

EGP

Thursday [January 1879]

Dearest Emmie

I have only a few moments in which to tell You how sorry I was to hear Yesterday of Your sickness. You took the best way to shorten Your attack (staying in bed) provided You are prudent afterwards. Several of my patients here have been sick a second time. The cold falling on eyes & throat. The Dr. advises besides gargling to take 10 or 15 drops Fist of iron 3 times daily -- for some little time as a tonic. I trust You are up again, and will let Your *mind* have some rest, after your late excitement. Please Emmie dont worry over Gonzales -- he is not going to claim his children and if You are too violent in Your condemnation of him to them it may lessen their gratitude to You, and weaken Your influence. He has not dis[...] his children only neglected them -- and his few feeble advances -- We all know were certainly not encouraged. His temper may be improved, but his nature, was always, if You will look back, just what it is Self first -- finding his children sheltered, and having all confidence in the devotion of the Aunts & dear GdMother -- He has done as he says, just supported himself, and his little trips to the Springs, to promote his health were considered as a good investment of spare funds. Oh there are some such cases in the world I assure You and as we all have some trials & crosses, this is undoubtedly *Yours*. For pity's sake though dont dwell on, what may happen, life is not long enough for such continued friction of ones nerves. Gertrude does not speak on the subject, much, or little sly amusement at the Padre's expense occasionally is all she indulges in. I have no doubt if she is ever called upon to choose between You & him, which will be her choice & that ought to comfort You. G is quite well and I am sure is gan[...] each day in interest in her Studies & in general information.

About the business part of Your letter dearest Emmie -- if it is all right,

EGP

Charleston Hotel
E. H. Jackson,
Proprietor

Charleston, S.C. Jan. 6th 1879

A. J. Gonzales, Jr. Esq
Green Pond, So. Ca.

My dear Son:

I wrote to you from New York both to Adams Run & Grahamville stating that I would leave that city Wednesday last. I felt confident, therefore, that you would be here last Saturday to meet me. I had so much to say in relation to the past and my purpose in going to Cuba that being matter for which no number of letters would have been sufficient. I waited to see you apart from my great desire to be with you again, if for a very short time. I could have gone directly from New York to Havana and perhaps might have obtained a free passage or at any rate allowance of time to have sent the amount of it from Cuba after my arrival there. But I could not longer delay seeing you and as many of your brothers & sisters as I could and consequently have come here out of my direct route and at considerably greater expense which, in my condition has placed me in actual distress. I do not regret it but I do, most surely, to be misunderstood I find that the short trip, alone, from Jacksonville, Fla, to Havana will cost me but five dollars less than from New York to Havana. I must leave here, at the latest, on the 15th inst so as to be sure to make the connection with the steamer at Jacksonville on the 17th. I have brought with me the few books I had, for you, thinking they might be some solace

for you in your hours of rest and also some little relics of your mother's which coming from her, your sisters would like to have. I have also brought for you a painting in oil of myself which a fine artist in N. York, friend of mine, had made *for himself* and which he gave me as a New Year's present *to you* before I left New York. You may have no use for *my* likeness, but the books I would like to know what disposition I am to make of them. In a day or two after I transact some business here about my fare to Cuba, I expect to go to Oak Lawn for a few hours to see the family and my three children. In the meantime I am most anxious to see you.

Your affectionate father

A. J. Gonzales

EGP

Charleston Hotel, Jan. 6th, 1879

A. J. Gonzales Jr. Esq.

My dear Son:

I am here since Saturday. I wrote to you today, at some length, to Adams Run. I avail myself of Dr Bissell's kindness to send you these lines to say that I am *most anxious* to see you and that my stay here is quite limited. I have come at great inconvenience and pecuniary difficulty this way instead of going direct to Cuba from New York, in order to see yourself & brothers and sisters. I trust you will come down to see me at the earliest moment your business will allow. Mr. Pinckney told me last night of your new plans. The C. & Savh. R. R. Co. had already told me of your resignation and new pursuits. Wishing you greater success than your father has had & hoping to have you soon by me, if for a very short time, I remain ever, your affectionate father,

Ambrosio

GFP

Valdosta, Ga.
Jan. 8", 1879

Gen. A. J. Gonzales

Charleston, S.C.

My Dear Father:

Your letter reached me this morning. I am glad that you have been enabled to make the trip, and trust that your incentive in going to Cuba is a sufficient one to warrant the hope that you may prosper more hereafter than of late.

The necessity of obtaining work forced me from South Carolina to this prosperous but not very congenial section, and I have been now in the employ of this Road over fifteen months, four of which I have spent here. It has been so long since I have heard from, or of you, that I am ignorant of your recent life. As regards my visiting you, it would afford me great pleasure to do so, but I am afraid I cannot manage to go to Charleston at present.

My chief difficulty would be in obtaining a substitute. I could easily arrange for leave of absence and passes, however, and if you could stop in Savannah a day or two I would very probably be able to run down and see you. If you can do this, and give me a day's notice, telegraph to that effect at my expense. Whether I see you or not, I may say this -- that although a nine year's separation is not conducive to affection, and my feelings toward yourself have under gone wide fluctuations in that time, I still feel, and do not care to repress, a great interest in whatever betides you, and wish you much success in all your undertakings. I would be glad to hear from you as often as you feel disposed

to write me. Remember to telegraph me, if, and when, you are going to Savannah.
Meanwhile believe me your affectionate Son,

Narciso G. Gonzales

GFP

Valdosta, Ga.
[Sunday] Jan. 13", 1879

Gen. A. J. Gonzales
Charleston Hotel, Charleston, S.C.

My dear Father:

Your letters have been received, and in reply to the last, I have to say that the trip to Jacksonville will occasion me much more inconvenience and expense than the one proposed to Savannah would have done.

However, at your desire I will endeavor to make it. I have engaged an operator to take my place for a day or two, and will write today for passes.

Those over this Road will be readily obtained, but the time will be too limited to procure them from the J.P. & M. and Fla. Central, over whose lines we have also to pass. Valdosta is on the Western Division, thirty miles from Dupont, where you will arrive at 11.20 P.M. and take the Florida Division train to Live Oak, and thence to Jacksonville. Hence you will not pass the town. I will leave here on Thursday night at 10.18, and reach Dupont at 11.35. The Florida Division train leaves at 11.45 P.M. I send a map which will give you an idea of your course.

I have no expectation that any recommendation will have effect in these days. Positions of any credit or profit are too few to allow of any having them but objects of favoritism, or those who have labored for years in subordinate capacities. Telegraphing I do not intend to follow longer, than to that point, at which I will be able to embark in some better venture.

But at present it is a not unpleasant makeshift. I left Savannah to accept this position at a reduced salary solely on account of the incessant wear and strain upon my health, caused there by continuous night work for over a year. I do not think any recommendation induced the offer.

It was made simply on account of my faithful performance of duty.

The other subject-matter of your letters we will be able to discuss in person. I hope you have seen Brosie: he is certainly *one son* of whom you have reason to be proud. A finer fellow it would be impossible to find. If you make any change in your programme, wire me. Au revoir until Thursday.

Your Affectionate Son

Narciso G. Gonzales

EGP

Walterboro 22d Jany 1879

Mr. A. E. Gonzales
Dear Sir

I am in receipt of your letter. I will not dispose of the Social Hall Plantation to any one else without giving you the refusal of it.

In relation to your wish to purchase a portion of it, I would not wish to dismember the tract, but would rather submit to some loss on what it has cost me. I mentioned to you that my claim was about \$400. I am willing to take \$300 and to hand the place immediately over to you on the payment of that sum. I called on your Father when in Charleston last week, but he had left Town.

Yours Respectfully
J. D. Warren

GFP

Valdosta, Ga.
Mar. 23, 1879

My dear Father:

Yours of the 9th inst. reached me yesterday. Last week I returned from a ten day's visit to "Oak Lawn," where I saw your first letter. An accumulation of work on my return necessitated the postponement of an answer until today (Sunday).

I am very glad to hear of your success in obtaining a position and hope you will rapidly be advanced. Before proceeding further, I had better inform you of the state of affairs at home. I find that there is no possibility of a change of sentiment toward you on the part of the ladies, Uncle Ralph, or the children, and it is useless to expect one.

On my return from Jacksonville, I wrote home (in reply to Emmie's letter of advice to "let you alone") giving my reasons for going and suggesting a suspension of judgement upon you until I could present your explanations. My letter was unanswered and Brosie wrote me that a continuance of my advocacy of you would "wean me from my family here."

The family, I know, were angry at my course, and if I had not acted with tact and caution there would have been a cessation of intercourse for an indefinite time. I had intended going home for some weeks previously and through Brosie's intervention. I did go on the basis of silence on both sides as to you. My visit was very pleasant, and I believe I have not fallen in their opinion by my course, but I cannot mention you without provoking a difficulty. I also spoke of you in a letter to Gertrude, trying to pave the way for an understanding. She answered me rather bitterly, averring that her course in the matter was dictated by no one and I am sorry to say that there is some feeling against me in her mind, which I must endeavor to eradicate.

After the many kindnesses I have received from my aunts, I can not push the subject on them so as to enforce a separation from them and, consequently from my brothers and sisters. It will be many years I am afraid before they will think as I do. I cannot give any letters or messages to the children from you, against the wishes of the household. It would be a breach of the truce now existing and the children would not alter their belief even were I to do so. I tell you *in confidence* that I do not think you will hear from Brosie. He occupies a delicate position, and cannot communicate with you without a rupture with the family, and the overturning of all his investments and plans for their benefit.

It is a hard case for you, I know, but I can see no remedy but patience.

I can inform you from time to time of the welfare of the children. Gertrude is very bright, and a remarkable French scholar. Although the youngest girl in school she will graduate this summer in French two years in advance of her class. Brosie is getting on well with his farming and planting. Chee-ha will be planted in corn, rice, peas, and some cotton for a surplus. He divides his time between the two places. At "Oak Lawn" the prospect was very good the other day. The change of ideas as to profitable planting in the last year or two, struck me forcibly when during my visit, instead of cotton and negroes, I saw sheep, cattle and hogs, from the "Red Gate" to the "Cypress" through the enclosure of 1x00 acres, and the "Orchard field" planted in oats, corn and rice. Chufas for the hogs, and turnips and rye for the cattle in winter, were new evidences of the "new régime." The other children are well and progressing.

I am saving a little every month now, and hope to be able next year to go into sheep raising in South Carolina. It can be made very profitable. I am also to start a Scuppernong vineyard.

There is nothing of my life here worth recording. I hope your salary is good. If you will excuse the suggestion, I would advise that as soon as you have enough money for your own wants, you apply the surplus to the payments of what little debts you owe in this country. It will have a good effect. I shall expect to hear from you soon, and hope you will give me as full a description of your occupations and surroundings as possible. Meanwhile, believe me ever

Your Affectionate Son

Narciso G. Gonzales

Envelope addressed to:
Dn. Ambrosio J. Gonzales
Apartado No. 146
Paradero de Villanueva
Havana, Cuba

EGP

Wednesday 23d [April 1879]

Dearest Emmie

I was relieved to find from Your letter that Your bete noir had departed and trust that his position in Havana will be sufficiently lucrative & comfortable to keep him there. You must try and dismiss the subject. I do not imagine that he will annoy You again-- and his indolence will be Your security.

I am delighted that Brosio is getting occupation more suitable & agreeable-- and if he only wont have too many irons. I am sure very much can be made in the cattle business at Oaklawn. Will he plant at Cheeha? Alphonso no doubt will work cheerfully with his brother of whom he is so justly proud and I am sure your winter will be passed more agreeably with Brosios presence and active doings-- to enliven you.

Do Willie & Hattie study regularly, ask Anne to make them practice writing under Brosio, it does help them so much, when school opportunity arrives, and is so much more easily acquired young-- To copy the same thing every day until it is perfect, is I think the way.

You know I am experienced now-- since I have been trading. Oh how glad you ought to be that you did not take Tom Pinckney's advice & try a school Here is one of the trials. Mrs L. has-- three of her boarders have stopped school, and though her circulars state that if *entered* they must pay for the school *year*. She must either lose or go to law-- which is always *unpopular*. One of the pupils, Gov. Ligons daughter cried all the time & on the plea of injury to health, she wont return or pay-- *he* they say is worth millions Another has chill [...] (tired of [...]) The third stays away because her cousin does-- and while all the expenses of teachers & household have to be the same. Mrs L's income-- which barely scrapes thro' this year for expenses & pays no debt-- has to be lessened. Still all the schools are now so interfered with by the public schools, so many nice children going there that we have to be grateful to get on at all. Mrs. Lefebre has taken the rest of this large house & next year we *hope* for a larger & better paying school. Her occupation will begin in Sept next-- and I hope it wont prove an Elephant on her hands.

I have not seen Emmie for two days. She has been going to some small dinners, and no doubt is tired. From Fan & Edith I get satisfactory accounts. I believe I told you that Robb Coleman was married last week. I think he takes his wife South-- instead of to Europe on account of health. Mamie

is well-- & not quite frozen-- it is so cold in the country. Colds are prevailing here and I have two patients in bed to day with painful throats & fever. Gertrude's cold is better much & she has not given up or required doctoring, excepting a hot toddy for two nights past. Good bye, with constant love for each & all of You-- ever affty

Mary

GFP

Valdosta, Ga.
May 5, 1879

My dear Father:

Your long and very interesting letter was promptly received and read with much pleasure.

The particulars you gave of yourself were what I have been desiring for some time, and the papers have given me something to puzzle over in the prevailing dull season. I am surprised to find that I can extract a rough meaning from nearly every sentence, and in some articles I can make a fair free translation. I also confess to surprise that no apparent progress in enterprise or appearance has been made in the "Diario" and "Voz" in the last ten years, they are just what I remember them to have been. I will be glad for a continuance, and will read faithfully. I see that the "Liberal-Conservatives" carried the election, but am ignorant of their objects. I dont know what will become of the Island if slavery is abolished.

With paper money and probable emancipation I fancy they are in our position of twelve years ago. I trust the results may not be similar.

Now I must touch lightly on an unpleasant subject. You must reflect that the children know really less of you than of any other relative, and you therefore cannot expect them to be attached to you, or to have faith in you. Children are attached to those who are near them and kind to them. The little they remember of you is your strictness: all the rest is hearsay of a kind not calculated to advance their affection if they had any instinctively, which I believe no one has. You should make allowances, I think for this, and consider that a construction could be put on some of your acts since the war that would be very unfavorable to you.

I don't claim superiority in sense or sentiment to the rest; I--as you know I told you--think your course has been unfortunate in some things, but I have faith in you and a sincere hope for your success. That is simply my position. I think you have injured yourself in this country by speaking of yourself in frank opinion. In the U.S. people may have the best possible opinion of themselves as long as they keep it to themselves, but if they proclaim that good opinion to the world, the world calls them conceited braggarts. I have know where you have been injured in this way. I hope you will excuse my frankness, as my only object is to aid you. I am in a position to see these things, and can't help noticing them. I am sure that when you see these things, you can so conform to public opinion, as to take the weapon from the hands of your critics. It would be my pride to see you do so.

I have really nothing to tell you of my life except what you know from my conversation; and I haven't heard any news from the children for some time, but in a few days, when I hear from home and Gertrude, I will send you a bulletin, and I trust a more cheerful one than this, of necessity, is. I have thought best to "lump" all the disagreeables, and let the pleasant follow. With best wishes,

Your affectionate son,

N.G.G.

EGP

Sunday May 24th 1879

My darling M' Emmie

Your letter & Nannos enclosed were received yesterday. Many thanks for both. I tried my best to get that passage translated & at last the Spanish teacher Mr Golan did it for me. It means he says "Nothing shall pent thee from me." It does not seem to me to be a good translation but it is the only one that I can get. It must surely be a very remarkable young lady whom Dumbie corresponds with & is rather a remarkable thing to send on a postal but I had to, as you said I must. I am certainly glad that Summer is so near so that I can see you so soon & am counting the days until school is up. There is such lots of studying to be done tho' before the 17th of June that I don't see how I will get through it all. That disgusting old composition I have not written it yet & I must give it in in ten days. I suppose I shall have to go out to Gussie Ligons tho' I don't want to a bit. I've not got the time to go anywhere my Saturdays are so precious to me. Aunt Mamie says that she will find out about the cost of the journey to Charlestown & write & tell you as soon as possible. I don't believe I ever told you about Susie Heyward rather my opinion of her. I like her very much so far, & she seems to be a very nice girl indeed altho' she loves mischief. She is going to spend the first month of vacation with Caroline Stiles so will not go to Charlestown with Rita & I, but we can get on very well with just us two. I send that photograph at last; you see I did not mean to cheat you as you supposed. I must stop now as I am writing in pitch dark almost. Please write soon & send me those flowers if you can. Tell Ambrosius that I will write to him "in the sweetly & bye" tho' at present he owes me a letter.

There is no news to give you so excuse this stupid letter with its blots & scratches.

Give a great deal of love to all & believe me ever

Yr' loving

Child [Gertrude Gonzales]

Cousin [...] has just come back from Virginia but I dont know anything about her visit there.

GFP

Office of the
Western Union Telegraph Company,

Valdosta, Ga.
June 9"--1879

Gen. A. J. Gonzales

Havana, Cuba

My dear Father:

My promise of writing you again at an early day was not fulfilled, because I was waiting to get news of Gertrude for you, and for some reason I am ignorant of, she has not written me for six weeks. I have to thank you for the papers, and for the "Mastery" books, received a few days ago. I will endeavor to commence studying the latter this week, and think the method is such as to give me hope of success. My life here is very, *very* flat, and I "vegetate" rather than live. Next year, I hope to be able to go to S.C. with enough for an independence until my sheep get profitable.

Meanwhile, "better fifty years of Europe than a cycle of Cathay!" Sorry to compare Georgia to the latter, but I feel almost as out of place as if they were identical. Brosie writes me in better spirits of the prospects at home. He has, at "Cheeha," thirty five acres of Sea Island cotton, (a surplus crop) which is the best in the section. His corn at Oak Lawn is fine, as also the orchard field of oats which he is cutting. They are shipping cream to Charleston instead of butter this summer. The "News & Courier" says that 50 percent of the area planted on the seaboard this year is in grain and provision

crops. The outlook is consequently much more cheering.--

I have bought the right for Colleton Co. of a patent preserving fluid, for keeping fruit and vegetables for years in perfect color and taste. It is reliable and tested and as Brosie has much spare time this summer, I have transferred it to him. He will start this week to make a canvass of the county and sell family rights for the use of the receipt. We expect to make a good return on the investment. Cotton has risen very much lately, but wool is more of a "King now." The common, poor, unwashed staple sells here for over 30c. per pound, and three pounds is average yield for sheep costing \$2.00. You can see the profit. Gertrude is expected to leave Baltimore on the 18", and reach "Oak Lawn" on the 20", after spending a few days with the Pinckneys in Charleston. My visit home this month has been necessarily deferred. Brosie was to have come up and worked for me but he will now be selling "fluid." It may be August before I go down. When I do, we will have a week's maroon at Seabrook's Island, North Edisto Inlet. The other clerk of this office is going North on the 25" for the rest of the Summer, and I'll have his work to do, which will keep me employed rather steadily until the rush in the Autumn. Do you see any U.S. papers? Hampton made a fine speech in the Senate last week. Tell me about yourself and if you will send me a photograph I will forward you one of

Your Affectionate Son

Narciso G. Gonzales

EGP

Valdosta, Ga.
July 26", 1879.

Dear Emmie:

Thanks for your letter. You are not cheerful. *I* am not either--by a majority exceeding Hampton's! You have all had a hard time, I know; but you have escaped *one* bitter thing-- you have not been week after week, and month after month under the feet of your inferiors! I am feeling desperate; and of late only a great effort of will has kept me up. If this thing goes on, I will be branded deep with moroseness and misery. I have never suffered half as much as I have done recently. To obtain leave of absence now, I have to solicit *four* masters. Some months ago I was instructed by the Gen'l F. & P. Agt to obtain his leave first; then *Mr. Tyson's* approval of my substitute; and then *Mr. Brenner's* leave. Well, I wrote Mr. Taylor first, as directed. That was over a week ago. Two days after, I was answered to this effect: "Disapproved. Application should have been made earlier. At the time you mention, your services will be required at your station." That was a surprise truly, as I had not been off for five long months. I thought the trouble might be regarding my substitute, so wrote Taylor about his knowledge of Railroad work, and urgently about my leave. Taylor wired Mr. Allen, the agent here as to when I had last been off. Then, this morning Mr. Allen got a letter from him *approving* the leave except as to Brenner. And he was to remind me that my applications must come through my Agent, and be approved by him. And I was reminded also, that this is my third leave since October. This makes the *fourth* master! The leave is for 14 days from Aug. 3." I wrote Brenner today, but with such a host of bosses they are seldom in unison. The agent here is a "good" man, but a most infernally lazy one. I am doing three fourths of all his work, and he loafs. Even when I have several jobs to do at once and he has none, he gives me more as it comes, and grumbles when it's physically impossible. He is so rusty that I know more now than he does. Yet his salary aggregates \$100, and mine \$50. That looks fair, don't it? He is *much* easier on his depot hand, who is a negro. I don't mind the *work*, but I do mind the utter *subservience* I am in. I can't get paid even, without his report. This fall I will have to get up at 4 A.M. and work until 11 P.m. if this continues. And all this time, there

not one man or woman whom I can talk intelligently to in the place. I am as morally isolated as if I were among the intellects of Dahomey. If I hadn't got this grudging leave, I don't know what I should have done. It may fail yet. I feel wretched and worn out. But if I get off, I'm going to enjoy it. If I can shake off this self-repression I have worn so long to cover my disgust and anger, I will be glad indeed.

Tell Brosie that I meant what I said when I told him to drop the "fluid" if he didn't credit it. All I need is the proof of previous sale. Hooper hasn't sent my note, due on the 18", and I don't know where he is. Strobel hasn't answered my letter of a week ago. I don't expect anything from it, for the "numerous and interesting" bosses require one to train for this lucrative position. I know they wouldn't let me exchange. I've given you a long Jeremiad; but it had to come. I couldn't hold in any longer. Like Midas, (wasn't it?) I've been growling to the rushes-- and *now* I have growled to you. It does me good for I've been awfully pent up. Love to all. Write me please. *You bet* I'll be glad to see you.

Ever Yr's

N.

P.S. Just ate a melon with Agt. Feel remorseful, but can't deny that he *is* a fearful loafer.

GFP

Valdosta, Ga.

Aug. 24, 1879

Gen. A. J. Gonzales

Havana

My dear Father:

If my long silence had been other than forced, I would be very penitent indeed. As it is, you are due an explanation at least. When your letter arrived I was working through Brosie to get a place on the S. & C. R.R., near home, and was in great suspense as to the result. Expecting almost every day to leave for S.C. at momentary notice, I did not write, because I wanted to advise you of the change I so much wished. I was kept waiting for weeks, and at *last*, there was a hitch somewhere and the man whose place I expected to have, did not leave.

Then, my news from home was scanty, and as I proposed going there about the first of August, I wanted to see how matters were, and the young ones progressing, before I wrote. After two weeks effort, I obtained leave of absence for 14 days, and left here on the 2" inst. I had no opportunity of writing while there, but expected to do so immediately on my return. When I *did* return lo! the work was so fearfully augmented that I have hardly had time for my meals! This is Sunday, and my occupation all the morning, has been the making up of my weekly reports. I have barely time to write to you before night. I am subordinate to the Agent here, and have to do all the more responsible part of his work, and in fact most of his whole duty besides my own. We are now blocked with the Fall stocks of the merchants, and you may see my predicament when I tell you that we have handled 197,615 pounds of freight and \$1667.14 during the past week. From now, until next Spring there will be no rest for me, and I doubt my ability to get home during that time. I am the subordinate of a dozen subordinates and all the weight of a tower of officials falls on me. I have not had time to study Spanish, to my regret. It is a hard life. I was so anxious to escape from it that I

wrote Riordan and Dawson²⁸³ of "The News and Courier," Charleston, offering to go to Memphis (where the yellow fever is raging again) as their correspondent. Riordan wrote me that they would not expose any employé, whether acclimated or not, to such a risk, but he did not hesitate to say to me that he was so favorably impressed with the little he knew of my work and capacity, that he would like to give me an opportunity of joining their staff. This was the dull season, but on the return of his partner, who was in Europe, he would remember me and do his best to assist me in entering journalism. He could not promise positively but would do all he could. This is my only hope for a change. I like journalism and I am confident that it would be of great assistance to me in many respects. I spent my birthday (you know I was 21 on the 5th) very pleasantly at home, and ran down to Charleston for a day. Uncle R., Brosie, Alfonso, Willie and I marooned for three days on Seabrook's Bay, North Edisto Inlet. We had a luxurious time for marooners; beer and ice adding their artificial pleasures to the many natural ones thereabout. Gertrude is spending the Summer vacation at Oak Lawn. She is as tall as Aunt Annie and remarkably developed for her age. She has been the "gold medalist" in French for the past two years, and is almost as proficient in her other studies. She is a dear girl, and pets her brothers unlimitedly. Hattie is rather lazy but very apt, and masters her lessons without effort. She is an extraordinarily flexible little imp, and utterly routs me in romping. Both the girls promise to be very pritty. Gertie's eyes are phenomenally fine for our latitude. Willie is a very warm hearted and affectionate fellow, loving a firearm next to his relatives. He is not specially quick in studying, but his perseverance covers that failing. He is growing very fast now. Bory has long since given up any form of study, but he seems to feel his backwardness more of late, and reads a good deal. He has an excellent memory, and quick perception of other people's failings, and with his critical observation and continued reading, I hope will attain superficial knowledge enough to pass him creditably through life. At the best, all our knowledge is superficial. Brosie has been in better health this Summer and is hopeful of success in his planting but I confess I am not so sanguine. He has been outrageously swindled by some of his professed friends, and the want of capital is a great drawback to his progress. The crops are fair, but his liabilities will consume all the profit he would have had. The family is large and it takes a considerable sum to support it. The earnings of all of us go for that purpose. The outlook for us here is not bright, but I hope if I can get to Charleston, that I may be of more assistance to the young ones. I send every dollar of surplus home for Brosie to have the use of until I am able to start myself. I am glad to hear of your good prospect for a better place and hope it may be realized. It will always be my hope that you may appear creditable in this hard world, and vindicate yourself to the doubters on this side of the water. To this end it is necessary to approach by first wiping off your indebtedness, in money of your own earning. I am frank with you, you see. In fact, I have stood surety for your ultimate vindication, and hope to be proved right. I did not receive the paper you wrote of. I will send you some soon. I am writing against time now as the train is almost here. You will excuse me on that account. Please continue to write of yourself and send your photograph. Mine, you see, is a souvenir of our meeting.

Ever Your Affectionate,

N.

²⁸³ B. R. Riordan, a Virginian who settled in Charleston during reconstruction, and bought the Charleston *News* in 1873 with Francis W. Dawson. Narciso Gonzales had applied to him for a job as a reporter, which he got in 1880.

Valdosta, Ga.
Oct. 5", 1879.

Dr. H. M. Jeter
Opelika, Ala.

Sir:

You have been pleased to write me twelve pages of explanation and declamation and hallucination, which would require the fullest capacity of twelve ostriches to digest. I haven't any ostriches, and besides have very little time, and I will not trouble myself to prove the fallacy of your argument and theory, beyond the main point at issue. What subsidized neighbors and interested friends may say, does not obtain against the facts I have in my possession. I have proof of the following. That your Agent, Hooper, made two trials while here, before he obtained a fluid which would keep vegetables for any time. That on his last attempt, the fluid apparently succeeded, but that when, after two month's soaking in it, we tried to take the vegetables out, they crumbled to fragments. That some of the same fluid Hooper made, was sent to Quitman by Prof. Wright, and the vegetables therein spoiled in a week. That some of the same fluid was sent by me to my brother in South Carolina, and although the vegetables were entirely submerged, they spoiled in a few days. That after the fullest instruction, and after assisting Hooper in making it, Prof. Homer Wright, who bought the right for Brooks Co. Ga. made *four* unsuccessful efforts to make it, and has not yet been able to do so. That after I had detailed the process to my brother with painful minuteness, and after he had kept the vegetables under-- and had complied with every instruction, printed and verbal, he failed to make it keep after *three* trials. And I say again, that if men of intelligence, and interest in the process, and who have had the fullest instruction from your agent, fail in this way, how *can* it be expected that the general public will succeed? And if the fluid *keeps* the vegetables, how can they be cooked if they crumble at a touch?

Of all the sales you have made in half-a-dozen States, you do not give *one* instance where the general public succeeded with it, or where the sub-agents made money from it. When I wrote you I did not know you. If I were swindled by a sharper, I would not think of asking him to return my money. In commercial business, among honorable men, when an article has been bought, and does not reach the stated standard of merit, the seller, on its return unused, refunds the money he has received for it. Even *Jews*, Dr. Jeter, do that! And even *thieves*, have, in remorse, made restitution.

But you, Dr. Jeter, do not! You have the money (or your agent has); your vaunted fluid has failed, and I have offered to return you my right, as unused and unprejudiced as when it reached my hands. I have offered you this for my *own* money, and you have evaded and dodged! It would not have cost you a cent, but you see, the money was more valuable than the right! *Jews* say: "If the goods are worthless, we will take them back." *You think* -- that \$50 in hand is worth a thousand rights in the bush! Prof. Wright, a hard working teacher, put his last money into your agent's han[ds], for a right. He soon found that he had been mistaken, and, after his engagement terminated and he had gone to Atlanta to hunt work, he wrote me: "I am utterly destitute, and have made four unsuccessful efforts to make fluid. I am writing Dr. Jeter to see if he will not return me my money for the right." I leave it to your conscience (which is in some men above interest) whether the gentleman of "virtue and integrity" whom you eulogise [*sic*] in your letter, refunded this poor fellow, his savings. And now sir, I have done with you. Only Providence can work a change occasionally and I'm not by any means Providence. You need not answer this if you have nothing to say beyond platitudes and protestations.

I shall [*torn*]ntilate you in my own way, and Im under no obligation to inform you when and how.

You are a good many miles off, and therefore tell me that my assertion is a falsehood.

Your opinion, dear Sir, on that point, is certainly entitled to great consideration! I have no doubt you are an excellent judge of lies!

N. G. Gonzales

GFP

Valdosta, Ga.
Oct. 12", 1879

Gen. A. J. Gonzales
Havana, Cuba

My dear Father:

Your letter and photograph were received several days ago, and I thank you for both. The likeness, I think, is exceedingly good, and you are looking very well. I am sorry you were pained at anything I wrote. As you desire, I will not refer to the subject again. I had to defer writing until tonight, as Sunday is only partially my own, and now I have been attacked by a headache (an unusual ailment for me) and feel so foggy in brain that I will not attempt more now, than to tell you of the general welfare. Gertrude reached Baltimore a week or two ago, and is now very busy with her studies. I had a letter from her a few days ago. She seems to be a leader in private theatricals and has begun already to study for French plays at Christmas. The family, except Brosie, have been for a week on a maroon on the coast, and I have not heard from them since their return. When Brosie wrote, about a week ago, everything was as usual and all well. Brosie has been very busy harvesting and planting winter food for the stock. The rice planters have had a splendid year, good crops, and good prices. It will give a new impetus to the seacoast. But finances at home are not bright. B. needs the little assistance I am able to give him. I am very much worried here by everything, and loathe the place. My work is the veriest drudgery from 7.30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and the work is very distasteful. You know how galling it is to be under the orders of an inferior? That is what I have every hour to endure. I hope Riordan will convince Dawson, and that I can get some congenial work soon. I "ran" the local paper last week during the editor's absence. As soon as I get my pay I will have the "Weekly" sent to you. Never mind the "greenback." I will try to write you more fully soon. Meanwhile please let me hear from you. Ever Your Affectionate

N.G.G.

GFP

Valdosta, Ga.
Oct. 12, 1879

Dear Emmie:

Sunday, you know, is my only time for getting even with my correspondents, and certainly in *quantity*, though not in interest or frequency of writing I do get even with them sometimes. I have been too busy to write during the week, and besides, you have probably just returned from your excursion. I hope you all have had an enjoyable time, and have escaped the warm and wretched rainy "spell" I've had to wade through here for some time.

If you will tell me about your enjoyment, I will be somewhat reconciled to my non-participation in it.

I wanted awfully to go to the Savannah Centennial, but I knew it was of no use to ask leave

at this season, and besides I hadn't the money or the clothes. I'm afraid I won't be able to send B. any Spondulix this month, as with the possibility of going to Charleston I have had to get a good trunk in the place of the veteran and ragged one I have used since my ante-Virginia days, and some shirts &c to replace my rags, and I will have to get a cheap suit of some kind for winter. I make the explanation, because I feel ashamed when I am forced to forego the pleasure of remitting by "circumstances beyond my control." I will be desperate again, in spite on my self-repression, if I don't get that place with Riordan. This is a beastly life, and I am getting morose and sullen very fast. I can't help it. I am isolated by the people, and have a tread-mill life of drudgery and worry all day, and a little oblivion at night.

The work is so confining, that I have no exercise. Cooped up all day, from the time I get up until 10 at night, in a maze of scribbling, corrections, and reports, no companionship, no rest, no peace, I don't think I can endure it very much longer. I can't grumble without risking a discharge, so please allow me to grumble to you. It is not a pleasant prospect, that my best days are to be spent in a menial position in this hole. I don't think any of you have been in my fix, so I can hardly expect you to appreciate the misery of it. This is enough for today.

If the brains of these heathen were as fertile as their soil I could well endure them. The garden continues a phenomenon. The cypress vine grew so greatly that it brought down the framework supporting it. It forms a big green dome now, and has been starred with white and red for months. Prettiest vine I ever saw. The morning glories still bloom, as also a second crop which has sprung up. In fact the second crop bore seed, which has made a third crop which will probably bloom before frost. The lady slippers layered and are still blooming. So is the second crop, and the third is advancing.

One verbena would cover the floor of your kitchen. Some chrysanthemums are going to bloom which would spread over the parlor table. The enigma of the garden is the chinese vine you gave me the seed of. It has lots of tubers on it, but no sign of flowers. I didn't know that the Madeira vine grew from seed, but I see thousands of young ones coming up under the old vines.

Good bye now. Excuse this dreary epistle under the circumstances, and write soon. Much love to all.

Ever Your Attached

N.

Have heard from Trudie and write her today.

EGP

[Baltimore] Wednesday Oct 22nd 1879.

My darling M'Emmie,

Your letter & Brosies' were [...] several days ago & this is really the first opportunity that I've had of answering either. Thank you ever so much for the pretty little brooch which was put into my hand this morning just as I was going to class. I could not imagine at first what it was or where it came from but as soon as it was opened I guessed that you had sent it as a birthday present. Strange to say the fact that it was my birthday had never entered my head until then. I am sorry that you did not have pleasanter weather at the Bay. It was dreadfully hot here until night before last, when it suddenly turned cold & yesterday morning it snowed for about fifteen minutes, but the rain came up & melted it all away. I am going to have more time to write to you after this-- more than last year, but my lessons have given the teacher more trouble to fix than those of all the others' put together owing to my being so much ahead of my class in French, & having to go to class at a different time

from when the others went & a good deal of fussing. However by saying some of my lessons at night & some in the afternoon & some in school hours they are all arranged. I suppose you know that Edith was here for the whole of last week. She did not seem any more affable or sweet tempered than usual, but I could scarcely judge since I did not have time to speak more than two words to her all the time she was here. Emmie is quite well now. Maffit ditto. I have only seen the latter once. You ask how the Jewess improves on acquaintances. She is very good-natured but prim & "of an inquiring mind," always asking as Hattie does the "whys & wherefores" of everything. By the way don't ever mention anything I tell you about the girls to Aunt Mamie as Mrs Lefebre gave poor Rosa Wyatt an "awful" scolding for only *mentioning* that there were two such things as a Yank & a Jewess in the house. The girls all went to see Booth in Richelieu last week. He was splendid. I suppose I am only getting old enough to enjoy the theatre now for I never liked it so much before. I had a very clever letter from Dumbie the other day, he told me literally "nothing at all" but his letter was a favorable contrast to the "remarkably bright" letters of some of the other girls' grown up brothers. I wish he could get that place from Riordan. Writing is certainly his fate. One of the old girls Mamie [...] from Augusta is on here now. She told me that she spent a week or so in Beaufort last July. They boarded in the big Elliott house which it seems is no longer a Club but part of the hotel & she said that she never saw a prettier town or a more beautifully situated house in her life.

Mademoseille is very busy now arranging the "roles" for the French Plays. She finds it very hard to give me any part as she says that I am too small for a man & quite too [...] for a girl, so I don't know how she'll manage especially as films that speak French are exceedingly few this year. There is a very pleasant Jewess here boarding with her daughter. Mrs Cheves McCord from the Up Country I think. There are five South Carolina girls in all the school.

Thank Hattie for her letter which I will answer on Saturday. Tell her if she has my shells to remember & save some for me until next summer as I told her. Give Plug Ugly (alias the "Brat") as many kisses again as he bestowed on me last summer & tell Nannan that I don't see it myself but the girls pronounce the fare this year a great improvement on the last year's. Well good bye my dear I must retire to my little [...] (too attentive) mosquitos. Aunt Mamie & all send love. With *my* love to everybody there and ever my dearest "Young Girl"

Yr' loving G.[ertrude]

EGP

TITLE UNDER ORDER OF COURT.
Colleton Democrat Job Press.

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.
Colleton County

To all whom these Presents shall come or be made known, Or whom the same may in anywise concern, I, *Robert Black Sheriff* of the County of Colleton - in the said State, SEND GREETING:

Whereas, *Howell Hoppock as Administrator of estate of G H Hoppock deceased* on or about the *Twenty Fourth* day of *September* in the year one thousand eight hundred and *Seventy Two* did exhibit his complaint in the Court of *Common Pleas* in the County of *Colleton* and State aforesaid. *against Ann H Elliott for Foreclosure*. And the cause, being at issue before the Honorable Court aforesaid, came on to be heard on the *Tenth* day of *October* one thousand eight hundred and *Seventy Two* when the said Court, after a full hearing thereof, and mature deliberation in the premises, Did Order, Adjudge and Decree, that the *lands Mortgaged* hereinafter mentioned and described, should be sold at Public Auction, by *John K Terry then Sheriff of Colleton County*, on the terms, and for the

purposes mentioned in said Decretal Order, as by reference thereto, on file in the said Court, will appear: And the said *John K Terry, then Sheriff* after having duly advertised the said *lands mortgaged* for sale, by public outcry, on the *Fifth* day of *January* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *Seventy Four* DID then, openly and publicly, and according to the custom of auction, sell and dispose of the said *lands mortgaged*, below described, unto *Miss Ann Elliott and Miss Emily Elliott* for *Seven hundred Dollars*, they being, at that price, the highest bidders for the same.

NOW, KNOW ALL MEN, That I, the said *Robert Black Sheriff as aforesaid* in consideration of the premises, and also in consideration of the sum of *Seven hundred Dollars paid to John K Terry then Sheriff* by the said *Miss Ann Elliott & Miss Emily Elliott* the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, HAVE granted, bargained, sold, and released, and by these presents DO grant, bargain, sell and release unto the said *Miss Ann Elliott and Miss Emily Elliott* and their Heirs and Assigns, ALL that plantation or tract of land in *St Pauls Parish, containing Seventeen hundred and fifty acres more or less, and bounded on the North by lands of H S King and Lewis Morris, East, and South by lands of the estate of, James King, and on the West by lands of R B King.*

TOGETHER with all and singular the rights, members, hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever, to the said *lands mortgaged* belonging, or in anywise appertaining; and the reversions and remainders, rents, issues, and profits thereof; And also, all the estate, right, title, interest, dower, possession, property, benefit, claim, and demand whatsoever, both at Law and in Equity, of the said *Ann H Elliott* and of all the parties to the said suit, and of all other persons rightfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof, by, from or under them, or either of them.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said *lands mortgaged* with its hereditaments, privileges, and appurtenances unto the said *Miss Ann Elliott & Miss Emily Elliott* their Heirs and Assigns forever. In Witness Whereof I, the said *Robert Black Sheriff aforesaid* under and by virtue of the said Decree, have hereunto set my Hand and Seal, at *Walterboro* this *29th* day of *October* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *Seventy Nine* and in the one hundred and *Fourth* year of sovereignty and independence of the United States of America.

SEALED AND DELIVERED IN THE

Robert Black

PRESENCE OF

S. C. C.

E W Fraser
Saxby Chaplin

The State of South Carolina,
Colleton COUNTY.

Personally before me *Benjamin Stokes Notary Public* came *E W Fraser* and made oath that he saw the within named *Robert Black Sheriff* sign, seal, and as *his* act and deed, deliver the within deed, and that he with *Saxby Chaplin* witnessed the execution thereof,

Sworn to before me, this 30th

E W Fraser

day of October A. D. 1879

B Stokes

Not Pub

TITLE UNDER ORDER OF COURT.

Robert Black

Sheriff

To Conveyance.

Miss Ann Elliott
Miss Emily Elliott

Auditor's Office
Colleton County
Nov 7th 1879

The within deed duly transferred this day in Book V, under letter B.
Fee 25 pd

G W Oswald
Auditor C C

Office R M G
Colleton County

Recorded in Book "C" pages 297 & 298 November 6th 1879

E W Fraser
R M G

fee 125 paid

GFP

Valdosta, Ga.
Nov. 9", 1879.

Gen. A. J. Gonzales
Habana, Cuba

My dear Father:

I wrote you some time ago and promised to communicate with you again before long. I have been waiting to hear from Riordan before doing so, as I have "the blues" in a chronic form. A few days ago I had a note from Dawson (who had returned,) stating that he shared Riordan's desire to put me on their staff, and that when Riordan returned from New York in about two weeks, they ought to be able to write me more definitely. So I am at most certain that I will have an offer soon, and it is *possible* that I may write you next from Charleston. Speed the day! I am sorry you sent the \$2 which I received. I had already subscribed for six months, and will have it sent for the year. The postage is *free*. I have just heard from Gertrude and from Brosie. All are well at home. Brosie is about to start out buying Sea Island cotton on commission for an enterprising neighbor. S.I. cotton as well as the short staple, rice, and naval stores, are all very much higher, and the coast is going to be in good condition this winter with the fine crops. I will write you as soon as I hear from R. & D. For the present please excuse brevity. I have to work hard even on Sundays.

Ever Your Affectionate Son,
Narciso

EGP

Valdosta, Ga
8 P.M. Nov. 30", 79

My dear Emmie:

In reply to my line of entreaty, now several days old, I received this morning the following equally brief rejoinder, per post card.

"We have not forgotten you and shall not. Just now, we cannot do what we hoped to do. We still are very desirous of having you with us. If you can wait, we think we can yet make you an offer. But we

have no right to ask you to wait.

R. & D.--per R.

Exit Hope, clad in Charleston breeches! (But no! wasn't *he* a female? If so, I withdraw the breeches and substitute,--well--hm!--unmentionables!)

I digress, as the literati say-- let us return to our mutton. I say that if this had occurred a week ago when I was confident, I would have done something dreadful--committed suicide, or fled to weep in the bosom of my family at the very least. But, as in the past week I have had the delights of that "hope long deferred which maketh the heart sick," mentioned in Scripture, and, perhaps considering that the bosom of my particular family isn't the pleasantest place to shower brine upon in misfortune, I have done neither, I rejoice to say; and am in fact relieved that something has been decided. Anything better than this infernal suspense, this dangling between Heaven (?) and earth! In fact, I wrote R. & D. this evening a letter in my most captivating and airy style, passages of which, I should blush (Did you ever see me?) as red as my ink, to repeat here.

Well, Don Quixote is unhorsed in his passage with the "News & Courier" windmill. His worship, however, has no Sancho to anoint his bruised shanks. Neither has he a Dulcinea at hand to soothe him. Poor Don Quixote! Let us leave him.

I have often thought, my dear Emily, that if I should by any chance, be discharged without my fault, and go home, what a cheerful welcome I would have! Do you remember that "good, kind Mr. Brenner," after the Varnsville defeat? I have no wish to be severe, but I *do* acknowledge that I would be afraid to go home if I got into such a scrape again. Now I will tell you what I am going to do henceforth. I'm not going to allow myself to expect anything from R. & D. If they make me an offer, well and good, but I won't depend on it. I am going to be doubly stingy; won't buy any clothes, let 'em laugh at me as much as they please, but save every nickel I can, and invest it here as I go along. This life is perfect misery to me, so I must make everything I can out of it. If nothing turns up, I will have the satisfaction of having some money in my pocket, and can go into that sheep business when I scrape enough up. I *must* have some sum to rely on. Still, if you need any, very much, send to me and you can have all I can raise. I must be misanthropic and miserly, but only to help us all in the long run. You never can understand how homesick and heartsick I get often, but I'm not ashamed to acknowledge it. The Atlantic & Gulf R.R. is no more, and the "Savannah, Florida & Western Railway" claims my *grateful* service!

Notwithstanding my moroseness, I can appreciate news from home, which you won't be sparing of, will you? To all

Affectionately
Nanno

EGP

Valdosta, Ga
Dec. 28" [1879] 11 A.M.

Dear Emmie:

Certainly if one could be recompensed for a miserable Christmas away from home, a letter like your would do a great deal toward consoling him. It reached me the day after Christmas, and I haven't had until now, a chance of thanking you. I am very grateful for your sympathy, and hope one of these days to have a real "Merry Christmas" at home.

I have found it a dreary day away from you all, I assure you.

I could have had oblivion by getting "tight" with the rest but I had no inclination nor time. In

fact, I haven't seen an egg-nogg. Last year I subscribed with others, to have a series of egg-noggs, but the venture wasn't profitable, as the treasurer (a Valdosta merchant) reserved the nogg and kept the funds.

I kept Christmas Day by selling tickets to negroes and way billing six cars of cotton &c &c. More work by a hundred per cent, than on any day for the previous week. And the whole week has been very trying, and altogether wretched. I will be very glad when January comes.

And now that I have given my doleful story, I will expect you to keep your promise of telling me about the Oak Lawn observances. I felt stingy in sending so little, but you see, every \$25 I save is represents one month of purgatory, and as I can't leave without a certain sum, a deduction of \$25 from my "relief fund" would force me to stay one month longer. This makes me very "close" indeed. I have not yet had time to write to Riordan, but will do so today, and also to Judge Haskell, as you suggest, although I hate to impose on him because of acquaintanceship. I don't have much hope in disinterested assistance, but will take any chance to get away. I return, for your violets, a sprig of mignonette, which has been blooming in the open air all Fall. It seems queer to see morning glories, verbena, phlox, mignonette and stocks in flower in the garden on Christmas, without care or protection. If you and Aunt Annie had this section in hand you could make it a paradise. We have had hot, cold, rainy and dry weather in the last week, but the flowers won't give up. I will try not to be disheartened as you ask it, but it will be deuced up hill work. Write me as often as you can, and give my best love to all, with thanks for their sympathy.

Ever Your Attached

Nanno

GFP

Sugar Mill San Cayetano (La Cidra)²⁸⁴ Dec. 31/79

Mr. Ambrosio Gonzales
Havana

My very esteemed Ambrosio:

Lola and I and also *the children*, have received with gratitude your good remembrance for the new year.

All together, that is, *in chorus*, also send you the best wishes and the classic "Happy New Year."

I now conclude while being confined at home with a beautiful cold I got last Sunday.

Always affectionately yours,

J. L. Alfonso²⁸⁵

EGP

Charleston Feb. 9 -- 1880

Miss Emily Elliott
Adams Run
Dear Cousin Emmie,

²⁸⁴. La Cidra was a small village located in Matanzas, Cuba.

²⁸⁵. José Luis Alfonso García. Aristocrat, writer, member of the annexationist Havana Club in 1847. Alfonso Beauregard Gonzales was named after him.

Yr letter Jan 28th and the remittance of \$85 (eighty five dollars) and I find your statement of account quite correct. The date from which it seems on my books is May 18 -- 1878 instead of 25th, as you state it, but that is an unimportant difference.

I am glad that you have a prospect of paying more another year, but by as before that you will consult the circumstances, & your convenience rather than the unbending figures of the calendar.

Affectionately Yrs
C. C. Pinckney Jr

GFP

Charleston. Mar. 5, 1880

[To Ambrosio Jose Gonzales]

Dear Sir--

On the receipt of your check for \$80, I wrote to Emily Elliott, to say that I had the money to pay the expenses of your Son at Mr. Porters School for three months.

She replies that he has not yet been sent to school. That they prefer sending him to some school in the mountains, where no holiday is given in summer, that he may avoid the climate of our low country at that season, and she proposes that I enclose the check to Nano, to use it for his brothers benefit, as you direct.

As you have entrusted the money to me for a specific object, I do not feel at liberty to give it this direction without your consent.

Please inform me whether this plan meets your approval. If it does, I will forward the amount to Nano, with your instructions.

In the mean time I have drawn the amount (\$80) & deposited it in Bank until I hear from you.

The family propose going to Flat Rock for the Summer, & I presume they have some school in view at Ashville or Greenville.

Very truly Yrs
C. C. Pinckney

GFP

Valdosta, Ga.
Mar. 7" 1880

My dear Father:

Persistent bad luck seems to attend me. The week your letter reached me I was daily expecting Brosie's arrival, and as I wrote you, was deferring a full reply until I should have his news from home. When he was ready to come I found that the Superintendent of this Road had gone to New York, and that I could not get passes for him until that official's return. When he did return, last week, and was willing to furnish passes, Brosie wrote that on account of the fine weather he had to remain at "Oak Lawn" a week longer to plant. Now the week has passed and although I have written and wired B. I can't hear from him. So I have to construct my mental bricks today, without any home straw, for which reason I hope you will excuse deficiencies. The fact is, I am tired out in body and mind by the hard work and isolation I have had all Fall and Winter. I have not been home since August, and for over seven months have not had a day's rest. I need some recreation imperatively, and must go home in April to obtain it. Brosie has written me that you have sent (through Mr. Jervey) \$80 toward Willie's education, with a promise of \$200 yearly for that purpose. It has been decided by the family to have the amount sent to me to keep in trust for Willie, until the fund amounts to \$300

or \$400, when, adding what we can ourselves subscribe, he can be sent to the "University of the South" at Sewanee, Tenn. As you know this is our best establishment on the military plan, in a fine climate, and with a preparatory department. I think this the best plan for Willie. He is not yet 14, and another year at "Oak Lawn" will better fit him, physically and mentally for hard study and discipline. Aunt Annie is very patient and thorough in teaching the young ones, and I know from my own experience that home teaching to a certain point, is the best. When I went to Virginia at 15, I found that (except in mathematics) I was far ahead of boys several years older, who had been at school from infancy. Willie is a fine boy and I trust we will make a sterling man of him. He is very affectionate, persevering and manly. Now, as to your kind offer of assistance to myself. My sheep plans were formed nearly a year ago, but until December I ~~have~~ did not have anything, being swindled out of part of my earnings, and having to assist at home with the rest. By next Spring, I expect to have saved about \$400, which, although not as much as I originally aimed at, is sufficient to ensure my success, or at least independence for a couple of years until my experiment is tried. Sea Island cotton has ruled so high this season that the family thinks of planting therewith the Hilton Head place which is now rented for \$200 annually.

If this is done next year, I may take charge of the place, as Brosie will remain at "Oak Lawn." I am much obliged to you for your offer, but I could not accept assistance from you when I feel that *I* should tender it to *you*. I rather prefer to work my way out by myself if I can endure it, and certainly your surplus can be put to a better purpose. This has been the most remarkably mild Winter the South has had for many years. It has really been warmer than the Cuban winters of my remembrance. Yesterday the thermometer was at 90. There has been hardly an ice, and less than a dozen frosts during the season, and consequently the flowers seem perennial. I have had morning glories, mignonettes, verbenas, and phlox, in full bloom all winter, in the open air. Can you give a much warmer record than this? Your papers were received and appreciated. I put them on my newspaper file, and they were a source of much wonder to the natives, who are surprised at the existence of a Spanish alphabet and are "sold" (excuse the slang!) on attempting to read. Do you get the "Weekly" regularly? If you have time or interest enough to read other Southern papers, let me know, and I will send you copies.

I have compounded with my conscience by writing this. It is long but I know will not be satisfactory. When Brosie comes I will give all the news I can. Please write me soon again. With warmest wishes for your success

Your Affectionate Son

Narciso G. Gonzales

GFP

Valdosta, Ga.

Mar. 14, 1880

My dear Father:

I wrote you in my last regarding the proposed disposition of the money you were to send for Willie's education. Since then I have heard that the money you sent (\$80) was given Cousin Cotesworth by Mr. Jervey, and that you instructed him to put Willie to school at Porter's himself. Cousin C. therefore declines to turn it over to Willie's family without your orders. I must think from this, that he has been mistaken in your intentions, or that you have made a serious blunder. None of us have asked for any assistance for Willie or any of us: we feel able, when the time comes, to give Willie a better education than either of us elder ones has received. When we read of your

contribution, it seemed to us a proper thing that you should assist us in educating Willie but we never supposed the amount was given under such conditions. In fulfilling a small part of your duty to one of us, it would have been in better taste to have sent the money quietly and modestly, through the shortest chanel, to the ones who have been supporting Willie, and to have let them use it for him. But instead, (if Cousin Cotesworth is correct) you send it to Mr. Jervey, who sends it to Mr. Pinckney, (so that people may know you have contributed the amount) and without a word to the family who have supported and taught him for ten years, direct Mr. Pinckney to put him to a school which they do not like. I have been on your side in the past, and would like to continue there, but if you begin by parading a small assistance to *one* of the children, and at the same time ignore, slight, and possibly insult the people who have fed us all, I have little hope of your retrieving yourself in their, or any one else's estimations. I write this under the belief that Cousin Cotesworth is correct in his understanding of your letter. I hope he is *not* and that I will have had no occasion to say these unpleasant things.

One thing is certain,--Willie will not go to any school that is not acceptable to the family nor will he go except when sent by them. Brosie will not come. I go home for a fortnight in April.

Your aff. son,

N.G.G.

Envelope addressed:
(*The Letter*)

Gen. A. J. Gonzales
Apartado No. 146
Paradero de Villanueva
Havana, Cuba

EGP

Valdosta, Ga.
Mar. 28", 1880

Dear Emmie:

As you will see from the document I enclose, "the old man" has vindicated himself in a dramatic manner. He must be highly incensed with me, and has not forgotten his "academic postures" as he calls them.

I write to soothe him, but I am afraid he will not be reconciled, and that I will be "cut off with a shilling."

Under the circumstances, I must decline handling his money for the present. And Brosie also,, seems incensed with me, as well as the Pater. He has written me severe postal cards, first requiring a letter and last asserting that I hadn't written, which I surely did last Sunday. I am very grateful, however, for his exertions in arranging for the Bay trip. Tell him, I will bring him "Ouida's" last novel to appease him.

It will make the Bay trip much more delightful if you ladies go-- you know I was much interested to see you at Tryon, and I suppose E. and A. on the beach will be an equally pleasant novelty to me. Such is habit that I find it hard to imagine you anywhere except Oak Lawn. You mustn't be disheartened. The pond will be fixed if I have to do it all myself, and as to the money stringency, I have a plan, which, if it appears fair to you, I will begin to carry out when I get home. It is this: I will buy from you, according to my means, from time to time, this Spring, certain of your sheep. I will want to start with 100 ewes, next year, and I will buy them from you now, to be delivered to me then, and you will have the increase and wool between now and then. And the money

may

[The rest of this letter from N. G. Gonzales is missing]

EGP

Adams Run June 8/80

Dear Aunt Emmie:

Aunt Annie received yours today and as t'is too warm to admit after holding a pen, I substitute myself -- The weather is most infernal -- thermometer only 84 today, but cloudy drizzley, and *dank*-- Aunt A well tent rather lonely, & I think she misses your society & Hattie's noise very much -- & will be glad to see you again. I sent you a N&C last evening. Nanno telegraphs that he will be here on tomorrow Wednesday night. I think he has vacated Valdosta, for a place on Greenville News with Williams. He will be there by 11th. I am truly glad of it, & I daresay you will see something of him this Summer. I'm glad the "Commodore" has proved a trump. Aunt M. wrote me, (letter rec'd today) saying that Gertrude would probably leave on 16th arriving at F.R. on 17th (Thursday) Will try & get Aunt A & Willie off in time to meet her. Will go to Charleston to ~~meet her~~ see them off &c. The crops are all right & promise well.

Good bye -- I have not the Energy to write more -- All well, & much love to your circle.

Yours Ever

Brosie

Aunt Mamie writes that Miss Hannah is on her way to Fannie at Brookland & will doubtless prove a great comfort to her.

A.E.G.

Perry paid up \$20-- yesterday

NA, Federal Census 1880, South Carolina, Colleton County, p. 45.

Schedule I. Inhabitants in Adams Run, in the County of Colleton, State of So. Ca. enumerated by me on the 18th day of June, 1880.

F. Y. Legare, Enumerator.

Name	Color	Sex	Age	Relation	Single	Profession	Place of Birth
Elliott, R. E.	W	M	49	Brother	"	Raising Cattle	So. Ca.
A. H.	W	F	50	Sister	"	At Home	" "
E. E.	W	F	43	"	"	" "	" "
Gonzales, A. E.	W	M	21	Nephews	"	Raising Cattle	" "
A. B.	W	M	19	"	"	" "	" "
W. E.	W	M	10	"	"	At Home	" "
H. E.	W	F	7	Neice	"	" "	" "

[On the column for place of birth of the father of the children, it is dittoed as South Carolina]

[Neighbors were former Elliott slaves]

Wilson, Clytus	B	M	38		M	Laborer	" "
Cloie	B	F	35	Wife	M	At Home	" "
King, Ellen	M	F	3		S	" "	" "

EGP

Southern Express Company,
EXPRESS FORWARDERS.

Oak Lawn July 17" 1880

My dear Aunt,

Your note & enclosure received. Dumbie is certainly Quixotic and I write him on the subject tonight. The rains have given this place the slip. Plenty all around us & none here, 'tis very tantalizing to see the heavy clouds go by every evening & only a few drops falling here. We need it very much & I trust t'will come soon. Weather fearfully hot as you can see by paper. Thermometer has registered 90° & upwards every day but one since Aunt Annie left Charleston -- None of us have been unwell, at all tho there's rather short Commons for fresh meat sometimes. The nigger chickens are too poor to eat, & no veal to kill on account of hot weather parching up pasture, for same reason no butter & very little milk. Suppose it can't last always tho' & in meantime I am rejoiced that you are to have boarders. I am feeling badly from the sun, & very nervous to excuse writing &c. Brily paid nothing yet -- Much love to you all from Capt B & self. Yours

Brosie

EGP

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE COTTON STATES
OFFICE OF
THE NEWS AND COURIER
NO. 19 BROAD STREET

RIORDAN & DAWSON,
PROPRIETORS.

Columbia, S.C., Aug. 6" 1880

Miss Emily Elliott
Flat Rock, N.C.

Dear Emmie:

Arrived yesterday at 6 a.m.; went to Lexington to report a meeting soon after, driving there and back in a buggy, 26 miles. Sent a column of "special dispatch" by 10 P.M., and then interviewed Butler on Cash by wire, he being at Trenton, Edgefield Co. So I was busy on my first day. Today I've had time to look around somewhat, and find Columbia better looking than I expected. Main street is quite handsome. My office is on the liveliest square of it, and is pleasant and commodious. I have obtained board at a modest half hotel for \$16. No style about it, but the fare is satisfactory enough, and I have a room to myself.

McKinley, whom I succeeded will be paid to help me out for a week longer. Dawson certainly seems to be kindly disposed, and has paid me for this week 'though I lost three days of it. It is a relief to have no one present to order me around, as I have had plenty of that for three years. The people seem affable, and my work will be light until Fall, except when I leave the city to report anything specially. By the way, Hagood inquired about you all, especially of Aunt Annie. I don't know if he's a widower. Write soon, and with love to all, believe me your affectionate,

Nanno

EGP

Oak Lawn August 14th 1880

Miss H. R. Gonzales
Flat Rock N.C.

My Dearest Hattie

Accept my prettiest thanks for your nice little letter of the 9th. Tell me truly, do you get much help in writing to me? Do you do it with pleasure, or is it a burden to you? if the latter, dont -- if the former, -- as often as you please, and thank you every time --

I gave your message to old Boatswain this morning -- he pulled his wool, scraped his foot, & said "tell little missis tenky; an sen over huddee to him an all de odder missis, frum me en Anne." His English you perceive, is not very good, but nevertheless the nigger *is*.

Brosie gave me a charming drive, with Lannie, to Towles, this morning, to look at the brag Toogoodoo crops -- which drive, I much enjoyed, first, because it was unusual, 2d because it was the first breath of *cool* air I have felt this summer 3d the mare travelled gloriously -- 4th the best Toogoodoo cotton, was not near as good as the Oak Lawn patch.

You ask of Zulu -- well, I am at a loss for words, to describe all of that high born young gentlemans excellencies -- just find out all of the good qualities a 13 month old colt ought to have, and then read one of Miss Gertrudes school reports, and you will about have it.

You want to know about the garden? Heat, drouth, fowls & grass, are not good for vegetables -- but work & cussing are -- so, I have a few Okra, Tomattoes, Potatoes, Roasting Ears, Guinea Squash, & Texas Yams.

Cussing is also excellent for Mr & Mrs Wilson -- wish we had found it out sooner.

It will not be possible for me to leave this anchorage before you all return -- but I will do my best, to get each of the young men off on one of the next excursions. Brosie certainly will see you-- and Bory would be much improved by a change of associations.

I am very sorry not to be able to see Gertrude before her return -- I *know* how *good* she is, but I wanted to see how pretty she was -- cant you tell me -- Give my quantity of love to Aunt Annie, Emmie, Gertrude-- Bide & accept armsful for yourself, from the Entire Bean Garden.

Ever your attached uncle

Ralph

EGP

Oak Lawn Octo 15/80
Friday

Miss Emily Elliott

Flat Rock N.C.

My dear Aunt:

Your note of Oct 13" reached me this morning. I had not answered your last letter for want of time. Returning from a Cheeha trip on Wednesday. I have been so busy since that, I hardly know when a day passes. Nanno arrived here this morning having a couple of days respite between the Barnwell & Hampton meetings -- He will be here until Sunday, & I have rammed some Quinine into him. Looking remarkably well and is much pleased with his occupation. He will report the meeting at Walterboro on Tuesday next & we will try & attend with some Redshirts from this section. Beaury came home feeling badly last week, & was sick for a day or two, but is out hunting with the Captain today & enjoying the splendid weather. I am very sorry to hear of Aunt Annie's continues indisposition & trust she will be careful of dews & mountain air. The storm did no damage but to throw down a lot of moss from the Avenue Oaks. Have had plenty of hands for the Cotton picking & finished the 2nd "blow" yesterday. I think I will make something buying Cotton this fall tho' there's a great deal of opposition & I will be absent from home most of the time after your return. Please give me some idea if you can of the time you will move house as there's much to be done in the way of

cleaning up & making ready for yr advent. I don't think Chloe will stay or be useful long, she has too much of the lady about her (for bachelor's hall at any rate) so if you can bring a reliable servant male or female with you, it would be a good thing & a boy would be worth something if his mother was on hand to keep him straight. I heard from Gertrude some time ago, says she has some very nice girls this fall, & is in good spirits.

Much love from Nanno & self to you all. The hunters have not returned yet.

Yours always

Ambrose

EGP

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE COTTON STATES
OFFICE OF
THE NEWS AND COURIER
NO. 19 BROAD STREET

RIORDAN & DAWSON,
PROPRIETORS.

Columbia, S.C., Jan. 9" 1881

Dear Emmie:

This being my first "day of rest" since leaving Oak Lawn I "sit down to write you these few lines &c."

I'm afraid the Captain was rather scandalized at my not making "something amusing" out of the sham suicide as he suggested, and at my mention of the family name. But it occurred thus: when I got to the office that night no one was in but Logan the telegraph editor who said he didn't want to publish anything about the affair until Capt. Dawson should see it, and so requested me to write a note to Capt. D. giving him a "plain statement of fact" to be considered next day. I did so and next morning I was horrified to see that he had substituted another heading for "Dear Captain" and printed the stuff just as I wrote it otherwise. Of course I mentioned "the Elliotts" merely for the boss's information. Logan must have been short of "copy" and stuck it in.

Things have been very quiet since my return, and the weather is general very aggravating. I don't know what I would have done without that donated overcoat which I am duly grateful for and shall endeavor to return some day as bread upon the waters.

The Captain's old acquaintance, Richardson, has been stranded by an ebbing tide of prosperity. "The Register" being in a bad way, dispensed with the services of both its reporters with the advent of the new year and Richardson is out of work, but manages to get short jobs about the State House. The proprietor tried to do the work himself for a day or two, but I managed to beat him badly and he took on Moore again. Some think it was a trick to get rid of Richardson without offending him.

Everything is terribly dull since the adjournment, but the lack of news makes me work harder to get a little and I don't appreciate it.

Hagood has moved to the Governor's mansion and is only to be seen at his office where he keeps close & frigid. I haven't had an opportunity of interviewing him for Aunt Annie yet.

The "old man" seems "alive" still. I had a note from him the other day in which he says: "I have moved to this city (Matanzas) where I am engaged in teaching. I left the Road voluntarily, although a somewhat increase in salary was offered me. Although some of my oldest friends are away and others, like the Ximenos, are utterly ruined, I still feel more at home in my native town than I did in Havana. Hence my removal. Remember me to my children. Your affectionate father." This will give

you a topic for conversation, and so I'll leave you. Write soon and as fully as you can. Love to all
N.G.G.

P.S. I'm informed I have fattened amazingly since I left. Thanks for it.

N.

EGP

Sunday, February 6th [1881]
59 Franklin

My dearest Emmie.

I have not heard from you, for all this week, but I hope that you are all well & nothing the matter. I have just time for a scratchy note this evening, as I have a great deal to accomplish this before I go to bed. We are all in just the same old [...], & there is nothing going on of any consequence. Mrs L. having company in the house is amiable, but the girls all have the blues so that it is not particularly cheerful. [*sic*] A new girl, dubbed "the One [...] Unfortunate" arrived last Friday evening - a Miss Lewis from Virginia & being homesick, as given an impetus to the homesickness of the rest. Josephine Venable went home yesterday, so I hope that Aunt Mamie is satisfied; she never liked me to go with her very much, I don't think but Aunt M has such a very one sided view of the girls that her estimates of them are rarely ever right. How are they all getting on at home? Has Nannan recovered from Singleton Farmer? How about Willie. It would be a pity for him not to go to school this winter especially if he seems in the [...] for it.

I heard from Nanno twice last week. he told me nothing about the Old Man, however I sent my report for Jan & Dec to him, as he was asking about my different lessons & I had no time to write him. I am very much interested in them & get on splendidly - only Aunt M. seems impressed with the idea that I have nothing to do - for the simple reason that I don't make a fuss over my lessons, or complain of them. Such is life!!! The French Plays will take place week after next at the farthest. Wish that they would come sooner & be over sooner such a trial as it is to get ready for them. I suppose that if there is any thing else worth writing about then Aunt M. will have told you - [...] is still sick in bed - Good bye, love to all- Tell B. that I have been expecting to hear from him. Hope that he is keeping well-

Ever your loving - G[ertrude]

EGP

Sunday - Feb. 20th 1881
59 Franklin Street
Baltimore
Md.

My dear little Brother

I have been wanting to write to your poor homesick self, ever since I heard of your arrival at Yorkville, of which Brosie wrote me, when he stopped in Columbia, on his way down the country. Well I hope, dear William Lee, that you are getting out all right & have had no attacks of homesickness, as young gentlemen in your circumstances are apt to have. No doubt you will find it very hard to get along, but I am looking forward to hearing of you as a studious & dashing cadet, with an equal liking for girls, guns & books. For, according to my notions, a boy who loves equally those three things comes as near being perfect, as a boy can come - with out being like Dumbiedikes, "a perfect Adonis." What are you studying there? You must write & tell me all about yourself - the

lessons you like best - & the boys you are making friends with, the rules of the school & all about it, as I want to compare notes with you. Are there any girls near the school? & if so, are you allowed to see them? I have been quite sick for the last week, or would have written to you sooner -

The French Plays will be day after tomorrow. I would give anything if you could be here to see your sister with a white satin train, three yards long, & powdered hair, trailing around on a stage & reciting nearly a thousand lines of French before two hundred people. There are several very pretty girls here this year, whom I wish you could see. I would like too choose you a sweet heart out of them, but I am afraid that you only appreciate a sweetheart when she is near enough to kiss; dont you? Harry & Billy Butts are coming to the French Plays, & you must think of me on Tuesday & Wednesday nights & wish me good luck. Cousin Mamie is here, & we were talking about you this morning. She & Aunt Mamie send a great deal of love to you. They must miss you very much at home, & I suppose write to you often. Do you wear a uniform? If so, what color is it? I shall certainly expect to hear from you very, very soon, & will be disappointed if I don't. Tell me every thing you do. Who are your room-mates. Are they nice boys? All the girls send love. Be a good boy Bill & write to your loving sister Tula.

Direct your letters to #59 Franklin St
Baltimore

EGP

Oak Lawn - Feb 21st [1881]

My Darling Willie

Your *nice* letter came in on Saturday. it does you great credit. I had no idea that your first letter would be so correctly spelled. So you have been homesick you poor little monkey. I hope that now you feel better - if your uniform is finished & you have it on I am sure you feel better - for you went in it to Church yesterday & saw some pretty girls - who looked at the new boy - & the new boy looked at them. You have full permission to fall in love with a new one every Sunday - but I insist your keeping a list of them & you must write & tell me how pretty they are. Your taste is improved since the Tryin Days - Belle Elliott was certainly prettier than Molly - poor! Molly.

We were very much pleased with Brosie's account of The School & of Col Coward, & We are so glad that you find him good - it is a great thing gained when a boy looks upon his teacher as a friend -

I suppose you feel as if you had been away an age - & fancy that things are mightily changed Tula grown up. Young going about with their hissing parents - Alfonso grown into a sedate hard working elderly man! but T'is not so - old fellow - if you were to slip in you would find us just the same - a little bit more green thats all. Brosie saw Mr Mantoue on his way back - & we have a little more hope in that direction - he says we must keep quiet & in six months or a year we may get something - but we are not to talk about it. So my son if you know what I am talking about - I think you do not mention it to any one. Brosie went to Chehaw on Saturday & came back last night. I believe he is not going to worry himself with planting there this year - he has no mules yet - but Jane & Brown Peter have done very well - The oats is planted & today the cotton stalks are being flayed down. You see I suppose that you want to know how things are going on in your absence.

Hattie is just as much engrossed in her pigs & out door occupations she says she has not seen a rabbit on a squirrel since you left.

Catherine & Johnnie ask after you with interest. The latter wishes I think to go to a Military School. Harry is getting Brosio to teach him at night Your going seems to have given an impetus to

education. I heard from Gertrude a few days ago. She is charmed at your being a [...] at school. I hope that Mr. Coward will determine upon a summer vacation - for then you will see Gertrude at Flat Rock. Mr. Drayton offers \$200.00 for [...] Acres across opposite the Church - but we can not take so little Your friend Hart would give more.

Good bye now - We all miss you & talk about our absent pledging - I think Brosio was a little jealous that I should get the first letter. I enclose a couple of stamps & will send more when I get them. Love from all Your devoted Aunt Emmie

P.S. Tear up or lock up your letters.

EGP

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE COTTON STATES
OFFICE OF
THE NEWS AND COURIER
NO. 19 BROAD STREET

RIORDAN & DAWSON,
PROPRIETORS.

Columbia, S.C., March 15 1881

Dear Brosie:

Your note received. You suffer from a constitutional shortness of breath in regard to letter writing, and therefore I can't blame you much. If the ancients had hated writing descriptive letters as much as you do, we wouldn't have had any history. A description of Caesar's assassination would have read thus: "Dear Blank. Caesar was killed today. Weather splendid No news. Write soon. Yours, Blank".

Speaking of assassinations, what do you think of the Tsar's? I can't help sympathizing with the Nihilists, not only because I don't believe in Tsars, but because I admire their perseverance. As 17 says: perseverance and sweet oil *will* accomplish wonders! How does it strike them at home. Last time I saw them they hated "those horrid Russians," but I don't know how they stand now.

You asked whom H.J.R. is? I haven't heard officially, but I recognize him as Dr. H. J. Redfield, who as correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial* went through the South at or before '76 and made a sensation with his letters. He is very graphic and has had much experience. He reports for the Philadelphia *Times* also, sending the same matter to each paper, with occasional exceptions.

What do you think of Garfield? I'm dubious about him, as his inaugural in my opinion was very non-committal. The N. & C., as well as the other Southern papers seem to be tickling him with a view to the Democrats getting some offices down here. It remains to be seen whether Abraham will listen to the syren song. *I think he won't.*

Charleston is to have a big cotton factory at last, and I have no doubt Dawson will have a nice nest egg in it. It's the only hope for the place at present. Mayor Courtenay told me today that the people there had put 1,200,000 into factories and phosphate companies already this year, so they *have* the money. We are going to have the "raging canal" utilized very shortly, as you will see in a few days.

Hayne, Elliott's chum, was here the other day, and reported him looking well and doing well, having made \$2,500 or \$3,000 buying cotton for speculation so far this season.

Butler thinks of visiting Huske next week if he don't go to N. Y. to bring a load of immigrants? Do you want any? Don't see any opening at present for anything, but will keep you in mind.

I'm getting on as usual but nothing happens to break the routine. I'm pegging away at my

shorthand and will finish the book in a day or two, when I'll begin to practice.

Tell me your arrangements about planting this year and what progress you've made. Why don't you send some specimens of phosphates, or something, for Col. Butler's cabinet. Colleton place is still empty. How are the carp progressing? Love to all

Nanno

EGP

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE COTTON STATES
OFFICE OF
THE NEWS AND COURIER
NO. 19 BROAD STREET

RIORDAN & DAWSON,
PROPRIETORS.

Columbia, S.C., March 19, 1881

Dear Brosie:

You will conclude, perhaps, that I am insane on the subject of writing but new projects are being evolved in my mind and I must let you know them. Col. Butler, from some information he has had, has become thoroughly enthused on the subject of cattle and sheep raising in the low country, and we talked for several hours about it last night.

He is going to write to you he says, and to others, to get information, and is thinking strongly of going down to see Huske and at the same time to look around for a good location.

He wants to get up a livestock company to operate down there, and is willing to put \$1,000 or more into it.

I spoke to him about the Bluff and Social Hall and he was very much impressed with that neck of land.

If he goes down you will find that it will pay you to look after him and show him the advantages of that section. I have no doubt if you drove him over to S.H. you could make an arrangement for going into the business with him alone which would give you a good lift and secure Social Hall. He has at least \$5,000 cash, and I think you could help each other out a great deal.

He says that if he can plant a successful colony of immigrants down there and open new industries in the low country he can "die with the consciousness of not having lived in vain".

You have now a chance of getting immigrant tenants or immigrant colonists, and of forming a good partnership. Will you take the chance? And do the work?

N.G.G.

GFP

Office of
The News and Courier

Columbia, S.C., March 22d 1881

Dear Brosie:

Thanks for your newsy letter. "Congratulations" aside, it is not of the kind I pine for, and without which I refuse to be comforted. It has solid *news*, and satisfies my craving. You see I used some of it at once, and Huske had not informed Col. Butler about the donation. The Colonel was delighted and drew favorable inference of our neighborhood which may return in some shape to E.M.B. after many days.

I will say this, that I appreciated what "the folks" said about my sketch more than any compliment I ever heard, for besides remembering the axiom about the prophet in his own land, I know they could not have commanded the style more highly than in saying it was like Grandpapa's. I don't think so, but I appreciate the remark just the same.

I am in for an industrial campaign, and I wrote Dawson so. He replied "All right; go ahead, and add education to the list." I feel enthused; feel the pioneer spirit in me and my admiration and love for the low country urging me on, and I'll promise you, that if I stay here I will not cease my exertions until I get a colony settled down there. Hagood told Butler he didn't think it safe to start a colony on the coast, but Butler says he'll be d--d if he cares what he thinks about it.

We have not time, I think to do anything this spring in that direction, but if you work the people up to the right pitch on the political, moral and agricultural effect of an influx of sturdy white men into their midst, and can furnish data on which to make a good show of advantage to the Germans, I will do the rest. Let me suggest some points. The fact that Germans had settled there in their own domain, would, as to labor, show the negroes that they could not browbeat us nor ignore us in the matter of work -- it would make them work better. It would, as to politics, give them a wholesome lesson and decrease their security and insolence. And it would help us agriculturally, by introducing European and thorough modes of farming, and start new industries. Besides, it would increase the value of our lands, and their success in health would be watched and show the security of our quinine practice, and thus bring knowledge, and further population to us. I know you would be willing to donate lots of land to them, or lease it rent free for several years, and it is this information chiefly that I want to be assured of. In the fall, when things are in better shape, we can doubtless secure a colony with enough capital to build houses and run a year. Easy terms for the land would fetch them, perhaps prepared for the purpose, from Germany.

Our indirect benefits would be great, and we could well afford to make some unfelt sacrifice, in order to start such a revolution. Col. Butler has a kindred feeling and so he has come to confide in me and ask my advice on many matters. He says I ought to be an immigrant agent in New York at this moment! (Who knows? "Barkis" will be "willin" when "the hour and the man have met." You see I keep an eye on the here after.)

Bill's report is excellent for a beginner. Do you know, I think that young Gentleman is going to be a correspondent after my own heart?

He gets up an enjoyable letter from the beginning. His criticism of the Yorkville girls is good and dry. "There are a few here that would leave Brosie's Lanny far behind, I am thinking." Then, in acknowledging some advice of mine about being friendly with the boys he says: "I have been following it all along and find that it dose better than any thing else; still I do not mean by that, that I let any fellow within one or two years of my age run over me." He agrees with me that "homesickness is the most miserable of all diseases", and shows it by this: "Your letters with the Sea & Palmetto tree on them reminds me of the glorious time we had down on the Bay, and that old Shark, and then you in the Surf up to your knees, taking aim at him with Uncle R's old Negro Slayer." It is pleasant, and makes me feel youthful again. Somehow, I get more affected by the talk of a youngster of his age or under, full of the essence of content with the present, than by anything else: it reminds me of a certain brief period of our own tough lives, before this everlasting gnawing of poverty and ambition came upon us and made us feel like birds with weights on their hind legs.

Rather "lame and impotent conclusion," isn't it?

Here's another. I assure you I appreciate your difficulties heartily but I'm so tied up myself that

I can't assist you for some time.

My debt to R. & D.²⁸⁶ has its tenth and last weekly payment this Saturday, and I'm a month behind in my loan in consequence of previous embarrassments. I have calculated to a fine point that it will take me until April 15th to catch up with it, and I have pledged myself to do so. It will take every dollar until then, and I have several small debts so that it will be May 1st before I am quits with the world. These small accounts harass me enormously, I hate indebtedness so much. I wish I could help you out, but you see how 'tis. I have (or will have) paid about \$100 I owed in about four months. Fact is, this salary is too small for any saving. I've stopped drinking, theatre and other sins to pay off quickly. But no doubt I will get more salary before Summer's out. This is long -- very! -- but written in dinededly short order. Give love and special kiss to Edith. Write me your views fully when you can.

Love to all. Good night,

Nanno

EGP

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE COTTON STATES
OFFICE OF
THE NEWS AND COURIER
NO. 19 BROAD STREET

RIORDAN & DAWSON,
PROPRIETORS.

Columbia, S.C. March 29" 1881

My dear Willie:

Various causes have prevented my answering your letter sooner, but I was very much pleased with it and have told the folks that you were going to be a correspondent after my own heart. You write very entertainingly and amusingly, my friend, and if you keep it up, it will help you a great deal in the future. People are fond of good letters as well as of good talking, and writing always counts more in "the wild" than speech. You and I are not good talkers; but if we are good writers, we make it even, don't you see? Begin now early, and get well grounded in punctuation. Notice mine, for an example; for I believe I got my place on The News and Courier because I punctuated my letter of application well.

I will advise you from time to time, not from any feeling of perfection on my part, but because I have been in your place myself, and therefore know what will be useful to you. And I'm glad you take it kindly because I have a great deal of sympathy for you and all boys just beginning life, and I would like to encourage you and help you.

You are just right about your relations with the boys; don't "run over" any younger fellow, and don't let any older boy "run over" you. But try and keep the peace if it can honorably be kept.

If you go to Spartanburg to the Centennial of the battle of Cowpens you will probably find me there, as I have no doubt they will detail me for that work. At any rate, I will see you before the Summer, if I have to go to Yorkville. And I would as soon see "one poor little boy" as any one I know of. Broise sent me your report, and I have forwarded it to Gertrude. It is excellent for the first month, and I hope you will try harder than ever to make a good record.

Your experience with home letters is just mine exactly. Emmie is the only one who knows how to write a good letter and she is not corresponding with me now.

²⁸⁶ His employers, Riordan and Dawson.

Brosie generally writes: "Dear Nanno: Planting going on rapidly. All well. No news. Write soon. Yours, B."

Now we two know that if he were to tell us what he was planting in the "Orchard field", or how many lambs there were, or whether the jessamines were in bloom, or how many hunts the Gallant Captain had taken; it would be like putting life into the dry bones of his note.

They have so many things there that would interest us; but not having been from home themselves, they don't appreciate how much we exiles value such items, when Oak Lawn is dear to us.

You show them their mistake, by making your letters as interesting as you can, even with no Oak Lawn to write about. That's what I try to do. You must not let those Yorkville girls teach you to be rapid, like Lannie - or Zulu. Keep them for me.

Yes, I remember that week at the Bay very distinctly, and always go back to it with a great longing. Isn't it strange that we are happiest when we get away from cities and civilization?

Everything is quiet here, but we are all busy with immigration. We are bringing German farmers into the State in small parties to work on shares with the planters. We hope to get thousands after awhile, and show the negroes that they are not to rule us again in politics or labor. I'm going to try to settle a colony of them at Checha or home next Fall.

They are brought by the State and distributed all about. I'm also trying to get Brosie some partners with capital to go into cattle and sheep raising on a large scale at "the Bluff" and "Social Hall" next Fall.

I hope to succeed, and if I do, it will be a great thing for us all. Brosie can stay there and Uncle R. can manage Oak Lawn in his absence. I'll write you more about it later.

Write me when you can, and believe me ever

Your devoted brother,

Nanno

EGP

Oak Lawn Sunday - [April 1881]

My dear Willie

The evening that Alfonso wrote you I got Brosie to enclose you a dollar which I hope you received. I had not then heard that you would require \$1.50 for your picnic & when I did hear it was too late to send it.

Nanno wrote Brosie that he would send you money for the Centennial however & I hope he sent enough to supply the deficiency. I know how badly it must make a boy feel to be "penniless" & I feel for you but this winter I have been uncommonly hard up - every body has fallen short in paying their dues & poverty has been nearer than ever. I told Hattie to tell to engage those pantaloons & I would send you the money as soon as possible to get them. I am trying for it now. The planting looks promising. I hope that Brosie will make provisions - he has had to buy corn. & it is a daily trouble to him. After awhile I hope the horses will bring in something now they represent outcome - not *in* come. You ask over and over again about Chehaw - You know B. does not love disagreeable subjects. I suppose that is the reason why he does not answer you - he was so cheated by the nigs over there in the cotton that he was disgusted & has not attempted cropping there this year - dont allude to it when you write, it will make him snappish. Uncle Ralph has been suffering like Job - & I fancy like some of the rest of us does not find life the way we live - very bright or cheerful - I have not yet heard definitely about Mr. Drayton & his F.R. purchase. Willie Elliott writes promisingly -

thats all - A party from Baltimore have written to engage rooms. Catherine is going as cook - her son Washington (who came to see her last Sunday) as Butler - Johnnie - as every thing - if I only had the money in hand, I might arrange pleasantly & satisfactorily - but there stands the everlasting if - I hope my child - that you will go on the next session - indeed no stone shall be left unturned to keep you at school - if things work smoothly we will ask for a furlough for you - a fortnight at the close of the present session which will give you a breathing spell. You must find out the cost on the RR. to Spartanburg - I hope you will have a good time - at the Centennial - & that you will see some of your [...] friends Mr Carlyle - & others. Hattie is growing to be a young woman fast. We are sending down cream to Von Sauten & have killed two veal & a lamb.

The sheep are to be shown tomorrow & I suppose we will find out how many we have - with fences down - it is a mercy that we have what we have - & we must be thankful & try & be silent. Good bye now. You will think I have given you dose enough for once - Much love from all your attached

Aunt Emmie

EGP

Oak Lawn April 26/81

My dear Willie:

Your three letters to Aunt E. Hattie, & myself have been received and duly appreciated. I'm sorry not to have written you longer & more frequent letters, but for a month past my life has been one continual worry, that I try not to show at home or in my letters. You know how hard it has been to get money for everything that's to be done on the place, & this spring I have had a harder time than usual on account of having so much Corn to buy, & running on my own hook, so as not to get cheated again & lose my whole year's work as I was last fall, & I tell you its been hard work. However my crop is planted & well manured with Ash Element, & stable manure, & if I have a good season I don't see anything to prevent my making an excellent crop. The Oats are very pretty & Cotton coming up, as is also the Corn, I have planted twice as much of the latter as I did last season, & hope to make accordingly. The crows are trying to pull it up, & the Captain has sent the few rifle Cartridges that you left, among them. The pond keeps full of water & frogs, in about equal quantities & its going to be lively for those of us who remain here during the Summer. I have seen no *cranes* or other birds there as yet. The Carp are all right I think tho' its been too cold for them to come to the surface I guess. Hattie has liberated some perch and silver fish caught on the Rail Road in the upper pond, but fish are very scarce at the Cypress, & every where else so far on account of the backward season. Things in the garden & the woods are only now seeming anxious to go ahead, & in a few days Summer will be upon us in Earnest. The lamb crop will be short but a good lot of *Calves* have been born, & when the grass springs a little more, the dairy will be good. Lannie's colt is a fine fellow, but very wild & Zulu is certainly very promising. I am not feeling well so must close. All send love.

Your loving old
"Bosie"

GFP

Wm. Elliott
Stephen B. Fowles

ELLIOTT & FOWLES,

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS.

Beaufort, S.C., 3 June 1881

Dear Emily,

I sent Messrs Simons & Seigling a long statement of the condition of the Estate -- suggested three modes of giving a title and requested a prompt answer, which I will no doubt get. Among other things I told them

1. That the Bonds to Cousin Mary and to Hattie for \$10,000 had been paid in full that nothing more had been paid to them -- and that nothing whatever had been paid to either you or Cousin Anne on account of your interest in the estate.
2. That your sister Caroline died *before* Uncle William, leaving no will. And that Hattie left no will.

Please let me know whether I am correct in the above. If the Bonds were not paid in full, please tell me about how much was paid on either. Uncle William on his Will speaks of payments having been made upon Cousin Mary's Bond.

Please also tell me about the title to the Flat Rock Farm. I think you told me you did not have it. If you have, please send it to me. If not please let me know *from whom* he purchased and *when* -- also the description of the property. The deed must have been recorded in the Clerks office at Hendersonville and the information can be got from him.

Please also tell me what other property besides the lots here, the Flat Rock farm and Myrtle Bank, remains of the estate. Dont trouble yourself with descriptions -- just the name.

Your affte Cousin
Wm Elliott

Miss Emily Elliott
Flat Rock N.C.

EGP

Oak Lawn
Wednesday 13th [July 1881]

My dear Hattie

Yours has been unanswered for a very long time, but if you knew my reasons for not writing, I am sure you would excuse me. Brosie is yet at Green Pond - he was here for a few hours on Sunday - looking fagged and thin, but talking cheerfully, and hopefully. Of Bory I dont see very much. his cough is bad, and he looks, and *is*, very good for nothing.

We are entirely without a servant. 'Bob' having run away ten days ago - a good ridance - and I am happy to add, has been since caught robbing in Adams Run, where his colored brethren administered '25' to his delicate back.

Hannah still washes for & steals from the trio.

The pastures are more fresh & green just now than they have been since April & the cattle are looking well. Especially the calves whose mothers are being milked. but Von Sauten threatens to stop his demand for cream, and without help, I don't think I can undertake the making of Butter.

The rains have been sufficient for the crop - all of which is looking pretty - a little more is now wanted to put in the slip potatoes & to freshen up the Carp Pond, also for drowning kittens & pups.

Your Cats are all alive & well - ditto Spice.

Before Annie left 2 turned out your two feminine pigs. They are constantly in sight, & doing very well. The other two are improving daily, & I hope will reward my labors in their behalf by

contributing to your pin - money.

I am obliged to stop now. give much love to Gertrude & the boys - and tell your Aunts I sympathize with them in all their troubles and disappointments.

They say, it has been very *hot* down here. I have not found it so.

Your affectionate

Uncle Ralph

EGP

PORT ROYAL AND AUGUSTA RAILWAY COMPANY.

Yemassee S.C. Agency, July 23, 1881

My dear Folks

Aunt Annie's letter rec'd yesterday & am glad you have a house full, don't see how Aunt E can help getting thro' all right & hope she won't worry unnecessarily. Mantoues Claim was always hopeless so there's nothing to worry about in the bursting of that bubble. I will probably hear from Willie Elliott on Monday. I have written him a letter that he will surely answer. This place is fearfully hot tho' I go to Blauntville at nights I'll probably leave here on Monday but where to I can't say have several Offers but will decide by that time which to accept. At any rate I wont go to Charleston so make yourself Easy on that score. Have been taking my quinine regularly and feel pretty well. heard from Nanno today & get daily reports by telegraph from Oak Lawn & I suppose you hear by mail. I must try & arrive at some conclusion by 1st Sept as to what I'll do about a new start if I can't do well here Ill slide out for N York I can't stand on idle life again whatever turns up. Have had 3 offers of permanent telegraph places today but as none of them paid over sixty dollars per month had to decline the honor. It shows however that I am in a little demand rusty as I am. I met little Tommy Heyward two days ago here, quite the nicest little chap I've seen lately. Said he wished he was at Flat Rock now & sent regards to you all & seemed to take much interest in yr welfare. Mrs H. & children are Summering it at Hardeeville & trying to keep cool on iced lager.

Im in great haste so excuse scribbling,

Much love to all

Yours Ever Brosie

Direct to Yemassee & they will be forwarded wherever I may go-

Trudie write me

EGP

St. Nicholas Hotel

NY

Sept 5/81

Monday evening

6 30 pm

Dear Capt:

Here I am at last, in what appears to be quite a town. The Electric light shining over the way and about a hundred greasy Yanks loafing around the room. I've just strolled up this far for a writing place, Have engaged lodgings elsewhere.-- Well I failed to get the money in Charleston and so ran here on my *face* & a very pleasant run it was too delightfully smooth & clear and quite a rapid trip 47 hours. I forgot the pills you gave me on Saturday morning but had some made in Charleston and have been taking them steadily on the trip, feel 100 per cent better than when I left home. Arriving here at 3 pm today with the sum of two dollars & my old gold pen as my assets it was imperative that I should do *something*. So after a short walk from the Steamer I found myself at the magnificent W

U Telegraph building Broadway & Dey St a little above Wall St & Trinity church,-- Ascending 7 stories in an Elevator- (the sensation was a novel one) I found myself in the presence of the boss of 400 men & women, 250 of whom were employed in the room at the time. He met me with the cheering news that the N.Y. office needed only first class Operators, but turned me over to a testing manager who must have been satisfied as in 20 minutes after leaving the steamer, I was graded as "Ordinary first class" and ordered for duty at 11.30 AM tomorrow Sept 6th. Rather quick work for a provincial don't you think? The pay is something like \$70, with the understanding that at the end of the week if I can stand it I will be advanced and can work extra as it is. On this schedule I will have the mornings to look around and get into a better job if I can This is only to start. These confounded Yanks are too infernally rich & greasy. From Cape May to Coney Island (Some 120 miles of Sea Shore) the sand hills are literally hidden by the costly villas & cottages & there seems to be no limit to the expenditure in the city. Well I must drop a line to Flat Rock so good bye. Take care of yourself & write to me

Address ~~Care~~

A. E. Gonzales
Operating Room W.U. Tel. C.
Broadway & Dey st
N.Y.

Will write again soon Ever affectly

Ambrose.

EGP

St. Nicholas Hotel
NY Monday Sept 5/81

My dear Folks:

Arriving here at 3 oclock this evening with two dollars and a box of Quinine pills as my assets. I was constrained to do something and that quickly. I proceeded at once to the main W.U. Building corner Broadway & Dey St and after a strict examination was employed at something like \$70 per month to begin with, and ordered for duty at 11.30 AM tomorrow. This will secure me for the present and enable me to look around & see what better can be done. I am worth over \$100 a month and intend to get it too. I have nice lodgings on some street I can't remember the name & have only strolled up here to get a place to write in. This seems to be quite a town, and at this hour 8 oclock Broadway is as light as day with the Electric jets, Swarms of rich & greasy Yanks everywhere & everything they touch seems to prosper. I'm determined to have some of their dirty money sticking to me when I leave this place and am going to fight it out until I can help you all substantially.

The street gamins are cheering some stray procession outside & making a noise like thunder, pulling me in mind of NY as I remember it 21 years ago at the time of the wide-awakes²⁸⁷ -- ah! me -- Well confound a Yankee anyway -- as Billy Arp says. I had a most delightful *free* trip from Charleston on the City of Columbia the new steamship of the Adger line making the trip in about 47 hours. I have written to 17 tonight and will telegraph Nanno in the morning. Clothing is dirt cheap here and as soon

²⁸⁷ In the Fall of 1860, Ambrose Gonzales stayed with his family at the St. Nicholas Hotel in New York, and watched from the window the Lincoln "Wide-awakes" marching club parading on Broadway. See: N.G. Gonzales, *In Darkest Cuba*, p. 7.

as I get a little chink will be able to make a comparatively decent appearance. I had to return the money borrowed to pay Alfonso's expenses to Flat Rock before I left Chas and as I couldn't collect what was due me nor borrow a cent I got desperate and came on, literally on my face.

Well good bye dears, love to you all & thank Trudie for her letter rec'd the day before I left Oak Lawn.

Yours Ever Ambrose

Address

A E Gonzales

Operating Room W. U. Tel Co

Broadway & Dey St NY

Will write again when I get settled.

EGP

Oak Lawn Sept 10th 81

My Dear Emmie

Yours of Monday last received only yesterday - Ere this, Ambrosio's letter from N Y and my postal of Monday have relieved you of anxiety on his account.

I am unfeignedly thankful that he has gotten out of this morally, physically, and intellectually blasted community, and feel very confident that his career in N.Y. will be a successful one, although he begins it friendless, penniless, & threadbare.

No one will feel his absence more than myself - but I am glad he is away from the depressing influences of this locality.

Truly this has been a hard season - Ice in April. - three months of drouth, [*sic*] and intense heat - a violent & destructive gale, followed by more heat, and now caterpillars are sweeping the cotton - and chills & fever prevailing to an unheard of extent - What next!! The croakers (of course I am *not* one) say - another storm, and ice in October!

Under many difficulties, pecuniary, and otherwise - I have been very busy the past week - repairing damages to the field & garden fences, by the storm - planting turnips & carrots harvesting the corn - (75 bushells - a half crop) picking cotton - peddling veal - and finding time to catch a couple of foxes by moonlight.

I am so glad that Alfonso is where there are no barrooms, and where he is not obliged to associate with blackguards. that I am very loathe to ask his return; and shall postpone doing so as long as possible - in the hope that he will gain physical & moral strength in your pure atmosphere, and return with the resolve to be more helpful and amiable, and less idle than before he left.

On glancing over what I have written, I cant help thinking that my fond nephews are correct when they term my conversation a "damnable growl" - but I can't write airily tonight I am *too* hot & tired - when anything occurs to put me in a pleasant humor, I shall instantly seize the occasion of writing to Getrude, and try to make amends for my apparent indifference to her kindness in writing to me. I am so sorry your rooms remain vacant but trust you are advantage of it to spread yourselves after your late close quarters - Ever so much love to Annie Hattie from Your affectionate brother

[Ralph E. Elliott]

GFP

Office of
The News and Courier

Columbia, S.C., Sept. 13 1881

My dear Father:

I have been waiting until the family prospects could be more clearly defined than they have been of late before sending you the annual bulletin promised.

There is no marked improvement in the condition of any of us and the outlook is not promising. Brosie succeeded without capital or assistance in managing Oak Lawn and getting the crops under way this season in spite of many difficulties. Since he has had charge of the place he has put the upland fields around the house in magnificent order and in such a condition that the harvesting of the present crop and the planting of another can be done without much outlay or trouble and in his absence. The fearful drought and bad seasons of the year however, debar any expectation of a good yield, although the thorough preparation of the land has made the small cotton and corn crop the best in the section. Finding no promise of profit or usefulness in continuing at home beyond this time. Brosie has resumed telegraphy, and went to New York last week where he secured a position in the main office of the Western Union on Broadway and Dey streets. He has a fair salary at first, which will be increased, and allow of his aiding with the surplus the operations at Oak Lawn. He is cheerful, and I hope will be successful.

Alfonso has not changed much except in his desire for work. He realizes now, poor fellow! the value of education when it is too late for us to give it to him. He can improve only by individual study and resolution which I think he is gradually coming to. He has been assisting Brosie at home with Uncle Ralph.

Gertrude graduated at Edgeworth in June and came home loaded with honors. She won six gold medals, and was remarkably proficient in French, having graduated in that study two years ago but continuing it up to her departure. She is very handsome and well developed.

Willie is my special charge and I am more interested in him therefore, than in the rest. The money you sent sufficed with additions at home to get him an outfit and keep him one term at the King's Mountain Military School, Yorkville, S.C. At the expiration of the term, early in the Summer, the family could not maintain him at the school so I assumed his education and expect to keep him at school and college hereafter. My savings just enable me to do that. The school is a very excellent one, founded by Gen. Micah Jenkins²⁸⁸ and Col. Asbury Coward, the latter, as a survivor still continuing it. The discipline is strict, the climate very healthy and the vacations in winter.

Willie is a splendid boy and is doing credit to himself and family. He has improved a great deal in spite of his stammering which he tells me is decreasing. He is not quick, but plods conscientiously along from a sense of duty. He is a very lovable boy, and I'm determined that he at least, shall have a good education.

Hattie is very charming and bright, but is naturally much spoiled and does not study a great deal. But she is not backward, and will do well when we send her to school, which must be in the course of a year. The family (the ladies, I mean) last Summer and this, have managed to stay at Flat Rock by taking boarders. They have not made anything except a support during the Summer and a relief from the great heat on the coast. Gertrude has spent the Summer with them, and Beure has

²⁸⁸ Confederate General Micah Jenkins, born in Edisto Island, S.C. in 1835, in his family's plantation house. In 1854 helped organized King's Mountain Military School with which he was affiliated until 1861. Killed on 6 May 1864, at the battle of the Wilderness (Ezra Warner, *Generals in Gray*, 155).

just returned from a visit there.

I am getting on very well as far as reputation is concerned, but have not advanced much financially yet. I have done all sorts of newspaper work, from editorials to legislative reports, successfully. I expect to be established permanently in Charleston this Fall, when I will make more money than notoriety. I shall report either the Yorktown Centennial or the Atlanta Cotton Exposition in October. This gives you an idea of the diversity of my work. The proprietors are pleased with me and I am with them. I intend to stick and expect eventually to do well. Do you still get the weekly? If not I will send it to you. Please write me how you are doing, and believe me,

Your affectionate Son,
N.G.G.

EGP

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE COTTON STATES
OFFICE OF
THE NEWS AND COURIER
NO. 19 BROAD STREET

RIORDAN & DAWSON,
PROPRIETORS.

Columbia, S.C., Sept. 15" 1881

My dear Emmie :

Thanks for your full letter which was much appreciated. I suppose Aunt Annie's mind was relieved long ago in regard to Broise as I heard from him last Tuesday that he arrived on Monday after a pleasant voyage and had secured a situation half an hour after landing. He seemed in good spirits and I am confident that he can now get on well. He is chumming with a friend of mine who left here the week before to work in the New York office, and as he knows the ropes Brosie ought to live very well at a small expense.

I think the change of itself will do him immense good, bodily and mentally.

I have also lately heard from Willie who seems to be doing well but finding it dull.

I should take pleasure in writing to Gertrude as well as to yourself but that there is nothing on earth to write about in my life, and I have hard work to fill my present letters.

The summer has told greatly on me and I am so weak that I can hardly manage to get around. I have lost 30 pounds from my always attenuated frame, and I feel the loss of them. I'm just trying to hold out until cool weather comes. In this state of lethargy I am naturally dull and stupid, and I wait in hope of some sensation to enliven me. The town in Summer is the *ne plus Ultra* of quietude as you can see from my newspaper correspondence. For days together there is nothing worthy of recording. Capt. Dawson called on me a day or two ago and told me that he would either send me to the Exposition or to Yorktown. If I can't get both I'll try for Atlanta as I'm sick of Centennials, although this is happily the last of them.

I'm very pleasantly situated in regard to board and lodging, the sister of State Superintendent of Education Thompson being my landlady, and I have a small and select circle of friends with whom I play chess at nights. This is my only recreation. The weather has been very hot but yesterday we had terrific thunderstorms; without much effect however. By this week I will have paid Col. Coward \$65, leaving \$40 as my October instalment. I am suffering for clothes but am trying to make out until next month.

I am sorry for the exodus from F.R. If I were there and had the means I wouldn't go down

the country until frost, simply on account of the heat. The summerers at the springs however, are rapidly returning now, and are catching old Harry in consequence. I trust you will secure some boarders even yet. With much love to all the folks, believe me, your attached nephew

Nanno

EGP

New York Sept 16 / 81

Dear Uncle:

I was very glad to hear from you, and to know that you were OK. I am getting along very well but am still too shabby to see any of the men I have letters to & from I expect to be able to get work in the mornings at corresponding &c & still work in the W U at nights. Of course Once I got a supply of clothing I could live very nicely on what I make now but that was "not my object in coming to New York-- I work hard and with a showing ought to make upwards of \$100 dollars when I get started. Living (grub) is cheap about \$15 per month but room rent high two or 3' of us room together in very nice furnished room in E 20th St about 3 1/2 miles from the Office & it costs \$10 to 12 a piece monthly. Washing is dear also 12 1/2 cts for a shirt &c. I walk up & down every day & Elbowing that distance thro a B'way crowd is good exercise. I suffered from heat very much at first but tis cooler & sloppy now. The streets are truly fearful and locomotion is both difficult & dangerous as they are like glass at times. I go on at 11 30 A.M. and work till 9 P.M. on regular duty. Any work done after that is paid for extra. I have worked till 12 or 1 oclock every night since Ive been here & on Sundays too we work extra. Went to Brooklyn last Sunday night on the 1 cent ferry to hear Talmadge preach & I never Enjoyed anything so in my life at the price. The old Contortionist kept his Congregation of 3500 people in a laugh all the time but he is a very remarkable preacher and Covies up to "Puck's" caricatures in every respect. The music (led by a Cornet) was fine & the Organ a big thing. Took a salt water swim at Castle garden yesterday A.M. I haven't much time to write but will take Sundays & give you all the news I can. Yrs Ever Affectly

Ambrose

EGP

Office of
The News and Courier

Columbia, S.C., Sept 18" 1881

Dear Captain:

I send a line to remind you, this dull Sunday, to try and send the agricultural contributions Brosie promised Col. Butler, by or before the end of this month. The Exposition begins October 5th, and although always interested in it I am still more so now as I will have to pass judgement on South Carolina's exhibit. The News and Courier has determined to send me to write up the show and I will leave on the 30th instant and remain as long as will be necessary to report it fully; say three or four weeks. You know how to send the things -- just address them to Col. Butler, Commissioner, and they will come D.H.

I think he wants woods and cotton more urgently than anything else, but send all you can. The old man has reappeared -- this time at Saratoga. Col. McMaster who has just returned from that resort, met him there visiting the Misses. De Leon. Occupation unknown, but appearance "youthful." That's all.

I haven't heard from Brosie except through a note written upon the day of his arrival.

Please tell Beure that I searched the train on the day the ladies said he would go down, but in vain. If you can drop me a line, please do so. With best wishes and love to you both, I'm your affectionate nephew,

Nanno

EGP

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE COTTON STATES
OFFICE OF
THE NEWS AND COURIER
NO. 19 BROAD STREET

RIORDAN & DAWSON,
PROPRIETORS.

Columbia, S.C., Sept 25" 1881

My dear Willie:

I won't write you a long letter but I'll make up for it by giving you some good news in a short one.

It was decided to send me to Atlanta to report the Great International Exposition there and I was making arrangements to start on Thursday night. Then they asked me if I would like to go to Washington, which of course I answered "yes." Then it was found that the Extra Session of the Senate was to begin on October 10" and the Atlanta Exposition on the 5th so that one person couldn't manage both.

I didn't know until this morning which I was to take, but I got instructions today to turn over the Atlanta job to another reporter, put a man in my place here and go to Charleston before the 1st to leave for Washington on the 5th.

This signifies that I am to be in the best place in the country for news and in competition with the best reporters. It also means that I am to get more salary, but exactly how much I can't tell 'till I get to Charleston.

In short, it is just such a place as I have wanted, and just such a one as will give me the best opportunity of making a reputation - and making a reputation in my business means making money as well. So I am delighted with the prospect.

Of course I shall be sorry to leave the State, but there is rapid communication by rail and if I'm wanted I can get to Charleston in a day. Then I will be tolerably near Brosie and can run up and see him on Sundays sometimes.

I'll also be only an hour from Baltimore, and I know several people in Washington. Cousin John Elliott has a church there, and my old teacher and several of my schoolmates are living in the city. It will be lively too, and there will be plenty to write about.

I don't suppose I'll come back to Columbia again. If I succeed in the Extra Session I'll stay all Winter and Spring at the Regular Session. In the Summer I suppose I'll go to work in Charleston or get a holiday, so I'll not be cut off from you all.

I will leave here in three or four days and will try to see Oak Lawn before I leave for Washington.

Please write to me at Charleston (The News and Courier office) before the 3d and I will get the letter.

I'll notify you when I get to Washington what my address will be.

My letter has in spite of me, run out to a good length.

Let me know of any thing you need, and with much love, believe me
Your affectionate old
Nanno

EGP

New York Sept 27/81
Tuesday PM
No 45 E 20" St

My dear Uncle,

Yours received and if upon the receipt of this you have not succeeded in making any arrangement about the Cotton let me know & Ill send you some money, I dont propose to be licked out.

I am sorry that you have been sick, I can say ditto to that having been under the doctors hands for a week & have been quite sick. Yesterday & today I have had an appetite & I am doing nicely but for six days previous I have been able to retain nothing but cracked ice I have been taking my Quinine regularly but was compelled to work very hard at the time of Garfield's death & when I got up from the long branch wires having sent hundreds of msgs of Condolence to Mrs Garfield I was so faint & nauseated that I could hardly get home The Dr said I have had a slow Malarial fever for 10 days past They are very prevalent in New York this season & have a typhoid tendency he says. He dosed me as freely as my weakness would allow & put 100 grains Quinine into me & ordered the daily dose increased to 5 grains. My room-mate an opr from Columbia, & the Yankee landlady were as kind & attentive as possible & the Dr says I can go to the Office in two days. The bout has cost me \$25 to \$30 including lost time but I was making \$25 per week so will soon make it up. The heat has worried me awfully, people are dropping down on the sheets from it & everyone says tis the hottest spell of the season Heard from Flat Rock & from Nanno & am writing both today The Garfield funereal demonstrations here are immense Cannon booming flags at half mast & the whole city tastfully [*sic*] & expensively draped in mourning The News boys itinerant vendors & news stands are doing an immense business in Prest & Mrs G's pictures & cheap editions of his life. They seem to make him a good advertisement too. In some of the squares the fire work men have their headquarters & when a vast Crowd has assembled the fireworks begin to go up. Several of the first that go up will burst showing Garfield & then Lincoln a hundred yards up & the next batch will bring to the eyes of the gazers an advertisement of an "Abdominal Corset" "Hub punch" or "Tarrants Seltzer Aperient" - such is the Yank.

Poor Seabrook Jenkins. I see so much ruin caused by liquor here that I dont think I could drink were I here ten years. I commenced drinking couple of glasses lager everyday when I first came here but the beer they use here is city brewed & not nice & Ive quit it. Rates are varying in the extreme in NY now for everything . If you go into a shirt store on Broadway or a fashionable Avenue they charge you \$1.75 for the same shirt that you could buy on a less frequented street for 75c or \$1.00. A B'way restaurant charges you 40 cts for a steak that you can get on Fulton St two or three doors off for 20 cts & so on. Railway fares are universally cheap here One May go to Albany Saratoga & West point & return for \$1.50 to Boston or Phila & return for the same price to Niagara falls for next to nothing.

Well I must close now, I sent some papers to Flat Rock requesting them to forward to you as I couldn't get duplicate copies. I suppose the News & Courier & Charleston did their politic share of mourning. Write soon please With love to Beaura & yrself I am Yr Ever

Ambrose

A rain just coming up wh I hope will break the hot spell. Direct your letters to the Office as usual,

A

Don't worry the folks at Flat Rock. I will write them.

EGP

Osborne Oct 3d [1881]

My dear Nephew,

Apparently my letters never reach you, yet I shall endeavor to do my duty, by rewriting what in yours of the 25th you still seem to desire to be informed about. 1st The pasture fence is not tight enough to hold cattle & sheep during the winter. The mile on the South needs elevating by 2 rails. At a cost of \$15 - The 3/4 mile on the North (post & rail) needs to be rebuilt & should be done with barbed wire & cypress - at a probable cost of \$50 - the rest is good for 2 years.

2nd There are 80 Sheep here, among them a Buck, gotten from Humbert in August, for which I still owe him \$10 - 3d Your cattle number thirty (30) head. 4th There are 20 hogs available for pork or bacon, in sight - and 8 or 10 sows with infant pigs - wild - in the enclosure. All will have to be sold, given away, or destroyed - before december 15th when the lambs will begin to drop. Five sows were sent to Cheeha in the summer - 3 died on the way, but they can be sent in safety now that it is cold.

There are no acorns this fall - and the intense drouth, [*sic*] which still prevails, has destroyed the canes on which the winter pasturage depends.

I called on E.M.B. as you desired - he states that his crop his poor, that he is building an expensive enclosure - that he has no money to buy costly stock - does not like the Jersey, prefers the Holstein, and I could not get an offer of \$8 - per head for your kine - out of him, even on time. He was civil & hospitable, & sent you some polite message - taffy, which I do not recall - he is a gentlemanly crank- 4th Every exertion has been made, by both of us, to get wood cut, but the negroes will not do any hard work until they have eaten all of the provisions their patches have produced. - Later, we may be able to cut some RR wood.

5th A decent cottage of 4 rooms with piazzas could be put up, in six or eight weeks, for about \$600 - the price depending more upon the style & finish, than upon size - there is a sawmill within 4 miles.

6th There is a 3 acre patch that might be planted in Rye - but it would not do well, thus late, unless helped with phosphate or C. S. meal.

7th Your farming idea is entirely correct - Oats in january, and Pease in june renders one more independent of the labor difficulty than any other possible arrangement.

8th Your proposition to decrease the number - & improve the quality of the cows & sheep - is undoubtedly the correct policy - to carry it out successfully food & shelter must be prepared & ready before the high bred, & consequently *delicate*, animal are introduced - and an active & able bodied man willing to have all weather, and malaria proof - must be with in call day & night.

Few white men, and *none*, who are born gentle - can do the kind of work this business demands. There is, I think, money in Tackey Mares - they cost little more than their purchase money, and their colts are saleable animals at 2 1/2 on 3 years of age. Mares & colts that have to be stabled & fed are too high priced to find purchasers in this market.

Yes: you have an Animal that doubtless would have been much admired at the fair - 'Zulu' is a perfect saddle horse, & might have found a purchaser at a fancy price - T'is too late now to put him

in training, or give him the grooming - et-ect - and the trip to Columbia & back, with incidentals - would cost from \$40 to \$50 - he will cost more than that by spring though - and be worth less money than he would fetch now - He needs, for his proper control, more physical power and endurance, than either your brother or uncle possess. - The horse should be provided with - a groom - or be sold.-

I am awaiting the result of Mondays sale, before going to Checha - & wish to "make haste slowly" in that matter.

Old Man Pate says he is getting along slowly, and could not do that if he did not own the land he lived on and do much of the labor with his own hands. The Jupitin Hill house has been occupied by a section hand & his wife for 3 months, and has brought in \$3- a family propose to hire it next year, but nothing definite has been arranged.

I have now responded to the best of my ability to all of your questions and will register this so as to be assured of your receiving it. I enclose a balance sheet for your inspection. It is very cold - heavy ice. Beaurie & self both sick. Hope your cold is better. Write soon, to your

affectionate

Uncle [Ralph E. Elliott]

GFP [Translated]

Havana, October 8 of 1881

Mr. Ambrosio Gonzalez

My distinguished and dear friend:

After my magnificent trip we arrived here in this city the 27 at dawn and on the 1st I took charge of my destiny. My cough has been better until the 5th which in consequence of the great humidity there is, because every day showers fall, my cough has returned in the mornings and it has me sick. The daybreak is also very detrimental. I am still taking the medicine and the baths, without interruption. If when these humid days pass and I see I do not get better I will tell you so that you will please go see Dr. Conrad and tell him. The rest of the day I hardly cough.

I fulfilled your errand and everyone is very grateful for your remembrances. Ignacio²⁸⁹ says he has not received a letter from you ever since you left at that is why they have not written you.

May you be well and make a lot of money are the wishes of your attentive friend who will never forget your kindness and favors and who always awaits for your orders,

Jacobo Asensio

EGP

The Western Union Telegraph Company

New York Sunday Oct 9 / 81

Dear Uncle:

Your note enclosing Mr. Warren's, reached me yesterday. You seem to have written a previous letter which has not reached me, this being the only one I've received. I write Warren & Garvin this evening. Am on duty today working for the Company & getting nothing for it, one Sunday in every month being claimed by the Co. There's nothing to do tho' but lounge around a few silent tables. The office looks deserted with only sixty men in it today. I got Charleston to put the S. & C. wire on today & called up "AR" to hear how you were but old Stick in the mud was absent. Had

²⁸⁹. Ignacio Emilio Gonzales Gauffreau, Ambrosio's step-brother. Born in Havana on 31 July 1842, died a bachelor in Havana on 20 March 1896.

a talk with Yemassee. This is the most variable climate Ive known. Last week it was hot almost to suffocation & in 12 hours it was bitter cold & a keen wind blowing. I enjoyed the change hugely tho' these cold blooded Yanks seemed to think it the reverse of pleasant. I've heard from Willie (who complains of your silence), & rec'd a Card from Nanno yesterday (623 Pennsylvania Ave) mentioning his safe arrival & nice quarters. The work in this Office varies very much some days the wires I work happen to be working badly or "busted" as they Eloquently say in telegraphic parlance, & theres next to nothing doing but that don't happen often. The rule is a steady rush of work from the time you come on till you get a relief. Sometimes we average a message a minute for an hour or two at a time which you may know is rapid work. Every message has to be numbered & timed before it passes thro' your hands, & all the work done with a pen, no pencils being allowed in the Office. I work the Western wires generally, direct with Chicago, Indianapolis, Detroit & Cincinnati sometimes with Albany & Buffalo & Boston, the latter being the fastest wire in the world. I'm getting along better every day. Of course I'm awfully rusty & never was good enough for this work, but by 1st Jany if I'm here I'll be able to do as much as any of them. Have had good offers to go to Chicago New Orleans Mexico & Aspinwall but I don't fancy a move at present. My hours are hard now from 11 30 am to 9 pm takes all the best part of day & night from me, but I've applied for a transfer to the night force from 5 30 Pm to 1 Am which will give me all the morning to myself when I can do other work. I require \$125 a month to answer my purpose & I'm going to make it too. I'm living very frugally now so as to get my outfit this month if possible. In the way of grub there are numbers of restaurants here & a great variety but very little thats appetizing is to be had for what I'm able to pay for it. They charge 15 to 20 cts for a steak, bread & potatoes 5 cts for coffee or tea & so on. I generally breakfast on hot rolls & coffee & dine on horse beef or fish the latter being generally nice. Fruit is cheap enough to make the fortunes of all the Doctors in the town & other luxuries are plentifully staring a fellow in the face constantly. I notice a great excess of women here & the universal disrespect they are treated with by the men, who are mannerless in the extreme. If you tell a man good morning here he looks as much astonished as if you were to knock him down. I spend most of my spare time at Castle garden watching the chattering & gesticulating immigrants lounging around & the vessels in the Bay are something worth seeing. Its as great a wonder to me how they keep from running into Each other as it is with the vehicles on Broadway. Excuse this egotistical disjointed scrawl. Ive had to "tote" it around the office in one hand while answering desultone calls with the other & now the evening work is brisking up & Ill have to say good bye, with much love to Beure & yrself

Ever yrs Ambrose

If you ride to the Depot at 10 oclock next Sunday morning & have Coburn there, I can have the wires connected & have a chat with you direct.

EGP

Washington D.C.
Oct. 9, 1881.

Dear Captain:

I'm going to write my first letter to you, as a reward, sir, for your self-sacrifice in the matter of cocktails. Alas! that you can no longer be entitled to the hard-won cognomen of "Seventeen"!

Well [I] am here, and you see - went to work at once, even if that work was not creditable. In fact, I feel quite "established" already after my sojourn of two days. Such are the habits engendered by newspaper wanderings. I find that Washington has grown greatly since I was here in 73-4, and that it is nearly a magnificent city.

Try to divest yourself of the recollection of the Capital of the year '60. It is no longer a "city of magnificent distances." Imagine a city of 180,000 people laid out, as you know, magnificently, its streets covered with asphalt as smooth as the summit of Charley Bell's pate, and crowded with vehicles whose motion gives no sound, only the stepping of the horses being heard. Pennsylvania Avenue on the West is every inch covered, from the Capitol to the Treasury and White house with splendid buildings, some of them seven stories high and of architecture the most modern.

All the Northerest part of the city is taken up with magnificent blocks and private residences of stone and red brick, with Mansard roofs and bandbox beauty. And everywhere, throughout the place the buildings are imposing and handsome, and they are still going up rapidly. What strikes one most on coming from Charleston and Columbia is the brightness of everything. The old houses even, which are comparatively few, are renovated and modernized, and the new ones are a comfort to look at.

It must be a paradise of house and sign painters. Every store and block is blazoned with signs and ornamentation of gold and black in a manner most pleasing to my artistic eye.

The next thing that strikes one is the host of hotels and boarding houses and cafes. They are legion - on some streets almost universal.

The next thing is the system of restaurants and dining rooms, a product doubtless, of the department clerk patronage. They are wonders of cheapness. Imagine getting in Charleston a fine dinner, with soup, fish vegetables, meats and desserts of various kinds, washed down with good coffee or chocolate for 30 cents! Yet these are the prevalent prices here. Everybody patronizes them. At any time of day you can find ladies, children, all sorts of people, assembled at the little tables and severally lunching and dining. Doubtless a Parisian innovation. Then at a coffee house you can get a big cup of coffee and cream with French rolls and butter - a meal of itself - for 10 c. The coffee, by the way, is only equalled by Emmie's. At other less fancy places you can get the same for 5 c.

The street cars swarm every minute along the principal streets. Think of going from the Navy Yard to Georgetown for three cents! The streets are very brilliant at night, gas being used extravagantly and the electric light adding to the dazzle. The stores are magnificent and the sidewalks twenty to thirty feet wide, are crowded.

If I have to live in a city, give me a lively one like this. I have a big well furnished room on Pa. Ave. centrally situated at \$12, with fire. My meals cost about 75 c. a day at the restaurants. The paper pays all my expenses over what they were in Columbia, so it don't affect my pocket.

By the way, before I left Charleston I managed the gallant Captain so that he raised my salary to \$20 a week or \$87 a month and assumed the extra expenses above mentioned.

Butler²⁹⁰ is here and has been helping me considerably - as a friend to the paper. Hampton will

²⁹⁰ Matthew Calbraith Butler (1836-1909). Born in Greenville, S.C., lawyer in Edgefield. Elected to the State house of representatives in 1860. Son-in-law of Governor Pickens. Confederate Captain in June 1861, promoted to major general in Sept. 1864. Lost his right foot at the battle of Brandy Station in June 1863. Elected to the State house of representatives in 1866. A leading exponent of the "straight-out" Democratic movement in S.C. Elected as a Democrat to the U.S. Senate in 1876, reelected in 1882 and 1888. Defeated in 1894 by Benjamin F. Tillman. Major General of U.S. Volunteers in the Spanish-American War, and member of the commission for the Spanish evacuation of Cuba.

do the same. Dawson gave me a warm letter of introduction to Bayard²⁹¹ whom I saw yesterday, and he was very affable, taking me to his room at the Capitol and promising me every aid or information possible. I will have to compete with the best newspaper talent of the U.S. - veterans, getting from \$50 to \$200 a week, but I don't feel disheartened. There is much consolation in cheek.

Tomorrow is the great day.

I danced attendance on the caucus all yesterday, and got mighty little. But I have some stuff today that none of the rest have. I'm going to send a chapter of gossip by mail in a few days. When in Charleston, besides other work, I got up that editorial on James and one to appear on the 19th - Yorktown.

You can put me down as being well situated and feeling pretty solid. How I succeed time will demonstrate! Write when you can to 623 Pa. Ave., West. Love to B. and best wishes for yourself.

Your affectionate N.

EGP

[9 October 1881]

[The first page of this letter is missing.]

show window on Broadway & with a great deal of satisfaction. Excuse the impertinence but what sizes of gloves shoes & stockings do you Ladies & girls wear? You know I am an extremist(?) & want to provide therefor. As soon as I get my "rig-out" Ill call on some business men here that I have letters to & also on Jno Grimball to whom his bro Arthur gave me a letter, & hope to realize something in extra work. I have to make \$125-- a month in this town & think I am worth it. I'm considered an expert penman in this Office among four hundred men who are the telegraphic pick of the country. Have had offers to go to Chicago, Boston, Detroit, Mexico & Aspinwall but have declined. Only wish I had come here two years ago. "These people" are a hard set. I haven't seen the gilt edge side of N York yet, but of all the men Ive seen I notice a total want of respect for women, & of common courtesy to each other, a reverence for money, however acquired, but they are active & enterprising and have certainly built quite a large town here-- The upper part of the city is very beautiful & people say Parisean in appearance. Most of the buildings going up now are iron with marble facings. Passing along the street you see in nearly every basement of any large establishment a steam engine running day & night to furnish the power for the Elevators & to heat the buildings, this room (7th story) is heated by steam passed thro pipes around the room and under nearly every table. The elevated roads are beautiful iron structures erected over the street near the side walk on a level as a general thing with the 2nd stories of the buildings. The cars & engines are little models & they run as fast as most trains on Southern roads. They have stations at every few streets & run from Castle Garden to Harlem & Morrisiana the suburbs of the city a distance of about 8 miles. I spend most of my spare time at Castle garden watching the hundreds of Craft of all kinds from the Ocean Steamers to the Yacht steaming & sailing in every direction there's almost as great a jam on the water among the vessels as there is on Broadway with vehicles & how they escape collisions is a wonder. Lots of immigrants lounging about the gardens loaded with every kind of baggage &

²⁹¹ Thomas Francis Bayard, Sr. (1828-1898). In 1869, at the expiration of his father's Senate term, was elected as a Democrat to the U.S. Senate; reelected in 1875 and 1881, serving until 6 March 1885, when he resigned to become Secretary of State to Grover Cleveland until 1889. From 1881 to 1885 served on the Committee on Private Land Claims. Ambassador to Great Britain 1893-1897.

chattering & vociferating extravagantly-- Well I've been writing this hurried scrawl in the Company's time during a lull which is a rare thing & now some of the chiefs are coming after me so Ill have to close & tackle Detroit Cleveland & Chicago, my night offices.

Good night dears write soon. Ever with much love Yrs

Ambrose

Did the waiter cartoon in Puck remind you of Johnnie?

EGP

New York Oct 15 1881

My dear Willie

Your letter was rec'd but your old "Brosie" was too busy to answer it until now. Theres so much to tell about in this town that I don't know where to begin, tis so different from anything you have ever seen or taken an interest in, & I know you would think more of a pretty piece of squirrel shooting woods or a hundred paper shells than of all the marble & iron buildings on Broadway. In fact every time I look into a gunners window here & see a box of caps or a powder flask I think of you. I saw them taking the hounds of the Manhattan Club out for a fox hunt the other day, beautiful dogs they were, about 60 of them in one big Cage on wheels, howling & fighting & a lot of Yankees on bob tailed horses riding alongside. My hours at the office are from 11.30 in the morning till 9 at night, & some nights I work till 12 or 1 oclock, so you see I'm not idling. The Office is in the 7th story of a large & Beautiful building & we go up in an Elevator, a kind of large box that is hauled up to the top of the house by steam.

The operating room is 250 feet long & about 70 wide so you may know what a big Office it is there are about 300 men employed & about 75 Girls & women in one room as Operators. Think what a noise Seven hundred sets of instruments must make. Some of the girls are quite pretty but I dont waste much time on them. My room is a nice one, on 20th Street about 3 1/2 miles from the Office so you see I have quite a nice walk. I sometimes take the Street Cars or Omnibus of which there are thousands, but in cool weather always walk. My course is right up & down Broadway the great thoroughfare, lined with beautiful buildings & shops, but its very little satisfaction to look in the windows when you have nothing to invest in their contents.

Well good bye my dear boy I'm in great haste I'll send your things soon. What size of shoes socks & overshirts & collars do you wear.

Ever Yr loving old

Brother [Ambrose]

Write soon

EGP

Address as opposite.

623 Pennsylvania Ave., W.
Washington, D.C.
Oct. 16, 1881.

My dear Willie:

You must not think that I have forgotten you entirely since I have come to this big and busy place, some twenty times larger than Columbia.

I haven't but I've been so hard at work and busy that it is only on Sundays and once in a while on week days that I have a chance to scratch a line except to the paper. I have done a good deal of

the latter, and what I send represents a great deal of hard work, which nobody but a newspaper man could understand.

I am comfortably quartered on this street, which is on a bigger scale what King street is Charleston or Main Street to Columbia.

My meals I get at the restaurants, which are innumerable and well kept, and so it is rather a pleasant life as to these things, as a fellow can eat what when and where he chooses.

For the past week I've been attending the Senate and raking up general news and gossip. The sessions generally attract a big crowd. The chamber is a great hall covered with ornamented glass skylights which admit the light. The walls are magnificently decorated in white and gold, with galleries running all round for the use of spectators. The reporters have a gallery to themselves immediately over the Vice-President's chair, and the Senators sit at desks arranged in rows of half moon shape facing the V.P. At midday the Senate meets and remains in session from one to four hours. After and before the daily sessions the Republicans and Democrats have been holding secret consultations or caucuses to decide what action to take in certain matters. These caucuses cause more hard work to the journalist than anything else, as the Senators are not allowed to tell what is done in them. Yet somehow or other the enterprising reporters get at the facts.

One has hardly time to think of anything but his work, everything is in such a whirl. Washington is a remarkably handsome city, full of life and activity entirely stimulated by government pap. It has hardly any outside trade, yet there are immense stores and plenty of money around. It comes from the government clerks and employees in the public buildings of whom there are many thousands.

I am making at the rate of a \$100 a month now but don't get any more surplus than I did in Columbia, as the extra amount just pays the difference in board and regular expenses. However, when I return in December I will get about \$110 a month which will, when I can secure as good and more economical quarters, be very satisfactory for a while.

I had a visit from Mr. Riordan this evening, while on his return from New York. He seemed to be highly satisfied with your affectionate brother, telling him that he was the best reporter in the paper.

I received a telegram this morning ordering me to Yorktown with the Senate which will adjourn tomorrow and leave on a big steamer at 4 P.M. By the kindness of Senator Butler who has made me his private secretary in order that I can may go with the party. I'll be among the big boys of Congress on the trip, and feast free at the expense of the government. Little did I think that I would ever be a "guest of the nation".

I will probably return on Friday and resume work in the Senate when it meets again.

Now, I have told you enough about myself. You must write soon and let me know how you are getting on. Your last letter was rather gloomy.

I have had a good many extra expenses in Washington and my nett cash, as I said, has not increased, so that I have not sent you anything. I trust that you haven't been in want, but I'll send you a couple of \$ tomorrow when I get my remittance. Be a good boy, do your best, and believe me your affectionate old

Nanno

EGP

623 Pa. Ave., W.
Washington, D.C., Oct. 21, [1881] 10 P.M.

Dear Captain:

On my return from Yorktown this morning I found your letter awaiting me, and as it was so unprecedented an expression of your kindness, I thought that I must reply to it at once to evidence my appreciation. Knowing how you are situated I can't but feel complimented at your writing me four pages. In fact, that would be compliment enough for me without considering those contained in your letter which I wish I could credit as deserved. But I can't. That I like praise, I must acknowledge; but I don't always have assurance enough to believe it. Be assured, however, that I will always value yours, if it *is* mistaken. As I am forced to write of myself I will tell you some more encouragement which I have lately had. M. Riordan was in the city on Sunday and took me to a fancy breakfast at Wilcker's, where over omelette and mushrooms he unburdened himself as follows. The paper is on the 1st of January to be converted into a joint stock concern with \$100,000 capital. It pays now 15 per cent on \$200,000, or \$30,000 a year. R. & D. will exist no longer, but instead "The News and Courier Publishing Co." They have sold about one-third of the stock to Gen. Seigling and a few others and could have readily sold it all. With the \$30,000 thus obtained they will be enabled to improve the paper greatly. Mr. Riordan has just come from New York where he has ordered a splendid four-cylinder press, (the only one Charleston has ever seen,) which will enable them to print an 8 page paper whenever the pressure on their columns is great. They are gradually working to have their entire correspondence sent by telegraph, and expect to make the weekly an 8-page paper and to make a splurge on the job office.

It is very valuable now and will steadily augment in profit. This much he said about the paper, and the following he said about N.G.G. I had always taken his fancy from the time I offered to go to the Memphis while in Valdosta. He had not been overlooking me. He could assure me that if I left Whiskey alone and worked as I had been doing I would be a very successful journalist in money and reputation. I was the only one in the office save Mr. Logan who could write good English, although several of the men were college graduates. I had the ability to go to the top, and he had set his mind on helping me there. He and Capt. Dawson were worn out with their long term of hard work and they were looking about for successors in the editorial and office departments. He had decided that I was the coming man for that work, and in the Spring or Summer I was to return to Charleston, and go into training for the editorship with one of the rest. In a year or two I would be competent to take that department when he and Capt. Dawson should retire from active work. He wanted me to get an interest in the paper, and to start me he would let me have a \$500 share of his own stock to pay for when I could. It would pay for itself in four years. I must be encouraged and look forward to success as I would attain it. All this, with other compliments.

Capt. Dawson also wrote that I was sending excellent reports and had great reason for encouragement. He was encouraged also on my account. Blackman tells me the same thing.

Capt. Dawson asked if there was really need of my staying in Washington during the recess before the regular session. Mr. Riordan, finding that I wanted to, told me that I could; so I will have an easy month in which to familiarize myself with the people and public offices.

So your impractical man is getting along practically. I have come back from the Yorktown celebration where I didn't have much to do, as Blackman sent the news we both collected. By the way, Blackman, who has a fat stenographic position outside of his newspaper work, is going to get \$2,000 in News and Courier stock if he can secure it. Well, I got an invitation through Butler to go down on the Congressional Commission steamer, and barring a bad cold caught, and the infernal dust of Yorktown, I had a deuced good time. Just think, my dear Captain, of 250 deadheads on a vessel,

feasting on the delicacies of the land, with a free barroom attachment at which shrine the whole concern worshipped early and often! Imagine your Colleton cracker vis-a-vis with a mob of Senators and Governors and their attendant females swigging Roederer and Heidsieck like water for four mortal days. In Yorktown where the N.Y. Herald men were faring wretchedly in shanties at \$5 a day I abode in that heavenly craft without money and without price!

So much for having a Senator friendly to you and *in rapport* with your paper. I think the champagne alone ordered for the trip was 120 dozen, and every fancy drink in the catalogue besides. Two barkeepers were kept busy all the time in concocting cocktails. Cigars by the bushel! Oh yes! I did get a little out of the Government for "the Grove"-- I had that idea in my head all the time, and I was only sorry that I could not have the assistance of my numerous and interesting family besides.

The dispatches will have told you all the rest, so I won't repeat. It did me good to meet the Palmetto badges on that foreign shore. Our troops really did splendidly and the civic delegation was wined by Hancock.

I think Thursday's News and Courier was an evidence of enterprise. - A staff letter from Atlanta, one from Washington and two staff telegrams from Yorktown were more than any other Southern paper could show. Please accept the enclosed for your personal petty expenses. I wish I could send much more. With love to Beure. I'm your attached Nephew

Nanno.

Write when you can. Your letters are just what I like.

EGP

The Western Union Telegraph Company

Octo 26 Wednesday [1881]

From New York NY

My dear Willie

I was glad to hear from you but very sorry to know that you had been sick, & hope you have been all right since. I have more time for writing now & will try & write oftener if its any gratification to you. My hours for work are changed now from the old hours of 1130 AM to 9 Pm, to the present hours of from 1 oclock in the night to 8 oclock in the morning, only 7 hours but you may imagine what unusual ones they are. It looks funny to get up & dress at 12 oclock at night & walk down Broadway for three miles to the big Office & go to work at what the niggers would call "fust fowl crow", when nearly the whole city is slumbering, then when everyone else is going to work In the morning, I slip off to my room & put down the curtains to try & fool myself into the idea that tis night. I've only been on here a day or two but when I get more used to the hours so as to be able to sleep in day light I will like them much better than the old ones as I have so much time, to put to other uses. I'm going to try & get some other work for the mornings in a bank or Office on Wall Street, if I can do that & my old Constitution don't give way I will be very apt to make some money. There are only a few men in the Office so late at night & tis much pleasanter, there are no girls as during the day & we don't have so many instruments going at night The noise during the day is deafening. Just think of 130 girls & 300 men in one room & 700 sets of instruments going at once. From the office windows in the 7th story of the tallest building in town I have a lovely view of the two rivers, the bay & ten miles of solid city. The steamers hurrying to & fro by the hundred with their many colored lights just paling in the Early dawn. Tis very sweet & fresh this morning & the sun is just about to rise. Looking out of the window just now I caught a glimpse of a tremendous flock of teal as they sped swiftly to the Southward. Who knows but that favoring fortune may take them to

the Cypress this winter & give you a chance of bagging them. Well my boy this is just a snatch note. Ill write you again in a few days. I must get to work now. Write soon to your loving old

Brother [Ambrose]

5. AM

EGP

The Western Union Telegraph Company

Oct 30 1881

Received at New York Petroleum Exchange.

Dated NY 30 Oct

Thanks dear Aunt E. for your letter which I'm glad to see was a little more cheerful. We cant afford to be despondent A heavy heart is poor Capital to start with. I have written them about Kennedy & estimates. The Cottage will go up and I suppose you will take Maria down with you. Nanno must of course see how he can arrange to make Trudie's stay pleasant, & hope it will work out OK. I have thought that seeing the fair might be of use to Beauré, If twasn't for the trouble of getting Zulu there, Id have him shown. He is the best "Combination" horse in the State I'm sure. I enclose Uncle R's letter which may give you some information, I'm glad he cant go to Walterboro, I sent Trudie "Yolande", Would that be a name for the filly, or would "Zampa" sound better with "Zulu"? Much love to all Ever affectly

Ambrose

Weather has been fearful. Now clear & pleasant, & Im trying get rid of a troublesome Cold--

EGP

Washington, D.C.

Oct. 30, 1881.

My dear Aunt:

On this sweet foggy Sabbath in this good and staid city, I have the greatful task of thanking you kindly for your pleasant four-page letter just received a letter full of cheerful home news such as comforts an absentee, benevolent sayings and general encouragement. In the very brief postscript, in which you refer so feelingly to my paternal progenitor, reciting nice things about him which I have never heard before and commending Brosie for his filial joy at seeing him, there is, however, a slight error, which prevents my accepting conscientiously your liberal praise for bringing the twain together. The fact, I grieve to affirm, is, that I last wrote to your estimable connection, Gen. Gonzales, at Matanzas, on the 13th of September, while I did not anticipate the joy of his return to this free and happy land and to the embraces of his children. I wrote him, as I had done annually before, a bulletin of the condition of his descendants, and among other facts mentioned that his eldest had just gone to New York to engage in telegraphic business. I cannot, therefore, claim credit for intentionally placing these devoted ones in each other's arms, and I regret that your generous praise of me for that act is mistaken. The letter I wrote to your interesting friend Gen. G. must have been forwarded to him from the land of his birth, and unexpectedly caused the happy reunion you so much approve of. If your premises are as well-founded hereafter as they are in this argument you may be of vast assistance to me when I assume the chair editorial of the *News and Courier*; for any articles you may aid me with can never be impugned as to the facts. Any further communications of this kind with which you may favor me, will upon such logical foundations -- affording so much news with so little conjecture -- so much home and so little Gen. Gonzales,-- will be gratefully received by your

affectionate

Nephew Nanno

GFP

623 Pa. Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C.
Nov. 6, 1881

My dear Father:

As Brosie tells me that he has seen you several times and conversed at length, you probably know more about the condition of all of us than I could tell you in a hurried letter, so that it is only necessary for me to acknowledge the receipt of your note, and to say that on account of a long abiding financial stringency I will not be able to visit New York until the Christmas recess of Congress. But I will be glad to see you then, and meanwhile wish you every success. And I am glad that you can renew your acquaintance with Brosie. You will find him one of the best fellows in the world, although much adversity has made him somewhat crusty.

Your affectionate Son,
Narciso

EGP

Full collegiate course. Established, January 1855--Closed during the War--Reopened, 1866. Thorough Discipline.

KING'S MOUNTAIN MILITARY SCHOOL

Col. A. COWARD, Principal.

The Pioneer and oldest existing military school established by private enterprise in the South.

Yorkville, S.C., Nov 11th 1881

Dear Aunt Emmie

You must think me a very undutiful boy not to have written to any of you since you left Flat Rock but it is not because I have not been thinking of you very often but I have been expecting to hear from Uncle Ralph or Beaurie to tell you how you all were but it seems as if that much wished for epistle will not come. So I will have to write two letters to the same place before getting our answer which is something I am too lazy to do often. I hope you found things alright considering that males here had Swing over it so long. Nanno told me he did not see Gertrude in Washington but would go to Baltimore the next Sunday, he also told me something about the old man's being in N.Y. which is the first thing I heard of his not being in Cuba. Brosie was in good spirits the last time he wrote but he has not done that for some time now. I have written to Gertrude in Bal. but have not but heard from her since her arrival there. I suppose Hattie is overjoyed at getting with her pets again & she might on the strength of that be able to find some thing to write me about. I do not suppose Fred Rutledge will come to this school, will he?

It is pretty cold here now but for the last day or two it has been rainy which makes it rather dull as we cannot go out much. We are in hopes of some snow soon, if it will get a little colder. I will show you all how to make up a fire with wet green gun wood when I come home for I have not seen a piece of pine not to think of light wood since I've been up here. Well you see I have got the time down to a fine point for in a little less than 95520 seconds I expect to be home. You must try & get Hattie to write to me & tell me all about the pond & every thing that is interesting to her on the place. Tell Capt R. that he can still write that letter & not to wait till I come to send it off You feel pretty lonely without Brosie do you not? I know I shall miss him.

Well good bye dear Memmie. love to Nannan & all others, your loving boy

EGP

Full collegiate course. Established, January 1855--Closed during the War--Reopened, 1866. Thorough Discipline.

KING'S MOUNTAIN MILITARY SCHOOL

Col. A. COWARD, Principal.

The Pioneer and oldest existing military school established by private enterprise in the South.

Yorkville, S.C., Nov 12th 1881

My darling Hattie

Your note has just been received. I had written to Aunt Emmie a day or two ago & asked her to write to me and I am glad you wrote before you got that message for it makes it more gratifying to me for you to write of your own record. I have not heard from home for so long, I did not know what to make of it, & was getting uneasy about you all so I was very glad to hear from you. & know that all was well. I got a letter from Brosie this morning & he is well so you can be content on that score. Well accidents will happen but it seems strange that Old Lucy should let the train run over her. I am glad that the ducks are in the pond & if they will not stay there in daylight we will try to move them then some moonlight might. Tell Uncle Ralph I am depending on him for a shot at a deer, before long, even if he has to tame & put it in a pen for me.

I would have thought that the rattle snakes would have gone to bed by this time. Who killed that one at Cotton Hill? Have you had any frost or ice yet at home? I want you to write again as soon as you can & tell me when the cars get there from Charleston & if there are any trains on Sunday & how many come up a day. Tell Emmie I will be there if I do not hve [*sic*] to stay in Charleston any time on Sunday the 27th & if I have to stay in Charleston on Sunday I will come up on the 28th. I am glad to hear that the Colt & Zulu have grown so much & that you have got a Bull pup & hope the latter will be of some use. How are the cattle sheep & other animals getting on & is there good pastorage for them. Has Beauré killed any turkeys yet & is there much small game. There is but one good thing that I can see in writing as seldom as you do & that is that the improvement in writing can be seen so planely. [*sic*] I was perfectly astonished to see how well you write you beat me so far there's no use talking about the comparison. Give my love to Uncle Ralph & every one else & write soon to your loving brother (if it is only a line).

K.M.M.S. Yorkville SC

Willie

Man's game for woman fly where he will
Over clover, grass, or stubble
She'll wing you, feather you or kill
just as she takes the trouble

Forward you are but not very pretty
You're noisy enough but not very witty
Your cheeks are red: who says they ain't
And I know where you buy your [...]

'Twill take a wiser chap than you
To trap the girl you are after
For at your nonsense while alone

She splits her sids [*sic*] with laughter

Kissing must be pious

Or clergy would not use it

It also must be lawful,

Or Lawyers would not choos [*sic*] it

To W.E. Gonzales at K.M.M.S. from W.G. for his g at KM.

EGP

The Western Union Telegraph Company

New York Sunday Nov 18 / 81

My dear Folks

I have been so run with work for the past few days that this is first chance I've had to scratch a line. For the present week I'm working Extra in the Petroleum Exchange William St near Wall & have just about as much as I can, or care to, do. I work there from 10 Am to 4 Pm, when Im off at 4, I run up town get dinner & a bath & sleep from 6 to 12, take the cars down & go to work here at 1 Am to 8, when I'm off to breakfast & go to the Exchange at 10 again. This pays \$2.00 per day above the W.U. Salary. I'm feeling all right & could do the double work for three weeks out of every month if I could get it to do. I think I'll have some paying morning work in a few days & then Ill be content. I require very little sleep and from being so moderate in the use of meat & drink. I have as much appetite as I can manage. John Grimball took me to dine at his Club the "Turf Club" on Saturday Evening & was very attentive. The Club is comprised of 1000 members mostly Southern men. They occupy the costly buildings formerly used by the Union League Club opposite Delmonicos on 24 St & Broadway. The Hotels here are magnificent in every respect, & they should be at \$7.00 per day that some of them charge. Im going to change my room by end of the month & get either nearer the office or get room farther off for a smaller price & then I can afford to pay the Bus fares which count up. I am about three miles from the office & always walk when I can but it takes nearly an hour & when I'm sleepy I ride. Have plenty of exercise & feel quite well. Sometimes I have a run down Bway at 1 oclock when tis deserted except by cats & policemen & I can make good time & keep warm at the same time. If I happen to get a few moments behind time & miss the Elevator, I have a nice climb up 8 flights of iron steps to the top of the Building, which is very good exercise for the legs. Tell Hattie that I wish *Spice* could have a swing at the Broadway cats, they are the biggest & blackest I ever saw & afford me lots of fun. I have a chase at them every night as I come down. The amusement, is harmless & cheap. I never hear a dog bark & never see one except in some old fat womans arms, & *then*, a dirty poodle. The Biblical Cock never crows in NY. Their absence is easily accounted for by an inspection of the restaurant bills of fare. Having done good service as "spring chickens" during the summer, they pass for Pheasants in the Winter months. Well, they are tough enough to stand it. My fare is simple & inexpensive enough consisting of rolls & coffee in the morning, & a five oclock dinner of beef or fish. I prefer the latter, for tho one may devour horse for beef, or goat for lamb, he can get nothing worse than Shark for fish.

What an egotistical devil you will think me but what am I to write about. I've seen Booth & Rossi (@ 25 cts Each) & have seen Patti, for nothing, (but not in Concert). I passed her window at 5th Ave Hotel, while Gilmore's band were serenading her with the "Nuptial Chorus" (they played it for Bernhardt also). Patti came to the window & bowed & waved her hankerchief in a charming manner. But it was reserved for me to see the Diva under more auspicious circumstances. I was at

the door of the 23rd St telegraph Off's opposite the hotel just at daylight the other morning having stopped there on my way up, when the dusky Adelina put aside her curtains & came to the window to inspect the morning with a handful of lace wrapped around her. Being the only person in sight I could do no less than raise my hat which attention the lady responded to by kissing her hand very graciously & quickly withdrawing. I haven't called, & don't expect to. Nicolini is a big fellow --
[*The rest of this letter from Ambrose E. Gonzales is missing*]

EGP

5 Broad St
Charleston S C 19 Nov 1881

A.E. Gonzales Esq
c/o Western Union Telegraph Co
195 Broadway
New York
Dear Sir

Your letter of the 16th inst is received - Those whom I represent will take the place on the terms offered in mine of 20th October and now accepted by you - and will settle just as soon as marketable titles can be given - They will submit the question of title to counsel and advise you whether they will take under the tax title or not -

Please give me a description of the land you propose to sell referring to any deeds or plats that you know of and give a diagram from memory of the land showing the Salt Creek that cuts it off from the rest. (400 acres) My friends want all the rice land and reserves as well as the creek or creeks used for drainage &c

Yours truly
Berkley Grimball

Please answer as early as possible

EGP

New York Nov 23/81

My dear Uncle:

I enclose you Berkley Grimball's letter received this morning. Don't know what to tell him about what he calls the "rice land" & the "salt Creek." In my first letter telling him about the place I mentioned that the two tracts were divided by what was now a Salt Creek, & that one tract Containing probably 12 or 13 hund acres I would dispose of, & the smaller tract of 400 or 500 acres adjoining the Elliott property I would reserve. Then came his letter offering \$1300, 1/2 Cash balance in one year for the larger tract which I accepted, & now this letter which I enclose.

I don't know whether they are after phosphate or stock raising, but my idea was, to make the "Pine Land" side of the Salt swamp the boundary in order to save fencing on the Cheeha side, should the place ever be used for stock, which may not be unlikely. What think you? The Plat & lots of other papers (Valuable) are either in the old trunk upstairs, or in "My room" so called, in the top drawer. I think I turned over the Oak Lawn deeds, titles & Baileys papers to you, if not they are in the top drawer also. Edwards has Baileys bond in Walterboro.

Tell Hattie to look in Aunt Emmies watch box in the drawer in the East room upstairs & find a gold locket of Trudie's, which with one or two other things (including Zulu's pedigree) were put there for safe keeping. By the way Charlie Savage asked me in the summer to give him the refusal of

the "Bluff" if I was going to rent it for 1882, better see about it. Willis was to vacate Town Hill on Dec 1st. His rent was \$10. He paid me \$4.00. Ask Bory if he paid any more to him. The last \$5.00 was due in Nov 1st. Old Howard has a Broad Axe of mine. So has Flood, and a Lightning saw too. These items occur to me as I'm hurriedly scratching this note at the window, of my fourth story sanctum. A Yankee wind is rattling the panes, and blurring them with the driving snow, & all is bleak without & within -- Hope you are snug.

Love to you all, I'm quite well & sleep nicely.

Yours Affectionately

Ambrose

I must see Cousin Leila when she comes & would like to call upon Mrs Cory when occasion Offers.

A.

EGP

623 Pa. Ave., N.W.
Washington D.C.
Dec. 4, 1881.

My dear Emmie:

"A soft answer turneth away wrath" and you have subdued me by stepping out of the Mahone issue with eel-like facility. So I will dodge the Butler business. I only know the he is a very genial Rebel who will get as many appropriations out of the folds of the old flag as he possibly can.

I hope your Mantoue expectations will be realized, but I don't believe in expecting anything. It's uncomfortable to be so often disappointed.

I am generally mixed up. Quit smoking about ten days ago because it interfered with my work, and in consequence have hardly been able to sleep for a week after that time. Just as I began to get my head clear after the shock to my system I contracted a cold which makes me very stupid again.

Congress is about to meet and I have been very busy for several days with Speakership, Rainey and other matters. I expect to work hard this session and make a good record.

By getting some December pay advanced I have got a suit of clothes that I can appear in, and I expect to visit Cousin John H.E. this evening. This is all I can think of to say. When I get more lively I'll write better I hope.

It is now dinner time, and as my stoppage of smoking has given me a tremendous appetite I know you'll excuse me. Love to all. Have not heard from Bill though Brosie has it seems. Presume he's happy. How do you find him?

Yours affy, Nanno

EGP

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

From *New York* Dec 16 / 81

My dear Beaure:

Willie said you would write to me if I opened the Correspondence, and I take great pleasure in doing so. Not that I have anything great to tell you except that I have not sat a horse or tasted whiskey since that morning you escorted me to the depot, shabby & forlorn, & sent me out into the Yankee world to once more "seek my fortunes." I am not very well fixed for writing at present, as the instruments around me are making as much noise as the Rev "Poldo Jenkins" class meeting on

a Saturday night, & not half as amusing. I suppose Old Lucy had a first class passenger train funeral. I trust the lady was not hurried into the presence of her maker by the construction train. Well she was singing about the "Gospel train long enough & it came at last. Old man Pate was looking mournful enough on account of the "dry drought" when I left, but this last blow must make him feel "real miserable".

I suppose that the depot is pretty much as usual, except that this is the season when the gentle Pauline puts on her red sacque, and her blue nose for the winter, & her flighty father pulls down some portion of his house for kindling wood. By the way has William Henry vanquished the dutchman, or vice versa? & has his mother in law any prospects of becoming a grandmother?

John Grimball was very anxious to know how Heyward was "making out." By the way he spoke of going to Adams Run to spend the Holidays with his brother Arthur, who he hears is quite a dashing hunter now. What has he killed? A rabbit possibly. Among the game here I see now and then a string of those big black red-headed Woodpeckers such as you see every day in the pine lands. I don't know what the Yanks call them or what price they sell for, but they seem quite popular. Speaking of Southern productions I see *persimmons*, put up in quart boxes like Strawberries & sold at 25 cts. They are brought to this market from Virginia. The 'possum is also a representative of that old state, in N.Y. I'm sorry you have had a fall while hunting. How did it happen? Among the thousand of horses I've seen here, not one has been able to show as long a tail as Kittie indeed few of them have any at all to speak of, the barbarous custom here, being to dock the tail off within six inches or so, of the animals rear. Almost all of the fashionable ladies here have their carriage horses rigged out in that way. The 'bus and street car stock have *their* tails plaited and sewed up in canvas for the Winter, to keep them out of the mud & sleet. A great many of the stables are in the upper stories of buildings, the ground floors being too expensive to admit of their being used for stabling. While on Upper Broadway a day or two ago, I saw a number of poor brutes looking wistfully out of a third story window, (where they are taken in elevators), & it occurred to me how much happier they would be out in an old field, & made me wonder whether Jane or Zulu would relish the "high life" that these animals lead, & whether the lamented Clitus, would be able to get them up stairs! Well I see the chiefs consing after me for some fast work now, so I will have to close. Write to me, like a good fellow & tell me everything that interests you. I hope that you are doing all you can for the old folks & for yourself. I've come to the conclusion, that the *only* panacea for the worries & disappointments of this trifling world, is *hard work*, (& a plenty of it.). Good bye. Much love to all. Your affectionate Brother.

[Ambrose]

GFP

623 Pa. Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C.
Dec. 18, 1881

My dear Willie:

I have had such a spell of "the blues" that I have not answered until this moment your letter. Not having yet been restored to cheerfulness you must excuse the length and tone of this epistle. In truth, I am as dull as Adams Run depot and as mournful as the dilapidated Maynard rifle. I am having a hard time for news, with many disadvantages and backsets. I know so few people and it is necessary to know so many to get news here, and the other fellows have such advantages over me that I'm disgusted with what I do and with all the world.

At Christmas time I want to get home, but of course I can't do that up here, so I intended going to see Brosie, but now I find I won't have the cash to do it with, so I'm compelled to nurse my dreariness here all by myself, and very unpleasant it is, I assure you.

It may be very pleasant for people with money and relatives to spend this season in a big city, but when a fellow hasn't either to keep him company its just the reverse.

This is enough grumbling. Suffice it to say that I have "the blues" and have 'em bad. I hope that by this time you have slaughtered your buck and had lots of sport generally. How are you getting on with your amusements? Tell Uncle Ralph that I highly appreciate his attentions to you and give the old fellow my warmest regards.

Brosie is cheerful in proportion to my gloom and seems to be making out very well. Gertrude I haven't heard from for a week.

If the Citadel Academy in Charleston is reopened by the State it will be just the thing for you and you will be near home and close to me when I go to Charleston next Summer. I hope the bill will pass.

There is nothing new to tell about myself. The same humdrum routine, and bother, and worry every day in the week. All work and no play, you know, are having the customary effect. Please write me fully about yourself, the folks and the place. I hope to be more cheerful next time.

Love to all.

Nanno

EGP

THE AMERICAN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Dec 22 1881

My dear Folks:

Nanno joins me in sending you a few little odds & ends. Had our pockets been larger, & my imagination more vivid, the box had been heavier, & the selection better. I sent you a bbl. Ale, which you have recd by this time, & have mailed Trudie a few dollars poor child. Nanno has not been able to visit me as he intended doing, & I have been unable to go to Balto. Impossible for any steady man to get off at this season. For the past few days I've been working in this branch Office from 9 30 to 4 PM daily in addition to my regular night work. It dont inconvenience me much, I get off from the main ofs at 8, & freshen up a little & take a light breakfast, & am down here, (adjoining Wall st) by 9. Off at 4 PM, dine then, & get to sleep by six, sleeping till 12, then up again, & at the ofs at 1. I'm only off duty long enough to sleep & I'm glad I dont have time to see what fortunes these Yanks are squandering for presents to their idle relatives & trifling sycophantic, friends. The work will last thro' the "*Holidays*" and I hope longer.

Today after a quantity of rain 'tis as warm as spring, in fact rather oppressive. Much love to you all dear folks,

Ambrose

EGP

623 Pa. Ave. N.W.
Washington D.C.
Dec. 25, 1881

My dear Emmie:

Your letter with the violets came yesterday in time to put me in a better humor with mankind

for the day, and I have since been trying to spend my exiled Christmas philosophically, if not cheerfully. The letter braced me up considerably and the violets recalled my youthful days when I wasn't in Yankeeland and didn't feel the need of a dollar - if I didn't have one. When I come to analyse it, I *have* had a good many things to give me "the blues", but I'm trying out of respect to the season to snake them off as best I may.

Christmas up here is far different from the Southern celebration. There are crowds of shoppers and great eatings and extensive drunkenness, but the spirit of the day is lacking. It is a smaller "Thansgiving." And all the fireworks are kept for the Fourth of July, hence the old familiar cracker-popping doesn't gladden me. Today isn't like a northern Christmas however, in respect to weather. It is a clear, cool, sharp-breezed day like our S.C. hunting days in January. There has been no real cold here yet. The winter has been phenomenal. The grass is green still and trees have just shed their leaves. It has been oppressively warm lately. Now about the only thing I care for Northward, is the snow and ice, and there hasn't been enough to shake a stick at yet.

I had a rencontre last Monday night with - Robert Smalls!²⁹² of all persons in the world. I had been sending down what their Republican competitors said about Mackey and Smalls, and that night was in front of Willard's talking to some S.C. Radicals when Mackey²⁹³ came up and wanted to know who told me that his "social misdeeds" would be laid bare to the President. (You know he is legally married to a negress.) I wouldn't tell him of course. He warned me not to send such gossip again. I told him I would use my discretion about that, and he went off without picking a row. Then rolled up Smalls. Wanted to know who told me of his selling out to Johnston &c. Gave him the same answer. He then said that I then adapted the falsehood. There were a lot of Republicans around. Smalls had a heavy stick, and I had nothing. I plugged him in the eye. He cuffed me, bear-fashion, on the side of the face twice. I renewed my blows, but failing to make an impression. I doubled him up with a kick in the expansive region "below the belt." A friend of his took his arm and led him away and I remained in possession of the field evacuating it, however, when a policeman and a crowd were attracted to the spot. Some friend mislead the officer and he went away, so there were no arrests. Smalls, I learn, received a bunged eye, a thing I had not dared to hope. I was unscathed. If I had had a pistol I would certainly have shot him, and wanted to go for him afterwards but Mr. Dibble and Gen. Butler advised otherwise. I was much afraid that some Stalwart paper would get hold of it and make out Smalls as the victor, but luckily none did. A Democratic sheet got it but didn't publish it on my account. I learn, however, that one paper did relate how a Democratic reporter annihilated a negro ex-Congressman, which indicates some friendly exaggeration somewhere. In spite of my modesty I have had to stand introductions as "the man that knocked h___ out of a nigger Congressman," which of course made me blush. Smalls says to his friends that he has a great respect for me since my demonstration as it "showed a great deal of courage" &c., but I guess that was for

²⁹² Robert Smalls (1839-1915). A slave and Charleston harbor pilot, commandeered the Confederate steamer *The Planter* in May 1862, and sailed it to the Federal fleet. S.C. State representative 1868-70; State Senator 1870-74. Republican Congressman, 1875-79, defeated for reelection in 1878.

²⁹³ Edmund W. M. Mackey (1846-1884). Born in Charleston, S.C. Lawyer in 1868. Editor and proprietor of the Charleston Republican 1871-72. State representative 1873; Federal Congressman 1875-76; Assistant U.S. Attorney for S.C. 1878-1881. Re-elected to Congress, serving from May 1882 until his death in Washington, D.C. in January 1884.

effect. Any how I haven't let up on him in the paper yet. And won't. If any of them tackle me again I will be prepared.

I started to see Cousin J.H.E. several times but felt so lazy and dull that I came back without doing it. The other night - last Sunday I attended his church and heard him discourse, pounced on him after the service and surprised him a good deal. He seemed rather diffident or skittish, and wasn't particularly warm, but he invited me to see him. Miss. Nancy and Belle Elliott were with him. I expect to go around as soon as I can without being suspected of "spelling for a holiday dinner".

I met the Lady Nancy out shopping last evening and she told me they had just received a letter from Gertrude promising to pay them a visit on Wednesday next. She is to stay several days, I understand, and if so it will save my trip to Baltimore as I will take her around enough here. Trudie wrote several days ago but did not mention her intention.

Broise seems very cheerful in his capacity of Santa Claus. I confess that it depresses me to see so many beautiful things that I can't send home.

I am spending the day like any other. Felt very much like getting on a "ragle" last night to drown my sorrows, but wrote a letter to the paper instead, abusing the Stalwarts, which is my one consolation.

I hope you have all had a better time than you looked for, and that you will start the New Year braced up. With abundant love to all

Your affectionate

Nanno

Glad to hear that Bill is a good boy. Tell him so. he "does me proud." N
Saw your letter to the paper. It was first rate. We will get something yet. N