

EGP

623 Pa. Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C.
Jan. 8, 1882

My dear Emmie:

In replying to your last favor let me thank Hattie for her's and apologise for not answering it directly. I have been out of doors nearly all the days of late, and when I come in I am too tired to write. Hence I did not before express my appreciation of her pretty note and of the violets, which came fresh and fragrant, almost making me homesick.

This is verily a "land of mist and snow" at present. With the yet unmelted remnants of the late snowstorm on the earth, the fog is thick in the land. It is cold, pervasive and permeating. Ugh!

The "one good thing" did come, but it was rather transitory and unsatisfactory. Snow fell for twenty four hours, but it was not more than four inches deep. Such as it was it was a change and afforded the "junesse doree" abundant sleighing. No one but a capitalist could enjoy that diversion at \$5 to \$10 an hour, and it is needless to remark that I did not participate.

But it was very pretty, and Pennsylvania Avenue under my window looked very Arctic, barring houses and street cars. Hundreds of sleighs went jingling by for three days, from daylight until midnight. The fur-clad maidens and masculines were brilliant and gay, and there was some fast racing. But the inevitable thaw came and now one can only see a little of the snow through the fog. Of course the slushiness of everything is great after the ice-clad condition of the pavements.

I suppose you have heard before now from Gertrude, and what she thought of her visit. I tried to entertain her as much as possible with the free shows of the city, not having an extra dollar to take her to the theatre. I think she enjoyed the sight-seeing, and I certainly exercised her a great deal. She looked remarkably well, had a fine color and appeared quite strong. She and Belle performed an unusual feat for girls, of in climbing to the top of the Washington monument (we were unable to go in the elevator) up 400 steps, Cimmerian darkness and sepulchral silence.

The Rev. John was quite gallant, and left Miss Nancy mostly to me. I trust I was gallant too - under more difficult circumstances.

While I am not to be congratulated upon my present condition of impecuniousness and loneliness I do think that '82 may have something good in store for me.

As you know, I was mightily despondent about the unavailingness of my efforts here, but the prospects reassured me considerably, and I have since had many verbal commendations from people here. What pleased me most was that James R. Randall, author of "My Maryland", editor of the Augusta Chronicle and a very graceful writer, told me - actually with enthusiasm - that he had read my letters before knowing who I was; had thought them 'capital', and the style "delightful". He pronounced my Guiteau letters the best he had seen in any paper. I tell you this for your family satisfaction, but I hope you won't think that I am at all dazzled by it. As an encouragement to greater endeavors and as a dispeller of my morbid fears it was however, very welcome. I hear also that several of my letters have been copied by Georgia and North Carolina papers. If what Bill and Hattie have written me about the commendation in St. Pauls be correct, then the cup of my joy will indeed overflow. Strange as it may seem, I would rather have Frank Legare's or Sol Coburn's commendation in such matters than a Senator's. I suppose it is because a prophet so seldom expects or receives "honor in his own land." The coming Columbian correspondent, is, I think, Hemphill. Did you not know that Moroso and Blackman - both of whom are graduates of the Charleston College - complain

bitterly to Hemphill and myself - both country crackers - that R & D. are always making disagreeable facetious remarks about Charleston College spelling. You see, neither of the two are strong on that, and the bosses won't trust them to correct "proofs."

Oh! by the way, about Smalls: Well, the thing did get out after all. A week after, a friend of mine heard it - Christmas night - and, assuming that it had just occurred, he telegraphed it to his papers in Phila and St. Louis and elsewhere. Then some others got it and still further enlarged on it. Consequently there were such "headings" next morning in various papers as "Whipping a Congressman and "Getting away with an ex-member" &c. &c. - for the fellows, Democratic and Republican, love a reporter to whip a man who infringes journalistic license, and they made me give Smalls a terrible thrashing. The Register, even, had it with the comment, "Bully for Gonzales". Then the congratulations here redoubled, and I was really a small "lion" for a while. The salutation now is: "How's Smalls", and far from hurting me it has by the exaggeration of my journalistic friends, helped me considerably. So all's well that ends well! Now, from Smalls to Fishburne.

Bob must have had delirium tremens when he made his new departure - a sort of compound alcoholic inspiration, as it were. I foresee a general political breakup in South Carolina, with probably two mixed parties, black and white, half and half, before the end of '83; but Fishburne isn't the Mahone Moses to lead the movement. It will take a bigger man than Bob. But a split is inevitable, and we can only hope that the negro will be induced to split too.

I hope Capers will be punished. There are too many men of his class for the good repute of the State.

I can't get seeds here. They go in bulk to Col. Butler, to whom you should apply. The Senator saves trouble and aids impartiality by sending them to Columbia.

Well, this is a long one, and I hope that you will do what you can in return. With much love to all

Your affectionate
Nanno.

EGP

The Western Union Telegraph Company

NY Jany 12 / 82

Thanks Dear Aunt for your long & interesting chat. I have not written because I've been so confoundedly dull & am still for that matter having had a cold in the head, and the fever & general bad feelings incident to successful vaccination. But the seventh day is past & I'm again on the mend. It took a good deal of determination to rouse myself at 12 o'clock & come to work but it had to be did. I hear from Nanno frequently & affectionately. A week or two since his \$1300 a year were but a trifle in his present, & prospective pocket, & the fruits of his reportorial labors were as ashes in his mouth, but not even Cigar ashes, for he has repudiated the weed, & he was despondent. But in his last the mention of his achievements, in the News & Courier prospectus, & a graceful compliment from "Randall the poet," have again inflated him, & he writes buoyantly. Thank heaven there's one of us making a little headway.

Are Beure & Hattie *never* going to write to me? I'll not mention it again.

I'm so glad that Uncle R has made a start & secured some reliable labor, & trust something may come of his efforts. Coburn's translation to a more "spiritual" abiding place, will surely bring no harm to the neighborhood whence he departs, Charity forbids my saying aught else. Nothing recent from Grimball relative to Social Hall. At the last writing he said "Counsel had matter of title in hand

for Consideration" I have written again to Mr. Warren requesting him to "prolong his patience." A pleasant letter from Col Coward a few days ago says "Will writes me that he is enjoying his vacation hugely. Having killed a deer he feels himself quite a hero"-- Has success at last crowned his arms? I'll write again when I feel more cheerful & until then, with much love to all Believe me ever Yrs Affectly

Ambrose

GFP [Translated]

Mr. Ambrosio Gonzalez

Havana, January 12 of 1882

Esteemed Ambrosio:

It is not possible for me during the grief that affects me, coordinate my ideas to inform you of the recent sad events that afflict me.

On New Year's Day at six o'clock in the morning our dear aunt Lola (R.I.P.) gave her soul to the Creator. The irreparable loss of a mother is sensitive, and that is how I consider and have considered our aunt: today in the helplessness in which she leaves me even among my other ones, my pain increases and my sorrows will not rest for a long time. My first impulse after this misfortune, was to inform you by means of a telegram just like I wanted to do in the moment of the greatest gravity of aunt Lola, but (...) was again opposed manifesting that it would be best to tell you when everything was settled, and because I wanted to give you the news not only so that you would know it, but so that you would come during the nine days to be able to obtain your most proper resolution, I acceded to the purpose; even so when considering that my imposed duty is unconditional I make the most of the moments of lucidity and rest to let you know everything.

Excuse my not manifesting all sentimental expressions because this is not common for all. Good bye Ambrosio.

Your affectionate cousin,
Irene

EGP

412 6th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.
Jan. 15, 1882

My dear Emmie:

Your note was duly received, but as you will see from the quantity of South Carolina matter sent to the paper - not all published yet, however - I have been terribly busy, with no time to write you.

Yours is an essentially feminine idea, and if there were poetic justice in this world or "rewards of merit" knocking around it would be readily available. But you don't appreciate some hard facts in this cruel world. Let me outline them and show you that your scheme is Utopian.

1. Col. Butler has no power to engage even an extra clerk without authorization of the Legislature and the Board of Agriculture. Those he has, are really engaged for the Dist Commission.
2. Neither Col. Butler nor Col. Boykin has the power to appoint an Immigration Agent in NY., or anywhere, without the authority of the Board of Agriculture.
3. The said Board is wedded old-fogyism, as shown by the election of old Boykin himself. A young man, not prominent "before the war" would have no chance with them. The State government is at

present an almshouse for broken-down politicians. Perry, the death after-one-night-on-a-plantation-in-spite-of-quinine-man is on the Board, also broken-down Lipscomb and unprogressive Hagood and stingy Crayton. Col. Butler can't influence them.

4. Broise may be, and is, a "splendid fellow," and I may, or may not be, "thorough", but appointments are not made for such reasons. They are always for political or ante-bellum "services." No business man need apply. Therefore, my dear Aunt, it will be useless to make any application or suggestion. I think the Franco-American Commission is still sitting, but one might as well look for mercy from a wild cat to a chicken as hope for anything but injustice when the Yankees control the American portion of it. Better not worry your overworked brain about it. Things don't happen nowadays as they ought to.

Col. Tillman says - and I think he is right - that the only way the South can grab a dollar for claims is to allow the North to grab a thousand. If there's anything left in the Treasury after they have passed their acts stealing a billion, the South may get a million for stolen land and cotton - but the Treasury won't hold out. You ought to see the appalling Yankee lobby, and you would become resigned to fate, and appreciate the difficulty of getting anything for the lands. The above is discouraging talk, but it is philosophical. "Blessed he be that enpedeth nothing, for he shall not be dissappointed!"

Tell Bill that I will not answer his pleasant letter until I hear from Col. Coward, but not to be disheartened about getting to school. Some arrangement will be made.

I think I wrote you at length some time ago, and as yet I haven't had any new experiences. Congress is very dull and I have been devoting myself to South Carolina news of late. Your information was the first that I had about Gertrude's sickness. I wrote her long ago, but have not heard from her since, I am afraid that she is still unwell.

Broise writes despondently, having suffered from his vaccinated arm. I wish that you would protest against his starving himself, as he speaks of his ribs showing from the effect of his spare diet. I have been living on coffee and rolls mostly, for 50 cents a day, but it hasn't hurt me.

I have removed to more reasonable quarters, having a room adjoining Col. Tillman's. Please always add *N.W.* to the number street, as there are four 6th Streets, N.W., N.E., S.W. and S.E. Write soon. With love to all

Your affectionate, Nanno

EGP

412 6th St., NW.
Washington, D.C.
Jan. 25, 1882

My dear Emmie:

It is 11 a.m. and as I haven't a fire in my room yet, my fingers can hardly hold the pen and will make a crabbed scrawl I'm afraid. You have also had the cold snap we are indulging in at this time and so have an idea of the Washington situation. For several days the thermometer has only been a few degrees above zero and icy blasts from the northeast have made a tramping reporter's lot not a happy one.

On venturing out of doors at midday my breath freezes to my mustache -- which is quite considerable now, I assure you -- and forms little icicles thereon. This in broad sunlight. The sensation is novel but not pleasing in the long run. Last night it clouded up and this morning it began to snow heavily. Looking out of my window it is a beautiful sight. The snow is literally "coming down like a

blanket" as related by the father of "Little Breeches," sometimes in little myriad points, and then again in great fat flakes which settle lazily and complacently.

There is an inch or two on the ground already, and if it continues to fall in this style there will be a foot or two by night. Anyhow, somebody will have gorgeous sleighing, but it won't be me. I feel at times as if I would like to renew my Virginia skating experience, but there is no eligible ground nearer than the Potomac, and I haven't the time.

I have a small room in this establishment adjoining a couple which Col. Tillman occupies. The old fellow seems to be quite fond of me, averring that I reported his speeches better during the 1880 campaign than anyone had ever done for him before. He calls me "Narcissa," and pronounces Capt. E.²⁹⁴ "a splendid old cuss." I have the run of his books and papers, and better than all, his hard sense and legislative experience, which things are of advantage to me. With him rooms Randall, the editor of the Augusta Chronicle, now holding a small sinecure in the Senate and writing letters to his paper. Randall is the "My Maryland" man, and is a peculiar poetic genius. He is 43, smooth-faced, baldheaded, longhaired, dark in complexion and melancholy in demeanor. He writes beautifully and rapidly, is as lazy as yours affectionately, and, as Col. Tillman says, "loves good eating better than any part I ever saw, damme!" For a fact that is J. R. R.'s weak point. He is very impecunious, has a large family and a small salary, and one day joins me in my frugal style of eating and then, disgusted, rushes off to a big dinner and gets sick. If there is an invitation to a dinner anywhere around he is sure to get it, and Lord! how he enjoys it! He is going to Baltimore this evening solely to eat a big dinner with the Mayor, and will return in the morning and breakfast on coffee and rolls with a wry face. He bemoans the loss of his poetic spirit through newspaper drudgery and is a very plaintively melancholy cuss. I am with him a great deal as our work is of the same order, the paper desiring only letter writing at this time.

As to my smoking having anything to do with my pallidity, Fannie is a goose. Her vision was made color blind by constant inspection of Mr. Dent's red beard. It is the irregular life which tells on me, and I am going to keep better hours hereafter. I don't smoke much and when Fannie saw me had not indulged for six weeks. If it really hurt me I would abstain, but the fact that I only quit as a sentimental experiment and found that I was better with than without tobacco, made me take up the practice again. I found also, that when I quit I got an overpowering desire for liquor which I didn't have before, and haven't had since.

Bill's prospects are bright now, I am glad to say. You will have seen my letter to him before this.

That was a bad accident on the C.R.S. Who was to blame? Write soon, love to all
Nanno

Your violets reached me in full fragrance. Thanks.

N.

P.S.

Thursday 26 Jan.

²⁹⁴ Captain Ralph Emms Elliott.

I wrote the enclosed yesterday, but was so busy with Giteau²⁹⁵ and my narration of the last scenes that I forgot to mail it.

With the sleet last night the pavements became so icy that pedestrians had to take the middle of the streets for safety. In neglecting to do this in time I sustained falls which make me, at this writing, a sorely bruised and painful man. The sleet degenerated into rain, and now all is slush. I've concluded that however pleasant "the beautiful snow" may be in the country it is very much misplaced in a crowded city, and I will sigh for it again.

Well! Guiteau is doomed. I still believe, as do many others, that he is cracked, but in spite of that I will have to try my powers of description on his hanging.

It was a fortunate foible that took me by the court room yesterday when nobody expected a verdict, and I made what I could out of the scene, although pressed for time.

Ever yours,

Nanno

The Congressional sketches I have just sent, I think the best I have ever made.

EGP

412 6th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.
Feb. 5, 1882

My dear Emmie:

Many thanks for your full and pleasant letter received this morning. I suppose you have heard from Broise by this time. He had to keep his bed for ten days on account of a cold caught in his vaccinated arm, but has been at work for several nights past. I heard from him today. No wonder you were worried about him. I was so uneasy about not getting a letter that I telegraphed the manager of the office a few days ago and learned from him that he had been ill but was to go to work that night. It is very hard on the poor fellow to always be thrown back by ailments just when he is getting along with his work and earnings. He says that he is taking as much care of himself as he knows how, but complains of my mentioning his starvation plan to you, having received appeals from home which he doesn't like. I don't think he will be foolish enough to injure his health any more when he finds that every sickness costs a deal of money and doesn't develop Oak Lawn nursing. I had a letter from Gertrude less than a week ago and do not think that she is at all "under the weather."

I am leading a very hum-drum sort of life, not going around much except to the Capitol and the hotels, and consequently there is very little to tell you just now. Old man Tillman is a queer genius and "cranky" on some subjects, but he is a trump for all that and I don't know anybody of whom I would sooner ask assistance when in trouble. Of course I told Randall about our youthful piping of "Maryland" but he rather hates the piece, because although he thinks he has written many better things, everybody ding dongs his war song at him. I assure you that he is infinitely more tragic when condemning a 35c. dinner than while reciting "My Maryland" - and he has reached that stage of life where a good meal is sweeter by far than oceans panegyric.

Fishburne goes from bad to worse. I was uncertain as to my choice for Governor but I shall

²⁹⁵ Charles J. Guiteau, a disgruntled and possibly insane office seeker, who shot President James Garfield on 2 July 1881, in Washington, D.C. Garfield died 80 days later. Guiteau was tried and later hanged in Washington on 30 June 1882.

support Kennedy out of appreciation of his manliness in knocking Fishburne down. The latter, however, is more an object of pity than of disgust. He has been drinking himself to death for along time and will die in the Asylum inside of six months unless he is jailed on bread and water.

I am sorry for both Pinckney and Gadsden, but the accident was the natural outcome of former's slipshod habits and the latter's unbusiness conduct of affairs, precipitated, as I shall tell Capt. Dawson, by the removal of your telegraph office. With facilities for telegraphing at Adams Run the accident would never have occurred.

There has been a great snowfall, which I will allude to in my news-letter so that I won't repeat the story here.

Did you see the puff of Hamphill and your humble servant page 4, Saturday's paper? Rather rich, wasn't it. If this free advertising goes on I will feel like "a bigger man than old Grant - the author of which expression, by the way I have recently become acquainted with.

I endorse all you say of Willie. He is a fine fellow. In the Summer, if I'm able I'll put him under treatment for stammering somewhere. Love to all. Give me crop programme and finances.

Nanno

The "intelligent compositor" has been playing the deuce with my letters, as you'll see.

EGP

19 Clinton St

Brooklyn NY Feb 17/82

What a pity 'tis my dear Aunt Annie that you should Eschew the pen you have such a knack of using. Your letters recall that best of correspondents, Grandmama, who always knew what would interest the absent members of the family & wrote cheerfully & pleasantly always. You are a bit satiric, but I'm far enough away to appreciate sarcasm, & it serves to leaven the dough of my insipid existence. Speaking of dough I'm reminded of Bread, & Henry Barnwell, whenever a scandalous message passes through my hands, I think how Henry would revel in the troubles & private affairs of the thousands who confide in the wires. The messages as you may imagine are of all possible kinds. Some telling of death & illness, & of failures of Every kind, & others advise of Convalescence of Nativity, & of successes. The Comprehensive Mormon message from Salt Lake to Stewart ordering "nine silk dresses (assorted sizes)" was amusing. The telegram from a youngster here to his young wife in Washington "God bless you piggy" suggests a native of the "silly islands," & the orthography & composition of some of the mining denizens of "Red Dog City, Colorado" or "Tombstone, Arizona" announcing the discovery of a new vein of the "precious," are "rich."

Speaking of metals, I'm so much obliged to you for your offer of the silver waiter, but I'm getting along on "brass" at present thank you & will come out allright in a little while I hope. I am feeling well again after a hard experience indeed. For the past six weeks I've been working with my left arm burning like a coal of fire all the time, have had to work hard & cheerfully too & even when I was tired out the pain would not allow me to sleep without an anodyne. My room mate is a very nice considerate fellow but he had to work & I was left to complain to the bedpost. Our quarters were so desolate & being near Broadway, the street was so noisy, that we have made a move, & as you see are installed in the "City of Chinchies," paying the same rent but having a very pleasant room with a nice bathroom adjoining. The room is a front one nicely furnished & in a most desirable neighborhood Almost on Columbia Heights & is really nearer the office than my old room. I use the "Fulton" ferry taking only a few moments for the trip. There are no other lodgers, & the small family seems a pleasant one, with no children. There's a young niece [*sic*] of the "Madams" just from "St

Thomas," playing rather distractingly on the piano at present, but as she's rather pleasant looking for a West Indian I'll excuse the lass. Tell Hattie that I've tramped around considerably in search of a saddle, the cheapest I've seen is \$40 & most of them \$75 to \$100. I'll go to the pawn shops on the "Bowery" tomorrow & see what's to be had thereabouts. I received the young lady's very Creditable letter which I'll answer soon. I saw "Jones" on the day Aunt Emmies letter reached me & examining his shipping book found that the order had been filled on Feby 7th by Adams Ex, so the package must have reached Adams Run about the time I rec'd the letter. The streets have been in a fearful condition Imagine a bank of dirty snow three to five feet high in many of the streets & the side walks several inches under water. The stable yard at home during a wet spell is usually not a pleasant place to stroll, but in comparison with lower New York for the past three weeks I should call it a pedestrians paradise.

Excuse this poor disjointed scrawl dear Aunt & with much love to you all

I am Ever Affectly Brosie

Send letters as usual to Broadway & Dey St.

EGP

Brooklyn NY Feby 19 [1882]

Sunday

My dear Aunt;

Enclosed you will find the letters just rec'd from Grimball & Lesesne, from which you will see that the Social Hall bubble has burst. I am sorry but 'tis just "our luck."

There's one thing that might be done & Ill "see about it" at once. Warren says that some one is anxious to purchase what title he can give to the place for \$600. I will get him to put me in communication with this party who probably wants only the "Pine land" side of the place, & I might make some arrangement with him to secure the p'ce adjoining the Bluff by giving up all claim to the other portion. At any rate 'tis worth trying.

There's nothing to tell you, I'm feeling better & find my new quarters quite an improvement on the recently vacated premises. The past two days have been cold & pleasant, but today 'tis cloudy & snowing. Beecher's church is only a stone's throw from my room, but the old rascal is so de[...] popular that 'tis hard for a stranger (especially of the stern sex) to get inside the doors of "Plymouth." Much love to all.

Ever Affectly

Brosie

EGP

412 6th St NW
Washington, D.C.
Feb. 19, 1882.

My dear Emmie:

Sunday at last, and no bear garden at the capitol, so I have a while in which to thank you for your pleasant letter and the jessamines which would make me even more homesick than usual if I allowed myself to think of Oak Lawn's sun and flowers.

What I can evolve of description, political and general, goes into my letters to the paper, and my ability to gossip is thereby ruined for my private correspondents. The infernal wear and tear of having to write to order takes all gist away, and it is with great effort that I can force myself to write

my own folks a line. If I ever get out of this business I will go to the Bay and not look at a paper or a pen for six months.

By way of eking out this epistle I will discourse on myself and things thereto pertaining. But first, I will note your remand on Quixotism. Don't you know that I am privileged person, and really the sixth member from S.C.? I am entirely independent of every representative here and am sent for just that purpose---to criticise whatever seems worthy of criticism. I have no orders as to policy, and, as you may have noticed, disagree with The News and Courier's editorial views pretty often. I came with that understanding. If the Congressmen don't like it they have to take it anyhow. But as a matter of fact I am on first rate terms with all of them and it is to their interest that such should be the case, for there is but one power, The News and Courier, and Gonzales is its prophet. General charges don't hurt anyway. Tillman tells a story of a very successful ante-bellum politician who once denounced the people of Hamburg as a community of liars and thieves. When he next solicited the votes of Hamburg's citizens a man took him aside and asked if this was true. "It is," said the candidate, "I did say that Hamburg was filled with liars and thieves, and you know it, but I didn't say *you* were one of them. You know the men I alluded to." The citizen was more than satisfied. Numbers of the rest asked the same question and received the same reply. The result was that the candidate was elected by a larger majority than ever. See the "pint?"

An honest man can't live in Washington without getting nauseated with the trickery and rascality and whining for office. Don't be worried. I am solid. You ask about dinners. I was invited to a big one given to about a hundred Congressmen and journalists by the editor of the *Post* whom I have been poking pen at. The dinner was supposed to have been paid for by Blaine who runs the paper in his interest or by Eads for lobbying schemes. I didn't go because the "invite" failed to reach me in time. There are some big raids on the Treasury pending, for subsidy schemes &c. and newspaper men are in demand to help them along. A majority of the journalists here sell their influence regularly. I know one reporter who has made \$150,000 by this kind of dirty work. I suppose I'm a fool, but I don't believe in that sort of thing and won't mix in it. I could get a place at no work also if I pushed the Congressmen, but I don't approve of becoming indebted to any man for such a job while a reporter, and the bosses do not either, so I won't. Quixotism again, I suppose.

I am fond of a good dinner - very fond indeed - but I don't allow myself to think of it when I can't get it, as Randall does. Col. Tillman very expressively remarks: "If that man don't put his stomach upon a pedestal and worship it, I'm a fool, by dam!" A sentiment which I echo. I exist, "sorter this-a-way." For breakfast, I get at a coffee house, four small rolls and a cup of coffee for 12c. It is not a substantial repast, as you may imagine, and when I get very hungry at 1 or 2 P.M. I spend two or three cents for biscuits at the Capitol. For dinner I go to a hash-house, which on account of the dearness of provisions is not enticing in its display. For this last meal of the day I pay 33 1/3c. Total for eating, 48 1/3c. a day. For lodging \$10 a month. In this way I am enabled to save \$70 a month, by dint of which I've sent Willie \$80 so far and expect to pay off Col. Coward by the end of March.

I have until May 15th to do this latter, but want to get it off my mind and pocket, so that I can raise the \$105 for his next term in advance. I am proceeding so well in this programme that I expect to treat myself occasionally hence forward to a 50c. restaurant steak, trusting that Providence will not let me expire of repletion thereafter. This sort of living, although liberal enough to support life, isn't enlivening, and I sometimes hanker for a square meal of hominy and bacon, neither of which I've laid eyes on during my exile.

I got sick of Washington the week after my arrival. I fondly imagined before, that I could live as cheaply and as well here as in S.C. and that my extra salary would admit of some recreation, but I was very badly mistaken. To get along I had to pinch off all surplus expenditures. I've been to the theatre three times and to other amusements "many a time." However, I don't suppose I could enjoy the place any more unless I spent a couple of hundred a month. Bad location for a poor man. What we need in the South is one cent coppers. When a fellow learns to save a cent his fortune is half made. When I find myself waiting an hour in order to buy a 3c. paper for 2c. I feel half Yankee, which a longer residence here will surely make me. You can buy any thing here almost, by the cent's worth, and you can learn to gauge your appetite and not buy 5c. worth of rolls when you only need 4c. of 'em. You people down there don't know what economy is. I would like to see the most saving of you live here a month on a small salary. On your return you would make Oak Lawn blossom like the rose.

I heard from Broise a day or two ago and also from Trudie, both being well. William also, has written, and has improved in his handwriting a hundred per cent since his arrival. I've sent him \$15 more so that he can get his coat at once. I was shocked at the poor fellow's shabbiness - in respect to various unmentionable apparel - last Summer, and am resolved that hereafter he shall be presentable in *dishabille*. By the way, did his stammering decrease during the vacation? If he is still unable to control it this Summer I will send him to a specialist. If the Citadel opens in the Fall this can be done very easily, without interfering with his studies. If I go to Charleston by July and the Citadel does open, I propose putting him there, as the expense will be less, he will be close to me and nearer home, and he can get a complete education in the Institute, which will be of much higher grade than Yorkville.

Do tell me, if you will, how you are financially. Has Bailey settled for the land, or how is it? Are you sufficiently supplied with running means? Recalled that I know nothing of these things.

Do thank Hattie for her frequent gifts of violets. They reach me fragrant and almost fresh. Tell me about the garden. How are the Captain, Bory, Hattie and everybody generally in your small circle. Goodnight, and abundant love.

Nanno

I hope I've been egotistical enough. Not enough to believe what you say about my letters however.

EGP

New York Feby 24 / 82 5 A.M.

Nothing from you recently my dear Aunt, but not being of a panicky nature I'm not worried, choosing rather to believe dearth of news, or a dislike for the pen, has caused your silence. The uneventful days roll & rattle along as usual with me sometimes more & sometimes less work. Every heavy storm or snow they have North or West, throws heavy work for a few days upon the little squad of "owls" that I'm on duty with, as slow work during the day necessitates quick work at night. We close up & compare the number of messages, sent & received with all the principal offices & have to correct the errors & omissions of the day men which is aggravating at times. I was able to help out & assist a little welsh telegrapher, in a branch office, some time ago, & of late "Taffy" has been quite attentive, giving me several pleasant evenings at the theatre, (as he has the entree to all of Haverly's establishments) all of which goes to show that "bread cast upon the waters" *does* return *sometimes*. Lord knows, I've foolishly cast, away a good many crusts. I think of all that I've seen in N.Y. I enjoyed most, seeing Jefferson in "Rip Van Winkle." His acting, his company & the whole mounting and presentation of the play, were perfection. I would have worked hard for a long time to have had the children see it.

We are having queer weather still. N.Y. certainly carries of the palm for the dirtiest & most variable & uncertain weather to be had on a couple of Continents, yesterday we had a warm & sunny morning. By the time I could walk to my room it began to rain, in a half hour again clear & cool, then snow, & when I came on at 1 o'clock at night t'was cold & clear the thermometer standing at 16 above. A fellow even with a long experience don't know before leaving his room whether to provide an over coat & rubbers, or a palm leaf fan. Nanno writes cheerfully, Gertrude, seldom & vaguely. N. proposes mailing me the "News & Courier" which I shall enjoy as I can learn nothing of Southern Affairs from these ragged Yankee sheets who are ignorant of our existence, until a campaign opens, when they acquire an insight into our politics &c with wonderful facility confound them. Fishburn's spree was extensively commented upon, but knowing the state of affairs I had to let it go unchallenged. I don't allow these fellows to discuss the South & Southerners in my hearing, & if they were a fighting people, I would have been in trouble long ago. I have only exercised my little strength upon two occasions so far but have "sat down" upon a few, in other ways.

By the way did Joe pay up for "Myrtle Bank" in Jany? You never mentioned it but I dont see how you could have gotten along without it. Perhaps you had best direct my letters to No "19 Clinton Street Brooklyn." I'll probably get them a few hours earlier, sometimes your letters reach me within two days, & they *have* taken *five*. Who is P.M. at Osborn now? Does old Mr. P. still "hold the fort?" or has he resigned in favor of the ancient & erratic Pritchard?

While I'm on a questioning scrawl, what ever became of that long gold chain that Aunt Annie gave me with the watch? I want Trudie to have it. Well I can write long letters you see but stupid ones they must be. You see all that I can tell you in the papers, & a fellow's hard up for news who only sees the town in coming to & from work. Much love to you all dear Aunt Emmie. Yours

Brosie

Will the Jasmines bloom this season think you?

EGP

[March 1882]

[*The first page of this letter is missing*]

My room mate leaves for Chicago on the 15th-- I have had good offers from there, but the fare is \$20-- & as business will be almost as lively here soon., I thought it wiser to stick here for the present. I have an offer to go to Mexico & Central America in the fall at good pay, so there's no danger of my being idle for some time to come I hope. For the present month I'm scratching in every direction for extra work until April when I'm promised steady work during the day. The men who relieve us in the morning are due at 8 o'clock & are docked if they are 2 minutes late. A certain number of demerits of this kind during a month will result in extra hard work or suspension for the delinquent, so one of these men has engaged me to stay on for him in the morning until he "shows up." As I'm off duty at 8 A.M. I put in a time slip for him & work his wires until he arrives. I'm paid at the rate of 60 cts an hour for this & it comes in nicely as he's late generally from 20 mins to an hour every a.m. & it don't inconvenience me to breakfast a little later than usual. By these little contrivings & by working a few hours here & there on Sundays I increase my \$70 to \$85 per mo. By the end of this mo I'll have paid over \$100 on my debts & ~~if I have~~ when I get down to work in Earnest, three months more will clear me up. This is very uninteresting I know, but tis what I'm thinking of & striving for constantly, & cant I almost taste Stellings corn whiskey in my sleep? & dream of the Stono Company phosphatic sand? & smell the caterpillars in the cotton patch, & the fire in the fencing? I cant I see the joint grass in the slip field & the rust in the oats? & hear the crows & the coons in the corn? for verily of these things

have I thought and dreamt these many months.

Before I get credit from anyone again I'll think a long time I guess.

I could have accounts at restaurants &c here as some of, or most of the men do, but this is one place I never want to either lend to, or borrow from, & I pay room & rent in advance weekly & have always cash enough on hand to carry me thro' from one pay day to another & sending off the surplus on the 1st & 15th of every month when I'm paid off. By keeping always ahead in this way, at the end of the fortnight I can ~~always~~ tell exactly what I can spare, & owing nothing, here I could leave at an hour's notice should opportunity offer.

For the past few nights we have worked direct with San Francisco a new thing, as all business has heretofore been "relayed" at Omaha Neb. & again at Chicago. Last night I received some sixty messages direct from San Fran, Omaha Neb, Ogden Utah, Virginia City Nevada, & Cheyenne Wyoming, all on one wire 3700 miles long & tho' the work has to be careful & steady it was done with as much ease as I used to send a train report from Grahamville to Charleston. It seemed almost incredible that I could talk to a fellow on the shores of the Pacific while looking thro' the window here at the lights from the incoming Atlantic Steamers. The men ~~from~~ working at Cheyenne & Ogden have fine times they say leading a free & easy life & vacating the office every afternoon to scour the praries or hunt. I've never been able to hear anything of our erratic friend Arthur E. Nanno writes long & clever letters once in a while, Willie seems to have improved greatly in writing spelling & composition, but Trudie is slow to answer my epistles, They evidently don't find favor in her dark eyes the scamp!

Good bye Excuse this scrawl Much love to you all

Ever Ambrose

EGP

412 6th St. N.W.
Washington D.C
Feb. March 1, 1882

My dear Emmie:

Do not be too confident that I will not ask for more such letters as that which you sent me last. In respect to home news I am a regular Oliver Twist and the liberal allowance contained in your letter of Thursday has whetted my appetite for a recurrence of the same good fare. When I saw the eight pages I could scarcely credit my good fortune. I took them to my café and lingered over them with infinite zest, my matutinal coffee and rolls receiving an unwanted flavor with such an accompaniment. If you will think how many things -- great and small -- I am interested in at home, you will find it easy to entertain me in future. You have not only the family to write about, but the neighbors, the crops, the garden and a host of other things, while I have only my love and crabbed self to expatiate upon, and I dislike to touch on that topic for I nearly always write as if I had "the blues." Every little thing you can tell me about home is sure to be welcomed. I am not a society man, and am not in love, so Oak Lawn is first in my affections. Just write about everything around until you are tired, and it will be impossible to please me more.

Things *I* could write about here -- the gayety, and fashion and wealth -- are not pleasant subjects for a dull and tired drudge who can't participate, and, in fact doesn't want to, but who hates to have luxury thrust before his impecunious eyes, and who in ~~fact~~ truth is very much of a Communist.

Yes, I want to get away. I want to be among some poor people. I am not a toady, and I don't

possess the angelic capacity of rejoicing at the success of the world at large, and especially the Yankees. Most particularly do I abhor the sight of a lot of rascals who have made their money by government thefts or usury.

And I want to get somewhere where I won't have to think. I would like to transmigrate my spirit into the frame of Coburn or Tom King or Morton Clement -- for a while. In that period *wouldn't* I rest my tired faculties! I should chuckle to contemplate!

As to Gertrude. I propose going to Baltimore Sunday to see her and will judge for myself how "*triste*" [sad] she is. Regarding your plans for her next Winter campaign in Charleston are you not "a little too previous"? Lots of things may turn up before then. As to "having her with me for the gay season," you know I would enjoy her society and that I am not unmindful of her happiness, while failing somewhat to comprehend her "society" aspirations. But I would decidedly object to being put in the position of an auctioneer to display her simply to the matrimonial market. I will always gladly aid her to amusements, but I must decline to be made use of in connubial speculations. Better not worry yourself about her "chances," my dear Aunt. If she is to marry she will find her partner soon enough without being pushed forward too early. Aunt Mamie told me of some very disastrous efforts to mate off young ladies. She was of opinion that such campaigns were always unsuccessful. Be advised, I pray you. This is not Circassia.

Insofar as *my* mixing in the "festive crowd" is to be a result of Gertrude's visit to Charleston you are sadly mistaken. Fine opportunity I would have, working in the office until midnight! Besides, I am rusty and seclusive and don't want to be "festive" in that manner. Then, too, I am not wife hunting, and cannot indulge in that practice until I am thirty. I don't want to see any girl that I would fall in love with. An engagement of six or eight years would be rather "rough," and until I am considerably older than I am now, I propose to spend what I make at home. Our Southern girls are so exclusively ornamental by training that unless they have money they are a dead weight on their husbands when they find them. So "excuse" me from the "giddy whirl of fashion."

Proceeding to Willie's unmentionables in the progress of your letter I must put in a plea for Charleston. Of course if things are bought "cheap and shoddy" they can't last. But I assure you that everything I have had from Langley Bros. has outworn by far higher priced goods from Keep and others in New York. You have a way of believing that nothing good can come out of your Nazareth, Charleston, and I will have to cure you of the prejudice when I take up my abode in that ancient city. By the way, to be consistent, you should not let Gertrude be taken by one of "those horrid Charlestonians."

Next. I have no taste for buying pretty things for giddy girls, but I have not forgotten that Gertrude can expend cash on her own account. I sent her \$5 the other day and propose adding \$10 to it Sunday. This may go toward the "Easter bonnet" and I will add to it hereafter when I have the means. Col. Tillman (why do you insist that his name should be distorted into "Tilghman"! You can't find a relative for him in Maryland, try as you may) was directing some books when I read him your Kerosene compliment. He was charmed, and said: "What's your Aunt's name? Damme if I don't send her one of these Houston obituaries!" And he did. I congratulate you upon having some nice, sad, eulogistic reading for Sundays. It may enhance your delight to know that the eulogies in Houston are said to have been the best ever delivered in Congress.

I heard something about Mrs. Legare's cane from Butler. He was trying to remedy the evil, but the trouble was that she had resigned voluntarily before Bailey got the place. Bailey was appointed up on the recommendation of Taft, the Charleston Radical Postmaster, who is working out

Democrats in an underhand manner. If I can find out more on the subject I will write it up.

I am glad and relieved to know that you are easier financially for the moment. If Bailey fails to settle in full it will be a delightful retribution for you -- and a lucrative one.

And still they come! I am pleased to hear that our Democratic population is expanding so rapidly and that it never tires of good works for classes recognition. You failed to tell me the name of the Heyward offspring. I presume that it was called by the fond mama: "Alfonso Beauregard." N'est ce pas?

I have gone through your letter and really don't know what else to write about. News is scarce in this region. I reported Blaine's eulogy for the papers-- that is everything especial besides his remarks. Can't say anymore on that subject. Felt sour on Sunday, so I abused the Congressmen. I do that on principle, lest they should think me an "organ." I have them so well trained now that they all treat me like a comrade except Hampton who puts on airs at times. He ruined himself politically by coming to the Senate. He is a nonentity here, but is living on his old reputation, and "feels his oats" somewhat. If he gets too lofty I will put in a little criticism. That is one delight of my position. I am independent and can say anything in reason. Hampton expresses great contempt for journalists in the abstract but is careful to come to me when he wants anything put in which will show him off. Of course I don't intend to be snubbed by the recipients of my favors. If you consider this sacrilege, remember that this is the age of brass, and that the reporters are "biger men than old Grant" as they have shown that individual. I can't revere the politicians. Captain E. has more distinguished manners in everyday life than any Senator on the floor, and I have seldom heard greater swearing than in the cloak rooms of the Senate where the statesmen unburdened themselves of thoughts and burdened themselves with liquor.

By the way, tell the Captain that I recently for his sake -- attended the Black Crook of his remembrance, revived, enlarged, improved, and very brilliant. So did several aged Senators on their own hook -- and they got nearer the footlights than I did. Study of comparative anatomy -- especially in the *conyphée* division -- is popular among our statesmen.

Late letters from Brosie, Trudie and Bill. The former writes at length, strange to say, and is apparently cheerful.

Congress is already in session and I must hurry to the Capitol. This scrawl is long enough and dull enough however, for all practical purposes. Love to all. Write soon and as freely as you can.

Ever yours, Nanno

EGP

412 6th St. N.W.
Washington D.C
March 12, 1882

My dear Emmie:

I can't send you as long a letter as I did last time, nor as prompt a one, for the reason that I am mentally fagged out with doing nothing and thinking hard how to do something. All the past week I have been in a state of inertia, wanting to write something worth while and not having it to write. The confounded place is so full of news, and it comes so fast, and I can study up and comprehend so little that I am kept appalled at the avalanche without the power to pick up and utilize a sod. And this depresses me continually. If I had a little less conscientiousness and a little more brass and lucre I think that I would feel better and do better in my work.

I suppose you want to hear about my trip to Baltimore. Well then, Baltimore is a sort of big

Charleston, looking ugly and old and stupid after Washington. Last Sunday it was musty and fusty in the extreme. Narrow, ill-paved streets, antiquated houses and a provincial aspect saluted me. I had to walk half over the town to find an open restaurant where I could get a mouthful to eat.

Having disposed of the material pleasures of the day I rise to the mental joys. Gertrude was looking very well indeed, although suffering from a slight cough. She was pretty and plump and exceedingly lively. Aunt Mamie was to my eyes just the same as ever, unchanged in appearance or in sweetness. Edith, who was there on a visit, I would hardly have recognized. The poor give looks thirty, rather than twenty-four. She is thin, almost gaunt, and her complexion is absolutely gone. But she is "tomboyish" as she ever was, and seems to be in excellent spirits. I saw Emma for a few minutes, and would not have recognized her, either. Since 1866 I only met her once until the other day - at Christmas '72. Being in "mourning" for Mrs. Wyman, she was attired in voluminous black drapery, with a close fitting black bonnet which made her look like a widow. I suppose the change was occasioned chiefly by her raiment, for her face was as sweet, although not as fresh as ever. I hope that she will take an early opportunity of shedding her funereal garb.

They were all very kind and affectionate to me. In fact, Edith, who is taking beer as a prescription, made me indulge in a bumper and would have followed it up with a quantity sufficient to inebriate me, had I not steadfastly adhered to my temperate course.

Aunt Mamie was worried about my smoking because she had heard that smoking took away the appetite. Ha! Ha! I wish it did. I really had some trouble in convincing her that my appetite was uncomfortably exuberant. Gertrude appears to be wrestling with German in about the same hopeless way as that in which I struggle with Congress. All of them seemed to have a mild epizotic of colds. (N. B. Don't quote me in your letters to Baltimore.)

Cousin John and his small household I visited a few evening ago. The Reverend was nursing a sprained ankle which he contracted when Gertrude was here. He had not been to church in consequence for four Sundays, and I must say that the fact seemed to tickle him. He remarked that he spent the time very pleasantly reading, an occupation he had not been able to indulge in much during his trying pastoral career.

I am glad that I stirred you up to such a lively remonstrance by my list. The explanation you give of your Gertrude-Charleston plans, my dear Emmeline, is quite satisfactory, and had you been equally explicit at first I would not have been so savage. But it is rather early to discuss the merits of the enterprise. I may be in the honeyed hereafter by next winter. Therefore let us adjourn the subject *pro tempore*.

You are truly unkind in your remarks about Bill Jones' bride and the application of my little story concerning her. I heard the tale from an old acquaintance of mine whom you may have retained remembrance of - Miss Ella Gilbert - and as I wasn't above utilizing news from an old flame I put it in the paper almost in her words. (Lest you should become solicitous that my proximity to the fair damsel prove dangerous to my bachelor programme I will state immediately that I haven't seen her since November. Fear not. You ought to know that simply because Jones' bride was previously unmarried and had a rosebush she was not necessarily a counterpart of the Misses Elliott. She is Mrs. Bill Jones, I assure you, and you are my affectionate aunt, who was not thought of in such a connection, and whom I am too much attached to to parody. Shake!

Did you mean to drive me away with your bill of fare? You can't do it. I hanker after just those things: rice and bacon and potato pone. Nothing I can get here is half as good. Maybe the sauce I lack is the swampy air. In fact I know it is. You, my giddy aunt, cannot realize it perhaps, longing

as you do for *le grand monde*, but I do really, truly and thoroughly hanker after home. I always did and always will. No doubt you consider it a perverted taste, but if I had plenty of money to spend here I could not get half of the enjoyment out of it that a pittance would give me in the low-country. It is an economical taste, at least, but unhappily I cannot gratify it. I am a South Carolina alligator, and am not happy except in my own swamp.

That is the reason, I suppose, that I can't feel as you do about the greatest advantages of my position.

By the way, I heard last Sunday a corroboration of your theory about the household education of Southern girls. They were comparing notes in the parlor of No. 59. Gertrude said she could make caramels, Edith that she was a proficient in egg noggs and Emma that she was solid on syllabub. Thus, if a man were a liberal mormon at this rate his affectionate spouses might supply him with quite a dessert.

I did intend to have a laugh on you about Houston, but I refrain since you have so frankly admitted the error. In this going back into the distant past to recall names and ancestors for people you have given Gertrude a decided bias toward family researchers. She never hears a name now that she doesn't begin to ponder over it and wonder if he or she wasn't related to so-and-so, or if Whatshisname wasn't a progenitor. I get quite bewildered listening to her, my mind not being quite so speculative.

There is a fellow here reporting for the Baltimore *American* (a Radical paper) who knows Adams Run pretty well. He was a Yankee soldier, was captured by Cousin Stephen Elliott in the night attack on Sumter, escaped from the prisoners train at Pocotaligo and was recaptured near Adams Run, being tracked, he says, by dogs.²⁹⁶ He and I report in Congress side by side. The war is over.

I have devoted myself much to the Chinese question lately because it is an evidence that the "nigger must go" too. You see I wrote about Mrs. Legare to the paper after information from Butler and Tillman. If anything transpires against Bailey, try and have it sent to the paper.

Broise is well. Bill ditto. His report I have sent to the senior brother who will pass it along to you. Goodbye. Love to all. Write when you can. Nanno

Your essay on spring is very pretty. I enjoy the jessamines exceedingly.

This is a [...] right longer than I expected it to be.

EGP

Sunday March 19th 1882

59 Franklin St

Balt. Md

My dear Emmie

I received your letter yesterday & though I am pushed for time today, will try & send you a note by the afternoons mail. I am downstairs but Aunt M. will not let me go out, tho' I am quite well enough to do so, & am dreadfully tired of being shut up in the house. I suppose it is because my cold is so bad still. I hope you all have recovered from yours.

You no doubt received my letter written during the week, just after you wrote to me & so know that I did not get any worse. It is so provoking to spend so much of one's time in bed & to have

²⁹⁶ A description of the capture of the Union officers is given by Ralph E. Elliott to his mother on 3 August 1864.

one's teacher tell you that you would make a splendid German scholar if you would only attend class regularly! So the Old Man has gone to Cuba! How I wish he would stay there! I have just written to both Nanno & Brosie & hope to find time to write a note to Willie [...] night. I am afraid you must have been rather hard on Dumbie in that twelve pages. He must follow the common theory that an Aunt must needs be a match maker. You had better sell all my summer things, in as much as they must be they will not do much good. As to my Spring attire, I do not know what the morrow or Mrs. [...] may bring forth. I am at present making some "pick-sack" work to put on a white dress, though the problem as to where the white dress will come from, is still unsolved. Aunt Mamie says that you propose taking the little back room at Flat Rock this Summer as a dining room. I hope to goodness not! You can't imagine what it is to eat in a "stuffy" dining room & on a hot summers day. Nanno when he was here said that Cos. J-- mentioned to him that he intended inviting Montrose Elliott soon to Wash. & having me there to make her acquaintance, tho' he was "uncertain as to whether I would care to meet her." The matter is of perfect indifference to me, but in case he should write me, which is not very probable, as I have heard nothing of it yet! I would like to know what you would like me to do. I do not think that there is much chance of it, however I enjoyed the few days I spent there, but paying visits are such a lot of trouble. Good Bye. Write soon. With much love I am affec--

G[ertrude Gonzales]

EGP

412 6th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.
March 27, 1882.

My dear Emmie:

If my last *was* "as Hattie remarked, quite a pleasant letter," I am sure that this will not be. For I have a cold, an abominable Puritanical cold in the head which makes me savage. And I swallowed twenty grains of quinine to cure it, and my head feels like a beehive. And Col. Tillman strongly recommended bathing the head in whiskey and camphor, (a supply of which he had on hand,) and I tried it, and got some of the stuff into my right eye, and played merry Heaven with myself. And after taking half a dozen hours to soak the whiskey out of my optic I sit down here with a bunged brain to write a cheerful letter at 11 P.M.!

Well, to begin. You seem to have a good memory for my phrases. I wish the public had such, but it hasn't. No, the "glory of my position" isn't "striking in" at all, at all. Of course I try to be cheerful when in Baltimore, but I am not Reconstructed, no Siree! But I tell you that there is one cheering sign which I appreciate somewhat even when I can't comprehend it, and that is that people are beginning to crowd me with compliments. I have had a lot lately from South Carolina through various channels, though for the life of me I can't honestly see why it is, for I have been disheartened all along at my achievements. I will spare my blushes by refraining from repeating these queer assertions of my rising fame. But I would like to tell Mr. Clement that I value his compliment above all the rest, for I *would* like to be considered "bold"; and I say what I think, with that object.

Just now I am quite an important individual in politics. You see there is a close fellowship among our Congressmen here. They all want to get back next time, and with the separate box for the Congressional vote they know they won't with the present districts, and there is a likelihood that the Radicals will carry the State on that vote and get in this way the two Congressmen-at-large. So my friends are solid for redistricting and are trying to get the N. & C. and the Governor to call an extra session for the purpose. Dibble, Tillman and myself have had several night sessions to discuss a plan

for keeping every Congressman under the re-districting in the same district he now occupies, so that two candidates will not be thrown together in conflict. We have made up a scheme which promises to be acceptable when made public. A "Shoe String" district, or "black belt" is to be made along the coast and is to be delivered to Smalls in order to lop off the negro sections from the other districts and thus enable them to be saved. The "black belt" begins with two solid black townships of Hampton County on Sav'h River, takes in Beaufort, lower Colleton, Berkeley, Williamsburg and Georgetown, with, perhaps, small portions of lower Orangeburg and Horry. Tillman joins the white Whippy Swamp section of Colleton to his district, and Dibble takes the whitish townships between Summerville and Orangeburg for his in order to attach the new Charleston county to his district. By making the Black Belt we take a load of 120,000 negroes from the upper districts. One of the proposed districts has about 2,000 majority in white votes. The other five average 5,000 negro majority in votes which can be covered. Colleton is to be the S.C. lowland, you see. But it "has to be did" I suppose, to save the rest. Tillman declares that he will treat Colleton as if she were still all his own. You will see the extra session agitation begin soon. The paper is undecided as yet, but will fall in with the politicians I think. I am getting to be quite consulted by the M.C's. Tillman says "You have an *awful* gravity for a young man, Narcisse. You show very mature thought for a boy! And, damme! you're independent as hell!"

Be easy hereafter about my starvation. I got so dilapidated from my Bohemian feeding that I couldn't get along and had to reform. I am now getting two meals a day at a good hotel for a reduced rate, which isn't high--for Washington. My stomach has hardly yet recovered from the surprise occasioned by a square meal. Previously I had observed the "old man's" admonition "Always rise from table with a good appetite." But somehow it didn't agree with me. If you find me gloomy hereafter don't attribute it to hunger, for I am well fed, I assure you. The necessity for 12 C. breakfasts no longer exists. Still, I am economical perforce.

Speaking of "el Padre." I didn't like to open the subject, knowing that you always consider his scarf a red rag, as it were, but I will now say that he isn't "rich" exactly, as you intimate. \$10,000 isn't much at interest-- and I suppose he will put it at interest and leave it to you when he makes his will. He will not be able to live on it alone, and must, I suppose, continue his lessons. I congratulate him, as you do, and I consider that it required some judgement to get \$8,000 out of old Lola with a hungry horde so near her. I wouldn't be surprised if the old gentleman were to send you an Easter card with a pretty angel on it. Wouldn't that be nice!

My dear Emily, your home news is entrancing. Bill says: "This is the time of year I like being at home," and so say I. But I can't go, so you must tell me what you can about everything. The upland rice plan is excellent. It is a food and money crop together. The production in the upcountry is growing very large. I hope you will comer Bailey. I grudge that land terribly. How do you stand on the Chinese question? Have I been "white supremacy" enough for you lately? I have been busy enough of late. Sometimes two letters a day, only to get crowded out. But there's no lack of subjects just now, and I send them along. Write soon. Particular love to all,

Nanno

EGP

412 6th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.
April 9, 1882.

My dear Aunt [Emily]:

Ascribing your unwanted severity to the rheumatism-- which, I regret to hear, troubles you--

and not to a perversion of your usually mild and charitable spirit, I will not respond to your unkind reflections on my departed friend Tiger canis, with like animadversions upon the character of *your* deceased pet, "the old cat." I will only draw your attention to this exercise of magnanimity on my part, and request that in recognition of my delicacy and forbearance you will hereafter refrain from casting slurs upon the aural appendages of an animal, which, however Jesuitic in life, has now taken his tender, biased ears to a spirit world where there is no hot water to torment.

As I have nothing particular at hand to write about, and as you throw down your glaive with considerable defiance, I will occupy this letter with a discussion of the topics you advance.

The News and Courier, I beg to say, whatever its other faults, does not "obey Washington orders." The re-districting was the only thing to save us four members next year Fall, and the Congressmen solicited the paper, they did not order it. Dawson came to his opinion alone, and so satisfied are the solons that the News and Courier could secure the re-districting, that they give themselves no more concern about it, regarding the matter settled. If you will see look at the extracts from the country papers recently published, you will observe what the power of the paper's example is. As to the Congressmen, they have, I assure you, a lively fear of their constituents' displeasure, as I happen to be in position to know. But the News and Courier is the greatest power in the State.

As to carrying all the districts, as you advocate, I will say that it is impossible under the election law. The Congressional box is separate from the rest and the negroes know where to put their votes without reading the label. The day of tissue ballots is gone. The law forbids them, and the Government would raise Cain if they were used again. As to the Edgefield way of killing opponents, I don't believe in it, and the people, even in that county, would not practice it again as in the past. So the only thing we can do is give the negroes one district and save the rest. It is only a sentiment that forbids it, and the loss of a vote in Congress, for the Radical Congressman could not injure us. It would not be "negro rule," as you surmise. It would only make it harder to get appropriations for rivers, &c. in the district, for no Radical ever got any yet. But the other Congressmen--Democrats--would look after that. You will be mistaken about "Smalls' doing more for his constituents than a white man would or could." There is plenty of "*heart*" in the effort of our representatives to get back something for the island lands; but with a packed Radical committee, which won't report a bill for the purpose,--and one can't be considered otherwise except by *unanimous* consent, and suspension of the rules-- what can be done? Besides, if you think unanimous consent is an easy thing to get even from *friends*, consider that there are 7,000 claims before Congress now, many backed by money, and are fighting for precedence. Why, my dear Aunt, our cause looks big at home, but in Washington, it is, as Bory would say, "a fly on a mule's heel." Smalls, to do anything, would have to be good enough to benefit his enemies, which he isn't. As to his influence, just remember my prediction that the next House, and perhaps Congress, will be Democratic. All that would be done would be accomplished by the white Democratic members from adjoining districts; and they could do it as well as a direct representative. I fear that you are inclined to run after strange gods like Mahone. He comforted. I assure you that Democracy, poor as it is, must be our only salvation. Think of Myra Clark Gaines and her claim, and take it as easy as you can. Congress is a queer animal, a sort of humanized lottery. Some people wait forever and get nothing, and others are promptly relieved. Hence impatience is not only useless but injurious. Just try to think of restoration as an accident which may occur at some very distant day, but is not sufficiently probable to be actively hoped for or expected. This is not cheerful advice, but it shows the only true course for claimants like us. Nothing will be done until the Democrats get a big majority and a President, so don't give up Democracy yet. It hasn't had that fair

chance before.

"Brace up," and try to be cheerful. Think of all these office seekers here who seek for years but cannot find. [...] hilariousness as I do-- *I*, with all the ills of life upon me. I am getting so bald that the top of my head shines like a white star, and yet, you see, I am happy! Seek a little philosophy, my dear Emily.

Do you know that \$10,000 at 5 per cent (which is all that a safe investment North will bring) gives \$500 a year and that living in my pinched style with only meat and drink and no luxury or recreation costs over \$600? Then observe the impossibility of the Paternal's living comfortably Northward on that income, without work. If he don't work, he can't make a good support so of course he will not be idle. Of course, also, \$10,000 would count for a small fortune on a farm in our locality, but I tell you it isn't much at the North. And as you say he expects to live forever, he will not spend the principal. Be easy. He is *not* a nabob. But I hope he will receive all the benefit it can give him. He has had a pretty hard time, whether deservedly or not, and he is an old man.

There isn't the faintest symptom of an incident in my life to tell you of. I vegetate, that's all. My cold lasted long and kept me from writing, and I am just over it. Today is Easter Sunday, and Washington--the upper crust of it--is very happy. The shop windows have been beautiful and tempting. Be glad that you haven't too much wealth to see round about you. It isn't pleasant. I have heard from Brosie and Willie lately, but not from Trudie, to whom I only recently wrote.

I will admit that your last letter was not "entrancing," and I won't use the term if you don't like it. But I always appreciate home news, and I suppose that because you ate "bust broth" I should refrain from taking an interest in your doings. Give my condolences to yourself, the Captain and Bori, and believe me with love to the household, Your affectionate

N.

Don't send me any more Bankside or I'll run away out of Yankeedom.

Be relieved. I vaccinated myself successfully 3 weeks ago. Cost, 15 c. "point." Saving \$1.85. Economy.

P.S. I note your 8-goose, 3-gander riddle. Perhaps the solution is in the Oak Lawn atmosphere, which may have a "goosey" tendency.

EGP

The Western Union Telegraph Company

New York Apl 9 / 82

My dear Hattie:

Your letter has remained unanswered for quite a while, but you will forgive the delay as you know how hard I have been working recently. I've had a couple of days rest from the extra but hope to get at it again on Monday. I amused myself yesterday by sitting in the sun down at Castle Garden, a place corresponding to the Battery in Charleston, only not near so neat or pretty. There is no sign of bud or bloom on the trees & shrubs yet, save a few forlorn buds on a *pirus Japonica* that looks quite lonely & foolish in that big open place. The grass is green however, & the English sparrows congregate there in thousands. They are a very pretty & lively bird resembling a bullfinch, more than our house sparrow & are very combative, allowing you almost to step on them when engaged in bruising [*torn*] little heads. They Bay loo[ks] very pretty from the "Garden," all the incoming & out going vessels passing quite near, & as I have no horses to criticise, now tis a great pleasure to watch & take in the points good & bad of these Ocean flyers. There are dozens of lines, each with different rigs & flags. The New Steamers of the Inman, & Guion, lines are the largest & best appointed the

"Arizona" being a four master with engines of 10000 horse power. She is as long as from the shanty to the echo Oak almost being over two hundred yards long. This craft made the trip to Liverpool within seven days making the average of nearly 20 miles an hour for the whole voyage. The owners claim that she is the fastest ship afloat, but the Captain of the German Steamer "Elbe" a two master of half the usual size claims the same for his ship & I suppose it will never be settled. I wish Bory could see the swarms of Emigrants at Castle Garden, at times a thousand will come in on one or two vessels in a morning of half a dozen nationalities, Russian Jews with fur Caps and noses that would make Sydney Legare's look infinitesimal in comparison, & Germans with rosy cheeks & waists about the size of a walnut tree. The roughest looking set are the Italians these fellows are as dark as old Boatswain almost & a very hard looking set. You would be surprised to see what quantities of things they bring over with them. Bags of field & garden seeds, queer earthenware cooking utensils, old saws & hatchets, tin pans & children & so many odds & ends that seeing a cart load of them & their belongings one might take it for a "nigger mare." Speaking of niggers I have no doubt they enquire about me & when I'll return. The Captain may tell them that when I've learned to [torn] I see with my own eyes, [torn] say "No" -- why then I'll run the risk of being victimized again, but that is probably a long time off. I have not forgotten Stephens Coat, but as I did not owe him anything I was in no hurry, but some time soon when I've paid one more debt. I'll go forth upon the "Bowery way" some Saturday night, when the path is resplendid with electric light, & there will I look about me with much circumspection, and will finally purchase from the persuasive hebrew, a garment those like has not been seen in the land of the pines, and the cost thereof will be a few shekels, and much pleasure will it give the wearer thereof & much envy will he be the subject of when he walketh upon the highway or appeareth clad therein, in the Councils of the church of his race. I suppose that Old Boatswain is devoted to Milly is he not? How are the cows? Has the grass spru[torn] well yet? I'm glad that [torn] but, sorry that he should bite the Captain. No one at "home" seems to care to tell me anything about the planting or farm details so I hope you will make an effort to enlighten me, will you not? What fields are the Captain planting & in what? & has he much trouble with getting labor? Tell him he ought to plant as much rice as possible in that quicksand section of the orchard below the pear trees, 'tis too swampy for corn tho' doubtless the crows & coons will denounce me for the suggestion. I saw a few crows flying over the park the other day & they looked like old friends & had the same sly way of peeping down sideways, as your friends of the orchard have. I'm very glad that Jimmie King has had a little [torn] & am rejoic[torn] can take my place so nicely in the family ear, but I know the Owls along the Broad road will miss me if the ladies dont. Tell Aunt E that I've received her letter & am delighted that the matrimonial bat has become so opportunely entangled in the mosquito net of Mrs Legare's daughters hopes. They are good girls & I'm very glad. As this is the season for fish& freckles down South, It has occurred to me to mail you three little outfits which I flatter myself will just suit the mouths of the Cypress fish. Aunt Emmie says you are studying a *little* better nowadays. Thats very pleasant news & I hope you'll keep it up. T'would never do to let Muggs beat you, & he is fast getting ahead of me in writing, & the knave says he can beat me running. I don't know what this generation is coming to-- The snow is coming down like a blanket & as soon as I'm off duty I'll run home, get a ho[torn] into bed & try to sleep off this [torn] dear. Much love to you [torn] fond old
Bro'

GFP [Translated]

Havana, 13 April 1882

Miss Irene Espinosa

My esteemed Irenita:

A letter received from my son at the last hour forces me to leave today and I am sorry I can not see you. In the house on O'Reilly Street I already told your brother Pepe that it was impossible for me to go for what you can imagine. Even though I did not receive notice of the death of my aunt &c &c, I wish you all the good possible and therefore I have spoken with Orúe who is animated by the best wishes toward all and he will do much more than what Eusebio has done for his relatives in regards to testamentary executorship. But because he is the one responsible to arbitrate resources, today that Vidal is not available for everything, it is not an easy task, it is better to leave him to his own goodwill so that he can do it in the time and manner possible for him.

Wishing you all kinds of happiness, I am yours affectionately,

Ambrosio

EGP

The Western Union Telegraph Company

New York July 10/82 530 a.m.

My dear Uncle:

You have no excuse for decrying your letter writing abilities, for if your head is level, you must know that you write remarkably pleasant letters, & I cannot believe that your conceit amounts to a pride that apes humility, so for goodness sake, brace up & if you *have* a good point (which, undoubtedly you have several as Henschman Howard would say) let the world, or your friends at least, know it. Aunt Annie is pleased with the information that the Barnwells, Grimballs &c are proposing legislative honors (or labors rather) for you. She "always saw the Elliotts ripen late." If you go at it in the right way you'll benefit yourself & others, & am very glad that the recognition of your manhood should come at least from the sprinkling of good blood in your neighborhood. Now about your crop. You had best crowd in all the peas & truck you can & get a good patch ready for turnips & carrots, for corn is going to be gold next winter. The wires bring nightly doleful accounts of corn & oat failures from excessive rains west. I suppose the price will reach \$125 at least England is sending quietly heavy orders for grain, & is already shipping Tennessee mules for Egypt. I'm glad that the Colts are promising. S C horses are getting fashionable here, "Fair Count," "Lost Cause" "Ella Warfield" & "Col Sprague" having won handsome races from the tracks, & in a short time they'll be worth something. I suppose you still have Milly in the kitchen & B. Smashum in the Cowpen. How have you fared for vegetables & poultry. I've not tasted either in 10 months save a few asparagus & probably two pecks potatoes during the winter. My menu at present consists of an omlet or scrambled eggs, & a butterless roll for breakfast, & a steak, bread & beer for dinner. Fortunately the weather has been cool in the main so I've been able to stand a good amount of work which should it turn very hot Ill have to "let up" on. One or two days tho' have been as hot as I've felt anywhere short of Cuba. In the lower part of the city, composed as it is of factories, printing offices &c, there's an engine of greater or less horse power in most basements. The steam & heat from these is of course immense. The sidewalks are iron to a great extent& when the sun & steam heats them up thoroughly, the degree of damp heat is something immense. My room is in a cool & pleasant location, but even there I was unable to sleep for two nights. A bath room adjoining tho' enabled me to freshen up sufficiently to take my work.

The streets are overflowing with cherries pine apples & the deadly mango& a few melons are visible at fabulous prices. Other fruit is cheap but as usual when I see a great deal of a thing I don't

want it. Peaches are growing larger in size & lower in price, when the "two for five" grade gets as large as the sinker of a whiting line I'll indulge myself. Itinerant vendors are selling among other things sweet bay blossoms which they dignify with the name "Magnolia." I didn't think anything so sweet grew north of Mason & Dicksons line, & the glint of fire flies in the dusk surprised me also while returning from the races thro' Long Island the other night. Well, it has been a struggle to find time to finish even this scrawl, so hard run am I nowadays. Commenced at the main offs during the Early morning I've toted it around & am closing it down in the Pet' Exchange-- Oil is advancing & the yelling brokers make the little hot coop a bedlam. Love to Bory & yrself. Take quinine regularly please & write soon.

Ever Yrs Brosie

EGP

Oak Lawn
July 13th /82

My Dear Emmie

I was glad to receive yours of the 10th yesterday -- and to learn that you were all well, as I was becoming anxious at your silence -- I fully appreciate your goodness in writing without your glasses, and cant help saying that one of my neices, or the cadet, might have saved you the infliction. Well, the trip to Walterboro was not as disagreeable as I had expected it would be 1st It cost nothing in money. 2d There was no crop visible from the road equal to the Oak Lawn patches.

Capt Platt (culpate) drove me up in his buggie -- reaching there at 8 oclock -- escaping the intense heat. Clytus Wilson²⁹⁷ -- a delegate-- went as outrider & servant.

The session was 8 hours long, and remarkable for the absence of lawyers, justice, decorum, & grammer.

The baptist preachers, & stock thieves, had it all their own way -- and notwithstanding the earnest endeavours of our two distinguished Guiteaus -- Capers & OBrien -- we, of the black belt were outvoted on every measure. Things may change before the August convention, but the indications now are that no one residing south of the Railway -- & no educated man, from any section, will represent Colleton in the next legislature.

The most distinguished man I ever saw, was Townsend-- he came up on his return, breakfasted & rested for several hours. I was most agreeably surprised in him -- his wife has educated and polished him amazingly. When he left he exacted a promise from Beaury & myself to visit him-- telling the former, his wife was very fond of him, & thought him as entertaining as Mark Twain. He certainly is very popular -- and seems to be making an effort in his irresolute, half way style to be useful -- but he is, like myself, incapable of accomplishing much in this climate-- it requires more *will* power than either of us possess, to be energetic when the thermometer is above 90°

I am very glad cousin Caroline is with you. I love & admire her.

So your bale-box arrived at last, & safely, its detention was a most scurry trick, but we have no redress.. the freight was paid by the sale of a sheep-- So dont worrie [*sic*] any more about it-- or anything else-- it dont pay-- A'int there any rich widows around? Everybody is [*torn*]sing me of looking, so utterly lovely-- since my [*torn*] & visit to a barber -- [...] I fought [*torn*]ch something if

²⁹⁷ Clytus Wilson, born 1842, former slave and neighbor of the Elliotts, married to Chloe. See June 1880 Federal census.

put on the market. With much love to Annie & the Girls I [...] Yours

R E E

GFP

The Western Union Telegraph Company

New York July 24/82 6 a.m.

My dear Uncle:

Your letter arrived duly & was appreciated. A respite at this hour gives me time to answer it, 'tho I've nothing to write of but myself & I always hate to do that. Since the last letter I sent you the weather has been unbearably hot, & with quite a Cold Contracted in this draughty office I was worried enough. Both have however disappeared, & the morning is fresh and breezy outside & the glimpses of shipping at anchor & in motion are very pretty. Yesterday being Sunday I had promised myself a trip to Coney Island or Rockaway to cool off, but when the time came for going, couldn't relinquish the opportunity for one good sleep. So, I spent the evening in that pleasurable occupation. As I hear 250,000 people were at the Island yesterday I don't regret my choice for tis very aggravating for me to mix in a Yankee Crowd. They are the most ill mannered beasts I ever encountered. So you've had your little experience of Walterboro? Is it not rather early in the season for Conventions & such? I'm very glad that Townsend was pleasant, & as the ladies say he has invited Beure & yourself to visit him, I hope you will do so. Now about the Flat Rock trips, I see no mention of Excursions yet but they will surely commence them about Aug. 15th I should think. There should be no trouble about Beure & yourself alternating for a few weeks & you not only owe it to your folks to keep yr promise of going there, but you also owe it to yourself & the people you represent, (or are going to represent in Columbia) to freshen up a little in mind & body. You want a change to a region, where you can breathe, & get stone bruises, & weary your lengthy legs climbing acclivities, where you can lie under caterpillar-less trees & eat warmless peaches. These & many other things make it incumbent upon you to look about you & arrange for Beure & yourself in time. I have the wherewithal put aside for the trip, for my double work pays me \$120.00 per month now. Very little for the work I do, but much more than any of us has made since the war or thereabouts. The ladies are after me pretty sharply about my trip there. I have a good deal to consider, but will know when I see Nanno, whether or no I can leave. Write soon please. I'm called off now so will have to quit.

Love to you both

Yrs B.

EGP

The Western Union Telegraph Company

New York July 26/82 6 a.m.

Dear Aunt E.

Your note reached me last evening & I forthwith mailed the shoes, but as my time was very limited I dont know if they will suit the lady. They are probably too light for mountain work, at any rate we can send another pair of stouter make, as I've never known two pairs of shoes to cause a body serious annoyance in the possession. Pray dont make any idle remarks about sending me money for anything that I can get for you here. I am making some money now & I hope I may be allowed to pay for what I please? If you had any way of making them up I could get such pretty dresses here for the girls. Things in the feminine line of apparel are very pretty & cheap. So you have Cousin

Caroline with you still? I can imagine rather than depict the amt of talking thats carried on. I suppose the Summer Excursions will commence some time in August. I have the money put aside for "17"²⁹⁸ & Beure's trips & hope they will make arrangements for alternative departure in due time. The weather is very trying here now. During the small hours of the night & the early morning tis cool & fresh, but 'tis hard work to get to sleep during my allotted hours, however I'm all right.

Nanno will probably be here in a week from date & Ill be very glad to see him. Will arrange to hire a man at least to do half my work when he is here so that I may show him around a little.

Will send Trudie the book mentioned as soon as I can run out for 10 mins again. Am foolishly expecting to hear from Hattie, Willie & herself.

Love to you all

Ever B.

EGP

N. Y. Sunday night Aug 13 /82

My dear Aunt E.

I have not written of late, & have even neglected the papers so demoralized have I been by the partial rest & the unwanted "gadding about" during Nanno's enjoyable visit. He will run up to see you soon & can tell you of his little sight seeings. I tried to show him as much as possible of N.Y. & surroundings, & the salt water helped us both I have no doubt. And now about my getting off, you know how much I've looked forward to the 2 weeks Vacation I had promised myself with you in August, but in the first place they wont let me off even for that time, while business is in such a rush & even could I prevail upon them to do so twould cost considerably over a hundred dollars to absent myself, & the money would be of more use to some of you than my rusty presence. The weather is not very hot now & I dare say I'll pull through all right by taking the salt water once a week. Nanno will explain all the difficulties of my going off now, & can tell you, as I do, what a disappointment 'tis to me-- I sent "17" some money in case Beure wished to go up on Tuesday's Excursion. "17" could not leave the crop he said. Nanno will visit & brace him up, upon his arrival in Charleston. He left on Saturdays steamer.

Yes, I can get anything for you that you desire for yourselves or the girls in NY, in the way of shoes Drygoods &c. Regarding shoes, this is the cheapest place in the Country for them, save Boston, & if you will tell me the kind you wish & the sizes Ill send them right on. Now I dont want any mention of money in this matter, I am "pretty Comfortable" in regard to my debts, & I work hard enough to be allowed to spend money on my folks if I wish. & besides, I owe you the sum you were smart enough to pay Bailey last Spring, instead of letting me pay it in the beginning. Walterboro law is so uncertain that 'twas bad policy for an absentee to fight even a baboon, legally. Speaking of law, "has Willie Elliott done anything?" This question has been asked not infrequently I think. You will be pleased with Nanno's improvement. He is a good boy with plenty of brains, Considerable affection, & some, manners.

Let me hear from you soon please.

Thank Trudie for her note. Nanno will send her "Phillip" by Thackeray, which he took to read at sea. In event of her having read it, twill please her younger sister. With much love to Aunt Annie,

²⁹⁸ "17" was the nickname for Ralph Emms Elliott. It was related to his alcohol consumption capabilities. See letter from Nanno to Ralph, 9 October 1881

the girls & yourself I am dear Aunt affectionately yrs
Brosie

EGP

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

Charleston, S.C., Aug 17" 1882

Dear Captain:

I came down on the City of Columbia Monday evening and hoped to have visited you immediately and spent a day or two with you bachelors. But I found the office very short-handed and busy, Moroso being absent and Dawson up to the neck in campaign work. So I had to pull off my coat and go right to work, beginning early next morning. This is the first moment I have had to write you a line. My work is very varied. I read and clip news from scores of State and Southern papers, having to "do" all the exchanges. Then editorials, rewriting correspondence, "heading" news, writing letters, revising proofs, &c, &c, give me the hardest dose of work I have had for a long time. I rather like it except that I have no time whatever to write my own letters. They propose sending me at the end of this month to report the trial of Haile at Camden and then to make the trip around the State with the campaign party. Both will be palatable. I do not think that I will be able to get off for a day at Oak Lawn until next week when Moroso returns. Tonight there is a lull which enables me to scribble this.

I spent a very pleasant week with Brosie. He looks very well and weighs 151, but is working too terribly hard. I made him suspend while I was there, and secured his pledge that he would take a holiday for one day in the week and go to the seashore. A day of breeze, bathing and enjoyment can be had at Coney Island for one dollar, and one such day in a week will keep him up. He also promised to try to arrange for better hours of work. I trust there is no necessity now for his incessant labor, if there ever was, as he has paid nearly all that he owes. I hope you will add your voice to mine in urging him to regard his health. I saw New York,-- mostly its dark side-- pretty thoroughly in the week, but must wait until I can see you before dilating on it. Charleston looked like the ruins of Pompeii as I landed from the steamer. The city is absolutely dead just now. Every body, nearly, is away.

Bory did not go to F. R. on the excursion I presume as I could not find him here Monday night. Why was it?

Our representative at the Colleton Convention has told me all about your political sensation and took down your speech in shorthand for practice. He says it was good but has not had time to read it to me yet. I am very sorry indeed that they didn't make you a nominee, whether you wanted to be or not. Have Capers and the rest withdrawn their threat to bolt? Do write me as fully as you can about yourself and Bory, addressing 19 Broad St. I am comfortably stationed at 13 Coming St.; with Mrs Lawton our man Blackman's mother in law. Best regards to Bory and yourself

Ever your attached
Nanno

EGP

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE COTTON STATES

OFFICE OF
THE NEWS AND COURIER
NO. 19 BROAD STREET

Charleston, S.C., Aug 22 1882

My dear Aunt:

Perhaps you didn't think of it, but I have been too hard at work in the office to communicate with you before.

As you have probably heard from Brosie, I left New York on the 12th having had an exceedingly pleasant week with him. He gave me a good time and, I hope, himself a little rest during my stay. I saw nearly all the prominent sights of the city, went to the adjacent seaside resorts several times and enjoyed my trips there more than anything else, after being cooped up in Washington for ten months. My trip by the "City of Columbia" to Charleston was exceptionally smooth and pleasant. Major Courtenay, Mr. Olney, Cleland Huger and one or two others of my old and new acquaintance were aboard, and the party was sociable.

I need not tell you of the mummy-like appearance of Charleston to my eyes as I landed. It was at the acme of the dull season that I arrived. Everything was excruciatingly dingy, dull and dismal. I saw one dray and six persons on East Bay. Nevertheless, I was glad to get back to the State.

R. and D. received me with considerable frigidity, saying "Howd'ye. When can you go to work?" I of course answered "at once." "Then come down tomorrow morning. Good night." Not an encouraging reception, but I am not sensitive nowadays. I went to work next morning and have not had an hour of daylight to myself since. My labors are extremely varied. The chief of them is reading some 500 Southern daily and 75 State weekly exchanges a week, and culling therefrom the State news, political gossip, cropnotes, marriages, deaths &c. &c. It takes about six or eight hours' a day to accomplish this. Then I rewrite letters, "head" dispatches, write from dictation, concoct condensations of miscellaneous clipped articles, revise proofs, volunteer an editorial squib or two and so forth. I take in all sorts of newspaper work, and get along without admonition; but it takes all my time. I don't get off until 11 or 12 at night. They are going to send me to report the Haile trial at Camden which is expected to begin in a week or two, and then to report the campaign meetings. I suppose that for a month or two I will be very little in Charleston. That kind of work is congenial -- one thing at a time-- and I will like it pretty well.

I am boarding now with Blackman's mother-in-law, Mrs. Lawton, at 13 Coming Street. There are one or two reporters there and it is convenient and pleasant. I have a very large old room at present, and Mrs. Lawton is considerate and her okra soup good. My salary remains at its Washington figure, the other reporters having, after much effort, secured an advance to \$25 a week during my absence. For a month or two I will be hard pressed, as I have not been able to pay Bill's tuition &c in advance, but afterwards I can save some money.

The paper is making bushels of money. This year the net profits are 50 per cent or \$50,000. A dividend of 25 per cent has been distributed and the rest devoted to improvements. Both of the bosses are bent on making money fast and don't care for much else, so that we fellows have the prospect of low wages and hard work for a long time to come. The stock can be sold today at 3 for one, and yet the reporters do not receive as much as they did in 1872. However, I couldn't make as much anywhere else and will stick and do my best.

Have you heard from 17 lately. The enthusiasm of his supporters is causing trouble in Colleton camp. Fox beat him in Convention by a small vote, and his adherents threatened to scratch Chisolm

the cow stealing negro nominee and insert the Captain's name. So a muting of the executive committee was to have been held yesterday for consideration, and it was expected that they would drop Chisolm and put 17's name in his place. I have not yet heard the result. Got a letter from the Captain today, written on the 20th. He is sprightly. Sorry Bory didn't ask for me before he went up. Thought he had not gone. Hope he will have a good time. Please write me fully. I can't promise to answer instantly or at length, but will do the best I can. No hope of getting up to see you but will try to run to O.L. next Saturday. Love to all. Nanno.

Capt. says to Bory "swap your ticket and stay a month and I'll then relieve you." Address me (N.G.G.) at Coming Street, please.

EGP

[Ne]w York Sept 26/82

Dear Captain

Yours of [20]th reached me last pm [torn] been delayed En route [a day] or two. I am glad [to] find you lively & [torn] for, hope after all [torn] pluck under another name & without it, I'd have gone under long ago. As to the quantity of work I do, it could not [torn] less & pay me to stay [torn] for living is high, & [torn]des I have not the appetite [torn] [sto]mach that I had when I [firs]t came here, & in consequence must get my meals a[t] a cleaner & more app[torn] restaurant which is of course more expensive [torn] it is I prefer to work hard & live a little better, then I can take a m[torn] once a week or so [torn] to the theatre witho[ut] being compelled to [torn] up among the "galler[torn].

The chief in New O[rleans] is anxious for me to winter there, t'would be pleasant but I can probably do better by sticking here a little longer.

The first [torn] winds are blowing, the precursors of the sadd[torn] and the sweetest season of the year to me, but verily the sights & sounds of the country are not here, & tis only in memory that I recall the reddening leaf & the golden rod, the plaintive bark of the squirrel, & the rustle of the doves in the myrtles as they go to roost in the gloaming. All is dark & chill here, the display of fur cloaks in the windows, the disappearance of the ice wagons & the advent of the coal carts betoken the speedy coming of the much dreaded winter. I shall provide myself with rubber coat and shoes at once for twice during the past 10 days have I been well drenched in the prevailing Northeast storms which have visited this region. An umbrella being worse than useless as a protection, & having to go home at unseasonable hours & wait frequently for ferry boats & elevators, one may not pick his time between showers.

Regarding the business points of your letter, I will furnish you the money during October for the sheep purchase & wish you would make inquiries in the meanwhile as to

[The rest of this letter from Brosie is missing]

EGP

Miss Emily Elliott

Flat Rock

My dear Aunt Emmie,

Please let me know the amount that will be required for Hattie, so that I may know how much I will have to add to the appropriation made.

I was under the impression that Mrs L's terms to Southern girls were \$200 the term & that a like sum, at least for the present, would suffice for her clothing. Please advise.

Affectly
Brosie

NY Oct 3 /82

EGP

91 Wall St NY 3rd Oct 82

My dear Trudie:

Thanks for your letter but you must pardon so poor a reply. Make my excuses likewise to the ladies for my tardiness in writing & in sending Hatties dress. The Manager of this little Office has been spreeing in Vermont for a week past & I've had to fill his place here during his absence. His return last evening gave me an hour to run up to Macy's before going to work for the night. I send you Mamas' Jewels as you dont wish them changed, also my watch which you may like to have. The Chain you have already, that which accompanies it was Grandpapa's, please keep it for me.

So you are going to Charleston for a visit to Susie H? How long will it last, & at what time will You probably go. Let me know please. Nanno wrote me that Elliott was anxious to have you in Greenville for a while during the fall. I suppose the climate is delightful at F R now is it not?

After all the rain we're having some fair weather but with the prevailing Northeasterly winds tis far from pleasant.

I'm miserably tired today having worked from 10 AM Yesterday to 5 AM this morning on account of that infernal Folger's letter of acceptance which had to be sent all over the Country, & I'm such a fool that I dont know how to loaf & save the time as some or most of the men do, but as is usual with the willing horse, get more than my share of the work.

As Willie will be in Charleston during the latter part of the Winter at the Citadel & Nanno probably a fixture there you'll all be near together which will be pleasant. If you can think of any books you'd like to have, be a good girl & send me a memo, of them & Ill mail them. Goodbye now & excuse your weary, but loving old

Brother

Love to all.

EGP

New York Oct 9/82

My dear Aunt:

Your letter reached me this morning, & would distress me greatly had I not long since made up my mind to allow nothing to make me "feel blue". Indeed, despondence taken with the work I do would soon settle me. And now to the point. I dont think tis necessary to discuss the Old mans character or his object in leaving this money in my hands. The present object is Hatties schooling which *I intend that she shall have.*

If you conclude to send her this fall, let me know, & I'll forward Aunt M. what money she needs. If you *don't* wish to send her at once, then say what else can be done for her. Gertrude will be all right. I'll probably have \$400 or so this winter, & save to make an investment at O.L. I've nothing else to do with it than to look after these children, poor me, if I could see all my folks comfortable by "passing in my checks" how gladly I'd make the more.

I was surprised I own at the alacrity with you mentioned Trudie's Charleston trip. Knowing how long you have despised that society, but when I think of it, there's no other place she can go to at the present. Nanno is impertinent.

I dont affect the Citadel much but as Dumbie is paying for him I suppose he must have the "say so" & he will not have to meet Charleston boys exclusively as there will be boys from all portions of the State & Thomas is a fine fellow.

I hope Trudie is well again & that you are all enjoying the weather & good fare of that fine region. Confound Yankee Cookery I can't get a nice thing to eat once a month.

Much love to all Excuse haste

Yrs affectionately

Brosie

EGP

K.M.M.S.

Oct 13th 1882

My dear Emmie,

Your letter was received a couple of days ago. I was very glad to hear from you. Today I received a letter or note from Nanno with the money for my winter clothes. He told me of his visit to Oak Lawn- only the fact he had not the time to give any particulars. Col Coward just returned from Charleston this afternoon he saw Nanno & seemes [*sic*] quite pleased with his plying trip. We had a good time at the ball but would like to have had more mention of the latter part, than the day presedings. I hope you will not stay up this Winter- think it will be rather disagreeable if it is cold & wet which it as apt to be. We are waiting for a threatening rain to have the much wished for cool spell-- Untill last Wednesday it was so dusty with this terrable fine pulverised dust as to make going out a very disaagreeable [*sic*] & unhealthy practice. Gertrude will I hope enjoy Charleston with her friends. The absurdity of putting Hattie at school with the [...] off 45.00-- You would have to wait for four or five years for the paying of the first year. How will it be arranged? Gertrude's indisposition I am very sorry to hear of and hope she is quite well ere this & has written to me. So the sweet Miss Pattison has departed these coasts. When I get through that old Citadel if I ever do I am going to New Orleans to get me a wife-- A lady of my acquaintance has just returned from thence, where she spent all last winter, and is greatly pleased with the beauty & wealth of the peopul [*sic*]-- both of which things will be a great "bait" to me-- I find since Nanno came here I receive more attention from the males of the place-- I am talked to more by the town people-- but yet I do not understand York-- I have been here for two years almost & roomed with from three to four town boys most of the time-- yet in that period-- not one has ever asked me to a meal at their house & they are as well off as any in this town. Nanno seems pleased at my getting no demerits last month, & standing first in my class-- I was slightly that wat myself-- as it was the first time I had done either of those things-- Uncle R. is as mute as usual-- cannot get a word from him. I will try once again tomorrow to [...] his ink-- & if he still remains silent I will take it that he would prefer not having me bother him & refrain from the like again.

Love to Aunt Annie & the girls-- also any of my Friends you think fit to confer it upon. With much love to your own darling self I am Your most fond boy

Willie

P.S. So the most charming Belle and [...] Carrow has actually looked at things in their true light? I am astonished to say the least. Our Bishop preached last night & will two or three times tomorrow. Little Prentis (4ft 7in) has been trying to make me [...]--

W.E.G.

EGP

New Orleans Nov 26/82

My dear Aunt Emmie:

Thanks for your letter recd yesterday. I have not written recently first because having set myself a certain task to accomplish this month, I hadn't the time & 2ndly because I didn't suppose any of you cared much to hear from me. However I've a half hour before dusk & Ill try to scratch you something about the trip & the place. We left NY in a blinding storm of wind & rain. Crossing the North river into Jersey City Scoffin my chum who had charge of the tickets took the wrong transfer and at 12 midnight we took our seats in the Jersey Centl train instead of the Pennsylvania leaving at the same hour & which we should have taken. Our mistake was not discovered until some 10 or 15 miles out of town when the Conductor informed us our passes were not good over that line. Here was a dilemma, but (the train being a local one,) the Conductor most obligingly for a Yank promised to hurry up his train & try to reach Elizabeth ahead of the Penn Express, which passed at that point. We had quite an exciting chase and reached the goal just as the gleaming headlight of the Ex rounded the curve. She slacked up to put off the mail when we managed to catch on without mishap & went on our way rejoicing passing the City of brotherly love a couple of hours later.

At dawn we struck the Chesapeake & its tributaries & had a charming run along its shores into Balto which we reached at 8 Am. The old place looked sleepy at that hour & we wandered round aimlessly looking for a place to breakfast poking around old Mount Vernon Place & squinting up at Edgeworth's closed windows & general air of subdued respectability. I called on Aunt Mamie at ten & found the dear lady looking a little older than when I saw her last. She would bring Mrs. Lefebre in to see me & the dame was so complimentary in speaking of Trudie & so pleasant withal that I felt strongly tempted to kiss her, (which I'll do yet) She said she had "always taken up for Brosie" from which I infer some of my loving kin have been pulling me down. Heigho, this is a funny world of ours. Reaching Washington in the afternoon we took in the Capitol & grounds which I'd never seen and took a much needed nights rest. At seven Am the following Morning with our baggage checked through & a new set of passes we set out again on the Virginia Midland, passing the drowsy little Alexandria we saw no town again until Lynchburg was reached at 2 pm. In this animated tobacco box we managed to secure a desultory repost in ten minutes. The waiters with darkey officiousness bringing on Ice Cream ahead of Soup. We passed Charlottesville on our way, quite a busy little place now, & I bought some apples here as twas 17s old haunt. By the way I saw no Elliott faces among the young people there, which is strange. From Lynchburg the scenery was lovely & at 10 pm the moon rose in Tennessee whitening the Blueridge with a weird & lovely sheen. Of course I neednt tell you about mountains, but to one who has been shut up so long in a city this glimpse of nature was a great treat & for a day & night I couldnt sleep but watched the hills unceasingly the golden gleam of the hickory & the deep red of the Sumac & the Oak mingling in charming contrast. Virginia looks rather dilapidated & save in a few instances her agriculture seemed quite as primitive as ours in Carolina. At Chattanooga we got fresh tickets & proceeded leisurely thro old Alabama & Mississippi. The Mountains now gave way to hills & then to old fields waving in Broom grass & Dog fennel. Instead of shocks of Corn & fall oats & Rye, patches of Cotton met the eye nigger cultivation being everywhere Conspicuous, Cotton wasting in the alleys & the shrivelled blades of the unstripped Corn making a mournful picture as we sped along, reaching Meridian Miss at midnight & Mobile, at daybreak the Comet rising rakishly from the Gulf. In four hours more we were here, after a really interesting ride along miles & miles of live oak, saw palmettoes & lagoons thousands of ducks

swarming everywhere in the most tantalizing manner.

Now for New Orls tho' its getting dark rapidly, & Ill have to make it short. Of course coming from NY any place on this Continent must seem provincial & this place strikes me only as being the most free & easy devil may care town Ive ever struck. Theres not half the style about it of even Charleston or Savannah. Some fine houses & equipages of course but far outnumbered by the primitive & the dilapidated. My rapid New York walk seems to excite amusement for no one is in a hurry here lounging along thro' their work & thro' the streets stopping to look in every shop window. Many of the houses are one storied, & the taller ones abound in Balconies. Awnings stretch over the entire sidewalk in the busiest streets & things have quite a tropical appearance. Oranges & Bananas grow in profusion in the City & with french thrift they are principally grown in the Cemeteries. By the way there is probably nothing on the Continent to compare with the Greenwood & St Patrick Cemeteries here. Ive never seen such piles of marble. There must be a hundred acres literally covered, with the most pretentious marble structures & the lamels & cedars are lovely.

Sunday is the great day here. No one works but everyone sprees. High Mass in the morning, the Circus or a Base Ball match at noon & the theatre or french opera at night seems to be the rule. On Royal Street for three or four blocks every house is a gaming hell & Sunday is the great gambling day. There is no pretence at concealment but the doors are thrown invitingly open & at all hours of the day & night the Croupiers monotone & the click of the "Keno" buttons may be heard by the passer by. I'm probably the only non gambler in the office & tis a source of wonder to the "gang" as the Chiefs manager & even the office boys are struck with the prevailing mania.

Now for myself. Confound it I'm not an egotist but I'm blamed if I can write anything without "I" appearing in it more frequently than I desire. So much for being isolated. The work is harder here than I expected & worse than I ever did in my life. We handle all the enormous Texas Cotton business & they have recently put all the Mexican & South American Cable business on us & this is very hard being all cipher & obscure words & as they charge six dollars a word for the transmission of this business it must be handled with the utmost care. Ive worked harder for the past month than Ill do again & when I tell you that my receipts for the 35 days I've been here amount to \$200-- You'll say Ive done well I'm a queer devil & tis a great satisfaction to me to beat the record here as I did in NY. They say that no one here or there has ever worked as many hours in a month as I have done, but Im not going to run any risks again & will slow up a little now & look around for more convenient & comfortable quarters. Theres no use to tell me that so much work is foolish, I've got used to it now & can stand it better than worry of mind. More people die from sloth than overwork I'm sure, as overeating kills more than starvation. Perhaps the most interesting things about N.O. are the levees & the gigantic river steamers. I've been down to look at them several times & watch the swarm of negroes leisurely unloading the thousands of bales they bring down. The Levees present a gay appearance hundreds of little flags of all colors & designs flying from the different lots of cotton they are stuck in to designate. Do you know that looking at these great throbbing boats, I have thought much recently of the "Prairie Belle" & "Jim Bludsoe" & wondered whether his creed was not a better one (wives & all) than that of so many sycophantic hypocrites we know. Like him, I have a "nigger squat on the safety valve" (the black demon of impecuniosity) & like him I'm going to hold the nozzle of work agin the bank until I either do better for some of us, or fare worse, Good bye & excuse this scrawl. You can see what haste Im in. Much love to all from Yours affectionately

Brosie

Aunt Mamie said that from what Gertrude wrote her of Hattie's temper she didnt think she

would get in as the youngest girl in school. That was the only reason I believe. I suppose you can send her anywhere else this winter but if you say so let me know.

EGP

THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE COTTON STATES
OFFICE OF
The News and Courier,

Columbia, S.C.
Central Nat'l Bank Building, Room 5
\$20 enclosed.

Charleston, S.C.
No. 19 Broad Street,
Columbia, S.C., Dec. 1, 1882

My dear Trudie:

I have just received your note and as I have the office to myself for the rest of the night and nothing much to do I may answer it at once.

The ladies, I'm afraid, have thought me very neglectful in not writing during and since the campaign, but of course they will have considered and understood the reason of my silence. I have been Dawson's darkey, as it were, ever since I left the campaign and have had more time to myself in the ten days I have spent in Columbia than I possessed in the previous six weeks. They hardly gave me time to breathe in Charleston, and since I have come here I have had to answer letters received weeks ago.

Just as my going to Washington was summarily repeated, I was given the brief notice of one day that I was to come here and report the Legislature; and on Tuesday morning I arrived. Now I am once more on my old ground and find it very pleasant for a change. The escape from Dawson's continual ordering and hectoring is quite refreshing and although legislative work is generally considered hard I find it twice as easy as my duties have been for the preceeding six weeks.

The rush has been very great here when I arrived I went to all the tolerable hotels and boarding houses of my acquaintance and could nowhere get a room or a bed. I was about to sleep in Seabrook's Bay style in our office when Hemphill, my colleague, took me to his rooms and his little wife fixed me up a lounge with shawls and so forth; and upon the same I slept in his parlor for two nights.

Last night another young married friend took pity on me and installed me in a spare room, where I expect to stay for the rest of the session taking my meals at a hotel, the paper paying the bill of course.

Old acquaintances in crowds are here, local and state, and it is exceedingly pleasant to meet them. My department is the Senate, and as I used to report it and know most of the members of old, the work comes easy to me. Besides, experience has divested me of all fear and reverence for legislators and I interview them in a very offhand way with satisfactory results.

Tell Aunt Annie that I am guiltless of the guilt descriptions. The Exhibition is being written up for us by Miss Jennie Haskell, a very bright young lady who edits chiefly the Sunday News. We men add some practical remarks to the reports she furnishes.

Don't worry about my clothes. I will soon be alarmingly wealthy in attire, having ordered *two* suits from Wannamaker. It will be the first time in my adult memory that I have had a change of new clothes. My finances are better, in proof whereof please receive and turn over to Emmie the enclosed. I had hoped to be in Charleston and select some Christmas things for you all, but the Legislature will probably last until the day before the holiday. I will try to be with you on the occasion; but meanwhile I hope E. will spend the enclosed as I had intended doing.

When will you get to Charleston?

I heard from Brosie on the 18th. He was well and I have no doubt still is; but busy. Perhaps if I were a pretty young lady the doctors wouldn't charge me either; but I'm not, you know, and so they do.

Ask the Captain if he approved of the manner in which I forestalled Senator Howell's stock law repeal bill!

Much love to all. Write soon to me here, addressing N. & C. office, and tell me all about yourselves and the place. I haven't heard anything for an age. Ever your attached

N.

EGP

Sunday

New Orleans La Dec 3/82

Thanks dear Aunt Annie for Yours recd some days ago. You know, or can imagine how hard tis to write interestingly when one spends so many hours a day in driving a pen for a living, & as I cant write interestingly I prefer not to write at all. You may rest assured that *I'm not going to get sick*. I know exactly the money value of the machine I'm running & I don't propose to run too great risks. When I feel able to write Ill do so but dont be uneasy should you not hear often. Willie is the only one of my correspondents who writes rain or shine, whether he hears from me or not. I'm looking around to see if there's any Institution like the NY Stammering Establishment here. He could not have gone to NY even had I remained there this winter as Prof Aldrich told me his classes were full for the winter. The summer was the only time he could do anything for new comers. If you have made up your minds about Hattie Ill write Mrs Lefebre & tell you what she says. Thank Trudie for her letter. Ill write as soon as I can. I wrote Beure before leaving NY asking if I could help him in any way to make a little money this winter but he hasn't deigned to reply. Verily I'm blessed with loving relatives.

The weather here has been as though as I care to experience for a few days quite a surprise for I thought when I escaped the Scylla of NY mist & snow that Id have to contend only with the Charybdis of Mosquitodome here but these whirling pests have vanished & winter has been here in Earnest. Today however has been a genuine Southern winter day (the day of all others to live in) the frosty air just sufficiently tempting the too genial warmth of the sun. My chum & I went out by train to Lake Pontchartrain some five miles out of the city, a beautiful & extensive sheet of water. We got a flat bottomed craft & rowed over to the old Spanish fort over the choppy little sea, quite a stretch of 8 miles, cheap & glorious excercise this & just what I've been needing for some time. I don't know the extent of the Lake but tis too wide to see across & very long. Swarms with fish & ducks & Ive many invitations to go ducking some Sunday when I'm off. If this letter is too communicative dear Aunt pardon my fault. I've been snubbed so often from supposing that my folks cared to hear as fully from me, as I like to hear from them, that I should have learned reticence by this, but "tis hard to teach an old dog new tricks" &c.

Good bye much love to you all. Yours affectly

Brosie

EGP

The Western Union Telegraph Company.

New Orleans Dec 30/ 82

Dear Aunt E

Today being pay day I send you \$75-- to make Hattie ready for her school & for her passage. I dont know what am't you will require but suppose this will be sufficient. When she goes I will send Mrs Lefevre the sum she names as sufficient for extras & schooling. I made \$160.00 this month, the 5 Sundays & holidays preventing me from reaching the goal I set up for myself Viz \$170.00. I'm still keeping up my reputation for toil, & no one here will race with me now. Thanks for yours recd today. What an ogre I must have been all my life, that Trudie should be so "overwhelmed" & surprised at my sending her a few dollars!

I have always tried to do my best for her & always will I hope. That the "best" is in more substantial form now I am truly glad. But do you mean to tell me that \$40-- will suffice for a white silk! You see I'm fearfully ignorant of these matters never having allowed myself the indulgence of "looking after a girl" before. So I dont know what it costs. Please let me know what she needs, at any time. Yes I wrote Nanno plainly about Willie, & from a recent telegram learned that he was level headed enough to "tie" to my remarks.

Much love to you all

Affectly

Brosie

EGP

13 Coming St.
Charleston, S.C.
Jan. 3, 1883

My Dear Emmie:

A page or two to get some stuff off my mind. I have to write my own letters, if I desire to do them decently and in order, in my own room which has no fire, and this makes me daily a good deal before attempting private correspondence. A day or two ago I received a copy of the *American Register* of Paris, the address being in the old man's handwriting, the date of the paper Dec. 16 and the postmark "Paris." I enclose a clipping from the journal which will interest you. His indisposition was unknown to me.

Please tell William that when he writes love letters he really ought to stamp them. During my visit to you all at Christmas a letter in a News & Courier envelope but without a stamp was sent to our business office by the postal authorities for stamping. It would have been stamped and reforwarded, but it was addressed to Miss Jeanie Coward, Yorkville, S.C. in a writing which nobody downstairs recognized. Curiosity was excited and it was sent up to the Grand Mogul -- Capt. Dawson -- for identification. None of the staff could tell who had addressed it. Our night editor, Logan, thought from the name of the addressee that his son, who has been at Col. Coward's school, might be the author. So he took it home with him. His son denied authorship but recognized the superscription as being in the charming chirography of Cadet Gonzales. That fact being represented to the Mogul, he was satisfied, the letter was stamped and it was forwarded. When I returned I was asked about it and remembered that Cadet Gonzales had sat up alone in our Columbia office until midnight one evening, writing to "a friend" and that he put his [...] into a News & Courier envelope and mailed it furtively. Please present the Cadet my congratulations and ask him when I am to expect cake.

I have just received the enclosed telegram which I do not understand, but which William will doubtless appreciate. Whether the "limit" referred to is intended for the limit of brotherly affection for Miss Coward I do not pretend to say.

A telegram from Brosie came a few days ago inquiring after your welfare; but beyond this I've heard nothing from him.

For the last few days I have had a really astonishing respite. The Tycoon has been very amiable indeed and in consequence the whole atmosphere of the establishment has been rose tinted. Furthermore, with the outside work I formerly had it was impossible to get through the exchange properly and he was induced to confine my labors to the office. For this reason I have not for three or nights past worked later than 9 o'clock and begin to feel quite spoiled. Besides the papers I have been doing editorial and general indoor work, such as the two short pieces in today's paper, constituting the editorial matter.

It is rumored however, that when he goes to Europe at the beginning of next month I am to be translated to Columbia and that Hemphill is to come back and do my work here. I don't fancy this much, however were I like the Capital. I want to get acquainted with this sleepy old town.

Is Hattie going on to Baltimore about Feb. 1st? And have you secured an escort? If you fail it may be that Capt. Dawson can look after her in transit, as he, with Mrs. D., will go on to N.Y. about that time.

When will Gertrude be here? Pretty soon I suppose. She must let me know when she comes.

I took the liberty of sending Beure a hat the other day and hope it fits. Tall ones are very unfashionable . Low soft ones are semi-demi.

Will you or William write me? Wishing you a very happy New Year, at this somewhat late date, I am with much love, Ever your fond

Narciso

EGP

13 Coming St.
Charleston, S.C.
Jan. 14, 1883

Dear Emmie:

Your letter and the story were duly received. Thanks. I gave the sketch to D. and as there were none others in hand he had me fix and notice it for appearance Wednesday. I will send you some copies when it is published. Of course it is well written; but it is not just what he wanted. His aim was to get an article showing more particularly plantation privations, Confederate substitutes for business, Confederate clothing -- all that would record the everyday trials and constrained inventiveness of the Southern women. Your article touched on these but not fully enough and I do not know that it is such a one as he offered to pay for. If you will allow me I would suggest that you take next the Darlington episode which is fuller of such details -- You remember the trade in neckties or don't you? -- and write as fully as you can of such things in a narrative style, putting in the Kilpatrick raid as vividly and graphically as you can and comparing depredations around and those we experienced; and also telling of the flight of the raiders. Your last will make about two columns and you can safely make the next three or four, or ~~twenty~~ forty pages of your writing. Send a blank bill with it and I will present it. I did not put your name to the forthcoming sketch as I did not know whether you desired it; but if you do wish it to the next let me know. I write as a journalist you see and not as your "nevy."

There were several Heywards in the Directory and I didn't know which was Trudie's until your notification came. I have seen her several times, but only between four and six o'clock in the evening as that is the only visitable time I have on any day. By very hard pushing I get off at 8 or 9 P.M. but the latter hour is too late for visits, I have to get my supper then, and besides, the other worshippers

are prevalent about that time and I don't like to interfere with my sister's opportunities, you know. She seems to have been enjoying herself I am glad to note. I could take her to the theatre by running from my work to her abode at 8 o'clock if I happen to get time, but there the infernal nuisance of etiquette come in; for she can't go to any amusement, she tells me, without her patron Saintess, Miss Susan, and Susan don't go to theatres, and I can't make a conditional appointment to take her as I could do with music. And I never know what I am to do until the last moment before getting off. For instance; the other night I had returned from a visit to Trudie at 6 and worked at the office until 7. When I was on the point of getting off to fill an engagement for cards, Dawson sent me on half a minute's notice to Summerville to see the British Consul about Louise's visit to Charleston; and I got back at 1 a.m., after a time you read about in the paper. Some of the others do little on Sunday, but the papers pile up every day inexorably and they have to be "done." See? And understand how and why I can't be a chaperon or even a constant visitor? No "leaves," remonstrated. But I will not be on the ground much longer, for I have orders to go to Columbia on the 20th and remain there during Dawson's absence in Europe -- five or six months -- while Hemphill is to come down and assist Riordan. He has *cacoethes scribendi* and can fill up the editorial pages in short notice and to order, which I can't. I am however assured that there is no dissatisfaction whatever with me. The change doesn't suit me at this time, but I can't help it, and must make the best of it.

I will have a much better chance of getting off as my work there can be done by others, while that here won't allow of a substitute.

We are going to have a big boom in the Fall. The paper is to be eight pages and the fastest press in the South is to print it. The dividends this year will be 50 percent -- but don't breathe it outside!

I have ordered Willie's shoes and will look up Hattie's trunk tomorrow. Give regards to Willie, congratulations on his shot and excuses for not writing him separately. With love to you all,

Ever Yours,

Nanno

I think D. is going on by steamer to N.Y. Try everywhere else therefore, for Hattie's escort.

GFP

The State of South Carolina

County of Colleton

Know all men by these presents that I, John D. Warren of Walterboro, State and County aforesaid, for and in consideration of the sum of Six Hundred (\$600) Dollars to me paid by A. E. Gonzales, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have remised, released, and forever quit claimed, and by these presents do remise, release, and forever quit claim unto the said A. E. Gonzales, his heirs and assigns, a certain messuage now in the seizin and possession of me, the said John D. Warren actuate in the County of Colleton, and State aforesaid, containing one thousand four hundred and fifty (1450) acres more or less, and which was conveyed to me by W. H. Myers County Auditor for Colleton County on the eighteenth day of August A.D. 1874 and called "Social Hall," and having such meter and bounds as is described in said conveyance from said County Auditor to myself. To have and to hold the aforesaid premises, with all the priviliges (sic) and appurtenances, to the said messuage, belonging or appertaining, into said A. E. Gonzales his heirs and assigns, to his and their sole use forever; so that neither I the said John D. Warren nor my heirs, nor any person or persons claiming under me or them, shall at any time hereafter, by any way or means, have claim, or demand any right or title to the aforesaid premises or appurtenances, or to any part or parcel thereof forever.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand and affixed my Seal this nineteenth day of January Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and eighty three and in the one hundred and seventh year of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America.

Signed, sealed and

delivered in the presence of

J. D. Warren

Jno D. Edwards

C. C. Tracy

South Carolina

Colleton County

Personally appeared Jno D. Edwards who on oath saith he saw the within named John D. Warren, sign seal, and as his act and deed deliver the above instrument, and that he together with C. C. Tracy, witnessed the due execution thereof.

Sworn to before me

this 22nd day of January

Jno D. Edwards

A.D. 1883.

Robt. Black

Not Pub

Recorded in Auditors Office Colleton County this 30th day of January 1883 in Book F

Fee 25c Jno Smith

Paid Co A.

State of South Carolina

Colleton County

John D Warren

to

A. E. Gonzales

Quit claim deed

Recorded in Book No 1 page 25 Jany 31st 1883

E W Fraser

R Nil

Colleton County

Fee \$1.00 paid

EGP

THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE COTTON STATES

OFFICE OF

The News and Courier,

Columbia, S.C.

Central Nat'l Bank Building, Room 5

Charleston, S.C.

No. 19 Broad Street,

Columbia, S.C., Jan. 21, 1883

My dear Emmie,

I take advantage of the first leisure hour in several days to send you a line.

As you see my change of position is consummated, and here after I will [...] around in red mud instead of poring over ill-printed exchanges. I came up late last night and have located myself

at Mrs. Falley's where my associates are old and pleasant. I am trying to be quite philosophical about the transportation and the possession many friends here will make it more easy to be so than might be expected. Riordan took me out of Dawson's neighborhood yesterday and announced that D. has rather bulldozed him into agreeing to Hemphill's taking my place. "Hemphill," said R. "is the quickest man in the staff, but he is the sloppiest: I would rather have you to help me because when you write an article I don't have to fix it up afterwards; but Hemphill's stuff gives me a great deal of trouble to revise." This, I may say, is quite a discriminating criticism, although I wouldn't repeat it but that I feel a little sore over the possibility that some people may think I am put in a back seat.

Hattie's and Willie's orders have been filled and you probably have the trunk and the shoes. The former I paid for at J. M. Bristoll's and ordered lettered and sent to you by freight. It cost \$10, but you needn't be angry at my transgression of your orders, as it is my contribution to Hattie's outfit. I hope it will suit her. Willie's shoes I sent for before his request as to size reached me; but they were made to order on my measure, and I hope he is not footwise a "bigger man" than his brother as they fit me like a glove. If, however, they are too small, express them to me and I will order another pair for him. Of course I foot that Bill.

By the way, there is hope for Hattie's chaperoning. Dawson is going to leave with Mrs. D., by rail for N.Y., on Saturday, February 3. I spoke to him about Hattie, and he said that it would be quite a consolation to Mrs. D. to take charge of her on the way, as she will just have parted with her own children for the period of her European trip. They will stop at Washington a day or two, but Hattie can go right on without waiting, and the time from Washington to Baltimore is only an hour, so she will be by herself only for that period. There will probably be a change of cars at the same depot but they will look after that. You had better write at once to Capt. (F. W.) D(awson) and ascertain the leaving time of the Charleston Northward train, and refer to this communication of mine as your reason for writing. I will drop him a line telling him to expect a letter from you. Be sure to send a telegram on Hattie's departure from Charleston; or get Capt. Dawson to send it, giving the exact time of her arrival in Baltimore so that Aunt Mamie can be on hand to take her. State also the depot she will get off at; (there are several in Baltimore, but the Calvert St. is the proper one I think) of which fact Gertrude can inform you. You will think of the other information D. needs to act intelligently. Ever since I was started out for Herndon on the Baltimore and Ohio road instead of the Washington and Ohio and was left to wander, once again, two days in Washington because of the lateness of Harry Elliott to meet me, I have had a lively appreciation of the needs of young people traveling; and with an inexperienced girl you can't be too exact in directions and arrangements. By the way the train will arrive at Baltimore at an unearthly hour of the night.

Your second article is in better newspaper shape, but I haven't had time to fix it up yet. Will do it soon and send it down. I will tell D. if it fills the conditions of his order he can pay for it and if not there will be no love lost.

I was awfully sorry to leave Charleston without a chance to do the "fair thing" by Trudie, but if I had stayed my opportunities would not have improved. She will tell you how I have been tied down to the office during all civilized hours. She seemed to enjoy herself without me though, that's certain. What with a German every night, and Rhea, and the blasted Britishers, she has had a good deal of sensation.

No! In advance I will say that I did not write up the Princess, nor try to look at her, nor do anything unbecoming a *sans culotte*.

Tell Bill if he will write to me now I will have time to answer him. Oh! I nearly forgot to say

that a young lawyer named Mobley told me today that he had met Bory on the train last summer and that Bory had bragged all the way about his stallion and his brother, saying: "By G--d I have the best --- horse in South Carolina and my brother N.G.G. wields the most polished pen in the State!" I suppose Bory will blush about this disclosure of his levity toward me. I told Mobley that he did not brag about one of the creatures at him.

Love to all,

Nanno

EGP

The News and Courier,
Charleston, S.C.
EDITORIAL ROOMS

Jan 26, 1883

Dear Madam,

As I had said to Miss Gonzales, Mrs. Dawson and I will take great pleasure in seeing Miss Gonzales safely to Washington. We shall leave Charleston by the North Eastern R R train at 8.30 p.m. on Saturday Feb 3. I would suggest that you send me the address of the friends in Baltimore to whom Miss Gonzales is going, and I will telegraph to them on Saturday so that they may meet Miss Gonzales at the depot. Mrs. Dawson will see that Miss Gonzales is put in the right car at Washington.

I am yours very respectfully

F. W. Dawson

EGP

New Orleans La
Feby 4" 1883

My dear Aunt,

I should have written more frequently than I have done this winter, but the days flit by so rapidly -- hard as they are, that my Correspondence is in arrears before I know it, & duties once postponed are seldom performed. Nanno wrote me for the first time in 3 months, & his letter, received with Yours, Yesterday advises me of his return to Columbia & his satisfaction thereat. He speaks of Trudie's enjoyment of her dissipation. I wrote her sometime ago but she is of course too much occupied to reply just yet. *Of Course* Hattie will take dancing lessons, & I shall be much disappointed should she decline music as Trudie did. Accomplishments are so much more to a girl than the heavy solid information with which they are overloaded in these days, & apply so little of.

I will write to her on the subject when she is settled in her new abode.

Well the preparations for Mardi gras are going forward rapidly & the City is overflowing with visitors from all parts of the Country. Tis a study to watch them The wealthy Californian, the Cincinnati pork packer, the northern banker, are all represented accompanied by their sisters, their Cousins & their Aunts & as many more as they can afford to pay for. The prices asked for rooms & at the Hotel are fearfully high, in some instances single rooms bringing \$60 a week. Props & braces are being put under all the balconies in town to support the throngs who will witness the procession. Every building is being draped in bunting & the flags of Momus & of Rex are flying from every elevation. The weather has been very trying, Cold & bleak at times & anon oppressively hot with tropic thunder storms & the sharpest lightning imaginable. These changes have blessed me with a miserable cold & cough which I have taken in hand & hope soon to be rid of. Wm. Elliott sent me

some papers which Ill act upon at once. Much love to you excuse dulness.

Your ever affectly

Ambrose

EGP

THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE COTTON STATES
OFFICE OF
THE NEWS AND COURIER

Columbia, S.C. May 12, 1883

My dear Emmie:

Your note reached me this morning, but as I shall be absent tomorrow I answer it at once. You do me an acute injustice in supposing that I could propose to take anyone to my home who was not a gentleman. In truth I believe I am as choice in my selection of masculine friends-- I have very few whom I call "friends"-- as most young ladies, much less men, are. But I will try to reassure you as to these particular ones. Talley²⁹⁹ is the nephew of Dr. T. and the son of my landlady-- but she is the sister of Governor Thompson. His father was a prominent lawyer here and my friend is younger than I am but a great society man and is considered one of the most aristocratic beaus at the Capital. He is chief clerk in a railroad office. Duffie is a son and prospective partner of W. J. Duffie, publisher and bookseller. He is not a great society man but is of an old and esteemed Columbia family and can visit everywhere in town. Both are very fine fellows personally and you will like them I know. Their manners are much better than mine. If there is anything else about them which you would like to know before introducing them to our "charmed circle" please advice me. I am sure they can stand the test.

I am going tonight with Talley and Duffie on my first recreatory trip this year; a two-day's visit to an old friend --Harriss-- at Wilmington. We expect to spend the time at "the Sound" -- that is the seashore some miles below Wilmington -- on a maroon, returning Monday night. The respite, I hope, will enable me to keep up until I go to Flat Rock. I don't fancy going there in June. Brosie, if he stops, will be there before the middle of the month. It would do me no good to have to endure *all* the heated spell after returning. Brosie will probably pass through here and I can see him then. Won't you have a spare room or so in July?

The silkworm eggs must have hatched out *in-transitu* on account of the warm weather. That has been the general result.

You will see from the enclosed that that low cur, Cash, has rewarded all my forbearance toward him with an attempt to bite me. It would simply be amusing to me had Williams not gravely undertaken to defend me from his assertions. I don't argue with a man who calls me a liar and I don't want anyone else to do so for me. I was negotiating with Major Woodward for the correspondence and would have published it without comment just to show Cash's low nature, but he hesitated and Cash anticipated him. Of course I won't pay any attention to it. After he was released in Columbia I placed myself in his way repeatedly so that he might assail me for my report if he chose but he wouldn't even look me in the face and I could hear of no criticism he made against me in the city. What doubtless angered him was my speaking of him as a spy when he was ferreting out cases subsequently against Chester Democrats. No one is expected to go out of his way to kick a cur who

²⁹⁹ Tazewell T. Talley.

barks at a distance and I shall not do it in this case. I am only sorry that I was so lenient in my reports. Send the papers to Brosie when you have read them.

Good bye. With love to you all,

Ever your attached,

Nanno

Too busy to see Rita this week.

EGP

Mr. C. S. Gadsden

Sup Ch & Sav Rail Way

Dear Sir

We leave for Flat Rock in a few days. Will you permit the Accommodation train to stop at our Avenue & take us in? If you will give the order we will notify the conductor when we determine upon the day -- & you will much oblige

Yours Respectfully

Emily Elliott

Oak Lawn, May 29th 1883

EGP

--OFFICE OF--

SUPERINTENDENT

Charleston & Savannah Railway Co.

C. S. GADSDEN, Superintendent.

Charleston, S.C., May 30 1883

To

Miss Emily Elliott

Please state on what day you wish to have train stop for your party.

The order to Condr must come *direct* from Office here.

Very Respy

C. S. Gadsden

Supt

MT

EGP

New Orleans June 11 / 83

Dear Aunt Annie:

Yours reached me today and I am much worried by what you write, but I'm so used to worry and unpleasant news that It dont have the same effect upon me that it did some time ago. Please God Ill try and straighten up all these vexed questions this Summer. I will buy some of your cattle if you cant sell them elsewhere. In the meantime let me know if you are in immediate want of a little money. With all my hard work I dont have as much surplus as I should. The demands of various organizations upon me are large, & I cant quit them while in this business & the Sisters of Mercy seem to have found out how hard tis for me to say "no," & I have proved a bonanza to them. The weather has been fearful for the past 10 days daily rain followed by hot suns giving one as susceptible to heat as I am the sensations of a vapor bath. Impossible almost to eat or sleep and Ive been running the machine of existence on a little pluck, a little Iron, & plenty of Quinine, cracked ice and cheap claret.

I shall be glad to "take a look" at Virginia or any other pretty girl, this Summer, but the Pinckneys, are a quite too prolific people for me to mingle with matrimonially. I am sorry to hear of Aunt Emmie's not looking well and beg that you will say what her liking is in the way of a strengthening drink. Ill send her some of the tonics which poor Dr Bruns prescribed for me, and would like to know whether you ladies prefer Claret or Bass Ale for a beverage. You had best choose for Ill send one or the other. Let me know before I leave here which will be on 30th June as near as I can judge now.

Much love to you all. Excuse pencil and haste.

Ever affectly

Ambrose

EGP

The Western Union Telegraph Company

New Orleans, La June 23/83

Thanks dear Aunt Annie for your letter which I have delayed answering hoping to have something definite to tell You of my plans. I had great difficulty in getting leave as they found me useful and didnt want to spare [*torn*]. The same reason am afraid Ill not get passes away from here Such are Western Union ways. If I have to pay my way twill be by steamer to N York direct. It will be on or about July 1st. Nanno will send Willie to me as soon as I arrive & arrange for him. I have no intention of visiting the low country until August when I visit you.

Am so glad Aunt E. has good servants and some pleasant people in the house. Mr. Wm. Patterson is head man, and I think partner, in May & Richardson's, one of the largest Cotton firms here. His family move in the very best society here. They own a fine place at Pass Christian. I'll hardly have time to hear from you again before leaving unless you write quickly. Will advise of my leaving however. Much love to you all

Ever affectly

Ambrose

EGP

The Western Union Telegraph Company

New Orleans, La June 30" 1883

Through the dust and heat of ten states once more I wend my way northward by rail. The Western Union in consideration of "exceptional Efficiency" and "Valuable services rendered" having furnished me passes as far as Washington. I will write You from New York upon arrival. You mentioned a desire to repair the front fence. Having \$50--which Ive no use for until Hattie returns to school, I send it to you. You can pay her way to Balto in September.

Love to all

Ever

Ambrose

EGP

The Western Union Telegraph Company.

New York July 7 / 83

Dear Folks:

Reached here Tuesday morning after a very trying trip of 60 hours without sleep & without sitting room part of the time. So crowded were the Cars coming north. Went right to work at my old hours of 1 to 8 AM but find heat very trying even after New Orleans. Havent undertaken any extra

work yet & wont, until I'm able to sleep which has been an impossibility here for past three days. I have tramped all over town in the Sun trying to find Willie's Professor Aldrich, whose name is not in the directory. The two Doctors who commended me to him are absent, one in Europe and one in the mountains. If I dont find him in couple of days will get a detective at him.

Will advise Willie as soon as I do. From what I hear the course will only take about a month so he will have time to return to Flat Rock before going to the Citadel. Let me know how you all are & what you have heard about the Estate.

Much love Ever affectly
Ambrose

Address Care W U Tel Co.
195 Broadway

GFP

35 West 16th St.
New York NY.
Aug 16/83

Dear Folks:

Trains not connecting in Washington on Sunday we had to lay over there several hours arriving here on Sunday night at 11 P.M.

I showed Willie over as much of Washn as possible and he seemed highly pleased. Took up first day in hunting up rooms & have secured very good quiet one here only two blocks from "Frobisher's College" where Willie has his three weekly lessons. He will have to work hard in his room to make his treatment a success and has made a good start. Of course he dont know anything of the town as yet and I have to Escort him around. We get our meals at a Convenient restaurant four or five blocks above here. Rents and food are confoundedly high. Especially for a man who is out of a job as I am at present. The Telegraphers Jig is about up. The misrepresentations of the Brotherhood leaders being chief cause. I was told at time of strike that they had \$140,000 cash in treasury. This amount now turns out to have been one hundred and forty dollars only. Quite a difference. They have collected a good lot of money from Sympathizing brokers, bankers & merchants but only about half of the men have received the money and the others myself among the number are in the Nocate, not having seen a copper. T'will be all over in few days now, I think, but all of the men cannot obtain work 'tis certain Don't think I can, as hear the Co. have a grudge against me on account of Nanno's letter published in N. & C. which was copied into N. Y. Times & other papers and extensively circulated here and they know me to be the party who furnished him

[The rest of this letter from Brosie is missing]

EGP

35 West 16th St
Bet 5 & 6 Aves
N.Y.
Aug. 21 1883

Dear Aunt Annie

Your letter to Brosie has just come to us. After the strike had come to an end-- the Western Union sent for Brosie to come to his work; which he ~~has done~~ did. Over half the best operators have not been able to return, and can get work no where. So B. requests you to spare the bull until a more

needy period. He will write when he can get the time. Is suffering from a pain & swelling in the face-- something like what he had Xmas three years ago, only much milder-- is bathing with hot water, quinine &c & is better. I am taking lessons & hope by six month hard work to speak. Have written to Uncle R. saying we are O.K. and B. has work. Mrs Y is like the wind at White Point vis very uncertain but harmless.

I would write at length but must put out the gas for Brosie wants to sleep. Do not be worried, I will take care of him. Love to each & all

From your ever loving

Willie

Excuse haste.

GFP

The Western Union Telegraph Company
No. 8 Broad Street

Aug. 25 1883

New York Aug 25

Dear Uncle:

Willie has written you I suppose that I am at my old quarters again in the main office and have secured an extra day trick of five hours down here in the Stock Exchange giving me all I can do & more than I feel like doing, not having been well lately. Two days after arriving here began to suffer from swollen & painful face. Took it for Neuralgia at first & tried Quinine, but finding that I could hardly move my left eye or any muscle in the face, went to a Dr. who said 'twas paralysis & has been giving me heavy Electric shocks daily. I have a small battery in my room & hope to have my phiz straight in few days. Cant articulate at present without holding side of my face up with my hand. Luckily it dont prevent work tho' I have to bandage the eyelid to close it enough to allow of sleep. Aunt Annie wrote me of your return from a weeks pleasant trip which I am very glad to hear. Write & tell me how Beure & yrself are getting on also what the prospects are for cutting or selling the timber at Social Hall. Have you heard anything from the negroes who desired to purchase land there? Please see what can be done and let me know. We'll have to try & get things straightened out this fall & start on a new basis or sell out. Willie is doing well under his instructor, & will remain probably till first October when his school opens.

Love to Beure & yrself Yrs. B.

EGP

The Western Union Telegraph Company
No. 8 Broad Street

New York Aug. 29 / 83

Thanks dear Aunt E. for your letter recd. two days ago. I have nothing special to write of so of course you'll expect only notes from me. Willie should do the correspondence of the party, having plenty of time on his hands. I make him take regular exercise and go through his Vocal exercises punctually & he sleeps a great deal. The weather has been cold for few days past, & today after a rainy morning 'tis as bright & crisp as October weather. Twas this changeable weather I suppose that brought on what I took for neuralgia at first & treated with hot water & quinine, but found upon going to a Dr. that twas a stroke of paralysis, and has caused me much pain & discomfort, tho' not stopping me from work. For ten days have been unable to move a muscle of the left side of my face

and neck or close the left eye. Been obliged to bandage it down with handkerchief when trying to sleep. Eating is a laborious task & not a graceful one, neither can I smile, or whistle, or wink. While the loss of the ability to do these things doesn't affect the world at large, to any great extent, still I hope to regain these accomplishments in a few weeks. The Dr. telling me the case will be amenable to treatment. He has loaned me a galvanic battery with which I daily shock myself and can notice some improvement. He kindly allows me to take strychnine too. Prof. Frobisher takes great interest in Willie & the boy seems very anxious to help himself which is half the battle. I dont know exactly when the Citadel opens but he will remain until that time probably 1st October. Living is very expensive and I'll have to add to Manno's fund somewhat. I must show him what I can during his stay here and from my knowledge of things here, he has seen more of the City & surroundings already than many people here see in a year. I'm glad Aunt Mamie has recd. so much attention & hope she will stay as long as possible. She neednt be in Balto until school opens I think she said, & a few days is enough to spare Elliott at this time. Beg her to reconsider her determination to leave so soon. Much love to all I suppose the girls wont write to me first tho' I'm busy day & night.

Ever affectly.

Ambrose

The package we sent two days after our arrival here. Astonished at the delay.

GFP

35 W. 16 St.
Bet 5th & 6 Aves.
Sep. 12 "83 N.Y.

Dear Aunt Emmie

I think you all owe us letters, but we have not heard for some time so I will write this as a little reminder, rather than an excuse for a letter. When you last wrote, Hattie was to leave you on Saturday -- and come in with Aunt M. & Trenholm-- we have written her in Balt. as I suppose she is there if not at Mrs. Tompsons. You will see by today's paper that the rain &c squashed, for a time, the proposed grand reception of Lord Baltimore, at the carnival in that city. After a week of beautiful weather it has changed to a cold drizzling & disgusting spell. Last night I went to the office & sat up with Brosie. I hoped to have a fine view of the river & City at Sun rise. But the weather changed as above stated & I could not see, plainly, two hundred yards, so was disappointed, but will try again soon.

The old man³⁰⁰ is here and visible every day or two, not doing anything of course.

If Brosie only had some one to follow his directions, and start his place "S H"³⁰¹ runing-- he would leave this work in a year-- but as it is he has to get a long way ahead before he can do any thing there personally and will stay here till he breaks down-- or for three years. If I only was older or not booked for school, or if people thinking they work, only saw some real work, things would change. Am doing well with my stammering and have made improvement. The Professor is pleased-- but it is a long, long, hard and tiresome race. I will have to apply myself to it daily for six months or a year after leaving here But I will not be despondent. I am like Brosie in changing with the weather,

³⁰⁰ His father Ambrosio Jose Gonzales.

³⁰¹ Social Hall plantation.

for a week past, because it has been cold & bright he has been over flowing with spirits.

We have had two splendid dips in the sea & about a week ago I went to see Rip Van Winkle, which was splendid-- with & *at the invitation & expense of The Paternal*.

Well I will close this unwholesome epistle by sending much love to each of you Three from your

Loving boy
Willie

GFP (Translated)

New York, 18 Sept. 1883

Mr. Ignacio Gonzales

My dear Ignacio:

I am enclosing a proxy so that you may represent me in the testamentary execution of Juana and if it where necessary, in the outcome of the matter of the *Perseverancia*. Regarding father's farm, you will all do what you think is just and *extrajudicially*, there is no necessity to give the little there is to the legal profession. All of you know that I am inheritor and intestate inheritor of Brígida³⁰² and you will proceed consequently. What the two of you do, is good enough.

I am sending you by express, addressed to Rusca (in case you are not at the railway wayside station) the raincoat you asked me for. I bought it in the principal merchandise house of those articles that is most renown in this country and I chose the lightest one called "zephyr" which is the one they charge the most for, believing that in a warm country one that is heavier would suffocate. Remember me when you use it. I advise you not to take it into the brambles or the pineapple patch.

Write me as soon as you receive this one. Please send me my inheritance in a letter of credit to New York, *from J. M. Borges* (corner of Obispo and Mercaderes) and that one and also your letters always "care of Brown Brothers, 59 Wall Street, New York."

Remembrances to Emilia,³⁰³ Próspero³⁰⁴ and friends and you receive the affection of your brother

Ambrosio

EGP

THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE COTTON STATES
OFFICE OF
THE NEWS AND COURIER

Columbia, S.C. Sept. 20, 1883

My dear Trudie,

But for the stormy aspect of affairs here I should certainly have answered your letter last Sunday. This week, however, I have been in a state of mental ferment and haven't felt peaceful enough to write you. I suppose you have seen the whole thing in The News and Courier.

Somehow, it dont seem possible for me nowadays to pass a month without getting into a row

³⁰². Ambrosio's sister, Brígida de los Dolores Gonzáles Ruffin, born 18 October 1823.

³⁰³. Emilia Gauffreau Berault, Ambrosio's step-mother. She married the widowed Ambrosio José Gonzáles Perdomo in New York City and it was ratified in Matanzas on 1 June 1830.

³⁰⁴. Próspero Gonzales Gauffreau, Ambrosio's step-brother.

with some body. I don't think I am so especially vicious, but I don't mince words in defending the right as I see it, and this always enrages some crank or scoundrel. As to this last affair I am quite "solid." Instead of simply telling Lipscomb to his face that he was a liar I have been able to advertise the fact in the papers all over the country. If the Governor had sought to injure Lipscomb by arresting me he couldn't have accomplished his purpose better.

It was a queer proceeding altogether. Taz. Talley was going with me as a witness -- not a second -- as it was pretty certain that there would have been shooting before my conference with Lipscomb ended, and it was necessary to have a witness on my side in the event of a trial. Mrs. T. heard of it through Taz. and inadvertently let it out on Sunday to her brother, the Governor, while he was visiting her. He got excited and swore out a warrant against me at 9 o'clock that night. I was to have tackled L. at, say, 9:30 Monday morning. At 8 o'clock I was awakened by the Sheriff who had entered my room and opened the window. Sitting by my bedside he read the warrant of arrest, laughed and put me on parole to take no action and appear at the Justice's office at 9 o'clock. Getting my breakfast, I went down town then, and determining to resist the binding as far as I could, I demanded an examination. I was again paroled until 11 o'clock when the examination took place. It was quite amusing. I cross-examined the Governor and Capt. Bachman (the old Doctor's son) and tried to get out of the trap but couldn't. So I swore to my opinion about Lipscomb and thus got it in the papers. Two prominent citizens immediately signed my bond without solicitation, and now I am bound to keep the peace toward the world and "especially James N. Lipscomb" for a year and a day. This Lipscomb is not 17's old commander, whom I have been on good terms with, but his brother, a pluperfect hog in appearance, manners and disposition. He is a Granger and a parasite and has been office hunting for years. He was beaten for a small office in his own county but got nominated last Summer by his persistence and a "scrub" race. Since then he has been the "beggar on horseback" of the party. I don't suppose there are half a dozen men in Columbia who side with him in this matter, and he has undoubtedly committed political suicide by his operations. But enough of wars and rumors of wars, though I understand L. keeps now two pistols and a double-barreled gun in his office for protection against Thomas and myself.

I haven't heard from Bill and Brosie very recently but I suppose you have all their news. Bill is said to be improving and will go to Charleston Oct. 1st and enter the Citadel. Del Kemper, whom the ladies doubtless remember, will be one of his professors and no doubt Bill will be considerably treated. I won't be there to see him in. Riordan has returned but I haven't had a word yet about going back to Charleston. I have made up my mind to take things as they come for the present. I certainly will have to be transferred to Charleston next winter and I can wait till then. Placefulness isn't very voluminous here. Williams has been down from Greenville several times lately and I have seen something of him. I understand through him that Elliott is doing very well in his cotton business, and that Aunt Mamie is still with him.

Talley, Duffie, Robertson and Britt send their several remembrances. Talley says he looks back with longing to the ascent of Glassy. He has left his railroad business and has gone in to learn the cotton business with his brother. He gets up at 6 a.m. and retires at 9 p.m. and is generally covered with cotton and not dudish except on Sunday's and at dances. Miss Wagner will be married in the Spring if this season's cotton business is propitious. Young King -- the doctor's nephew-- is with Bill Talley in his business also. He --Bill-- is working ambitiously and I hope will find cotton-buying profitable, but there's too much competition for that now. Robertson and Britt are not doing much, I fancy, for the same reason.

What do you do with yourself nowadays? Isn't it pretty cool? How do the ladies like it and when will they return to the low-country? Any plans for the winter other than at Oak Lawn? Anything from 17 and Bory?

Give my love to Hattie and ask her to write to me from Baltimore. With much to the ladies and yourself I am ever

Your attached brother,

Nanno

My pen too fine and scratchy.

EGP

The American Union Telegraph Company

New York Sep. 24 / 83

Dear Aunt E.

Your note to me, and newsy letter to Willie were duly recd. Very glad to hear that the vexed matter of the Estate will at last be settled, & hope you'll be able to make some definite plans soon for the winter and advise me. My face and eye are about as near well as I can get them now, but I doubt their ever getting quite straight again. It don't make much difference I'm sure. Went to the last day of races yesterday to let Willie see the great four mile race of the year, and Lorillard exhibited the great Derby & St. Leger winner Iroquois. Plug was delighted of course. The City of Atlanta who is very cranky & slow & came near being wrecked other day is next Saturdays steamer so I'll send Bill by rail. He has improved in many ways here and will I think make a good record for the coming year.

I think I'll have to go back to New Orleans this winter as there's no immediate prospect of anything good in the extra line here. Im working every day & night in the week allowing only 5 to 6 hours of the 24 for rest & sleep & all I can make is \$140 -- a month. Of course if I stop for half a day I must lose some of this amount. If I could get a decent place for extra during day I could do very well & would like to spend the winter here, but will not know for two or three weeks to come. Poor Nanno has gotten himself in another scrape. Think there's nothing serious to come out of it however. Hattie and Aunt Mamie have written me, and Uncle Ralph his usual fall epistle concerning taxes, but being businesslike he doesn't mention the amount which Autumn fully hangs like Damocle's sword over the soil of his forefathers. Good bye much love to you all. Why doesn't Aunt Annie write?

Ever affectly

Brosie

EGP

35 W. 16 St.

N.Y.

Sep. 27th 83

Dear Aunt Emmie

Your very newsy letter came to hand some time ago-- just after I had written you again. Gertrude's letter to me will receive attention as soon as possible. I am going to Charleston on Saturday or Sunday.

Brosie will not let me go in the S.S. City of Columbia that was badly shaken up in the storm a short time ago. So if I leave here on Saturday I will go to Norfolk Va by sea & on by rail; but if on Sunday, will go all the way by rail. Brosie took the Battery back to the Doctor to day-- as he thought he was well-- and wanted to stop, but the Dr told him to keep that and the quinine up for some time

longer. His face is perfectly straight and I suppose this is only to prevent a possible return and all our anxiety on the subject should be appeased, though I wish he could be persuaded to quit this, as soon as possible. Trudie tells me the Elder Hanakle is quite sick. I hope he will not leave the poor souls yet awhile.

All the papers are down on Col. J. N. Lipscomb justly-- and as some of them say-- the gentleman will take a decided "back seat" in the State in future. You ask me what the Old Man aims to do; I really do not *know*, but think it is to "lie low" for the present, and "bob up serenely" every now and then in different parts of the country. I went to a large and very important, Democratic meeting, a few nights since, and heard speeches from some of the more important men in the state.

After having some very dirty, wintry days, it has cleared off again, and is now like the beautiful weather you have at Flat Rock, about the middle of October. The influence and example of "*The World*" has made all the big Republican papers drop from 4 to 2 cts a copy-- which was a great blow to their pockets. I would suppose that Flat Rock would miss the old "*Squire*." Will the Hotel be kept going do you think? How about Dr. King's law case about it? Mr. Frobisher has *given* me several lessons free and I will take my last with him tomorrow. His other pupils has taken a year to get over it but he thinks that if I do not work too hard in five months I will be entirely cured-- so do not think I am now-- my voice has been improved a great deal-- and he thinks I am doing remarkably well -- & I will try and live in hope.

Good bye dear.

Love to each of you from Your ever loving
Willie

EGP

S.C.M.A.
Oct. 8th '83

My dear Aunt Emmie

Your letter, with the blankets, was received a few days since. I left New York on Monday, and arrived here Tuesday night. At the last moment a good Steamer, The Charleston, was put on to make the trip, but she had been engaged up to her utmost capacity and I could not come on her, so had to come by rail. Passed through Columbia, Nanno had telegraphed to me to stop, but did not get it, and not seeing him came on & got here the day school opened.

Went to diner yesterday, with one of my York school mates, Logan. Julian M Jr. came to see some boys up here, and asked me around on Saturday. Went up there yesterday aft but no one was at home. We start work in earnest today, every thing having been fixed in order. There are between 150 & 180 boys here about 45 new ones came. I have only a few minutes & cannot write a letter so please excuse this, will write at length next time. Love to Aunt Annie & Gertrude, and a great deal to your self, from your

Loving
Willie

EGP

Elliott & Fowles,
Attorneys and Counselors at Law,

Beaufort, S.C. 17 Oct 1883

Elliott

v
Elliott
Ralph E. Elliott Esq
Adams Run, S.C.

Dear Ralph

Under Judge Pressley's judgement in this case the two plantations in Colleton County, the "Bluff" and "Middle Place" will be sold at Walterboro by Mr Stokes, the Master, on Monday 5 Nov and Emily said you would go up and buy them in for her and cousin Ann. Will you please do so? I suppose there will hardly be any competition for them. If there should be I must leave it to your judgement at what price you will let them be purchased by others. Whatever is bid for the places in their name will be credited on the amount allowed them by the judgement of the court, and as each of them must receive \$10,000.00 before any payment is made to any

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

GFP

New York Petroleum Exchange
No. 18 Broadway

New York, Oct. 19th 1883

Dear Aunt Emmie:
[Flat Rock, N.C.]

Yours was duly received, and I have delayed replying until I heard more from N.O. They are anxious to have me back there but dont pay as much as last season and as I hope to get a better place during the Winter by waiting Ill probably stay where I am. Scoffin has gone to N.O. & I'm alone in a little den near the office. Could worry along very well if I only had Six or Seven hours for sleep but then I cant. The weather is getting quite cold here & Ill have to get some kind of outfit on 1st having given Willie all my shirts and underclothing. Have set the fashion of wearing a flannel negligee shirt in the office which is quite a good idea. Uncle Ralph reports fine weather & says he has arranged for the taxes. Has an offer for Social Hall and one of \$200 for the Colt "Comet." Don't you think we could arrange to put up a small neat cottage at O.L.? I suppose it will have to be done sometime. They have a fine pea field and some of the old useless cattle should be fatted & sold and the money put into something more profitable. Please let me know what you owe Charlie Pinckney now including interest to date. Let me know what Trudie will require for her trip to Colo, and if theres anything that I can get to advantage here, gloves &c & what sizes. I must make Mrs. Cary's acquaintance this winter. Give me her address when she returns please.

Maria would be a comfort to you anywhere. If you had a cottage you might be reasonably comfortable for Ill see that you have some show this winter.

How long are your return tickets good for? Please let me know when you mature your plans, or if I can help or advise in arriving at a decision, advise me.

Thank Gertrude for her letter, which she will excuse my not replying to when she considers my surrounding & material for correspondence.

Love to you all

Ever affectly
Brosie

Do you get the papers regularly?

EGP

New York Petroleum Exchange
No. 18 Broadway

New York, Nov 2nd 1883

Yours of 29th recd this morning Dear Aunt E. Accept my thanks for the information it contains and which was just what I desired to have. A few more such newsy letters would simplify matter greatly with regard to making our plans. Tis too bad about the infernal law. If Mr. Mitchell dont care about the service, & I can be of any use in the premises I am at your service of course. Please get from Mr. Lowndes the estimate or plan you spoke of for the Cottage. I think we can get it up in a reasonably short time. Send the plan to "17" & say where you wish to erect it. Tho when you get there will be time enough for choosing the location. Looking after the building will be something to interest you & you wont feel the temporary occupancy of the old shanty. How much trouble *have* you taken with that old building, papering & Kalsomining year after year, struggling against mould & cockroaches. Every square inch of those walls represents so much work & worry of yours. Perhaps a one storied cottage with four or six large rooms with a wide piazza or Verandah would be best. We saw so many pretty buildings of the kind, passing thro Virginia and North Carolina, & tis just as cheap to build a pretty one as a barn. By having the walls nicely lined they could be papered & Kalsomined & look better, & be cheaper than lathe & plastering. But of this later. Willie writes me that Col Thomas has given him the use of a large class room for two hours daily, where he'll have quiet & be able to keep up his practice. Confound the fellow he's as strong as a bull & twas too foolish of him to romp on a hard floor. Hope he will be careful with his arm until 'tis OK. The Cadets will go to the State fair I think. Hope Willie will be well enough by that time. I want Beure to go also. The change may do him good in more ways than one. The Paternal has given me \$300 -- for Beure which I suppose he will get a few good cattle with or something that he can look after. The Pater has also authorized me to use some of the money loaned me for the girls, which will enable me to devote my income to you ladies for awhile, so dont worry. Ill send Trudie the gloves & fan tomorrow if I get off in time, and will express some money also. Much love to you all.

Ever affectly

Brosie

GFP

S.C.M.A.
Nov. 3rd 1883

Dear Papa,

Brosie has told you, I suppose, that I met with an accident shortly after I arrived here, my left arm being broken, and I have not been able to write any thing like an interesting letter to any one, & not wishing to bore you, have delayed till now, the writing of this. There is but little to tell you about the Academy. It is very Military indeed, with far more style than I expected. An officer from the U.S.A. is drill master, and very severe on that [...]. Liut. White, Quartermaster, knew you during the War, do not suppose you will recollect him. The Surgeon--Dr. Parker--also asked after you. We have Reveile just at day light; and Taps at 10 P.M. We are being drilled in artillery now, and sight guns drawn in line in front of the building makes the place look quite formidable. There are one hundred and sixty cadets here now, not having as large a number as last year. Nanno has been unable to make arrangements to come down here, and I fear they will make him stay in Columbia all the semester, which will be a disappointment to both of us. The Cadets have slight hopes of going to the Fair in

Columbia about the 15th of this month, but as yet we have heard nothing positive. I would like to do so, & would be thus enabled to see Nanno.

My arm has prevented me from going to any private houses and I have not been to see any of my friends, tho frequent invitations to dinners on Saturdays & Sundays are rather tempting. When do you propose coming South, or have your plans been made? There was ice here yesterday and today. I heard from Oak Lawn a few days since, Beure has been in bad health all this Summer, I hope the cool weather will improve him. I am doing very well in my studies--was nervous about reciting before a large class--which caused me to stammer but am getting over it now.

Not knowing the kind of letters you like, I cannot hope to please with this, but hope you will excuse the same. Your affectionate,

Willie

The Charleston News & Courier

20 November 1883, 4

Passengers.

Per steamship City of Columbia, from New York--...G Gonzales...137 Italians and 35 deck.

The Charleston News & Courier

21 November 1883, 4

HOTEL ARRIVALS, November 20.--Charleston.--...Gen. A. J. Gonzales, Columbia;...

EGP

S.C.M.A.
Nov 27th 83

My dear Emmie

Your letter just to hand together with one from Hattie, who says she "supposes Emmie is worried at the Old Man's being in Charleston," alas -- That this should be true! H. says there is no danger of his honoring you with a call, and I do not think he will try it.

I have had but little talk with him, & only *understand* that the North is too cold for him. That he is here for an indefinite period; and is looking for a place in some Spanish house as a translator, whether this is correct or not, I cannot say, but it is what he gave me to understand. Seemed anxious to see Bory. This is all I can tell you of his movements which is but little.

I would ask you not to worry yourself in the least. I do not talk much so think a good deal, and can think of no way in which he can hurt any one but himself -- by taking a seat here, and as there are other things of more importance always on hand to occupy out thoughts, I really would not bother any more. It is very unpleasant to me sometimes, being on the spot, but accidents will happen. About my share of his fortune, he offered me some pocket money, but, altho' I had a perfect right to it, I declined, and this is the way my visionary globes look upon the matter. Amen, to what Nanno calls "an unprofitable subject."

As I had only written to Trudie a few days there is but little for me to fill out this with. My looking delicate will not surprise you when you hear that. I often have not the chance to walk on the Green from Sunday to Friday night. The only hour I am out in the air is on drill -- so 23 hours I am indoors, and there ~~the~~ some of the Prof cheat me all to pieces.

Good bye.

Love to each & all.

If you observe Thanksgiving day, think of me.

Mind now and do not worry about this, you have enough of that from things that can't be helped.

From Your Loving

Willie

EGP

NEW YORK PETROLEUM EXCHANGE

No. 18 Broadway

New York Nov 29" 1883

Dear Aunt E.

Yours recd yesterday. I am expecting another letter about the building. This report about the old man is so preposterous that I dont know what to think of it. Knowing what I think of this hippodrome business, I can not believe that he has circulated any such report. These things start with a semblance of truth & gather a great deal of falsehood after a while. I shall write him about it. What he has done will about pay for half of Hattie's schooling & he dont pretend to have done more. He has some translating to do for a South American paper and will be in Chas'tn for awhile. His presence there need not in the least interfere with Trudie's plans and she musn't think of changing them on that acct, She nednt fear intrusion. It rests with her to renew the acquaintance or not as she chooses. I recd the enclosed from Jones today. I didnt feel well enough to join in the general turkey feast yesterday. Weather very changeable.

Love to all Ever affectly

Brosie

EGP

S.C.M.A.

Dec 7th 83

Dear Aunt Emmie

Your note came to me too late for me to do any good. It was Friday night before I could get off, and then I went to the Old Man's on my mission, when he met me with the information that Brosie had sent Bory some funds to take a trip to Fla. Of course he was glad to get out of it and when I remarked, as a feeler, that Bory might be more willing to accept the money from him than Brosie, he passed it off. So there was nothing more to be done. Brosie was too quick for me hearing that Bory was looking badly, he sent at once, but I hope Bory has taken advantage of this and departed, or will he go by sea?

I have not seen any thing in the paper signed by Nanno altho' there is a quantity of writing from Columbia, and as I have not heard from him for some time, Am afraid he is sick.

I do not think Gertrude would be disturbed by the Paternal, think that has been checked. Dined on Saturday with Cousin Mary Pinckney, and saw my old friend Virginia. Am invited out very often, but have only been to Cousin C's, am not in the mind of any thing of the sort. How many pounds do you think I have lost in the past two months?

I only mean this for a note, am pressed for time, so please excuse it.

Love to each & all.

From your loving

Willie

P.S. Tell Gertrude to write me the remainder of that letter as soon as possible.

W.

GFP [Translated]

Charleston, South Carolina

16 December 1883

Mr. Carlos Rusca

Mi esteemed friend:

I have not received a letter from Ignacio since the *only one* in which he informed me of the death of my aunt some months ago. I wrote him lengthily in the middle of last month by way of you. I would appreciate very much if you would tell me what has become of him, because such a tenacious silence cannot, as I see it, have a cause other than illness. He was complaining of nervous prostration. In the future please address me "care of Wm. C. Bee & Co., Charleston, South Carolina.

Remembrances to Prospero and Ignacio and Villegas from your sincere friend,

Ambrosio José Gonzales