest Mary. The truth was that I got several letters at the same time I opened Aunt Sue's first telling me of [...] engagement, & then yours, thinking of course it contained the same news, and when it told me of poor Mrs Elliott's death, it gave me a great shock. The [...] & Mr Foster were here for tea, & altogether it upset me very much. Friday eveng I received such a very correct note from Miss Emily Elliott. She said her dear Mother had left her love for me when she was giving different messages to her family. Was it not kind in her to think of me at such a time? Saturday afternoon I got your note, telling me of [...] engagement, & today, a very sweet letter from Mrs Johnstone, to whom I wrote about Gertrude's going into mourning, which she has done. They all seem to feel the old Lady's death very much indeed. Mrs J. says her Brother Ralph is to live at Oak Lawn with his sisters at his Mother's request. Is he young or old, married or single? And now dear Mary to go back to your [...] news. I have already sent our warmest wishes to [...], for her happiness, but hope it won't be amiss to repeat them. Hamilton says "Give my congratulations to him." Annie tells me Wm is so very nice & so does Aunt Sue. I don't know him at all. I know you and Belle must feel badly, particularly Belle but tell her, I shall not be surprised soon to hear of her. How all your Southern girls do marry! *You* can't say a word my dear for I am sure you set them the example easily enough! Oh don't you remember how Arthur teased you, pretending he was going to tell [...] & myself a secret of your's? I was laughing with Willie about it, only yesterday morning when we were dressing. You ask about Gonzales. I have never heard one word about him, since that once that I wrote to you about. Is he in New York? I was obliged to go to town for some shopping last week, & as I am *very* careful of my old self, I went Thursday & Saturday, not to get tired out either time but I must confess I felt pretty tired by Sat evening. I hope the Boys will like their clothes. I did not wait for your measures, but as the tailor had kept a record of their last ones, I got each one a size larger. Tell Mamie one of her dresses is exactly, & the other almost like Katies. I think I shall have to go down [...] this week. Sallie has every thing in nice order in 41st. St. but oh Mary, how strange it all seems to me to go there. On the 18th of this month it will be one year since [...] suddenly sent for to take care of our dear Mother, during her last days with us. It does seem so long ago. We hear rather better news from Boston, Grandmother had not had a severe turn, for over a week, & Mr Cary was better although he was still in bed. They feared Pneumonia, but it proved to be Excessive Bronchitis. Mrs Schuyler is much the same but just now, in addition to her other illness she has an irritation of the skin, all over her Body which is excessively trying to her. Lon & Georgie are perfectly devoted to her. We have just come from Da[...] School. Unless it is decided that they will take a few extra lessons next Monday will be the last of the Quarter. Now my dear, I must bid you good bye, & take a little rest before Willie comes home. I try to lie down for a little while every day, but I am very well. Give my very best love to all yr circle & believe always in the sincere love of yr cousin

Lena L. Cary

Evening. Willie brought up a letter from Annie. Grandmother has had another attack & Mr C is still in bed. I begin to fear they are both pretty sick & as she is 72, & he 82, it makes us of course very anxious.

GFP

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Grahamville, March 14th 1877

Dear Uncle:

I returned from the Bluff on last night's train & tho' I'm almost asleep now, not having had a wink, I must scratch a note. I found everything all right. James & Betsey treated me as t'was possible for anyone to do. Found the mules in good order. Had to talk to the hands, who didn't believe John in every instance, but think they are all right now. The preparation of land is very backward. John hopes to get in half his corn next week. The land he is going to plant is, as a rule, excellent. He can plant forty, perhaps forty five acres Corn, some peas, later in the Season and the highland rice. He will need supplies, which I'll send him. Will send some Grist, to enable him to send some corn to Oak Lawn which he will do about Saturday. The houses generally are in very bad condition but the hands will wait till crop is laid by to repair them. By sending the Grist, John will have corn to carry him through the season, I think, & a good supply of fodder also. I will run over now & then during the season & see that things go straight. The negroes were all very civil & some old time hands came from the neighboring places to see me. The last mule has improved very much & will be able to do good work. I have fixed John up two plows, & he will get one to work this week. James & I rode all around yesterday, went down to the Social Hall Causeway, which is a perfect river now. Was delighted with the little Cheeha river, there are certainly some beautiful spots on the Bluff near the old Landing by Brick Kiln.

There are some good bricks there. Do they belong to the Bluff?

How about your [...] poles? Do let me hear at once. Will send you some more flour.

Nanno joins me in much love to all. Heard from Balto., all there well.

Ever yr fond Nephew

Brosie

EGP

Thursday March 29th 1877

Your nice letter came yesterday dear M' Emmie and as you may suppose I was very glad of it for we have not heard from you for a long time²⁷⁶ The Easter holidays began yesterday and will last till Monday week so Ill have plenty of time to write You need not be afraid of my studying too hard I dont study half enough The report were given to the girls I send you mine which is better than I expected I was not marked for that geography you must excuse the looks of it; it got all mashed up If Brosie would like to see please send it to him.

You asked me about Mrs Sanchez. She is very nice, not at all like a Cuban and has nothing in her to remind me of ~~Cuba~~ one.²⁷⁷ Cousin Emma is here now spending a part of the day with Aunt

²⁷⁶ None of the letters from Emily Elliott to her niece Gertrude are in the Elliott-Gonzales Family Papers. They possibly contained disparaging remarks about her father and were probably later destroyed by the family.

²⁷⁷ This letter from Gertrude was also apparently corrected by her aunt Mary.

Mamie. The sun is out and shining brightly though it snowed last night Aunt Mamie just told me today what that 1st on the report means it is *among* the first of the class not the *very* first so you must not think I am that I have not time or room to write any more as I must put my report in and also go to my music After dinner I am going to the station with Cousin Emmy to meet Cousin Mamie I am so glad she is coming Good bye Give my love to all

Your loving ~~child~~ baby

[Gertrude Gonzales]

GFP

Grahamville April 2" 1877

Gen'l Gonzales.

44 Great Jones St.

New York City

Dear Father:

Thank you for your note received some time ago. I have really not had the heart to write, and do so now lest you should think yourself forgotten. We are all well, but have suffered a heavy loss & feel very sad. We thank you for your sympathy, and for the tribute you justly pay to one who we will ever regret, and whose loving kindness, and innumerable virtues can never be forgotten while life lasts. How have you been? and how are you getting on? I had intended going to N. York and Baltimore for a trip this Spring, but find that my business won't allow of it, as I can ill spare the time I would have to be absent from work.

What a wretched muddle we are in politically? Hayes still hesitates, and the people can't stand it much longer. Down here its Hampton,²⁷⁸ or fight, and Chamberlain²⁷⁹ seems to understand the situation. Spring is full upon us now, tho' the weather is still cool, and the farmers are busy getting in their little crops. In riding over the "Bluff" plantation some days ago, I had a glimpse of "Social Hall." The rice fields at high tide look like a large river, and are covered with marsh, five or six feet high. Looking across the water from "Proud Hill," you can hardly see the pecan trees for the growth of pine saplings, 'tis a perfect wilderness. Do write me & tell me all your plans. Nanno joins me in love & good wishes.

I am your fond Son,
Ambrosio

EGP

Southern Express Company,
Express Forwarders

Grahamville April 9th 1877

Dear Aunt Emmie:

We have almost given up our correspondence and I feel myself guilty of not having been punctual in answering your always acceptable letters, & will try and avoid such Errors in the future. 'Tis so fearfully dull here now tho' & I can't plead business as an excuse that its a hard matter to

²⁷⁸. On 11 April 1877, elected Governor Wade Hampton entered the State House.

²⁷⁹. Daniel H. Chamberlain, a Northerner who had served one term as South Carolina Republican governor and was promising reforms for reelection.

scrape up anything to say. I heard from Gertrude two days ago. She was well, and cheerful. Speaks of her Endeavors to wean the *leech*, as she calls the young Battelle, from Coz Mamie. How have you all gotten through this rainy spell[?]. We had a stunning hail, & wind storm, with thunder and lightning last evening. The cloud was of a bright green color, never saw anything like it before. Did you receive the young nigger OK? & what does Uncle R. think of him? By the way, I think of going to Charleston on Friday. I want, among other things to see Brookbanks about the Cream, so do ask Uncle R. to meet me at Adams Run, or if not practicable to write me when he thinks he will have Cattle enough to Com[*torn*] shipping. Anything you wish attended to in Charleston, please make a memorandum of, & send to me, & if there are any flowers in bloom I would like to have a few if convenient. I will be a day in the city, & stop at home on my return.

Everything at Cheeha OK. Corn planted & Rice will be, this week. Trust your garden hasn't had too much rain. Well I must write Trudie a note before train time, so good bye.

Much love to all from both of us.

Your ever fond Nephew

Brosie

GFP

Southern Express Company,
Express Forwarders

Grahamville, S.C. April 24" 1877

Gen'l Gonzales

44 Great Jones St
New York City

Dear Father:

Your letter of Apl. 9th was received some days ago, & I regret that an absence of a week has delayed my reply. Am very sorry to learn of your sickness, trust you are feeling well again. The Northern Climate is so severe that one has to use every precaution against a return of any disease once acquired, hope you will take care of yourself. Gertrude has been quite unwell lately but is improving. I am sorry you should have been distressed by Miss William's²⁸⁰ report of my little sister. I don't think it at all strange that she should refuse to see Miss W. Gertrude is averse to strangers, and the fact of Miss Williams' being distinguished would make no difference with her. Mrs. Wyman has *not* taken charge of her. She is at Mrs. Lefebvre's school, where Aunt Mamie is Matron, and is directly under her charge. Aunt Mamie took her on to Balto. some time in the latter part of January, in her return from a trip South. Our old state is at last able to look up again, I was at the Hampton procession in Charleston on the 18th, and it was a grand affair. Wish you could have seen it. I saw in a paper the other day, a notice of your departure for Venezuela. If you leave New York, where will you probably go? I wish you could get an opening down South, but for the present 'tis next to impossible to get employment in any capacity. I may go north on a visit this Summer. I have been offered several positions north & west, but as long as there's anything to do in the old state I'll stick by her. Nanno tells me he wrote you some days since. He joins me in love. All the children are well, also Aunts Annie & Emmie, & Uncle Ralph, who are at Oak Lawn. Do write soon, & Excuse haste.

I am your fond Son

²⁸⁰ Martha Custis Williams.

EGP

Grahamville S.C. May 6/ 1877

My Darling Trudie:

You can't imagine how very much I miss your letters, and how worried we have all been at your sickness. I sincerely trust that you are all right now and, (as the darkeys say,) "that this will find you well, as it leaves me at these presents." I am all alone (without the glory), Nanno having deserted the Wigwam a week since, on a visit to the "Gude folk at home." He went down on the same train with Cousin Mary Pinckney, who stopped at Oak L. on her way from Savannah to Charleston on Monday last. Cousin Carrie Mitchell went up on Tuesday & returned same evening with Coz Mary, the train taking them up at the Avenue. Aunt Emmie writes me that the visit was very pleasant, the weather fine, and the garden in full bloom. The beauty, and chivalry of Adams Run and Toogoodoo, made up a fishing party on Wednesday last, and extended to Nanno and Beauregard pressing invitations to join them, which those gentlemen thought proper to accept without parley. They went to "White Point," somewhere on Toogoodoo, in buggies, carts &c, and got boats there & went on their way rejoicing. to the fishing ground. The whole Taylor family went, & a lot of girls, including Miss Anne King, whom you know I believe. Uncle Ralph with characteristic gallantry, took Mrs Taylor & her children down in the buggy, leaving her fair female offspring to the tender mercies, and tendered escort of the boys. Miss Lucia, (*not* "di Lammermoore") having returned from the up Country, was of the party. Nita & Nanno, are doubtless now, sitting in some piece of old driftwood by the "Sad, sad Sea", & in a low voice softly asking each other, "What are the Wild Waves saying?" I'm expecting Dumbie back tomorrow. Tis probable that he will spend the next week in sleep, but if he don't, will make him write you an account of his journey, far countries for to see. I'll send you some papers so that you can see how we are getting on politically down here. The Violets and Jasamines are all over now, so I've nothing sweet to send you. The weather has been very variable this Spring, and has injured the Crops, as well as the flowers. For nearly a week, it has been clear, & cold, & even frost, but today is sultry, & we are having a heavy thunderstorm.

The blackberry season has commenced, & a new era opens for the Son of Ham,²⁸¹ for the next month, the voice of contentment will be heard in the land.

Well I've about tired you enough, don't you think? Tis twelve o'clock, the "Witching hour of night," when rats & mice hold high carnival, & "all honest folk should be abed." Thro' the open window, comes the sigh of the night wind thro' the pine tops, with the voice of the tree frog chanting his midnight hymn, as an accompaniment, while within, the festive Mosquito imagines himself J. Madison Wells, & "Counts me out." As soon as you are able to write dear, drop me a note. Do ask Aunt Mamie if she can, to send me a postal on receipt of this, to let me know how you are.

Good night Darling. With much love to you all,
I am your fond old Brother [Brosie]

EGP

Grahamville May 8" 1877

Dear Aunt Emmie:

Dumbie arrived safely, and seems to have enjoyed his visit immensely. He tells me you think

²⁸¹ Son of Ham refers to blacks.

of going to Charleston soon. I enclose a pass. If you take any of the children they won't need any. Hope you will have a pleasant time. Let me know when you go. You had best go on Ladson's trip. I forgot to tell you that I saw Dr Ben Burgh in Chas. the other day. He sent you all his love. Nanno tells me Cousin Mary Man paid you a visit the other day, this the first I've heard of it. Saw the notice of Caro's wedding in yesterday's papers. I send Uncle Ralph a bag Rice flour by Freight Train. Have you commenced taking Quinine or Chinchonidia yet? Do tell me when to commence taking it.

In haste, & with much love to all,
Ever affectionately,
Brosio

GFP

Southern Express Company,
Express Forwarders

Grahamville Je 22" 1877

My Dear Aunt Emmie:

I have again, to thank you for your Basket received. Indeed, had I not been schooled in the matter of returning thanks while at "Coz Catharines," I would be at a greater loss of words to express my gratitude, than I am. How have you been feeling in this suffocating weather? After this week, there will be a barrel Ice at the Depot for your every Saturday. I sent Bbl Grist yesterday. When Uncle R. is at leisure he can send me a bushel. No hurry as I've enough to last a week yet. Hope Nanno is having a good time. I will send his shirts tomorrow if they come in from the wash.

Train time, & in big hurry. Love to all. Ever Affectly
Brosie

I enclose Pass

GFP

Southern Express Company,
Express Forwarders

Grahamville, S.C. June 23" 1877

Gen'l Gonzales

Washington D.C.

My Dear Father:

Many thanks for your letter and enclosure, duly received, and which indisposition has prevented my answering sooner. 'Tis kind of you to write me so constantly, and so fully, and your letters are appreciated, I assure you. The trunk came to hand safely. We are much obliged for the contents. The works on Agriculture are very interesting reading and I am enjoying them. Nanno is again absent, has been to Oak Lawn, and is going on a fishing excursion from there early next week with a large party. Bory among the number. 'Tis so very dull here, and the weather so oppressive, that I'm glad when he gets a chance to go off. The monotony of country office life is rather hard on a young chap who is unaccustomed to it. It don't trouble me much however. Have been keeping Bachelors Hall for three years & am used to its dullness & discomfort. I am in the office generally from seven in the morning until twelve at night, & having no one to talk to, & seeing very few people after the trains pass, spend most of my time in reading. This may be more egotistical than interesting, but you can forgive me, as I've nothing else to write about.

Gertrude has done wonderfully well at school. Having been thoroughly grounded in French

&c, by Aunt Annie, she is a great favorite with her teachers, and is highly spoken of in her reports. Willie and Hattie also study French and pronounce very prettily.

Alphonso has developed a most extraordinary turn for mimicry. Some of his imitations of people are as good as can be seen on the stage & he is very popular in consequence. He is a regular country squire, devoted to riding and hunting.

I am glad to hear of the preservation of your voice. Would like exceedingly to hear you sing again. Hope you may get some choral position in Washington. Do you think of going into business there? or is it in the endeavor to obtain some Southern place that you go there? Wish you could come further South before Winter sets in. This State as I suppose is the case everywhere, is in a [...] condition. Most people living from hand to mouth & I see men of good family and education working at \$15.00 per month & some with families to support at that! With even moderate capital much can be done, but without it, nothing. I suppose tho that a change will come soon, as we can't be worse off, but the night is long. The Crops are so far looking well. I have the management of some planting at Cheeha which together with some timber that I am getting out here keeps me fully employed, besides my office duties.

Excuse the dulness of this epistle, there's nothing I can tell to interest you.

Hoping to hear soon. I am, Your Affectionate Son,

Ambrosio

GFP

Southern Express Company,
Express Forwarders,

July 1" 1877

Gen. A. J. Gonzales

Washington D.C.

My dear Father:

I was surprised and sorry to find that you had not apprehended the reason of my silence. Your letter reached here when I was away on an excursion, and as you requested an immediate answer before leaving New York, Brosie answered in my stead. Of course, when I returned, we considered it too late for my answer to reach you there. When you wrote again, early in June, I would have answered at once, but we were entirely out of writing materials, supplies having failed to come. I am just back again after ten days absence, and am for the first time able to write. It is very hard at any time to write anything of interest regarding our hum-drum lives here, and impossible now, everything being so stagnant. Have been spending a few days at Oak Lawn: the children well, and making excellent progress in their studies. Hattie is very clever, and owing to her bringing-up, a little woman in some things. She reads very prettily, and is studying French &c. Willie is not as quick, but is very persevering and a satisfactory scholar. Aunt Annie teaches both. W. has a turn for mathematics and is an incorrigible calculator and dictator of problems. He plays chess and is a better shot than the majority of us. "Bory" is the "Tony Lumpkin" of old. He is the most popular individual in St. Paul's -- eschews literature, with the exception of newspapers, affects outdoor sports, and is deep in canine and equine lore. Of Brosie, you can judge from his letters. He is one of our "enterprising citizens" -- Sanguine of success in his many projects for becoming the Rothschild of South Carolina. He possesses an [...] table will, which he must be able to put to account one of these days. I can endure not having any paying employment just now, as I am almost certain of a place in August, on the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph force when the office is opened in Charleston, or in one of the several

openings which I know will occur at the time. I only write from a sense of obligation tonight -- feel in miserable trim for it. The extreme heat has almost prostrated us. When I write again I hope to improve on the exceeding inanity of my letters (!) to you so far. You have my most sincere wishes for your success in Washington. I hope you will write me whenever you can, and tell us how you fare.

With much love from Brosie and myself,

I am ever Your Attached Son

N. G. Gonzales

EGP

Monday 9th of July 1877

Weymouth Mass

My own precious M'Emmie

Thank you oh so much for both of your letters, one received this morning the other just a few minutes ago so you may imagine how glad I was of them The letter directed to Quiney was forwarded and came all right, so here I am, going (if I can) to write you a long & communicative one in reply I'm so sorry to hear that our dear little Puss is looking badly (I'd willingly change places with her tho' I don't think I would mind mosquitoes or heat if I could get home again) & do hope she will improve I wonder what you all are doing this long rainy afternoon how I should like to know.

I got a letter from Brosie too this morning of course I was glad but don't you think it was mean of him to tease me about being a Yankee? he knows I would not be here if I could help it & that the place I hate above all others is Yankeeland so I don't see why he should, do you? The fact is tho' I don't know if Brosie or Nanno wrote that letter yes it must have been Brosie too for he spoke of Nanno's having returned to Grahamville you see B never signs his name, so I sometimes can't tell. You ask me to tell you about the people of Weymouth, the *Cottage* is not in any *place* exactly but is by itself the post office however is Weymouth. The only people I know are the Byrds (who I think I told you about) and the Amorys little Anna Amory is very nice indeed she is the granddaughter of the M'Amory that you know but her father married a French governess I believe so they are not on good terms. These are all the people I know at present.

I can scarcely think of you as having changed places with Nannan how do you like teaching? I'm afraid you don't very much though. Like the awkward creature that I am I fell down on a rock the other day and as usual my knee got the brunt of it, so I'm limping around now with a miserable feeling of crippledness.

Mr Wyman takes us out on long drives in the evenings over a rocky country he took us to see the granite quarries the other day and what a time we had climbing up again! The weather has changed from cold to hot with rains every day or two but is still much more agreeable than Baltimore. Cousin Emma has received another nice long letter from Aunt Mamie she is well and is enjoying herself greatly it seems Edith is better but her bad looks worry Aunt Mamie very much

Dear me! what a fashionable young man Alfonso is getting sitting up all night at a ball and dancing the square dances a wonder who taught him? I think tho that he *might* write to me he said he would but I suppose he is too much occupied for it. I hope that

[the rest of this letter from Gertrude R. Gonzales is missing]

Savannah Morning News

13 September 1877, 1

Florida Affairs.

The people of Quincy have been enjoying some musical treats in the singing of Professor Gonzalez, a celebrated baritone of New York.

EGP

Sunday Octo 21st 1877
Baltimore M'd

My darling M'Emmie

I received your sweet long letter several days ago & am almost ashamed of myself because of my tardiness in answering it but t'was only for the reason that I have no time to write except on Sundays so you must not blame me What a glorious time you must have had on the seashore I would just have given any thing to have been with you & enjoyed it too I can easily imagine Willie & Hatties delight while there. The seashore (so called) that I was on this summer was not any sea shore at all for Father Ocean was miles & miles distant and the only way that we could see it was to go up on top of a hill & that was not like being close to it.

Cousin Emma has at last returned after having been three weeks in bed with asthma of which Aunt Mamie never heard a word until Jenny Daves came round & told me that Cousin E had come back from the Cottage with her mother, so Aunt Mamie went round and saw her & yesterday brought her round and is now trying to build her up with beef tea & milk she is just as sweet as ever but looks pale & weak. There has been an opera troop here for the last week ~~who have been~~ that the girls have been going to see nearly every night. I did not want to go but Aunt Mamie sent me to the matinee yesterday & I was very glad afterwards that I had gone for I never enjoyed any thing so much in all my life. The piece or whatever you call it was called Faust and the music even now rings in my ears. Edith is some where on a visit now I can't tell exactly where for I've forgotten she has improved a great deal since her return to Balt-- and I hope that Cousin E will do the same. Aunt Mamie says that she has no time to write now but will towards the middle of the week sends love thanks you for your last to her & cet. I had a nice long letter from Brosie this morning he has written me so many letters since my last that I am afraid he'll be offended. Does the Old Man still write to him? You know Miss Martha Williams has married a Col. Carter from Virginia & gone off with him I'm awfully glad now she can't bother me any more

I have no more time to write so must say goodbye with much love to all Ever Y'r loving

G

EGP

Ashley St. [Charleston, S.C.] Nov 7th 1877

My dear Emmie,

I am ashamed to think how long I have left your last letter unanswered--but since my return home I have been very busy indeed-- and in addition to other employments have done a great deal of copying for Julian. I want much to know something of you all has cinchonidia proved itself equal to quinine, & kept you all well? Was the projected trip to Clark's Bay carried out? how [...] are the School Scheme? and how are the cows behaving? have you enough Butter to fill your orders now?

I am not unreasonable enough to expect you to write answers to all these questions, but I expect you to answer them by word of mouth -- as I write now to claim the faithfully promised visit of Hattie & yourself "in the fall--" I am sure since this cool change you can leave the plantation with safety. If so send a card today when I may expect you. Mamy and the children returned last week -- with Tom & Eddie & all the girls except Annie who stopped in Columbia for Emmie Barnwells

wedding which comes off tonight, as you know (I find you always know things before I do)-- Papa & Sallie sail from New York today -- and Tom & his family talk of coming on the end of this week but their movements you know are always uncertain-- Poor little Coteworth seems almost well again. Have you heard how ill Charley was with fever on his annual phosphate visit to the North in September? I hardly knew him when he returned -- but he is looking well again now. I rather think he will have more respect for quinine in future. I hope you hear good news of Gertrude-- and that Hattie is not outgrowing her strength any longer, and that Brosie has been guilty of no more [...] rudeness. I must not forget to tell you that when we got on the train at Compton [Virginia] on our way home from the Healing Springs, a Baltimore lady-- a mutual acquaintance informed me that Gonzales was in the next cars' he was on his way from the Sweet Springs to Washington where he gives music lessons. So my friend said. I hope you will come soon & bring Hattie to see me and with much love to her & to all I am dear Emmie always affly yr's

C

What a day this was last year! and how much better things are now though there is so much poverty & distress still with land.

EGP

Savannah Ga
Dec 6th [1877] 1030 P.M.

Miss Emily Elliott
Oak Lawn

My dear Emmie:

I was very glad to learn from Soule that Brosie was sufficiently improved to allow of his sitting up today. I can infer how worried you have been about him. I was shocked to see how badly he looked when I ran up to Grahamville, and have been very anxious about him from the first.

Please don't be severe on me for not writing before; I have been intending to do so ever since I returned, but since attaining an O.K. condition after my chills I have been unable to sleep in the daytime and at night was consequently so worn out that I could only copy my messages before relapsing into stupidity extraordinarily. When in the last night or two I have been in condition to write, some train wrecks step in and nullify my intentions. I think this is the sixth or seventh train ditched and smashed up since I have been on duty. Once a week is the average. Last night I had seventy five day messages some of them letters to copy besides plenty of other business, and tonight there is a cheerful prospect of at least fifty to attend to before morning.

I have been at my new hash house about ten days, and am still congratulating myself on escaping the Greek widow. The family I am staying with is rather a large one: Mrs Kransov, the dame, her mother, children, several sisters, brother and his wife. Family name, Falligant,²⁸² a well known one in Savh. Own plantations, and houses but in tolerably reduced circumstances &c. Am well satisfied. They make me "at home" and as they are "gentle people" I benefit by the change in several ways. Coffee and butter unexceptionable! More anon. I called at Elliott's twice, both of them being out the first time. On Monday I found Sallie in, Elliott not having returned from his office. She is "ever so sweet" and not at all babyish as I had slightly anticipated. I also cultivated the acquaintance

²⁸² Sarah A. Falligant, widow John G., boards, 171 Jones. A. E. Sholes, *Shole's Directory of the City of Savannah, January 1879* (Charleston: Walker, Evans & Cogwell Printers, 1879), 212.

of Miss Edith who developed a passion for kissing me. (A regular Elliott, Sallie said; The Elliotts were *so* fond of kissing. Maybe that was a reflection on my cousinly greeting but I didn't ca[*torn*]). I really can't tell you anything about them now, Sallie kept me on the subject of the Elliotts so much during my visit of a half hour. She seems so proud of you all, poor little thing (Ahem!) She is to escort me to Aunt Meta's when I have a chance to go, and was very cordial generally. She wishes E. & herself *could* induce the Miss. Elliotts to come down and stay with them a while. E. is kept very busy and is in his office until 8 or 9 o'clock with Fred Johnstone. When I next write I hope to give you some more satisfactory information than this. I didn't get a chance to ask a question. I met F. P. Huger (whom I struck up an acquaintance with at Allendale) down town with Fred Habersham. We were introduced but he didn't recognize the name so I wouldn't reveal my identity just then. Well, I must wind up now and go to work. Please tell Brosie with my love, that I expressed him \$34 this evening as soon as I got paid off, to cover the two C.O.D.'s and charge. I'm not certain if the amount is correct. My pay was but for 2/3 month & not sufficient to pay B. & my late lamented, so negotiated a loan with the Paymaster to settle next month. I have a little cash over, so please let me know when I can do anything for any of you here. Many thanks for the box. I couldn't pass 'em all and what I did, was at a discount, but it was a great lift. The pecans, you will be glad to hear (sanitarily) ~~that~~ I haven't half finished yet. Forget them. Please write as soon as you can. Will do better next time. With much love to you all

Your attached

N.

EGP

Southern Express Company,
Express Forwarders

4 o'clock P.M
Decr 26" 1877

Dear Aunt Emmie:

Several times have I attempted to write you during the last few days, & have been interrupted every time. Many thanks for all the good things sent. They make me feel like a prize box 'round the waist. I saw some boxes on the train from Sav'h on Monday, so opine you were remembered by friends there. The box for Hattie which I sent down on Monday came from Balto addressed to Osborn, & that place being unknown to Expressmen, & I being the only possessor of the illustrious name, known to the fraternity, they concluded that I was the man & sent it up here. Nanno came up on Monday & spent a couple of hours with me. He was looking very well, & with his face washed, & his new suit, looked

[The rest of this letter from Ambrose E. Gonzales is missing]

EGP

Grahamville Jany 3" 1878.

Dear Aunt Emmie:

Thanks for your Basket & letters. Have only a moment before train. Dewees says he thinks my dimness of eyesight is from being kept in a dark room so long. Has given me prescription for it. Hope you are well all round. Barney Fuller is up on a visit to Col. G., looking well. Says Miss Mary Hamilton & Mrs Seabrook are living with Col. H. now.

I've just had orders from the most pious Supt to be on duty from 7 A.M. to 9 30 P.m.

(Sundays included), Thats nice.

Love to all
Ever Affectly
Brosio

EGP

Savannah Ga
Feb. 3," [1878] 8.20 P.M.

Miss Emily Elliott
Oak Lawn S.C.

My dear Emmie:

You will of course think, like me, that it is a shame you have not been written to before. I will not take refuge in the supposition that, after having so long had a decided surplus of me, a little withdrawal of the article would be rather healthy than otherwise for you all. While I am convinced of that fact, I was going to ignore it and write, but a fatality has marked all my efforts thus far. For the first week after receipt, and longer, the clerks worked in office so late that it was impossible when they were in, to write a private letter. The din of calling out numbers and checks to each other, the laughing, joking &c., interspersed by calls from the out going Bosses to close their offices, and the constant taking of the early batch of telegraph train Reports, precluded any possibility of writing, and when it was all over, I was too sleepy to have two ideas. Then ever since last Sunday I have had a miserable cold, and with my head feeling like a flour barrel it was likewise morally and physically impossible. I regretted the delay very much, but couldn't help my self and knew that you would get on very well without my miserable bulletins. Since the 10 o'clock night trains have been put on, I have also to give out baggage to passengers and receive any from late S & C trains, so it is a wonder to me that this having to go out of a steaming hot office into the freezing air outside, a dozen times a night, don't use me up more. Its very trying, and I think it would be an excellent opportunity for my old hobby, Consumption, to step in.

Now, such a time has passed since your letter came, that I will not take up everything discussed, but will have time to touch on a few points, erratically. I forgot to ask about the rose, but will do so next time I see Aunt Meta. Have not been able to get there for some time so cannot tell you anything this letter. About Mamie's coming, Elliott tells her gravely that she can only spend two or three days at Oak Lawn, and M. was talking herself of a *week*. I blew her up about it, but of course when she is with you; she can be readily induced to remain longer. The Capt and "17" I know would exert powerful influence. That was a splendid shot of Bory's and I envy him. Tell him I must have him down here to talk it over before long, when some good troupe is in town. Will let him know when, and he mustn't shirk. I will continue sending "Puck" after pay-day, and as soon as can afford it, send you by the year. Think it much superior to the English *heavy* levity, so to speak, as far as I have seen. Brosie favored me greatly by a visit last Sunday. I have been pegging at him for months in vain, so could hardly realize it. I couldn't do much for his edification on Sunday, but we went around a while, and he ended his brief stay by dining at Elliott's where your healths were drank with ceremony and gusto. Now, as this letter is intended to be a metaphorical scrap basket, I will in the middle, consider that volatile and obnoxious address of mine. I gave it in full in my first letter to Brosie, which he sent you. My astonishment was unmitigated at receiving your postal with a "new departure" thereon.

Well! Well! it was absolutely refreshing, vernal, to se my worldly wise Aunts of Foreign experience, and domestic criticism address an unknown "lightning slinger" living in the third story of

a tenement, "N. E. Gonzales, Jones St." We had a good laugh over it. Excuse us! Jones St. is rather long I think, (having to walk ten squares of it down and right,) for that. I never gave instructions to anyone about Jones St., except that I lived at No. 171. However I leave you to remorse on that score. Only look at "the only Genuine" address as follows, and remember it's as immutable as the &c &c Medes & Persians, and so on. You had better put "Night Opr," for reason that there are half dozen different offices and hundreds of men, and as I am not well known, letters may well miss me. When addressed "Operator" they are put on my telegraph table, where I find them at night -- Gonzales, Night Operator A & G R.R.²⁸³ Savannah Ga -- There you are.

I wrote Gertrude two weeks ago but have not been favored yet. Account for it as follows. She has been overwhelming me with inquiries about Essie Marie for some time. I answered them and "carried the war into Baltimore" by asking in turn, a few questions about a certain Master Sam Porcher who was desperately in love with the young lady. My precocious Sis realized the fact, whether intuitively or by proposal, and has displayed great tact in hushing it up. Naturally she feels like cussing me. Look out for the rising generation! Lucky Miss Trudie is strong minded! I spent this evening at E's but as there was company I couldn't converse much. You will probably be gratified to know that Mademoiselle Edith is an original little cuss and much more bearable than the average family baby that one is expected to kiss and flatter and "slobber" over (pardon!) while ~~you~~ he weeps tears of blood inwardly. Hattie was the only infant I could ever be fond of, but Miss E may enlist my worship -- "arter while." I think she is going to look like Aunt Annie, rejoicing in "erbonpoint," and being a "bon vivant" also. She is a fearful little flirt already, and mixes acidity with her sweetness so that I never know what my reception will be -- whether "Go 'way old Boy" or "Lemme Kiss you Nanno." I suppose you will infer that I am becoming quite a domestic animal from this. You are welcome to the belief.

Apropos of children you ought to see how cross Elliott gets about the new baby of the irrepressible Fannie being named after him. S. & M. *will* recur to the subject, and he says he don't want everybody's children named after him. It is conjectured that his opposition proceeds from having his name in-Dent-ed into the service of the family. The enormities of the name of Henri Hatch II were strongly emphasized, and it was declared hideous by unanimous vote.

You hear from Mamie much more than I can gather in my short visits, so I won't attempt to rival her. How the sex can write two or three letters a week to five or six parties and not collapse, I can't understand. I can write a long letter once a month with safety, but even then have to fill up with nothings as I am doing now. I do detest writing now although it used not to be so. I don't expect to be able to explain anything until I see you, which will be at the earliest, April or May, when I will try for a week or ten days leave of absence. I can't even answer for my getting off then, as I don't think there is any extra Operator in the city, and I will probably have to depend on the country men. While on the subject, let me ask you to make "17" do as I requested in my letter yesterday. Brosie told me something about a "stock loan" you have obtained. Please tell me how everything is getting on, materially and financially. I always take most interest in domestic details.

I have changed my routine a little. Instead of waiting for a poor breakfast until after 7 o'clock, I let myself in by means of a special latch key, and retire without eating, at 6.30. Consequently I can be asleep by 7, and get up at 1.30 P.M. to take diner with the rest. I have the evening much longer

²⁸³ Atlantic & Gulf Rail Road. It became a part of the Savannah, Florida & Western Railroad in 1879.

than before, but this cutting down of sleep from a minimum of ten hours to six is very severe on me. What I have gone through here to keep awake at times, passes outside comprehension, and I have a stock of reminiscences of sleepiness that will be poured out some day. Really I ought to be a very excellent judge of coal-scuttles, sleepiness, stars and cockroaches. In the latter I have discovered marvellous intelligence, and in some, a genius rendering them the "ne plus ultra" of insects. It is perhaps needless to state that there are homes, sweet homes, of them throughout the old building. I have absorbed numerous fog lately, but with all the wet I don't mind it as much as your cold clear country mornings, when I shiver over my half mile of bad pavement in the gray of the morning. Not much charm in Nature at such times, and I pray for "etherial mildness." I am getting on swimmingly with my professional duties, and have improved very much in telegraphing from the little practice I have had. Passing strange that we have had no wrecks for six weeks, but we are hopeful that when the new Fast Mail Havana schedule is put on the old "Gulf Road" will vindicate her offended majesty and hold to her old reputation, by having a first class smash-up. In such case I know old man Tyson will drink all my coffee, for know ye that the festive Java (Laguayra not obtainable) is nightly bailed by the lone Operatoire, as a solace for his vigils hard. Tis an assistance, but condensed milk is a nuisance. I think this is a peculiar kind of existence, but I don't find it strange, only sometimes I feel that I could give the world for *one*, only *one* night's good old-time sleep in the dark. It is too tantalizing to think how I would enjoy it. Savannah certainly beats Baltimore in the uncertainty of the weather. No reliance to be placed on its duration six hours. As a rule however it has been most miserable, foggy, rainy and wind from East. How do you like the idea of having the honorable county seat so near? The Runnians must feel quite proud and exalted generally. Mind that "17" is to run for the Legislature. That's decided on. There ought to be one office-holder in the family. Well, I determined to give you plenty of ink and paper, and have signally succeeded, but as to whether you can find anything on these broadsides I'm mity [*sic*] dubious.

I shall expect you to express forgiveness soon, and tell me what I want to hear. With love to you all and a kiss (if you'll oblige me) for Hattie,

I wind up as

Your attached, N.

Remember address.

EGP

WM. ELLIOTT,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR,

Beaufort, S.C., 4 Feby. 1878

My Dear Cousin,

I have just returned from Columbia and found that, during my absence, Ive has brought one hundred and ninety dollars of his rent -- leaving for future payment ten dollars. I send you by Express today one hundred and seventy three 75/100 Dollars being the balance after payment of taxes, as follows

Amount collected	\$190.00
Less State & County taxes 1876	16.25
Balance by Express	\$173.75

The Treasurer has not yet handed me the receipt and I will send it hereafter.

I saw Mr Campbell in Columbia about the titles to Oak Lawn. He knows nothing as to the details of the arrangement further than that Mr Bee had purchased the property for Aunt Anne, and

had paid, he thought, about all that was required to be paid-- at any rate he did not insist upon any further payment; and that Mr Tracy was the only person who could properly close the matter. I will, therefore, write to Tracy, again and hope to settle it -- if there is any one equal to the emergency.

Wit reference to the matter of your Fathers Estate -- in connection with the Flat Rock house-- please tell me what became of the Bonds held by Cousin Mary and Hattie. Were they ever paid-- in whole or in part?

You asked about the Express on the oranges. I paid it, and mention it because double charges are by no means infrequent.

We are all well.

Your affte Cousin

Wm Elliott

Miss Emily Elliott

EGP

WM. ELLIOTT,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR,

Beaufort, S.C., 9 March 1878

My Dear Cousin

I have at last, through correspondence with Mr Bee, learned that Oak Lawn was not sold, as Tracy said, but that Mr Bee averted the sale by paying the costs \$318.75. This being so -- there are two methods of closing the matter -- 1st By a sale at public auction, which would cost \$25 or \$30. 2nd By having the judgement satisfied, whereupon the land, being freed from the encumbrance of the mortgage, would, under Aunt Anne's Will, vest in you and Cousin Anne -- provided there are no other Mortgages on it, or judgements against it, which I suppose, is not the case. This would cost nothing. If there are any other encumbrances they could be discharged only by a sale. Please let me know whether there are any objections known to you to the 2nd plan.

And what about the money paid by Mr Bee? My recollection is that he paid it as a matter of friendship. He says nothing in his letter about repayment, or about having any arrangement made for its future payment. Please let me know how it stands and what should be done in the contemplated settlement.

Your affte Cousin

Wm Elliott

Miss Emily Elliott

EGP

Walterboro April 12th 1878.

I would feel ashamed of myself for not having written to you before on this subject if I had not been bothered about other things. The simple facts are these as I am satisfied from my own recollection and examination of the records.

First Oak Lawn was mortgaged to Hoppock for a large amount of money about \$18,000. After Hoppock's death I foreclosed for his administrators. A sale was had 1st Jan. 1874. A cattle driver tried to buy the place and I outbid him for the plaintiff. After a long time, nothing being done in the way of paying costs, the Sheriff advertised a second time at the risk of the former purchaser. When Mr. Bee, through Mr. Bissell, paid up all costs. No title deeds have lien taken so far as I know. The Estate of Hoppock is entitled to conveyance from the Sheriff. Whom it should be made to I do

not know. I expect these ladies had better be quiet, if other people are quiet and I expect the best way to do this would be to send them my letter or extracts from it. Mr Bee, you will see, is both right and wrong. If it had not been for me, a creature named Sauls, I think, would have bought the whole property and ousted the ladies.

Very truly yours
(signed) Carlos Tracy

Wm Elliott, Esq.
Beaufort, S.C.

EGP

Sunday April 28th [1878]

Dearest Emmie

My holiday has been like a perpetual Saturday (the busiest and most confusing of days in a boarding School) and I am not sorry that this is the last day-- One of the girls has been very sick -- and Gertrude has quite helped me by reading to her and keeping her company while I was obliged to be elsewhere-- Very unexpectedly last Monday the Mother of one of the boarders from Atlanta -- arrived to spend the holidays with her daughter-- She brought her little Son & asked to be taken in -- as Miss Annie's room was vacant (for a few days as I told her) I could not refuse & now that Miss A. is back She quietly announces her intention of staying a week longer-- "to do some shopping" Then another Mother -- comes and asks to stay a day & night with her daughter then Mrs Lefebvre returns a day sooner than expected from N.Y. quite sick with a cold taken while sightseeing in the rain-- She is still in bed but the Dr says is free of fever, and can be up tomorrow to open school-- Edith was much with them in N.Y-- but they did not have time to see visitors & consequently did not see Mrs Coleman -- They went to visit the Normal College for girls and were greatly disgusted to see white & black side by side and more so, when a teacher called upon three white girls to explain a proposition in Geometry which they failing to do -- was beautifully explained by a coal black woolly headed negress--

Emma left Yesterday with Mr Wyman to spend to day in N.Y-- with Edith-- I hope it is a pleasanter day than we have-- so damp after a night of rain -- I am so sorry Gertrude has not yet received her hat & dress from Mrs Carry & not a line of explanation while her letter three weeks ago -- said the dress was being made & that day -- She would buy the hat-- I could not let her go to Church to day-- for the reason that her winter hat & dress -- is now shabby and of course it will not do to get others -- which would be too expensive an outlay for the short time -- I do hope dearest Emmie for Annie's sake as You say that a change can be made by You this Summer-- how did You manage about engaging board with the Tryones Dr I thought it had to be secured If it comes to the worse You will have to leave G. here, and come on Yourself in July or Aug to see her-- that would be nice for *me* I have previous little to get through the Summer with -- but having always paid scrupulously -- I can get credit with grocers & butchers -- etc for a few months -- & begin again as I always have to -- in advance of salary -- My [...] is to be one Servant -- who will keep the house clean.

Fan hopes to see some of us but as to cost -- it is the same thing, an expensive journey -- and I am going to stay just here so dont feel that G will be shelterless-- by the bye Mrs Hopkins of Savn. the Mother who spent the night-- says She met at a Reception in N Y -- among other notables "Gen Gonzales! I asked no questions -- for I dont like the woman.

Good bye I am wanted -- with dearest love to You all ever

Mary

EGP

Savannah Ga
May 7"-- [1878] 10 P.M.

Miss Emily Elliott

Osborne S.C.

Dear Emmie:

I have been waiting on you a long time for a reply to my letters, but as it don't come, I am forced to renew the attack. What has been the matter? I am afraid you took my acceptance of your last apology too literally and concluded that like "Mariana" of the Moated Grange, I had an unlimited capacity for waiting. I regret that such is not the case. At Elliott's too, they seem nonplussed at not having news of you, and apply to me for the consolation I cannot tender.

Yet I hear on the line that everything is O.K. I am very much inclined to be angry. Now, the few items I had been incubating on, to hatch for your delectation, are too stale to forward, so you lose much you see. The monotony of existence was only broken once, when I went to the Guard's Picnic at the Hermitage last week. Had a very pleasant time, but as I don't dance couldn't have much command of the unsobered "Sawanna" belles. And after diligent inquiry I ascertain that no one teaches dancing here! I had as well be at "The Run" learning the "glide" from the Misses T.! "Sic transit."

I enjoyed seeing the Washingtons, and nabbed both Reporters first thing; McKinley and McHugh. By the way, Cousin Leila told me to give her best love to you and ask you to send her a line sometimes.

Mamie will leave some day next week if Elliott will let her, which he isn't inclined to do. She is enjoying herself in a quiet way, but you know it don't take much to make her happy. Have seen all of the Elliotts lately -- Ralph on Sunday. He is growing an outrageous beard and looks like a bear. His wife will see in it hereafter another "romantic" phase of plantation life. I moved to Mrs. Gibbes' this P.M. and am gradually getting nearer "perfection." Tell Seventeen that at last I am so situated that I needn't be ashamed to invite him to visit me, and will expect him to fulfil promises after my proposed visit to Oak Lawn. My late landlady wanted to raise a "h--l of a row", having counted on me for the dull season. But we parted in peace, and she consoled herself by "sticking" me to the tune of \$13.00 for extras. Moral:-- Boarding brings out the worst points in humanity! Mosquitoes are terrific-- I have to wear gloves all night to protect my hands, and my skin looks like a pepper box already. I sincerely trust that you can tell me more than I have done. I want to know about all of you. With best love to you all.

Ever yr.

N. [Narciso G. Gonzales]

EGP

Southern Express Company
Express Forwarders

Grahamville
May 23" 1878

Dear Aunt Annie,

Thanks for yours received this morning. I will comply with your suggestion, about the

Congress Water. Heard from Trudie today, & Nanno dined with me. Both quite well. Tell Aunt Emmie, the fare, (going & returning) to Tryon, is \$15.00 for round trip. This would make your Tickets for yourselves, Plug, & Hattie, both ways, \$45-- I will furnish Trudies' Ticket. Will write again soon. Train here, & in great haste.

I am your loving

Brosie

Have seen nothing of Summerville stock sale.

EGP

Savannah Ga

May 27"-- [1878] 11:30 P.M.

Dear Emmie:

Your favor duly received. I must apologise for not answering it a couple of days ago.

My excuse -- and I think it a sufficient one -- is the terrific heat of the past several days. On my word, it surpassed all my experience, barring the historic 20 June.

One hundred degrees in this office by day and ninety two by night for 48 hours. My room is usually a cool one, but it has been almost impossible to get any sleep in it for the period mentioned. 92° from sunrise to sunset, & a dead calm. To say "I'm in a perspiration is to draw it mighty mild. It was a "Great Perspiration Feat", and outranked all my previous efforts in that line! I perspired 48 hours consecutively. How is that for high? (thermometer) Then the genial weather has brought a host of new visitors, who, with the best intentions in the world, make my nights a period of sackcloth and ashes. Candlebugs and fleas!

The former of "assorted sizes" and warranted to more than suit all tastes. You see I have quite a menagerie of man-eating creatures -- denizens of the heavens above, the earth below, and the waters under the earth. (These last I may remark are the skeeters) Even the bug ariseth as a Phoenix from the (lamp) flames to vex my soul. I am still in armor, but the netting clings to my dripping face, & the after effect is clammy and oppressive to say the least. I, like Joe, raise a "hell of a row", and then run -- out neath the stars, and relieve the monotony of stagnation by tramping and "cussing."

Today, it has been somewhat better, and the thunder is even now beginning to "cuss" "sotto voce" -- perhaps at its inability to "raise the wind" as it were. So much for this absorbing topic. Will it relieve you to know that I got the cinchonidia and have been taking it regularly for some days? I won't neglect it, you may be sure. Sent the whiskey on Friday, which was the earliest chance I had, and was handed the money promptly by Moore. Please don't forget to return the Demijohn as soon as it is empty. Whew! your quotations are startingly flattering! Aren't you afraid of turning my head? In spite of my protestations of ease and nonexpense in the matter, Cousin Leila would be most uncomfortably grateful, and like herself, emphasized said gratitude by despatching Charlie here one night with a jar of brandy leaches, which I will send for Brosie's commissariat. I knew you would cuss the long suffering Journal for that, but as the News & Courier had the same spelling it must have been the mistake of a third party. So moderate your wrath. By the way, about that Rock, if you can't make any better arrangement than that you must let me contribute something toward the trip. I can easily raise \$50, or \$75 during the summer for the purpose. I am to pay Gertrude's expenses anyhow -- sort of "peace offering" you know. So it's settled. I am yearning after the shade, and I'm going to enjoy it when I go down next month.

Apropos of trips its likely that I will join Fred Johnstone and a select party on Wednesday to the coast. They will have a small sloop, leave Wednesday P.M., run down to Tybee, spend the night

there, fish next day at the Blackfish Banks, and return at night. I see nothing to prevent, and will only be away two nights. Have a sub already, and Tyson, wind and tide permitting, I hope to forget insects and Fogartie for a little while. Hope Brosie did pay you a visit, as he told me he intended doing, in a postal received tonight. I'm afraid as B. hasn't inquired after a sub yet, that he isn't going. Mine will be through ~~Wednesday, Thurs~~ on Friday morning, 30", and if B. wished to he could go down on the train B. would have to take for Oak Lawn. I'll speak to him about it. Unfortunately, "circumstances over which I have no control" won't allow me to go down then. If I had had any encouragement in my first idea, I could have arranged for it, but you all laughed at me, and Brosie was intractable.

No news at all in the city. Everybody always asks everybody else "Well, what's the news." Then everybody else says to everybody, "Well, nothing particular. How's it with you?" Then everybody says "Well, nothing much. Ain't it hot." Then everybody else says "Yes. D--d hot." And there it ends. That has been the miserable experience of your subscriber, and it is repeated and re-repeated, and re-re-repeated until he instinctively dodges a man in the street as if he owed him 5 cents for a lager.

Well, this is surely "sweetness, long drawn out." Darn me if I suspected I had so much endurance. I have though, or this would have floored me -- "sure."

Good morning now. Best love to you all. Write soon.

Your attached

"Sneaks a Scrivener"

(N.B. -- An *exceeding* knave) [N. G. Gonzales]

EGP

Hoppock

--v--

Elliott

Walterboro

June 17/ 78.

Hon. J. B. Campbell

Dear Sir--

Mr. Ralph Elliott is here to day & in conversation, great confusion, as to the facts attending the sale of "Oaklawn" was apparent.

"Oaklawn" was sold early in 77 under decree for foreclosure in favor of Adm. of Hoppock-- It was, knocked off to me bidding under your instructions for Pltf.-- No payment was made on the purchase & it was subsequently advertised for sale at risk of purchaser by Sheriff. Before such sale the costs & disbursements were paid by Mr. Bee. No title deed from Shff has ever been made as far as I know.

The place would have been bought by a driver of St. Pauls but for your instructions to me to bid for Pltff.

Yours respy & truly

Carlos Tracy

EGP

Beaufort 17 June 1878

My Dear Cousin

Yours of 13th was not received until Saturday. I would like very much to have the casters but am provided with a share set which will have to do for the present generation I fear. The sacrifice of

old silver here has been frightful, but I have never been able to buy a piece. I am very sorry that you have to sell. Can't a raffle be gotten up? I would offer to try to get them off here -- but there is prospect of success.

I would have acted about the Flat Rock house but heard in Charleston that you had given up the plan. Is it your present wish to have the house sold, or do you wish to acquire the title to and hold it? I have been away from home very much on business, and also in consequence of whooping cough among the children. Sallie had to take Willie to Summerville for a change and she was glad enough to be brought back by me. Thermometer at something over a hundred while she was there. So she is not favorable impressed by Colleton County. All the children have recovered except the baby -- which is not a new one.

Annie Stuart has gone to Marietta. I am very glad to hear of your expected trip & sincerely hope you may arrange it.

With love to Cousin Anne & Ralph I am

Your affte cousin

Wm Elliott

EGP

Oak Lawn
Monday 26th June [1878]

My dear Annie

The storms and rains of the past week have ceased & we are now enjoying genuine Summer heat 90° or thereabout -- just the thing for the little crops -- and for permitting the destruction of weeds & grass, which made fearful progress during the rainy spell -- in two I hope to have 'laid by' and to have some rest of mind & body. We have nearly all the slips planted, also pease, and the present prospect is good for full granaries next winter.

I am sorry to say the Baily niggers are going to make a good crop of rice. The devil takes care of his own. Old Philander has repaired the roof & gutters and we are no longer in danger of being scalped by the falling plaster. Old Milly put in an appearance just now, and is much disappointed to find everything as she left it. She really thought Beaury & I could not exist without her, and is astonished to find the house clean, & the pigs, cats, Hens, & dogs alive. Her coming relieves me from guard duty, and I intend to mix a little with the gay world, where petty politics, and dry picnics seem to be the rage just now. Mr Humbert having intimated his intention of retiring from politics. The Kimballs, Barnwells, Legares & other local idiots, have taken it into their heads to nominate me for his place -- should they succeed in so doing -- shall I accept? or decline? -- I ask, and shall take your advice in the matter -- merely stating that I should much prefer your advising me in the negative. I shall have to be in Walterboro on the 10th of July-- ask Emmie if there is anything she wishes done up there, that she cares to Entrust to me.

The Tremholms are finding that they were loosing money-- discharged Tom King & ceased washing rock, though they are still digging. Kings family are in the village and of course very hard up. Tis exceedingly pitiful. It is also pitiful to receive so dull a note as this. I can only account for it by the solitariness of my existence, and the absence of all attrition. When you were at home even the dull flint sparkled occasionally, when in contrast with your bright steel, and now with this strickingly original simile, and bungling attempt at a compliment I'll close. No-- not until I tell the news-- A. B. Gonzales was elected *secretary*-- yes, *secretary* of the Osborn Club-- how did he get out of it? Cut his forefinger, & made W Henry Heyward jr his clerk.

Good bye-- love to all

Ralph

EGP

Valdosta Ga.

Aug. 9th 1878, 1.30 A.M.

Dear Trudie & Plug:

I know you would pardon my seeming discourtesy if you were here and "knew how it was yourselves." In truth I was much flattered at being considered worthy such steady correspondence as Trudie has given me, and at Plug's sacrificing his morning to me, but what somebody in Dickens calls "circumstances over which I have no control," have conspired to keep me silent. These "circumstances" consist of the following preventives to correspondence. First-- nothing to tell you. Second-- too lazy to invent something. Third-- too unwell to be lazy. "These things comprise all the Law and the Prophets."

Always, my dear children, avoid every "circumstance over which you have no control," and thus escape the fate of your unhappy brother! Trudie knows what to expect from me, who am the worst of my sex now, --don't she? But as you will see me so soon, forgive me, or bottle up your anger tight, and let out on me then. As to the pipe-filling programme, I am determined to carry it out if it takes me to the "demnition bow-wows." I have even supplied myself with a new pipe for the occasion, and if there are no *other* pretty girls present, I will fall back on my sister even if she *is* half a Yankee now!

If you see Miss Ada tell her "Barkis is willin'", and will soon be there. Tell William that I met a man, who told me for a fact, that he had a sweetheart who told him for a fact, that her cousin for a fact, had a mother-in-law, who told him for a fact, that her sister's son told her, that he was just from North Carolina, and for a fact, had seen a little boy on the top of Tryon, who was in the habit of eating 37 1/2 peaches, 399 grapes and 48 pears at each meal. Now tell William that that isn't fair; he should leave some for me. I'm coming slow, but sure. Will start about the 20th inst. The passes are sent for and "the goose hangs high."

I am implored by the Grahamville girls to attend an ice cream fete on next Thursday night. Bory is to wave his ambrosial locks, and Brosie promises me a good time, so I must sacrifice my intuitive modesty for the good of the many and go. Rufini is a very pretty name; it has nothing to do with the "old man"; the ladies like it; and as you can't do without a double barrelled name in these days, you will of course retain it. I'll swap it with you for "Gener," if you would rather have that though! What say you? Here it's two o'clock! Pretty time to sit up writing love letters isn't it? Shall I put off my visit, or come on the 20th? Let me know. Hope you are all enjoying yourselves. Write me soon.

Au revoir. With much love to all

Ever Your Attached

Nanno

You see I have nothing to tell, & much to excuse.

EGP

Grahamville S.C. Aug 22/78

Thursday evening.

My dear Trudie:

Your letter of 20th just received, & I hasten to reply, tho' now that you have Dumbdikes, you have all the news possible from the low country, if not more. I'm so glad you're to have a chance to make the acquaintance of the old Gov. T'will be quite a feather in your cap when you return to your Yankee girls at Edgeworth. The weather after being severely warm, cooled off delightfully last night & today 'tis charming. Tell Aunt Emmie I heard from Oak Lawn today, & the folks there are as usual. Tell me what you think of Nanno? Don't you find him a handsome chap, & how does he compare with your Yankee acquaintances? I am making every effort to get off next month, and hope to make the trip. You must make Nanno take you "To the top of Tryon" & show you the clouds. I will be glad to hear from Willie & Hattie too, if the little lady will write, never mind how. Tell Nanno to write me, & thank him for his telegram received last evening from Spartanburg. I must close now from want of time &c.

Love to all from Your Affectionate old

Brother [Ambrose]

EGP

Oak Lawn
Sepr. 3d 1878

Miss E Elliott

Lynn N.C.

My Dear Sisters

Having promised to send you a line today-- I proceed to do so hurriedly between two trips to the station. I had a glimpse at Nanno while pausing at A. R. on his way to Georgia and was glad to hear from him of your welfare & comparative happiness. Bory accompanied him to Ga, and when he returns I suppose we will have a most extended account of you at second hand than was possible in my short interview with Nanno. It was cruel to the poor fellow to have his vacation cut short so unexpectedly, and I sincerely hope that his change of locality may be for the better.

I have had new steps put to the piazza & kitchen a new roof to the pantry & kitchen, and also the Dairy-- chiefly by Swart who has also half finished the front fence, having been awaiting the arrival of the lumber for 3 weeks. A telegram from Grahamville has just announced that the lumber will be here *tomorrow*, but that Swart must return tonight, so that the finishing of the fence is indefinitely postponed. The phosphates & rice harvest give Employment to Every nigger who will work and I find it impossible to hire any but those who cant or wont labor on any terms within my means.

I am very sad at seeing in the paper today that Hampton has returned to Columbia not at all improved in health from his Mountain trip. His death at this time would be an [...] calamity.

Just after seeing the paper a negro handed me a numerously signed petition to the Governor to pardon Ben Somers, who is working in the chain gang at Fishborns Phosphate diggins near Jacksonboro. Without waiting to see what names were upon it I tore it in a hundred pieces and dashed it in his face. I shall see to it that no decent names are put upon the next one that is gotten up- as I understand that, many who signed did so under the impression that Capt Elliott had expressed himself in favor of his punishment being mitigated. I am delighted that he has been brought so near the scenes of his rascality to serve out his just sentence.

There are a few roses in bloom, and the heat is more endurable but the mosquitoes [...] night hideous and I really must continue to get the weeds cut down before your return. I have been quite deserted by old hen eye, but will use all my winning ways to induce hen to return & chop a little while

she is "rested."

Time is up. Good bye-- love to all.

Yours most affectionately

R. E. E.

R.T.K. has recovered from a severe fever. John Dix ditto. otherwise it is very healthy My neighbors have moved to the 'Run' and my cinchonedia vial rejoiceth exceedingly.

P.S. Dr L. M. Grimball has been here 6 weeks unaccompanied by females, and entirely sober.

R.E.E.

P.S. I have just heard of the death of Lank Alstons unfortunate daughter, this afternoon.

EGP

Valdosta Ga.
Sept 7", 1878.

A. E. Gonzales Esq.

Grahamville S.C.

Dear Brosie:

As I wired you yesterday, I have been too busy to write at any length to you or the family, and even now haven't time to put down the large amount I have to say. To begin at the beginning. I ordered and paid for the ice you wished at the Knick office. They had other ice to go on that train and promised to send yours in a bag sure. You will have to row 'em up about it; as I did my part. Hope you and Bory enjoyed yourselves, and that the C. didn't come too late for the festivities. I just got down in time myself. Was surprised to find the country so much better looking than I expected, and had a very pleasant ride indeed. Lay over at Dupont some hours, found Patterson gracious, and had him playing guitar accompaniment to the fine voice of one of the A. & G. Sleeper porters. Altogether it was a very exceptional trip. Saw most of the Opr's, rec'd congratulations &c. Arrived at Valdosta 4:10 A.M., and went to the Hotel, where I slept until 10 o'clock when I came over. The rest can't be given in narration form. Allen, the Agent, and his assistant Engel are both considerate and pleasant; which is lucky for me for operators here have to act as Agents clerks. This is the rule of the line. Valdosta is a pretty town of 2000 (official) population but so scattered and shaded that it don't look half that size. The cotton business is very large and extra early this year, over 1500 bales new crop having been shipped already. The main street is very lively today and cotton buying & shipping lively. Valdosta is growing steadily in size and importance, if not fast. The difference between the feeling of V. and Sav'h is immense in regard to us wandering South Carolinians. I am received as it were with open arms and the policy of conciliation is working wonders with me. I would have been proposed and elected a member of the "Literary Society" last night if the rain hadn't prevented the meeting, and I had a button hole bouquet this A.M., so you see I am not backward in citizenship. The L.S. comprises the best young men and women (and the prettiest they say) in town, and after next Friday will be better able to give an opinion on the Valdosta beauties, of whom I have heard so much. Congratulations have been ding-donged at me for that proximity and from other causes. I feel like congratulating myself. Consider Savannah Oh! my soul and be content! The wires are kept hot here with cotton dispatches &c, and at the present rate the business will foot up 300 msgs & \$100 receipts this month.

I send you a copy of the "Times" which please send the ladies or give when you see them. I know the Editor already and have little doubt of making some little small change by assisting him. Carroll was Assistant Local Editor, and a great favorite with the girls. The office is the best on line

in appearance &c. I am boarding with the Keller's, where C. stayed, have a breezy room and enjoy the novelty of wearing bed clothes nocturnally. The people are rough but very pleasant and attentive, and the house a fancy one. Will express your trunk and bag tonight. I am sorry to see that the tray is somewhat damaged.

You got my msg about Parker and wired him I hear. I made him swear that he would not fool you before engaging him. Glad I could do it, as there was a slim chance of anyone else. The wiring and office work has kept me scratching immensely for my wanted caginess.

[The rest of this letter from Narciso Gonzales is missing]

EGP

Valdosta Ga.
Oct 15" 1878.

My dear Emmie:

Your letter was just what I wanted and will continue to want from such of my numerous and interesting relatives as are adepts at (to use an ugly but expressive phrase of Rufus News) "wriggling a nasty quill." Pardon the expression. I regret that I could not show my appreciation of it by replying at once. I am very busy indeed and have much trouble to write at all. Of course there are short intervals in the day, which sum up a good deal by night, but the interruptions are so frequent and the publicity so great that I usually get mad and agitate myself. I am now taking Cotton Reports by wire for the buyers (what you see in the papers next day) and am kept in my chair all day nearly which isn't altogether so pleasant a thing as you might imagine I found it. They are frequent, "onsartin" and fugacious, and when I'm not in to take them it raises a "Joe of a row." The girls &c are therefore taking a rest from my onslaughts, as you may imagine.

The previous luxury was enjoyed by me on Sunday and after my work was over. D'ye see now? Thanks for your sympathy. I was really hard up but hadn't any idea of "spelling for a loan." If I really needed it, could have got it in town. I was only exercising the immortal and inmemorial right of grumbling. Credit is good here and everyone gives it. Such easy money arrangements, we have not seen in S.C. for many years. I give credit for telegrams, and they give me for that which is not telegrams, and collections are prompt at the month's end. This country is certainly very prosperous. You should have seen the streets and depot today, blockaded with cotton, and the jeans-clad countrymen swarming!

Brosie writes enthusiastically regarding your meeting and begs me to come to it. I would enjoy it of all things, but the rub is that there is no sub. I have failed in getting one for Brosie, and my only chance is in getting an ex-operator who lives here to attend to my ~~business~~ work during absence. He is in business himself, and I am afraid can't leave it at this busy season. As I wrote B. however, I will do my d--dest!

You speak of the Charleston meeting as fine. See what those "behind the scenes" say. I append this extract from a letter of Williams to me.

"Our big Hampton meeting here, was from all accounts a most pluperfect "fizzle," through mismanagement of officers, and apathy on the part of our business men, and its effect would have been disastrously depressing, but for the affair at Bonneau's the next day, which was really a glorious success, negro men, *and women*, turning out in swarms in the red. Be dorg gorned [*sic*] if I don't believe we'll carry this county and District! If we do, there will be a solid democratic delegation in Congress from S.C. "Bob" Fishburne swears by Holy Blue Moses, that he'll carry Colleton by a rattling majority! In *Williamsburg* yesterday, the red shirts broke up one of Swail's meetings, captured

Swails, & brought him to Kingstree in a wagon, busted the speaking all up, and killed a Radical nig who interfered in the business. "*By the patience and forbearance of the whites, serious trouble was avoided.*" Hurrah for Hampton!"

You see, A.B.W. has some enthusiasm as of old. I know you will relish the above more than my stupidity, and so adjourn to supper now. Theres nothing new, I'll write about the school inquiry soon. I will try to write you a decent letter before long. You must be sick of this trash but its all I have time to think out now.

Write soon. Much love to all.

Ever Your Attached

N. [Narciso G. Gonzales]

EGP

Valdosta Ga.
Nov. 3" 1878.

Miss Emily Elliott

Oak Lawn S.C.

Dear Emmie:

You know, I suppose that Brosie induced me to remain another day, and go with him to Beaufort on Tuesday. As you will see him so soon, and hear of everything fully, I won't say more than that the old fellow distinguished himself by his energy, and won praise from everyone. On the other hand he almost wore himself out. I think he was repaid however by the "wearing of the red"²⁸⁴ in the streets of Beaufort.

On my return I had six months' reports to make out and have been working hard for three days. Did not have time to see much of Elliott, nor any of Sallie in Savannah. G. was sick again during my absence, and was just at work Wednesday. I suppose the marriage proceeded smoothly and the bridegroom didn't elope, as I rec'd a box of cake in with Joe's superscription. Next! How do the duels come on. I answered Trudie's letter, but have not heard from her for a long time. Must write her today. I hope you are enjoying this magnificent weather and the quiet after the bustle of the preceding week. I suppose Brosie will go down on the 5"-- I know you will both equally appreciate his holiday. Write me when you can. Any home news will be very acceptable. With much love to all

Your attached N.

EGP

South Carolina

Colleton County

Know all men by these Presents that I, A. E. Gonzales for and in consideration of the sum of Five Hundred dollars (\$500.00) to me in hand paid by Ralph E. Elliott have bargained, sold, and delivered unto the said Ralph E. Elliott, Twenty Five head Cattle, One bay mare, (Pet), One black mare (Lannie), One grey [mu]le (J [torn]), One Wagon, Two buggies, Three sets wagon harness, Two sets buggy harness, to have and to hold the same unto the said Ralph E. Elliott, his Executors, Administrators & Assigns, and I do hereby bind myself, my heirs, Executors, and Administrators, to warrant and defend the said property unto the said Ralph E. Elliott, his Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, against me, and all other persons lawfully claiming or to claim the same.

²⁸⁴ The Red Shirts supporters of Democrat Governor Wade Hampton.

Witness my hand and seal this Twenty sixth day of November Eighteen hundred and seventy Eight.
Ambrose E. Gonzales

Witness
Emily Elliott
A. B. Gonzales

EGP

New York Dec. 27th /78

My dear Son:

I have written to you to "Adams Run" to say that I expect to leave here for Charleston on the Steamer of Wednesday next and that I will stop at the Charleston Hotel. I write this for the contingency of your being at Grahamville.

Your affectionate father,

A. J. Gonzales