

I have much to write about but am feeling very unwell from indulging too hastily in oyster, which were not sound I think. So you must excuse this. Ralph had better come down as early in January as possible & see what is to be done. Jacob is here & says that he wishes Mass Ralph to come & plant. I do not think the country safe this winter for families. The men must come down & stick it out. It would not be worth the trip to William to come here before some time in January unless his health required a change. I wish it were in my power now to help him, so that he could make a change.

With love to Mama & Hattie
I am your aff. Brother
T.R.S.E.

The Charleston Courier
1 January 1866, 2
CO-PARTNERSHIP

THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE FORMED A CO-PARTNERSHIP under the name of GONZALES, WOODWARD & CO., for the transaction of a GENERAL COMMISSION, SHIPPING AND FACTORAGE BUSINESS in this city. A. J. GONZALES,
W.T.J.O. WOODWARD,
P. J. ESNARD

EGP

Charleston 1 Jan'y 1866

[Mrs. Ann H. Elliott]
Dear Madam

Recd. your note of the 25th Ult. but was aware of the fact which it was intended to communicate before. After much reflection I have concluded to send in a petition to Washington for the restoration of *all* the Lands which are *now held* by the Government in St. Helena Parish & in Hilton Head of course this will include your lands & the "Myrtle Bank" place. The Lands which were afterwards sold by the Government to third persons will have to be sued for I fear. I will therefore trouble you to authorize me to sign your *name* to the petition & to get a similar authority from the two Young Ladies, as well as from Your Son William. A simple note addressed to me by Each of them will be sufficient.

I have strong hopes that this petition at least will be successful.

To day being the 1st day of the New Year & the anniversary of Lincoln's proclamation, an immense procession of Negroes (by direction of Genl. Saxton who is himself I judge from appearance a part Negro) has been marched to the race course, where they are to have a barbacue of ten fat oxen -- and some speeches, some poetry, & other fooleries -- perhaps a dance on the Green Mud -- by the White Ladies & the black Gentlemen -- Thee Veida -- What times we have fallen on. It is said that near 30,000 negroes are or will be in the spot. We apprehend no danger for ourselves -- but most discreetly hope a riot among themselves, in which a great many Yankees & a great many Negroes may be sent, to their last accounts.

There is nothing else like news here just at this time. What may occur before tomorrow, in a town so filled with the [...] of people it is difficult to say.

Very respectfully
Your obt. set.

Richd. De Treville

P.S. Capt. Ralph Elliott had also better address me a note authorizing the use of his name for he has an interest in the St. Helena Lands.

The Charleston Courier

5 January 1866, 4

PASSENGERS.

Per steamship Isabella, for Havana--A. J. Gonzales, C. R. Woolsen, W. H. Ferris, Mrs. W. H. Ferris and child, Joss Valls, N. W. Wait, Miss M. A. Wait, Ramon O. Williams and Mrs. Underwood.

Dun and Bradstreet, Credit Ledgers (1840-1895), Charleston, South Carolina, Vol. 7, p. 482, Baker Library, Harvard University.

Gonzales (A.J.) Woodward (W.T.J.O.) & Co. (P. J. Esnard) Commission &c.

Jan 8/66 A.J.G. is a Cuban & is said to have means, expects to control consignments from that quarter. W. was formerly Agt. for the Adams' Express for yrs, is indus. & atten. to bus. means. cr. limited if any. Esnard is an old citizen, don't kn. his means.

\$400 B March 16/67 Out of bus. no acct.

EGP

Greenville 10th Jany. [1866]

Dearest Mamma

Failing to hear last week, I postponed my usual letter. Last night however Ralphie's favor of the 3d relieved my anxiety, as I will write to him in Charleston. I shall send this to You, not that I have anything of the least consequence to tell You, but as I hope to be written to regularly I must do my part. Emmie's promised letter has not reached me. I can easily believe that she has little time for writing. I am very grateful that you are all so comfortable and think Emmie's management must be wonderful to provide so well, from no certain supplies. John too is a clever assistant and You are most fortunate in keeping him satisfied. How do you manage for wood? -- it is one of the troubles here -- and with great economy very expensive. I pride myself in not having had a fire yet in my bed room, altho' the thermometre [*sic*] has been as low as 12 degrees, and the weather continues very cold. Of course I dress and undress by the childrens fire, and as *I* would have to make the fire it is no privation. We are to lose *our* faithful servants to morrow. Jackson & [...] have chartered a car. Grace professes to be sorry to leave and says *She* is going to *her* relations. She asks for a character from me which shows *some* wisdom certainly. I *am* sorry she is going (not that she is now useful for her infant monopolises her attentions) but she is attached to us, and it is another severance of former ties. We shall have only strangers now about us but for work perhaps we shall do better. Ask John what he thinks of a cook who has never roasted a turkey. I had a present to day of a pair and will have to keep them till John can show our cracker cook. Mrs. Wilson is very good in helping our housekeeping in many ways.

So Hattie is going to keep house in Charleston. I suppose the Gen. after his war experience will help her a great deal. How *I* should like to help her in lending any thing I have to aid in making her comfortable. Please dear Mama if there is anything You can suggest, that You think I have, let me send it to her. It will never do to *buy* now a days what can be borrowed.

I hope Ralphie may hire the lands -- that have been restored to You. Eliza Fuller was here Yesterday. She "is sorry Libby & herself did not hire their lands to Tom who offered more but John Richardson was ahead of him." They expect to be paid in advance. I hope too that Ralph will arrange for Wm. to join him soon on the coast. If the cold has been with You, as severe as with us -- it must have been hurtful to his cough. Mr. Potter was here this afternoon. He mentioned Dr. Gibbs having stayed a night in his own (Now the Stephens) house in Beaufort paying \$5 for the privilege. Mr. Potter begs to be particularly remembered to You all he wishes Tom to hire his lands, the Yankee in treaty having failed. We have a new garrison here -- who allow no idle Negro in the streets, and arrest all who are out at night without a permit. Did I tell You of Lucy & Bessie Reed being dressed by their relatives in New York in silks and velvets -- poor things, what a contrast to their coarse shoes and general shabbiness. I hear Mr. Treville is having a quantity of business in Charleston while Messrs. Bee & Co. are not "paying office rent." Excuse my disjointed note dearest Mamma. All the children are talking and Miss Hannah too around our much appreciated kerosene lamp.

Love from all to each of Your circle from

Yr. affecte. Mary

EGP

Charleston Jan'y 13th 66

Mrs. A. H. Elliott

Darlington S.C.

My Dearest Mother

I reached here after a tedious & excessively cold journey of 2 1/2 days, in time to attend the meeting of the St. Helena & St. Lukes planters on the 10th. Mr. De Treville will inform you at length of their proceedings. In few -- I will say that the prospect of recovering the Beaufort House, Ellis & Myrtle Bank, within the next month or two; possibly in time for William to cultivate his lands this year; is deemed by the knowing planters, & their learned counsel, very good. A strong petition to the Secretary of the Treasury has been forwarded with your signatures-- as I could not consecutively sign the paper I have given up all right that I may have in said property. The Shell Point & Cedar Grove property will pass in common with the majority of lands in St. Luke & St. Helena to be sued for, before we can recover possession. A committee of lawyers, have been appointed by the committee of Planters to obtain the legal opinion of Reverdy Johnson on the subject, & to retain him as our lawyer in case the matter has to be brought before the United States Courts. He is to be paid by an equal assessment of all the lands in said parishes. I trust I have been able to make myself understood by you tho I am writing in the utmost confusion.

I staid [*sic*] at the Charleston Hotel for one day. Am now at Nat Fullers, & move this evening to my friend Tom Cuthberts-- where my head quarters will be established until the General returns. I can make no arrangements until brother Tom comes down from Charlotte-- he is expected hourly. I have seen all the planters from Combahee Ashepoo Pon Pon et cet-- not one has yet been able to make the negroes contract, but tis said that Saxton has been removed & Sickles put in control of the Bureau as well as the army stationed here, if so matters will immediately assume a much more favourable aspect.

If the negroes will only contract & consent to work, I am sure my sisters & yourself can be supported in comfort until the estate is divided. I have many advantageous offers, & feel

brimful of energy & hope. Dick found me out soon after my arrival is humble & anxious to contract with the family for the next year-- he visited Oak Lawn in company with Jacob, Bissel, & Dr. Baker, to search for the buried treasures-- *all* had been dug up.

George has not yet come down-- Jacob & wife move to Oak Lawn on Wednesday next. Dick returns to Darlington. I will try to send Annie's dress by him & a gallon of good whiskey. I visit O. L. in a day or two & accompany W. B. Means,¹⁹⁴ the Rhetts, & N. Heyward, to Cheeha on a tour of inspection with a Yankee Guard.

Please write to me care of "Porcher & Henry" Charleston. I will write soon again-- in the meantime believe me with sincere love to yourself sisters & William

Your most attached Son

Ralph E. Elliott

EGP

Adams Run
Jany. 16th 1866

Mrs Wm. Elliott
My Dear Madam

Upon my arrival here about a week ago, a note from you inquiring into the state of your House was handed me. I have been unable to reply before as I was compelled to leave immediately after my arrival to obtain supplies for my family.

I regret to inform you that your House is in a very dilapidated condition. The steps are much decayed only one of them being really fit for use. Some of the doors have been removed as also some of the sashes and many of the lights to those remaining broken. To be comfortable considerable repairs will be requisite. Not a vestige of the outbuildings remains.

Mr. Wm. Wescoats family who came down in company with us, at present occupy it. They have done their best to clean it out and make it more habitable. They will be much obliged if it is your intention to occupy it, if you will give them a little notice, that they may be able to provide another residence. I can give you no information respecting your plantation, having for want of a horse been unable to get so far as yet. I presume you are aware that the House was burnt.

With much respect I remain

Your Obedt. Servant
M. W. Clement

N.B. I need scarcely add that any thing in my power will be cheerfully attended to for you.

M.W.C.

The Charleston Daily Courier
22 January 1866, p. 2.
GONZALES, WOODWARD & CO.,
73 East Bay-street,
Charleston, South Carolina,
Commission, Shipping and Forwarding
Merchants and Factors,

¹⁹⁴ William Barnwell Means, born 5 June 1819, died 5 December 1877. Buried in St. Helena Churchyard, Beaufort.

IMPORTERS OF SUGAR, MOLASSES, COFFEE, SEGARS, &C., will attend to the purchase or sale of COTTON and other SOUTHERN PRODUCE, and forward promptly to Northern Ports or Points in the Interior, either by Express or Rail Road, all Goods consigned to their care. Orders from their friends in the country for the purchase of Goods will be promptly attended to, and Goods forwarded by Rail Road or Express, as desired.

EGP

Greenville 24th Jany. [1866]

Dearest Mamma

I find it is more than a week since my last letter to Anne, so will try and have this ready for the mail altho' my interruptions, are so frequent, that You must excuse a very rambling and confused epistle. Besides not being well for a few days, I have had so many visitors that no time has been left me for a chat even with my dearest Mother. Now that we are having a genuine thunder storm I think I can command my time and will hasten to thank You for your last by which I was most glad to hear of Your general welfare and of Wms. cleared improvement! I trust the exercise of wood cutting was useful to him, and his strength and energy will increase no doubt with the necessity for exertion.

I heard of Ralph thro' Mr. R. Lowndes who saw him in Charleston -- from his account of affairs below -- I fear Ralph's prospect of making contracts with the Negroes rather poor. Mr. Aiken failed absolutely at [...] his people agreed that he "was the best Manssa in the United States" but they would not contract. Some Combahee planters went up in a Steamer accompanied by Yankees to witness the contracts, but darkey refused for a variety of reasons. On the Wateree all of the Negroes -- where Frank and Wm. are have left. Wm. writes me that they have not a servant of any description. Alice's Old Nurse, who promised to remain three months, if they took her down, left without notice and the faithful Maurice had gone to the city to enquire after and arrange for a farmer family. Frank expected the Negroes to leave when paid up, but flatters himself they will return. It does seem impossible for our poor men to get to work to repair their damaged fortunes. Money in Charleston is borrowed at 5 per cent a Month -- even Mr. Aiken living on borrowed means -- the people occupying his house being unable to pay rent. Of course Ralphie writes You the city news -- has he told You of Alex Baring's having succeeded to a title and large fortune by the death of a cousin -- and of the fortune which the [...] Cliffords have "come into" -- thro' some Bermuda claims of Admiral Grave's which they did not know of until recently notified? They say their money is to be counted by millions. Mrs. Baring has probably sold her place at Flat Rock to a Mr. Sinkler, with a nice family.

What do Anne & Emmie think of Miss Hinkel's plan. So far I have been able to do nothing for her. Mamie Memminger writes me that the family at home are quite in favor of her going and I hope she may. I am going to try and sell a little R. R. stock. We have to send her some money -- it cost \$20 a share, and 7 greenbacks can be got for it. by the bye this R.R. will next week take passengers through to Columbia in one day -- with only six miles of staging. That will I hope save you much fatigue on your journey. Do tell me all about Ralph when You write for not knowing where he is, I do not write to him. Elliott sent him a letter with little expectation of its finding him however.

Our neighbor Mr. Mills has sold his house, stored his furniture, distributed his groceries etc, and is now detained by a sick grand child at the Mansion House. He has bestowed upon me a quantity of nice wood already cut which Elliott has hired a wagon to bring over tomorrow. When

You write to Ralph tell him Miss Edith Mills is engaged to his friend Dr. Hoke. He may meet them at the Mills House where they will spend the winter. Greenville loses some refugees every week, the Robt. Barnwell's go next week. Mr. B. has seven scholars in the New University. There are only thirty in all for seven professors. I hope by Spring F. J. may have the means to send Elliott to Germany. Frank no I mean Johnny Cuthbert spent a night here last week. He has gone to be night watchman for his uncle's shop -- thirty dollars a month. Miss Parker spends a night here every week now when you come she is to stay with the de Choiseuls. Poor Arthur Parker is with Mrs. Lowndes in a deplorably helpless state. Alice Bee thinks Hattie is most fortunate in her husband's business prospects. I enclose a letter which I have before forgotten from Eliza.

All join in best love to You & Yours with Your affects.

Mary

The Arthur Rose's left Greenville today. They are going to her only remaining child, Mrs. Tripman, and expect to bring her from England next fall.

EGP

Charleston, S.C.
Sunday 28th Jany. 1866

My dear Emmie

I sent you by Express yesterday a Box from Cornelia with your dresses & hats-- also a 2 gallon demijohn of first rate Bourbon whiskey directed to "Mrs. A. H. Elliott" "Darlington C H S C" The Express Agent would not receive the payment here so I enclose \$10-- in case you may need it. I am still at the house of my friend Tom C.[uthbert] & work diligently every day to try to raise the means to start a crop with, our prospects are at last somewhat brightening. a few planters have made a start & the Bureau are awakening to the necessity of assisting us by advancing rations to be paid out of the freedman's share of the crop at the end of the year. The means to purchase animals, utensils et. cet. is now the chief difficulty, as Sickles¹⁹⁵ says the nigger must work. Until the reply of General Gonzales to Mamas letter I can do nothing about Cheeha, or Oak Lawn, more than to keep them from being infested by idle negroes.

Yankee capitalists are beginning to come to town & offer partnerships to the land owners, but so far, the Planters are loath to yield to their demands requiring a mortgage on their real estates. They are greedy after cotton & will probably come down in a few weeks-- if we can get to work by the 20th of february I think will be time enough.

Willie¹⁹⁶ is here raising many money-- he has started a saw mill at Pocotaligo & is going in to planting cotton extensively with his father. They say that they will in a few weeks have the Bethel House in order, when they will be pleased to have William come & stay with them. There has been small pox in the dwelling, and it is undergoing whitewashing and fumigation. I have seen Lizzie looking well & pretty & Cornelia three times called on Mary Manigault, but she was sick in bed -- and have been to no other house in town. Dr. Bachman is never at home when I call. The Germans, or a Scottish man can be gotten for Oak Lawn however should you desire it,

¹⁹⁵ U.S. General Daniel Sickles, military governor of South Carolina until 1869, when he retired from the army and was appointed minister to Spain.

¹⁹⁶ William Elliott, son of Thomas R. S. Elliott.

when the means are obtained. This free nigger town is becoming very disgusting to me & I pity poor Hattie having to live in it. The markets are miserably supplied & when the weather becomes too warm to permit fresh meat & vegetables to be brought from New York there will be great scarcity, & even suffering here.

The arrival of New Yorkers here has done away with the necessity of my going on there. I spend the next week in Beaufort, Hilton Head, & Combahee, & will go to work in earnest in your affairs as soon as the General writes. Sorry to have nothing pleasant to communicate. Love to mama, sisters, William & chicks from your much attached brother

Ralph E. Elliott

Do sell my Horse -- if \$150 can be had for him -- he would not bring \$100 here.

The Charleston *Courier*

29 January 1866, 4

Memoranda.

Cargo of the steamer Darlington, from Cheraw, via Georgetown, 210 bales cotton, 458 barrels Rosin, 5 barrels spirits Turpentine, Boxes, Bales, &c. To Gonzales, Woodward & Co....

CLS

Charleston City Taxes, Monthly Returns, Nov. 1865 -- Feb. 1866.

January 1866

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.	East Bay	Sales Merchandise	1,186.00	11.86
“ ”	“	Commissions	30.93	.90

February 1866

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.	73 East Bay	Sales Merchandise	5,517.00	55.17
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[No further tax records appear for 1866. Gonzales does not appear in 1867 Charleston tax records, since he had moved to Social Hall plantation. Gonzales also does not appear in the Charleston real estate tax records, since he was probably renting a house.]

The Charleston *Courier*

1 February 1866, 4.

MARINE NEWS.

PORT OF CHARLESTON...FEBRUARY 1.

ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

Schr. James Henry, [Captain] Church, Matanzas--8 days. Molasses and Segars. To Gonzales, Woodward & Co., and N. Lyon, of Savannah.

EGP

Charleston Feby 1st 1866

Miss E. Elliott

My Dear Friend

One of my trials of late has been to preserve a cheerful temper which I know it is my duty to do on account of others. But in spite of all my efforts I cannot prevent the demon of despondency from intruding on me. From time to time I try to look upon the bright side of the picture, but there are few bright spots left for the eye to gaze upon. But let us say to the fiend

begone.

Well I have had no success in obtaining a tenant for your Adams-run plantation. The hires of plantations seem all to be hunting after rich lands. One man said if your place had a dwelling house on it he might be induced to make some arrangement to plant it on shares. I scarcely know what advice to give. I do not think the negroes are worse or that your lives would be at all endangered at the plantation, but I presume you are in want of every thing there, Horses, ploughs, carts, &c. The Yankees have instilled into the negroes minds the belief that the Island country which they helped to conquer belongs to them, & they throw every obstacle in the way of the planters revisiting their plantations. The black thieves are rapidly dying out with small pox & other loathsome diseases. A nation of 3 million of negroes must now be doomed to perish in compliance with the infamous prejudice of his politics.

The fellows are still threatening me with arrests &c, but I am constantly writing to the North -- the severest kind of letters & they are all published even my private ones. Now & then an event turns up that not only amuses but gratifies me. My boyish days were spent near Troy NY. After returning from college I entered the ministry & formed 3 congregations. A hemorrhage of the lungs drove me to the South -- after having been not quite a year in the ministry. Time passed away. A vindication of mine in which I gave an account of their treatment to me & was a severe castigation of an abolitionist who had attacked me in the papers reached Troy my old neighborhood. The first man whom I had confirmed now 67 years of age requested the Editors of the paper to republish what I had written. The Editor believing that it would injure the circulation of his paper (Freesoil) declined. My friend, a man of wealth & influence, had several hundred copies published in handbills. These were circulated in my 3 congregations. They call'd meetings -- sent committees to wait on the Editor stating that my vindication must be published or 3,000 subscribers would decline receiving his paper. He consented & published my piece with high commentation & made me out a much greater man than you or I believe.

I was much gratified with a visit from Col. Gonzales -- I trust he will be successful in his efforts to support his family. Remember me kindly to the whole of your people. They seem as if they belonged to me. O when will we again [*torn*] air of liberty & be able to say that we are at home.

As I do not wish to be forgotten more especially by you I enclose the phiz of an ugly old fellow, who loves you dearly as a Father loves a bright & beautiful & good child. So if you think well of this old man kiss his photograph & if the new discovery in telegraphic communication by sound be real -- I will feel the smack & the glow every now & then. Excuse my nonsense. The human is just coming upon me & I must stop before I say any more foolish things.

Affectionately
John Bachman

EGP

Havana, Feb. 7th 1866

R. S. Elliott Esq.

My dear Ralph:

In accordance with your mother's desire on a proposition made by her in answer to one of mine I write to you to say that both for the sake of the pine at Social Hall and grazing in the Bluff place on the one hand and to relieve the estate from Hattie's bond, [...] I would take the places called Social Hall and the Bluff at the seventeen thousand dollars proposed

by her for the former discounting Hattie's Bond for ten thousand dollars in hopes that Mary's trustees will give me some facilities for paying the balance.

Planting under the most favorable circumstances is out of the question this year and from all that persons recently arrived from Charleston have told me, I have very little hope that it will be made successful for a long time. I do not believe that any one outside of the family will make a better proposition for these places and I should state that deprived of the timbers the Social Hall place will be in the future of no potential use to me. I do not see in your mother's proposition that *I* should pay Mamie her 7,000 (seven thousand) dollars but the supposition that the other places on the Islands will *not* be recovered for if they were it would it seems to me be simpler and less onerous and risky for me to take the tract not only for Hattie's bond but for the legacy of six thousand dollars left her in your father's will. I suppose however, that the interests of all have been consulted by those who understand the position of things better than I do.

I have been under the impression that the Social Hall and Bluff places were not considered before the war worth more than the sum now offered by me. At the present time, but for the little timber at Social Hall much less would be offered, as lands are in the market to my knowledge and no doubt yours for what the owners would never have thought of letting them go for in former times. I had hoped to return by this trip of the Isabella but cannot do so for a week or two. It is reasonable to suppose, however, that no decisive step affecting the interests of all will be taken by your mother in the event of her refusing my proposition without awaiting for my return. I hope to procure for her the two thousand dollars for two years to start with at Oak Lawn. I write in much haste having come from beyond Matanzas to see the Isabella out and she leaves forthwith. I send a duplicate of this to your mother.

With friendly wishes for your health & well being I remain

Affectionately yours

A. J. Gonzales

EGP

Charleston February 8th 1866

Mrs. A. H. Elliott

My Dearest Mother

I write, not because I have anything to say, but simply because it is my duty to do so. After one months hard and disgusting work, I am no nearer planting a crop than ever. The southern men have no money-- & the Yankee will not advance a single cent, without a ruinous mortgage upon the planting lands. Mr. De Treville says that "none of the Estate property can be so mortgaged, & perhaps tis better that it is so"-- by his advice I have paid the Land Tax upon the Oak Lawn plantation--amount (\$42--). The St. Bartholomews tax has to be paid in Walterboro within 40 days. I will also attend to that.

Until we see or hear from Genl. Gonzales, nothing can be done at either place. There is no possibility of leasing out the Cheeha lands and if anything is done at O.L. t'will have to be by white labour as the coast negro will not work. The Military & Bureau authorities are doing their best to assist the planter but their predecessors in office have so corrupted the nigger as to make the present effects unavailing. You may have seen in the papers an advertisement of Clifford & Mathewes to furnish capital to planters-- their terms are ungenerous, grinding & usurious but many are subscribing to avert starvation, & the result will inevitably be, the surrendering of their landed Titles to C & M within two years.

So far, I cannot learn of a single planter who has made a start, with any prospect of success. Tom & Willie are hard at it but have very little encouragement to proceed. Unless something turns up by the 20th I am going to get a mule & try for 2 bags of cotton on my own hook. God bless you all, my dearest Mother, & believe me your ever attached son Ralph

The Charleston *Courier*
12 February 1866, 4.
MARINE NEWS.
PORT OF CHARLESTON...FEBRUARY 12.
ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

Steam ship Isabella, [Captain] Wambersie, Havana--left 7th inst. Segars, Tobacco, Fruit, &c. Woodward, Gonzales & Co. [*sic*], A. J. Gonzales.

The Charleston *Courier*
24 February 1866, 4.
MARINE NEWS.
PORT OF CHARLESTON...FEBRUARY 24.
ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

Steam ship Cumberland, [Captain] Reed, Baltimore--left Monday P.M. Mdze. Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

EGP

Greenville 24th Feby. [1866]

My day for writing has again come My dearest Mother, and that You should not be disappointed, I will send You as usual our weekly bulletin, although I have nothing to tell You save that we are all well and all most anxiously looking for the news of Your coming. If the Col. left on the 17th I suppose he is now with You doubtless all of his arrangements are already made for Hattie's accommodation in Charleston. I hope for her comfort and that, that she may be going to board for housekeeping and worry with servants will be too much for her in addition to the care of her children. I hope sincerely that Ralph's arrangements will be final and satisfactory. The delay and suspense the planters are subjected to make me too sorry for them. I am so glad to hear of Wms. improvement. The diversion You spoke of reminds me to ask if he has not tried some counter irritant. Altho' the Dr. here said Miss Hinkel's cough was nervous that I might go. I believe I am the only occupant of the premises this afternoon. The three domestics having gone to Church as well as all the household. Edith was very lothe to leave me until I persuaded her that the quiet would be very pleasant.

A note today from J. Z. Johnson concerning his rice which we have tried in vain to sell. Says he is awaiting the return of a gentleman from Cuba who is to employ him. Is it the Gen? If Wm. does not go to Oak Lawn can you not rent it to some one who might farm a little, raise stock, sell fruit etc etc some one like Johnson who seems honest. Do write what you know of Tom & Willie. Phee writes to Annie that they will spend the Summer in Charlotte. She does not mention Miss Hinkel and I begin to think it will be as difficult to get three boarders for her as twelve. Schools, Colleges and Universities are all quite flourishing here. Poor Elliott has lost two years he has not studied since you last saw him at O. L.

I have not heard from Cokerbury for a long time. I suppose You have heard of Miss

Pinckney's condition.

The children got letters to day from Julia Drayton in Phil. and Sallie Mills in Charleston. Through the last -- our former La belle sent her love to me "and was getting on very comfortably" good bye dearest Mama, with abundant love for You all

Your ever affecte. daughter

[Mary B. Johnstone]

The Charleston *Courier*

1 March 1866, 4

Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, February 26 and 27.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

EGP

Mrh 1st 1866

Dear Sir:

The Capt. has determined to appoint you an acting Sergeant. If convenient, you will please report to him by 9 O'Clock this morning.

Respectfully
J. C. Campbell¹⁹⁷

Mr. Ralph E. Elliott
52 Church St.

EGP

3d March [1866]

My dear Emmie

Yours of the 23d reached me on the 1st. I was much glad to received such good news of You all. If Wm. has not left, tell him we shall all be disappointed in not seeing him, but trust the plan he has fixed upon will be conducive to his health, and happiness. I think with You that occupation will help him and I know he likes planting. I am very glad he will have mules and Dick to aid him. By next Year he will doubtless have his own place at Hilton Head which I hope has been improved [*torn*] impaired by Yankee energy.

I suppose ere this You have had time to hear from the Col. and from Ralph. With the latter I trust things have gone as he hoped. The negroes must have found out by this that they had better work under gentlemen. In Edgefield they have contracted generally with former owners it is only on the coast they refuse.

We are having Spring weather with You it must be almost too warm. The F.R. people have enjoyed the thermometer at 6 degrees below zero and are now thawing delightfully. Mrs Cuthbert came down two days ago en route to Charleston where two of her boys have had small pox. Have Hattie and the children been *revaccinated*? They ought to be. Edith was much pleased with Brosio's note. She will write again soon. She is always anxious for the mail, having [*torn*] correspondents.

Wm. Johnstone continues quite sick. He is much debilitated. He writes me by [sic] his constant fevers. I really am feeling very anxious about him. At last accounts Frank & himself were still at a stand for labor.

¹⁹⁷ Charleston Police Lieutenant J. C. Campbell.

I wish very much You would write to Miss Hinkel. My letters never give her anything besides home doings which are naturally depressing.

Sunday. I enclose a letter received this morning with some news of poor Stu. We are still ignorant of the disease which proved so rapid. Poor fellow I remember him only as a youth not having seen him for eighteen years.

The weather is quite warm and I think the planters will be getting impatient. How the Yankees will be hurrying poor darky to plant cotton for them.

In Your packing to come on the R.R. dear Emmie, I would suggest Your avoidance of unnecessary [*torn*]. They charge for extra weight because of the break in the road -- flatting & wagoning at the river and for six or eight miles. If You *can*, put in your trunk half a dozen plates and two or three cups & saucers. Nothing else will be lacking for Your immediate comfort. The Servants have left me very few articles in the crockery line, having sold and broken considerably since we have been in Greenville. In truth, Grace's boys were unique in the variety of their transgressions. She was to have written of her success in the low country, but we have not heard from her.

Poor Mrs. Memminger is still very sick, her complaint is spinal and therefore tedious. Mr. M. has written to Miss Hinkel about Mamie [...]. Miss Parker has been spending two nights with us as a refreshment from "up country" society. She is with some of the "best people" but [*torn*]ful difference -- no wonder when Hendersonville Miller is a relative of theirs. Do excuse my rambling letter. I hope I will not have to send another to Darlington. With abundant love to all I am dear Emmie

Your Affecte. Sister

[Mary B. Johnstone]

The Charleston *Courier*

5 March 1866, 4.

MARINE NEWS.

PORT OF CHARLESTON...MARCH 5.

ARRIVED SATURDAY.

Steam ship Moneka, [Captain] Marshman, New York--left Thursday 3 P.M. Mdze. Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*

6 March 1866, 4

Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, March 3 and 5.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*

9 March 1866, 4

Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, March 7 and 8.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*

13 March 1866, 3

Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, March 10 and 12.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

EGP

My Dear Mother

On arriving in front of the Avenue at dusk I could almost believe myself in a dream for there stood a dwelling house at the other end, a kitchen and out house & from the last a cheerful fire seemed to bid me welcome. Still there was a strangeness in ~~the~~ its appearance. T'was not the house I had formerly known. It required a much nearer approach to find that the still erect walls of house and kitchen were but the skeleton that once encased the spirit (forever fled) of the Hospitality & Refinement of bygone days. The avenue of Oaks is uninjured -- not one having been rung & along [torn] line where our beautiful road fence extended. The young oaks and laurels are fine & flourishing. All the younger trees on the place surprised me by their growth and not a single one has been cut or otherwise damaged except the laurels near the house and wild oranges of the inner hedges, blackened as the hearts of the villains who fired the house. On the pi[torn] front the plants seem mostly dead [torn] but that with while flowers is in full b[torn] and the Spetsporum is magnificent. [torn]d were it not for the luxuriant grows [torn]russ & weeds every where. There would be exhibited no striking change as regards plants & flowers on the place except outside of the billiard room where here & there a hyacinth is seen struggling through a mat of dead grass. In the orchard a few trees are in bloom and many with buds shooting on an exterior line towards Mitchels or rather the cattle pen Annie had just in the pines across the road. I counted ten or more trees all in bloom without the interval of one that was not. I supposed but a 4th of the trees are dead or dying, but on looking again many with branches sound at top had unpromising looking trunks. One sea of broom grass engulphs the field & below these is a mat of jocins & other. Haselton tell me they were planted too closely & t'would be an advantage to the rest for some to die. I think many more will if not hoed around. The Pond is flowing off [torn]ough a cut but little water left. The bottom [torn]ukly grown in weeds. Here & beyond looks especially wild. I was surprised to see how much of homefield fence is left. Yankees camped on Town-hill too & burnt that fence in camp fires. M. Clement says a bushel of short cotton seed is enough for an acre planted in intervals like Sea Island. If home field is planted Sea Island is the thing [torn] Town hill besides. Then all in short C-- [torn] cattle are about perhaps they are going [torn] enclosed. Yesterday I saw what I [torn] an indication of it. I cannot write y[torn] business yett'would be useless. I'll do my best be sure much depends on Dicks arrival. In correction or explanation. I'll state that Col. De T. said the lands could not be sold on *Col. G's terms* as Middle Place would be injured thereby. Those lands will make (Bluff especially) excellent Sea Island cotton. The hands are there & the Yan[ke]e Lieutenant wants some white man [torn] Some ground has been listed. [torn] The Department a young man [torn]plin who wished to see Ralph. I [wa]s very busy, baggage & much freight to look after -- car moving off -- so could not make out more than that he wished to rent the Bluff. From there I expected to get some hands. Probably they will not come. In a week's time I may go to them. Time is money. But do not suppose I will act foolish or prejudice me. The effort must be made here first = that failing on Cheeha. Plant I must or my life is useless.

I'm much better today & think the soft air will benefit. This country is quite safe now -- negroes at work -- and civil. One of Mrs. K. King's came to see me yesterday. (She is living with her negroes in an out house like me). My corn hay & bacon came up with me. Several of Col. Ashes hands they say are awaiting a better offer. Could I persuade them out of planting rice some may be obtained -- but enough the Col. and Dick have tied my hands for the present.

With love to all

Yr affate Son
Wm. Elliott

March 14th 66

N.B. I forgot to state that the Summer House is still standing -- roof intact, but flooring & part of the sides knocked [aw]ay. With a little repair t' would make a [*torn*] breakfast arbor vines still [*torn*]. The wild orange hedges have grown much. Francois, French flower beds are scarcely traceable from the grass, but on looking again this morning besides the struggling hyacinths there are several green plants -- rose bushes still alive and plants with the small white flowers before mentioned. Indeed the old place is still beautiful in its decay, and worth the trouble of repair -- although some parts resemble back of the Bluff house in wilderness. Today is a week from the time Dick promised to start. By the way the Grave Yard *was not* disturbed by the enemy as represented by that faithful reporter. Holes are dug in several places in the garden however; but outside of the first one (near the potato cellar) I visited with Jacob were fragments of my beautiful Bohemian glass -- and in another in the garden were buried a blue & gold desert set -- I think --. I've seen no peices [*sic*] of the green & gold French set.

I must now close dear mother wishing you all a safe journey to Greenville. With love to all & a kiss to Gertrude, I am

Yr Affectionate Son
William

No nuts but trees not dead.

EGP

Greenville 16th March [1866]

My dearest Emmie

Your letters of the 9th and 11th were received this morning. I *felt* and the children expressed a great deal of disappointment at the day of your arrival not being specified. It is a great thing however to know that the Gen. was to leave on the 10th and I hope Hattie will soon see him, and hear of pleasant arrangements ahead for the Spring etc. She is of course worried at parting with you all, and I feel some self reproach at *my* impatience to have you, but I hope it may suit the Gen. to bring them all to the mountains after a few months of city life.

Ralph's office of policeman *was* a surprise, but I am like You, glad he has some occupation. Like many others he has tried his best to go to plant and has failed. Wm. I hope may find amusement and a little profit in his undertaking. I cannot tell you how good I think You all in doing so much for me. That it is in Your power surprises me very much. You must certainly be good financier to have resources from no visible mean.

I shall be most grateful to get poor Miss Hinkel some money, and as it has to be turned into gold in New York I would like it to be over the 100 if possible. I should think an order on some house in N.Y. from Charleston, enclosed to her Brother would be the safest way. I will send You his card to avoid delay.

If John is clever he can get transportation from Columbia here which will save some 60 or 70 dollars. I should think a recommendation would help him. The Yankees here have published an order which will deprive me of my present help I think. All negroes must contract for the year before the March or the parties hiring them shall be compelled to keep them at very high wages.

Farmer stopped two days ago on his way to F.R. to offer his wagon and any other

assistance to move. He is very anxious to get persons back, thinks there will be no chance of renting Beaumont. In writing to Ralph do ask him to enquire for a tenant any one who would expend 200 in repairs could have it. I wrote to R. yesterday but did not think of it.

The Seabrooks will pass thro' the second week in April. Aunt Bower & Bet leave on the 20th to join Uncle George in Beaufort -- he has succeeded in making a beginning on his place -- labor and provisions secured. Bet wrote me a very kind note presenting me with 200 lbs. of Bacon they loaned me last year.

18th We are having another cold spell which I hope will be beneficial to health, fruit, etc. All well and gone to Church excepting Fannie who slightly sprained her ankle two days ago. We have had several blustering disagreeable days. I hope the Gen. is not at sea. I wrote to Wm. something about a chance for Elliotts education thro' Gov. Orr, who volunteered an interest in the matter. Tell him when You write please that Elliott has heard from him a kind letter but quite unsatisfactory. When Annie & You come we will concoct some scheme for the poor boys improvement. I am utterly at a loss. I tell him perhaps Mr. Memminger who is teaching his boys and Young Middleton might help him next summer, but he seems much more inclined for Uncle Wm. Good bye perhaps our next mail may tell me of our soon meeting. With best love to all,
Your affecte. Sister

[Mary B. Johnstone]

EGP

“The Ruins” March 25th 66

My Dearest Mother

Your letter reached me in Charleston; too late, however, to undo what had already been done, for I had already contracted with the hands at Cheeha. To have asked your opinion first would have lost too much time. I will briefly state the circumstances, which you could not know or judge of at such a distance. 1st. I found it extremely hazardous to plant here, from cattle being every where. If kept out of the home field, they would most certainly destroy town hill & the two Cypress fields. The poor people own them *and in spite of any law* cannot if they would inclose them *for want of the labor*. That they have no intention of attempting it even is indicated by their burning of all the pine barrens in the neighborhood. That Major King & Clement have no faith in their ability or intention to enclose them is shown by the fencing they are putting up. Now even with hands t'would be too late for me to make fences. But I have been unable to get them. One promised to come with two others and failed. When Dick came on the 15th, I sent Jacob on a mule to try & procure them. He *failed*. All the labor of the neighborhood, except disbanded soldiers has been absorbed. Jacobs six or seven relatives have not appeared, and he, I am compelled to think is indifferent in the matter. He wishes to squat on the place and have lions share of every thing he may make. I offered him half of every thing if with Rose he would plant 5 or 6 acres of Sea Island Cotton. He prefers planting two & having all the provisions he may make for himself. This in consideration of his past important services to the family. I told him I thought the obligation lay the other way. He is eaten up with self esteem & selfishness. He thinks it hard provisions are not to be advanced him. This I'll not make a stumbling block if funds are furnished. I say to him “get two or three hands & you can plant the home field so your [...] have some income from the place. He insists they cannot be got. “The place has no houses, no mill.” Every body of course has got the start of me by several weeks & by first supplying themselves with provisions attracted labor.

I was very cosh to give up what I should have been proud to accomplish. I have sacrificed thereby comfort, convenience & inclination but it was no time to stand still. I must try Cheeha where the hands already were. Accordingly on Sunday last I rode over on mule back carrying Jacob. The Negroes were civil, but would not come over having already planted their patches. They had also listed several acres of Cotton Land. I must therefore plant there or not at all. Now the idea that You would derive anything from their crop will vanish, when you know that the Bureau had issued them only two weeks rations. That rations were then ordered to be discontinued to all able bodies negroes, by the Govmt. and the negroes were deriving a scanty & uncertain subsistence by working sometimes for people in the neighborhood. This labor then would not have been devoted to the "Bluff" but absorbed by the Rhetts & others capable of feeding them, and sadly in want of hands. They had no cotton seed & no money (as far as I could learn) to buy it. They meant to squat on patches. Would the Est. get any thing think you? I thought (as others tell me) there was a far *better* chance for a crop there, even if the impossibility of getting hands for this place did not exist, Passing through Wm. Means. H. Rhett only was there & told me of the terms of control adopted by the neighborhood. Well they give half the crop & advance the provisions, the percentage charged the negroes on which is enormous. I spent a day and a half explaining to them the advantages of a contract. They objected to nothing but that they could not have Saturday. I put my foot down against that & sent for the Lieut. at Combahee, who sent a letter he desired I should read them & which stated he allowed no such squandering of time in any contract. That "They must sign it -- twas best for them" &c. &c. It had the desired effect, and your letter found me in Charleston getting corn implements (the last I could not get before) and a *loan* of \$200, til 23d April from Willis & Chisolm, part of which I retain & the rest has been bestowed in a way to be accounted for. You have purchased the seed (tho it has not yet arrived) was I to throw it away? Nearly everybody here is planting Fripp seed. Now the money for Oak Lawn would plant the Bluff with better results. Even with another mule the cost would scarcely be over \$800, I'd undertake it with \$500. There is no danger of your having to part with Oak Lawn my dear Mother. All this may be a great error or folly on my part but it is too late to recede. To go backward would be ruinous. Tis not so clear that the opposite course would. I've undergone great fatigue but no exposure & the change of air has much benefitted my cough. My plan is not fully developed as yet but I expect to be there during April until the crop is sown. I may then return to Adams Run for the summer -- going over once a fortnight & making Johnson (negro with the pleasant countenance) the foreman, report to me here every other week. Or if neighbours are found Chisolmville may do for part of the summer. Dick left this morning with wagon and provisions & I go by train far as Ashepoo Ferry on Tuesday. There are many neighbours at the Bluff all planting & no cattle near -- land looks fresh -- not requiring manure or very little -- some could be planted today, if the seed had come. The gang eleven & expecting two more -- small but prime. Ill turn over Myrtle Bank to the Est. before you shall lose Oak Lawn. Dick will put me up a shantie over theirs. I consulted with that ingenious mechanic about this out house, and agreed with him that for \$150.00 it could be put in excellent order. The upper rooms are quite comfortable & both stories have good fire places. Now with repairs of Boards paint & papering and thorough refitting & cleansing it would be good enough for a small white family to live in twice as good as Balls used to be. This in case there were not time or means to build a cottage next winter. I will do what I can to make a crop for that end, feeling an interest in the place & being very grateful for your & my sisters kindness to me & with Gods blessing I may succeed. I expect to make 4 bags to the hand which at 20 cts

will give 33 bales multiplied by 80 = \$3520. Divide by two = \$1760, half the crop. Now at least \$230 will come out of the other half from percentage, sickness, paying for 1/2 mule feed, injury to tools &c &c all deducted from their share. You have there \$2000, from the lowest probable price next next [*sic*] year. Clear added to prime cost of provisions of course much more. I beg then if you get the loan you will help instead of blaming me. Everybody is at work and none despondent. I've done what I believe best for your interests. I would not see you dependent, without a cent of income from those (4) plantations. Others perhaps may see their interest in this and take an especial pleasure in seeing the tables turned & prey upon your necessities. Humiliating twould be to be assisted now, far deeper & more grinding another year.

While at Cheeha a fire which with Dick I had previously cut off from the orchard, doubled back and scorching through the pond, grown up in weeds, swept the lower part of the garden and the whole orchard. The arched wild orange hedge is burnt yellow. The cedar hedge leading to pond gate black as coal; but strange to say, very few trees in the orchard seem killed, some are still in bloom and but few have their trunks scorched at all -- so rapidly did the flames rush through -- tho there will be but little fruit, I question its not being an advantage on the whole. None of them had been hard around. Of course the desolate apparence [*sic*] of things is increased.

Hilton Head you know is a military reservation. Edisto has been given up & all the negroes refusing to contract driven off by Beecher. So says Mrs. Middleton I saw on the train yesterday he lives by renting portions of his house. Many planters are constantly on the train going up. They are none despondent & represent cuffee as working well. They do not look happy as formerly when slaves. I went to town with a car load of fish from the Edisto, such immense rock fish & cat fish large as drum, & such quantities of shad perhaps I never saw in one collection before. The Carolina is an excellent hotel but the Mills House is princely. There I met Tom tho I cant afford to go there. He looks well is hard at work with Willie. The plantation and saw mill working 90 hands black & white. He expects more hands and may plant Tigerton Place too. Money will be made no doubt, but how much spent before made, let us not calculate; but try & keep ourselves out of the bog. Over there I must take counsel from Wm. Means who is prudent as well as acquisitive. With yours I got a letter from our sweet sister with whom I trust you will shortly be.

Ralph is doing very hard duty in town a portion of every night. When summer comes I trust he'll give it up as it may break him down.

How shocked you must all have been to hear of Uncle Ste's death. He could not survive his son's loss.

Tuesday 26th. Jacob leaves for Charleston in a day or two to make a last effort to get 3 hands to plant 20 acres green seed in home field. You'll allow him a mule. He'll make ten to 15 bales. In haste as I leave for the Bluff. Yr. Affectionate Son

William

The Charleston *Courier*

28 March 1866, 4

Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, March 24 and 26.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*

2 April 1866, 4

Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, March 28 and 29.
Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

EGP

Oak Lawn April 2d 1866

R. E. Elliott Esq.

Many thanks Dear Ralph for your kind note which Wm. Means handed me on the train as I left Ashpoo for this place. I lost however & perhaps happily, the benefit of the enclosed note alluded to, as the envelope came open "just as he received it." Well said from Haskell Rhett, and it must have been dropped. There certainly is no will wanting in me to complete what I have undertaken, although perhaps beyond my health & strength. Many annoyance beset me. I hear nothing of the cotton seed and Bissell has often disappointed me about the ploughs. He sent me too 18 or 19 hoes, when I only ordered a dozen. He must refund, & I return the surplus, as I need every dollar. My corn came after many delays white corn short of two bushels in every sack. In two or three days I'll have about 40 acres ready for the plough & planting. I only await the seed. N. Heyward told me he had some for sale at W. C. Bee's & Cos. If mine has not come could you not send me 20 or 30 bushels on short credit from them to begin with.

Jacob has prepared a little ground & goes down to try & get one or two hands for Oak Lawn, can you not help him. The home field can be planted I think.

I'd be very glad if you can get me a loan of 5 or 6 hundred without waiting to see if "matters shall assume a more sensible form." My supply of Bacon will be out in two weeks time and as I shall plant 100 Acres (nothing baulking me) another animal may be required. I wish nothing but a mere support for myself, but intend striving to help the family in spite of themselves if it be possible. God knows it is from no personal inclination I've undertaken the Bluff. I cannot go down now but probably will about the 20th. On the 23d I have, you know, to refund W & C but where it is to come from I can't say. So do try & get the loan & write me very soon.

The Cheeha gang are small but very prime and seem disposed to work. My cough is much better, but the water has given me a bowel complaint of which I'm better to day. If strength & energy were in proportion to will, much can be done yet.

Trusting this may find you well & not overworked. Believe [*sic*] me always
Your Attached Brother
William

N.B. Excuse pencil. Expect to be at the Bluff rest of April.

W.E.

EGP

Greenville 6th April [1866]

Your letter of the 31st reached me this morning My dearest Mother, and I feel much sympathy for Your perplexities. I shall not feel at all sure however until [*sic*] John arrives here that Your last plan of going to the City has been carried out. I will write to Charleston though I scarcely imagine You will get the letter as You are to be moving about. I wish to patience You had hinted to me Hattie's condition. Emmie's only allusion lately led me to suppose the event *far* distant, and I was rather mortified I confess at hearing a few days since thro' Alice that you were probably detained until Hattie's recovery. I should have urged upon You to bring Hattie to Greenville. We could have gone at once to Flat Rock, taking some or all of the four children, and

You could have been so comfortable in this house with Hattie. I do think from all accounts Charleston must be the least desirable place possible (next to Beaufort) to live in now.

I hope the Col. has made comfortable arrangements for his family otherwise I dread the discomforts of a boarding house in these scanty times. I scarcely know what to think about seeing My Sisters & Yourself now, and will try and follow Mrs. Seabrook's advice, and not *expect* You until I *see* You. Hope deferred maketh the heart very sick. I hope You will get this letter for I want to beg You *not* to send any money to Miss Hinkel. I had promised to forward her some ere this, and so to avoid further delay have sent her what I had to pay house rent with -- don't worry Yourself about the childrens arrangements. I dare say travelling will swallow all Your little means and although the childrens dresses are outgrown and shabby, they need not be much seen at F.R. Fannie & Emma are nearly as tall as Mamie, who has to put on long frocks. Tell Emmie (if she can) the girls would be grateful for 1/2 doz. strong black belts -- and some silk gloves. I trust You will find that Ralph and Wm. are doing the best they could under difficult circumstances. Other gentlemen (known to be practical) are not doing anything. I truly sympathise with You and regret extremely the additional losses at Oak Lawn. I hope if You do visit the Old Place, it may still be attractive enough, to give You promise of future comfort there in better times.

Mrs. Seabrook and family are to be with us on the 10th for two nights. I had arrangements made to accommodate them even if You were here. I [torn] Your plate, and She said theirs had been withdrawn for distribution. She asked if You would have Yours brought here as She had heard, there was to be no Bank kept in Abbeville. The building was for rent. I will write her Yes and hope it will be in time. If John comes I will send him to Flat Rock ahead of us and he can get Brister & Renchy's help to scour Farniente, get wood etc. I am sure the garden wont pay. Vegetables and fruits, John's little boys can bring us from Beaufort. I have sent Farmer money to buy corn at once, as it is scarce. I shall be very anxious now to hear of all Your doings dearest Mamma. I hope there is a home for Hattie, for I do not see how You can *all* leave her, and Yet it must be trying to be separated from each other. Dont you think she will certainly join us before long, and had You not better bring up some of the children?

Trusting that You have accomplished Your difficult undertaking in safety ere this I am with constant love to You all dearest Mamma. Your affecte.

Mary

Do give my love to Wm. & Ralph and ask if they received my letters.

I nearly forgot to mention that Elliott lost the appointment to the University. One of the Legislators (Goodwin on the [...]) sent his son.

EGP

Oak Lawn, Once More
Saturday [7 April 1866]

My Dear Mama

We have had a safe comfortable journey. Mr. Crovat¹⁹⁸ put us out in front. Dick

¹⁹⁸ William Crovatt, Charleston-Savannah Rail Road conductor. Appears in 1859 Charleston City Directory. Born in Charleston, S.C., in 1832. Also known as Captain Crovatt. Owned Otranto Plantation near Goose Creek Church, outside of Charleston. Moved to Brunswick, Georgia, in 1868. Died there in 1898 and was buried in Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston.

came up in the train & Jacob says he is very glad to see us. Major King offered Hamlet's house but there is so much small-pox there that Jacob & Dick won't hear of our going there -- & T's really comfortable & clean in Wm's room where I am writing & where we shall sleep. Well the ruins & shrubbery are very pretty. The plants are plenty of them alive & if we had come [*torn*] in February we might [hav]e saved the fire -- (The middle hedge is very little injured) got labour & had a nice crop set.

As it is if the money can be got we should like to try for a little, & if the Gardener is to be ours, we can get some tobacco planted. John Screven who came up with us, says it is not at all too late. Tom is with him & ~~he says~~ we told him to try & get us a few hands.

I hope that You are comfortable. We left the boys Nanno & Beauregard each at a door of the Carolina Hotel & hope that they were taken care of by Providence & that You have had assistance in taking care of them.

The cotton seed has not come -- beg Ralph to send it on -- & do let us hear from You ~~unless~~ if You feel afraid to come. The first shock is great, but the trees & shrubs are very beautiful & I think You can stand it.

Jacob is talking all the time I write -- so I can not write very connectedly Jacob really seems glad to have us here here [*sic*] -- The kitchen could be easily rebuilt, it only wants a floor & a ceiling. The old walls stand well. The whole form [of] the house being visible.

Mi[*torn*] love to Hattie, who I ho[pe] is comfortable & kiss the boys. Tell Babine Manmer did dig up her silver from under the chimney. She is now in the employ of Major King at Toogoodoo.

Hoping for something to turn up -- an investment for our energies I remain

Your affectionate Daughter

E. E.

We have enough to eat & drink Wm. having coffee & sugar. Dick is agreeable!

The Charleston *Courier*

7 April 1866, 4

Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, April 4 and 5.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co., Mrs . A. H. Elliott

The Charleston *Courier*

11 April 1866, 4

Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, April 7 and 9

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

EGP

Cheeha April 12th 1866

Dear Emmie

I send a line by George to Ashepoo in hopes it may be dropped you by Crovat or some friend. I am much better but the Cotton Seed has not been shipped & Dick having made me no cart I must take all the mules off again today & send for it. Mamas letter contained something about it I could not plainly make out, but trust it will come today. I have fifty acres almost ready to plant. Bissell sent 3 plows with no point on one of them -- & so I'm served on all sides. He was on the train however promised to rectify the thing & see Ralph about my seed. So I trust to be cursed with no further delays. If Mama gets money & will let me have \$600 for this place or less (I must repay \$200, of the \$600) I'll want at least 132 lbs bacon shoulders per month -- a 6

mos. supply had better be got at once. Will save wagon & mules (at least til August) Corn too yellow for mules. Allowance here is 12 bu (buy by weight) per month. Mule feed about 4 bu per month to each.

Bacon is wanted the next week Monday being allowance day. Do the *best* you can for me. There is no use writing to Ralph.

I've no letter stamps. Jacob failed to bring them as well as the white wash which I need sadly here. Dick has the long gun which should be sent to C. at once for repair -- I need it here. Have nothing to kill a bird or duck with. D. *purposefully* left out my axe. He is a very mean fellow & the sooner Mama pays him off & dismisses him the better. He inspires me with such disgust at his utter want of principle (even for a negro) I wish nothing more to do with him.

Hoping Mama is well the [...]-- and yourselves comfortable & that I may get over to see you soon.

Im always your attchd

Brother William

N.B. My foreman has turned out an excellent selection -- Civil certainly -- honest for a negro. I've not been robbed.

W.E.

The Charleston *Courier*

13 April 1866, 4

Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, April 10 and 11.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*

13 April 1866, 4.

MARINE NEWS.

PORT OF CHARLESTON...APRIL 13.

ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

Schr. W. H. Mailler, [Captain] Randall, New York--6 days. Mdze. Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

EGP

Oak Lawn Saturday [14 April 1866]

We had some expectation of seeing you today My Dear Mama but are not much surprised at your remaining with Hattie to help her. The cars stopped here & put out the China man. We went down & Mr. Crovat called out "I've brought you a gentleman who does not speak English." Well the gentleman seems rather wild has Cephas in attendance & has gone to survey his future sphere of action. Heaven help him & us say I. As to being kind to him. We can not be unkind but *how* to be kind I don't know. The word or two he has spoken is not very intelligible, but I suppose we may understand one another after a while.

We are sorry to hear that Brosio's eyes are still affected. A Doctor ought to be consulted. His father would not have had that cause of distress had he come back in February. I have written to William & sent him newspapers today. I am glad that Bissell promises him kindness. Jacob says a bushel of grist should be sent to Wm. as there is no mill & he may get it in nice up there. He says it may be had in King Street at a store kept by one of the Washington Artillery. Give Brosio a great deal of love. We regret Para exceedingly. She must have been stolen on the

way from Springville. Edisto is the place we think to search for china & glass. Jacob asks if it can not be done. That Steam boat captain tells a bounce about buying those tumblers at auction. I don't think there were more than two tumblers left. Claret glasses, decanters & dishes made up the set. Wms. Bohemian glass he will no doubt rejoice in. His sword ought to be raffled for him to get some of the comforts of life. Ralph might undertake it for him. Thanks for the nice things sent. I suppose the China man has brought them. He has not yet delivered them. I will manage to make him comprehend me after a while & ask him. We feel strangely rather, domiciled with negros & a china man. Do get the requisite for Mary's daughters at once & send them. I think the Express goes to Greenville. Send them to the care of David I suppose. Jacob is at the mill. When he comes back he will take this letter to the Rail Road.

By the by the Negros from Edisto, Ben & others are in the habit of trading at a store house down King Street. A Yankee store.

Isidor asks me to enclose this note. I suppose it is to tell how he cannot understand us, but after a while, he may. Good bye My Dear Mama. A great deal of love if you please to Hattie & a kiss to Gertrude & the boys who I hope are being tamed. Ill write to Mary. Isidore has unpacked his things (I have shown him the closet for his rations). We are very much obliged for the luxuries. We will keep some of your paste for you. I wish Poor Crusoe¹⁹⁹ had some. Dick must have sent in the gun by Mr. Bissell. We have sent to ask him about it. Thank the Col. for us & do get Brosio's eyes attended. They are inflamed far back. Your attached

Emmie

EGP

[Sunday] April 15th [1866]

Well My Dear Mama, Isidore won't do. We were suspicious of such fine boots & bandy legs. As well as I can understand he declines the job, & wishes to see & talk to Mr. Gonzales as he can not understand us & we can not understand him. He does not seem in the least inclined to work, but roams like a pointer all over the place. We showed him the tobacco seed yesterday. The only notice he took was to say that he did not smoke. To day he proposes cutting down all of the Laurels & large trees to sell in Charleston to make "too much money." He takes no notice whatever of the plants or flowers & either expected to be the superintendent with hands under him, or he has been tampered with & expects more congenial employment in Charleston. So ends, another attempt to better our fortunes & we must confess, great disappointment. We expected a man to take a hoe or spade & show the negroes how to work. He is sick too, with pills & beverages from the doctor, which he is taking. Dick delivered the things you sent the other day with the exception of the gun, & we have not seen him since. He stayed long enough to mention the Col's getting very vexed with you about the making up of the "young mens" bed, spanking baby, & your going & sitting down in the next room. It seemed to give him satisfaction to tell this, & then he went to the village & we have not seen him since. You must have told him that the Col. had not borrowed the money for you, for when he left he was agog for making a job renovating this house. I told Jacob to ask him yesterday about the gun, but Jacob forgot. I can only hope that he gave it to Mr. Bissell who was on the train that day to take to Wm. who may get himself a dinner with it. The rice rations of the China men can be transferred to William with advantage.

¹⁹⁹ Emmie called her brother William, "Crusoe." See 3 June 1857 letter from Emmie to him.

I showed you the papers, tied up, & put them in your trunk the morning I left. Some were Ralph's Trustee papers, Marriage settlement & Bond. The others were the bonds of Anne & Myself. I had determined if the China man could work, to send down Jacob with the request that you would take one of my coupons bonds for \$500.00 & get some one to take it & furnish money sufficient to buy a horse (which can be bought Jacob says for \$90 or \$100) a small plough & 15 bushels of corn -- \$125.00 cash for a bond of \$500.00 I thought might possibly be got & I was willing & anxious to do it, to plough the tobacco land & corn land for Jacob -- but the failure of the China man as a workman & I don't believe he understands the rudiments of planting. Makes me pause. I don't believe he ever had a hoe in his hand. He made Jacob understand yesterday that he did not like this place. Col. Gonzales got him for Charleston, not for here. We send after Old Lydia & Bella by the first train that passes. Some creatures must be put here unless you follow Isidore's advice & turn the place into timber! because the house is burnt he says. The tea caddy! We supposed he knew of the burning & desolation. You said he understood our position. I hope he does not suppose it our habit & preference to stay in a dilapidated negro house but faith, it does not matter what a China man thinks. Poor Jacob confesses he can not do much himself with the hoe. He still has vague hopes of getting a few hands & Rose can work. The pond is in good condition for planting rice, good for 60 bushels. Can you furnish 2 bushels of seed? Again my bond, if disposable can be disposed of. Do have some regular business man enquired of, and offer the bond of \$500 for what it will bring. Then I have a watch & those two bracelets which can be converted into 15 broaches. Ma. Man gave them. I would not like her to know about it, but the necessity for money is paramount, & we shall have to feed Old Bella & other hands if we get them. Cornelia might arrange about converting the bracelets into broaches. The Cupids would take I think. Again let me beg you to have William's sword raffled, his life depends upon his having instrument. He is now without flour & unless the gun has gone, without the chance of fresh food of any sort. If the money is got I think I can expend it judiciously for him. Mr. Bissell is to stay in Hendersonville this Summer. Jacob thinks, if it were possible for Wm. to stay there with him it would be a good arrangement. He wrote me on Thursday that he was much better & he was quite pleased with his foreman Johnson, who Jacob gives an excellent account of. The majority of the hands are related to him & his party will be strong against the Radicals represented principally by Old Dido.

By the by do you remember a man who lost his wife mislaid her I mean, & to whom we gave some corn for his children, a Mr. Nins. We saw him yesterday going to Major King about cutting cross-ties on the Osborne tract. The Major could not authorize it. Now at Town Hill you have the stuff & although the pay is small. We think it best to make something they will all be receipted for by the Factor of the road (R.R.) & you will get five cents for every one received. We can not be cheated Hins says, & if you do not disapprove, we shall agree to let him cut some. Many can be cut from the fallen pines (The fire Jacob says has destroyed many -- felled them). T'is neck or nothing with us now, whilst all around ploughs & freedmen work. For King has ten ploughs at work, plants 150 acres of Fripp Seed & gets it all, letting the negroes have all of the corn by *his* contract. I can not but regret that we were not here in the winter it might have made a great difference in our fortunes. Time & tide won't wait for a man -- much less a woman. Two hundred bushels of corn at Uncle Pinckneys place would have given us the labor. By the by Mama do you notice what Mary says about sending money to Farmer to buy corn? Can the corn sent up from Abbeville be out & was not some to be bought by Patton, 100 bushels & kept for the summer at Flat Rock? R. said he left the gold with Mary & Patton agreed to buy & store it.

Do get Ralph to say something definite. We are weary of disappointments & mortifications & t'is best to know the worst before we go up. A "Tower deep" seems always ready for us to fall into. Excuse me for writing thus. I would like to be more cheerful but the isolation & desolation is telling upon Anne especially. The China man is such a disappointment. We expected the tobacco seed to be planted yesterday. We had selected the site of the stable for the seed-bed & as Cephas seemed able to make him understand we sent him with him to show the spot, with the seed to show what it was for -- but t'was of no use. The individual makes an *excuse* about not understanding. He has come to get away from negro's apparently. "T'is too hot & too much negro's in Matanzas" he says. He may be very first rate, but for us & our purposes he's a humbug, & Old Bella will suit better. Do not suppose that any influence was used up here to frighten or discourage the man. Jacob did not see him until dusk yesterday, & seeing then that he was dissatisfied supposed it was on account of his poor accommodations. He exerted himself to make his bed softer, & was very polite, but to no purpose. Poverty & squalor command neither respect nor admiration. A good thrifty Scotch man could be made to understand our position, but a heathen asiatic [...] he is only fit for the cholera. I can't bear the idea of staying another day under the same roof & if McNardie goes down in the road train tomorrow we will consign him to them. He proposed going today but I made him understand that no train went until Tuesday. T'is only about planting that he won't understand.

I hope that Hattie will continue pleased with the Chinese servants & that she may get on smoothly. Tell Brosio that he would be a great help to us up here. There are so many half burned trees to cut off. The Laurel tree that stood by the storeroom window stands up a charred grim skeleton. Of the two by the drawing room window, the nearer is much inured. Many of the young laurels on the line of the front fence were cut down by the Yankees (we see them at the sites of their tents which are up & down, on either side of the avenue & opposite) but have sprung up well from below. The oak are intact. Tell Nanno a Mocking bird serenaded us the whole of the first night of our arrival. The Thrushes & other birds are building their nests in the bushes on every side & at Dusk last night an old owl took his seat on the dead limb of a nut tree whilst bats flew around him. Beaury would be charmed with Mama Rose's hen & her 22 chicks. She sleeps in the room under this, whilst the watch dog Gipse with her six puppies sleeps under the house. Do we not represent an assorted cargo. The Negro's are civil & quietly respectful. We are better waited upon than we have been since the fall of the Confederacy, with cheerfulness & alacrity, showing the advantage of being land owners, if nothing else.

I don't know how you would have stood seeing three buck Negros, with muskets on their shoulders run by you through the garden a few minutes after your arrival. I halted the last, who bobbed his head & came up to us, T'was Monday, contracted he said at Gibbes. They are all civil & nearly all carry guns. Unless the cholera interferes, there will be little game left in the country.

I will have to worry you dear Mama to get me a pair of boots. Those got for me by Cornelia broke out at the side the day after I got here & on their *fourth days* wear -- perhaps they had best be of cloth -- for I need not walk up the country & coarse common ones will do. I have really been unlucky in my boots & gloves, but I'd rather be cheated than cheat. You will bless me I am afraid for this long rigmarole, but t'is Sunday & I feel like writing. Tomorrow I will hoe & rake even before the cooley, who has just swallowed four large pills, & is promenading wrapped in a Spanish cloak!! Annie says confound him. I say he's worth in depreciated currency 15 cents per month, & his rations should be a grain of rice & a smell of bacon. Anne says he is a heathen likeness of Francois Goblet! Tell Hattie he reminds me in a utilitarian [...] of Darzan in

the staggers! Never mind. Gipsej, Jacob's dog, attacks his shanks & he squeals funnily. We were slightly depressed at reading of an irritable stomach & course of Sarsparilla but got out the tobacco seed & were disposed to make the best of the situation, but the course of herb teas, decoctions, pills & Spanish cloaks, in lieu of the hoe, rake & spade is more than entered our imagination. Nevertheless, t'is he that first expresses dissatisfaction. T'is after dinner & we have had some first rate coffee

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

The Charleston *Courier*
18 April 1866, 4
Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, April 12, 14 and 16.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*
19 April 1866, 4.
MARINE NEWS.
PORT OF CHARLESTON...APRIL 19.
ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

Steam ship Saragossa, [Captain] Crowell, New York--3 days, Mdze. A. F. [*sic*] Gonzales.

The Charleston *Courier*
23 April 1866, 4
Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, April 19 and 21.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

EGP

[Late April 1866]

My dear Emmie

Gonzie thinks it a pity not to take the chinaman as he may make you in the future an excellent servant of all work. They are so capable that they learn in a short while to be cooks, carpenters or any thing else. The wages he offered this man were 15 per month & rations. As he is entirely ignorant of the language he would be imposed upon if he attempted to buy the last for himself. You might get Mr. Clement to keep his rations & issue them to him as he requires them & act as a sort of guardian to him. They keep very much apart from the Negroes. The three came to see me this morning & bowed & smiled & looked so happy & clean & so much like servants that I was quite pleased with them. They speak only broken Spanish & Emmie can easily make them understand her wishes. They understand the conditions of things & what the war has done & if you only smile & speak kindly to him I suspect your gardner will become quite attached to you. If you require more tobacco seed let me know. People are on the look [out] for these people as servants, & when my seamster has finished making up sable linen & I suspect he will be [...] up. I wish we could keep him

[*The rest of this letter from Harriett Rutledge Elliott Gonzales is missing*]

EGP

Greenville Tuesday
24th April [1866]

Thank You Dearest Mama for yours of Saturday. I am so glad to hear that "Hattie's

arrangements are complete” You had not time to tell me if she had a house, but I hope so and that You are therefore more easy about delaying on her account. I trust H. M.’s predictions were right and that You are even now relieved of anxiety about the dear child. Offer her my best love and congratulations please, *if* the event *has* occurred; My Sympathy, if it has not, for I know She must necessarily be impatient on account of losing the full advantage of H.M.’s aid, altho I hope she is not this time in such demand. I am sorry to hear of Ralphie’s indisposition & hope it did not last. We hear here that he makes a famous Sergeant and it is assuredly better than idleness. Tell Annie I am trusting to a great deal of help for Elliott from her. The poor fellow is doomed to “stay at home” and I am afraid I am too reconciled to it, in view of so much sickness as is expected this summer. I heard today only from Georgetown, that he has no chance from that district, *so* his Aunts will have to be charitable and [...] his [...].

I am truly sorry for their disappointments at Oaklawn but in these uncertain times -- we have to be more than patient and they could scarcely get an agent to carry out their wishes, on a small scale and with poor return. By the fall they must hope for better luck. I am not surprised at Dick’s failure. I did not trust him. I told John, he did not express much surprise, but asked me to mention to You, that in Edward’s absence, when dining with his wife on his last visit to the city, he saw some of Your green & gold china -- he thinks the matter might be investigated and the china discovered. If the wagon comes, John and his boys, will start tomorrow for F.R. The boys will drive our cow (safely I hope as it is a great comfort). We will leave tomorrow week if Farmer does not fail to send for us. I hope A & E may come this week -- if they come after -- let them, on their arrival (in case they do not notify us) as the R.R. Agent if Elliott Johnstone is still in Greenville and drive here. Dr. Hoke *You* say is coming this week and we hear Mr. Drayton is next week. If you leave any of Your baggage on the way it is hard to get it afterwards. The box of bacon arrived yesterday, broken but not robbed. I am afraid You have been sorely perplexed in carrying out Your benevolent intentions for the children dearest Mama. We would not have dreamed of such favors, but as You raised their expectations I confess they are enjoying the prospect very much of dresses, that are not darned all over. If not sent they can wait Your coming, as the Express *is* expensive.

I am very busy, taking advantage of John’s presence, and with our united love to You all I am obliged to stop. Hoping for news very soon of the [...]

I am ever dearest Mama

M. B. J.

24 April 1866

Benigno Gener Gonzales born in Charleston.

Later called William Elliott Gonzales.

The Charleston *Courier*

28 April 1866, 4

Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, April 26.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

EGP

Oak Loft April 29th [1866]

Thank you for your letter My Dear Mama. We waited at the Road & Tom flung it out.²⁰⁰

²⁰⁰ Mrs. Ann H. Elliott was apparently in Charleston with Hattie when she gave birth. Tom Elliott appears to have

Jacob saw him at the Depot & he gave him the \$2.00 bill -- said we need not plant any garden -- he would, & he had at time or something to get the seed! That Mass Wm. & Mass Ralph were to go & stay with him! No word about the parcel, about which I am in grief & will write a note to Mr. Crovat. But we are glad to hear of Hattie's safety & as Wm. wrote to say that he would be here to day he hoped to visit us. We shall take your permission & remain, at any rate until Tuesday. We might help you perhaps, but we may be helping you move here -- indeed we are trying. I enclose you a note from Johnson to whom I wrote E. Elliott for Mrs. A. H. Elliott. I write to him to day telling him to come down & start on the 1st of May, on his own hook, & in a fortnight or month we may get the means to go into it more largely. I write as you see to Mr. Habersham & enclose you the letter, for your approval as it proposes the mortgage of *your* property. Please put it into an envelope & send to the Post Office by Eliza or it may not be put in. Now about the Chehaw lands. The object *entirely & with all the right* we have to this sale to a villanous Yankee -- & let me remind you that Mr. Treville Your lawyer wrote to say "by no means sell to a Yankee."

Two places belonging to the Estate have been bought by Yankees already -- let them suffice -- Anne & I say also that we are determined that S. Hall shall be milled for the benefit of the Estate -- *if we* have to go North to the Curtis' & *gentlemen* of Boston to help us put up the Mill. Don't let Ralph talk to you about selling to a miserable freedman's bureau man. The vultures! We would be cheated & Ralph degraded! Here again I do wish we could spare you so much business, but we can't, Annie says. She will take \$5.00 for her body but would prefer six or seven & wishes the money for it expended in molasses or salt fish -- for this place -- as labor can be got here for the same. She will take \$35.00 or \$30 for the shawl if nothing more can be had -- & I should like to get \$20 for the brown velvet Mantilla. Some sailor may buy it -- & sell one of the bracelets for me, at any rate please. I do not know who you will have to do this for you My Dear Mama, but on Monday I want you to get us ten gallons of good molasses (that sent for the China man measured 4 gallons & a 1/2 pint & was highly appreciated. We had six hands here one day besides Rose & Jacob) & a keg of salt fish. Mrs. Kinsey Kin[torn] people, can be got here to [torn]. They will plant a few acres of corn & cotton, perhaps, & will return & work it when Jacob requires. All the expense to us will be furnishing molasses & fish & we have the entire yield not dividing it with anyone. J. Z. Johnson offered to do any thing in his small way for you. If the firm will sell you the molasses -- 10 gallons -- perhaps you had better get it from them & pay the cash! o the Senior who is so hard up -- but to my point, get J. Z. Johnson please he lives at a German store in King Street, to buy the molasses & the fish & be certain to get it up on Tuesday, as we require the labour this coming week, particularly. Don't fret Mama about John & Phillis. The lumber got here will pay their wages & help us a little -- & do try & be patient & stand every thing. I wish you could sit in the tumble down arbour & smell the honey suckles & roses with us. Brosio's advent [wou]ld have been a delight to us
[The rest of this letter from Emily Elliott is missing]

NA, RG 58, Internal Revenue Assessment, Lists for South Carolina 1864-1866, Microfilm M789, Roll 1, Frame 568.

May 1866

NAME	LOCATION	OCCUPATION
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been travelling on the train from Charleston back to his home in Pocotaligo.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co. 73 East Bay Wholesale dealer in Lqr. Com'l Broker

NO. IN QUANTITY OR ABSTRACT	VALUATION	RATE OF TAX	TOTAL
240	12 Mo.	50	70
187	"	20	

SCP

Registry of Passports
Charleston, Consulate of Spain
May 1866

	Citizenship	Destiny	
32. Ambrosio Jose Gonzales	American	Havana	New Passport

EGP

Greenville
May 1st / 66

My dear Grandmamma

Mamma has commissioned me to answer your sweet letter which she received this morning, being too busy packing to write herself, and she could not have imposed a pleasanter task on me I assure you. I have often wished to write to you, but thought my stupid letters would be more of an infliction than anything else, and that I had better spare you. So you must not attribute my apparent negligence to forgetfulness.

Mama is very much distressed that Aunt Hattie is so unwell and hopes she has not given you any further cause of anxiety. I should like so much to see her & her sweet baby, for if it is like her it *must* be sweet, but I should like particularly to see little Gertrude of whom I have heard so much and who must be a perfect little angel. I hope you will induce Uncle Gonzie to bring them all to F. R. this summer, it would be so delightful to be all together, and I'm sure the house is big enough. We expect to leave Greenville day after tomorrow (Friday) if Mamma is not again disappointed in getting wagons. We had been hoping that you would have been here on time to go with us, but perhaps it will be pleasanter for you if we have time to make the house comfortable before you arrive. You dont know Grandmamma how we all long to see you, and what disappointment your prolonged absence [*sic*] has caused us, but when we once have you with us, we will forget all of that. I am so glad Uncle Ralph is going to resign from the Police, for there will be some chance of our seeing him then. You must make *him* bring you up to F.R. He is a dear old Uncle and we all love him a *great* deal. When you see him again, do give him the greatest quantity of love imaginable from me & tell him he *must* come and see us, or I will really forget how he looks & how he kisses, which would be a *shocking* thing. I suppose you have not heard yet of poor Mrs. Reed's death. She died last Thursday in Edgefield and her brother carried her body to F.R. where Mr. Memminger read the funeral services, no clergyman being in the neighborhood. Lucy and Bessie did not know anything of their mother's illness, and it will be a dreadful shock to them when they hear of her death.

We hear that Mr. Drayton is expected at F.R. sometime this week. I hope Aunt Annie & Aunt Emmie will come with him, to console us for your delay.

You must excuse me, dear Grandmamma for sending you such a horrible letter. I have

been interrupted dozens of times to receive visitors & warm coffee for Cousin Sal as Elliott calls Miss Parker, and write notes and do all sorts of things so that must account for the disjointedness & stupidity of this *horrible* letter.

I am perched up on the bed in the most uncomfortable of positions so that is why the writing is so awful, not that it is ever much better, but this is particularly bad.

Mamma & every body join me in as much love as you will take and hoping soon to see you at F.R. beleive [*sic*] me

Your *most* affectionate
Grand daughter Mamie [Johnstone]

EGP

Oak Lawn May 1st [1866]

My Dear Mama
[in Charleston]

Jacob has gone to the Depot for a letter & the provisions, which I trust you have been able to send without too much worry to yourself. I am glad to report the safe arrival yesterday of the chintzy parcel. ~~Mr. Cravet sent~~ We got it, by Mr. Minardie on the freight train, or lumber train rather which stopped & put out Johnson & four timber cutters. The five went immediately to work. I told him to go ahead on his own hook, until we could make arrangements. They say that you have some *very fine* timber here. They cut the smaller for cross ties. The pay is small, but t'is something, until we can do better -- & will help you to exist.

Your letter has just been read. We are sorry to hear your invalid list. If you could bring up Eliza with Gertrude on Thursday, the change even for a few hours would be beneficial. We owe hands for yesterdays & to days work, but will pacify them, with the promise for Thursday. About Social Hall -- of course we much prefer its going to Hattie & her children, but, as \$17,000 was the price asked, before lumber was so exorbitantly high, & as the lumber business is independent of the Negro question -- we don't see why it should not be still held at that price -- or at \$16,000 at any rate. We may waive our objections, but you will have to see Mr. Treville. If everything goes on smoothly we will be down on Thursday. *Poor month* don't frighten me. T'is very well to talk of necessities, after four months of idleness. I know that had I been the fortunate owner of a pair of pantaloons, the debts of the Estate would have been paid by this & the lands would remain in hand for the legacies. Wm. is perhaps you do not know, planting cotton at Social Hall. He came over on Saturday & went back this morning. He feels better, looks better, but has been miserably off for the comforts of life. He requires help with his work too & even expects to get some hands to go to him for a week. He will run down to see you before you leave. About Social Hall you will have to consult him as well as ourselves you know, for his rights as just as good as Ralphs & with the men the hankering after those hunting grounds seems never ending. You had best throw cold water upon the scheme of Ralph as an agent, he is not successful & as Hattie's trustee he should keep apart. Crimination & recrimination will be the end. Jacob was bespoken in January to run out the lines & *teach cotton planting!* Now Jacob is essential to us here & we cannot give him up. We will think over the matter & give our answer after seeing Mr. Treville upon our advent in the city which will be on Thursday. Mary's bond stands now for \$6000 some hundred I think

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

The Charleston *Courier*
3 May 1866, 4
Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, May 1.
Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*
8 May 1866, 4
Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, May 5.
Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*
11 May 1866, 4
Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, May 9.
Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*
18 May 1866, 4
Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, May 16.
Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*
23 May 1866, 4.
MARINE NEWS.
PORT OF CHARLESTON...MAY 23.
ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

Steam ship Quaker City, [Captain] West, New York--left Saturday P.M. Mdze. A. J. Gonzales.

EGP

Charleston 30 May 1866

Dear Madam

I do not think it will be necessary to make any correction of the consideration expressed in the conveyance of "Social Hall." The General's Bond to the Trustees of Mrs. Johnstone is for \$6175, and the difference, \$325, ought to be paid to you as Executrix for the purposes of the Estate, for which he ought to have your receipt. The debts having been paid, your daughters desire to know if the Court of Equity will not give permission for an Equal division of the Estate. The Court of Equity can do nothing which will amount to a partial revocation. Even if the will unless with the consent of all who are interested if they are of full age and in a condition to act for themselves. When this is the case, there is no need for the aid of a court -- the parties can do for themselves. But permit me to enquire how the land now in the hands of the Enemy and which may perhaps never be recovered, are to be divided. Besides if you will be good enough to refer to the opinion I sent you in December last, you will see that the Testator has charged the whole of his Estate now remaining with the payment of the Legacies given by his will. It is only the Rest & Residue after the payment of the preceding and succeeding Legacies that is to be divided. The Legacies to Mrs. Johnstone & Mrs. Gonzales of \$6000 each are charges in this pail of the Estate and until paid must be looked upon as debts due by it. Were it possible to divide now, each would have to hold his or her share subject to the payment of these Legacies. Should a sale for Equality of Division become necessary the lands will bring very little now. The children are all of full age, but the grandchildren are not, and one of the former is a married lady & therefore not

‘sui juris.’ Application to the Court of Equity will I fear result in an Order for the Sale of all the Lands for the payment of Legacies *first* & then for a division of the surplus, but this would be unfortunate for to buy as things remain as they are the Lands will bring very little (Still the Legacies are drawing interest). Nevertheless, if it is desired I can make application to the Court of Equity, all of the grandchildren being near parties defendants to the Suit, but it will result as I have said & be attended with much expense, besides I fear it will be incomplete for we can only conjecture what will be done with the Island Lands.

Will you be good enough to give me the name of the Lawyer you Employed to sue the Butcher, and I will enquire of him what has *been* done. When I find out I will then be better prepared to say what can be done. At present I see nothing to prevent you from recovering the value of the cattle in good money. The Butchery reference is simply ridiculous.

Very Respectfully Yours &c
Richd. De Treville

Mrs Ann H. Elliott

To R. De Treville Dr.

1864

Nov 23d To Counsel & advice on loss on negro Henry by accident on Rail Road --
petitions, affidants &c &c in Confederate Money \$800-- Northern Greenbacks, \$50.
Counsel & advice & petition for Exemption of overseer from Military duty --
Affidants &c &c -- 50.

1865

July Counsel and advice by letter -- 50.

Octr Petition for restoration of Lands on the Main-- Affidavits-- Counsel & advice
~~Land~~ restored 300.

Nov. Second petition after interview -- with Saxton. Oath -- advice by letter --
interview with Commissioner, about Beaufort Lands &c &c 100.

Decr 6 Presenting second petition, and advocating claim before Saxton 50.

“ Procuring restoration of Middle Place, Social Hall -- Bluff and Oak Lawn 150.

“ Written opinion on Construction of Mr. Wm Elliott’s Will, at great length--
advice and letter of Instruction. 300.

“ 26 Written Opinion & another letter of instruction 50.

March 1866

17 Counsel by letter in proposition by Genl Gonzales to purchase two of
the Colleton Dist. plantations 50.

May 10 Counsel & written opinion on Genl. G’s proposition to buy Social Hall for
\$15,000 50.

“ 30 Advice by letter on propriety of dividing rest of Estate in Compliance with
daughters wishes 50.
\$1235.

If Mrs Elliott considers the charges too high I have no objection to strike off \$500.
and make the amt. due \$735 only.

The Charleston *Courier*

30 May 1866, 4

Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, May 28.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston Courier

31 May 1866, 4

MARINE NEWS.

PORT OF CHARLESTON....MAY 31

ARRIVED SATURDAY.

Steam ship Saragossa, Crowell, New York. Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

EGP

BOND.--Sold by Hiram Harris, 59 Broad st.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That *I Ambrosio J. Gonzales now of the City of Charleston am held and firmly bound unto Ralph Elliott Esquire of the same place in the full and just sum of twenty thousand dollars to be paid unto the said Ralph Elliott his certain Attorney, Executors, or Administrators, or Assigns: To which payment well and truly to be made and done, I bind myself and each and every of My Heirs, Executors and Administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.*

SEALED with *my seal* and dated the thirty-first day of *May* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six-- and in the *ninetieth* year of the Independence of the United States of America.

The Condition of the above Obligation is such, that if the above bound

Ambrosio J. Gonzales -- his Heirs, Executors, or Administrators, shall and do well and truly pay or cause to be paid at any time before or immediately after his death unto the said Ralph Elliott his certain Attorney, Executors or Administrators, or Assigns, the full and just sum of ten thousand dollars without interest, to be held by the said Ralph Elliott for the use of Mrs Harriett Gonzales, the wife of the said Ambrosio J. Gonzales, and her children, according to the limitations of a certain deed of the settlement bearing date the ____ day of ____ Anno Domini 18____, made between the said Harriett, and the said Ambrosio J. Gonzales, and the said Ralph Elliott, on the occasion of the said Harrietts marriage with the said Ambrosio ---- without fraud or further delay then the above Obligation to be void or of none effect, or else to remain in full force and virtue.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

P. J. Esnard

Ambrosio J. Gonzales

EGP

“Bluff Plantation” Cheeha -- 1866
St. Bartholomews Parish June 3d

To the Officer of the Freedmen’s Bureau, Comdg Post at Walterboro.

Sir -- It becomes necessary I should report a man on this place who yesterday cut with his knife my foreman while discharging his duty. He was whipping his mule unmercifully & causing the animal to trample on the planted land and when remonstrated with for his barbarity cursed & abused said foreman who placing his hand on his collar inquired why he was cursing him. Upon which drawing his knife he made several passes one only taking slight effect on his hand. Still the attempt alone would seem to justify his arrest. I also report him for habitual cruelty to mules and neglect to feed or attend to them, thereby violating his contract. The accident of his being a skillful ploughman alone has prevented his being reported before. He is in debt to me, but his

example on the place (were he allowed to remain) unless first punished by the proper authority, would be so injurious that I must make the sacrifice & get rid of him.

His name is Frank Fraser -- some time since reported to Lieut. Loomis for refusal to plough. The Foreman (bearer of this) is named Johnson, a reliable man.

There were witnesses of the dispute, chiefly women. I was in the house at the time & hearing an altercation several hundred yards off, on going to the door saw the foreman leaving the field. On coming to me I witnessed the fact that his hand was cut & bleeding.

As my health will not admit my travelling to Walterboro I trust this statement will be received in evidence confirmed as it will be by the foremans.

My Crop is in a very critical Condition & the taking off of many hands to give evidence at Walterboro would prove a serious loss to many whose sole support it will be the coming year.

With regret at troubling you -- I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Wm. Elliott

Agt for Mrs. A. H. Elliott

When the bearer reached Ashpoo t' was ascertained there was no officer at Waterboro or any where that he could find one.

EGP

Camden 7th June [1866]

I have been intending to write to you for the last two months, My dearest Cousin, but my heart has fail'd. I find it too painful to recur to the past, and the future is so dark, that I try not to think of it -- Anne would have written, but has scarcely known a well day since Jan -- Nostalgia and Rheumatism. She has been much better for the last week, able to take her usual walk and go to church. The warm weather and Mr. Burnet's return for a *long visit* has produced this salutary effect. We heard some time since that Mary had left Greenville for Flat Rock, so concluded that you were all settled there with the exception of Hattie. How happy you must be at having her with you; as she would have run a great risk of yellow fever. Mr. Burnet could throw no light on your lower story. Mrs. S. having said nothing about it. Do when you write, let us hear the name of the *lady*; as we may be tempted to take the upper story in the fall. By the by, Mr. Burnet fully intended you a visit, but was pressed for time. Did Barnwell not call on you? A & Es visit to Oak Lawn was a surprising feat to me; how much nerve they must have! To be so cruelly disappointed was too bad. I hope indeed you may not be compelled to part with your old home! if you do I never expect to see you again in this *world*.

We have no plans, except to go to the Low country in the fall. We have nothing but a small overseers house on the plantation; so I suppose we will have to get some kind of shelter in Charleston, that the boys may be in the *way of getting* into business. The crop at Combahee is promising, but the expenses are heavy, and the freedmen will in all probability help themselves to a large proportion -- (We are living under Yankee & Nigger government -- Did you ever receive Ebett's last letter, written about the first of March; where she mentioned that we had obtained a room at the school house and would have the furniture removed in a day or two. Well the cartman disappointed us, put it off for a week, In the meantime Mrs. McCandless writes a note, to beg that we would defer the move till after the first of May, as she had promised the rooms to the children for their May party. The man who purchased the Chesnut house, agreed to let us have the room until then for \$3. On the 29th April the poor lady had her comfortable

residence burned to the ground, and has to take refuge in the said S.H. Not deeming the old barn a safe place, we procured a nice room over Genl. Kershaws office, for one dollar a month. The boxes being too heavy to carry up, we have deposited them in our basement, together with a large black trunk; they are secure from everything but rats
[The rest of this letter from Mrs Burnet is missing]

EGP

Oak Lawn - Wednesday Night [June 1866]

Thank you for your letter My Dear Hattie, I am glad - since you are glad that you get into the country next week - & that you have a sweet care & that dear Brosio is better. We are very much obliged to you for all the shopping you have done for us but am afraid that we have made you work too hard in the warm weather & are vexed that you did not use the Street Cars -- Do your fruit pictures look prettily? They might sell for something for they are pretty enough even for Cuba. The *Ambrosito's* in that box are a great surprise to Mama, She is certain that She never could have put them in it -- & misses several things that should be there. T'is possible that the missing may be in that trunk Mrs Burnet brought but we fear said trunk contains only Mrs Morris' *bust!* some candle sticks & dish covers-- if you should see the Burnets again do ask them if that trunk has been under their care all along or if it was sent up with the furniture? I trust Ralph has seen the Burnets. I wrote to Ebet as soon as I heard of her arrival. I am afraid that the furniture could not be sold for what it will take to bring it down. I hope My child that you will not get ahead of your bed. Schooners used to be very provoking - & disappointing in the moves to Cheha as in former times - & would wait for fair winds. Never mind who was waiting for them. Mama asks you to bring a common straw hat for Alfonso -- his present one has been already mended several times & remember a broad rimmed one for Brosio's eyes. What has become of Tulita's friend?

As Ralph did not come today I hope he will have time to see about a cow for us.

With Much love to the chicks & your self I remain Dear Hattie

Your attached Sister
Emmie

Please get for Mama to rake with a pair of gents [...] cotton gloves. Mama's health is decidedly improved. She takes a good deal of exercise & her heart does not distress her with its beating now . Oh! I have added the amounts & make out this sum \$123.56--

The Charleston *Courier*

11 June 1866, 4

MARINE NEWS.

PORT OF CHARLESTON JUNE 11.

ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

Steam ship Moneka, Marshman, New York. Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*

13 June 1866, 4

Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, June 11.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The New York Times

Wednesday, June 13, 1866, 8.

Passengers Arrived.

In steamship Quaker City from Charleston.--Hon. Geo. A. Trenholm, Wm. Gilmore Simms, W. Y. Leitch, J. H. Screven, Chas. W. Henry, **Gen. A. J. Gonzales**, C. H. West Jr., G. R. Cathcart and lady, Mrs. Alfred Baker and daughter, Mrs. Col. Rains and child,

EGP

Cheeha June 16th 1866.

My Dearest Mother

I know my neglect to write may seem strange but I have been waiting until a move to the pine barren or Adams Run could be announced - so as to cause you less uneasiness on my account, when four days since Ralph rode up with the Colonels wagon, and as soon as he can get hands we will establish ourselves in S.H. pine land. In my present State of health, I should think country fever very unlikely; but I've been taking quinine regularly & feel no apprehension. My cough does not improve in this atmosphere however & I'll hail with joy our removal. We have June showers every day & it has not yet been oppressively warm. I undergo no exposure I trust to weather it through R's arrival has been a great relief & happiness for I, I become very restless. The crop was recently more promising than I could expect but grass is overwhelming & negroes working badly & half task. I'm stirring them up now with better hopes of getting work, & Genl. Scott has been written to (in the absence of any Bureau Agt in the Dist) & the crop may be saved if he acts promptly. The last seed proved the only fresh & reliable - So much of the crop will be necessarily late. The stance is on the whole a broken one but if relief is given at once a half crop I think may be relied on. R. is looking well & unites with me in love to yourself Mary & family, Sisters & chicks. With hope of hearing of your welfare very soon

I am as ever
Yr attached Son
Wm. Elliott

The Charleston Courier

18 June 1866, 4

Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, June 15.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston Courier

20 June 1866, 2

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM SHIP QUAKER CITY.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

National Express and Transportation Company

The Charleston Courier

21 June 1866, 2

NATIONAL EXPRESS COMPANY.--We had the pleasure of meeting yesterday our well known friend, W.T.J.O. WOODWARD,²⁰¹ Esq., the popular and indefatigable General Superintendent of the above Company. He is now engaged in extending the facilities of the Company to meet its daily increasing business. A general desire has been expressed by a large number of the business portion of the residents of the Upper Wards for the establishment of an

²⁰¹ W.T.J.O. Woodward. Resided in Tinker's Creek in 1866.

office of this Company in that section of the city. We have no doubt but that Superintendent WOODWARD will soon be able to arrange for this much needed accommodation.

The Charleston *Courier*
22 June 1866, 4
Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, June 18 and 20.
Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*
25 June 1866, 4
MARINE NEWS.
PORT OF CHARLESTON JUNE 25.
ARRIVED YESTERDAY.
Steam ship Moneka, Marshman, New York. Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*
26 June 1866, 4
Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, June 23.
Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*
29 June 1866, 4
Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, June 25 and 27.
Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*
4 July 1866, 4
Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, June 30 and July 2.
Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

EGP

Cheeha July 13th 1866.

My Dear Mother

It is with some reluctance I take my pen, having waited long in hopes of something pleasant to write you; still to relieve any anxiety you may have, or continue to have I'll take pleasure in forwarding news of us twice a month - Ralph writing in the intervals. Well, I slept in the plantation until 1st July having to wait until R. could make comfortable arrangements in the pine barren, and have had not the slightest symptom of fever, taking of course 4 gms. quinine every night. But I've undergone so little exposure of any kind, and the air has been so free from the usual swampy smells, so little water any where, that I question the probability of fever even without that stimulus. The damp night air however seemed to increase my cough, and I was glad of & I think better for the change. R. has made me quite comfortable in his tent. The weather so far has been good. We have musquito [*sic*] nets - and the only drawback is the occasional visitations of sand flies. The Spring of water is excellent & there is no local cause we can possibly see why the camping place should not equal any pine land for health. The seed house has been carried out but R. has daily disappointments from carpenters, who promise but fail to come. Yesterday however Mr. Pye promised to send four he had just discharged - hands have already cut timber for log cabins, and a shelter more substantial than a tent may soon cover us. Your fears as to fish suppers are hitherto groundless, as we've scarcely seen a fish in a month, but R. myself & the Chinaman have had some luck with terrapin - a decidedly pleasant break in

on the monotony of Bacon. On Saturday last we got Reynolds, who has but one dog, to drive for us; I crawled out & took a stand - was lying down, when hearing a galloping saw a deer before I could well rise, he was upon me. I fired and he went off slowly, marks of stumbling but no blood. The dogs who had not been pursuing him, were put on, roused him again & Reynolds seeing him cross the main So Ha causeway over the break, concluded he was unhurt & stopped his dog. On Tuesday following Old Jack while casting for fish near So Ha River bank saw the deer lying dead in the canal. He was probably shot in the stomach & bled internally. This has been really mortifying to me, and is the se

[The second page of this letter from William Elliott is missing]

N.B.

R. has written to brother Tom to send to Saltkahatchie for me next Thursday - a week hence. With change of air & diet I hope to improve.

W.E.

RG 21 Records of United States District Courts, Eastern District of South Carolina, Box 55.

On the seventeenth day of July 1866, Ambrosio Jose Gonzales made a promissory note with George Page, George F. Page and Joseph Roberts, merchants trading as George Page and Company, in Baltimore, Maryland, for \$6,726.63, for a saw mill.

EGP

Shoemakertown Montgomery County
Penn July 17th [1866]

Dear Miss [Anne] Elliott

When Mr Manigault returned from the South I was very glad to find he had seen you, & that my letter last Fall had reached you, & I was really provoked & disappointed that your answer had never reached me. It would be a great pleasure to me to hear from you when you have leisure, and I assure you though we may be widely separated I shall never forget our past pleasant intercourse or the many kindnesses shown us by you all in a time of trouble. We still hope to go to Europe in the Fall, but a great obstacle to our plan is the very high price of Gold, but whether I may be here or there, I shall never cease to remember with the warmest affection the South & all belonging to it.

When Mr Manigault came back, my sister was extremely ill with an attack of Pneumonia, & she did not recover for weeks. I was busy of course with her most of the time, & had many letters to write, to keep different members of the family informed of her progress & thus it was I could not write to you at once on his return.

I hear you are spending the summer at Flatrock, and intend to return to Oak Lawn in the Winter. It is too bad the house there was burned down. Did you see a description in the Paper (it was in the Daily N.Y. News here, & said to be copied from a southern Paper) headed a Picture from the South, of the burning of your house, & do you know who wrote it-- I do not, but I should much like to, so if you know do tell me when you write. It was extremely well written & such a very good description of the Old residence & all its pleasant surroundings and beautiful Avenue. It makes my heart ache to think of it all, our beautiful Bluff, The Church, my Fathers grave, our own loved home. We wished to have my Fathers remains removed, as none of our family will probably be there, but Mr Grimball said he did not think it could be accomplished last winter, for want of conveyances, & the unsettled state of the Plantations there, but I trust it

may be done next winter. In the News of a few days since we read Mr Girardeau's Address on the day set apart to be kept in memory of the Dead of the Confederate Army, how many mourners there are, and how they have been called to give up all that made life bright & happy. I thought of Gen Elliott²⁰² called away after such a noble & brilliant career & many others, who have left darkened hearts & lives to those they loved so well here.

Mr Manigault told me Mrs Johnstone would spend the summer with you at Flat Rock, and that Mrs Gonzales expected to remain in Charleston. I hope when you write you will tell me all about every body and remember how many more people you have to write to me about than I can find here, who would interest you. I lead a very quiet and secluded life here, & when I think of the generality of people by whom we are surrounded, I am very glad that I do not see much of them. Mrs Joshua Fisher I see now & then, and she is very charming & pleasant, but she is surrounded by a very large family, and always appears delighted to see people, and whenever we meet we have a nice talk over Southern remembrances, but she does not go out a great deal. Her daughter Helen was married last winter to a Cadwalader, the son of the eminent Lawyer of that name in Phil[adelph]ia. The Cadwaladers I believe

[The last page of this letter from Mrs. Manigault is missing]

Where are Arthur Manigault & his wife, if at Flat Rock do remember us both most kindly to them. Mr Manigault and his kindest regards to you all.

EGP

Mill Ville July 26th [1866]

My Dear Mother

I can scarcely collect my thoughts to write and do so only because your last recd. here expressed alarm as to my condition. I don't know why Ralph should have frightened you. He has been very kind, considerate & attentive to me, and if I were ill would, I'm sure, take care of me. You ask why I remained so long on the plantation after R. came. He remained with me until workmen could be had & I remained where it was comfortable until some arrangements could be made for comfort in the pine land. R. was alarmed (no doubt) by one or two [...] of coughing I had on the plantation where I think the damp night air was unfavorable to me. Change to the pine land proved decidedly beneficial, and at the Bluff in the day time it has been delightfully cool, at least in the house. The heat you speak of I've not suffered from until I came on the 19th to this place. A copious rain last evening has cooled the atmosphere. It was much needed. The corn has greatly suffered and cotton had begun to do so. Brother Tom's crop is a fine one. He leaves to day for Charlotte. Patterson, the overseer, is a real friend having his interests at heart.

Ere this reaches you[,] you will have seen, no doubt, in the papers an account of the deplorable accident which took place Monday morning last. Brother Tom's Mill *blew up* killing the fireman instantly and injuring two other white men so seriously that they died after suffering several hours. The Mill -- at least the Machinery is a complete wreck -- pieces of the boiler thrown over a hundred yards. I saw the explosion from my bed. It was terrific. Very fortunate indeed was it that none of us were there. Willie had just left to get something and was returning when a talk with John White Gregory near Patterson's house detained him, saving him from a dreadful death. The Evidence at the Coroner's Inquest induces the suspicion that the safety valve of the engine was "turned down" at the time & so the boiler could not get rid of its excess of

²⁰² General Stephen Elliott died 21 March 1866.

steam. The loss is set down as between \$2500 & \$3000, and is covered by insurance. The Mill was really a benefit to the neighborhood & Tom has put up excellent houses for himself & overseer.

Dr. Hutson is staying in the house but being deaf as a post. His offers to do any thing for me can scarcely be made available. My cough is much the same to day, better tomorrow, worse. Brother T. is of course preoccupied, but does not seem to understand my case. I don't expect to get much better until fall as warm weather debilitates me. My cotton, except the So. Ha. must be laid by. The day after I left Caesar brought hands from Ashepoo to help. R. offers to attend to my affairs. I may return 1st August. Some of the So. Ha. crop may be saved by yesterday's rain. T'was extensive, and at Bethel the rain copious & storm violent, blowing down a house. With hopes of hearing soon and much love to all I am dearest Mama Yr attched. Son

William

The Charleston *Courier*
27 July 1866, 4
Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, July 25.
Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*
30 July 1866, 4
MARINE NEWS.
PORT OF CHARLESTON JULY 30..
ARRIVED SATURDAY.
Schr. Jonas Sparks, Crowther, Baltimore--5 days. Corn and Merchandize. A. J. Gonzales.

The Charleston *Courier*
2 August 1866, 4
MARINE NEWS.
PORT OF CHARLESTON AUGUST 2.
ARRIVED YESTERDAY.
Steam ship Addle, Hall, Baltimore. Left Saturday P.M. Merchandise. Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

EGG

[To Mrs. Ann H. Elliott]

Dear Madam

The enclosed letter which I concluded you had lay since *received*, was returned to me to day from the dead letter or "Return letter office." I am very sorry for this, for it is an answer to an important letter from you. It was addressed to you "Society Street, Charleston" on 30th May & I suppose has remained there ever since. I hope this will excuse my incurring delay.

Yours Very Respecly
Richd. De Treville

6 August 1866
Charleston

The Charleston *Courier*
6 August 1866, 4
MARINE NEWS.

PORT OF CHARLESTON AUGUST 6.
ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

Steam ship Moneka, Marshman, New York. Left Thursday 3 P.M. Merchandise.
Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*
13 August 1866, 4
MARINE NEWS.

PORT OF CHARLESTON AUGUST 13.
ARRIVED SATURDAY.

Steam ship Lulu, Childs, Baltimore. Left the City Tuesday P.M. Corn and Merchandise.
Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

EGG

Flat Rock Augt. 15th [1866]

My dear Sons

A pleasant change in the temperature tho' not prim rain, which is greatly needed, having permitted the children to be amused out of the house. I have a moment of leisure & of quiet to have a chat with my Low Land Sons who are ever in my thoughts. I received the letter of Emms telling me of William's projected visit to his brother -- Since when no intelligence of my dear ones has reached me -- Save thro' Cornelia who mentioned the unhappy loss of Tom's Mill on our own account as well as on his. We have cause to deplore the calamity, for on his prosperity, humanly speaking, we women must depend for food. Another year & the drought here & elsewhere has *destroyed* the field & garden productions, and the [...] for [...] has already commenced. Peaches, apples & grapes are coming in abundantly & but for the children's welfare we would only the prospect, but they have all suffered from eating apples, and Mrs. Huger's idea of helping to food the children on apples cannot avast us. We have no mail yet from Greenville & for a fortnight's past have seen no papers. Letters are constantly recvd. by private hands from Greenville Post office. I cannot acct. therefore for the want of all news of the Col. -- not a line has reached his family since I last mentioned the fact to you. Hattie's children give her so much occupation. She has no leisure for the indulgence of disagreeable anticipation. Hattie's baby is an uncommonly fine child -- intelligent & good. His mouth may improve as his nose has & then he will be handsome. Gertrude is charming, her teeth gave her fever a few days since which made us all very anxious, but she has resumed her appetite & looks nearly as well & plump as before her attack. The boys excite much attention in the neighborhood. The adveniment of their intellect & their education surprises folks. Their fondness for the girls is inherited as you know. Their disobedience however may not be so certainly be accounted for -- by the way dear Emmes, I must put you on yr. guard against replying to any questions the Revd. McArthur might cause to reach you. You may not have heard the *He* has been under an investigating committee for several weeks past for many kinds of immoralities. & he has obtained certificates from immoral family to vindicate his conduct to his congregation and to day several questions have been propounded to Ailed by McArthur in writing (Col. Campbell his brother in law seems to be his accuser). He asks Ailed about the time that Mr. Ralph Ailed left Greenville & how that time & the time of Miss Heart's removal corresponds he went down to send or go [...] the country for his Mother & Sisters. Perhaps Mrs. Johnstone may have some data by wh. they can tell nearly the time. Does

he Mr R.E.E. recollect meeting Miss Heart at Mr. C--s before Mrs Wm. Ailed left Greenville. This [...] Mc A. Congregation have deserted him & his Brothers in the Church appear to doubt his innocence. He is catching at straws *we* suppose when applying to Ailed for the above & similar questions.

Persons are very social in this settlement at present. The Trenholms alone have means & they alone do not impart their surplus to their neighbors. Mr. & Mrs. Drayton spend every Thursday eve . with us. They are good company for our household. He imparts his fruits & flowers & she has made Mary some handsome & useful presents -- a dress for herself [...]. Cotesworth who arrived at Church on Sunday last has not had time to call here. His domestic arrangements are manifold [...] an old Horse for which he gave the sum of \$35 doll's & an old Buggie (borrowed) & visits Sallie [...] till night. Mr. Blake is to give the marriage [...]†. The marriage ceremony will be at Mr. Blake's church in the Eveng. The bride & groom will return to the Cottage here, whilst Lisa & Mr. Rutledge remain at Mr. Blake. by the bye = a fine Coach arrived at our door the last week & Lisa Rutledge & Arthur stepped out of it on a visit. Emily unluckily had an inflamed Eye so did not see her old friend. Annie with her usual tact hearing him speak of his children did not enquire after his wife -- who had been dead two years. We had never heard it. Old Arthur has [...] his wig & looks young. His clothes however were somewhat worn. Carrie P. will be here shortly -- probably she will not be married here. Poor Charlie looks haggard, he has no prospect of a livelyhood having but a scholar in Abbeville so he does not propose to Lucy [...] the day. They have been engaged nearly five years.

Mrs. Baring has returned by the advise of Alex. She telegraphed him from New York -- he was at Halifax. She has his Neice here & Ailed escorted her to the Ball last night in a slow mule cart. The Kings who were in their wagon setting off for the Ball were unhappily prevented by the arrival of Mat King who reported the sudden death of Maggie's little girl at Greenville. The doctor had sent these for his daughter. I am quite sorry for the Grd.mother who spoke with delight of this her first gd.child. The parties Ailed says after the next at Trenholms will be suspended in consequence. Mrs Loundes is assisted in every way except in materials by yr. Sister. China, silver, baking of cakes, & last night by John. Our three boys were there by special request -- and at one [...] they came home jubilant with [...] & cakes for the whole of us. We all partook & no one but poor Emmie suffered. She had a raging head ache to day. E. was agreeably [...] at receiving [...] money -- Four Dollars -- The value of her "Obituary of a Southern Home" wh. the Editors of the Day Book published in the Old guard. Mrs. Manigault in a recent letter to Anne from Shoemaker Town near Phil. asks her to tell her if she knows who wrote the remarkable article she saw in the New York Daily News. This [...] small as it is may induce Emmie to write again for money.

Helen Singleton has been in our neighborhood for some days. She has prepared rooms for her mother at the Hotel & Farmer has gone to bring her from Greenville. She will leave to day when we expect to receive the long expected papers & letters by her. Till then I'll close this chat. I am sincerely glad to have recvd. your favor of the 5th my dear Emms & feel thankful that you have no ill news to communicate of yourself or of William who has not written to me from Millville as you supposed. How you can exist without Books & newspapers is a [...] to us. These last however seldom improve our spirits. Annie as a Politician has the most gloomy forebodings of our future & [...]. We [...] some gold with wh. to secure our retreat from the [...].

Hattie has received her long expected letter. The Col. writes from Charleston & according to his programme must be now at So. Hall where with yourselves I hope he will use

the preventive of taking quinine. A letter from Jacob requiring ten bushels of corn for a labourers' hire. Dick [...] alleges now to ask if you can possibly have it furnished him. [...] & carrot seed. also he writes that a Bag of cotton and 15 bushels of rice is all that we may expect at O. L. The corn planted will yield only fodder.

Make my regards to the Col. Your Sisters all join me in much love to their brothers.
Always yr. affecte.

Mother

Sunday 12 [...]. Up to date the drought continues here. Do mention if a cart has been obtained for William? The Bennets & Rutledges bought a Deer yesterday & Cotesworth has gone to stay at Sallie's for a day or so. The strength of that meat here changed the fashion of the day is in every [...].

The Charleston *Courier*

17 August 1866, 4

MARINE NEWS.

PORT OF CHARLESTON AUGUST 17.

ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

Steam ship Granada, [Captain] Bursley, New York. Left 11th August. Merchandise.
Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston *Courier*

20 August 1866, 4

Consignees per Northeastern Rail Road, August 18.

Gonzales, Woodward & Co.

The Charleston Courier

4 September 1866, 3.

TO RENT, A LARGE STORE, conveniently situated on East Bay, with extensive Back Stores. Apply at 73 EAST BAY.

EGP

Columbia
Sep. 14, 1866

My Dear Miss Elliott

I could offer you no better proof that I think I have a good excuse for not writing to you sooner than writing to you now.

Your letter which reached me by Col. Charles at the session last winter was not answered because I postponed a reply from week to week in hopes of answering it hopefully. You know I left for Washington a few days after its receipt on the very subject upon which you wrote. There I was induced to hope from day to day, that some action would be taken which would do justice to our unfortunate low country fellow sufferers. How miserably disappointed I was I need not tell you. You and yours have been taught it only too painfully.

In that letter you asked me to send you a speech of which you had heard. This I could not do, but I send you today one in which I am sure you will feel an interest and which if it has really done justice to its subject ought to be the best I can make.

I would like to know if you have receive [*sic*] it and will consider my apparent neglect forgiven if you will send a line to me at Pendleton S.C. saying so.

Very Respectfully
and very truly
Wm. Henry Trescot

Miss Emily Elliott

EGP

Charleston Sptbr 15th 1866

My dear Mrs. Elliott

I hope you will pardon my apparent neglect & long delay in answering your letter. For some time I had been waiting to hear of an opportunity to sent my letter being under the impression that there was no mail from Greenville to Flat Rock, and during the last week Mary has been so sick, as to require all my time and attention.

I found the woodcuts without any difficulty in the trunk mentioned, packed them up carefully and placed them in the hands of Mr. T. D. Wagner,²⁰³ who told me that he had received your letter on the subject, and would forward the package by the first opportunity to Mr. Charles Prioleau, in Liverpool.

Mr. Mrs. Huger, Mary, Arthur and Carro have all been suffering from the "broken bone fever" -- the three first were really sick & Mary ill. They are all now better, but still in bed. Mary is much reduced, very weak & looks very badly, for four days I was quite anxious about her.

The baby is quite well and altho cut off from his natural supply of nourishment, improving.

Mary asks that you will tell Mrs. Johnstone that she received her letter and will answer it as soon as she can -- also that you will thank Miss "Emily for her imprudent message."

Mary sends her love to you all. If at any time I can be of any use to yourself or the family, Mrs. Johnstone included, whilst in the city, I hope that you will not hesitate to call on me.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
A. M. Manigault²⁰⁴

Mrs. Wm. Elliott
Flat Rock, N.C.

EGP

Sept 16th 1866

Dear Emmie
[Flat Rock, N.C.]

Mama's last to Ralph was thankfully received about four days since. To Yours of the week previous and the quiet of Sunday and the rain suggest a reply although material is sadly [torn] in this barren wilder[ness] [torn] I married Sue I might [torn] self, of myself, of myself,

²⁰³ Theodore Dehon Wagner.

²⁰⁴ Arthur Middleton Manigault (26 October 1824-17 August 1886). Lieutenant in the Palmetto Regiment during the Mexican War. Superintended the construction of batteries in Charleston harbor and was an aide on the staff of General Beauregard during the attack on Fort Sumter, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Promoted to Brigadier General on 26 April 1863.

and of nosology; but the solitary unencumbered theme seems to dreary to dwell on; nothing but heat & perspiration and codliver oil & mule rides, sand flies, mosquitoes, short crops & lazy niggers, to enliven the eager recipient of the Jeremiad with. Latterly however I've had [torn] with the mule ride [torn] stronger, especially about the legs. The heat of the Sun has been terrific for a month past, but from the the [sic] wind & rain of last night I judge the Equinox has come & hope to profit by the expected cool change. Do not think any stay in Cuba or trip there would benefit. In my weak health, cold is what I require. The liver is the seat of my ailments. Do not think a rascal [torn] [torn]son will give you [torn]faction than he has done me. No I must stick it out; and better prospects may dawn for all of us in a few months. I am quite glad of Mrs. M's token to Annie and thought it a substantial one, although "of a punishable nature."

R. & I occupy a new shanty tolerabl[torn] [torn]ther tight. We fare bet[ter] [torn] heretofore & have had [torn] Genls. arrival, which not happening we are enabled to dispense with bacon longer than usual. Indeed it is poison to me and I am improved from having left it off weeks ago. Wish smoking were as easy to overcome.

It is a pleasure to hear that you have friends & visitors at F.R., and that the young folks are enjoying themselves after [torn]. Should like to be [torn] week or so, but would be as expensive as the Cuba idea. Tell my dear Sister, Mary, I think of her very often & hope some plan may be devised for all to live together in the low country the coming Winter's Frost. I wish I had a saw mill! - - - The crop opens well. Think I have in over a bale, make probably ten [torn] Driver declares [torn]

N.B.

Dont direct to care of Gonzales, Woodward & Co., but to us at Green Pond.

W[illiam] E[lliott]

EGP

Mill Ville 6th Oct. [1866]

Dear Ralph

I reached this without the slightest fatigue T'was really astonishing to me after being three days in bed. Brother Tom met me with a warm welcome at the depot and has done *so much* for my comfort & restoration that already I begin to feel strong again. He sent a note to you by return of train wh. I fear you did not remain long enough to receive that day. I wish much you could be here, & if you can come over for a day or two. Willie & G-ge Martin are going on a visit to Balls next week & you may see them.

With much love Yr Attached

Brother William

EGP

Millville Oct. 20th 1866

Your last my dearest Mother was duly recd. at this place, having been forwarded by Ralph after reading it. He stated that he had hired Monday to cut the logs for your house; but the difficulty would be boards for ceiling & lining clapboards cannot exclude the cold. I trust there is at Adams Run a room with plaster & fire place, but cannot remember. I am much pleased with the prospect of seeing you before long-- but the idea of the discomfort you may encounter worries me. Had this mill not blown up, you might have a comfortable cottage in short order. Many planters in this vicinity are putting up houses.

I've come to this conclusion about planting. It will not do without ready money. Farming at Oak Lawn may succeed. Stock raising &c. &c. with a white man to attend to it. At any rate they who would succeed must begin early so I think it wise in my sisters to come down in November.

As I suppose you would like some report of my health. I must say that an increase of cough after too high feeding, caused me to take blue pill. This gave me great discomfort, to be relieved only by the usual remedy ("of pouring oil on the troubled waters"). In consequence I've been greatly prostrated, but today I'm gaining strength about the legs. Now I may be premature in the conclusion; but it seems to me that my cough is benefitted greatly by the visits of these "blue devils" -- showing that the liver is the seat of the disease -- and that it may be cured by a repetition of the visits if my constitution can stand it. Brother Tom continues to show me every kindness. His Mill will probably be up (here) to day. Many delays having occurred between Charleston & here. His crop promises handsomely -- perhaps 80 bales. Had I health, an early start, & money, I could make something too. I regard the Bluff as a valuable tract. Lands quite superior to Myrtle Bank. As a hog farm excellent. But there is a source of undeveloped wealth there. I was ignorant of, til the other day. 300 Acres of rush & marsh land. Such as will produce nearly a bag of S.I. per Acre, but capital -- labor is needed. I had admired ~~the~~ its wide expanse & wondered if it could be reclaimed. When without allusion on my part Uncle George said t'other day a fortune could be made at the Bluff, on an extend of land John W. Gregory had surveyed during the war & found he alluded to this very expanse.

But sufficient && (as you would say) -- I must not fatigue you longer. I'm very sorry Mary is to be left up there in the cold. Love to all, including Phoe & Annie with hopes of early reunion. Yr. Affectionate Son

William

EGP

State of South Carolina

Received this thirty first day of October 1866 of Colonel Ambrosio J. Gonzales his Bond dated fifteenth day of May 1866, conditioned for the payment of the sum of Six thousand One hundred and Seventy five dollars, with interest from date, to William C. Bee and Francis W. Johnstone, Trustees, under a certain deed of Settlement between Mary B. Johnstone and her husband Andrew Johnstone, lately deceased, at the time of their marriage, as reference being had to the said Bond will more fully appear: which Bond is given and received as collateral to the Bond of the said William Elliott to the said William C. Bee, and Francis W. Johnstone Trustees as aforesaid, originally for the sum of Ten thousand dollars.

This Bond of the said Ambrosio J. Gonzales has been given as part of the consideration of the purchase by him of a tract of land called "Social Hall" sold by an arrangement between himself and the Heirs and Devisees of the said William Elliott deceased; But until the principal and interest of the said Bond shall be fully paid and satisfied, the said Land is to remain charged with and liable for the payment of the said Bond of William Elliott to William C. Bee and Francis M. Johnstone Trustees, as aforesaid, and in receiving the Bond of the said Ambrosio J. Gonzales, the said Trustees do not thereby, consent to postpone or in any way whatsoever, relinquish any claim they now have, upon the Estate of the said William Elliott deceased, in virtue of the Bond given by him to them as aforesaid.

It is understood, however, that any payment made to the Trustees as aforesaid, upon the

Bond of the said Ambrosio J. Gonzales shall be considered as a payment to the same amount, upon the Bond of the said William Elliott, and taken into account in the settlement of the said last named Bond.

Wm C. Bee
F W Johnstone Trustees

EGP

October 25th [1866]

[To T.R.S. Elliott]

My Dear Brother

As I may not have sufficient time to speak with you at the station, will write down what I have to say on the subject of the signature required of you by Col. Gonzales. The family here (with the exception of Mary & Yourself) signed a deed of sale of title of the Social Hall plantation for the Col. The arrangement as I understand it there was that Gen. G. was to take Social Hall & relieve the Estate of the debts due Hattie & Mary \$10,000 & \$6,000 respectively -- & that R. E. Elliott & W. C. Bee, Trustees, were respectively to take the Bonds of Gen. G-- in place of the Bonds of our father given to Mr. Bs agents at the time of the marriage of ~~our sisters~~ Mamie & Hattie thereby relieving the Estate of the two debts. I am now informed by Col. De Treville that I am to hold my fathers Bond as well as the Colonels. I am therefore unable to see in what way the Estate has gained by the operation for if Col. G. is unable to pay Mary's Bond (which is by no means an impossibility) then the Estate will become liable for it & if Col. G. dealt his wife & children the plantation should not be worth 10,000 -- will have the right to claim from the Estate that amount. I therefore beg that as one of the heirs and as our Mothers Eldest son, You will confer with Col. De Treville on the subject before giving your sanction to the transfer.

My position as trustee to Hattie and to my Mother & Employee to Col. G -- is a peculiarly perplexing one but if I now comprehend the matter correctly I regret exceedingly having made myself a party to the sale.

[Ralph E. Elliott]

The Charleston *Courier*
10 November 1866, 2

SUPERIOR COFFEE.--The attention is invited to the advertisement of Cuba grown coffee over two years old, for sale by A. J. GONZALES, No. 73 East Bay. Housekeepers will find this an excellent article.

The Charleston *Courier*
10 November 1866, 3
TO HOUSEKEEPERS!

TWENTY BAGS OF SUPERIOR COFEE,
WARRANTED CUBA GROWN, OVER TWO YEARS old, and to have been fifteen months in the pod before being shelled.

For sale by

A. J. GONZALES
73 East Bay.

[This advertisement appeared daily until 15 November 1866]

TRE

My dear Children --

I must hasten to tell you that poor Willie arrived here this morning 1/2 ten O.c. I heard a great shout ran out to see & found Juno holding his hand & the little ones. He was so sick as hardly able to walk & burst into tears. Too sick to talk carried him up & had him put into your bed. He has been quite sick all day up to this moment. The fever has come on & we are looking for D. [...] who Irving went for. Was taken sick on his way to Gemiad's wedding & barely able even to witness the ceremony. Mrs. De Caradlin was *extremely* kind to him & did all she could. So did Cousin Margaret & [...] him to leave. Has been sick from last Monday to this moment. Cousin Margaret thinks Miss C. "was *too* good a match for G-d." He has left with his Bride for Bluffton. Your paper said he had written you. Has hired his house in Beaufort to the Club for 2 years -- bought it in for \$200. Uncle W. Hayward with him now. Willie saw him [*sic*] Charleston & says he is very singular & I believe expects to plant. Uncle N. Hayward it is thought will make 80,000 clear. Has sold a good deal already for \$3.50 on the rough. Spent the *whole summer* on the River. Dr. Halson will move in a few days for his Bluntville House. Willie has not been able to say many words, only thro your fathers letter. Your uncle William is better. I send you what I have heard. I will write you tomorrow again my dear sweet children. God bless & keep you all. Your affect.

M.

Nov. 10th 1866

Mr. Gillespie said he heard the[...] given till next day. So you better see to it.

GFP

Matanzas, November 30th 1866

Mrs. A. J. Gonzales
Charleston, So. Ca.

My darling "little girl",

The "Morro Castle" leaves tomorrow for New York and I wish to send you a line that you may know that I am well and thinking all the time of you & feeling all the time for you in your solitude. Mr. Madan (of coffee history) unfortunately left here for the U. States ten days before my arrival, but I expect to see him in Charleston. His attorney here tells me that he thinks he will do me justice as to damages &c. I have hopes thro' my good friends here to make some contracts with Rail Road Companies, but these matters are so slow as one has to see personally & separately all the members of the committees to prepare them personally, that it is impossible to do things as quickly as they are done North. I am pushing every thing so as to return, as I expected, in the "Cuba" but should any interest of sufficient magnitude prevent, I will then leave in the "Liberty" which will leave Havana for Port Royal about the 20th Dec. or ten or twelve days after the Cuba. It is absolutely necessary for me not to go without some relief for without it I must go down, and there is more than one thing of importance for me to canvass here in the business line. All my friends have asked very kindly after you & the children and my old aunt in Havana (Lola) especially. All regret that I did not bring you and I do so myself thinking how much you would be gratified: but I hope that in January with the kindness of the Baltimore Co. I shall be able to bring you over. The latter did not charge me for my late passage to Havana and their Agents treated me with the greatest consideration. I feel much worried at

your not having returned me your likeness for I missed it here. I was in Havana but little over one day so I could not see Juana & other relatives. I will do so on my return.

I hope you will take the best care of yourself & the children and be prepared to see me either about the 12th or 23d December.

With much love to yourself & the children & kisses to the babies I am
Your loving husband
Gonzie

GFP

Havana, December 6th 1866

Mrs. A. J. Gonzales

My darling "little girl":

I have just arrived from Matanzas to write by the "Cuba" that sails this day and tell you that I am well and that I have been unable to close the lumber business that brought me here but will do so next week, so that you may expect me by the "Liberty" which will leave this port for Baltimore, via Port Royal about the 22d. of this month. I have hopes of making a contract with the Matanzas R. Road for timber which will enable me to resume business with my mill. I found unexpectedly Mr. Guiteras in Matanzas & he & all my other friends have enquired with interest after you. I postpone talking of my trip until my return for I have no time at present, and so with a great deal of love & much sympathy for your lonely state & kisses to the children I remain

ever your loving husband

Gonzie

P.S. The "Cuba" has already 632 passengers, so I would have had a very uncomfortable trip of it had I gone. My aunt sends her love.

Matanzas Dec. 14th 1866

My darling "little girl":

I had the disappointment of going to Havana, expressly to send you this letter and the "Cuba" which was advertised to leave between the 6th & 7th left at 6 o'clock on the morning of the 6th owing, no doubt, to the 632 passengers, which were discharged negro troops from Texas, returning North. I have been much worried at you not having for this reason, received the lines written above. I have been constantly at work trying to make a contract with the Sabanilla R.R. Co.²⁰⁵ and have made my proposition in writing. A meeting of the directors takes place shortly and I hope that I may succeed, not only because of my present necessities but because this contract will be a favorite precedent to make others with other R.R. Companies. Under different circumstances I would remain here until the accomplishment of a matter so important to me, but having left you as you are I feel very anxious and will return anyhow in the "Liberty" which will leave Havana on her return from N. Orleans about the 21st of this month so that this letter which now goes by the way of N. York will reach you probably but a few days before my arrival in Charleston. I trust that you have been well and the children also. Mr. Guiteras sends his best remembrance as do my other friends.

With much love for yourself & kisses to the children, I remain my little darling

²⁰⁵

The director of the Sabanilla Railroad was planter Benigno Gener. Vicente Baez, Ed. *La Enciclopedia de Cuba*, Vol. 7 (Madrid: Editorial Playor, 1974), 687.

your loving husband
Gonzie

EGP

Millville Dec. 19th 1866

Miss Emily Elliott

My Dear Sister

I wrote a note in answer to yours, as well as one to Mama to go by Brother Tom on Saturday last. Ralph arrived & they postponed til Tuesday, and -- left my letters -- so my seeming neglect is accounted for.

I sincerely hope Anne & yourself have not suffered from the droughts & discomforts of your present abode, and that our Mother will remain at Mrs. Hegers, at least until the house can be made more habitable. Brother T. said he could easily enough get you a carpenter but the materials to work upon I think would be the difficulty, unless boards can be got in the neighborhood.

My health, pulled down by fever & [...] seems better than usual. That is I'm stronger but that is usually with me the premonitory sign of a return. The chill yields to sage tea & fever to 20 gms of quinine, and latterly have been less violent in their attacks. I've resumed use of cod liver oil with benefit.

From the price offered by Maj. King for your cotton, I thought he was preying on your necessities, for mine has sold for seven cents in the seed & one of the neighbors sold his Long Cotton for 14 cts. But King has the example set him in Charleston where that rascal Gourdin is said to have the prices under his control. Planters must meet them obligatious, must sell now & consequently are getting half the value only of their cotton. Towards Spring there must think be a rise & if you can hold on perhaps it would be best.

The Cheha crop is less than hoped -- but twill pay expenses and save two to three hundred dollars, which I've told Ralph to turn over to Mama -- after paying Gonzales, W-- & Co. Some things bought were turned over to R. for the Genl's use at So. Ha. -- also two mules were hired him, which should swell the A/C -- Also, besides a little corn & bacon loaned, which should be paid for a portion of a bill sent us for things furnished Oak Lawn, if struck off from the Bluff expenses, might leave the profit somewhere near \$400.

I must now close; but cannot tell how much I would like to be well & strong to assist Mama & yourselves, when I will be with you is quite uncertain, tho longing to see you all. Do drop me a line, if but to say you're well & believe me Yr Attached Brother

[William Elliott]

GFP

Havana, Dec. 21st 1866

Mrs. A. J. Gonzales

My darling "little girl":

The Steamship "Liberty" in which I was to have gone today (she is not yet in from N. Orleans) will not touch at Port Royal owing (the consignees tell me) to having met a fog last time off the harbor by which she was delayed 36 hours which discouraged the Company from continuing that arrangement. Had it been otherwise, however, I would not have gone in her as I have yet effected nothing, and it is hard to go back empty handed after all the

trouble and the still greater suffering I experience owing to my anxiety about yourself & the children such as I have not had before. It is true I got the other day a letter from Mr. Esnard²⁰⁶ telling me that he had learnt from one of my children that my family were well, but I am worried every day that elapses about you & them and I now regret that I did not tell you to write to me. After waiting week after week upon the Sabanilla R. R. Co. it was finally decided tuesday last (today is friday) by the Co. that my proposition for a contract would not be accepted. I had asked for an advance of \$2,000 to enable me to resume sawing. The condition of things in Cuba is miserable for the stringiness of the money market is such as has not been felt since the crisis of 1857. It would be too long to go into details but I will only say that a meeting of the bankers & merchants was called by the Captain Genl. a few days ago to devise some means of coming to the aid of the govt. bank which is in great danger and if it falls, will determine the explosion. I have not lost my time altogether for I have promises from the Manager of the Sagua R. R. for future orders for lumber, the same from that of the Cardenas R. R. and expect yet to get an order from the Sabanilla R. R. (without advance). I expect or hope yet to obtain from Mr. Aldama an order for himself and the Havana R. R. and possibly one from the Regla R. R. Some friends in Matanzas have promised me to give me in the future orders for lumber. What I now need, indispensably, is money *to saw these orders with* or I can't saw them and I must try every means to compass this result. I have been going from Havana to Matanzas in quest of this but have not yet met with success. I hope to go by the beginning of January and I can not express to you all the sorrow with which I think of your lonely state. I hope that you will bear it as I do, in consideration of the object, which in relief for yourself & children. I had the good fortune to find Cándido Ruiz in this city. I cam from Matanzas learning that he was here, to see him and until yesterday was hopeful that he would have gone in copartnership with me for planting next year, but yesterday after all the efforts made in vain by him, he told me that a person who owes him \$8,000 upon which I had relied for the above purpose and to whom he had offered a discount was to be paid at once, informed him that he was so badly off that he was going to fail but would except Cándido if he would give him six months to delay to pay him. So you see that patience is again put in requisition. Cándido has promised me that in the future he will when the state of affairs is changed and he extricates himself from embarrassments from which it seems nobody upon the island is free, assist me as much as possible. He and his wife spoke kindly of you & wish to be remembered. My aunt Lola also; she is taking a photograph copy of her portrait for you. Her coachman Luis, an invaluable young man, is going with me as he is determined to learn to be engineer. I have two good dogs to take with me. Luis goes at his own expense and will serve me for one year free of charge. He can cook, sew, and do almost anything, and has been since his boyhood with my aunt. He is much attached to me. My friends speak often of you with much interest. I am not sorry that the boys did not come, for the small pox is terrible in Matanzas. I write hastily & worriedly at the postponement of my return for amid all the attentions some of a public character which I have received I am homesick and very envious to get back to you and our little home. Take the best care of yourself & call at once on my friends in case of need and with kisses to the little darlings I remain ever your devoted loving husband
Gonzie

²⁰⁶ Peter J. Esnard, partner in Gonzales, Woodward & Co.