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1827

25: 1827 November 5: R.T. Dunbar to William Dunbar, Jr. "Brother" (Natchez)

R. T. Dunbar

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Recommended Citation

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Dear Brother - Your letter ^{in the mail} coming in from Sister Mary has this evening by some accident reached me. I wonder that it can find its way so safe, with the directions you put on it - Mr Deane in Paris why you don't think Paris is such a place as Natchez or New York or any of our little cities. My letter had I see by the marks on it been sent to the English Embassy where it was mislaid. I ^{then} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~sent~~ ^{sent} from thence sent to the American, who not knowing my address sent it to a house where there were several Americans boarding, one of whom luckily saw it and gave it a proper direction. When you send again by way of New York always direct to the care of Clave and Compagnie at Harlem, then there will be no danger of accidents. Your letters were however not the last welcome for the dangers they had incurred, and I will answer them forthwith, as I have several more to get ready for the 10th when a vessel will sail direct for N Orleans by which I send the long talk of Mulberry trees, which will be put under Mrs Postlethwaite's care. I send no less than 3 thousand, enough to cover me quite a plantation, and I am going to be stingy enough to keep two thousand for myself. ~~and~~ if any of you want any of them, or any of the grape cuttings, you will have to beg of Mr P for them. I expect Mrs Huntington, who having a real talent for such things will do me the favour of going shares with Mr P in the vines. If properly managed I will eat some of the grapes the first summer I am at home. It's only a few days since I wrote to you by Brown, who astonished me by his sudden and unexpected appearance in my room just as I had finished sealing your and other letters for home. As I have written so lately, I have not much as you may suppose to say to you, even though I don't despair of getting my paper, although I have this paper extremely close, for I make it a principle in writing letters, to be as economical as possible, imitating in this the good example you have set me, if we except the letter now before me, which you say was written in a hurry. Though I have nothing to say I do not despair, provided I am not interrupted more than four times more. I have already had to put my letter down three times for the entrance of visitors, interrupted some times in the middle of a sentence, my acquaintances having heard I was sick about a week ago ~~having~~ taking it into their heads to call to day and see whether it was a fact. This is a fete day, and tomorrow is another, which will offer something curious to a stranger, and in three or four days is the fete of the things fifth day, when there will be a heap of queer things and more silliness I expect than I can see before me at one sight. If I see anything worth telling of I will send it for my letter to Mr Manger and this is precisely the reason, tell her that I do not answer her letter just - I want a few days

in rather evenings, since, to the former Grand of Tivoli, (an imitation of
Vauxhall in London,) for the first and certainly last time; for I found it
extremely dull, though all the little trifling Frenchmen around me ap-
peared to me very happy and enjoying themselves. But they can be am-
used with the music trifling, people perform which seem to give plea-
sure to any, but the children, of any other nation. And it is not the
best amusing feature in one of these sort of exhibitions, to see the
Englishman, proud of his superiority over their national rival, enter the
hall and strive to excel the French, and make himself even a greater
foe than his own countryman. This character of frivolity and even child-
ish disposition, has always been cited as a prominent trait in the
French, and it cannot but strike every one, as being too plain to
be denied. But it is strange that its shades be found in other traits
of character so different, for no nation is more energetic, more more
nearly devoted to the pursuit of science, or who can number more
distinguished characters in almost every branch of knowledge, than France.
To portray the character of the French you must have every Italian
and every extreme of light and shade. They are a mighty queer
people as a gentleman from Virginia is good coming up stairs I will
be you good bye, until we have got through our discussion about
General Jackson and the distinguished characters who have honored
Virginia, by having been born there, from Gen Washington down
to General Gibs -

If you know what miserable fate of home-keeping I have every way
and then you would have spared yourself the trouble of cautioning me a-
gainst getting too fond of Europe. I assure ^{you} there is no sugar that I ever took
for comfort and happiness elsewhere than in the society of you all. I must
be near them who love me and whom I love too feel very comfortable; and
the longer I stay away, the more intense grows my wish to be with you all
again. and when I am with you again, I feel that I will value more than
ever the comforts, advantages and blessings of my situation. I have five
hundred schemes to put in execution at the Grange, which will employ
me the rest of my life so I shall never be idle. The first of my schemes
will be some affair during the execution of the next month, it is open-
ed to their ultimate perfection - this is to get out of debt. My millinery
business is one step towards this scheme. You know I was always a schem-
ing, venturing fellow from a boy, and I must also confess, that I never
in later years cost me money or time without pleasure or profit in de-
termined. I have made no schemes however for a long time, except this last one
which I am tolerably certain will not cost me much. I want to know
whether the whole country will not laugh at me; I shall be glad of it, if
it is the case, for I should then have my vanity wounded in the success

of my speculation. — You speak of the Mexican cast in our cotton. I think I told some of you what the Merchants here said of our crops & you ought to think about it and try to change the character a little of our present productions, and while you are vegetating for yourself please put in a vegetation or two for the Grange, and let St. Louis know the result of your intellectual calculations." — I was very sorry to hear poor Sim had been so very ill and wrote him a long letter on the strength of it. But I hope he will be quite well by the time it reaches him, for it is a real plantation letter, and if he is at all predisposed it might throw him into a fever. You tell me nothing about the health of the town and country, but from your silence I hope you have escaped for this year, although it is the hottest fatal odd year of N. Orleans we have had here, the accounts, probably however somewhat exaggerated — we have also heard of storms and hurricanes ravaging the country, principally the coast. I hope they have not extended far and intend to cause you give a sufficient account of my crop, which being most as good as yours, is of course as good as can be expected —

I was to Paris when you saw him, tell him I have only seen one brood of yours as yet — and as to his second question it's so long since I was in Adair County that I have forgotten the form and elegant legs of Natchez. I really must confess I don't understand. I was glad to hear he was in Adair; ask him if I shall send him a new patent tail made in Adair and which is in Berccan, à la Ginaffe — Ginaffe here, since the arrival of that animal, if he had hats à la Fayette de — This is indeed a very singular beast. Naturalists have been at a loss to decide whether it was a horse or a cow (stupid fellows can't tell a horse from a cow) they have however at length decided that it is more of a cow than a horse, and it is clasped with cows and sheep as a horrid Ruminating animal — I am extremely sorry that Brown did not find my sooner. I wanted to send a heap of things by him, particularly Sister P's commission, which has bothered me not a little, as to one article see page 100!! why she might as well ask your Congo Jack about the respective merits of different poems, as tell me to choose her — Now if Brown had only staid one day how nicely I could have fixed it — as it is I must look out for other assistance —

I suppose you'll have with you this winter Mr Green of Liverpool, poke him in the eye, have him in the Press, and rounce the cotton scaffolds, you will I think like him very well. I thought him a very strong fellow indeed; and extremely good looking. — I believe I told he has a handsome sister about 18 — Give my love to all the folks and believe me very affectionately Brother R. T. DuBose — If I think of any more nonsense I will try to find Paris November 7 - 1837 — up the blank spot of this paper, if you send it

rather with Charlotte's side. does Mamy mean to say that
Charlotte was following her example. What was independent fellow.
I am to be joking my sister. but when I read that part of her
letter I could not help laughing heartily and you know it would
not be manners to laugh and not tell the company what you are
laughing at. Good bye dear brother and I bid you in ever yours
R. V. Dumbler - Nov 5. 1887 -

Received by Mrs. Brown

William Dumbler Esq

Great Am

Natchez

Mich. etc.

Nov 5 1887

Nov 5 1887

ask Mr. Huntington to take the grain under his special care. give him my
grain, and some fine shooting, and be sure to tell him how is shooting with my
gun and my dogs, and am interested in this for I shall be in England next
fall, and I remember having seen in their stable two most beautiful
printers. - I have just finished the enclosed and must hasten
to tell you good bye again as this is the fifth, and I want to
make sure and get all ready for the report which sails in
a few days. Between you and me I don't visit each other a lot
at Mamy's expense. she says for the summer past Charlotte has
not been very well and that she has mourned grown my sister and
derived all from her example. now I have heard what was the