



Mr. Cornelius Wright
Sag Harbour
Long Island
N.Y.

young

1881 now
July 4th

Montanna Mouth of
The Brazos. May 15. 1836

My Dear Uncle.

I presume that you have been looking for some time past for letters from me but owing to our disturbances there has been but little communication with any party of the M. S. an opportunity now offers and a chance for me and I hasten to embrace it. You of course are acquainted with our affairs generally as I presume that the New York papers has plenty of news but I will give you a more particular description and a little more accurate. I will commence with the fall of the Texip of Bexar and follow it up to the present date. The Thermopylae of Texas was taken in the latter part of February after a siege of three weeks. by the forces of St. Anna with an army of 6000 men. Houston does not record so gallant a resistance and so tragic an end. Not one of the defenders escaped to tell the dreadful tale. A Negro man and survivor the sole survivor. 182 men fell gloriously fighting for liberty but they exterminated a hundred of the savages for \$21000 left on the field and 1000 wounded. Most of them mortally, after burning the bodies of St. Anna. Marched his forces to Laredo a strong fort on the Rio Grande. There and uncle Mann. And commanded by Col. ^{of} Houston he was ordered to evacuate the place and retreat to the Colorado. to join the Main Army. his force consisted of 1800 men. Then retreated he cut off and they were surrounded by 3000 of the savages who commenced an attack and after a steel fought action of five hours. they hauled off leaving 100 men dead on the field and 500 horses. They ordered reinforcement of 900 men and came up on the field that night we had 9 men killed and 26 wounded and consequently were obliged to remain there that night in the burning we were completely surrounded ^{by} them and not one drop of water. proposals were made to them and articles of treaty entered into. and we surrendered as

property to be -
States our Army has
since five days
for the bay of
the Gulf of California
so escaped to see
to think that it
by this time but he
Bravo. Meaning
of men horses
and the Trinity
and the whole country
later. On the 24th
in mind to check
was encamped 12
ratifying and
King his portion
~~With 1000 men~~
a thousand men
550 men and in
whole lines and in
of the most
giant killing 500
a at their head
38 officers 1200
men and 15 horses
later he is perfectly
dangerous and a
grand and a
of Mexico like
the his head
his prison and
time from his
a very smart
a well made
has caused in
hundreds of poor

Men on crops are all out off No cotton will be made this
year the Farmers are returning to their homes. And an Inde-
-moring to Make bread Many of the Merchants are
completely ruined. And are Bankrupt for thousands
but in him this consolation we have the finest country
in Earth and our Sandy soil soon be valuable I do
not believe there even was so ~~greate~~ large a field for
speculation as there is in Texas at this time. And
will be probably for 1000. Corns has lost several hundred
horses but I am in hopes that I shall recover it for him
It has done by the orders of Government I have presented
the claim and think it will be allowed he will not
so far this country he is so completely unqualified for
business of any kind and so was and in his position
that nothing can be done with him according to your
Request I have done all that ~~has~~ in my power to
and and shall continue to do so until the makes
up his loss then I shall advise him to return home
up the country at present and was well 1000
and from him.

18th March truly yours
John S. Bright

Quintanna Mouth of
The Brazos, May 15, 1836

My Dear Uncle,

I presume that you have been looking for some time past for letters from me but owing to our disturbances there has been but little communication with any parts of the U.S. An opportunity now offers and a leisure hour and I hasten to embrace it. You of course are acquainted with our affairs generally as I perceive that the New York papers has plenty of Texas news but I will give you a more particular description and a little more accurate. I will commence with the Fate of the Fortress of Bexar and follow it up to the present date. The Thermopyle of Texas was taken in the latter part of February after a siege of their works by the forces of St. Anna with an army of 6,000 men. History does not record so gallant a resistance and so tragic an end. Not one of the defenders escaped to tell the dreadful tale. A negro man and wife were the sole survivors. 182 men fell gloriously fighting for liberty but they exterminated hundreds of the savage foe. 521 were left on the field and 1000 wounded most of them mortally. After burning the bodies St. Anna marched his forces to La Bahia a strong fortress on the San Antonio River and well manned and commanded by Col. Fanning [sic - Fannin] - he was ordered by General Houston to evacuate the place and retreat to the Colorado to join the Main Army. his force consisted of 487 men. their retreat was cut off and they were surrounded by 2000 of the Enemy who commenced an attack and after a well-fought action of five hours they held off - leaving 1000 men dead on the field and 600 horses. they ordered reinforcements of 900 men and camped on the field that night. he had 7 men killed and 40 wounded and consequently was obliged to remain there that night. in the morning he was completely surrounded by them and not one drop of water. proposals was made to them and articles of treaty entered into and he surrendered as honourable prisoners of war our private property to be respected and we were to be sent to the United States. Our army was marched back to the fort and detained five days when all were ordered out to march for the bay of Copona [sic - Copano Bay]. And on the way the principal part was inhumanely massacred. Not more than 20 escaped to tell the horrid tale. It would seem natural to think that St. Anna's vengeance was nearly glutted by this time but he took up the line of march for the Brazos swearing vengeance and a total extermination of men women and children. Our army retreated towards the Trinity. St. Anna following the hot pursuit and the whole country west of the Brazos completely depopulated. On the San Jacinto our army took a stand determined to check him in his mad course. thus the army encamped 12 miles apart. St. Anna

commenced fortifying and heaving up entrenchments and making his position as strong as possible. Our army attacked him [“with 1,500 men” crossed out] on the eve of the 21st of April at 4PM with 650 men and in 19 minutes completely routed his whole lines and in one hour and 20 minutes gained one of the most complete victories that was ever fought killing 690 and taking 800 prisoners. With St. Anna at their head and 42 officers many of them of rank. they had 38 officers killed, two of them Generals. Our loss is 7 killed and 15 wounded. St. Anna is very anxious about his fate. he is perfectly willing to acknowledge our independence, cede us territory to the west Bank of the Rio Grande and pay the expense of the war if the congress of Mexico will ratify it. I think he will escape with his head. I belong to the Guards stationed about his prison and have frequent opportunities of seeing him. from his appearance I should not think him a very smart man. he is six feet in height and well made and rather prepossessing but he has caused us an immensity of trouble and made hundreds of poor men. Our crops are all cut off. No cotton will be made this year. the Farmers are returning to their homes and are endeavoring to make bread. Many of the merchants are completely ruined and are Bankrupts [sic] for thousands but we have this consolation we have the finest country on Earth and our lands will soon be valuable. I do not believe there ever was so [“great” crossed out] large a field for speculation as there is in Texas at this time and will be probably for years. Cous. has lost several hundred Dols but I am in hopes that I shall recover it for him. It was done by the orders of Government. I have presented the claim and think it will be allowed. He will not do for this country. he so completely unqualified for business of any kind and so wayward in his disposition that nothing can be done with him according to your request. I have done all that was in my power to and shall continue to do so until he makes up his loss. then I shall advise him to return home [missing] up the country at present once was well [missing] from him.

I remain truly yours

Jno L. Sleight