

This draft of the correspondence is dated May 28, 2004.

1. *Copy of the Birth Certificate for Isabel Narcisa Buison, born 19 October 1803, Santiago, Cuba. She was born on October 29, 1803, and baptized on Nov. 9th, 1803; she was the child of Juan Buison and Susana Lantren. This does not reveal her precise identity in relation to the family, but, in the 1880 Census, Joseph H. DeGrange identifies his mother as having been born in Cuba. This would logically be her; this may be an "official" copy made before leaving Cuba to affirm her identity. The Spanish seems not to be entirely consistent (note the "to" in line 4), and is abbreviated, no doubt because of standardized legal locutions).*

B^{er} Dⁿ Miguel de Herrera y canzas, cura R^r p^{or} S. M. de ^rio^ sao de la S^{ant} Tstag>o Cath^{<edra>}l Met^{<repolitana>} de esta Ciudad de Santiago de Cuba, certifico: Que en el libro de Baptismo de Blancos, y españoles a P 107, num^{ero} 137, esta la siguiente Partida:
Año del señor Mil ochocientos tres. En dies, y nueve, de noviem^{bre} to el Dⁿ. Dⁿ Juan Francisco Sanchez, y Diaz, cura Rⁿ por su Magestad del sag^{ra}do de la santa Iglesia Cathedral de esta Ciudad de Santiago de Cuba, baptisé, puse oles, crisma, & por nombre: Isabel Narcisa, a una niña, que nacio el veinte, y nueve, de Octubre ultimo, hija legitima de M^r. Juan Buison, y Mad^{ma} Susana Lauren: fueron padrinos Dⁿ. Jose Antonio Portuende presen^{te}. y D^a Isabel Montez, a la q^{ue} advertí del parentesco consabido. y lo firmo para q^{ue} conste D^r. Juan Francisco Sanchez, y Diaz.

Conforme asu original aq^{ue} me remito T p^{ma} q^{ue} conste firma esta en Cuba a_ de Abril de 1809, años

B^{er} Miguel de Hernando y Canzas

Translation:

[____] Don Miguel de Herrera y canzas, priest [_____ _____] of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Santiago in our city of Santiago in Cuba, I certify: that in the Baptismal book of whites and Spaniards on page 107, number 137, is the following document:

The Year of our Lord 1803. on the nineteenth of November to Dn. Don Juan Francisco Sanchez, y Diaz, priest [_____] for the sacred majesty of the holy Church Cathedral of this city of Santiago of Cuba, I baptized, put on oil, the crism, and the name: Isabel Narcisa, a girl, born on the twenty-ninth of October last, legitimate daughter of Mr. Juan Buison and Mrs. Susana Lauren. The godparents were Don Jose Antonio Portuende (present) and Dona Isabal Montez, who declared to be known of the parents. I affirm this as Don Juan Francisco y Sanchez, y Diaz.

This conforms to the original as I remit it as known, I affirm this in Cuba _____ of April of the year 1809.

Don Miguel do Herrera y Canzas

2. *This receipt, as with the first seven items, is about the size of a larger, modern check. This one seems to have been used for two different bills. See Appendix D.1.*

\$192.00

Parish of Jefferson 29th June [?] 1839

One year after rite, I promise to pay to the order of the Pierre Joniat,¹ at the office of the Judge of this Parish the sum of one hundred and ninety two dollars for value received

John M^cMillan

[written vertically, across the note above]

Ni varietin [?]

29th June 1839

Payé

¹ I have settled on "P^{re}. Joniat" as this name throughout, apparently a notary public or banker or tax collector. It appears in the following two notes as well; other possibilities are "Sonait" and "Josiat."

P. Joniat

[overleaf]

le 26 Juin 1840

Reçu en accompte de present billet le somme de cent quarante piastres

\$140: P^{re} Joniat

[under this, in another, much smaller hand:]

Reçu le montant ou billet

le 23rd <_>^{bre} 1840 P Joniat

3. *This is in French, and so quickly written as to be almost illegible. Yet this note is interesting because it mentions "Mr Field," who was Barbara Klipfel's first husband before she married John McMillan. She had filed for a divorce, so this seems to be a record of support payments to her. This implies he was alive in 1840, since the oldest of John McMillan's children was born in 1834. She was apparently still receiving the payments after she had remarried.*

Carrollton la 20 Janvier 1840

Reçu de M^r Field la somme trent piastres en accompte de la billet que elle doit,
prom<_> en terra<_> que <_><_> a vendre.

P. Joniat

4. *This receipt seems to be a loan made by John McMillan, rather than to him.*

Reçu de Mr. Puctonet [?] pour confite de Mr. John M^cMillen la somme de cent cinque
de piastres. le 5 Juillet 1841

\$150

P. Josiat

5. *This is a new, more stylized hand than the first three notes. It seems to be a local tax receipt. Jefferson Parish abuts New Orleans, which over the course of its history has taken over parts of the Parish. The "B" on the reverse has a double vertical line in it.*

Etat de la Louisiane Parisse de Jefferson

Reçu de M^r John M^cMillen la somme de Une piastre & cinquante sous montant de la
taxe de Parisse pour l'année mil huit cent quarante & un.

Manuel Garcia

[overleaf]

Carrollton

Sq. 128 3 lots No 9, 11, & 13 \$450

Sq. B 41 2 lots No 7 & 8 300

6. *Another tax receipt, apparently written to pay taxes due four years previously. This and the next item were written on the same day. Note also that now, the receipts are being written in English, not French.*

State of Louisiana Parish of Jefferson

Received July 31st 1843 from Mr. M^cMillen (John) ninety cents with 5% interest
amount of Parish tax due upon the property described upon the reverse hereof for
eighteen hundred & thirty nine

0.90

int. 4

Manuel Garcia

Sheriff & Collector

[overleaf]

Carrollton 1839

Sq^{re} 128 3 lots 9.11.13 valued \$150 each 0.90

7. *Another tax receipt, written on the same day as the previous, but for 1840, not 1839.*

State of Louisiana Parish of Jefferson

Received July 31st 1843 from Mr. John M^cMillan ninety cents with 5 % int. amount of Parish tax for eighteen hundred & forty.

0.90

Manuel Garcia

int. 4

Sheriff & Collector

[overleaf]

Carrollton 1840

Sq^{er}128. 3 lots 9.11.13 valued \$ 150 with 0,90

8. *An endorsement written for Barbara McMillan by her priest; it may be a letter of introduction (see also item 21). She is called a "widow" because both of her husbands had by this time died. The curious thing that the letter implies is that she is at this time separated from her "orphan children."*

State of Louisiana, Parish of Orleans

Widow Barbara M^cMillan

The hearer of this has been a communicant in the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, for several years past. And from the first, having been under my pastoral care & oversight I here—unsolicited by any one—hear my cheerful testimony to her upright conduct, her Christian deportment and her uniform faith & trust in God, under all her trials. And I heartily commend her to the kind & Christian regards of any good people, among whom Providence may cast her lot during her journey—hoping and praying that she may be prospered in her present work, & returned safely to her orphan children & friends in due time.

Signed Rev. N. O. Preston

Rector of the Church of the Annunciation

New Orleans, La

New Orleans April 25th, 1853

9. This is a piece of scratch paper with notes about property values; "Sold" is written in fairly large letters at an angle across the bottom of the back, so I assume this is a calculation of the tax values for the properties in Jefferson Parish. It would therefore most likely indicate at time when the family moved to New Orleans—which would also explain why such a scrappy piece of paper was apparently worth preserving. The lots designated here match those on the back of the tax receipts, above. It is all in pencil, on a blue piece of paper, so it is hard to read. I assume this is from about 1859, judging by the dates associated with the values. The two sides of the paper are divided here into two columns.

[side 1]

Lots - 9.13 - Sq - 128

Forfeited	1851	21 =	6.63
"	1852	21 =	6.57
"	1855	76 =	7.52
"	1856	84 =	7.47
9.11 & 13 "	1857	52 ^{1/2}	6.79
" " "	1858	53	6.66

\$41.64

3 lots valued at \$95.

41.64.

15.50

10.00

\$67.14

[overleaf]

[side 2]

lot 7 - 8 - Sq. @ 41 B

forfeited	1852 --	42
"	1856 --	\$1.20
Lot 7 & others	1857	\$7.00
Lot 8 & others	"	\$4 37 ^{1/2}
Lot 7 to 12	1858	\$10.50

Sold

10. *A note, from F.A. Brode, to repair a quarrel. The " A.L.Q.C." is the Apollo Les Quatre Club; also see item 12. See Appendix D.2.*

New Orleans May 5/[18]60

Dear Sir:

It is now almost a twelve Months since we had any communication with each other and seeing that you have no ill-feeling against me, whatsoever (on the contrary have paid me quite a compliment on two occasions in the meetings of the A.L.Q.C. Club) I hope this will break the enmity between us, and that the next the time we meet, that it may be as two old friend, forgetting the Past, and only thinking of the Future,

Yours,

F.A. Brode

Receive this as you think best. --

11. *A note signifying the possible purchase of a ship. The handwriting is hard to decipher, especially the signature.*

New Orleans June 9, 1860

J.H. DeGrange Esq.

Sir /

If youd wish to purchase the ship of Graund [?] you can have it for one hundred dollars (\$100) Cash. I can have the title direct from the City of New Orleans this in the lowest price

Res'ly

P. A. Laq. Jr. & C

12. *An invitation for J.M. Laborde to a social club. This is a printed note, with lines to be filled in, designated here by underlining.*

Apollo Les Quatre Club

M. J.M. Laborde, V.P.

You are hereby notified to attend a Monthly meeting of this Club,
on Friday the 3^d inst., at 7^{1/2} o'clock.

W L Meurply, Secretary

New Orleans, Aug. 2, 1860

[overleaf]

J.M. Laborde, Esq.

Present

13. *This receipt by EMD, and the next by JHD, both seem to have made to Mr. A.D. Davicourt, and were settled on January 31, 1861 (despite the date at the end of the second note, below—perhaps an error for 1860?). This item and the next were written very quickly, and I am NOT sure of the French in either case!!*

Reçu de Mr Davicourt cinq piastres \$5 pour defienes ulamais or

March 24 at 1861

E. DeGrange

[across the middle of this vertically, to cancel it, is written:]

deductee in acct.

settled Jany 31 / 61

14. *A second receipt settled on January 31, this one signed by JHD. It is in the same hand as above.*

Je reconnais devoir a Mr. A.D. Davicourt la somme de cash piastres pour argent
qu'el vient de un piatre et que je lui centimes ai sur lavient des tenaius un chesnut

quie davient de vendre pom le couple dela succession decu<_>mire daih il et
l'administration.

<_> 24 Dec 1861

Jos. H. Degrange.

Barpam \$100.⁰⁰

[across the middle of this vertically, to cancel it, is written:]

deductee in acct. settled

January 31st 1861

15. *This letter seems to refer to JHD's work rather than his personal life. This implies that during February of 1860 he was working for the "house" of "McKelroy & Bradford"—presumably, in this case, a merchant.*

[in red ink at the top of this letter is this:]

answerd 28th Feb '61

recd 28th -- '61

Greenville, Georgia

February 22nd 1861

H.H. DeGrange Esq.

New Orleans

Dear Sir,

Sometime during last February I sent Mess. M^cKleroy & Bradford of your city a check on New York for One hundred dollars ordering at the same time a few barrels of Molasses—the invoice of which I received some time in March following—made out by you. Five barrels amounting to \$88⁴⁴ including Dragage insurance and commissions—which you see left a ballence in their hands due me of \$11⁵⁶ less the discount on the check, which still remains in their hands. Concerning which I have lately written them frequently, but

they seem to pay no attention to my often demands. And as you are connected or was connected with the house at the time of the purchase, I will ask you to do me the very great favor (beliveing it my only chance to ever recover anything) to see Mess. M^cK & B and try and get them to pay the small ballence with interest from the 1st of March last. Show them this letter and if ^they^ will pay the same, receipt them in my name pay yourself for your trouble and remit me the ballence by mail.

& oblige Yours Truly & c

Hugh E Malone

P.S. Please refer me to some reliable house as I learn M^cK & B have closed.

16. *A note whose story is probably lost. It needs more secure proof to think that JHD was a "Union man." See the introduction for a discussion of this note.*

[The top of this note is printed stationery to be filled out with just the month, as underlined.]

[seal of the state of Louisiana]

State of Louisiana

Executive Department

New Orleans Sept. 1862

If D. will call on me at Governors room City Hall, he may learn of something to his advantage, provided he is a Union man.

Jas E Dunham

17. *A personal letter requesting a favor, apparently from a friend who had tried to open a gold mine in Matamoros, which is on the coast, right on the U.S./Mexican border. The writer seems depressed to say the least. He skips a number of words, makes some vague references to people, and has an odd spelling style. He mentions here, at the end of the war, the DeGrange has "escaped the draft," that he*

5/28/04

has avoided being recalled into the army, though whether Union or Confederate is not clear. The letter also the first indication that he is working for Montgomery & Bros. by this time.

H.S. Watson or as March 6/65

Dear Joe,

Your kind favor I neede, ande in Answer to yours I am almost ashamed not to have written to you before now which it was my Duty to doe so. But somehow I can explain to you all this my Mine is entirely out of Range since I left you ande arrived at this blessed Country where a person cant rest on Account of a great many Inconviences. The Expectation which I left with has failed. Buisness is so very dull. You mentioned in your favor, that I have forgotten <now> you all because I am in search great Golde Country but the saying is it this not all Golde what shines. I wishd now ande have so before since I am here I woulde be again with you all where I realy could enjoy my Self which is not here to my Sorrow. But I hope the Time soon wile come where me ande you can take hot Punches again out of them fancy Mugs on Gravies Street ande spread Ourselves. Also I am glad that you all have escaped the Draft. The Imaginations of People some Times [page over] leads them to an Extreme. The Streets of Matamoros are not paved with Gold but with plenty Dust so as a Person is not able some time to go out. About your dear friende I see her very often and she looks gay. She knows me when ever I pass her she looks at me very hard. But I never spoke to her. He is doing Buisness here got a store and as big Blower as he ever was. All three of the Familie are here now. The Paper you send I never reade. I suppose Buisness is rather dule with you there, on Account of the Exitment. The reports here are that no Vessell can leave New Orleans for the Port. Nothing new here ande exspecting your Answer soon. Hoping this will reach you and dear Familie all in good health.

I remain

Your friend

A. Terben [?]

My best Respects to your dear familie also to all my friends & companions of the
Hause also to the worthy firm Montgomery & Bros.

[initials]

18. *A receipt for cotton. The stamp is a postage stamp, cancelled with an ink stamp saying "Montgomery and Bros/Auctioneers." The stamp would indicate that this is a transaction for the firm, but it is not clear why DeGrange would keep the receipt himself.*

Rec'd New Orleans May 5 1865 from Joseph H. DeGrange. Fifteen Hundred &
Twenty ^{70/100} dollars amt in full for 12 Bales Cotton and Drag. on same.

\$1522 ^{70/100}

[stamp]

W.W. Marlins

19. *Letter from W.P. Converse (William P. Converse) on terms for a shipment of Cotton arriving on the steamer Morning Star; see also items 20 and 21. Converse's handwriting is heavily abbreviated, and has very unclear letter forms; some of the unclear words are guesses.*

Via Cairo

New York May 15 1865

Jas. H DeGrange Esq.

New Orleans

Box 450 P.O.

D Sir

We have this morning yours of 5th with R/r and
Gov^t documents for 12 Bales Cotton on Ship Morning Star. Which as soon as I arrive
shall have prompt attention.

We hope to sell it at last Conn Cast & Charges if not a profit –

What big chill to day. Midling Nominally 50 to 51^c

When sold will do with proceeds as directed.

Note you may make further Shifts. Do you want maxim Insurance if so they will be cov. @ under our open policy.

Yours rptfly

Given to day 1297/8th 30/2

W.P. Converse



20. A Receipt for a shipment of cotton. This is written in a very polished hand. The lines are not blanks—they were written just so by the writer. If this is the same cotton referred to in item 18 (as seems likely, since that was written just two weeks before this), the sale seems to have turned a profit.

Account Sales of Wm. P. Converse & Co. of 12 Bales Cotton received from New Orleans for Steamers Morning Star May 16th 1865

For account of Jos. H. DeGrange _____

_____ Sold to R.R. Graves & Co. _____

B 12 Bales Cotton 4312 c 49 f _____ \$2112.88

_____ Charges _____

Freight and firmage upon B/L 6838

Cartage²⁵ labor²⁵ storage²⁵ weighting²⁵ 1200

Fire Insurance 1/4 % 528

Government tax 2" Brokerage 528 7.39

Repairing 1.20

_____ Commission 2 1/2 % 5282 _____ 147.07

E.O.E. Nett Proceeds \$1965.81

New York, May 20, 1865

W.P. Converse Co.

for Henley



21. *This is in the same difficult hand as Item 19; some of this is a best guess.*

[envelope:]

Joe. DeGrange

Care of Montgomery & Bros.

New Orleans,

La

Mail Steamer this day

New York May 20 1865

Jos. H. DeGrange Esq.

New Orleans

D Sir

We wrote you on 15 & 17th via Cairo to which we beg to refer.

The party buying yr. Cotton received it yesterday. Thus we are enabled to handle a/c sales with this matter for <__> \$1965 81/000 dollars at yr Credit subject to your 5th dft.

We w^{ll} send you check on your City for amt. but can not do so better than paying 1% p^m & as we think you can do better we do not insist.

To send currency by express w^{ll} Cost the same say 1%-- We who known to miss Pike Schooner & who & must yr exchange <__>.

Our m[ar]krt is now 2h 3^c Better than when yrs was sold. Tho w/ Statin In finnid the Gov^t sales 5000 Bales to come off to day. Gold 130 to 131.

Yr rptfly,

W.P. Converse & Co.

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22. *A letter of introduction to Montgomery Brothers.*

This draft of the correspondence is dated May 28, 2004.

[envelope]

[ink stamps]

J.H. DeGrange

May 25, 1865

Introducing J.S. Taylor

Montgomery & Bros.

Auctioneers

New Orleans May 24 1865

Jos. H. DeGrange

Sir

Allow me the pleasure of introducing to your favorable notice my friend Mr. J. D Taylor, who desire an introduction to your friend R.M. Montgomery. Any favors shown him will be duly appreciated by your friend.

Chs. Ballejo

23. *This letter seems to ask for JHD to try to withdraw the funds from a bank which is in the process of liquidation. Magnolia Mississippi is directly north of New Orleans, just over the border in Mississippi. The nearby river is the Tangipahoa.*

[envelope]

[hand written stamp over a stamp]

Mr. Jos. H. DeGrange

Magnolia Miss Aug 26 1865

Care mess Montgomery Brothers

No 87 & 89 Camp Street

New Orleans

La

Magnolia Aug 25th 1865

J.H. DeGrange, Esq.

Friend Joe

I Take the opportunity to drop you a few lines. My health has some what Improved since I was up here but my cough has not much improved. How are you all getting

along in the city. When you see George tell him to excuse me for not writing to him give him my regards. Friend Joe will you do me the favor to try and get that Balance out of the Bank of N.O. of 8.74. You can Receipt for it as Secty of the Co. I see by the papers the Commissioners meet at the Band [sic] Daily to Liquidate the affairs of Said Bank. This is a fine country for any one to spend a few weeks in the Summer. I am living in the woods with a private family. We have plenty Milk, peaches, pears, apples, chickens. & co. Also cool water don't require any Ice. [page over] Pleasant Breezes every day cool enough at night for a Blanket if you should write address to me "Magnolia Miss." We have Tri weekly mail Monday Wednesday & Friday. We have a fine place for Bathing in the Tangipaho River which is only five Minuets walk from the house. I may Stay here until next Tuesday week. Nothing more at present excuse my writing for I am some what nervous give my Respects to all friends not forgetting your self I remain

Your friend

W^m Donovan

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24. *A receipt for a sewing maching.*

Rec'd New Orleans Sept 8 1865 from Joseph H. DeGrange. Fifty dollars. for one.

Wheeler & Nelson's sewing machine in complete order.

\$50 no/100.

C.F. Peck

[postage stamp, cancelled on 8 Sept.]

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25. *The "Fireman's Charitable Association" was the name of the New Orleans fire company until it was incorporated into the city in the 1890s. "Shearer" is one of JHD's companions on the trip to New York and Boston in the summer of 1869. The top of the note is printed stationery; the hand is very polished.*

5/28/04

Fireman's Charitable Association of New Orleans

Secretary's

Office

Oct 11th,

1865

To Messres DeGrange, Bevans, L'hoste, Bailey, Shearer, & Gruber,

Gentlemen:

Your Communication on behalf of

Jackson Fire Co. ^{no.} 18 was laid before the Board of Commissioners at their last meeting and was received—

Action being taken on the Same, I was instructed to notify you, "That the Board of Commissioners have no power to grant your request,"

I must, & c

James Delaware

Secretary

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26. *This and the following five letters from the New York firm of Barstow and Roper concern the sale of 100 bales of cotton which JHD had shipped to the New York cotton market for sale. There is an initial disagreement over valuation, but the bigger issue seems to be that the cotton market is depressed, and JHD is looking at a "serious loss." As with the exchange in letters 19-21 with the firm of W.P. Converse, it is not clear whether this is his personal venture, or that of his firm Montgomery and Brothers. As with items 19 and 21, these letters seem to be quickly written by a secretary; the distinction between letter forms in this hand is not pronounced, making it hard to read.*

New York, 22 Nov / 66

Jos. H. DeGrange Esq.

New Orleans

Dear Sir,

We wrote you on 15th inst[ant] -- since when your cotton has been put into store.

With some slight fluctuation in price and demand, our cotton market has been inactive, -- to day very quiet.

Your cotton having been examined by some of our leading <braking> — We find they pronounce the two highest grades—the 7 & 30—Bales, not quite up to your classification — Not so with those others <showing> but they do not make the same discrimination — the nominal value to day of the 7 & 30 — may be placed at 35 & 35 1/2^c. The Remaining 63 at the average of 33^c.

These rates would make you a rather serious loss — and in view of the apparently unsuitable short supply we shall not offer the 100 bales until we have an opportunity to have your views.

Very truly Yours,

Barstow & Roper

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27. *This is in the same hand as item 24; money has been advanced to New Orleans against the sale.*

New York 4th Dec / 66

Jos. h. DeGrange Esq

New Orleans

Dear Sir,

We wrote you on 22d ult[imo] in reply to yours of 22nd ultmo and yesterday paid Mip<_> Howit and Macy to credit Bank Commerce New Orleans Eight-thousand dollars (\$8,000) against — advanced on your 100 Bales Cotton.

5/28/04

We regret that we are unable to report any change in our cotton market for the better --very little is done—any quotations are merely nominal for middling upward $33 \frac{1}{2}^c$ - New Orleans - 35^c $35 \frac{1}{2}^c$

Very Truly Yours,

Barstow & Roper



28. *Again, the same handwriting.*

New York 8 Dec / 66

Jos. H. DeGrange Esq.

New Orleans

Dear Sir,

We wrote you on 4th instant - advising of having paid Howitt & Macy \$8000 -- on an advance on your cotton. On 5th instant we received your letter of 28th ulto : contents noted.

Our cotton market remains without change. We refer you to price current of the day, and

Remain very truly yours,

Barstow & Roper



29. *This letter does not seem prompted by a letter from JHD, but just to advise him that the market may be weakening even more.*

New York 15th Dec / 66

Jos H. DeGrange Esq.

Dear Sir,

We last wrote you on 8th inst. We now hand price current of to day to which please be referred. To day transactions are very light and in some instances at lower notes than annexed quotations.

Very truly yours,

Barstow & Roper



30. *JDH seems to have decided to put his cotton on the market, perhaps because of the possible weakening. This and the next are written by a different writer than the previous four letters, and are still written very quickly.*

New York, Dec. 27, 1866

Jos. H. DeGrange

New Orleans

Dear Sir,

Wrote you 15th. Your cotton is on the market, but we get no offers that are acceptable. Our marked it so quiet - We seem to get all our inspiration from the other <__> by & by our short crop may tell us <__> an outside price for strict midd<_>.

Yours Respectfully,

Barstow & Roper



31. *This is the final letter; JHD seems to be in for a bit of a loss.*

New York, Jan 12, 1867

Jos. H. DeGrange Esq.

New Orleans

Dear Sir,

5/28/04

We had hoped, ere this, to advise the sale of your cotton. But it's still on hand – the nominal price of middling 35 1/2 c. --- We shall try hard next week to make a sale.

Yours very truly,

Barstow & Roper

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32. Also see Item 14: both letters refer to the liquidation of McKelroy and Bradford. This letter implies that this was on account of the War. Bradford seems to be bringing a suit against "Gibbs and Park" in order to recover some of his money, and JHD has been called to give a deposition in the case. Aside from item 15, this is the only other allusion to the War in all of JHD's correspondence.

Memphis Mch 9th / 67

Jos. H. DeGrange

New Orleans

Sir,

Yours dated 27th Feby has been received. In answer to which we send you enclosed the account of M^cK & B against Gibbs and Park. made out by Mr. Dykins. Please examine same, and also to show Mr. D. and if you or either of you can testify to best of your belief the same to be correct, please notify us in what office we can have your depositions taken, and we will send full instructions. You can also examine the books of M^cK & B at the office [of] W.S. Moore who is an attorney in your city. Mr. Bradford is now in this city very feeble and in much need of funds to procure the necessaries of life having lost every thing by the late war, and your evidence is his only chance to recover on these accounts. Please return the account against Gibbs.

Very Respectfully

Your obd't Sevts,

Scruggs & Rogers



33. A receipt for a pair of ladies' shoes bought by EMD. The top of the receipt, through the address, is all part of the printed form.

New Orleans, Avril 15, 1869

Madame Degrange

**Bought of J. Bonseigneur
manufacturer of Ladies' Boots and Shoes,
No. 340 Camp Street.**

1. p. Balmorals Marocquin \$16.00

<_____> <_____>

<_____>

par Marius Bonseigneur



34. This seems to be the first letter to JHD in New York. It is a letter from B.J. Montgomery about some criminal activity at the firm.

[Address:]

[postmark:]

Hon. Jos. H. Degrange

New Orleans, June 20

Caro of Mrss. Shearer & Jones

No 15 Rivington St.

New York.

[Letterhead:]

B.J. Montgomery,

Auctioneer, Commission Merchant

and Furniture Dealer

Office, Old Auction Mart, 87 Camp St.

New Orleans, June 19th, 1869

Jos. H. DeGrange, Esq.

Friend Joe,

If you remember, on the eve of your departure, you suspected someone had been tampering with your petty ledger. We immediately set to work to find the criminal and discovered him in the person of George Wilson. We have found near four hundred dollars against him so far. He has been collecting bills as far back as January and Feb. and entering them in the Petty Ledger without reporting them. How much more he has got we cannot tell. We have found nothing on the new Books as yet. I have not done anything with him yet on account of his mother. I shall write to Dick and if he says prosecute [sic] him I shall do so. In the mean time I have advised his mother to bind him out to some good trade. Did you not tell me you had paid all the state taxes? Well, "Mahan" the Great put a keeper on me yesterday, because we three [page over] had not paid him our state license. I paid since and left you, and Dicky, to be desided [sic] when you return. Nothing new since you left. All join in well wishing for you safe return.

Write soon.

Yours,

BJ Montgomery

35. *This seems to be the first letter from EMD to JHD that survives from the trip JND took north. No date is attached—just the month—but it makes sense here. In her letter of the 24th she mentions having written two letters already; and this one contains the new item from the newspaper announcing his trip, so it would be an early letter. The other of her first two letters seems to be lost. None of her letters have postmarks; they seem to have been delivered in a bundle of other letters. JHD's letters home have cancelled stamps on them.*

This is the newspaper announcement of his trip:

Mr. Jos. H. DeGrange, recently a member of the firm of Montgomery Bros., and also a member in the State Legislature, left yesterday evening for the North on a trip in which he intends to combine business and pleasure. We trust this combination may be eminently successful.

[address:]

Mr. J.H. DeGrange
 Care Shearer & Jones
 15 Rivingston St.
 New York

New Orleans June 1869

My dear husband,

I sent you a letter on Saturday and am very anxious to hear from you.² It seems to me that you have been gone so long. We went to spend the day with Jane yesterday, and the ^children^ enjoyed themselves so well. Cousin Sarah came home with us to stay until you return. She will have vacation next week and will keep me so much company. Jane & Alfred send you their love.

The papers have made mention of your departure for three or four days. I enclose the piece that [page 2] I cut from Saturday's Picayune. I have a little piece of news for you. Jim Collins & Miss Alice Horn were married last week before you went away.³ They were married privately & it was not known until Friday. That [was] a strange notion was it not?

We have had some trouble for a few days past on account of the markets. The butchers having to bring their cattle across the river to be killed. For a few days

there were but two or three of them in the market and they demanded any price for their beef that they felt disposed to. Now there is plenty I suppose they concluded that they were loosing by not having [page 3] their cattle killed.⁴

Ben was not well yesterday morning, but I gave him a little tea through the day and this morning he is quite well. He had a slight indigestion. All the rest are well and so am I. But we all wish to have our dear papa back home with us. I am going to the market now with Marrie an will take this letter to Mr. Montgomery's store on my way.⁵

No more at present I will write to you soon again. And I hope soon to hear from you. by by dear papa one sweet kiss from all your little chicks & your big chicken too.

Your ever loving wife

Ellen

36. *This is EMD's third letter, I assume, from her first sentence; but in his letter back from NYC, DeGrange mentions that the newspaper cutting was from her "last letter"? That would be the letter*

² This would mean that her first letter is missing. This letter is undated, but none of her later letters in June would have been sent on a Saturday, so I assume this is the first that remains.

³ I can find no record of this marriage or these individuals in the New Orleans Vital Records.

⁴ EMD means that the butchers now have to bring their cattle across the river out of the city to be slaughtered. The issue of the butchers and the slaughterhouses also appears in items 39 and 51, in which Paul Esteben is mentioned. The State of Louisiana had passed a statute effective June 1st, 1869 which prohibited the slaughter of animals in New Orleans, or the parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Bernard, and created a corporation (The Crescent City Livestock Landing and Slaughter House Company) which would be solely responsible for "conducting and carrying on the live-stock landing and slaughter-house business" for the city. The purpose of the act was for health regulation; the statute also provided for the inspection of slaughterhouses. The slaughterhouses sued, contending that the state could not deprive them of the right to exercise their trade—citing in their defense, interestingly, that it enforced involuntary servitude on the butchers, who cited in their defense the 13th Amendment, which had abolished slavery ("involuntary servitude"). The case was no doubt therefore charged with racial overtones and resentment left over from War. The dispute culminated in a U.S. Supreme Court decision ("The Butcher's Benevolent Association of New Orleans V. the Crescent City Live-Stock Landing and Slaughter House Company," and "Paul Esteben et al. V. the State of Louisiana," 83 U.S. 36, 1872). The Court decided for the State.

⁵ Her letters are apparently sent in a packet by Montgomery; they have no stamps, and barely any addresses.

dated just "June," above. I think it's more likely that DeGrange miswrote than that Ellen thought she'd written more letters.

[address:]

Mr. J.H. DeGrange

New York

New Orleans June 24, 1869

My dear husband,

I suppose that you have received one of my letters by this time. I have written two since you left.⁶ I am so anxious to hear from you dear papa. Time seems to pass so slowly with me. Sarah is here with me but still I feel lonely. M^{rs} Tormey was here to spend the day with me Tuesday and made me promise to spend the day with her on Saturday so all the children Sarah & myself will go. I am going to the exhibition of the girls high school with Jane to morrow [page 2] afternoon.

I have some trouble with Marrie since you left. You know she has been trying to make me discharge her for some time past. But I have not taken notice of it. But since a few weeks she has been acting so badly that I hwas [sic] obliged to put an end to it. I told her very quietly that when her month was up she must leave that I did not think that she did her duty and there was an end to it. She seemed as well satisfied as though she had acted so purposly. But she wants Rose to go with her and keep house [page 3] from what I can understand. But I do not think that she will go. She knows that we heave [sic] been kind to her and I do not think she would do me such a trick. ~~Althou~~ Although if she does; Thank God. I can turn back my sleeves and go to work. I can do without servants if needs be.

⁶ Her first is apparently missing; see the previous item.

The schools close for two months on Monday, and I think I will let Henry & Eddy have holliday, for they will not want to go when Nelly stays at home. We are all well. Our little daughter is asleep in my lap as I [page 3] write. The weather is very warm. It is so warm that I put all the children in a large bath every night to cool them before going to bed. I wish you could see them dear papa they enjoy it so much and it helps to pass the time with me. When I hear from you I will not feel so lonely I suppose. I am so anxious for a letter from you. The children all miss you for they begin to say that papa stays so long. Ben says papa is gone and left him here in this house.

I will close my letter and write you again. Write as often as you can [sideways] papa for it will be a source of pleasure to me to know that my darling far away thinks of me and loves me. By by dear papa all your darlings send you their love and a sweet kiss. Cousin Sarah also . Your own dear Wife Ellen.

37. *This is a printed flyer. On the back is a circular stamp for "J.E. Wallace Atty. at Law N.O./June 25 1869".*

JOINT RESOLUTION

Requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to urge the payment of the just claims of our loyal citizens.

Whereas, by the orders of the officers in command of the Union forces in Louisiana, during the late rebellion, a large amount of property was taken from private citizens, and used in the public service of the United States, and has not been paid for.

And whereas many of those citizens are well known to have been, at all times, loyal the the United States Government.

And whereas the loyal citizens of many of the other states have been paid for all the property taken from them for public use.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened: That our Senators and Representatives, in Congress, do, and they are hereby requested, to urge the payment of all claims due our loyal citizens by the United States Government; and the passage of such acts as may be necessary to secure that object.

It is sincerely hoped that the Governor of our State, will recommend the passage of the foregoing Resolution at the next session of our Legislature; and that each of the other Southern States, will cooperate with our Legislature, that a simultaneous appeal may be made to the GENERAL GOVERNMENT FOR JUSTICE AND EQUITY.

J.E. WALLACE.—ATTY.

26 St. CHARLES STREET, N.O.

38. *Further news of home life from Ellen to JHD./*

[address:]

Mr. J.H. DeGrange

New York

New Orleans June 24, 1869

My dear husband,

New Orleans June 26 1869

My Dear Husband,

I hope this day will bring me news from you for I am so anxious to hear from you. It seems so long since you left us. I was to have gone to the exhibition of the

girls high school with Jane last evening. But I was so low spirited that I could not have enjoyed it so I remained at home. We are going to spend the day with Mrs. Tormey to-day and I thought I would write you a few lines before starting.

This morning when I was coming down [page 3—skips 2] to breakfast, I had Ben by the hand, and he said to me, play. I was papa, mama. I am obliged to caress him so much. You have no idea how he cries if I do not. I nurse him a great deal more than I do Bell. She is so good though that I can nurse him without neglecting her. She his [sic] on a palet on the floor nearly all day and kicks and plays. I have Ben here with me now. He is in great glee about going in the cars⁷ with me. I have had all the children's hair cut close to their heads and they look so nice [page 4] and cool. I must close now dear papa as the sun will be so strong that we will roast in it. Bye bye dear papa one sweet kiss from all your babies. Bye bye again.

Your own loving wife

Ellen



39. *A description of New York. Construction of Central Park had begun in 1857 and was still continuing in 1869. The tenements DeGrange describes (which seem to have been on the lower east side) were at the time full of especially Irish immigrants, waves of which had started to come over following the famines in Ireland at the end of the 1840s. The wealthier parts of town would have been well known to Boss Tweed, who by 1869 had held sway over Tammany Hall for close to two decades.*

[Addressed to:]

New Orleans

Mrs. E. DeGrange

La

Care R. Montgomery Esq.

87 Camp Street

⁷ That is, street cars.

[Postmark:]

June 29, 6:00pm, New York

New York, June 29, 1869

Dear Ellen,

I have not received any letters from you for some time, or at least it seems sometimes [sic] since you last wrote. This day will be one week and one day since my advent to this city,⁸ and nothing done or my self benefitted in any way, with the exception of enjoyment, which as I have somewhat seen about all to ^be^ seen, is seriously getting monotonous. I sincerely wish you were along with me, then I don't know but what I might be tempted to stay here some time, for most of the time I am alone. That perhaps is the Cause.

Mr Shearer of Course Can not devote his entire time to me, as he has a store which claims some of his attention. Mr. Bartlett, who was our neighbour is here, and I've spent Sunday [page 2] to-gether. When we got up Sunday we could hardly find any place to get breakfast, but after some effectual search found a place, a dirty one at that, and for Sunday Dinner, we left the european plan of living,⁹ and Came down Quietly to Hotel life, which gave us a pretty good fare.

We went on Saturday evening in the cars, to visit Central Park and the rain frightening us away with hunger coupled with it, On Sunday we returned by carriage. Although it was raining but it somewhat abated, and we had a fair view of the principal position of the place, and for a place that nature has arranged, coupled with art, it is really the finest park in the Country and worth seeing. The roads to drive, the [page 3] roads to walk, the roads to ride a horseback, are all seperate [sic] and distinct not crossing each other, but where it becomes necessary that it should be

⁸ This would mean that he arrived in New York on the 21st of June.

so, light ~~brigh~~ ^bridges^ made of fine, Chiseld marble—realy gorgeous—is [sic] so arranged that it passes below each other; I would much like to have you visit the place, and should Circumstance so place it at my disposition my wish shall be gratified.

There is one thing here which astonished, good provincial people like myself, is [sic] that as all the cooking ~~are~~ is done in the Cellars. The openings or traps are in the edge of the bonquets [sic], and when one passes about the hour of dinner, it seems that there is a seperate and distinct stink that comes out of each [page 4] place, and when you get among the poor, it is perfectly frightfull. The filth, & excessively amount of dirt is awfull. You no doubt have read about Saving and such Carefull people the poorer classes are; that is all bosh, for it seems to me, that they pinch themselves, and put themselves, in dirt. They live here in tenement house[s], where rows are built, and ten and fifteen families are huddle together.

Now this is the poor, but when You walk further on, and pass Broadway, into 5th Avenue, Madison Square, where the Brown front mansions are situated, then you behold the luxurious fortune of the City, the ~~what~~ aristocracy of wealth, where men think nothing of paying \$20,000 for a lot of ground, and spend about [new sheet; "5" at the top right of the page] \$20 @ \$150,000, dollars, on building, which realy makes fine residences, and the style displayed is of the most gorgeous character, liveried servants, Odd looking carriages, in fact everything of the richest and finest style. And here more particularly is displayed the two extremes, more so in fact than any other city, Where one portion of the town, in [sic] living in the lap of the greatest luxury, the other is actually starving, and dying for the wants of Life.

But such is life, and the tide moves on unceasingly.

⁹ The envelope for the next letter (item 40) has the following printed on its outside: "Brandreth House, Cor. Broadway and Canal St., New York. Kept on the European Plan, French and German spoken. Persons may live in the most economical or luxurious manner. Meals served at all hours. W.J. Kerr, Proprietor."

In your last letter¹⁰ you send a slip cut from the Picayune, that somewhat reminds me, that on our arrival in this City, we found or rather read in the Herald That Mr. J.M. Converse¹¹ and wife. Mr. D.L. Shearer [page 6] and Mr. J.H. DeGrange had taken rooms at Niagara for the season. That was news to us for we read it in New York.

I hope my letters here reach you for the delay, must be occasioned by the mails, I am glad that Sarah our pretty Coz. is staying with you, for it will be great relief and Company to you, and help you to pass many hour with some enjoyment. I have seen the New Orleans papers to the 24th cust. [?] and all is quiet in New Orleans, With the exception of the Butcher tirade, which I hope will be settled soon, so as to enable Meat to be cheaper if nothing else.¹²

Yesterday was one of the hottest days that I have experienced since, I left home, and the heat here is somewhat different than it is at home. For there, some breeze is always wafting to cool a [page 7] heated person. But here it was sultry, the perspiration would flow freely even by standing and towards night did it cool off. to be in anyways convenient, I send enclose [sic] a copy Cut from the papers here to let you what small roberies [sic] they Commit here Sometimes, and that is the fourth or fifth for some time.¹³

My bully boys and little girl is I hope well. Kiss them all for me, and let them Kiss you for me. I long to see you all, and it will no doubt not be very long before I will do so. From Conversation I had last night with Mr. S.[hearer] ~~will~~ we will leave New York this week for Boston. I will write to you again before I do, In order to let you know where I am. This day I am keeping store [page 8] for those gentlemen, as they all have to be absent about the City, for where we board and where the store is

¹⁰ This seems to be a mistake—perhaps the last one he has received; see the preface to EMD's letter of June 29th.

¹¹ Thomas Montgomery Converse; see the Introduction.

¹² See EMD to JHD "June" no date, item ____.

to the Center, or rather what is Called here downtown, is freely two miles, and it takes some time to move about.

I could set down and write to you all day without end, but I must make a stand and wail til my next. So Good by love until my next, and tell all my boys to be in good spirit and be good. Don't forget to let me know about the dress I spoke about.¹⁴ Aux revoir tell any of my enquiring friends a good day. Give my love to Sarah. Your own husband

Joe

40. *JHD's last letter from New York. He seems a bit rushed here, glossing only briefly over several of the points (such as Marie—see June 24th) which EMD had mentioned earlier.*

[Addressed to:]

Mrs. E. DeGrange
Care of J. Montgomery Esq.
87 Camp Street
New Orleans
La

[Postmark:]

July 1, 4:00pm, New York

New York July 1, 1869

Dear Ellen,

¹³ The clipping has disappeared.

¹⁴ See item ___ above.

I write to you to day to let you know that I leave this evening at 5 O'clock by steamer, for Boston Mass. and will write to you from there, and let you know what I think of the place, and also to see if my luck to carry out any designs will be any better there than here. I received your letter dated the 24th on the 29th and that dated the 26th on the 30th or yesterday.¹⁵ I am really astonished that you have not received any letter from me, until that date, for I wrote to you from Niagara Falls on the night of the 19th or 20th: which is fully six days before you wrote the last letter I received from you, and afterwards wrote to [page 2] you on the 22nd the day after my arrival here. and wrote twice afterwards.¹⁶ I can not understand what has caused the delay in my letters reaching you, for I was very particular on that point. I do not understand it for your letters have reached me all in good order. In fact one of them was in New York before I was.

The weather here is as changeable as can be. For several days it was sultry hot. and last evening and last, also to day it is cold enough to cover well with blankets. I think it is best to continue to address your letter as I left the direction, should this one reach you in about 5 days write to me Care of I. S. Paine Boston Mass. I have met Mr. Stott this morning in Broadway he leaves [page 3] for New Orleans to-day. I have left directions here to have any of my letters to be forwarded where I am.

I am in good health, and I sincerely wish and hope this will find my entire household in first rate condition. I am sorry Marie has acted the way you say.¹⁷ But, in case of any accident hire some one to do the cooking, for, it is really too warm for you to go in the kitchen. I hope that Rose will not follow her footsteps and perhaps

¹⁵ Items ___ and ___ respectively.

¹⁶ The letter from Niagara is item ___; the letter of the 22nd is item ___, and the letters he wrote "twice afterwards" are ___ and ___.

¹⁷ See Item ___, letter dated 24 June; Marie and Rose are apparently servants in the house.

Marie will recant and not Go. Kiss all the children by-by for me. And you also, My love to all of them to you particularly and Cousin Sarah.

Yours Truly

Joe

P.S. My respects to Mrs. Tormey.



41. *This is by George Edward Apps (Ned), who served with JHD in the Washington Artillery in 1861. See Appendix D.5.*

N. O. July 3, 1869

Dear Joe,

I wrote you a few lines this morning about matters and things, since then I have had an application for the house on Carondelet St. A party was here that thinks he can give \$6,000 on terms—say one half cash balance 1 & 2 years what do you think of it? I will sell if you think fit, if not let me know what your idears [sic] are about it—answer at once so that I can give some deffinate answer to the party that wishes to buy—I did not ascertain his name but can find out any time through his broker--

Respt

G.E. Apps



42. *A letter from B.M. Montgomery; he refers here to people in NO who want stock in the Bank, which seems to be an indication of JHD's trip to the northeast—to visit the financial markets there to get investors in a new bank in New Orleans. The letter also shows the pressures which JHD seems to have been under from business partners which he is balancing with his desire to be home with his family—as he indicates in his next letter, from Boston (item 43). Montgomery, interestingly, uses a*

long "s" ("ß" which I reproduce here out of interest), which is presumably an indication of his age; the character went out of use by about the beginning or middle of the 19th century.

[envelope:]

[postmark:]

Jas H. DeGrange

Cincinnati, July 4

Care W.P. Converse

N. York

Cincinnati, July 3rd / 69

Dear Joseph,

I arrived here this Morning from Ky and as I cannot be in N. York as soon as expected. I would like to have you extend your stay until I can meet you there unless you have succeeded in your undertaking. Then it would not be necessary for me to meet you only for a friendly meeting and a good time.¹⁸ I have all the faith in the enterprise ^and^ am sure it —must— succeed. I had a letter from Ben¹⁹ this morning stating that more parties in N. Orleans now [are] wanting stock in the Bank—stick to the work and we have a good thing for ourselves and those interested with us—I will leave here in a week for N. York. [page 2] Ben had not heard from you since you left the city. Pleas answer at once let me know the success if not flattering pleas wait until I come and we will work together Direct your letter care of the Burnett House Cincinnati

Yours Truly

B.M. Montgomery

¹⁸ I presume he means "It would only be necessary for me to meet you only for a friendly meeting." The letter is written quickly (he speeds through his spelling and punctuation too), though not as hastily as his next one!

¹⁹ I presume this "Ben" is his brother B.J. Montgomery.

43. *This is JHD's first letter from Boston, describing his arrival, a trip to Cambridge, and the Fourth of July Celebrations. He is also anxious about what is happening back home, and seems somewhat paternal towards his wife, though as her response to his worry about Mr. Ballard indicates (see ahead to item ___), she seems to have matters well in hand, or at least knows how to handle him.*

[Addressed to:]

[Postmark:]

Mrs. E. DeGrange

Boston, July 8, 8 p.m.

Care B. J. Montgomery Esq.

87 Camp Street

New Orleans

La

Boston July 6, 1869

Dear Ellen,

I wrote you from New York the day I left the City and now write to you from Boston. I arrived her [sic] on Friday at 3:00 O'clock in the evening, went to the home of Mr. Paine, and from there rode out in the Cars to Cambridge Mass., of One of the small villages in the neighborhood of Boston, and within an hours Car ride to Mr. Shearers Sisters residence and <took> that for our abode. It is one of those fine mansions situated on the decline of a Hill and surrounded by a perfect Garden of flowers and Fruit trees, to give you a fact an Idea of what kind of house it is. I will only refer to that very fancy house as greenville. They have given me a large room ups stairs, where all the comforts of money is brought together, and we, that [is] Mr. D.L. Shearer and myself sleep there, and ride in the City in the morning about 10 O'clock with Horse & Buggy, attend to our business, and ride out the evening. Why to see our way, it looks as if we were nabobs, but in view of all this, I would [page 2] rather be home if my busness [sic] was over, see, we got here Friday evening, went out riding in the country came in late—next morning after breakfast rode in town, visited the Naval Yard, where all ship building are carried on, machinery of the

largest pattern imaginable, from there we went to Bunker Hill monument visited it thoroughly, went in fact to the top; about 225 feet in the air, viewed the city from that stand point and vicinity, a pretty sight it was in fact. After went to the State penitentiary and viewed the prisoners at work in the different kind of manufacture. From there to dinner, an Afternoon ride, and quietness. That was Saturday,

Now Sunday was the 4th of July, and a great day here, but the people is so puratanical [sic] that they postponed the 4th Celebration of the 4th of July to the 5th, and as I told them here that the 4th came on the 5th of July, in this great enlightened Country, So We not being so religiously enclined, went about 6 mile to a town called Newton, where a Mr. Jones lived. I knew him well in New Orleans. He was realy glad to see, and we dined with him and family. It was more like home [page 3] there for they lived in New Orleans for about 20 years.

[We] rode around the great ponds and reservoir, to the "Peace Jubilee," then home on Monday ~~went~~. The 4th of July of Massachusetts Coming on the 5th attending boat racing went to the Boston Commons, thence to a village Called Malden, about 5 miles through Boston, and back, again, attend another Boat race, and home as we were too tired to go the city at Night. And now as I write it is Tuesday about 12 O'clock and I have done nothing but amuse myself. I must realy stop and go consciously at work.

In your letter you state you got the invitations of the Shakespear Club and went to it. Well I am glad you made a good disposition of them and attended the performance personally for it would realy be a lot of friends, as that either aiding myself, or any one, and there is no law, when you visit place of amusement of that character in company of ladies, but be carefull what ladies they are, with Jane or other that you know it is all right.

I received the two letters you sent: you don't state in your letter of the 28th which of my letters you received, Did you get the one I wrote from Niagara. [page 4]

I hope when Ballard dined with you, you treated him with all the Courtesy, I feel in fact confident you have.²⁰ My health is first rate so far and I have no reason to complain, except in way of buisness and longing to see you all—for it [is] now three weeks since I left home. Time flies faster than we would wish for.

My bully boys and little girl are well I hope when this will reach them and you also. As for Cousin Sarah I will write to her to day, for it is some pleasure to know some one connected with me is far enough advanced in educational properly to be unable to keep up a correspondence,²¹ with Justice to herself, and the person written to,

My Love and Kiss to all the children to you and our fair Cousin.

Yours ever,

Joe

44. *This letter includes two brief notes to Nellie and Henry, as well as mention of Ned Apps. It and the next show that they had expected JHD to have returned by about the end of the first week of July. This also shows the beginning of JHD's frustration with the unproductiveness of the trip.*

[Addressed to]

[Postmark is illegible]

Mrs. E. DeGrange

c/o B. J. Montgomery Esq.

87 Camp St.

New Orleans

La

²⁰ See ahead to item 47.

²¹ I am not sure what JHD means here—whether Sarah is or is not "educationally able" to keep up a correspondence. The letter was written quickly, however, as the syntax indicates.

This draft of the correspondence is dated May 28, 2004.

Boston, July 10, 1869

Dear Ellen,

My last letter to you was last Sunday since then I have receive Two from you, the last dated the 2nd of July or last Friday. I am glad you have got some one and Bridget is about the best you can have about, for years ago, she was honest and faithfull as a friend. Rose is satisfied I hope also, she will have less to do, principally during the summer months. I wrote to Sarah the last time, I wrote to you, and have received all letters due. Ned Apps²² wrote to me, and in my last one to him I requested him to call on you to get some notes, that are among the papers that I seperated [sic]. You will ^find^ one ^lot^ containing the titles of the property on Carrondelet Street, covered over with yellow paper, A title from the sheriffs, and some tax receipts, and a long memorandum of mine. Let him whatever paper he may need out of the lot, but, Keep the memorandum. I wrote yesterday to him telling him to call on you for them.

I am still as you may see from the title above in Boston, and so far have done nothing. but being Saturday to-day, in conversation with Mr. Shearer, we [page 2] agreed to postpone matters til Monday morning, as it is our intention to go in the Country to-morrow to visit a Gentleman on whose assistance I expect to do something. Strange as it may seem I received a letter from the Old man telling me he ~~wh~~ was desirous of joining me north.²³ and I wrote him I was willing and agreed to meet him either in Boston or New York during the next week. So if he arrives here I will not have to run over only when I am on my way home, but if he calls on me it will be necessary to leave this place.

²² See his letter of July 3rd, item _____. This is George Edward Apps; see the Introduction for more on his identity and relationship with JHD.

²³ The "old man" is B.M. Montgomery.

Your letters reach me about only one day later, as they are sent direct from New York to Boston, and that is about 18 hours travel, although we took 24 to do it in, but the delay was occasioned by our delay at Worcester of about 6 hours.

This Ellen is in fact a purely Puritanical [sic] City. There is ^no^ Bar Rooms here, liquor is forbidden to be sold, and the only drink allowable is Cider and Spruce Beer, but the Cider here is really fine fine apple juice, especially in the morning early before going to Breakfast. To take a large glass of Cider or rides to sniff the air of the New England hills awake in fact is rejuvenating. My black [page 3] coat was too much out of fashion, so I got a new suit of clothes made, and am now wearing suspenders. It feels rather odd but it is more comfortable.

I got Henry's two letters and Nellie's in this one you will find the answers.²⁴ When I started from home I thought that three weeks would be the extent of ^my^ stay north but since my advent to this place, I find that three weeks has already elapsed, and I make no move towards going home. But Baby must not be impatient for it may be for the best that this delay is occasioned, for I told Shearer that I could not remain any longer for it was time I should return to seek doing something, when he told me not to hurry, as should [i.e., if] the true business that I am on here is not successful that I remain to see if I could raise something to do else that would enable me to move forward.

Sometime I am so anxious to see you and get low spirited and homesick so bad, but I trust the day is not very far ahead, for if I come out all right by the middle of next week, I will start direct for New York, stay there a few days then start home for my darling and my bully boys and girl, and kind cousin.

[page 4] To-morrow as I told you before I expect to spend in the country, for it is so dull here in this town. I thought New York was bad, but my Conscience, this

is awful, and the people so finely gruff. But I have one consolation that I am really moving among the moneyed men, and their families, in fact the aristocracy of Cambridge. There are two classes here, one is the educational aristocracy, and the money'd aristocracy. I mix in both, don't mention anything in my letters, only such as does not concern my business.

I write to you as I may not have the opportunity to write you Monday the day I had set aside, as I am in office all day long. I wanted to tell you that should you run short of funds, let Mr. Ben Montgomery ^know^ and he will give you some until I return: mind it is not money by right.

So I will close my letter and send you all my loves and kiss to Henry, Eddy, Josey, Beney, Bella, and Nellie and Cousin Sarah and most of all to you.

Your own husband

Joe.

Two notes are enclosed with this, on sheets of paper taken from a pad of paper, and folded over three times. They are written in a very clear strong hand.

Boston July 10 1869

Dear Nellie,

I was glad to get your letter, and that you did not forget me. Be a good girl.

Your Uncle

[on the outside is "Miss Ellen McMillan"]

Boston, July 10th, 1869

Dear Son

I got your two letters, and was very glad. I hope you are well, Kiss mama and Bella for me, and be a good boy.

²⁴ Henry and Nellie must have written notes, which are lost, to which the enclosed notes by JHD are
continued on next page

Your papa

[On the outside is To Mr. Henry Snodgrass DeGrange Present]

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45. *A letter from Montgomery before leaving Cincinnati.*

Cincinnati, July 10 / 69 [sic]

Dear Jo

Your letter came to hand this ^morning^ it gave me the pleasure to hear from you I am convinced of the toughness of the money market in N. York if you find it no better in Boston Don't give up the ship it must go even if we are compelld to fall back on N.O. I will write you as soon as I get to N. York be alert there are dull times every where but the business season is fast aproaching and the Bank must start.

Yours truly

BM Montgomery

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46. *This note shows that they had been thinking JHD would be home by about the end of the first week of July.*

[address:]

Mr. J. H. DeGrange

Care of J.S. Paine

Boston Mass

New Orleans July 11, 1869

Dear Joe,

I have not written since Wednesday. But you must not suppose it is because I was tired writing. I did not, because I thought you would be about

replies.

returning and would not get it but I cannot remain any longer without letting you hear from me. If you are there still you will get it. If not it will be returned. I long so to see you.

We went to see Jane Yesterday evening. Alfred Jane & Mrs. Hoff send you their best love. I saw Antoinette on my way out and she sends you her love also. We are all [page 2] well, but miss you sadly. Sarah and Henry got up at 5 o'clock this morning and went up to Mr. Phillips on St. Charles St. and they got a nice basket of figs for 25 cts. They made us a delicious breakfast. I only wished that you had been here to have some. Alfred told me to tell you that there was a magnificent supper at the lodge Wednesday night, but he did not get any.

I received M^r Johnston's rent Friday evening. He called himself and offered an apology for his Wife's rudeness to Henry. I told him that it made no difference. That [page 3] I had paid no heed to it. That if you had not required me to collect the rent, I would not have troubled him. And if it was not convenient for him, he could wait untill you returned. He was very polite and told me that he was very much attracted to our old house and liked it very much. He said that he had been to the store to pay it but Mr. Montgomery told him that you had not told him anything about receiving it.

The weather is still very hot. Henry has gone to spend the day with his Godmother. [page 4] He told me to tell papa to come home soon. I have not received a letter from you since Tuesday. I hope you are well dear papa. And I hope you will soon be with your darlings. As there is nothing more of importance I will close with a sweet kiss from your loving Wife and all your bully boys, your little girl Nellie, & Sarah. from me my everlasting love.

Your own wife,

Ellen.



47. *A brief note from Montgomery; the hand is very shaky compared to his letter of the 4th—he may have been writing from within a moving vehicle.*

[address:]

J.H. DeGrange

Care J.S. Paine

Boston

Mass

N. York July 12 / 69

Dear Jo,

I arrived here this morning and stopping at the Metropolitan Hotel my trunk took a notion to go to Baltimore and so it did and of course I must await its arrival is it important that I should come at one to Boston can't you take a slip and meet me here what luck write on receipt of this address care of Hotel

yours Truly

BM Montgomery

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48. *Further news of home life.*

[Addressed to:]

[no Postmark]

Mr. J.H. DeGrange

Care J. S. Paine

Boston Mass.

New Orleans July 13th, 1869

Dear Joe,

Your letter of 6th from Boston came to hand yesterday. And it gave me great pleasure I can assure you. For I had not received one since Tuesday, one week exactly.

Sarah was very much pleased that you thought of her. She is going to write to you to-day. I don't know think it can be any hotter in Boston than it is here, but from the description you give of Mr. Shearer's Sisters house it must be a delightful and cool place.

I wrote you yesterday and sent the letter by Henry, and when he got down to the store he met with [page 2] Mr. Well's little boy and there remained playing until nearly 4 O'clock. I was very anxious about him and would have punished him but in consequence of his having a letter for me and one for Sarah I forgot to do it. I thought only of reading my letter. All the children kiss me over and over again for you and seemed as much rejoiced as I was.

You say that I have not, told you what letters I received I will do so now. The first was from Niagira [sic]. Next from New York, dated June 23rd, 29th, July 1st & one from Boston July 6th.²⁵ Oh how I do long to see you [page 3] papa. It seems to me so long since you left. I hope you will soon be home. I am very sorry that you have not met with success in your buisness. If by staying you think you will succeed, you must do it by all means. I would not have you hasten your return if there is the least chance of sucess. I am glad you enjoy yourself as well as you do. For when you return I suppose you will begin to work, and you will not have much chance for pleasure. I will not make my letter long dear papa. For I must send [page 4] Henry down with it before I get to hot. It is only 9 O'clock and the sun is so hot . . .

Good-bye dearest one sweet kiss from you loving Wife and Bully boys Good-by one more kiss.

Your loving wife,

Ellen

²⁵ These are items ___, ___, ___, and ___ respectively.

P.S. I forgot about Mr. Baulord.²⁶ He was treated just the same as if you had been here. And I think that notwithstanding my strange dinner, He enjoyed the time he remained, For he had a great deal to talk about especially to our Pretty boys.

Once more good bye Your own Wife

Ellen



49. *A letter from cousin Sarah, who clearly reads a lot of Jane Austen. I don't know how she is a cousin, but she seems to be living with the family while JHD is in Boston (see her PS to this letter).*

See Appendix E.

[envelope:]

[postmark]

J.H. DeGrange, Esq.
care of Shearer and Jones
15 Rivengston Street
New York

July 17th, New Orlean

New Orleans, July 17th, '69

My Dear Cousin

Your thrice welcome favor came to hand to days ago, but owing to various causes I have deferred answering it, until this present moment. Think not with severity of your Coz., for it perfectly astounded her to receive a letter bearing the Boston post mark, and especially from you. I never was so presuming as to once entertain the idea that you would condescend to write to such an insignificant personage, as I always considered I was in your estimation. Now, and forever, is that conception dispelled, and bright thoughts take its place.

²⁶ See item 43; Mr. "Ballard."

Oh! inexpressible joy and happiness! To know I give you pleasure in staying with your lonely ones. Who could help tending anything in his or her power to those so greatly loved? Not I.

[page 2] I know you did not forget ^me^ in your letters to Coz. Ellen. She always read me what you said concerning myself.

It must be a very pleasant undertaking to visit the many places of which one has only read, and the places which you have ~~seen~~ are the ones I have longed, and still hope, at some future time to see too, particularly Plymouth Rock in which I am greatly interested. You mentioning those places in your letter recalls to mind the day I was examined for the first class in the principal's room, I was ^asked the question^ "to tell all I knew of them." So you can understand my reasons for wishing to witness such places, just-to-be confirmed.

Valiant were always the deeds, now promulgated, of both times when the now-again United States was the scene of contention in the foreign and civil trials.

Thus passing on the opportunity that you look to write me a few lines! Cousin Joe! nothing could be long, tedious, and monotonous, in such a nice "scribble," as you term it.²⁷ Nothing do I love better than to get a splendid account of one's visitations, not matter where they might be.

Are you not tired? I am sure you are if you do not acknowledge it, so depending upon your good nature and love to pardon the scrawling and rambling of your affectionate cousin I send you the love of my family, and with my best wishes for your welfare, I remain

Your Cousin,

Sarah.

J.H. DeGrange, Boston

²⁷ JHD wrote a letter to Sarah directly, which is lost.

P.S. I shall stay and keep your's from all harm till you come.

Write soon to Sarah.

50. *This letter from EMD to JHD mentions "Eddie Apps" and some other domestic business. She mentions that she sends this letter to New York, which is likely part of the reason why (on July 23rd, and then, with some irritation, on the 27th) JHD later complains that he has not received a letter from her in a long time.*

[envelope:]

J.H. DeGrange
care of J.S. Paine
Boston, Mass

New Orleans, July 17th, 1869

Dear Joe,

Your very welcome letter of July 10th came to hand yesterday evening. Enclosed I found Henry's and Nellie's. You have no idea how pleased they were. They read them over and over until they knew them by heart. They read them to Rose and They both put them away to keep for-ever. I was very low spirited yesterday dear papa but your leter chased away the gloom and made me feel cheerful once more. I cannot help feeling so sometimes but when I hear from you [page 2] I feel relieved. We are all well. Bella was not very well night before last, But I gave her some simple things and she is as bright as ever. She is a sweet baby papa. You will hardly know her she has grown so much.

Wednesday was exactly one month since you left New Orleans.²⁸ I told you in my last letter not to hastin home on my account. for you know dear that if you

²⁸ This would mean JHD left New Orleans on Thursday, June 17th; JHD's next letter would indicate that he left home on the night of the 16th.

can succeed in your undertaking by remaining a few weeks longer it is much better that you should stay. I am very anxious to see you dearest But the time you have to remain now is not as long [page 3] as what has already past. I do not think that you will be absent another month. But if it is requisite I can be patient. I do not think that I will have to trouble Mr. Ben Montgomery for I think what money I have will do me. It seems so strange dear papa living in this large house without you. We have our meals just the same as when you are here, at the same hour and all. But it seems to me that it is strange. I cannot go down to my meals without thinking that you ought to be coming too. I feel as though I ought to wait for you. I had made [page 3] a bet with Sarah that you would be with us to-day or to-morrow. But I have lost. But I hope you will come when we are not expecting you and give us a sweet sweet surprise.

With my servants I am getting along very well. I have a nurse & Rose. Marie is taking care of Mrs. Stewarts house for her and she comes over and does my cooking for me. I told you about Bridget not being able to do our washing, So Rose was obliged to take it back. She seems well satisfied. This morning Henry, the nurse and myself got up at six O'Clock and went down to the french [new sheet, page 5] market to get some peper and I am going to make some pickles for you. The market down there was very fine. Henry enjoyed it so much. Eddie Apps has not yet called for those papers. I have taken them and looked over them and saved the memorandum your spoke of.²⁹ I have not said any thing about your business to any body. Nor will I. I suppose if the old man wishes to join you north it is to perhaps aid you in it. I went down to see Mrs. Tormey Friday For she was ^up^ to spend the day with me Tuesday and was [page 6] quite sick when she went home, so I went down to see how she was. She was still ill but not in bed. She is looking bad. I am

²⁹ See items 41 and 44.

so sorry for I like her very much. When I told her that you sent her your best respects she was very much pleased and told me to give you her love and to tell you not to stay too long away for the house is too lonesome without you. All the children send you their love and a kiss and Sarah also. And from your Baby darling, I send all my love and a sweet kiss.

Your loving Wife

Ellen

P.S. I think I will send this to New York. As I suppose you will be there when it gets there.



51. *This records a visit up the coast to the north of Boston, to see Lynn, Salem, Manchester, Gloucester, and Cape Ann. It also mentions Paul Esteben, who was arguing for the rights of the butchers against the State (see the footnote to item 35). The conflict was apparently driving up the price of meat.*

[envelope:]

[postmark:]

Mrs. Ellen DeGr<ange>
c/o B. J. Montgom<ery>
87 Camp <St.>
New Orl<eans>
L<A>

Boston July 17 8 p.m.

Boston July 17 1869

Dear Ellen,

I received on Tuesday last two letters from you, one dated on the 5 & 7 and to day up to the 11th,³⁰ and last Saturday is my last to you, the day I received your last. I was invited to visit a furniture manufactory in Manchester Mass. and spend a night

and a day there, becoming the guest of Mr. Kelham, who I must say treated me Bountifully.³¹ His family from the old lady to the youngest, are really true types of the proverbial New England hospitality. I drove from there to Cape Ann, and viewed the Atlantic Ocean from Cape Ann to Cape of Good Hope, a really fine sight, the town's of Gloucester, where all the mackerels and fishes are packed, Salem, Lynn, enjoying myself right well. I purchased a dress for you here, I am told that it is equally as cheap in this place than New York if not more. So made my selections here rather than wait. I put in this letter of piece of sample so you can see whether you liked it. I think it is just As I understood [sic] it, at any rate, I think it will do.³² I must tell since my last I received a letter from Mr. Montgomery who wrote you me he was coming on. The next day I received another from him stating he had arrived in New York and to day I expect him, here.³³ I would have made up my mind to return sooner, but owing to [page 2] to [sic] his letters I determined to wait his arrival as he is so directly interested in my business that I am here for, and also paying portion of my expenses. I will let you know in time, so that you can wait, before I start for home. I have not done anything since I have been here, but, I am glad he is coming for it will show him sure that I have not wasted time nor money, and it is better for all interested that her should superintend the lot.

The weather here has been very fine and very hot some days. But the mornings and evenings are coll [sic] enough to cover with Blankets, in the shade it is pleasant. I suppose you All must have a very hot time of it. As you suggested in one of your letters. I wrote to cousin Sarah. I suppose she must have received the letter before this, I directed I Care of Alfred.

³⁰ No letter remains from the 5th or 7th; the latter is item 45.

³¹ This is the family of Daniel Kelham (b. 1837) and his wife, Mary. He is described on the 1880 census as a "dealer in furniture." Their son, George William Kelham, was a notable architect, born in Manchester in 1871. Records of their family in Massachusetts seem to go back to the 17th century.

³² Apparently EMD had told him what to look for in a dress.

³³ Items 45 and 47; JHD omits the fact that Montgomery lost his luggage.

We are keeping a regular Bachelors hall in Cambridge. ever are fine men in the house, One lady, and one servant, who cant speak English, and Mrs. Paine. Cant speak Swede though it is the fact. none of us eat at the house but Breakfast. and dine in the City except Sundays for on that day we hunt our dinners promiscuously Around, as they shut up everything here, still she has been very attentive to us all who comparately stranger [sic] except myself, who is totally one, and her husband [page 3] is one of those strict religionists Baptists, but a clever man nevertheless.

Sometimes time hang so heavily on my hand, and I get a musing and thinking of home, wishing myself back there again, I truly miss you all a great deal. more than words Can express my meaning. Last night was just exactly One month since I left home.³⁴ Then I realy had no Idea that my time would extend any longer but ~~it~~ it seems so different. If the Old man get here to day why there will be a beginning of the end, and I assure I anxiously wait his coming in order to see the day when I will start back. for though I am living well, here are all the attraction at hand, there is a something I cannot express, which is missing, for if you were at a short distance that I could run to see you one a week, I might be tempted to stay longer to prosecute my claims here,

I can not account for Ms. Johnson's Action, but as her husband has somewhat spoken to you and apologised, I would, not, were I you speak of it again, for you know how quick her tongue is, and discretion in all cases is the better part of valor.³⁵ Keep quiet, not even are you broached upon do not make your wrongs public. I am glad that you did not intend to go back to ask her [page 4] and also pleased, that you told him that it was not absolutely required for him to pay, and he could wait until my return, if he so desired, for you by your indiference about the matter showed him plainly that, that money was not absolutely requisite to keep you

³⁴ This means he left home on the night of the 16th of June.

going, and better treat the whole matter with perfect complemp contempt, they feel it more than to be continually harping about it, for it makes a bad temper, and evil retort, and a long and useless attempt to do something which ends in nothing.

I wrote Henry and Nellie a small letter which you must let them read it alone, I hope it has reached you, it was enclosed in my last.³⁶ There is nothing of any importance here except the Examinations of shools [sic] which are numerable, if fact [sic] it is a bore for you can not pick a paper without meeting some report of it. I see frequently here reports of Mr. Paul Esteben, in the Meat fight between the Butchers and the slaughterhouses, I hope & so is everyone here that speaks of it, that Paul will be succesfull, in fact one the New York papers the "Tribune" thinks the people ought to turn burn the slaughterhouses.

Kiss my bully boys all and Bellay, Cousin Sarah & Nellie, and you my best and sweetest love, give my respect to all enquiring.

Your husband

Joe

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52. *This is the last letter from EMD that is preserved.*

[envelope:]

J.H. DeGrange

Car. Union & Carondelet Sts.

Presents

at Mr. Elroy & Bradford

New Orleans July 23rd, 1869

Dear Joe

³⁵ See item 45, on July 11th.

³⁶ Item 44; EMD actually responds to this in the previous letter (item 50), but JDH of course hasn't read it yet.

Your sweet letter of 17th came to hand a few hours since.³⁷

This is the second letter that Mr. David has brought and I have not been at home. Your know I take the children and go out for a little walk nearly every afternoon . . . Since you last [sic—i.e., "last wrote"] I have not been going with them as I have been waiting for Eddie Apps to come and he has not yet come I suppose he is across the lake with his Wife. I had gone to get shoes for the children this afternoon. The weather does not seem [page 2] to get one bit cooler. It is very very hot. We are all well. Maturine was here yesterday and I asked her if she would come and cook for me and she seemed pleased and told me she would think about it and let me know I would be very glad if I could get her. Marie has been cooking for me by the week as she has but very little to do at Mrs. Stewarts.

I had a visit from Mr. D. Bustamente last evening. He came to get that old clock of his mothers. And as it was too late to send for it, I told him I would get it [page 3] to day and the he might send for it. He told me to give you his best respects and would be very happy if you would pay a visit to Haseaska [sic] on your way home. He told me there had been a very large fire there, Mr. Phillips has lost nearly all he had. That is very sad for he had just begun to make something. I am so glad dear that you are enjoying yourself. for you are alone among strangers. It is true I miss you darling very very much the longer you stay the more I miss you. But I have our [page 4] great boys with me and our dear little girl. And in them my dear husband I find consolation. When I see them playing around me I cannot help sometimes saying aloud that I wish you could see them. You will not know our little girl she has got so fine, And notices everything so well.³⁸ I think she will have two teeth before many days. She is a good baby too dear papa. I am more than pleased with my dress. It is very handsome elegant. And rich. M^{rs}. Blessy has one that she

³⁷ Item 51

bought here just like it. [new sheet, page 5] It is worth in New Orleans 10. or \$11.00 per yard so you know if you had it cheaper. I hope that the Old man has met you and has been satisfied with you.

Oh papa how I do long to see you. It seems ages long long ages I wrote to you on Sunday³⁹ and I thought then that I would not have need to write again but I cannot remain silent, for even if you do not be there to receive it they can send it back home to you. It is now striking nine. Henry lying on the sofa reading and Sarah reading also. Henry & Nellie are [page 6] learning little pieces to say to you when you return. They all study every day. I had Ben dressed in pants this evening. A small pair of Joe's, I wish you could have seen him. He did not like them though. He said he wanted his dress on.⁴⁰

The [sic—i.e., "There"] was a notice left here for you. The internal revenue tax notice I suppose that I can lay by until you return. At all events I will find out. For even if it cannot, It must for I do not know what to put on it. I told the gentlemen who left it that you were not here and he did not say anything [page 7].

M^s M^c _____⁴¹ was here this morning and sends you her best regards and wishes you a speedy happy return with success in your undertaking. I will close now dearest as it is getting sleepy [sic] time for Bell. She got so used to me while I had no nurse that she will not go to sleep with anyone else now. Good-night my dear dear joe. A kiss and a return of love from you sweet chickens and ^from me^ all my love and a sweet good-night kiss ni night my darling your own

Loving wife Ellen.

³⁸ This will be the baby Isabella ("Bella"), who was to die in 1878 at about age 9.

³⁹ Item 48

⁴⁰ All children wore dresses as babies; boys were eventually moved to shorts, and then long pants.

⁴¹ This might be "McKinsyin" ? Or, 'McHenry in' ?

53. *This letter tells of B.M. Montgomery's arrival in Boston, though this seems not to help JHD's state of mind much at all.*

[envelope:]

[postmark:]

Mrs. E. DeGrange

July 24 8 p.m. Mass

c/o B. J. Montgomery

87 Camp Street

New Orleans

LA

Boston July 23rd, 1869

Dear Ellen

Last Saturday I wrote to you, and have received but one letter since and that was dated the 13th of July 10 days ago in that you told me Sarah was to write to me.⁴² I received her letter this morning, and was much pleased to hear from her, when you receive this letter, which will be in about six days from here which will make it about the 29th don't write any more unless you receive another letter from me, which will tell you, when to write.

Mr. Montgomery as I told you I expected arrive [sic—i.e., "arrived"] here Tuesday as expected, and I have had conversation with him and from what I can glean, there is not much hope of doing anything here. He seems to be anxious to move about his own private interest. I told him I desired to leave this town by the beginning of next week. for really I have been here sometimes since the the [sic] 3rd of July. and from home over a month, and living here is rather expensive, although I have no lodging to pay still I have board, and that counts up. and again I have seen all that is to be seen, and want to move on. I want to leave for New York the beginning of next week, and, earlier if possible, and from there after a stay of a

⁴² Item 48

couple of days back home, for I miss you so [page 2] much, and all my bully boys in fact all is what I want. This life of inactivity is killing to me and keeps me in perfect turmoil of thoughts. still I strive to look only on the bright side of the picture. There is nothing of any importance moving, and nothing that I could write to you, except that I am well, and got no news from you except from the 13th⁴³ though we have the Times of Sunday the 18th, and no news of here of anything of importance. So this letter will be shorter than any I have written to you since I have left home. So au revoir Soon, Kiss Henry, Eddy, Nellie, Josei, Benney, Bella, Sarah and You too

Your husband own

Joe

54. *This letter concerns a meeting at the Fire Department; "Jackson No. 18" is referred to in item 25 as well. I don't, however, know who Alfred is here. He is clearly staying away much longer than expected. There is virtually no punctuation in this letter.*

[envelope:]

J.H. DeGrange, Esq.
care of J.S. Paine, Esq.
Boston, Mass.

If not delivered within 10 days
return to:

Pilot Lock Box No. 7

[postmark:]

July 27 8 p.m. Mass

New Orleans July 16th 1869

Dear Joe,

Your welcome letter of the 19th just has come to hand and I was happy to hear from you and also that you were well I think old fellow that you are staying

⁴³ Item 48

away longer then you expected I know that it seems to me a long time I don't know what you think about it but it seems to me about six months and I would like to see you very much for I tell you I miss you very much all the members of Southwestern N^o 40, Looks for you next Wednesday night to Jnotc_ed [?] you as I have told them that you would be here on that night but by your last letter I see that you don't say anything about comming home so I will have to retract all that I have said Jackson ^18^ They are all well the Exempt would not except my Resolution to change their meeting to Monday night so I think I had better resigned as I cannot attend on Sundays, you do not say any thing about my last letter Our family are all well and enjoying good health they are all as fat as hogs our city is very he^a^lthy but very warm write and let us know when you are comming home

Yours truly

Alfred

55. *He is getting impatient to get home, and is upset about the lack of success on his trip. In fact, he had told EMD not to write again until he had written to tell her where or when (see item 53).*

[envelope:]

[postmark:]

Mrs. E. DeGrange
c/o B. J. Montgomery
87 Camp Street
New Orleans
LA

July 27 8 p.m. Mass

Boston July 27 1869

Dear Ellen

I really do not know what to make of it. for here I have not received any news from you directly since the 13th,⁴⁴ 14 days ago, what is the matter. I hope no one is ill to prevent you writing. If you knew how I long to hear from you, you would not delay, and Cause such anxiety. Sarah's letter was the 17th of July⁴⁵ and that is the last letter I have received myself from New Orleans, I intended to leave sooner that this, and I am still in Boston, what for, God only knows. I am trying to leave this evening for New York and. hope to succeed.

I am well and meet a great many New Orleans People here. Some on a visit of pleasure others on Business and it is some Consolation of meeting those I know in my own home. When I spoke of leaving Mr. Shearer, will not listen to it. he says, I can not do anything there, and, I have been so long without leaving the city that I better take some recreation. All that sounds very well, and is meant in good Friendly Spirit and heart, and I really [page 2] would like to follow his suggestion. if you and all my young ones were here, but it is terribly dull sometimes and tedious, to be away from you all and I long to much to see you as you see when you wrote on the 13th you had news only from the 6th from me,⁴⁶ and I have written several letters since but have received no answers from you. I trust nothing is wrong I will not write you a very long letter now and I hope that the mails of to day will bring me some consolation from you, and take away this long anxiety. Kiss all my boys and little girl and I send by this my love to all of you, ten hundred times.

Your husband

Joe

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56. *The last letter in the file. The date when he returned to New Orleans remains vague.*

⁴⁴ Item 48

⁴⁵ Item 49

⁴⁶ Item 43

Boston, July 29, 1869

Dear Ellen,

At last. I have received a letter from you yesterday and that was dated the 23rd. You state there that you had written on the Sunday before, that would be the 19th, that letter I have not as yet receive [sic] and accounts for the long delay.

As I told yesterday I intended to leave in ybut since have somewhat changed again I left my clothes to be washed this morning, and if it can be done to be returned to me Saturday morning I will not leave until that evening,⁴⁷ for New York, on my way home. If not I will leave sooner. For I am getting very tired here, and want to get back.

There is nothing new here of any consequence except I see by the day papers, that quite an accident has happend on a train coming north where a Great many people from New Orleans were killed, and hurt. I write to you simply because, it is like a conversing with one I think so much of. and now kiss all our little men our little babe and yourself my own darling.

Your own husband

Joe

⁴⁷ This would be Saturday, July 31st.