Fort King East Florida
August 18th 1839

My Dear Uncle,

It was thought by many intelligent persons that the "Florida war, was ended". And General Alex. Macomb's proclamation & treaty made at this post, in the month of May, aided in the belief. But such is the restless disposition of the Seminoles, that no faith can possibly be put in them. After all their protestations, they committed one of the most flagrant outrages on Lt. Col. Harney's command. Col. Harney with about 30 men & some traders went with Chitto-Tuskenogee (a delegate from Sam. Jones) and a band of Indians, to the country south of Peace creek, which had been assigned to the Indians. Such was the confidence reposed in the Indians, that no guard was kept (a negligence which will probably cost Col. Harney's commission) & just before day break the camp was surprised & 18 men killed, the goods all stolen, as also the arms. Mess. Dallam & Morgan the traders also killed. Chitto-Tuskenogee had nothing to do with this massacre, but it was done by the Talahassees or Seminoles. We do not know what the consequence of this massacre will be; on the receipt of this intelligence Lt. Hanson of the 7th Infantry, surprised & took, 46 Indians, (men, women & children) prisoners; two of them having attempted to escape, were shot dead by his men. Such is now the state of affairs in Florida. War is almost inevitable but such is the imbecility of our government, that all these murders are allowed to pass unpunished, instead of vigorously

carrying on the war. But we have no troops, & the government expects impossibilities by the the few which are here. You hear of so many regiments being in Florida it is only in name, for each regiment now in this country wants from 4 to five hundred men to be full.

Please give my best regards to Grand'mother, Major & Mrs Smith, Clémence &c in which Mary & the Children join me.

In consequence of the never ending "Florida war" I cannot leave this country for a long time, and what little property I have in St Louis, is doubtless going to rack, for want of proper attention. Will you be kind enough to inform me, the value of property & the best disposition that could be made of it.

All I own, (at least so far as I am informed) is as follows:

1st — 1 tract 19 acres near rock Spring $4000.

2d — 1 lot 26 feet 8 in. by 150 ft. in Block No 73 300

3d — 1 lot No 7 in Block No 148 (50 feet by 120) 600

The first tract I do not wish to dispose of, as I intend (one of these days) to build on it, but in the mean time if an honest man could be found to cultivate it, fence it in &c it would increase in value. The two lots, I would like to sell, if I could get a good price for them. Would you oblige me, my dear uncle, by letting me know, the value of the above property & any other if I have any, and also by disposing of it for me, in the most advantageous manner, and I shall send you the necessary powers, to enable you to do so. Should you write please address your letters, "To Lt. G. R. P. Fort King, via Garey's ferry East Florida."

Truly yours

G. H. Paul

Henry Chouteau Esq.
St Louis, Mo.

Edward

G. R. Paul

Fort King East Florida 18th Aug 1839

Recd

Augusta 11 Oct 1839

To

Thomas Gibson Esq.

Offices

Augusta