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Petit Anse Island
May 12th 1865

My dear Papa.

The perusal of your kind letters forwarded by Mr Freeke gave me much pleasure, but I was distressed at the same time to find you had received so few of my letters. Uncle Jonathan returned from New Orleans some three weeks since and immediately wrote you a long letter which I forwarded by way of Sierra Mont. He brought us the news of Lee's surrender and wrote advising your immediate return home. In a few short weeks all of our bright hopes for the future of our country have been blasted, the most gigantic struggle of any people for their independance has proved unsuccessful and our Government has crumbled to the dust, burying in its fall the only remnants of liberty left this distracted Country. As a mighty ship with fair winds, her port almost in sight, her Crew filled with hope and expectation, is sent by a squall, to the bottom, with all sails set, so have we gone down. It behoves us to await with patience and hope, whatever the future may bring forth, to bear with fortitude and resignation what God's will may ordain and to battle manfully with the world for a position and a

support. Although the future is dark it may not be so dark as we anticipate and should the States be allowed to come back with their sovereignty intact, we have much yet to hope for. Uncle Henahaw, with many others, thinks this will be the case. He has been among the Yankees and his judgement is probably more correct than either yours or mine. The Yankees have not recognized the bogus government of Wells and it is probable that the whole people of the state will be allowed to choose their executive officer. My views in regard to the assassination of Lincoln are the same as yours. I think that in the present condition of the Country it is a misfortune to the South. Johnson seems to be a man void of principle and honor and if he is not restrained by the Conservative party at the North, he will "rat Hard, Hard" next to our being subjugated I regard his being raised to supreme Command my greatest calamity. I hope that dear Mama had returned ere this, if she has not, do you not think advisable for her to return by way of New Orleans. From Savannah she could go down Lacy in New Orleans, who would obtain her a pass to go to New Iberia, Ladies pass through the lines every day without difficulty. The lines, in fact, have been opened by the Yankees. I hope however that

ma is now with you and that dear Lizzie's health ~~has been~~ was improved by the sea voyage. If you see no prospect of Ma's return to Houston, do you not think it better that you should come home at any rate? Everything here is progressing as well under the circumstances as you could wish. If I had more mules at my command I could plant more corn, but at present this is impossible. Make every effort to get that powder here, there will be great demand for it this summer. It is now selling for six dollars a sack in New Orleans. I deposited all the money I had on hand with uncle Henshaw. Some think the State money will be redeemed, this I consider rather doubtful. I endeavored to sell it here, but was unsuccessful. I am much obliged to you for the flannel and cloth sent back in the trunk. The flannel will make me an excellent summer suit. The cotton I is unbleached and is too coarse I think for sheeting. Mr Robinson brought me the axes a few days since. Old Labra has a fine garden and has planted most of the seed you sent over. Mrs Richards had previously been kind enough to give me a good many seed. I send you by Mr Peeks a very handsome pipe that was carved for me by Young Randolph please accept it as a very slight token of the

love I bear you. I shall look for you home very soon, we have had fresh almost every day, but I fear the back water from the Mississippi will spoil the fishing. The Grand Levee has broken, Tensas Point and the whole Lafourche Country is under water. The Bayou Teche has been very high since January and is now almost over its Banks. Give my love to Sisters Mary and Virginia, Brother and yourself.

With devoted love
Your Love
Dudley

Whalay Grove
Mary 17th 1865