

John Brown Gordon Records

Letterbooks (7) and account books (2) kept by John Brown Gordon documenting business and other transactions. 9 volumes.

John Brown Gordon served in the U.S. Senate 1873 to 1880 and 1891 to 1897. In 1880, he resigned from the Senate and became involved with various business and commercial ventures. In 1883, he resigned from President of the Georgia Pacific Railroad to work with the International Railroad and Steamship Company of Florida.

The letterbooks (Gordon's outgoing letters to various business persons throughout the country) document much of the business of the International Railroad and Steamship Company of Florida, including railroad building, obtaining lands, and funding.

The account books which record Gordon's receipts and disbursements contain accounts for some of the same names indexed in the letterbooks.

The letterbooks are in very fragile condition. They are tissue letterpress copybooks which have begun to disintegrate. In many parts, the microfilm copy will be difficult to read. Because some of the letters were imprinted on the reverse side of the tissue page, some of the page numbers are reversed.

The records in this series consist of:

1883 J.B.G. Account Book, indexed. Records names of accounts, some locations (accounts throughout the southeast and New England), dates of transactions, and amounts. Includes also a record of some personal loans, bills payable, and some office expenses, 67 pages. (Pages 62-67 are blank.) Microfilm 195/55

1883-1884 J.B.G. Account Book, not indexed. Contains a record of cash debits and credits listing date, name of account or category (bills payable, legal expenses), brief description of transaction, and amount, 75 pages.

1883, May - Sept. J.B.G. Letterbook A, indexed. 504 pages and 12 index pages. Some pages are missing; some pages are blank.

1883, Sept. - 1884, Jan. J.B.G. Letterbook B, indexed. Includes also a clipping quoting a Gordon letter to Rep. Randall on page 169 and a (code?) word on a telegram blank after page 334. Pages 212- 213 and 226 record part of Gordon's code word system, 690 pages and 25 index pages. Some pages are missing; some pages are blank including pages 410-664, 680-690.

1884, Jan. Mar. J.B.G. Letterbook C, indexed. Includes also one loose incoming letter after page 33, 298 pages and 13 index pages. Some pages are missing; some pages are blank including pages 297-298 at the end of the volume.

1884, Mar. - Sept. J.B.G. Letterbook D, indexed. 485 pages and 13 index pages, some pages are missing and some are blank.

1884, Aug. – 1885, Oct. J.B.G. Letterbook E, indexed. 484 pages and 13 index pages, some pages are missing and some are blank.

1886, Nov. - 1889 Dec. J.B.G. Letterbook F, Indexed. Includes also one loose incoming letter after page 297 and one loose telegram after page 302. Some of the letters were also written by Hugh Gordon, son of John Brown Gordon, 698 pages and 42 index pages, some pages are missing and some are blank including pages 697-698 at the end of the volume.

1890, Feb. - Nov. J.B.G. Letterbook G, not indexed. 702 pages and 25 blank index pages. Some pages are missing; some pages are blank including pages 64-702 at the end of the volume.

**A brief abstract for Letterbook A.
May to September 1883**

May 9, 1883

Gordon to W.L. Watson, London. Opportunities for investment in Texas railroad. Must talk to relative of U.S. Grant concerning matter.

Gordon to A.G. Allott, London. Same as above in content.

Gordon to A.S. Houston, Decatur, Georgia. Hopes to see old friend in Atlanta during forthcoming week.

Gordon to Hon. Henry Couper, Columbia, Tennessee. Receive money for stock in construction company. Road building continuing apace in Florida. Potential for investment in citrus-growing land.

Gordon to Nathanael Greene, London. Letter concerns possible purchase by English investors of Mississippi lands. Gordon deplors Greene's tardiness of action in negotiations.

Gordon to W.H. Drake, Philadelphia. Gordon orders rails for his International Railroad, which will span the length of the state.

May 10, 1883

Gordon to Capt. J.B. David, Tampa, Florida. Discusses possible purchase of Florida lands bordering railroad line. Asks David to keep negotiations secret.

Gordon to Col. S.J. Wailes, Washington, DC. Wailes must put up money for purchase of coal lands in Alabama. Title to be take in name of a trustee; money with 6% interest first to be returned and then the net profits divided.

Gordon to Maj. J. W. Johnston, Atlanta, Georgia

Asks that Johnston give him advance tip on what tracts of land will be sold by the federal government in the Black Warrior coal preserve west of Birmingham, Ala. Mutual division of reward from Gordon's friends.

Gordon to Richard Salinger, Philadelphia. Requests that particular draft of agreement be duly executed and returned.

Gordon to W. H. Drake, Philadelphia. Places order for steel rails for railroad line. Must be shipped to Tampa, Florida. Asks shipping costs, etc.

May 11, 1883

Gordon to Gov. W. D. Bloxham, Tallahassee, Florida. Inquires about convict lease. Asks for lands that might go to rival Florida Southern. Asks for Governor's influence in matter.

Gordon to Hon. John Johnston, Washington, DC

Regrets that Johnston did not join his company as a stockholder. Will not need counsel as there is no legal difficulty in the acquisition of lands.

Gordon to Col. John T. Lesley, Tampa, Florida

Asks for information about the beginning and ceasing of work by the J.F. & K.W. Company. Inquiries must be held in strict secrecy.

May 12, 1883

Gordon to Ransom

Requests that Ransom come to see Gordon. Hopes that Ransom can bring about a compromise with the Florida R.R. If he pulls it off, he will receive between \$500 and \$1000 from the company.

Gordon to J. M. Oglesby (New Orleans, Louisiana)

Construction company soon to be licensed by International R.R.

Illegible

May 14, 1883

Gordon to Gov. W. D. Bloxham (Tallahassee, Florida)

Asks for special consideration over all other railroad lines in the acquisition of Florida lands.

May 16, 1883

Gordon to W. H. Drake (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Discusses receipt of iron rails at Tampa, Florida. Inquires again as to freight rates.

May 17, 1883

Gordon to Capt. Charles F. Smith (Tampa, Florida)

Plans to alter route of the International Railroad. Warns Smith that absolute secrecy must be maintained.

Gordon to Hamilton Disston, Esq. (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Asks about lands on sale in Florida that had been redeemed through drainage operations. Line propositions concerning the acquisition and title of Florida lands.

May 18, 1883

Gordon to van Rattle

Importunes van Rattle to suggest the best method of selling his railroad's securities.

May 19, 1883

Gordon to Dr. Edward Warren (Paris)

Invitation extended to Warren to join in construction of a Jacksonville, Florida line. Used Warren's name as incorporator of line.

Gordon to W. H. Watson (London)

Used Warren's name as incorporator of line. Invitation to join in R.R. venture.

Gordon to Nathaniel Greene (London)

Same as above.

May 21, 1883

Gordon to Hon. A.C. Harmer (Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Letter to accompany prospectus, map, and confidential statement in reference to the blocks. Confidential offer to make Harmer large stockholder. Part of block proceeds to be distributed among Gordon and associates. Requests Harmer's aid in placing bonds.

Gordon to Alfred Bishop Mason (c/o Mason & Young, 35 Wall St. N.Y.)

Withholding decision on contract between International R.R. and S.S. Company until advice can be obtained from Chief Engineer or Superintendent in Florida. Requests information about bond inquiry from abroad.

Gordon to Capt. Chas. H. Smith (Tampa, Florida)

Requests: criticism of traffic arrangement plan between International R.R. & S.S. Company and the Palatka and Indian River R.R. Company, which he considers unprofitable; advice on Paul's Landing matter.

May 22, 1883

Gordon to Thos. G. Keogh, Esq. Greensboro, North Carolina.

Offers to sell Keogh stock in construction company

Gordon to P. Cavanah (Hailey, Idaho)
Offers to sell Cavanah blocks in Co.

May 23, 1883

Gordon to Stephen B. Hughes (c/o Messrs. Ellett & Company, Richmond, Virginia).
Offers to sell Hughes blocks in company

May 24, 1883

Gordon to Hon. W. H. Mabry (Leesburg, Sumter County, Florida)
Line changed to run from Sumterville to Brooksville. Main line to run from Leesburg due South.
Will make arrangements to build new town if Leesburg population will not cooperate with
company Wants to buy 1/2 interest in orange grove near Lake Panasofka. Strictly confidential.

Gordon to Hon. A. S. Mann (Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida)
Defines new route for R.R. Instructs Mann to get competitive bids for contracts along new line.

May 25, 1883

Gordon to Col. A. J. McBride (Atlanta, Georgia)
McBride does not wish to purchase stock.

May 26, 1883

Gordon to Mack W. Jahnsen, Esq. (Atlanta, Georgia)
Johnson will pay off notes by means of mortgage on his business.

1883

Proxy naming Wm. H. McKissley to represent writer at stockholders' meeting. Unsigned.

May 28, 1883

Gordon to J. M. Stevens, Esq. (Mgr. W.U. Tel. Company, Atlanta, Georgia)
Sending Stevens 10 stamps due.

Gordon to Richard Lacey (64 Beaver St., New York)
Offers to sell Lacey stock in company

Gordon to Rev. James P. Boyce, D. D. (104 W. Chestnut St., Louisville, Kentucky)
Holding two blocks for Boyce.

May 26, 1883

Gordon to Gen. George Walker (Consul General U.S., Paris)
Requests Walker to confer with competent French bankers on two plans presented for bringing
out bonds. Confidential note enclosed: Walker may try to get bonds placed for a commission
himself. Purchase possibility not to be made public.

1883

Unsigned, undated company charter giving specifics for marketing of bonds. 3 pages - illegible

May 30, 1883

Unsigned to "Sir".

Requests recipient to sign and return form approving method of bond sales.

List of correspondence sent May 30, 1883.

May 31, 1883

Gordon to Col. R. O. Reynolds (Aberdeen, Mississippi)

Requests Reynolds to answer inquiry of Mr. Megrue concerning cultivation of certain lands and their rental. Wants to get Trust Company to guarantee bonds.

Gordon to R. W. Hunter

Asks Hunter to test for interest in purchasing bonds, specifying that they are not yet up for sale.

Gordon to Mr. Jewett (Hon. H. J. Jewett, Best Erie R. R.)

Encloses proxy for Jewett's signature. Fully paid capital stock of construction company will make blocks, which Gordon will dispose of according to announced plan.

Gordon to D.E. Newhall (Central Wharf, Buffalo, New York)

Offers to sell Newhall blocks in company

Gordon to W. H. Bartal, Esq. (Third St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Offers to sell Bartal blocks in company

Gordon to Col. S. Wailes (611 F. St., Washington)

Asks Wailes to give his attention to Gordon's and Wailes' joint purchase of lands between Gadsden's Point and Tampa.

June 1, 1883

Gordon to Josiah P. Fitch (Room 51, 4th floor, Temple Court, City)

Sending \$100 check in payment for securing patent on electrical railway apparatus.

June 2, 1883

Gordon to G. M. Thew (Augusta, Georgia)

Offers to sell Thew blocks in company

Gordon to A. J. Thomas (Drexel Building)

Offers to sell Thomas blocks in company

Gordon to A.D. Brenson (St. Augustine, Florida)

Offers to sell Brenson stock in company

Gordon to Norman L. Bentley (16 & 18 Exchange Place, New York)

Explains he cannot use his influence to help Bentley and associates finance a venture as Gordon has already called upon friends to support his business venture.

Gordon to Mr. A. B. Cornell (Broad and New Streets)
Offers to sell Cornell stock in company

Gordon to Messrs. Dodge and Bliss (176 Broadway)
Same as above.

Gordon to Eugene Kelley (Exchange Place)
Same as above.

Gordon to Mr. Rufus Hatch (55 Broadway)
Same as above.

Gordon to Nelson Robinson (Stock Exchange, New York)
Same as above.

Gordon to Capt. W. S. Powell (Winchester, Virginia)
Reply to Powell's application for a position which will have to be reviewed by the company.

Gordon to C. Howell Grady, Esq. (15 South St., Baltimore)
Note to accompany prospectus and book of exhibits.

June 4, 1883

Gordon to Mr. Conrad N. Jordan (Mills Bldg.)
Offers to sell Jordan blocks in company

Gordon to Gen. George Walker (Consul General, U.S., Paris)
Letter accompanying subscription list and indicating plan for bond issue. Requests notification of interest of parties in France in purchasing.

Gordon to Mr. Greig
Promoting bonds to a potential purchaser abroad.

Gordon to Mack W. Johnson (27 Marietta St., Atlanta, Georgia)
Requests that Johnson immediately choose one of two possible means of liquidating a debt to Gordon.

June 5, 1883

Gordon to Messrs. Chas. H. Smith & John B. Baird, engineers I.R.R. & S.S. Company
(Tampa, Florida)
Specifies how responsibilities within the company are to be divided between the addressees.

Gordon to Capt. John Baird (Tampa, Florida)
Discussion of progress of railroad and building details.

June 9, 1883

Gordon to N. H. Barnum, Pres. & C. C. Deming, Secretary, Florida Construction Company
Requests addressees to inform him of their decision on a conflict between their company and I. R. R. & S.S. Company

June 11, 1883

Gordon to J. W. Oglesby (President, Louisiana National Bank, New Orleans, Louisiana)
Note to accompany prospectus and book of exhibits.

Gordon to Messrs. Reynolds and Eckford (Aberdeen, Mississippi)
Negotiating with American Trust Company to guarantee bonds; acknowledges receipt of statistics about company-owned lands; prospect for European bond purchases good.

Gordon to Mr. Simpson
Favorable reply to Simpson's suggestions concerning formation of a syndicate with bond purchases and stock bonuses.

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer (c/o Postmaster, Atlantic City, New Jersey)
Wants to get subscription to first mortgage bonds rather than borrowing money.

June 12, 1883

Gordon to R. H. Mason (Palatka, Florida)
Requests itemized lists to explain large expenditures within preceding week.

Gordon to W. L. Watson, Esq. (34 Leadenhall St., London)
Advises Watson that Watson's responsibilities as a corporator have been discharged by a quorum meeting of corporators. Offers to hold a block of stock for Watson.

June (14?), 1883

Gordon to Capt. Chas. H. Smith, Engineer (Tampa, Florida)
Wants to encourage settlement of colony of Catholics near railroad line in Hernando County.

June (15?), 1883

Gordon to Maj. Campbell Brown (Spring Hill, Tennessee)
Discusses soundness of investment in company Encourages Brown to notify immediately if Brown desires to purchase blocks, before they are all taken by a syndicate.

June 15, 1883

Gordon to Maj. Thos. Turner (706 Pine St, St. Louis, Missouri)
Is sending Turner a copy of June 15 letter to Maj. Campbell Brown.

Gordon to Hon. W. H. Seward (Auburn, New York)
Sending Seward prospectus and map. Requests notification if Seward, Col Avery, or Mr. Thompson wish to purchase stock.

Gordon to J. W. Rennick (41 Wooster St., New York)

Sending prospectus and exhibit book. Some of the strongest people in New York are investing. Will accept the landau in part payment if Rennick is interested in joining.

June 16, 1883

Gordon to M. Van Raalte (c/o ? & Company, Exchange Place, London, E. C.)

Hasty note concurring with Van Raalte's firm about causes which would interfere with sale of Southern securities. Hopes to see causes removed.

Gordon to J. M. Whaling (West Point, New York)

Requests Whaling to desist from implying that Whaling is associated with the I.R.R. & S.S. Company Hopes no further or more public notice of matter will be necessary.

Gordon to James M. Drill (15 South St., Baltimore, Maryland)

Acknowledges receipt of \$3000 for parts of one block for Wm. Dugvale, Wm. Dugvale, and John R. Long. Explanation of program for payment on blocks. Two sections being graded. Rail shipment expected July. Charter for construction company completed under general laws of N. J. Some blocks still available for purchase.

June 18, 1883

Telegram - Gordon to Hon. John T. Lesley (Tampa, Florida)

Instruct Smith and Baird not to move on line to Paul's Landing but continue on Tampa-Sumterville line. Gordon will go to Tampa or send his son answer.

Gordon to Hamilton Disston Esq. (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Is sending son and requests return of contracts between his company and Lake Butler Villa Company Paul's Landing-Tarpon Springs line impossible. Requests change in contract between company and Florida Land Improvement Company so as to leave open road's destination on Tampa Bay.

Gordon to Maj. W. L. Powell (Winchester, Pennsylvania)

Encloses receipt for \$2500 for 50% of block. Permanent organization will occur when most of blocks sold in order to secure best talent and influence from among subscribers.

Gordon to Hon. Jno. T. Lesley (Tampa, Florida)

Wants work force moved back to Tampa. Requests action be taken on May 20 letter from James McKay involving land interests. Eyeing some military reserve land for a winter home. Directs Lesley to secure whatever lands he can in Tampa and to make any possible excellent investments for Lesley's and Gordon's joint account.

June 20, 1883

Gordon to C.G. Megrue (c/o American Exchange in Europe, 449 Strand, London)

Authorizes Megrue to extend time for bonding of prairie lands in certain counties. Suggests investors with whom Megrue is negotiating send an inspector to examine property in person.

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Reply to Harmer's suggestions concerning financial security of investment in company. Invites Harmer for interview to discuss sale benefits from blocks, profits which Gordon has not claimed for himself.

Gordon to Messrs. Reynolds & Eckford (Aberdeen, Mississippi)

Wants to hold on sale of lands to Chicago parties to allow Megrue to close transactions in Europe. Megrue's letter encouraging.

Gordon to Judge A. C. Haskell (Columbia, South Carolina)

Inquiring about a possible lawsuit against Greenville and Richmond & Danville R.R.'s involving Blue Ridge R.R. bonds. Gordon can make no suggestions to gentleman who has called him repeatedly on matter.

Gordon to Mr. Israel Joseph (Grosvenor House, South Place, Kensington Park, London)

Reply to an inquiry in which he gives a detailed account of the bonding of the company, of prospects for profit. Cites increase in colonization and tourists in Florida, production of fruits etc. and lumber along R.R. line. Mentions some building details and steamship arrangements.

Contract signed by Gordon and Waldorf Phillips, secretary of company

I.R.R. & S.S. Company will pay Mr. Leopold (Feldner?) of New York commissions for negotiating company bonds through his European agent(s), provided negotiations completed before Mr. Israel Joseph's power of attorney expires.

Waldorf Phillips to Israel Joseph Esq. (London)

Engineer's itemized account of cost per mile of construction. Extract from minutes of stockholders' meeting (New York) signed by Waldorf H. Phillips. Resolution authorizing John B. Gordon to initiate sale of company bonds.

June 1883

Gordon and Waldorf Phillips

Partially illegible authorization giving terms by which Israel Joseph is to sell I.R.R. & S.S. Company first mortgage bonds.

June 21, 1883

Gordon to R. A. Lancaster (Bank Bldg.)

Repudiates rumors that I.R.R. & S.S. Company's land claims in Florida are contingent upon any other R.R.'s previous claims, citing legislature vote. Private correspondence.

June 22, 1883

Gordon to Hon. Wm. Windom (Washington)

Requests Windom to sign and return an enclosed agreement in accordance with stockholders' resolution. Windom is vice-president of company

Gordon to "Captain"

Advises Captain: to invest another \$5000, that the investment will not be lost under any circumstances; that construction company has been officially organized; that contract has been made between Gordon and R. R. Company

Gordon to Hon. Geo. W. Ladd (Bangor, Maine)
Offers to sell Ladd stock in company

June 25, 1883

Gordon to Col. E. C. McDowell (Columbia, Tennessee)
Answer to McDowell's inquiry in which Gordon details company's financial arrangements and sources of profit.

Gordon to H. A. Grant (Bar Harbor)
Reply to Grant's inquiries about the Drainage Company of Philadelphia, health in Florida, possibility of construction of a road the entire length of the peninsula, the purchase of construction blocks.

Gordon to Col. Jno. T. Lesley
Apologizes that a draft on his account by Lesley was not honored by the bank due to lack of instructions. Thinks work should begin at Paul's Landing.

Gordon to Col. R. O. Reynolds (Aberdeen, Mississippi)
Requests Reynolds and Eckford to compile some specific information on rental lands to be sent to prospective investors in England.

June 26, 1883

Gordon to Mr. Thompson
Reply to inquiries about the construction company and the blocks and their value. Holding blocks for Thompson.

June 1883

Gordon to Messrs. Reynolds and Eckford (Aberdeen, Mississippi)
Has received encouraging news from Megrue. Again urges them to collect information on rental land revenue and productivity quickly and correctly.

June 27, 1883

Ro. W. Hunter to Chas. I. Berry, Esq. (?, West Virginia)
Instructions for paying for part of a block.

June 28, 1883

Gordon to Fred F. Thompson (Sonnenberg, Canandaigua, New York)
Note accompanying receipt for first payment of a block.

Gordon to Wm. C. Ely (Clyde, New York)
Same as above.

June 29, 1883

Gordon to (partially illegible) President, Members of the Board of Trustees, Internal Improvement Fund of Florida. (Tallahassee, Florida)
Will send copy of a notice served upon the Jacksonville, Tampa, and Key West Railway Company Franchise charter given to Disston by this company has been turned over to Gordon. Partially illegible.

Gordon to H. B. Plant (12 W. 23rd St.)

Requests him to hold any money due the Jacksonville, Tampa, and Key West Railway Company until the question of I.R.R. & S.S. Company's title to the former's property has been settled by the Courts.

June 30, 1883

Gordon to Alfred Bishop Mason

Requests to be notified if a sum charged to I.R.R. & S.S. Company was actually spent on its line or on Mason's own road.

Gordon to C. S. Seyton (Windsor Hotel, New York)

Seyton authorized to sell bonds in Europe, on commission basis, if his inquiries indicate success for such an effort. Discussion of financial soundness of the bonds as investment.

July 1, 1883 (Washington)

Gordon to Alfred Bishop Mason

Expresses surprise that Mason expecting financial aid for his Palatka & Indian River R.R. other than for the I.R.R. & S.S. Company portion for which Mason contracting. Asks Mason to call upon Gordon's return to New York.

July 3, 1883

Hugh H. Gordon to Capt. H. A. Haralson (Selma, Alabama)

J. B. Gordon in Atlanta. H. H. G. feels they have the J.T. & K.W. R. R. "by the throat."

Undated note signed H.H.G.

Organization of construction company has been completed and formalized; strong syndicate forming to buy remaining blocks.

Hugh H. Gordon to Hon. W. H. Seward

Explanation of terms for purchase of blocks.

July (4?) 1883

? C. Kibbe (?) to Rowland? Hazard, President, American Loan and Trust Company

Note to accompany proposition to Hazar's company from Land and Improvement Company, concerning the latter's bonds. Partially illegible.

July 9, 1883

Unsigned to Col. E. C. McDowell (Columbia, Tennessee)
Acknowledges receipt of payment on a block.

Unsigned to Chas. J. Berry (Charlestown, West Virginia)
Same as above.

Unsigned to Frederick Grinnell (Providence, Rhode Island)
Same as above.

Unsigned to John Elliott (c/o Riggs & Company, 50 Wall St.)
Same as above.

Unsigned to J. H. Oglesby (President, Louisiana. National Bank, New Orleans, Louisiana)
Same as above.

Unsigned to A. B. Baxter (Sparta, Georgia)
Same as above.

July 10, 1883

Gordon to Jas. Hastings

Private memorandum, not to be shown to members of Hastings' syndicate; Gordon will allow him 2 1/2 % if he gets bids netting do. 75¢ or more on bonds; less than 75¢ is unacceptable.

Gordon to James Hastings (11 Queen Victoria St., London, E.C.)

Expresses disappointment at his syndicate's very low bid - 77¢ - and suggests that it should be higher due to sound nature of the bonds; will nevertheless present offer to company if it is firm.

July 11, 1883

Gordon to Alfred Bishop Mason (Wall St., #35)

Finds Mason's demand for the one tenth interest in I.R.R. & S. Company "extraordinary". Will be glad to compensate Mason for any expenditure of money and time and to have Mason call.

July 13, 1883

Gordon to A. B. Mason

Adjustments between R.R. & S.S. Company and J.T. & K.W. as to which line will build where.

Gordon to Alfred Bishop Mason

Private Correspondence. Thinks I.R.R. & S.S. Company and P. & I.R. Railway can come to terms, contingent upon settlement with J.T. & K. W.; proposes to transfer 1/10 interest in R. R. & S. S. to Mason in return for P. & I.R.'s charter and franchise rights, possibly pay Mason for expenditures on his line.

Gordon to Hon John W. Candler (48 Congress St., Boston)

Confidential correspondence. Detailed discussion of history of J.T. & K.W. railroad and how this company forfeited its rights to Disston by virtue of a contract which Disston then transferred to I.R.R. & S.S. Wants to make some arrangement between Candler's company and his own to avoid competition which Gordon suggests would overwhelm Candler's line; suggests giving Candler's company 1/4 interest in I.R.R. & S. S. if the former will sell out to Gordon & Company.

Gordon to Mr. Candler

Private and confidential. Note to accompany above letter, which is actually a reply to a missive from Candler and conforms to Candler's suggestions therein; Urges Candler to hurry matters, expects much money from the transaction.

July 14, 1883

Gordon to Wm. C. Ely (? New York)

Reply to inquiries: R.R. will connect with Georgia systems; 300 to 400-man work force; construction blocks will own road after completion of building; contract made between construction company and R.R. Company

Gordon to Maj. Jno. A. Fitten (Atlanta, Georgia)

Inquiry about buying an interest in an orange grove.

Gordon to Mr. Richard Salinger (305 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Conveys thanks to Disston and the Board of Directors for agreeing to accept his note for residential lots at Tarpon Springs; will close transaction after he has seen property.

Gordon to Capt. M. L. Powell (Winchester, Virginia)

Acknowledges receipt of payment on block; hoping force; thinks he can do better than an offer from Europe of bonds.

Gordon to Chas. T. Ward (Macon, Georgia)

Advises Ward that debt to a Maj. Winter has been discharged. Requests to be notified of amount Winter's widow has thought to be still outstanding.

Gordon to Gen. A. V. Rice (Ottawa, Ohio)

Acknowledges receipt of payment on block. Holding on bond purchase offer from Europe.

Gordon to Capt. H. A. Haralson (Selma, Alabama)

Same as above. Additional note - "still in treaty (?) with the Barnem people".

Unsigned to Maj W. S. Greene (905 1/2 E. Main St., Richmond, Virginia)

Will be in a position within 10 days to make an offer to Greene for taking charge of work in Florida.

Gordon to Alfred Bishop Mason (35 Wall St.)

Compliments Mason's ingenuity and diplomacy. Does not understand Mason's proposition for building Palatka-Sanford portion of line at no profit to himself.

July 16, 1883

W. H. McKinley B.K. to Mr. Jno. T. Lesley (Tampa, Florida)

Gordon requests that Lesley's drafts amount to at least \$1000 each.

Undated note signed by Gordon

"villainous and false statement". Essentially illegible.

July 14, 1883

Gordon to Col. W. S. Gordon (Atlanta, Georgia)

Advises W. S. Gordon to find competent management for the silver mine which the latter has opened. Partially illegible.

Gordon to Hon. Jno. Lesley (Tampa, Florida)

Concerned with having best possible route to control freight. All his correspondence to be held confidential. His actions do not have to be defended for anybody. Looking for land to settle sons and friends in produce business. Wishes to acquire as much land as possible along the line.

Gordon to Gen. E. P. Alexander (Augusta, Georgia)

Tells Alexander not to refuse employment while waiting for offer from Gordon, as latter must first settle matters of the bonds and competition with other roads.

Gordon to J. S. Thrasher (Panasofka Lake, Florida)

Instructions for acquiring as much land as possible along the line.

July 16, 1883

Gordon to Rev. James P. Boyce (104 W. Chestnut St., Louisville, Kentucky)

Acknowledges payment for three blocks.

July 18, 1883

Gordon to Mr. Henry E. Collins (Pittsburg, Pennsylvania)

Sending Collins subscription list. Discusses soundness of bonds as investment.

Gordon to Son

Detailed instructions for organization in the "Mississippi matters". Directions as to the resolutions to be passed by the Corporators repudiating all interest in the Company as such, and the resolutions for opening its books and the subscribing for \$100,000 Capital Stock. Instructs son to attend also to a matter in Aberdeen. Prospects are bright. Power of attorney granted son for above meeting possibly "of doubtful regularity."

July 17, 1883

Gordon to Capt. J. B. Baird (Tampa, Florida)

Baird made Superintendent of Construction. Responsible for keeping costs down. Partially illegible.

July 20, 1883

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer (? Beach, New Jersey)

Harmer elected president of New York, Florida, and Havana Construction Company and must see to several matters requiring his attention. Hopes Harmer will increase his personal bond holdings as show of confidence. Harmer, Gordon, Gen. Jas. A. Williamson, head management of business.

July 21, 1883

Gordon to Alfred Bishop Mason (35 Wall St.)

Florida Construction Company proposition has not been forthcoming, and he cannot await it much longer. Had hoped to settle conflict amicably. Arrangement with Mason dependent on elimination of all competition.

Gordon to C. Deming, Secretary

Note requesting answer to Gordon's note of July 19.

Gordon to Gen. James A Williamson (629 F. St., Washington)

Williamson hired to help place bonds with small buyers. Gordon's subscription to be \$50,000.

July 23, 1883

Gordon to Hon, A. C. Harmer

Bond subscriptions only promised, not yet taken. Mr. S. and friends may not take theirs since Harmer made president of construction company instead of Mr. S.

Gordon to Col. D. C. Forney (Washington)

Directs Forney to take enclosed papers to office of Commissioner of Public Lands to hurry some adjustments.

July 24, 1883

Gordon to Alfred Bishop Mason. (35 Wall St.)

Mason has not fulfilled his part of their Feb. 24, 1883 contract, is requesting too much money for the work to be done. Mason was to have turned land grant over to Gordon if Mason really expected any money to be provided.

Undated, signed by A. C. Harmer (Hoboken, New Jersey)

List of directors of corporation and note of elections held to fill vacancies.

July 25, 1883

Unsigned letter to be sent to: Hon. J.C. Greeley (Jacksonville); R.H. Mason (Palatka); Hon. John T. Lesley (Tampa); Capt. J.B. Baird (Tampa). Letter of introduction for Capt. W. L. Powell.

Unsigned to Capt. W. L. Powell (Winchester, Virginia)

Letter to accompany check for Powell's travel expenses to Florida. Salary to be \$100 per month.

July 23, 1883

Gordon to Mr. James Hastings (London)

Answer to inquiries. Explains in detail route, construction company, projected earnings of one section of road, economic growth of Florida. Has made no effort to sell bonds, but will consider Hastings' bid.

July 25, 1883

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Germantown, Philadelphia)

Hopes grading and crosstie contractor might accept bonds or a portion in bonds. Ready money necessary to purchase iron. Biggest interest is getting 80 miles completed as quickly as possible.

Gordon to Col. S. J. Wailes (611 F St., Washington)

Requests answer to a proposition involving a line through some of Wailes' land.

July 26, 1883

Gordon to Hon. Geo. W. Ladd (Bangor, Maine)

No more blocks for sale, but will hold one or two for Ladd in consideration of Ladd ' s ability to help place bonds. Investors will realize the 90% in bonds plus clear profit of bonus in lands.

Gordon to Judge Henry Cooper (Nashville, Tennessee)

Requests that Cooper choose a competent, honest man to select a pair of horses to be presented to Gordon ' s wife. Gives specific description of what he wants.

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Brigantine Beach, New Jersey)

Presents two possibilities for retreating from agreement with grading and crosstie contractor if necessary. Strictly confidential note to refrain from making commitment on purchasing agency. Postscript - satisfied that he can extract himself without detriment from agreement with contractor.

July 27, 1883

Gordon to Alfred Bishop Mason (35 Wall St.)

His reply to Mason's letter of above date is to be found in Gordon's letter of 24th.

Gordon to Lieut. Gov. L. W. Bethel (Key West, Florida)

Wishes to know if any cable company has exclusive contracts with Cuba Telegraph Company
Wants to lay (cable? - illegible) himself.

Unsigned to Hon. E. John Ellis (Leland 's Hotel, New York)

Explanation to accompany bond subscription list.

July 28, 1883

Gordon to James N. Young (Mills Bldg., 35 Wall)

Gordon willing to compromise with Barnum and J.T. & basis considered just and fair by a disinterested party. Finds two of their propositions acceptable.

Gordon to "Eugene"

Wants bonds lithographed. Wants to know where Eugene's road projected and where his profits are to come in. Fla. R. R. all right.

Gordon to Messrs. W. J. Winegar and Company (Palatka, Florida)

Letter of introduction for Capt. W. L. Powell, who has exclusive right to draw drafts on I. R.R. & S. S.

Gordon to R. H. Mason (Palatka, Florida)

Letter of introduction for Capt. W. L. Powell, who is to take over Mason's job, due to no fault of Mason's, but rather impending complications with A. B. Mason.

Gordon to Mr. Disston

Requests Disston to return immediately answers to questions concerning Disston's contract with J.T. & K. W. Ry. Company

Gordon to Capt. W. L. Powell (Winchester, Virginia)

Instructs Powell to go to Palatka and familiarize himself with operation. Explains to him about complication with R. H. Mason's brother, A. B. Mason. Does not want A. B. Mason's work force at Palatka paid. Powell to deliver enclosed to R. H. Mason, but hold notification of his dismissal upon receipt of telegram from Gordon.

Gordon to R. H. Mason (Palatka, Florida)

Introduction for Capt. Powell, requesting that he be informed about the operation of the company at Palatka.

July 30, 1883

Gordon to Col. Jno. Lesley (Tampa, Florida)

Encloses letter from Col. M(?), who proposes to sell company 1/2 interest in all his lands on Gadsden's Point peninsula. Hopes this example will induce others to follow suit. Requests return of Col. M.'s letter after use.

July 26, 1883

Copy of letter from? to Hon. John B. Gordon (Bryant Bldg., Liberty & Nassau Streets, New York)

Correspondent willing to divide his land at Gadsden's Point, Gordon's company to pay for its half as soon as the R.R. will have been built there. Unable to get other land there, as Disston and his company had taken it.

July 30, 1883

Gordon to C. G. Megrue (London)

Sending Megrue tabulation for receipts from one half of? Prairie Belt to show latter's friends who might buy bonds. Discussion of rentals and productivity of the land.

July 31, 1883

Gordon to Col. A. C. Harmer

Wants to secure a full subscription to bonds and make company independent of contractors. Hopes to see Harmer tomorrow. Requests that Harmer send his subscription.

Gordon to Hugh H. Colquitt (Atlanta, Georgia)

Assures Colquitt that poor quality of guano purchased by Gordon does not reflect on Colquitt's part in the transaction.

Gordon to Alfred Bishop Mason (Wall St., #35)

Note to accompany agreement between Gordon and Mason. Requests that Mason sign and return original or copy.

Undated text of agreement mentioned above, signed by Gordon

Sets down method for independent arbitration of dispute.

August 1, 1883

Gordon to Charles Martin (1142 Broadway, New York)

Authorizes addressee to sell some N.C. lands.

Gordon to Capt. W. L. Powell (Winchester, Virginia)

Acknowledges receipt of payments on blocks.

August 3, 1883

Gordon to A. Howell, Cashier. (Clarksville, Tennessee)

Acknowledges receipt of \$1000. Harmer to put large portion of line under contract. Hopes to have 80 miles completed within 6 mos. Best wishes for road Howell's brother beginning.

Gordon (Washington) to Col. D. C. Ferney

Florida has granted railroads more land than it has; some grants, however, forfeited. Plans to publish full statement on this matter.

Gordon to Wm. C. Ely (Clyde, New York)

Acknowledges receipt of payment on block. Prospects continue very bright.

Gordon to Hon. Jno. T. Lesley (Tampa, Florida)

Wants profile of line for contractors ' bidding. Wants information on landing iron; on land near Gadsden's Point; character of country between Tampa and Sumterville ; amount of freight traffic probable.

July 3, 1883

Copy of July 27 letter - S. J. Wailes (Washington) to Gov. J.B. Gordon
Agrees to sell half of his lands along Gadsden's Point to the company

August 3, 1883

Gordon to Col. S. Wailes
Accepts Wailes' proposition. Hopes to have line completed south of Tampa by end of year.

August 4, 1883

Gordon to Gen. R. H. Mason (Palatka, Florida)
Short note - does not want force increased.

Wm. C. Kibbe to Gen. R. O. Reynolds (Aberdeen, Mississippi)
Partially illegible. Deals with function of American Loan and Trust Company, Trustee. Requests Reynolds to forward the statement and deed, which he is to have executed, with abstract of title to proper agents.

August 17, 1883

Gordon to J. C. Greeley (Jacksonville)
Requests itemized statement of vouchers set by Greeley, which exceed the amount he has drawn.

August 16, 1883

W. C. Kibbe to Generals Reynolds and Eckford
Concerns statement, titles; largely illegible.

August 17, 1883

Gordon to Capt. J. B. Baird (Tampa, Florida)
Nature of Greeley's vouchers unclear. Wants uniform bookkeeping system which shows cost of road in detail.

Gordon to Israel Joseph (Grosvenor House, South Place, Kensington Park, London)
Wants no contract guaranteeing interest on bonds unless Joseph is sure he [Joseph] can sell them.
Repeats his opinions on soundness and benefits of investing in the bonds.

Undated

Private note - Gordon to Israel Joseph (apparently accompanied above letter)
Joseph may close preliminary bond contract at 80.

August 18, 1883

Gordon to James Hastings (11 Queen Victoria St., London, E.C.)
Answers to Hastings' questions about cost of the construction. Confidential comment about Hastings' reference to a narrow-gauge road. Gordon says he has friendly relations with this Florida Southern R.R., which he expects to become a feeder to the International system.

Gordon to W. L. Powell (Winchester, Virginia)
Acknowledges receipt of payments on blocks.

Gordon to Capt. W. L. Powell (Palatka, Florida)
Wants to concentrate work force on southern part of line until arrangement with J.T. & K.W. worked out. Hold letter for R. H. Mason until further notification.

Gordon to Col. Bushrod C. Washington (Charlestown, Jefferson County, West Virginia)
Acknowledges receipt of payment on a block.

Gordon to B. Given, County Surveyor (Orlando, Orange County, Florida)
Wants to know why Given is planning to sue him. He has been unable to find investors for lands chosen by Given. Serves notice that a suit by Given will bring a countersuit for attempting to levy blackmail.

Gordon to E. R. Foster, Attorney at Law (Tallahassee, Florida)
Requests explanation of Given's claim against him. Has purchased no land selected by Given.

August 21, 1883

Gordon to C. S. Seyton
Of two plans for marketing bonds, company is proceeding on one until definite word received on European prospects.

August 24, 1883

Gordon to W. L. Powell (Palatka, Florida)
Instructs Powell to serve notice on Mason and bank and to assume absolute control.

August 23, 1883

A. C. Harmer to Hon. W. H. Barnum
Modifications of some terms of an agreement between Gordon's company and Florida Construction Company on the line south of Palatka. Intention is to avoid construction of parallel lines.

August 24, 1883

Gordon to A. B. Mason
Names as his arbitrator Chief Justice O. A. Sochrane (sp.?), attorney for Pullman? Car Company

Gordon to A. B. Mason
Mason's claim of being in charge of forces of I.R.R. absurd. Has taken measures to see his [Gordon's] instructions, heretofore disregarded, carried out.

August 25, 1883

Gordon to Col. Martin, c/o Post Martin & Company
Will make Col. a satisfactory inducement should Col. decide to bring material aid by joining enterprise. Requests Col.'s advice on the two plans for selling bonds.

Gordon to Capt. W. L. Powell

Wants to get out of contract for crossties, as present amount is sufficient. Going to Atlanta. Capt. to draw \$1000 as needed at one day's sight.

W. H. McKinley, Bookkeeper, to J. C. Greeley

Specifies how he would like vouchers to be detailed to aid in bookkeeping process.

August 27, 1883 (New York)

unsigned

Statement of drafts drawn by R. H. Mason from April 14 to August 18, 1883.

August 29, 1883

W. H. McKinley, B.K. to Gen R. H. Mason (Palatka, Florida)

Letter to accompany statement and "Distribution of Accounts" information. Requests Mason to be more specific about expenditures.

August 31, 1883

W. C. Kebbe to Maj. C. G. Megrue (449 Strand, London)

Partially illegible. Apparently concerns bonds and connected matters. Major urged to close up whole matter promptly.

W. C. Kibbe to Gen. E. O. Reynolds and Eckford

Money for lands ready as soon as balance of necessary papers received. Arrangements will be made for cost of processing abstracts of title. Purchasers headed by five London bankers.

August 31, 1883 (Atlanta)

Gordon to A. B. Mason (pencilled note)

E. J. Ellis selected arbitrator in I.R.R. & S.S. - Mason case.

September 4, 1883

W. H. McKinley to J. C. Greeley

Discussion of Greeley's expenditures.

September 8, 1883

W. C. Kibbe, secretary, Delta Land & Mfg. Company, to Maj. C. G. Megrue

Discussion of income from cultivated lands, information to be arranged into an appendix for the prospectus. Trust Company will send bonds to its London agent.

September (10?), 1883

W. C. Kibbe to Reynolds and Eckford (Aberdeen, Mississippi)

Illegible.

September 11, 1883

W. C. Kibbe to Major C. G. Megrue

Revenue returns for balance of his lands.

September 12, 1883

Gordon to Messrs. Reynolds & Eckford (Aberdeen, Mississippi)

Deeds necessary for land which addressees are selling to Delta Land & Mfg. Company because bonds rest upon mortgage on the lands; deed to be held in escrow until money paid; deed should be specific and dated anterior to bonds; forwarding bond for title.

September 13, 1883

Gordon to James Hastings (11 Queen Victoria St., London)

Company accedes to Mr. Sampson's suggested reduction for first mortgage bond, income bond, and shares. Detailed authorization for Hastings and Mr. S. to sell first mortgage bonds of I. R.R. & S. S. Requests Hastings to cable him acceptance or rejection of proposition.

W. C. Kibbe (Delta Land & Mfg. Company) to A. Allott Esq. (London)

Partially illegible. Apparently answers to inquiries about revenues from cultivated and timber lands.

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Germantown, Philadelphia)

Confidential note. Bank balance very low and causing Gordon concern. Need funds to continue until Harmer can close with "Philadelphia parties". Note at bottom: "Tear this up."

Gordon to Messrs. R. M. Nelson and Johnson (Selma, Alabama)

Explanation of how the company has been set up and financed. Suggests that investment in company is very sound.

Gordon to Capt. H. A. Haralson (Selma, Alabama)

Encloses copy of above letter. Wants Haralson to get and destroy above party's copy, as a portion of the letter "might be misconstrued." Barnum people more disposed to make concessions he wants.

Gordon to Messrs. Prince & Whitely (64 Broadway)

Apologizes for neglecting his account in their hands. Stock losses have embarrassed him seriously. Will not permit them to lose any money and asks their patience. Will call very soon.

September 17, 1883

Unsigned to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Germantown, Philadelphia)

Company not involved in dispute between correspondent and A. B. Mason, and contract between them meaningless. Consented to arbitration to satisfy Mason on individual basis. Mason is ashamed of derogatory comments he has directed toward correspondent. Mason now seeking settlement with surrender of his claims and his road. Stopping work on line will cause irreparable damage. Hopes Harmer will agree and come through with financial aid.

September 18, 1883

Gordon to P. T. Vaughm (Selma, Alabama)

Subscribers in Selma apprehensive about condition of company. Assures him that venture will succeed. Harmer arriving with propositions from contractors.

Gordon to W. M. Tunno (Anclote, Florida)

Wants to see Tarpon Springs lots before paying. Did not intend any expenditure at Paul's Landing, but will contribute if Tunno misunderstood. Cannot spend any more money. Tunno wants to be a director. Tunno can go ahead and pay for his half of Tarpon Springs lots.

Gordon to Col. Bushrod C. Washington (Charlestown, West Virginia)

Explanation of set-up of R. R. and construction company Gordon compelled to use large share of stock in various ways other than construction. Construction blocks to finance work until bonds sold, hopefully to London syndicate.

Gordon to Capt. Jno. W. Anderson

If Anderson feels Gordon's consultation with Sanford was of no help to Anderson's fibre enterprise, Gordon accepts Anderson's decision not to give Gordon an interest.

August 1, 1883

Gordon to W. M. Tunno (Anclote, Florida)

(Pencil copy) He never agreed to pay expenses of Tunno or his agents, incurred in selecting lands. Could not notify Tunno about R.R. movements of which he himself was uncertain. Tunno's pay to be share of profits. Tunno was to find lands and Gordon the capital.

**A brief abstract for Letterbook B.
September 1883 to January 1884**

September 19, 1883

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer

Gives condition of company bank account. Immediate funds necessary, and he will sell another block if necessary. Requests Harmer's aid.

February 6, 1884

? to W. M. Tunno (Tarpon Springs)

Correspondents have apparently not been paid for lands purchased from them for Gordon.

September 20, 1883

Gordon to S. L. M. Barber, Esq.

Illegible due to deterioration; concerns lands.

Gordon to Col. Archer N. Martin (39 1/2 Pine Street)

Discusses use of bonds and land bonuses for financing. Syndicate requires completion of first 50 miles before first delivery of bonds. Would like Martin to arrange for \$500 for this purpose using bonds as collateral.

September 26, 1883

To Hon. A. C. Harmer

Largely illegible. Last few days have been struggle and Harmer's help needed. Requests Harmer to come next day. Encloses reply just received by cable.

September 28, 1883

Gordon to Messrs. Norton, Rose, & Company (Bartholomew House Etc.)

Cannot pay debt to them immediately due to investment losses, failure to sell Ga. Pacific Railway bonds at good price. Explains Florida venture – land grants, construction, financing, etc., and asks for their consideration and candid opinion of it.

Gordon to Jas. Hastings (11 Queen Victoria St., London)

Ambler's offer to sell Hastings 4 million acres in Florida a fraud. Ambler seeking to damage International. Will consider selling only portion of bonds at once if offer reliable.

September 30, 1883

Gordon to Capt. J. M. Pace (Covington, Georgia)

Requests Pace to send his resignation as International Secretary Treasurer, dated June 5 last. Phillips there (with Gordon) to fill position. Indications good for bond sales.

October 1, 1883

Gordon to Jas. H. Young

Wants clarification of clause in August 20 contract with A. B. Mason which concerns arbitrators' fees.

Frank Gordon, attorney for J. B. Gordon to Alfred Bishop Mason Esq. (35 Wall St.)

Gives his construction of fee arrangements mentioned above and requests that this letter be signed and returned.

Frank Gordon to Alfred B. Mason Esq. (City)

Further discussion of fee arrangements in reply to a missive from Mason. Wishes to meet Mason's attorneys.

October 5, 1883

Frank Gordon to Thos. Thatcher Esq. (18 Exchange Place, City)

Col. Ellis has been detained. Thatcher will be notified as soon as Ellis arrives.

October 6, 1883

Frank Gordon to Thomas Thatcher Esq. (18 Exchange Place, City)

Requests Thatcher to send Mason papers to Judge Lochrave's hotel, and Gordon will send J. B. Gordon's. Encloses affidavit of Ro. W. Hunter-Director, and rejoinder of Gen. Gordon.

Frank Gordon to A. B. Mason Esq. (35 Wall St., City)

Note accompanying copies of J. B. Gordon's rejoinder and Hunter affidavit.

October 8, 1883

Frank Gordon to A. B. Mason
Suggests meeting for Mason and Judge Lochrave.

October 9, 1883

Gordon to Alfred Bishop Mason (35 Wall St.)
Refuses Mason's suggestion that most of International stock be placed with Trust Company as security for repayment of Mason's expenditures.

Gordon to Messrs. Reynolds & Eckford (Aberdeen, Mississippi)
Wants their drafts to be made payable 30 days from sight, not from date.

October 10, 1883

Frank Gordon to Thos. Thacher Esq. (City)
Asks whether Thacher and Judge finished draft of contract entered into at Judge's hotel. Judge suddenly called away.

October 11, 1883

Gordon to "Col."
Confidential note. Wants Col. to cut expenses.

October 12, 1883

Gordon to Maj. Holmes Conrad (Winchester, Virginia)
Acknowledges receipt of payment for Capt. W. L. Powell's block.

Gordon to C. Deming, Secretary
Details proposition for letting Florida Palatka- Sanford section under International's charter.

Gordon to Col. D. C. Forney (Washington)
Confidential. Wants Col. to get friend in Land Office to find out how much land deeded to Transit R.R. of Florida, what the road is claiming, who is resisting patent issues for this land. Keep Gordon's name out.

Gordon to Wm. Butler Duncan (Duncan Bldg., New York)
Refers Duncan's letter to his brother E. C. Gordon, who has handled matter in question.

October 13, 1883

Gordon to A. B. Mason (35 Wall St.)
Point by point comment on agreement under negotiation between the two.

Gordon (Georgia) to August Belmont (Newport, Rhode Island)
Wants Belmont's company to guarantee interest on bonds for European buyers.

October 16, 1883

Gordon (Pres. Delta Land & Mfg. Company) to Farmers' Loan & Trust Company (corner Exchange Pl. and William St.)

Submits proposition for arranging guarantee of interest on first mortgage bonds on Mississippi real estate. Encloses report on land.

Frank Gordon to A. B. Mason

Company will undertake payment of expenditures within 2 years. Does not see that Gen. and Mason are a long way apart, as Mason has indicated.

Gordon to Hon. A. P. K. Safford (Governor) (? Building)

Hopes that he and Tunno will not lose their interest in Lake Butler Villa Company because construction of a line through? (illegible) via Tarpon Springs has been delayed. Requests reasonable patience on their payments for the land.

October 20, 1883

Hugh H. Gordon to Capt. W. T. Newman (Atlanta)

Proposes detailed compromise on a suit involving land patents to avoid further litigation with "old Zimmerman".

October 22, 1883

Gordon to Mr. Sheppard (New York)

John Lesley is state senator from Tampa and has no interest in I.R.R. Quotes Lesley on business the read is likely to handle to answer Haman's inquiry.

Gordon to Frank Fontaine, Esq. (Atlanta)

Proposes to sell some Georgia pine lands for Fontaine if latter interested in sharing profits equally. Requests Fontaine to communicate with Gen. Hite, who has interested connections in Europe.

October 25, 1883

Unsigned to Messrs. Miller and Bro. (Room 53, Bryant Bldg.)

Sending prospectus etc. to answer inquiry about I.R. R. First mortgage bonds not up for sale as time is unfavorable for negotiations, but will entertain propositions from responsible sources. Discusses plans for bonds, freight and immigration in Florida.

October 29, 1883

Gordon to Mr. Jewett

Wants Jewett to put him in contact with brokers or bankers who could put company in position to build one or two hundred miles. Has statistics to satisfy them. Would make the effort worthwhile for Jewett.

October 30, 1883

Gordon to W. L. Watson Esq. (c/o James Finlay & Company, 34 Leadenhall St., London)

Hopes block he's holding for Watson will repay latter's losses in another joint venture. Requests Watson to see Jas. Hastings and Israel Joseph and decide who has best chances of selling bonds.

Presents another plan besides those of Hastings and Joseph. Will make Watson's help worthwhile.

October 31, 1883

Gordon to Col. Bushrod C. Washington (Charlestown, West Virginia)

Scarcely legible. Relieves Washington of obligation to take half block for which he wrote some time ago.

November 1, 1883

Gordon to Major Holmes Conrad (Winchester, Virginia)

Receipt for last payment on three blocks.

November 2, 1883

Gordon to Wm. C. Ely (Clyde, New York)

Receipt for final payment on two blocks.

November 5, 1883

Gordon to Charles C. Deming, Secretary. 120 Broadway

Refuses Nov. 3 proposition of Florida Construction Company

Undated

Prospectus "accompanying letter to Joseph". Covers line of road, work done, population, capital stock, land, equipment, cost estimates, bonds and interest, connections, officers, estimated earnings.

Gordon to Messrs. Foster and Shelden

Authorizes them to sell I.R.R.'s first mortgage bonds with land bond bonus. Commission will be 10% of the land grant bonds, 10% of the income bonds, 10% R.R. stock, 1/3 lands donated by Disston.

November 7, 1883

Gordon to "Hast" (London)

Apparently a cable message. No one else authorized to sell bonds.

November 8, 1883

Gordon to Messrs. Foster and Sheldon (New York)

Reply to addressees' inquiry about location of the line.

November 9, 1883

Unsigned to Hon. Edwards Pierrepont (103 Fifth Ave.)

Letter to accompany prospectus, book of exhibits, and other memoranda concerning bonds, revenues, etc. Private note - Offers judge one tenth interest in enterprise in return for organizing syndicate.

November 10, 1883

Unsigned to Israel Joseph (Grosvenor House Etc.)

Wants Joseph to suspend any action on bonds until further notice.

November 12, 1883

Gordon to F. T. Hopkins (c/o Murray Hill Natl. Bank)

Requests Hopkins to hold a block which Mr. Zimmer intends to pledge, as the block is Gordon's individually.

Gordon to E. C. Machen

Gordon never meant deliberately to mislead Machen. Uncertain circumstances have prevented entering into a formal contract.

Gordon to C. W. Harris

Makes Harris a commission offer if Harris can find parties who will make acceptable arrangement.

Gordon to C. W. Harris

Company will accept responsible propositions on bonds. Bonds will be absolutely good.

Gordon to Messrs. Foster & Sheldon (67 Wall St.)

Authorizes them to give portions of bonds, land grant to contractors for Tampa branch. Specifies Foster and Sheldon's commission for arranging contractor.

Gordon to Gen. Henry A. Jackson (Savannah, Georgia)

Encloses copy of contract on Littlefield matter and contract between J. P. & M. R.R. and Gordon. Expects court battle with other company's over land claims.

November 5, 1883

Gordon to Messrs. Foster & Sheldon (67 Wall St.)

Authorization to sell bonds. Commission same as above letter of same date to this party except that all land donated by Disston is now offered, to be divided with Mr. Tunno and the other commissioners.

November 13, 1883

Gordon to Messrs. Prince & Whitely

Regrets that he can enclose payment for only part of a debt. Offers block of stock as additional security.

Gordon to James Hastings

Authorizes Hastings and Mr. Sampson to make preliminary contract on whatever basis necessary to close deal. Outlines alternate plan.

November 13 postscript - Answers their questions about progress of road.

Gordon to Capt. J.B. Baird, Supt. Etc. (Tampa, Florida)

Wants Smith to report on feasibility and cost of running a line through Brooksville. Postscript advising Baird that he has already overspent his amount for the entire month.

Gordon to Capt. W. L. Powell (Palatka, Florida)

Will sue J.T. & K. W. if they will not come to terms. Instructs Powell to inform crosstie supplier that I. R. R. will keep original order, leaving use of extra ties open to question.

Gordon to P. T. Vaughn

He will arrange a purchaser for Vaughn's shares.

Gordon to Mr. John S. Thrasher (Sumterville, Florida)

Will instruct Baird to settle with Thrasher. Had assumed Thrasher was agent of Mann, whose expenses Gordon was not obliged to pay.

November 14, 1883

Unsigned to "Hast"

Apparently cable message - "Is success assured."

Gordon to "Walter"

Wants to know what Walter has done with five blocks of stock. If Walter and Eugene cannot arrange on Gordon's basis, it would be better for them to return their blocks for a clean receipt against any claims in their enterprises.

Gordon to W. L. Watson (c/o James Finlay & Company, 34 Leadenhall St., London)

It will not do for Israel Joseph to have papers sent through Watson. Instructs Watson not to deliver papers under any circumstances.

November 15, 1883

Gordon to Maj. Louis Zimmer

Insists upon return of a block, or he will prosecute Zimmer for obtaining money on false pretenses.

Gordon to Col. A. C. Harmer (Germantown, Pennsylvania)

When money from present negotiations in hand, wants to move on organizing popular bond issue all over the country.

November 16, 1883

Unsigned to E. C. Machen (47? St.)

Machen has misconceived relations between himself and Gordon. Matter discussed was not ratified by the construction company

November 20, 1883

Gordon to Col. R. O. Reynolds (Aberdeen, Mississippi)

Delay is endangering Megrue's chances with his syndicate in England. They have run into trouble on guarantee of bond interest. Instructs Reynolds and Eckford to continue course indicated and not to involve themselves by having any deeds recorded.

November 22, 1883

Gordon to Messrs. Prince & Whitely (64 Broadway)

Encloses certificate alluded to in correspondence of the 13th.

Gordon to L. P. Bayne (52 Broad St.)

No blocks for sale; two blocks for which someone had spoken can now be bought at par. Explains where money from stock goes. None of money used to secure passage of charter or land grant.

November 23, 1883

Gordon to S. L. M. Barlow (35 William St.)

Cannot send Barlow any money, therefore cannot ask him to carry an interest in some property on Gordon's behalf. Gordon would like to help, when he can, secure Barlow's rights in this Glenndive property.

November 22, 1883

Gordon to Wm. Gunn (49 Queen Victoria St., London)

Cable - Authorizes Gunn "to forward firm offer International Bonds. Business Bona fide."

Gordon to James Hastings (11 Queen Victoria St., London)

Cable - "Bonds withdrawn thirty days' notice."

Unsigned, undated memorandum concerning history of Transit R.R. and dispute over bonds of this R. R.

November 23, 1883

Gordon to Hon. Saml. J. Randall (Washington)

Supports Randall's candidacy for Speaker as best for the Democratic Party, although he disagrees with Randall's tariff stand. Radical tariff change inadvisable, would upset business element before the Presidential election. Text of letter printed in *The Critic* and clipping enclosed.

Gordon to C. W. Harris (4 State St., Hartford, Connecticut)

Charter names Key West as terminus, but construction will stop at Turtle Harbor. Lands to be deeded as sections of road completed within seven years.

Gordon to Col. P.A. Wellford (905 1/2 Main St., Richmond, Virginia)

Reply to Wellford's suggestion to join several R.R.'s, including International, in a New York-West Indies route. Confidentially, he prefers the combination suggested - Penna. R.R.; Fredericksburg, Richmond & Potomac R. R.; Wellford's Richmond-Augusta line; and I.R.R.

Wants to construct a superior line while steel is low. Willing to meet Penn. representatives and work out mutually beneficial agreement, preferably before sale of bonds.

November 24, 1883

Gordon to S. P. Brown (Washington)

Content same as above.

Gordon to Hon. W. D. Bloxham, Governor and President Board of Trustees, Internal Improvement Fund, Tallahassee, Florida. Calls attention of board to fact that land grants to two other railroads can be made only after satisfaction of grant to I.R.R and that I.R.R. is in process of enforcing its claim to J.T. & K.W. franchise etc. in the Courts.

Gordon to Gov. W. D. Bloxham (Tallahassee, Florida)

Personal note to accompany preceding official one, requesting governor to bring the latter to the board's attention. Hopes to see governor soon.

Gordon to Col. J. H. Dunne (Jacksonville, Florida)

Thanks Dunne for sending him some cigars.

Unsigned to James Hastings (11 Queen Victoria St., London)

Worried about large number of people peddling bonds all over Europe and prefers to withdraw them.

Unsigned to Gen. George Walker, U.S. Consul (3 Rue Scribe, Paris)

Can procure a charter for Walker's friend for a ship canal across Florida in return for taking some I. R. R. bonds. Discusses location, building, etc. of canal. One page illegible.

Undated, Unsigned private note to "General"

Enclosing letter which Gen. can show to his friends.

November 26, 1883

Gordon to "Genl."

Canal won't be too expensive to build. Discusses value of lands he will donate to syndicate buying bonds. Would like an interest in the canal project. Prompt decision on project necessary.

Unsigned, undated memorandum

Code for cable communication which Gordon promised Walker in Nov. 24 letter.

Gordon to Genl.

Private correspondence. Discusses commission for Gen., Windom, and friends. Encloses cable code.

Gordon to Hon. Wm. Windom (c/o American Exchange, 449 Strand, London)

Would like the company to clear 90¢ on bonds after commissions. Greatly worried about many unauthorized parties offering bonds in Europe.

November 27, 1883

Gordon to W. L. Watson (34 Leadenhall St., London)

Instructs Watson to withdraw papers from Hastings and Sampson and cancel all authority to handle the bonds unless either Hastings or Israel Joseph can do the business at once. Asks Watson to call on Mr. Gunn. Feels Hastings ignored instructions and hawked bonds over Europe.

Gordon to Gen. Geo. Walker (Paris)

Sending copy of charter he proposes to secure for ship canal.

Unsigned, undated

List of syndicates involved in canal project and amount of I. R.R. bonds they will take.

November 30, 1883

Gordon to Charles Harris (4 State St., Hartford, Connecticut)

I.R.R. is suing J.T. & K.W. (Barnum people) after failure to reach agreement out of court. Harris should therefore use discretion if he wishes to continue negotiations of which he (Harris) speaks. Harris may show letter and enclosed note to friends.

Gordon to Gen. Walker (3, Rue Scribe, Paris)

Sending copy of proposed canal charter. Broad terms leave location open. Investment possibilities in the canal. Will market bonds on popular loan plan in U.S. if canal syndicate decides no.

Gordon to James N. Smith (265 Clinton Ave., Brooklyn, New York)

Proposes plan for marketing bonds for a section of road to small number of subscribers and invites Smith to participate in this syndicate.

Gordon to Gen. James A. Williamson (Washington)

Same as above.

December 1, 1883

Gordon to Col. W. M. Tunno (Savannah, Georgia)

Invites Tunno and associates to join syndicate under formation and explains basis of membership.

Gordon to James N. Smith (205 Clinton Ave., Brooklyn, New York)

Strictly confidential. Forgot to mention to Smith that subscribers in syndicate will also receive construction blocks.

December 3, 1883

Unsigned to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Washington)

Mr. New and Mr. Smith each willing to subscribe one fifth of the necessary amount, if Gordon can secure balance. Gordon suggests that this is Harmer's chance to clinch the deal by subscribing Himself (Harmer) and some friends.

December 4, 1883

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Washington)

Has paid most of his subscription and wants to get rest in. John Sherman and other members of Congress might be induced to join. Must start work on Tarpon Springs line to get land from Disston and keep others from doing so. Confidential note accompanying above letter - Proposition of parties subscribing to first million of I. R. R. bonds.

Gordon to James Hastings (11 Queen Victoria St., London)

If Hastings cannot conclude a deal immediately, Gordon will market bonds in U. S.

Gordon to Gen. George Walker (U.S. Consulate, 3 Rue Scribe, Paris)

Deal is about to close in London. Walker's French group should make immediate decision.

Wrycivic [Gordon's cable address] to Hast.

"Is sale positive."

December 5, 1883

Gordon to Hamilton Disston (Philadelphia)

Wishes Disston to relinquish option on two blocks. Looks forward to seeing him.

Frank Gordon to Jefferson M. Levy (100-102 Broadway, New York)

Accepts one of two propositions of compensation for his professional services in a real estate matter.

Unsigned to W. L. Watson (34 Leadenhall St., London)

Correspondent wants Watson to investigate and report promptly on parties with whom Hastings is contracting. Cable code for Watson to use in replying.

December 6, 1883

Gordon to Hast

Cable message. "Winsom must refer Mexican road. Better terms than yours Florida road impossible."

Gordon to Gen. Henry R. Jackson (Savannah, Georgia)

Asks Jackson to take charge of case involving lands of J. T. & K.W. Also interested in resisting a Pensacola & Atlantic R.R. suit for land grants and suggests arguments to use.

Unsigned to Hon. Wm. Windom (449 Strand, London)

Informs Windom that English sources have indicated that the same is responsible for trouble marketing the bonds there. Gordon feels there is a misunderstanding and hopes Windom will clear it up. Bonds will be sold in U.S. if French syndicate does not act promptly.

December 7, 1883

Unsigned to James Hastings (11 Queen Victoria St., London)

Gordon has interest in Windom's Mexican R.R. No terms other than those given Hastings authorized. Sampson has complained about withdrawal of bonds. Additional note concerning security of bonds.

Unsigned to Mr. Hastings

Encloses letter for parties negotiating with Hastings and Windom, explaining that "no such offers" ever made. Expects to receive 15 to 16 million acres from the State.

W. H. McKinley to Capt. J. B. Baird

Gordon wants some specific details on cost and construction.

December 8, 1883

Gordon to Thos. W. Osborne

He will send Osborne three blocks and hold one as security against \$4000 due.

December 10, 1883

Unsigned to Nathaniel Greene, Esq. (Bartholomew House, Bartholomew Lane, London)

Strictly confidential inquiry asking Greene's opinion on whether Miss. land bonds or land itself should be marketed. Encloses code for cable reply.

Unsigned to W. L. Watson, Esq. (34 Leadenhall St., London)

Thanks Watson for prompt attention to Hastings and Joseph matters. Encloses article on Florida.

Unsigned to Gen. George Walker (U.S. Consulate General, Paris)

Impossible to get legal monopoly on a Florida canal. Considers present owners of a ship canal charter largely speculators. He can secure a charter at no cost. Postscript - Charter of Florida Ship Canal Company can be controlled for less money than he thought, though he considers control unnecessary.

December 10, 1883

Gordon to James Hastings (11 Queen Victoria St., London)

Can sell bonds in U.S. on better basis than Sampson proposed to do it. Wants to be notified if they will make offer proportionate to bonus asked. Encloses cable code.

December 11, 1883

Gordon to Col D. C. Forney (Washington)

Mr. Brown's proposal in reference to compensation for services in negotiations unacceptable.

Makes own strictly confidential offer. Would be interested in fair arrangement with Pennsylvania R.R., possibly even selling under certain circumstances.

December 12, 1883

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson

If he goes into stock business, he will want to control the Brown place in Charleston. Instructs Carson to sell some of the mules and the corn. Makes other inquiries about his livestock.

December 13, 1883

Gordon to C. L. Chase

Discusses arrangement he would make with lumbermen friends of Chase for control of the company's timberland. He will close deal with other parties unless they decide promptly. Illegible financial calculations.

December 15, 1883

Unsigned to Gen. Jas. A. Williamson and Hon. John C. New (Washington)

Encloses draft of contract between himself and addressees. Suggestions for organization for marketing bonds on popular loan plan. Interested in selling to Congressmen, government employees. Appends calculation of value of one block.

December 17, 1883

Gordon to Col. T. W. Osborne

Critical financial situation makes it necessary to ask Osborne to pay immediately the money due for stock and the amount borrowed.

December 20, 1883

Gordon to Hast. (London)

"Contract declined."

Gordon to D. G. Ambler

Permission for J.T. & K. W. R.R. to use some I. R.R. crossties on condition of returning an equal number at a later date.

January 2, 1884

Gordon to James Hastings (80 Lombard St., London)

Explains bond offer he will make Mr. Fowler and requests an immediate decision. Official notice that bonds unconditionally withdrawn.

Gordon to rank Fontaine (Atlanta, Georgia)

Wants Fontaine's opinion on letting Col. Hile of Savannah take care of sale of the lands.

January 3, 1884

Gordon to Gunning (London)

Cable message - "Power attorney forwarded."

January 4, 1884

Unsigned to Maj. J. C. Whitner (Atlanta, Georgia)

Reply to inquiries. Explains procedures on bonds, land bonuses, mortgage; requirements of charter; commissions.

Gordon to A. B. Mason

Requests again that Mason send him vouchers he had requested earlier before he [Gordon] takes up Mason's demand for money.

Gordon to Watson

Encloses a power of attorney to be given to Gunn if he satisfies Watson's investigation.

Gordon to Wm. Gunn (Albert Bldg., 49 Queen Victoria St., London)

Authorizes Gunn to sell bonds at 77 1/2¢.

Gordon to Wm. Gunn (London)

Terms under which Gunn is authorized by company to close bond deal. He says bonds best ever offered in any market, and last land grant bonds to be offered from U.S.

January 8, 1884

Gordon to Gen. Henry R. Jackson (Savannah, Georgia)

Thinks I.R.R. will benefit if Shoecraft suit concerning lands stays in court, instead of being dismissed. Other roads interested in these matters. Would like to arrange a different judge. Give Frank plenty of work to do.

Gordon to W. L. Watson (34 Leadenhall St., London)

Wants to be very careful about appointing Gunn. Believes he will sell entire issue of bonds in U.S. on terms which he enumerates.

Gordon to Nathaniel Greene, Esq. (Bartholomew House, Bartholomew Lane, London)

Situation too complicated to undertake sale of Miss. lands at present. Will leave matter as is until a future date.

January 9, 1884

Gordon to Col. Wm. M. Tunno

Tunno has been unable to place \$100,000 for which he agreed to take responsibility. Requests him to stop all expenses as far as Gordon is concerned and continue if he [Tunno] wants only on his own.

W. H. McKinley to Alfred Bishop Mason (35 Wall St.)

Gordon will receipt for any vouchers for money paid out by Mason on International's account.

January 11, 1884

Gordon to Wm. R. Utley

Detailed answer to Utley's inquiries as to what Gordon would entertain as to proposition to furnish I.R. R. \$5 million payable as needed.

January 14, 1884

Gordon to E. P. Baker (Vice-President, Franklin Bank Note Company)

Accepts Baker's bid for engraving bonds.

Gordon to Alfred Bishop Mason (35 Wall St.)

Mason has no reason to sue the company, and Gordon will protect himself in such an event in a fitting and proper manner.

January 15, 1884

Gordon to Z. A. Losey (La Crosse, Wisconsin)

Meeting in Florida Jan. 28 for all parties interested in land grants. Wants to postpone argument on demurrer to allow time to seek compromise of conflicting interests.

Gordon to Maj. R. W. Hunter (Washington)

Rejects Hunter's and Gen. Williamson's plan for bonds.

Gordon to Col. J. T. Lesley (Tampa, Florida)

Agrees with Lesley in toto as to the idea of constructing the road only by contract.

Gordon to M. J. Weller (471 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington)

Outlines "fatal objections" to contract with the company proposed by Weller.

Gordon to Col. A. C. Harmer (Washington)

Dr. Glavis failed to get New's subscription. If Glavis and Weller can sell bonds on their European trip, they will get commission. Gordon must accept Harmer's offers to retire from Presidency because Harmer has insufficient time to give the job.

Gordon to Gen. James A. Williamson (629 F St., Washington)

Expects great success of popular loan plan, with 40-acre bonus. Expects to be in Washington and wants conference with Williamson and New.

January 16, 1884

Gordon to C. L. Patton (Ford's Hotel, Richmond, Virginia)

Sends copy of prospectus, data, etc. for Patton to present to friends. J. A. Williamson, former U.S. Commissioner of Public Lands, will be company president. J. C. New, Assistant Treasurer Secretary, will take some part in company? – Partially illegible.

Undated private and confidential sheet of data re: salt.

April 28, 1884

Gordon to Hon. J. C. S. Blackburn (Washington)

Sends some of Harmer's letters to Gordon. Feels that Harmer did not fulfill his obligations to the company Asks Blackburn's opinion.

Gordon to Capt. Charles U. Williams (1104 Main St., Richmond, Virginia)

If Williams requires it, Gordon will suffer his greatest embarrassment and surrender his [Gordon's] scheme, which would have contributed to their common object.

January 16, 1885

Waldorf G. Phillips, Secretary. to L. M. Esq.

Instructs addressee to send Gordon in Tallahassee a letter stating that shipments have commenced and rails contracted for.

January 17, 1885

Gordon to W. Baker (Iowa)

Reply to inquiry about bonds. Contracts closed to secure construction. Bonds will be issued as soon as portion of road completed.

July 18, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to Messrs. Shearman and Samson (2 Wall St., New York)

Discussion of terms with addressees, who are contracting to build part of road.

January 17, 1885

Gordon to Messrs. Powers Taylor & Company (Richmond, Virginia)

Despite problems, building of road has been insured. Bonds and land warrants to be issued upon completion of part of road.

January 19, 1885

Gordon to Wm. M. Webre (Knoxville, Tennessee)

Content same as above.

January 20, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to James H. McCreevy (7 Nassau St., City)

McCreevy's check to J. B. Gordon has bounced.

January 21, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon (New York) to James H. McCreevy (7 Nassau St., City)

Personal note. After their interview, he leaves matter of check to McCreevy's courtesy and discretion. Wishes to talk to him on other matter.

January 22, 1885

Waldorf H. Phillips to F. C. Buter (Wooksockett, Dakota)

No special effort to sell bonds in recent months due to demoralized markets. Construction will begin to go rapidly, so there is no reason not to purchase bonds.

January 23, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to Col. J. R. G. Hamilton (Sumpterville, Florida)

J. B. Gordon will settle Hamilton's claim upon return. Considerable sum of money to be released as soon as few miles of road completed.

Hugh H. Gordon to Col E. C. McDowell (Columbia, Tennessee)

Reply to Nov. 17 inquiry. I.R.R. is in good shape.

Gordon to J. H. McRae (McRae, Virginia)

Replies to inquiry about land grants and charter. Other R.R. enterprises in Florida have tried to destroy I.R. R., which is now progressing steadily.

**A brief abstract for Letterbook C.
January 1884 to March 1884**

January 22, 1884

Gordon to A. B. Mason (35 Wall St.)

Will instruct Phillips to call on Mason. Settlement possible without lawsuit.

January 25, 1884

Gordon to F. P. Olcott Esq. Prst. Central Trust Company

Gordon's comments on suggestions on the proposed mortgage of the I.R. R. Postscript - Requests that examination and changes be made promptly. All arrangements have been based on "Central" recognized as the trust company

January 31, 1884

Hugh H. Gordon to J. L. Cunningham

Supplies information about bonds. Reminds Cunningham that one of his notes falls due the next day.

February 2, 1884

Gordon to Capt. W. L. Powell

Wants attorney engaged and suit of Ambler against Great Southern Rail way re-opened.

February 4, 1884

Unsigned to Col. D. C. Forney (Washington)

Will consult lawyer on difficulties with Harmer. Will proceed against him if necessary, but wishes to avoid newspaper controversy. Put Harmer's letters away for safekeeping.

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Washington)

Concurs that a harsh conflict is to be avoided. Lengthy discussion as to why he does not feel that Harmer fulfilled his promises, obligations to company. Does not accept joint responsibility with Harmer for any failure. Considers absurd Harmer's excuse of duty to stockholders as reason not to resign. Does not see that he has done Harmer any injustice.

Gordon to Maj. Livingston Mims (Atlanta, Georgia)

Confidential correspondence. Proposes that Mims and his agents undertake to sell bonds on popular plan.

February 5, 1884

Gordon to Julien T. Davies (2 Wall St.)

In matter they have discussed, Gordon considers paying half amount demanded by Dr. Lyman and hopes Davies will take care of rest. Sees good prospects for Dr.'s success.

Gordon to Col. W. M. Tunno (Tarpon Springs, Florida)

Asks Tunno not to draw any more money on him. Lands selected by Tunno hereafter will be entirely Tunno's.

Gordon to Maj. M. R. Marks

A draft from Marks returned unpaid. Gordon drawing on him for amount plus protest fee.

February 6, 1884

Gordon to Col. D. C. Forney (Washington)

Encloses stock certificates. Not disposed to make any compromise with Harmer; plans to refuse him salary and try to recover blocks given him.

Gordon to C. C. Hine (161 Broadway)

Has examined Hine's proposed letter and approves. Suggests slight alteration in proposed contract.

July 6, 1884

Gordon to Hon. John A. Candler Prest. Florida Southern Ry. (Palatka, Florida)

Suggests that it is not to Candler's road's interest to join action of three other R. R.'s. Such arrangement would result in litigation and problems for Candler's road.

Undated note (Telegram message?)

Gordon to Alfred Bisdop Mason (Jacksonville, Florida)

Wishes to see Mason. Thinks he can arrange compromise. Requests adjournment of hearing and an answer.

February 7, 1884

Gordon to Hon. J. C. Greeley (Jacksonville, Florida)

Hopes hearing will be postponed to provide time to effect a compromise arrangement. Partially illegible.

Gordon to Hon. J. C. Greeley (Jacksonville, Florida)

Authorization to employ lawyer to represent company in Mason suit. Briefly outlines company's defense.

February 8, 1884

Gordon to Hon. J. C. Greeley (Jacksonville, Florida)

Note accompanying letter to prospective attorney.

Gordon to "Sir"

Apparently for prospective attorney. Outlines Company's defense in Mason suit.

Gordon to Hon. Williamson Call (U.S. Senate, Washington)

Call is opposed to construction of I.R. R., and Gordon does not understand why he should want to obstruct it or damage Gordon personally. Answers two points Call has against charter.

Gordon to A. B. Mason (Jacksonville, Florida)

Telegram. Mason has forced legal contest and Gordon's attorney will answer.

February 9, 1884

Gordon to Mr. Greeley

Mr. Greeley to chair stockholders' meeting if Frank Gordon does not arrive. Encloses proxies. Motions to be read and adopted.

Undated contract

Signed by Gordon, Kibbe, McKinley

Gives New and Williamson power of attorney for period of construction of road.

February 12, 1884

Gordon to "Whit"

Disagreement with Call was misunderstanding. Gordon and Whit should return each other's letters referring to Call.

Gordon to W. L. Watson (34 Leadenhall St., London)

Approves of Watson's course with Mr. Gunn. Everett and Megrue have better offer than Hastings.

Gordon to Dr. George M. Everett (6a Austin Friars, London)

Awaiting firm bid from Everett's parties. Requests Everett to confer freely with Watson. Will let him know about Miss. Matters.

Gordon to James Hastings (80 Lombard St., London)

Objections to proposed contract: paying for only half of bonds when 50 miles completed; getting steel at higher price than it can be bought in U.S.

Undated brief in behalf of I.R.R. to Trustees of Internal Improvement Fund in matter of joint application of four confederated companies.

February 14, 1884

J.B. Gordon - Office of the I.R.R. & S.S. Company (68 1/2 Bay St., Jacksonville)

to Honorable Board of Trustees of Internal Improvement Fund

Lengthy letter setting out I.R.R.'s case in respect to the other roads in Florida.

February 18, 1884

Gordon to Dr. C. L. Stowell (Rochester, New York)

Printed matters ready. Prospects good. New land warrant plan for distributing land. Money for bonds to come directly to Farmer's Trust. Instructions for selecting agents and selling bonds. Agents' instruction book confidential, and no reference to business part of scheme to go to newspapers.

Gordon to Maj. J. C. Whitner (Atlanta, Georgia)

Whitner to make preparations for selling bonds. Gordon will try to give Whitner opportunity to make extra amounts.

Gordon to Hon. William Windom (London)

Negotiations still pending in London. Sends Windom address of Sampson, who had passed on to Gordon false reports about Windom.

Gordon to Judge G. W. Means (Evinsville, Florida)

Gordon will soon pay his debt to Means and will aid Means, who is being sued.

Gordon to Col. John T. Lesley (Tampa, Florida)

Court squashed A. B. Mason's effort to place I.R.R. with a receiver. Gordon will look after him as soon as other pressing negotiations completed. Lesley should tell people to be patient about construction. Wants line located along front of a government reservation with area for a depot, a map of this to be filed in Washington and Gainesville.

February 20, 1884

Gordon to C. C. Deming

Wants to know why Deming, in his brief, has seemed to abandon Gordon's line of argument based on the joint application of the four roads.

Gordon to S. R. Foster (67 Wall St.)

Agreement on contract for portion of road no longer practicable, as it was based on syndicate purchase of bonds. Cannot comply with terms providing stock bonus.

Gordon to Messrs. Wyckoff, Seamans, & Benedict (281 & 283 Broadway)

Wants to try their typewriter on trial basis.

Gordon to Board of Trustees of Internal Improvement Fund (Tallahassee, Florida)

Requests time to prepare briefs to answer those from the individual companies involved also in the joint application.

February 21, 1884

Unsigned to Hon. John C. New (Indianapolis, Indiana)

Good reports from bond agents. Wants letter from New stating how sound New feels enterprise is. Florida has not given away more land than it possesses because many grants have been

forfeited. Answering charges in the public press would lead to further mud-slinging. Will send articles on Florida to be inserted in local papers.

February 22, 1884

Gordon to Bleckley

Suggestions for arguments against J.T. & K.W. Encloses copy of letter to Board.

February 23, 1884

Gordon to E. M. Tunno (Yellow Bluff, Hillsboro County, Florida)

Tempted not to reply to Tunno's insolent letter. Repeats that Tunno had no authority to secure lands in Gordon's behalf except in specified area; Tunno undertook to select at his own expense other land which Gordon was to offer on the market, profits to be shared. Gordon will now require itemized listing of expenditures on their joint account.

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer

Surprised not to receive Harmer's resignation. Trusts Harmer will forward it; and they will choose disinterested parties, if necessary, to resolve their disagreement.

Gordon to Bleckley

Wishes to incorporate strongest points on Disston title into brief answering J.T. & K. W.'s land application. Wants to prevent any action by Board at this point.

Gordon to Mr. Stowell

Cannot give him exclusive territory for selling bonds. Requests reply.

February 28, 1884

Gordon to Clinton Rice (New York)

Authorization as special agent to appoint agents anywhere in the country to sell the bonds.

Gordon to Clinton Rice (New York)

Note accompanying above authorization. Commission to be 7 1/2 % par value, at which they are to be sold, according to terms in Subscription Book. Can settle with appointed canvassers on their portion of the commission. Company not liable to any expense beyond commission.

Gordon to Messrs. Foster & Sheldon (New York)

Same content as above. Followed by authorization of same date.

February 27, 1884

Gordon (Washington) to Hon. George F. Edmunds, Chairman

In response to Judge Edmund's request, Gordon submits in writing reasons he expects large increase in litigation in U.S. Court in Florida.

February 19, 1884

Gordon to Dr. J. H. Lyman (New York)

Wishes to join Lyman's railroad and development enterprises in Guatemala. Looks forward to friendly relations between U.S. and Guatemala, which may grow out of these enterprises.

February 28, 1884

Postscript to above letter

Encloses for Lyman letter of introduction to president of Guatemala written by Guatemalan ambassador to U.S.

Gordon to Gen. James A. Williamson (Washington)

Wants to use Post Office map of Florida rather than Interior Dept. edition.

Gordon to Maj. Joseph A. Kavanaugh (75 E. 10th St., New York)

Note to accompany authorization as Special Agent, followed by authorization itself.

Gordon to Judge J. H. Fry (19 W. 30th St.)

Same as above.

Gordon to J. B. Bilheimer (New York)

Authorization as Special Agent.

Gordon to Hon. Thomas Settle (Jacksonville, Florida)

Confidential correspondence. Has seen members of Senate Judiciary Committee in reference to Federal Court judges' salaries. Wants Settle to know that some members are under the impression that Settle's court has a very light load. Feels that bill before Senate is an injustice to judge of Federal court in Florida.

February 29, 1884

Gordon to Bleckley

Wishes Bleckley, in answering Judge Chisolm's brief, to concede to the Florida Southern's claim and to concentrate opposition on the J.T. & K.W. and the P. & A. roads.

Undated telegram to Megrue, London

"withdrawn ...? - illegible. Marked "not sent".

March 1, 1884

Gordon to Gov. W. D. Bloxham (Tallahassee, Florida)

Requests to be furnished with Florida taxation rates and any other pertinent information.

February 29, 1884

Gordon to Dr. J. H. Lyman (San Rafael, California)

Joint contract between Gordon, Lyman, and Bilheimer is for two R. R.'s and colonization scheme. Gordon construes contract to imply division of any acquisitions made by Lyman, however.

March 1, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. C. P. & J. C. Cooper, attorneys (Jacksonville, Florida)

Wishes to know what he must do in reference to the taking of testimony in the Mason-I.R.R. hearing. Wishes to be sent all papers in case and full instructions. Postscript - Can they plead that Company never ratified contract?

February 29, 1884

Gordon to Gen. Henry R. Jackson (Savannah, Georgia)

Worried that Board in Florida will act before answers to briefs of J.T; & K.W. and P. & A. are finished. Gordon has no time and would like Jackson and Bleckley to go to Tallahassee to try to get board to defer any action.

August 1, 1884

Gordon to Col. J. T. Lesley

Wants Sumterville-Tampa line and extension at military reservation filed as one whole line. Wants 20 acres for depot in prettiest part of reserve, and wants I.R.R.'s claim in quickly and secretly. Worried that Congress may take land for some other public purpose.

March 1, 1884

Gordon to C. L. Stowell (Rochester, New York)

Accepts Stowell's proposition for marketing bonds and makes some procedural suggestions. Will have Stowell elected a director.

March 5, 1884

Gordon to Williams C. Fox, Esq. (U.S. Consul, Brunswick, Germany)

Authorizes Fox to sell \$1 million of bonds in Germany. Discusses nature of bonds and the enterprise. Authorization granting power of attorney follows.

March 6, 1884

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Washington)

Mason matter strictly between Gordon and Mason and does not involve Harmer of company
Mason obtained contract through fraud.

Waldorf Phillips to C. L. Stowell (Rochester, New York)

Informs Stowell that stockholders elected him a director.

March 12, 1884

Gordon to Geo. H. Everett (69 Austin Friars, London)

Feels Everett partly to blame for delay and lack of success with bonds in London. Everett can try popular plan in England. London more to blame for delay in Delta matter.

Gordon to H. I. Kimball (Atlanta, Georgia)

Requests Kimball not to draw amount of Gordon's subscription to Hotel stock.

Gordon to James Hastings (80 Lombard St., London)

Informs Hastings that bonds will be marketed on popular plan in U.S.

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Washington)

Doesn't understand why Harmer not in favor of arbitration of their dispute. Stockholders requested Harmer's resignation.

Gordon to C. L. Stowell (Rochester, New York)

Partially illegible. Concerns suggestions from Hine which Gordon does not consider very good. (?). Appreciated Stowell's efforts. Bond is safe investment.

Gordon to Capt. W. L. Powell (Palatka, Florida)

Very busy with details of sale of bonds and cannot give attention to matter referred to by Powell. Powell is to pay own expenses, can expect a raise eventually.

Undated brief for Supreme Court of City and County New York in suit of Robert Fulton Cutting against John B. Gordon, signed by Waldorf Phillips as attorney for the defendant.

Hon. George P. Raney, attorney general (Tallahassee, Florida)

Bleckley's illness will cause delay in case with A. B. Mason. Submits several points which he feels will be sustained in the brief under preparation.

March 13, 1884

Gordon to "General" (Williamson?)

Wishes to see General. Has written Harmer again. If General wants, Gordon will resign vice-presidency and give it to the General. Plans for General to be president upon dismissal of Harmer.

March 14, 1884

Unsigned to Gov. W. D. Bloxham (Tallahassee, Florida)

Explains telegraph inquiring if the Board were really deeding lands to J. T. & K. W. Inquired because he must meet various false rumors put out by J. T. & K.W., Mason, etc.

Gordon to Gen. Henry R. Jackson (Savannah, Georgia)

Encloses copy of letter to Board. Has been notified by telegram that briefs are to be submitted within two weeks. Gives reasons, upon which Jackson is to elaborate, why J.T. & K. W. is not entitled to any lands.

March 17, 1884

Gordon to C. W. Ransom (Mason Bldg., Boston, Massachusetts)

Answers inquiries about Florida taxes; orange trees; cost of transplanting; procedures in paying for bonds.

Gordon to Mr. Stowell

Answers questions about building progress, and receipt of lands from the state and their location.

W. H. McKinley to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Washington)

Encloses check for?, interest on \$5000 advanced by Harmer an September 1883.

March 18, 1884

Gordon to Hon. Henry M. Teller, Secretary of Interior, U.S. (Washington)
Partially illegible. Encloses information about the I.R.R.

March 19, 1884

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Washington)
Has selected Hon. J. S. Blackburn as his arbitrator in their dispute. Harmer's resignation accepted by construction company

Gordon to Hon. John T. Morgan, U. S. S. (Washington)

Sees no prospect of getting hold of Great Southern title through Minear. Requests return of receipt for four blocks being held for Minear in the event the deal had come through.

March 19, 1884

Gordon to F. B. Whitney (Atlantic, Iowa)
Other R. R. interests in Fla. have done their best to obstruct I.R. R.
Encloses pamphlet "The Land Grant to the I. R. R. & S. S. Company" giving elaboration of "real facts" of the situation. Will be happy to answer Whitney's further inquiries.

March 20, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. Foster & Sheldon (67 Wall St., New York)
Answers inquiries regarding officers of construction company; construction progress; time limits; financing.

Gordon to Editor, Baltimore Sun

Advertisement appearing in Sun is unauthorized by the company Farmers' Loan & Trust has no connection with the company outside its trusteeship.

Gordon to Mr. New

Hopes New can shortly get down some good names on subscription. Wants letter from New - to be used in dispute with Harmer - stating that New's joining the enterprise was not due to Glovis' influence.

Unsigned to C. S. (Sutton?)

Sends information so that addressee can decide if he wants to market bonds on popular plan in Scotland. Offers him one block of stock for each million sold, in addition to the commission.

Gordon H. C. Turnbull Jr. (Baltimore, Maryland)

Advertisement should not have been placed and has done company damage.

March 21, 1884

Gordon to Maj. Lee R. Shryock (39 Broadway)
Gen. Kibbe has ordered reprinting of Delta Land & Mfg. Company and will pay for them himself.

Undated

Lengthy statement of J. B. Gordon to be submitted to the arbitrators in the case pending between Gordon and Harmer.

Unsigned to John H. McRae (Farmville, Virginia)

Sends general letter of introduction and endorsement of bonds for McRae to show to friends. Letter follows.

Unsigned to Col. E. C. McDowell (Columbia, Tennessee)

Still expecting some arrangement with syndicate in Europe. Will be happy to have McDowell act as bond agent. Hope soon to be laying rails. Canvass must be personal, no advertising in press.

March 22, 1884

W. H. McKinley to Gen. James A. Williamson (629 F. St., Washington)

Informs Williamson of his election as president of the construction company

Gordon to Mr. Turnbull

Gordon's letter to newspaper about advertisement in T.'s columns intended no reflection on Turnbull, and no one will know he was connected with advertisement. Gordon's letter is to satisfy trustee.

March 24, 1884

Gordon to Mr. Windom

Windom has missed letter telling him to see Sampson about source of untrue rumors in Europe. Tells Windom to see Sampson or Hastings. Expresses distress that Windom was victim of falsehoods. Sending subscription books etc.; Windom's commission to be 10%.

Gordon (New York) to Hon. John C. New (Indianapolis, Indiana)

Mason suit is effort to force Gordon to comply with an absurd demand, a blackmail scheme.

Presents facts. Contract fraudulent and not binding on company. Agents should not bother Trust Company for envelopes and supplies.

Gen. Jas. A. Williamson (Washington)

If Mason mailed some papers to Williamson, as he did to New, Williamson need not get concerned over them.

March 25, 1884

Gordon to J. T. Lesley (Tampa, Florida)

Instructions to discharge some of force until work can be begun in earnest. Beginning to receive some money from bond sales.

March 24, 1884

Unsigned to Messrs. Gould & Hall (19 Congress St., Boston)

Length of road depends on number of branches and does not affect security offered to bond holders. Will arrange for Bilheimer and addressees to have exclusive on bond sales in Boston.

March 26, 1884

Unsigned to Hon. H. J. Jewett, president etc.

Asks Jewett to name a reliable friend to look into the matter of the I.R. R., which both men know about.

Gordon to James Baldwin (Addison, New York)

Sends pamphlet and maps of proposed route. Land deeded by state as road is constructed, and subsequently distributed by land warrants.

March 25, 1884

F. A. Rieser (Mount Joy, Pennsylvania)

Answers inquiry concerning charter. State of Florida has not over-pledged lands. Investment in bonds is safe.

March 26, 1884

Gordon to Judge G. W. Means (Avinston, Alachua County, Florida)

Sends \$750 and regrets he cannot send more. Requests statement, noting income from their grove and sale of his (Gordon's) land, showing exactly how they stand.

Gordon to Capt. Chas. H. Phinizy (Augusta, Georgia)

Distressed by rumors that Phinizy has stated that his (P.'s) name has been quoted as a director without permission, and by fact that Phinizy has been misled by adverse interests. Sends papers about charter, etc.

A brief abstract for Letterbook D.

March 1884 to September 1884

March 26, 1884

Unsigned to I. J. Gay (Utica, New York)

Ambler is interested in J.T. & K. W. and is misrepresenting facts, which Gordon proceeds to demonstrate.

March 27, 1884

Unsigned to Gen. James A. Williamson (Washington)

Expert from Land Office would not be able to secure any more information in Florida than is already presented in official letters and reports from Governor and Land Commission.

Gordon to John H. Goetze (Baltimore, Maryland)

Advertisement was unauthorized. Farmers' Trust has no interest in company of bonds.

Illegible.

Gordon to F. R. Finessy (68 Wall St.)

Competition among special agents doing harm instead of good. Wants list of Finessy's agents and subscription books sent to them.

Gordon to C. L. Stowell (Rochester, New York)

Suggests Stowell make no more appointments of agents. Whole enterprise is very secure .

Gordon to Whitner

Whitner should concentrate on agents he has already appointed rather than making new ones. Sending "Facts about Florida" pamphlets.

Gordon to Col. D. C. Forney

Do not advertise. Money beginning to come in. Go ahead with arrangements and don't worry about Frank. Williamson making special efforts in the Depts. Cannot offer land bonus or higher commission under this plan.

Gordon to Hugh A. Haralson

Wants Haralson to see to planting of vegetable garden. Jim and Charles and Sam will work on garden jointly and have use of some of vegetables. Has ordered engineer corps suspended.

Gordon to Hon. John C. New (Indianapolis, Indiana)

Slow remittance of money for bonds has caused critical financial situation. Must keep force working to comply with charter. Enumerates some items in overhead and suggests that money be raised among a few persons to cover these costs.

March 29, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. Gould & Hall (Boston, Massachusetts)

Has directed agents to stay out of their way.

Gordon (unsigned) to Col. A.J. McBride (New York)

Appointment as bond agent.

Gordon to A. H. Lichty (Mt. Carroll, Illinois)

Bond is absolutely secure. Lichty can inquire of New or Williamson about it.

W. H. McKinley to Capt. H. A. Haralson (Selma, Alabama)

Encloses check for partial payment of a debt.

Gordon to Conrad (Bacon?) (Buffalo, New York)

Sending pamphlets.

Gordon to "Whit"

Fifty miles of grading completed. Has made new arrangement with Stowell in which he (Gordon) is responsible for money regardless of outcome. Has requested Stowell to recall some employees.

Gordon to Mrs. L. M. Minear (Washington)

Returns Great Southern R.R. stock to her; it is valueless to him.

Gordon to Albert Halle (Frostberg, Allegheny County, Maryland)

Sends information about bonds and invites Halle to act as agent.

Gordon to Benjamin Homans (251 Broadway, New York)

Company guarantees Homans' commission in the event that something should prevent Hine from paying it.

Gordon to E. H. Potter, Cashier (Cleveland, New York)

Has sent printed matter requested. Has found personal canvass more successful than indiscriminate distribution.

Gordon to G. M. Fuller (?) (Fairhaven, Vermont)

Answer to inquiries about company and construction.

Gordon to C. L. Stowell

Sending "Land Grant" pamphlets. Use them only if question is raised.

March 31, 1884

Hugh Gordon to Mr. Bailey

Note which has been entirely struck out.

Hugh H. Gordon to Mr. Bailey (Bradstreet Agency)

Wishes to be notified when article on I.R.R. will appear in his journal. Will pay amount due when Bailey has done his part.

Gordon to Hon. John C. New (Indianapolis, Indiana)

Judicious advertising would aid in placing bonds. New should not be apprehensive.

Gordon to O. A. Gager (29 Barclay Street, New York)

Wants Gager to confer with Everett and Megrue to avoid any conflict. Sending information, printed matter etc. about bonds. McBride and Gordon will appreciate Gager's help in London or elsewhere.

Undated certification of land survey plat for I.R.R. signed by Gordon.

April 1, 1884

Messrs. C. P. & J. C. Cooper (Jacksonville, Florida)

Wishes to pay their fee later, at end of case. Will send them instructions and copies of testimony in Mason case taken where Gordon is.

Gordon to Mr. Barnes, Registrar Land Office U. S. (Gainesville, Florida)
Encloses certificate referring to location of I.R.R. depot and right of way which had been omitted from group of papers sent earlier.

Gordon to Capt. Chas. F. Smith (Tampa, Florida)
Sends Smith copy of above-mentioned certificate.

Gordon to Hon. John T. Lesley (Tampa, Florida)
Narramore authorized to spend \$1500/mo. on work in low places. Baird is to work on getting right of way. Lesley, Smith, and Baird are to economize, get rid of unnecessary employees and equipment.

Gordon to Capt. J. B. Baird (Tampa, Florida)
Confidential correspondence. Wants Baird to work on securing right of way. Gordon requests a report.

Gordon to Colquitt
Strictly confidential correspondence. Gordon very interested in proposed railroad line in Texas. Requests Colquitt to show this letter to Senator Brown also.

Gordon to Hon. Henry M. Teller, Secretary of Interior
Sends certificate in reference to I. R.R. locations and requests that Teller acknowledge receipt of document.

April 2, 1884

Unsigned to Gen. H. R. Jackson (Savannah, Georgia)
Suggests some slight changes in the brief for the case with J.T. & K.W.

Gordon to "Son"
Discussion of some specific legal details in J.T. & K.W. case.

April 3, 1884

Unsigned to Col. D.C. Forney (Washington)
Suggests clarification of a technicality in the statement written for the arbitration with Harmer. Wants Forney to go talk to Blackburn so that the latter might have clear appreciation for the case. Gordon wishes own statement returned to him for revision.

Gordon (New York) to A. J. McBride
Sells McBride option of purchasing \$1000 of construction stock, in return for services rendered and one dollar paid. (two examples)

Gordon (New York)
Gordon agrees to transfer to McBride one block in return for services rendered and to be rendered in sale of bonds.

April 4, 1884

Waldorf G. Phillips to Hon. John L. Crawford, Secretary of State (Tallahassee, Florida)
Sends I.R.R. first mortgage to be recorded.

April 5, 1884

Gordon to C. L. Patton (Atlanta, Georgia)
Make no more appointments until further notification.

Gordon to John H. McRae (Richmond, Virginia)
Cannot give McRae an exclusive on a territory for bond sales, as other agents already appointed there.

Gordon to Hon. John C. New (Indianapolis, Indiana)
Does not want to borrow from Trust Company and risk damaging credit there. Wants to meet with New and Gen. W. for full consideration of matter. Amount still due from New and Gen. W. will help defray part of printing costs.

Gordon to J. K. Moran (Cairo, Illinois)
Recommends investing in Company bonds.

Gordon to Thomas Atkinson (Norway, Iowa)
Explains trusteeship of Farmers' Loan & Trust. Directs inquiries to Homans.

Gordon to A. J. Barker (Eagleville, Missouri)
Barker can apply to New for agent's materials.

Gordon to D. W. Mitchell (Cordaville, Massachusetts)
Mitchell can apply to Bilheimer for agent's supplies.

Gordon to C. S. Sumbaro (206 Fourth Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota)
Explains trusteeship. Can apply to New for agents' materials.

Gordon to O. Russell Wood (Wheeling, West Virginia)
Invites Wood to study pamphlets with investment in mind. Could make it to Wood's interest to organize a considerable investment in his locality.

Gordon to Colquitt
Will find interview in Tribune which explains what happened between Gordon and Tilden. Tilden would not accept the nomination, but favors Payne and also feels agitation of tariff question a great mistake.

Gordon to C. L. Stowell
Wants to find out if Stowell's friend Butts did not come under influence of company's enemies, and if no, rectify the situation.

April 6, 1884

Cable message to Megrue, London

"Florida", followed by explanation - Megrue is to proceed with sale of bonds.

April 9, 1884

Gordon to Frank A. McKean (Nashua, New Hampshire)

Pleased to have McKean as agent.

Gordon to John H. McRae

Sending pamphlets and other information to clear up mistaken impressions of McRae.

April 10, 1884

Gordon to H. C. Turnbull Jr. (25 South Gay St., Baltimore)

No objection to advertising bonds as long as it is not done anonymously.

April 11, 1884

Signed by Gordon

Grant of power of attorney to Everett and Megrue for sale on bonds and detailing arrangement.

Followed by notarization.

April 10, 1884

Unsigned to Messrs. Everett and Megrue (6a Austin Friars, London)

Everett and Megrue should consult with C.S. Seyton, who was also given permission to sell bonds in England.

April 11, 1884

Gordon to Gen. Jas. A. Williamson (Washington)

Sorry to hear of Mrs. W.'s illness. Suggests meeting with Williamson and New. Williamson's apprehensions about land grant unfounded. Does Williamson know firm which would lend its name to ads. for bonds. Needs money for printing costs.

April 14, 1884

Unsigned to Col. D. C. Forney (Washington)

Will observe Forney's requests about confidential matters. Having trouble getting enough money at once to complete Tampa branch. Will look at program proposed by Gould party.

Unsigned to Gen. Jas. A. Williamson (Washington)

Details grave financial situation. Has been carrying most of load, had expected some help from New and Williamson.

Unsigned to Mr. New

Without more funds, work will have to be suspended. The decision is up to New and Williamson. Enterprise looks more promising than ever.

April 15, 1884 (New York)

Maj. E. C. Gordon in a/c with J. B. Gordon
Itemized statement.

April 16, 1884

Gordon to M. K. Jesup (52 William St.)
Knows Jesup would not, despite rival interests, spread damaging rumors
deliberately and would like to clear up his mistaken impressions.

Unsigned to Col. Ellis

Must sell another block to cover expenses. Asks Ellis to find buyer in a discreet fashion and
suggests looking among the representatives. Consider request strictly confidential.

April 17, 1884

Unsigned to Hon. John Candler, President, Florida Southern R. R. (Boston)
Enough lands in Florida for all roads entitled to them. Hopes Candler will stop his Mr. Potter
from trying to damage road. Wants Florida Southern's lawyer in Tallahassee, Col. Henderson, as
I.R.R.'s also except in dealings between the two roads.

April 18, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. C.P. & J. C. Cooper. Attorneys (Jacksonville, Florida)
Would like the Mason case to be set for December, as May and June are busy business months,
and an extension of time for taking of testimony.

Unsigned (Pres. Etc.) to Messrs. Preston, Kean, & Company, bankers (Chicago)

Pamphlets etc. should answer their questions. Gives some explanation himself about different
aspects of company and construction.

Gordon to W. Y. Oakman, president, R. & D. Ext. Company (20 Nassau St.)

Agrees that agreement between himself, E. C. Gordon, and Gov. Colquitt would be satisfactory
to W. S. Gordon.

April 18, 1884

Gordon to Gen. O. B. Wilcox (Madison Barracks, Sackett's Harbor, New York)
Thanks for contribution by veterans to Home for Disabled Ex-Confederates.

Gordon to Whit

Will send copy of uniform advertisement to be used by agents. Wishes to delay activity in
Georgia for the present.

Undated notation that letters similar to above were written to Powell, Stowell, and McRae on
same date.

April 19, 1884

Gordon and Waldorf Phillips

Grant of power of attorney to Charles D. Gale to sell bonds.

Unsigned to Capt. Chas. A. Williams

Mr. Randolph says there is disappointment among committee at Gordon's and William's arrangement. Gordon's position of leadership thrust on him by ex-Confederates and G.A.R. Wishes to leave management of charity campaign to Richmond committee.

Gordon to Mr. Disston

Has written a time extension clause for their contract which he would like signed and returned.

Gordon to Mr. Flower

Arranging a syndicate in Connecticut. Would like Flower to find friend who would lend Gordon some money for short time. Proposes to sell 2 or 3 blocks with option of redeeming them.

April 22, 1884

Gordon to General Grant (3 E. 66th St.)

Upset by paper someone sent to Grant and hopes he will ignore it. Gordon touched by General's generous course in whole matter. Will let General know when he is ready for the money.

April 23, 1884

Gordon to Judge Choate

Wants to put Mr. Steinson's mind at rest about controversies involving I.R.R. because Steinson is possible investor.

Unsigned to Messrs. Preston, Kean, & Co., Bankers (Chicago)

Road will have heavy business along its whole line. Elaborates.

Unsigned to Mr. New

Advises to pay Preston, Kean, and Company personal visit. Recommends use of pamphlet on land grants rather than other explanations. Disappointed, that conclusion after meeting was that Gordon should be responsible for many operating costs.

Gordon to Commander Arnold W. Rand (Massachusetts Commandery, M.O.L.L., U.S., Boston)

Invites cooperation of Rand and his order in effort to solicit funds for homes for disabled ex-Confederate soldiers. Homes will be monument to peace and reunion. General Grant supports effort. Gordon is chairman of Central Committee for this effort.

April 25, 1884

Gordon to W. B. Gordon, Esq. (Columbia, Tennessee)

Offers to sell "Will" and friends some blocks. They are even better investment than bonds.

Gordon to Albert Holle

Requests Holle to give clarifying letter to Mr. Wack, who has received false impressions from I.R.R. enemies. Would like to have names of parties who have said lands are under water, etc.

Gordon to C. B. Wack (Frostberg, Allegheny County, Maryland)

Statements Wack has heard about I.R.R. being a fraud are not true. Requests names of parties making false statements.

April 29, 1884

Unsigned to Messrs. Gould and Hall (19 Congress St., Boston, Massachusetts)

Would like to have name of their friend to set him straight on a few facts. Explains abandonment of original Jacksonville-Palatka line. Sends pamphlet on land grants.

May 1, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. Wm. R. Sheldon & Company (11 Pine St., New York)

Authorization as Special Agents.

Gordon to same party as above

Gives terms of company -Special Agent arrangement. No sub-agents to be appointed in Boston.

April 29, 1884

Gordon to "Governor"

Greatly distressed at thought that he has caused governor embarrassment. Doesn't feel that anything in their dealings has ever compromised governor's official capacity. Wants Governor to meet Disston and himself at Gordon's expense, in Philadelphia about matter which as governor will be of profound concern to him.

April 30, 1884

Gordon to Col. A. J. McBride

Puts four Blocks at McBride's disposal for use as he wishes in placing the first \$500,000 of bonds (2 examples)

May 1, 1884

Unsigned to W. Euclid Young (66 Broadway, New York)

Authorization to sell bonds.

April 30, 1884

Unsigned to Messrs. Everett and Megrue

Would consider either of two propositions, which he details, involving possible arrangements with a construction co, to which Everett and Megrue have referred.

May 1, 1884

Hugh H. Gordon to W. B. Gordon (Columbia, Tennessee)

Sends W. Gordon's stock certificate for one block. Requests immediate notification if he and friends want other blocks, and that McDowell keep him posted as to his progress with bonds.

May 2, 1884

Gordon to Editor, City Editor, or Business Manager, New York Times
Requests return of manuscript of his letter sent some days ago.

Unsigned to "Whit"

Whit should unite efforts with McBride and make extensive use of newspaper ads. Giving 2 1/2% commission to agents would leave 2 1/2% to give editors or managers to secure newspaper cooperation. Explains that Hattie's point about time limit and Sims' about foreigners purchasing land are invalid.

May 1, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. S. Noble Foster & Son (55 Liberty St., New York)
Appointment as Special Agents to sell bonds.

Gordon to Messrs. S. Noble Foster & Son (55 Liberty St., New York)
Terms of arrangement between company and Special Agents.

May 2, 1884

Gordon to Editor, Constitution (Atlanta)
Please say through the Constitution that it is thought best to concentrate on building home at Richmond.

Gordon to W. B. Gordon, Esq. (Columbia, Tennessee)
Returns Will's stock certificates properly signed. Will hold three blocks until Will and friends decide, though there are other orders waiting.

Gordon to John Z. Westervelt, Secretary
Will come to Boston on behalf of project to build homes for ex-Confederate soldiers after Memorial day.

May 9, 1884

Gordon (New York) to Wm. Euclid Young (66 Broadway)
Has had circulars printed. He and Young will divide the names in the directory and each send out circulars.

Gordon to John H. McRae (c/o Ellett, Drew, & Co, Richmond, Virginia)
Requests that McRae see two subscribers to ascertain why their remittances are delayed.
Authorizes McRae to draw on company for commission amounts in at 10%.

Gordon to Messrs. Riggs and Company (Washington)
Has deposited \$5000 for note due the next day. Requests return of note and collateral.

May 6, 1884

Gordon to John Gregson (c/o Strobridge Lithographing Company, Cincinnati, Ohio)
Letter accompanying receipt for money for bonds. Receipt is intermediate bond until actual bond delivered.

May 10, 1884

Unsigned to J. F. Scott (Decatur, Alabama)
Scott's 1/4 block good investment. Warns Scott that he is likely to hear adverse reports about the road during his trip to Florida.

Gordon to Messrs. Everett & Megrue (London)
Everett & Megrue should expect a call from Thos. W. Lacy, who has resided in the U.S., is familiar with Florida and the I.R.R., and should be of help to them in disposing of the bonds.

May 13, 1884

Gordon to W. G. Oakman, president, R. & D. Ex. Company (20 Nassau St.)
Written with A. H. Colquitt. Partially illegible. Propositions concerning settlement between correspondents and associates and Richmond and Danville Extension company Do not think matter of coal lands or Aberdeen bonds should figure in settlement.

May 14, 1884

Unsigned to Messrs. Everett & Megrue (6a Austin Friars, London)
Letter of introduction for Thomas W. Lacey.

Unsigned to Hon. Wm. Windom (American Exchange, 449 Strand, London)
Same content as above.

May 15, 1884

Unsigned Messrs. Richardson & McBride
Gives addressees twenty-day option on thirty blocks.

Unsigned to Messrs. Richardson & McBride
Encloses statement showing probable profits on blocks to accompany above option. They will share with correspondent and a few associates in some speculations. Encloses other material relating to road.

Gordon to J. B. Bilheimer
Will give Bilheimer 2 1/2% commission on blocks he places, quickly and discreetly, where they can do most good.

May 16, 1884

Gordon to C. L. Stowell
Wishes Stowell to interest friends in buying blocks. Refused offer by one person to purchase all 40. Keep confidential.

Unsigned to Messrs. S. Noble Foster & Son (55 Liberty St., New York)
Can offer twenty-day option on ten blocks. Whole matter strictly confidential.

May 17, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. C. P. & J.C. Cooper (Jacksonville, Florida)
Authorizes \$250 sight draft on himself as part of fee in Mason I.R.R. case. Will send Capt. Powell down in time to get up needed testimony.

Gordon to Gen. Henry R. Jackson (Savannah, Georgia)
Satisfied with Jackson's brief. Judge Ashley is of opinion that Florida Southern has forfeited its grant. Regrets Davenport's illness.

Gordon to "Harry"

Confidential correspondence. Wanted Harry to come to New York to meet with Cyrus W. Field. Roscoe Conkling will support Field's brother if latter is nominated by Democrats for President, and three rich Republicans would support him. Gordon supports no particular candidate, but does feel Judge Field could carry many states.

Gordon to Capt. C. F. Smith (Tampa, Florida)

Will have to grade own line into Wildwood. Wildwood ought to give enough help on the right-of-way with additional expenses if it wants tracks through the town instead of east of it.

Gordon to Capt. J. B. Baird

Would like to know sources of talk against I.R.R. Has heard rumor that Baird has made disparaging remarks.

May 19, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. Preston, Kean, & Company (Chicago)
Confidential. Can satisfy every point named in their letter of 17th. Conference could result in addressees' making good deal of money and Gordon's being put in position to give them control of bonds.

May 21, 1884

Unsigned to Gen. Davis Tillson (Rockland, Maine)
Writes and sends pamphlet to clear up Tillson's misconception about I.R.R.'s land grant.

Gordon to J. A. Harwood (Uniontown, Alabama)

Content similar to above. Requests names of parties who made remarks about him to Mr. Fetts.

May 22, 1884

Unsigned to Messrs. Noble Foster & Son

Answers inquiries about: I.R.R. - construction company contract; construction company charter; stockholders' interest in construction company; delivery of land bonuses; land grant.

Unsigned to Wm. G. White (Orlando, Florida)

Explains his relations with W. M. Tunno. Tunno never had last authority for making contracts for the I.R.R.

May 23, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. H. Wilkes & Company (4th St. near Main, Louisville, Kentucky)
Sending them agents' materials. Cannot "deadhead" pamphlets.

May 24, 1884

Gordon to P. Elliot Warburton c/o Man & Parsons, 56 Wall St., New York)
Authorization as bond agent.

Gordon to P. E. Warburton

To have Warburton more permanently associated with company, Gordon will give him 10%, added to his 7% commission from McBride, to be paid in capital stock of I.R.R.

May 26, 1884

Gordon to Hon. Stevenson Archer (Bel Air)
Sending prospectus and other information about I.R.R., the charter, etc.

May 27, 1884

High H. Gordon to H. C. Turnbull, Esq. (Baltimore, Maryland)
Patents for R.R. electric telegraph device registered. Requests to be notified if they want to buy an interest.

June 4, 1884

Gordon to Wm. M. Weber (Mt. Vernon, New York)
Explains terms of Trust Company's trusteeship. Thousands of dollars from subscriptions in.

Gordon to D. W. Mitchell (Cordoville, Massachusetts)

Mitchell to blame for delay in return of receipts for money because he didn't follow prescribed procedure. Bonds and land warrants not ready for immediate delivery.

Unsigned to Hon. Robt. J. Breckenridge (Louisville, Kentucky)

Breckenridge and two friends wish to purchase one block.

May 3, 1884

Capt. J. B. Baird, Supt. (Tampa, Florida)

Wishes to know how much of right-of-way has been secured and to have estimate of cost of entire right. Wants monthly reports which are overdue.

Gordon to Mrs. E. C. Aiken (59 E. 11th St., New York)

Gives personal guarantee against loss on her investment in the construction company

H. H. Gordon to Messrs. Weller and Repetti (Washington)
Failure to return receipt to a purchaser promptly due to failure of addressees to make their report promptly and properly.

O'Beirne (New York) to Gen. J. B. Gordon, Chairman, Central Committee
O'Beirne's ex-Union soldier group wishes Gordon to publish a signed statement of purposes of the charity effort for confederate veterans to counter articles calculated to mislead the public.

May 6, 1884

Gordon to W. S. Sturges (Mankato, Kansas)
Company has never made any misrepresentations, as Sturges was led to believe in Florida.
Sturges should consider carefully before undertaking to expose a fraud, as the corp. can sue him for libel.

Gordon to Gen. James A. Williamson (629 F. St., Washington)
General financial office of company in New York. Separation of offices of two companies not a legal necessity. Wishes to know W.'s prospects for bond sales. Will pay part of note due 10th and wishes extension on balance.

Gordon to Col. John A. Henderson (Tallahassee, Florida)
Candler of Florida Southern has no objections to Henderson's working for I.R.R. Wishes to know terms on which Henderson can be retained.

May 7, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. Glenn and Furman
Would like to buy rails to proceed with construction and pay in installments, as money coming in from bonds slowly at present.

May 6, 1884

Unsigned to Dr. J. H. Lyman (Guatemala)
Some parties know all about Lyman 's movements and predict failure. He should keep them secret.

May 8, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. Gould and Hall (Boston, Massachusetts)
Would like estimate of bonds they are likely to place in next 60 days.

June 5, 1884

Hugh H. Gordon to Barnum
Partially illegible, Concerns interests in R. R. telegraphing device and possible arrangement with a railroad.

June 6, 1884

Gordon to Ira C. Allen (Fair Haven, Vermont)
Pleased Allen invested. Sends circulars for him to use selling bonds to friends.

June 7, 1884

Gordon to M. J. Francisco (Rutland, Vermont)

Agents have been authorized to make use of suitable advertising if they desire. Company is open to public scrutiny.

Hugh H. Gordon to Messrs. Turner, Lee, & McClure
Encloses check for bill and copy of the mortgage.

H.H. Gordon to Messrs. Butler Stieeman & Hubbard
Encloses check for bill for legal services.

June 11, 1884

Unsigned to Messrs. H. W. Wilkes & Company (Louisville, Kentucky)

Land given to company as portions of road completed. Working on Tampa Branch. Addressees must check with New about their commissions, send their reports direct to company

Unsigned to Henry Easton (Batavia, New York)

Explains selection of lands through warrants delivered with bonds. Cannot get special fare rates for parties going to investigate. No positions are open. Would be happy to have Easton and friends invest in bonds.

June 12, 1884

Gordon to Gov. W. D. Bloxham (Tallahassee, Florida)

Confidential. Gives reasons why he thinks it is best to leave Land Grant matter where it is. Would like to be advised 2-3 weeks before Board likely to reach any conclusion. Partially illegible.

June 18, 1884

Gordon to Hon. John T. Morgan U.S.S. (Washington)

Concerns Disston - J.T. & K.W. matter, land grants. Wants to be ready to file bill of injunction in July. Largely illegible.

June 12, 1884

Gordon to Gen. Henry R. Jackson (Savannah, Georgia)

Jackson will surrender, at his own suggestion, the contract with Gordon for services in the Land Grant matter.

Gordon to A. Howell (Clarksville, Tennessee)

Selling blocks to pay for rails on stretch north of Tampa. Would like Howell's aid in placing a few.

June 12, 1884

Gordon to J. R. G. Hamilton, Chairman, and M. T. Allison, Secretary of Committee, Etc.
(Sumterville, Florida)

I.R.R. will serve Sumterville to connect with Transit System.

June 11, 1884

Hugh H. Gordon to Barnum

Partially illegible. Concerns 35 or 45 shares to be given H.G. as compensation for securing cash and agreements [in telegraph device matter?]. Somebody will have to be "greased" to secure R.R. test contract. Followed by four-point proposition concerning Gordon's interest in the venture.

June 13, 1884

Gordon to Mr. New

Will be absent from New York on date New suggests for meeting.

Gordon to J. O. Fitts (Uniontown, Alabama)

Land will be given to I.R.R. only as it builds. Partially illegible.

A. J. McBride to Geo. Heydecker (New York)

Heydecker will get 5% commission on bonds and 2 1/2% on blocks sold.

June 14, 1884

Gordon to W. R. Sheldon

Gives Sheldon option on fifteen blocks, either to buy them or sell them to a third party.

Gordon to W. R. Sheldon & Company (New York)

Option on 15 blocks, on whose sale Sheldon gets 5%.

Gordon to Messrs. W. R. Sheldon & Company (11 Pine St., New York)

Engaged as Special Agents for bonds.

Gordon to Messrs. Preston, Kean, & Company (Chicago)

Preparing to build some road independent of bonds. They should have no doubts about I.R.R.'s land grant.

June 18, 1884

Gordon to Geo. G. Pride (Huntington, Indiana)

Sends information about road and construction company for Pride to consider.

June 20, 1884

Gordon to Senor Don Antonio Batres, Minister of Guatemala (Washington)

Would like official information on negotiations with European holders of Guatemalan bonds.

June 21, 1884

Gordon to Col. A. R. Spofford (Washington)

Interested in procuring report on trade and commerce of Guatemala.

June 19, 1884 (This letter precedes June 20 letter above to same party)

Hugh H. Gordon to Senor Don Antonio Batres, Minister of Guatemala (Washington)

Requests some official information on Guatemalan revenues and expenses 1882 - 1883, and projected revenues. President of Guatemala has approved Lyman's railroad contract.

June 23, 1884

Gordon to Mr. Bowen

Feels it would be waste of money to continue advertising at present.

Gordon to Garnet E. Anderson

Cannot give sole control of bond sales; other parties have deals pending.

June 24, 1884

H. H. Gordon to A. Jeffrey

Gen. Gordon feels Jeffrey is asking excessive compensation for report he was asked to make on meeting for a charity project.

Gordon to Hon. John H. Mitchell, Ex.-U.S. Senator from Oregon (Washington)

Speak to Gen. Guzman of Venezuela about bearing of I.R.R on commerce in his country.

June 26, 1884

Gordon to A. Jeffrey (Brooklyn, New York)

Regrets disagreement and no reflection on Jeffrey's integrity intended. Explanation satisfactory and bill will be paid.

Gordon to J. H. Huber (Louisville, Kentucky)

Huber and friends may have short time requested to pay for block.

Undated (June 27?)

Gordon to Gunning (London)

Cable message - "Can you carry Florida colonization scheme promptly. Full powers from Gordon."

June 27, 1884

Gordon to Hon. John T. Leslie (Tampa, Florida)

Telegram? Confidential - Wants to know lowest price for purchase of 100,000 cattle.

Undated, unsigned

Information on Guatemalan notional bonds. That government will have to listen to people's pressure in favor of Northern Railway.

June 30, 1884

Gordon to Holmes Conrad, Esq. (Winchester, Virginia)

Conrad worried about his investment in construction stock. Gordon feels investment is sound, but will try to find purchaser if Conrad wishes to sell.

July 1, 1884

Gordon to Wm. Dugdale (Baltimore, Maryland)
Same content as above.

J. B. Gordon and J. B. Bilheimer to Messrs. Rittlinger and Company New York
Three-point proposition to Rittlinger in reference to sale of the Guatemalan bonds and in interest in Northern Railway construction.

Gordon to R. Fulton Cutting (37 Wall St.)
Will pay balance more rapidly.

Unsigned to Gen. Jas. A. Williamson (Washington)
Has come across three legal snags in program suggested by Williamson and New.

July 2, 1884

Memorandum signed by Gordon, M. M. Broadwell, Hugh Gordon, Waldorf Phillips
If Broadwell can sell lands, he will be allowed to purchase 1/2 interest in the construction company

Followed by second memorandum.

Gordon to sell 100,000 - 300,000 cattle to Broadwell. Profit between net cost and price named to be divided between the two men.

Unsigned to Messrs. Reynolds and Eckford (Aberdeen, Mississippi)
Has lost all faith in Everett and Megrue to accomplish anything on bond plan. Outlines different one involving selling to Sen. A. H. Colquitt, profits divided between him, addressees, and correspondent. Partially illegible.

Unsigned, undated

Calculation of income on some Mississippi land. Income can be increased. On basis presented, undersigned agree to purchase first mortgage bonds of Delta Land & Mfg. Company

July 3, 1884

Gordon to Don Angel Pina, President of the Directory, Northern Railway (City of Guatemala
Questions reliability of Shea, Cornick, and Company, contractors for R. R.

J. H. Lyman and Gordon to Shea, Cornick, and Company (Knoxville, Tennessee)

All matters in reference to contract should be submitted to correspondents rather than directory or Guatemala government; and no further action to be taken. Feel bond forwarded to Guatemala by addressees not in accordance with terms of their contract.

Lyman and Gordon to E. Martinez, Guatemalan Consul (77 Custom House, N.O.)

Correspondents' responsibility to Guatemalan government compels them to request Martinez to advise Shea and Cornick to make no further moves until contract legality and compliance can be checked.

Unsigned to General Jas. A. Williamson (Washington)

W. 's criticism of Gordon's methods uncalled for. Has been struggling alone for nine months under most adverse circumstances. Intends to save enterprise.

Gordon to Gov. W. D. Bloxham (Tallahassee, Florida)

Has not received reply to long letter to Board, requesting 2-3 weeks of any action to be taken.

July 5, 1884

Hugh Gordon to Turnbull

Sending specifications for telegraphing device patents for electrician's inspection. Initial experiments successful. Followed by proposition for disposal of 1/4-to-all interest in patents in return for paying part or all of the expenses of testing the device on the B. & O. R. R.

Undated

Gordon to President Barrios (Guatemala)

Cable message - "Capitalists...?...Bonds payable New York. Agent will satisfy you about exchange cable Authority Important."

July 10, 1884

Batres (New York, Hotel fifth avenue) to Presidente Barrios (Guatemala)

Cable message in Spanish. Requests reply.

Undated

Gordon to Capt. Chas. F. Smith (Sumterville, Florida)

Telegram message? - Suspend entire engineer corps. All funds into actual construction.

Undated

Gordon to Col. Jno. T. Lesley (Tampa, Florida)

Telegram message? - Pay no further money except in approved itemized vouchers.

July 14, 1884

W. H. McKinley to Capt. Chas. F. Smith (Sumterville, Florida)

Requests Smith to send Baird necessary forms and data so that latter can prepare monthly report.

Hugh H. Gordon to Capt. J. B. Baird (Tampa, Florida)

Hugh telegraphed message about suspension of engineer corps in J. B. Gordon's name. Going South and will endeavor to inaugurate better system in Florida. Baird ' s letters will be held strictly confidential.

July 15, 1884

W. H. McKinley to Capt. W. L. Powell

Requests Powell to write and clarify for company the status of a bill from Jeffrey & Stribling.

July 18, 1884

Gordon to Capt. Smith (Sumterville, Florida)

Telegram message - Suspend engineer corps. All expenditures go into construction.

Gordon to Hon. John T. Lesley (Tampa, Florida)

Telegram message - Pay no money except payroll and itemized vouchers.

July 19, 1884

Waldorf H. Phillips to Frank Gordon (Atlanta, Georgia)

Telegram – “Mason matter arranged Shall I go Florida cross-examine brother.”

Waldorf H. Phillips to C. P. & J. C. Cooper (Jacksonville, Florida)

Extension in Mason ease until September first. His brother in New York returning to Florida.

Gordon to M. Broadwell (Fulton, Missouri)

Telegram – “Go ahead. Can make security for amount so absolute your friends not hesitate.”

July 21, 1884

Gordon to Preston, Kean, & Company Bankers (Chicago)

Telegram – “Go on with your program. See letter this date.”

Gordon to Senor General Presidente D. J. Rufino Barrios (Guatemala)

Copy of guarantee by Fourth National Bank has been sent to him. Awaiting cable authority to engrave bonds. Agent will arrange currency exchange differences.

Gordon to M. M. Broadwell (Fulton, Missouri)

Has been to Chicago convention, then home in Georgia. Discusses terms by which Broadwell can close arrangements with friends for use of \$400,000, after which Gordon can turn his attention to Florida and Broadwell his to the cattle and land deals. Will await Broadwell's reply before closing with any other program.

July 22, 1884

Gordon to C. W. Doughty

Has confidence in success of Doughty's invention, but is not in the habit of joining business ventures on terms Doughty suggests. Would go in with Doughty and friend for a 1/3 interest.

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Brigantine Beach, New Jersey)

Harmer's letter doesn't mention Gordon's settlement proposal involving unpaid blocks. Expects no difficulty in making settlement provided Tampa section can be built. Awaits reply.

Gordon to M. M. Broadwell (Fulton, Missouri)

Writes to confirm letter of July 21. Security on money advanced would be absolute. Has passed up deal in Washington because of confidence on B.'s ability to provide money. Lesley can buy cattle at \$10 per head.

July 23, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. Noble Foster & Son (New York)

No subscription binding until 40 blocks sold. Intends to sell more, but 65 miles could be financed on 40. Expects large profits from first 65 miles.

July 24, 1884

J. A. Williamson to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Brigantine Beach, New Jersey)

Gordon willing to try to get unpaid blocks turned into company treasury if he is sure money can be secured to build Tampa branch; and he will simultaneously settle with Harmer on the terms proposed by the latter.

Gordon to C. W. Doughty

Suggests terms by which he will join Doughty's enterprise and raise money to test the latter's invention.

July 23, 1884

Gordon to S. A. Kean (Chicago)

Believes Kean's firm can handle bonds. Desires prompt action.

July 24, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. C. P. & J. C. Cooper, attorneys.

Distressed at pejorative remark allegedly made by addressees to a stranger concerning I.R.R.

Gordon to Messrs. Everett & Megrue (London)

Complaint regarding Mr. Lacey groundless. Lacey to aid them if he can do so. Has lost all faith in selling bonds in Europe.

Gordon to His Excellency, Hon. Grover Cleveland (Albany, New York)

Suggests: 1) In letter of acceptance, no reference be made to war or division. If elected, he will be President of whole country. 2) That Cleveland indicate to "business men" class of Republicans that he recognizes them as important co-workers in exalted ends which country hopes to achieve by Cleveland's election. 3) Any doubt about his election would lie in disposition of labor element. Only suggests that "in some way, they ought to be promptly and properly taught." Believes Cleveland's election will inaugurate era of sectional concord, better government administration, satisfaction which will "extend to all parties, classes, creeds, and colors of the American people." Hopes to help with campaign in South.

July 25, 1884

Gordon to I. Barr Robertson (Oriental Club, Hanover Sq., London)

Would like Robertson to try to organize syndicate to take \$3 to 5 million of Guatemala bonds at 2 1/2 % commission. Has heard that Guatemalan government has made arrangement with old bondholders. Company to which Gordon belongs will have arrangement outside of Northern Railway through which it will control 1 million selected acres in Guatemala to be used for cattle. Followed by cable code.

July 19, 1884

J. H. Lyman (New York) for himself and associates to Mr. Pena
Guatemalan government has passed decree concerning land grants to emigrant laborers.
Guatemala has secured future development because financially and politically powerful
Americans now have interests largely identified with those of Guatemalans. National bonds and
interest must be payable in sterling N.Y. No contract offered for sale.

July 26, 1884

Gordon to M. M. Broadwell (Fulton, Missouri)
Matter will go through if Mr. Herbert's inspection produces a favorable report. H. wants some
business understanding with Broadwell before making trip, but Broadwell is detained by his
efforts in arranging cash for construction work.

July 29, 1884

Gordon to Dr. Geo. H. Everett (London)
Megruer came in to explain Delta & Florida matters. In reference to Florida, parties interested in
buying franchise and owning road should make proposition quickly.

Gordon to S. D. McConnell, Esq., attorney at law (Ocala, Florida)
Does not wish to impede Company and is therefore ready to surrender any interest therein
without compensation. Unable to do anything with franchises so far.

Gordon to Messrs. Reynolds & Eckford (Aberdeen, Mississippi)
Megruer encouraging about Delta business. Gordon more optimistic than he has been in a long
time about its success.

July 31, 1884

Gordon to C. W. Doughty
Thinks safest thing is for himself to proceed without fixed plan and for Doughty not to feel
hampered by any arrangement with Gordon. Gordon too pressed to give Doughty's experiment
sufficient time.

Gordon to S. A. Kean (Chicago)
Many bonds could be sold if 65 mi. were completed. Land grant absolutely certain.

Gordon to Eugene
Must call on Eugene for \$382 owed and also wishes that Eugene and Walt find for him \$3000 to
\$4000 for 30 days.

Gordon to Col. R. J. Breckenridge (Louisville, Kentucky)
Inquires whether or not he shall forward to construction company stock. Going to Florida with
English parties, contract with whom will complete whole road.

Gordon to Gov. W. D. Bloxham

Would like to know how much swamp and overflowed lands have been deeded away by Florida since 1850.

Undated

Confidential calculation and program for controlling one million Florida acres with \$1 million cash and making \$21,500,000 profit.

August 2, 1884

Gordon to Wm. Henry Morgan (53 Broadway, New York)

Commission as agent will be as agent will be 7 1/2%. Florida has more than enough land to satisfy I.R.R.'s grant. No delay in delivery of bonds and land warrants.

August 4, 1884

Gordon to Mr. Young

Wishes Young to advise mutual business acquaintance, whose card Gordon has misplaced, that he (Gordon) is interested in making advertising arrangement.

August 14, 1884

Gordon to Col. N. T. Sprague (Brooklyn, New York)

Happy to hear of Sprague's interest in Joining I.R.R. enterprise and wishes to meet him at Sprague's convenience to give him full information.

Gordon to Messrs. S. Noble Foster & Son (55 Liberty St., New York)

Offers them 2 1/2% commission plus 2 blocks of stock on sale of blocks.

Gordon to Hon. John W. Candler, President, Florida Southern R.R. (Boston)

Confidential correspondence. Details proposition for combining I.R.R. and Florida Southern R.R.

Gordon to J. B. Baird (Tampa, Florida)

Telegram - "Entire flockbed" - next four gorged must not exceed throbbing."

August 15, 1884

Gordon to Mr. Hubbard

Answers inquiries about northern connection of road; total land to be deeded to Florida by U. S.; cost per mile; telegraph line along road; work progress; bonds.

Gordon to Hon. John w. Candler, President, Florida Southern R. R. Company

Gordon and Candler have discussed I.R.R. – Florida Southern merger over last twelve months.

Combined, they should be impregnable and without competition. Wishes to decide upon point of merger for two roads. If Candler's friends not interested, Gordon interested in having Candler join him in purchasing an unbuilt portion of Candler's road.

Gordon to J. Barr Robertson (London)

Proposes an arrangement to give Robertson greater latitude in negotiating to form a syndicate. Old debt of Guatemala about to be settled.

Gordon to E. S. Hubbard his associates, and assigns

Authorization to purchase for I.R.R. specified material and supplies payable in first mortgage bonds at par and accrued interest.

August 16, 1884

Gordon to Hon. W. D. Bloxham (Tallahassee, Florida)

Telegram - Does not think Board should be offended at his anxiety. Would not have Board fail to do its duty.

August 20, 1884

W. H. McKinley to Capt. J. B. Baird (Tampa, Florida)

Discussion of bookkeeping details involving contractor J. Narramore. Would like reports to come in more regularly.

August 23, 1884

Gordon to Hamilton White (Red Oak, Iowa)

Will give White 10% commission (option of 1/2 in cash, 1/2 in construction stock) if he can form a syndicate to purchase \$100,000 of bonds.

Gordon to Hon. John C. New (Indianapolis, Indiana)

Asks if New can't help, as he had promised to do so before July 4. Company in worse fix than ever; and if territory all gets taken, they will be unable to sell franchises, or anything. Requests New to sign enclosed letter so that Gordon can act and not be embarrassed by existence of contract.

Gordon to Gen. James A. Williamson (Washington)

Same in content as above.

August 25, 1884

Gordon to W. S. Fowler (London)

Sends unexecuted contracts requested by Fowler. Would buy rails with bonds.

Gordon to C. S. Seyton (Preston, Lodge, Walton on Thames, Surry, England)

Applauds Seyton's good sense in waiting for better economic indications to handle bonds. Depression so great that they are not seeking to place bonds; hopes this situation will not last long.

August 23, 1884

Gordon to S. H. Kean (Chicago)

Sets out proposal by which Kean's parties would lend money for construction and receive as security twice the amount in bonds, plus interest and other benefits. Expects to sell bonds rapidly

in fall and winter; they are still being sold now with no effort to do so. Expects large sales in Europe.

August 26, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. H. C. Herbert and R. H. Home (New York)

Their statements about misrepresentations on Gordon's part concerning Florida enterprise wholly untrue. Will bring serious trouble upon themselves by any publication in reference to the enterprise.

August 27, 1884

Gordon to Hon. Thomas Settle (Greensboro, North Carolina)

Discussion of circumstances of I. R. R. - J.T. & K.W. case, I. R. R.'s side of which will be presented to Judge Ashby of Florida. Hopes Judge Settle will grant an injunction against Board's acting, and that hearing will be set after November.

August 29, 1884

Gordon to W. G. Oakman, Pres. R. & D. Ex. Company

They owe it to R. & D. and themselves to bring matter between them to speedy and amicable settlement.

August 30, 1884

Gordon to O. D. Gorman, Esq. (Talbotton, Georgia)

Wishes to make 5-year loan on his Flint River plantation.

Gordon to Farmers' Loan & Trust Company, (20 William St.)

Evidence good for success of bond sales. Need cash for construction purposes and would like addressee to give company a running credit.

September 2, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. W. R. Sheldon & Company (11 Pine St., New York)

Will pay Sheldon & Company \$2500 and one block if they can secure \$250,000 loan for I. R.R.

September 3, 1884

E. C. Gordon (New York) to Gen. M. C. Butler (Edgefield, South Carolina)

All E. C. Gordon's funds being put into his own Indiana, Alabama, & Texas R. R. Wishes to invest in I. R.R. and therefore proposes that Butler and friends buy some blocks and give him 1/2 net profits in return for his personal guarantee against any loss.

Gordon to Mr. Young

Concerned that Young mentioned Trust Company's name in advertisement. Requests that subsequent ads be submitted for approval.

September 5, 1884

Gordon to Mr. Bilheimer

Pena and Guatemalan government recognize "our" sole right to decide in matters concerning contract of Shea, Cornick, & Company Government concurs in plan to issue bonds payable in sterling.

Gordon to Mr. Bilheimer

Private note. Bilheimer must reject no fairly reasonable offer on bonds from Reitlinger party. Must secure money necessary to go on at almost any sacrifice.

September 12, 1884

H. H. Gordon to Col. John Hancock (Austin, Texas)

J. B. Gordon in Georgia with seriously ill son. Forwards letter of Megrue in reference to King Ranch. Hopes Hancock can get matters in shape for Megrue and entrust disposition of property to Megrue.

**A brief abstract for Letterbook E.
August 1884 to October 1883**

August 22, 1884

Gordon to J. B. Bilheimer

Confidential correspondence. Any concessions to parties purchasing bonds must be in form of percentage of company's profits and to be given as "commissions". B.'s cable address to be Wilmex. Get American lawyer to write contract. Followed by confidential cable code.

September 22, 1884

W. H. McKinley to W. W. Littlejohn (Decatur, Alabama)

Sends stock certificates.

Gordon to O. D. Gorman, Esq. (Talbotton, Georgia)

Sending loan application. Value of property put forth as collateral lies in its possibilities for cattle ranching. Gorman can check deeds.

September 24, 1884

W. H. McKinley to Capt. Smith

Wants itemized statements of work done by Narramore, contractor, for each month since he commenced.

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson

Wishes to know if he might borrow some money from Carson, as he did once before, by drawing on Carson at 20 or 30 days.

W. H. McKinley to Messrs. C. P. & J. P. Cooper, attorneys (Jacksonville, Florida)

Sends them Mason vouchers and testimony.

September 26, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. W. R. Sheldon & Company (11 Bine St., New York)

If Sheldon & Company procures party to pay for or contract a section of the road, they will receive 2 1/2% commission plus one share of construction stock for each \$250,000.

September 27, 1884

Gordon to Gov. W. D. Bloxham, President, Board. of Trustees I.I. Fund (Tallahassee, Florida)

Regrets the Trustees' resolution of the 6th; had hoped Board would submit land matter to proper judicial tribunal. Would like to be advisee of further actions contemplated by Board.

Gordon to Judge Geo. W. Means (Evinsville, Florida)

Sends to Judge Means properly executed mortgage on his half of orange grove so that Means can borrow some money. Distressed that he cannot pay Means what he owes.

Memorandum concerning Public Lands available for railroad purposes in Florida

September 29, 1884

Unsigned to Capt. Chas. U. Williams (Richmond, Virginia)

Sends check for amount left after paying expenses. Several parties, including Gen. Grant, which have pledged money have not come through with it.

Gordon to Hon. John W. Candler, President, Florida Southern R.R. (Brookline, Massachusetts)
Would be willing to pay \$75,000 in first mortgage bonds for right to construct portion of Florida Southern's road and permanent lease to run it. Willing to increase to \$100,000 in I.R.R. bonds in return for Candler's identification with enterprise and aid in securing necessary legislation, selling bonds in New England. Strictly confidential offer.

Gordon to D.C. Forney

Forney may conduct negotiations toward building I.R.R., but Gordon has no faith in Mr. [Harmer?] or Disston.

Gordon to Hon John W. Candler (Brookline, Massachusetts)

Private correspondence. Makes offer of 10 blocks, which can be exchanged for bonds, as personal inducement to Candler to bring off deal.

Gordon to Judge W. Ashby

Thinks it might be better to have someone other than Frank bring suit against J.T. & K.W. Suggests that some lawyer might have special relations with Judge Locke of Southern Court; requests Ashby to make inquiries and engage such a person.

September 30, 1884

Gordon to Capt. J. B. Baird (Tampa, Florida)

Wishes to dismiss everyone connected with Narramore and cease work under any contract. Retain 2 - 3 laborers to comply with charter. Dispose of ties and other articles at Tampa and crossties at Jacksonville.

Gordon to Mr. Broadwell

Wants definite offer from Chicago. Enough profit in enterprise such that terms can be liberal. Would like to borrow \$3500-4000, with construction stock as security.

Gordon to Capt. Chas. F. Smith (Jacksonville, Florida)

Questions about accuracy and validity of Narramore's reports on construction expenditures. Has obtained state court injunction against J.T. & K. W. and plans to commence suit against them in U.S. Circuit Court.

Gordon to Judge J. W. Ashby

Calls Judge's attentions to two specific points in I.R.R. charter.

Unsigned to Col. John T. Lesley (Tampa, Florida)

Board has apparently attempted to damage I.R.R. by manner of wording of resolution granting lands to other R.R. 's. Confidential: Will accept arrangement with one party which has been negotiating for two months if it is at all reasonable. Wants information about Judge Locke and most influential lawyer in his court. Cattle deal depends largely upon closing with same party in railroad matters.

October 2, 1884

Gordon to Col. D. C. Forney

If Harmer's position hasn't changed, it is useless for Forney to write him (Harmer). Tired of making propositions and will be satisfied with any reasonable arrangement.

Gordon to Capt. J. B. Baird (Tampa, Florida)

Sell or hire out teams. Use third party and be discreet about selling crossties; do not attract attention.

October 4, 1884

I.R.R. stockholders' resolution

Approval and adoption of Chas. Smith's maps of the line

October 6, 1884

Gordon to Oscar M. Newell (615 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Calls attention to a \$1500 note from Newell. Needs money now.

Gordon to P. O. Fazende (New Orleans)

Wants a partner who will put up \$25-30 thousand to join his cattle ranch enterprise in Georgia. Offers liberal terms.

October 7, 1884

Gordon to W. G. Oakman

Has received no reply to his note of August 29. Again asks reply to points therein.

October 11, 1884

Gordon to Judge J. W. Ashby (Gainesville, Florida)

Thinks it best to associate Col. Cheney, District Attorney for northern district of Florida, with Ashby in J.T. & K.W. case. Question of which judge has jurisdiction. Encloses copy of Gov. B.'s unsatisfactory reply to a letter from Gordon.

October 17, 1884

Gordon to Oscar M. Newell (615 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Newell has not answered Gordon's letter of 6th. In consideration of circumstances surrounding loan to Newell, prudence would dictate that he attend to Gordon's request immediately.

Gordon to Col. J.T. Lesley (Tampa, Florida)

Strictly confidential. Does not intend to place Baird in control and is disturbed by reports of Baird's talk. Will make satisfactory arrangement with Narramore. Ready to cooperate in Tropical Peninsular matter, but must be careful with whom they deal. Anxious to hear about cattle business.

October 20, 1884

Gordon to Mr. Broadwell

Will make Chicago parties offer they cannot refuse. Would like to borrow a little money from Broadwell.

October 21, 1884

Gordon to Judge Jno. W. Ashby (Gainesville, Florida)

Will have phosphates tested by assay office. Col. Cheney retained only in J. T. & K. W. suit. Hopes for permanent injunction. Curtailment of work of road temporary; has definite offers from four contractors. If Brown suit is in Locke's court, employ Patterson, most successful lawyer in that court. Humiliating to have to employ such tactics for one who wishes to be proud of his country.

Gordon to Albert Holle (Frostbury, Maryland)

Tight money market prevents issuance of bonds and slows laying of rails. Hopes to close soon with some contractors.

October 22, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. J. & W. Seligman, Bankers (New York)

Gordon and associates wish addressees' firm in Paris and London to act as Trustees for bonds.

October 23, 1884

Gordon to R. A. Malone (Lancaster, Pennsylvania)

Sends prospectus and other information on I.R.R. Could make Malone very advantageous offer on building contract.

Unsigned to E. S. Hubbard (6 Wall St.)

Offers to pay contractors in bonds in such a way as to assure them large profits. Suggests two different possibilities.

October 25, 1884

Gordon to Hon. John W. Candler, President (Brookline, Massachusetts)

Suggests reasons why it would be advantageous to form great syndicate to handle all lands coming through different R.R.'s, Disston purchase, and drainage contract. Suggests possible terms of such an arrangement, which would include Candler's corporation. Requests reply.

October 24, 1884

Gordon to Capt. Chas. F. Smith (Jacksonville, Florida)

Wishes to borrow \$1000 from J. C. Greeley. Wants to learn quietly value of two I.R.R. lots in Palatka, and wishes to know point to which rails could be shipped and laid with least delay.

October 27, 1884

Gordon to Capt. W. L. Powell (Winchester, Pennsylvania)

Agents believe they could sell bonds if some of road completed. Inclined to borrow some money for this purpose. Wants particulars on lots to be sold in Palatka.

Gordon to Col. Edw. M. Cheney (Jacksonville, Florida)

Glad Cheney had talk with Raney. Can tell Board that doubt about lands has delayed construction on Tampa - Sumterville line; a syndicate will finance that whole line.

October 24, 1884

Gordon to Mr. Raymond

Calculation of money deposited with Trust Company Needs \$7500 which could be returned upon completion of 2 miles. Subscribers will send in money when some road has been built. Carrie Lewis is ill, not seriously.

October 28, 1884

Gordon to Capt. W. S. Sneder (Red Bank, New Jersey)

Wants list of persons of wealth who winter, live permanently, or own land in Florida. Under impression that Mr. Astor and Lorillards included. Keep confidential.

Gordon to Col. B. W. Frobel (Atlanta)

Encloses letter from Mr. Machen concerning arrangement in which ½ capital stock would go to parties taking bonds and other 1/2 to Atlanta promoters as profit. Chances good for consummation of deal if Frobel can get matters in shape promptly.

Gordon to Judge John W. Ashby (Gainesville, Florida)

Detailed discussion of several points in the Brown suit. Requests that letter be forwarded to Col. Cheney.

Gordon to Hon. W. W. Cassidy (Sumterville, Florida)

Confidential correspondence. Wants information on operation of Transit R. R. people; lists six specific questions concerning their progress.

October 29, 1884

Gordon to C. H. Raymond (84 Broadway)

Little daughter's illness prevents him from coming with Mrs. Gordon to see Raymond. Wants Raymond to make money out of this transaction as well as former purchase of construction stock. Explains how, over period of six years, he has organized the I.R.R. enterprise. Wants to get necessary \$7000-8000 without selling more blocks.

Gordon to Col. E. M. Cheney (Jacksonville, Florida)

Wants hearing on permanent injunction against J. T. & K.W. to be set for January.

October 30, 1884

Gordon to Mr. Broadwell

Thanks Broadwell for offer of aid after the sixth. Answers inquiry about status of land grants of various railroads in Florida.

Undated, unsigned

Memorandum of agreement between Gordon and L. M. Shute involving Shute's contract to build I. R. R. road, Gordon's retention as President of the company, and Shute's authority and interest in company

November 3, 1884

Gordon to L. M. Shute (Philadelphia)

Sends suggested contract in reference to 55% of Shute's stock which is to be signed simultaneously with construction contract. Inadvisable for Shute to make subcontracts. Shute has no connection with construction stock; company gets half the profits and Shute gets the other.

November 6, 1884

Signed by Gordon

Authorization for E. S. Hubbard to sell bonds, arrange to contract for construction, or secure capital to build Tampa branch.

November 1884

Unsigned to L. M. Shute (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Shute authorized to buy rails and supplies with bonds and land warrants.

Unsigned, undated

Memorandum of agreement between I.R.R. and construction company and Mr. Shute

November 11, 1884

Gordon (New York) to Wm. Cooper (New York)

At Cooper's requests, gives points in contracts between Cooper and associates and Florida Railway and Steamship Company.

November 18, 1884

Gordon to Hon. Geo. R. Raney, Attorney General (Tallahassee)

Asks for certification that rights attached to Tropical Peninsula R. R. Company are now attached to Southwestern R.R. Company

November 20, 1884

Unsigned to Gen. J. D. Imboden (Bristol, Tennessee)

Daughter recovering from typhoid fever. Economic situation and Florida enterprise prevent him from agreeing to take part in Imboden's enterprise. Might reconsider in a month if Florida business disposed of.

Gordon to Clarence Gordon (Newburgh, New York)

Doesn't think land he suggested - in Georgia is suitable to purposes of C. Gordon and friends. J. B. Gordon's intention was to organize cattle business on large scale.

Gordon to Hon. John C. New (Indianapolis)

No encouraging news on road. New's and Gen. W.'s unwillingness to contribute from their private means has left Gordon with crushing burden. Accepts New's proposition to return New's money and remove same from all obligation.

November 21, 1884

Gordon to Messrs. Jno. T. & Geo. U. Walker, attorneys (Jacksonville, Florida)

Not able to pay them a retainer fee in J.T. & K. W. case at moment. Would like to have conference with them in Jacksonville in next few weeks. I. R. R. prospects encouraging.

November 22, 1884

Gordon to Z. R. (?) Boyer (?) (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Company not concerned in Harmer matter; and personally, Gordon recognizes no obligation to him.

November 26, 1884

Gordon to L. M. Shute (257 4th St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Telegram - "Be here Friday to execute papers. Ship first rails to Fernandina by vessel."

November 29, 1884

Gordon to Mr. Watson

Would like Watson to inquire about James Black, who wants to market bonds. Has lost youngest son.

Gordon to Messrs. Henry Franklin Shearman and H. Graham Lawson (2 Wall St.)
Contract for construction of entire road signed. May be able to arrange for addressees to construct portion. Addressees' friends might wish to organize land company for marketing R.R. lands abroad.

Gordon to William R. Sheldon (11 Pine St., New York)
For bringing Gordon in contact with Shearman and Lawson, Sheldon will get percentage on any sales they make.

Gordon to J. Narramore (North Underhill, Vermont)
Has signed contract for construction of entire road to be paid in bonds. Not most preferable arrangement, but necessary.

Gordon to Mr. Broadwell
Would be excellent if Broadwell could close sale on 1- 2 million acres immediately. Entire line will probably soon be contracted for.

November 24, 1884

Gordon to Gov. W. D. Bloxham (Tallahassee)
Lengthy reply to letter from Governor which has greatly distressed Gordon. Discussion of land grants in Florida, I.R.R.'s rights under its charter, the J.T. & K.W. case, the Board's resolution. Distressed at Bloxham's intimation that Gordon has practiced a wrong upon the former or the state of Florida, and at the severing of their cordial friendship.

December 2, 1884

Gordon to L. M. Shute (c/o Denver, Memphis & Atlantic Rwy. Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
Telegram - "Don't trouble about Sheldon's letter. But I want see you specially. When will rails start."

December 4, 1884

Gordon to Mr. Broadwell
Answers inquiries concerning I.R.R. charter, Disston sale of lands. Several contractors interested. Proposition of "G. & W. " not clear. No suit has been decided against I.R.R. J. T. & K.W. not chartered to build to Turtle Harbor. Contractors might take in Broadwell's friends for an advance of \$1 million.

December 6, 1884

Gordon to T. G. Greene
Receipt for \$500 and terms loan.

Gordon to Col. Forney
Wrote no letter abusive of Harmer. Has not been using correspondence between himself and Ellis and Forney. Parties who continue to threaten in Harmer's behalf practicing blackmail. Not

allowing feelings to control judgment. Encloses copy of only letter he ever wrote on subject in question.

December 8, 1884

Gordon (New York) to L. M. Shute (251 South 4th St., Philadelphia)

Telegram - Contract of 28th ratified by R.R. and construction company directors. Shute must act.

Followed by letter of same date

Shute's contract calls for immediate construction. Gordon wishes to be notified if Shute cannot carry out terms of the contract.

December 9, 1884

Gordon to Shute

Three telegrams of same date

"What do you mean by saying you have all arrangements made for bond and rails."

"Time for compliance with your contract extended to December eleventh inclusive."

"If I endorse what guaranty that paper be, protected at maturity. What prices rails."

December 6, 1884

Gordon to Gen. James A. Williamson

If Gordon gives half of construction stock to Williamson, Harmer, and associates, what guarantee can they give that road will be built.

December 10, 1884

W.H. McKinley to J. P. Boyer (Philadelphia)

Acknowledges receipt of Boyer's missive of the 8th. Gordon deems no further reply necessary.

Gordon to "Judge"

Judge's brief is strong, except that he does not touch question of laches (sp?). Makes suggestions for additions.

November 28, 1884

Gordon to L. M. Shute (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Authorization to use bonds and land warrants to purchase necessary rails, supplies, and equipment.

December 13, 1884

Gordon to Dr. D. L. Mitchell (Fort Meade, Florida)

Wishes Mitchell to remit \$90 advanced to a friend of Mitchell upon the latter's recommendation.

Gordon to J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Wishes Carson to settle his debt to Gordon.

December 18, 1884

Gordon to L. M. Shute (251 S. Fourth St., Philadelphia)

Telegram - "Have telegraphed L. P. & Company as requested. Immediate action your part important."

Gordon to Lindsay, Parvin, & Company (328 Walnut St., Philadelphia)

Telegram - "L. M. Shute 's paper for rails will be endorsed by the Company and myself personally."

Gordon to L. M. Shute (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Will endorse Shute's note for rails. English parties ready to take over contracting of road if Shute cannot fulfill his obligations. Popular loan plan bonds will work well in England. Gen. Littlefield not in Shute's way.

Gordon to Gen. Jas. A. Williamson (Washington)

Williamson' s proposition would leave Gordon no effective voice. Pressing necessity of beginning construction. Needs immediate help. Will endorse contractor's paper for rails.

Gordon to Capt. C. F. Smith C.E.

Authorization to dispose of I.R.R. crossties between Jacksonville and Palatka.

Gordon to Judge Ashby

Wants hearing on construction company bill against postponed until he can be present.

Gordon to Capt. Smith

Parties having contracted to build whole road will put up bond to guarantee compliance with their contract. Annoyed at delay and having to sell crossties.

December 19, 1884

Gordon to Judge Ashbe

Reasons why Tunno has no just grounds for his suit against Gordon.

December 23, 1884

Phillips to L. M. Shute (Philadelphia)

Telegram - "Suspend all operations until you hear from me."

December 18- 4

? to Linden, Parvin, & Company (Philadelphia)

Telegram - illegible.

January 7, 1885

Gordon to L. M. Shute (522 Spruce St., Philadelphia)

Will have bond signed by Shute, and Wade examined, and will then take action on it. Notation that this letter never sent.

Unsigned, undated

Statement sheet of "The Land & Construction Company of Guatemala in a/c with J. B. Gordon."

February 2, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to L. M. Shute (Philadelphia)

Sends a check for \$10.

February 4, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to J. G. Lindsay - F. Prine (Southbound/ line train)

Makes some suggestions for contract with Narramore; wishes it to be very explicit.

February 10, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to Col. E. F. Hoge (Atlanta)

Investigation of parties proposing to buy Atlanta Water Works has shown them to be men of large means and prominent stature.

Hugh H. Gordon to Wm. Dugdale (Baltimore, Maryland)

J. B. Gordon in Florida with two members of prospective syndicate. Expect to arrange a deal.

Hugh Gordon to O. W. Mitchell (Bloomfield, Florida)

Money for bonds in Trust Company Expect laying of rails to be under way within 30 days, thus permitting issue of bonds.

February 11, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to F. M. Stovall, Secretary Con. Sur. Ass. (Augusta, Georgia)

Sure J. B. Gordon will be happy to sign application of C. C. Guilford, "a genuine 'Reb', a good soldier & a first rate fellow."

February 14, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to F. G. Greene (Tribune Building)

Greene has not heard from J. B. Gordon because the latter is out of town.

February 26, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to Col. O. D. Gorman (Talbotton, Georgia)

Reasons why Gorman's \$50 claim on Gordon is not valid, should be paid by Corbin Banking Company

February 16, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to Gen. Jas. A. Williamson (Washington)

Wishes Williamson to send over records, letterbooks, etc. left with him by J. B. Gordon.

February 26, 1885

Waldorf Phillips to L. M. Shute, Esq.

Cancellation of contract between Shute and I.R.R. and construction company due to Shute's non-compliance with terms.

Gordon and Waldorf Phillips to L. M. Shute Esq.
Note to accompany above notice form.

Gordon to Wm. R. Sheldon Esq.
Requests return of papers deposited with Sheldon as trustee under terms of contract with Shute.
One copy each of above notice form and accompanying note (sent registered mail).

February 28, 1885

Waldorf Phillips to J. Narramore Esq.
Shute officially notified of his separation from I.R.R.

March 2, 1885

Waldorf Phillips to Farmers' Loan & Trust Company
Authorization to cancel a bond subscription and refund \$300.

February 28, 1885

Gordon (55 Liberty St., New York) to Col. W. B. Frobel (Atlanta)
Would be well to pay Constitution a reasonable sum to publish articles giving Atlanta public details of Water Works enterprise. Must act promptly to retain valuable connection through Machen.

March 4, 1885

Gordon to Gov. Perry and Board of Trustees, Internal Fund of Florida. Board has been selling lands granted to I.R.R. under charter.

March 1885

Gordon to Messrs. Walker & Randall, attorneys (Jacksonville, Florida)
Discusses possible terms for retaining addressees' law firm for the I. R. R.

March 4, 1885

Gordon to Judge J. W. Ashby (Gainesville, Florida)
Inquiries concerning status of Tunno case, J.T. & K.W. suit, Brown vs. Florida Southern, governor's suggested bill, and Judge's own road.

March 6, 1885

Gordon to W. R. Sheldon, Trustee etc. (11 Pine St., New York)
Gordon will hold Sheldon, trustee of contracts with Shute, harmless from possible damages from Shute.

Waldorf Phillips to George Biddle (205 Wouth 5th St., Philadelphia)
Sheldon has surrendered contract. Discusses points concerning Mr. Prime's note, bond demanded by Mr. Wade, receipt of Mr. Wade's notice. As Biddle's clients interested, wishes to have his approval of any steps to be taken.

March 7, 1885

Gordon to Mr. W. R. Sheldon (11 Pine St., New York)

Prime and Lindsay deny association with Shute; hence, Sheldon cannot ask commission on any money they invested. Suggests arbitration if agreement impossible.

March 9, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to F. Prime Jr. (Philadelphia)

Will need \$2750 by 15th to get along until balance of \$10,000 paid after signing of contract.

Gordon to Col. B. W. Frobel

Machen has plan for entirely new plant. Urges Frobel to confer with mayor on Machen's request to lay pipes along streets.

March 11, 1885

Unsigned to Hon. John T. Leslie (Tampa, Florida)

Has not tried to keep anything from Leslie. Did not tell him about Shute's failure because was himself unaware. Expects conference with gentlemen in Brooksville.

Gordon to Postmaster General of the U.S. (Washington)

Recommendation for M. B. Jones, applying for the post office at LaGrange, Georgia.

March 11(?), 1885

Gordon to Captain J. E. Dart (Brunswick, Georgia)

Will do all he can to help Dart and write strongest letter possible to Secretary of Treasury.

March 11, 1885

Gordon to Major Kerr Boyce (Augusta, Georgia)

Will write Postmaster General in Boyce's behalf.

Gordon to Postmaster General of U.S.

Recommendation for Boyce to position of postmaster in Augusta.

Gordon to Rev. S. Boykin (Macon, Georgia)

Encloses requested letter to Governors Brown and Colquitt. Writes on basis of Boykin's statement about Mr. Willis.

Gordon to Hon. A. H. Colquitt and Hon. Jos. E. Brown, Senators (Washington)

Introduction and recommendation of R. H. Willis of Savannah, who is applying for foreign consulship.

Gordon to Gen. E. P. Alexander (Georgetown, South Carolina)

Alexander should send endorsements from Albert Fink and Charles Francis Adams to Mr. Lamar, and have Colquitt see the latter.

Gordon to Martin V. Calvin (Augusta, Georgia)

Regrets that absence delayed his receiving Calvin's letter. Would have liked to write something along lines Calvin suggested. Hopes to hear from him in Atlanta with another copy of the Constitutionalist.

March 12, 1885

Gordon (55 Liberty St., New York) to Messrs. Prime and Lindsay (Philadelphia)
Suggestions for handling subscription list.

Gordon to Jno. G. Walker (Jacksonville, Florida)

Will give Walker and Randall a personal note if necessary until annual meeting in June can provide money for their legal fees.

March 1885

Gordon to Hon. Thos. F. Bayard, Secretary of State (Washington)
Recommendation of Dr. Lyman for a position in mission to Central America.
Partially illegible.

Followed by personal note to Mr. Bayard

His interest in having competent man in Central America not wholly unselfish, as his (Gordon's) interests there have direct bearing on Florida enterprise. Meant what he said about Lyman, however.

March 12, 1885

Gordon to T. G. Greene (Tribune Bldg.)
Has not been ignoring Greene's letters. Must close some business matters before he can send Greene a check.

March 13, 1885

Gordon to Hon. Ruben O. Reynolds (Aberdeen, Mississippi)
Cannot send a check at the moment. If land could be sold on other side, could title be made with assent of owners.

Gordon to Hon. Postmaster General of U.S. (Washington)

Recommendation of J. C. Orr for postmaster of Athens, Georgia.

Gordon to Gen. H. Hett (c/o U. S. Engineer's office, Havre de Grace, Maryland)

Partially illegible. Would like to help Hett's boy, but (apparently) knows of no place at moment where he could do this.

March 18, 1885

Gordon to Hamilton Disston

What terms would Disston require if Gordon can find purchasers to buy the farmer's Florida lands in large blocks.

March 19, 1885

Gordon to Col. S. I. Wailes (Same letter sent Hamilton Disston)
Same in content as above.

March 23, 1885

Gordon (New York) to H. B. Shepard (32 Nassau St.)
Son will represent him, and Mr. Scoville can come meet son if Scoville wishes. Shepard's friends should not delay if they wish to unite in enterprise.

Gordon to Messrs. Prine and Lindsay (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
Has felt more comfortable since meeting with them and own success in securing temporary relief. Requests to be kept advised. Agrees that better point than Gadsden can be secured for West Indies.

Hugh H. Gordon to Messrs. Lindsay and Prine (328 Walnut St., Philadelphia)
Reports from Florida Land Commission received and appear to make satisfactory showing. Glad to hear of progress.

Gordon to Hon. Postmaster Gen. (Washington)
Recommends Col. Thos. K. Wynne for postmaster of Columbus, Georgia

Gordon to Messrs. Randall and Walker, attorneys (Jacksonville, Florida)
Please look into case pending in U.S. court brought by Judge Ashby and Col. Cheney. Would be best to postpone argument on them.

Gordon to Judge J. W. Ashby
Has engaged Ex. Chief Justice Randall and Walker to cooperate with Ashby in cases in Judge Settle's court.

March 24, 1885

Waldorf Phillips to L. M. Shute Esq.
Returns note of Shute's, endorsed by Gordon, to order of Frederick Prine Jr. Note paid by company and cancelled.

Waldorf Phillips to Hon. John L. Crawford
Sends \$8 check to pay fee for recording company's mortgage and thanks for complimentary remarks.

March 26, 1885

Waldorf Phillips to F. T. Woods Esq., Sec. Advocates Printing House
Shute's printing bill received. Shute had no authority to incur any indebtedness for Company, which does not recognize any connection with him. He was never Gen. Mgr.

Waldorf Phillips to George Paige Esq. (Winchenden, Massachusetts)
Sends prospectus and exhibit book. Construction progressing. Hon. J. C. Greeley in Jacksonville can answer questions.

Waldorf Phillips to Mr. Garrod
Confidential. Nash, Shute's engineer, called at office; he received no reply to several missives sent Shute. Shute and friends should not think "we" can be "bull-dozed". These comments come from Phillips personally and not from the company

Waldorf Phillips to Jas. G. Lindsay, Esq.
Neither Garrod nor anyone else will be informed regarding 30 days' clause. Declining to recognize printing bill incurred by Shute. Chas. Furbush only actual holder of stock in Philadelphia; Boyer's request for issue of certificate refused.

March 27, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to Messrs. Prine and Lindsay (Philadelphia)
Shearman and Sheldon have no authority to act without addressees' knowledge and approval.

April 3, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to Albert Holle (Frostbury, Maryland)
Contract closed with Philadelphia parties who will provide necessary capital. Expect to start laying rails within twenty days. Hopes report of further progress will be forthcoming.

April 6, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to Jos. G. Gibbes (Jacksonville, Florida)
Will pay Gibbes' \$2500 draft and forward his letters to J. B. Gordon. Suggests suspension of action in Tallahassee & Thomasville road matter to avoid expense.

April 7, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to Messrs. T. L. Airey & Company (New Orleans, Louisiana)
Bad economic situation has seriously hindered railroad's progress and placing of bonds. Expects success with help of Philadelphia parties, including some very strong names. Requests that two other stockholders be shown this letter.

April 11, 1885

Unsigned to Mr. ? H. Wilder (Mt. Carroll, Illinois)
Interest to be paid at time bond is delivered. Hope to soon push construction vigorously.

April 16, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to Jas. G. Lindsay (Philadelphia)
Wishes to know exact status of subscriptions they are working on.
Postscript
Shearman's proposition has not yet arrived; H. H. G. has little faith in it. Sorry Prine has been ill.

April 11, 1885

Hugh Gordon to Dr. H. E. Caldwell (? Run, Pennsylvania)
Content same as above letter of same date to Wilder.

April 18, 1885

H. H. Gordon to Jno. C. Fetty (Moundsville, West Virginia)
Company not offering lands for sale, but only as bonus with bonds. Sends literature and will notify Fetty when bonds are to be issued.

April 23, 1885

Gordon (Washington) to "Gentlemen"
Cannot get to Philadelphia. Their thirty days has expired, and Gordon would like written agreement if they wish to make further effort. Wishes to hear from them in Atlanta.

April 27, 1885

H. H. Gordon to R. T. Cutting (Mutual Life Insurance Company Bldg.)
Impossible for J. B. Gordon to pay notes until railroad enterprises on secure footing, as has been explained to addressees' attorney.

April 28, 1885

H. H. Gordon to Mr. Lindsay
Sends statement to answer all land grants questions. Expects J. B. Gordon's return shortly. Hopes Lindsay will have success in negotiations.

April 30, 1885

Gordon to Mr. W. T. Baker (Decorah, Iowa)
Financial depression in country has impeded progress of road and caused postponement of bond sales. Interest paid upon delivery to bond subscribers. Expect present negotiations to be successful.

May 5, 1885

H. H. Gordon to Messrs. Reynolds and Eckford (Aberdeen, Mississippi)
Embarrassment at Gordon's greater than that in which addressees have been placed. J. B. Gordon will send them check as soon as he gets some relief.

May 6, 1885

Gordon to Capt. C. F. Smith (Jacksonville, Florida)
Delayed in Georgia by sickness. Smith can draw for \$75. Requests itemized expenditure statement and other details of work. Hopes to use full force soon.

H. H. Gordon to Dr. J. R. G. Hamilton (Sumterville, Florida)
Authorizes \$100 draw on himself and hopes J. B. Gordon will soon be able to send entire amount. Appreciates Hamilton's patience.

May 11, 1885

Gordon to Messrs. Prine and Lindsay (Philadelphia)
Proposition sent by Shearman from England sent to addressees and Mr. Garrard instead of Company office. Requests delivery of these papers.

May 13, 1885

Gordon to Mr. Lindsay
One draft not sent. Second draft: Hardly knows how to answer request for time extension. Had placed full confidence in them; wants definite idea of their chances of success. One condition of contract with Lindsay and Prine is change in mortgage.

May 14, 1885

H. H. Gordon to Jas. G. Lindsay (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
Mistakes in shipping of rails have caused greatly increased expense. Assumes Lindsay had contract with shippers and requests his aid to straighten out situation.
H. H. Gordon to Jno. Gregson (Cincinnati, Ohio)
Negotiating with syndicate which can furnish funds to push construction. Interest paid upon delivery of bonds.

Gordon to Mr. Chas. I. Berry (Ripon, West Virginia)
Content similar to above.

May 18, 1885

Gordon to A. L. Williams (Aiken, South Carolina)
Expects to have construction under way and lands mentioned in possession by September.

May 19, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to T. G. Greene (Tribune Bldg., City)
J. B. Gordon will attend to Greene's note after returning from the South.

May 20, 1885

Hugh [Gordon ?] to J. Doomsbart (sp?) (Titusville, Pennsylvania)
D.'s letter unjust and unwarrantable. Nothing to conceal in transactions of company General economic situation has impeded progress.

May 27, 1885

Hugh H. Gordon to Col. Jas. G. Gibbes (Jacksonville, Florida)
J. B. Gordon still in South. Encloses check for \$25.00.

June 11, 1885

J. B. Gordon to "Cols."
Confidential. Have had agreed and perfectly satisfactory adjustment of every question. Harmer's remaining blocks to be divided between addressees. Gordon's brothers voluntarily returned some of their blocks to aid him. Addressees must accept blocks he is giving them, with understanding

that they will return the blocks in case of failure under this program so that Gordon can save himself from disaster.

June 12, 1885

Gordon to S. M. Minasion (Tarrytown, New York)
Answer to inquiry about enterprise's prospects. Is confident in success.

June 13, 1885

Gordon to Wm. Dugdale (Baltimore, Maryland)
Dugdale should hold on to construction stock because Gordon believes that in spite of problems, vigorous construction will begin within thirty days.

June 15, 1885

Waldorf Phillips to Hon. A. C. Harmer
Harmer elected a company director for coming year, vice-president, and appointed member of two committees. Followed by list of directors elected June 11 and officers elected June 12.

June 18, 1885

Waldorf H. Phillips to Hon. James A. Williamson
W. elected director and president. Followed by list of committees and new elections.

June 15, 1885

Waldorf Phillips to D. C. Forney Esq.
Forney elected director and to executive committee. Followed by list similar to above.

Waldorf Phillips to Hugh H. Gordon Esq.

H. H. G. elected director and appointed to a committee. Followed by similar list.

June 24, 1885

Gordon to Gov. E. A. Perry (Tallahassee)
Understands Board's decision to set aside 800,000 acres for Florida Southern. Contract with Disston Land Enterprises should solve present difficulties, greatest of which has been uncertainty about land grants. If Board aids I.R.R., the line will soon be serving Florida.

\$3000 note signed by Gordon and endorsed by I.R.R. against unpaid portion, for which Gordon makes a note this date.

July 18, 1885

Hugh Gordon to I. Adriance Bush (54 Wall St.)
J. B. Gordon called to Wash. on business. H. Gordon will confer with him OR his return on matter mentioned in Bush's letter.

July 24, 1885

Gordon to Maj. Wm. Hancock Clarke

Would be in poor taste and open to misunderstanding if Clarke and Gordon send joint condolences for death of Gen. Grant. Gordon will write own letter.

July 28, 1885

Hugh Gordon to Jno. R. Jones (Point Pinellas, Florida)

J. B. Gordon will be surprised by content of Jones' letter. If Capt. Smith ignored orders to dismiss idle engineers, company will not ratify his actions.

July 30, 1885

Gordon to H. Graham Lawson (2 Wall St., New York)

Nineteen-point answer to Lawson's specific inquiries about I.R. R. enterprise.

July 31, 1885

Gordon to Hon. H. C. Hall, Minister Extraordinary etc.

Encloses letter to be translated and given to president of Guatemala. Burden of failure upon their part on Government and not contractors. Please read Lyman to Pena correspondence and ask if same has submitted to President.

August 6, 1885

Gordon to Senor General Presidente Don M. L. Barillos (Guatemala)

Prevented from coming to Guatemala by business in Florida. His Florida railroad of as much value to Guatemala as to U.S.

Gordon to Hon. H. C. Hall, Minister (Guatemala)

Encloses another letter for President Barrillos.

July 31, 1885

Gordon to Al Senor General Presidente Don M. L. Barrillos (Guatemala City)

Enumeration of facts involving railroad enterprise in Guatemala and contract. Government's action unjust and unfair.

August 12, 1885

Gordon to Mr. Garrod

Terms on which he would close contract with Garrod and his associates.

August 13, 1885

Waldorf Phillips to Hon. A. C. Harmer

Changes in First Mortgage of company approved by stockholders, Williamson, and Farmers' Loan and Trust.

August 14, 1885

Gordon (55 Liberty St., New York) to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Brigantine Beach)
Has learned from Williamson that Harmer has parties ready to purchase bonds. Would like details.

[August] 17

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Brigantine Beach)
Gen. Williamson did not give Gordon his own or company's money. Gordon has paid company expenses; disturbed at being told he is cause of company's embarrassment. Money raised was paid out for company.

August 18, 1885

Gordon to H. A. Morrell (Pittsfield, Maine)
Did not receive Morrell's letters. Subscribers can't lose their money. Will return Morrell's friends' subscription money if they wish.

August 28, 1885

Gordon to Mr. C. Shaw (Greensburg, Indiana)
Trust Company president cannot return one subscription without returning all; will try to find some way to return money. Economic situation has caused disappointments but prospects really good.

August 29, 1885

Gordon to E. A. Hoyt (171 Broadway, New York)
Conditions upon which Hoyt is authorized to procure \$250 thousand loan for company.

September 1, 1885

Gordon to Hon. Thos. F. Bayard, Secretary of State (Washington)
Wishes to withdraw endorsement of Lyman for Minister to Central America because he is likely to become involved in controversy with Guatemala.

September 7, 1885

H. H. Gordon to Chas. A. Runk Esq.
Runk entirely mistaken and laboring under misapprehensions. Shute not general manager and company has received nothing from Advocate Printing.

September 3, 1885 (This letter precedes above letter.
Hugh Gordon to Chas. A. Runk Esq. (237 Broadway)
Advocate Printing has no claim on company

September 12, 1885

H. H. Gordon to Geo. H. Smith (Cedar Rapids, Iowa)
Sends information about bonds.

September 15, 1885

Gordon to Dos Passos

Gives some statistics to show how much money Dos Passos could make, were he to join the Florida enterprise. Propositions are confidential.

September 17, 1885

to Col. E. C. McDowell (Columbia, Tennessee)

Bond sales suspended temporarily. Promising negotiations under way.

September 16, 1885

Gordon to G. S. Glenn (1 Broadway)

Lists conditions he would like to see inserted before approving contract.

September 22, 1885

Gordon (New York) to Gen. Jas. A. Williamson (Boston, Massachusetts)

Protested draft will be paid. No results from meeting with Harmer. Must relieve himself and pay back Gen. at once, possibly by selling out.

Gordon to J. V. Smedley (Oxford & Cambridge Club, Pall Mall, London)

Smedley has plan to negotiate bonds and lands and to receive steel rails in part payment. No one else in Europe authorized to represent Gordon in the matter. Authority to be cancelled if arrangement made in U.S.

Gordon to J. V. Smedley (Pall Mall, London)

Smedley must add-his commission to price of bonds.

Unsigned to E. A. Hoyt (New York)

Lists commissions he will pay on bonds, stocks, lands etc. received by construction company as contractors' proportion of profits.

September 30, 1885

Gordon to Mr. Everett (New York)

Gives terms on which Everett authorized to procure \$250,000 loan for Company

Gordon to Mr. Everett (New York)

To above proposition, gives authority for additional bonus, not to exceed \$50,000, to be paid if necessary.

Gordon to J. B. Smedley (Pall Mall, London)

Arrangement closed previous da, and Smedley's authority cancelled.

October 2, 1885

Gordon to J. V. Smedley (Pall Mall, London)

Above cancellation intended to revoke exclusive authority but not to preclude further negotiation.

October 8, 1885

Hugh Gordon to Jas. G. Lindsay (328 Walnut St., Philadelphia)
Having trouble locating fastenings for which B./L. already received. Would like help in finding them.

Hugh Gordon to Col. D. E. Maxwell, General Superintendent, F.R. & N? Company
(Jacksonville, Florida)
Wishes to know if Maxwell can find shipment for I.R.R. sent from Philadelphia to Palatka.

October 14, 1885

Gordon to Ira C. Allene (Fair Haven, Vermont)
Money in trust cannot be touched. Hope to make up for losses caused by panic and deliver bonds.

October ?, 1885

Gordon to A. Gessler (?) (Basle, Switzerland)
Explanation of bonds and delay in issuing them.

October 30, 1885

Gordon to Jno. Gregson (Cincinnati, Ohio)
Money safe in trust. Arrangement just concluded which will put Enterprise on its feet.

October 31, 1885

Hugh Gordon to Mr. Glen
Sorry he missed Glen. Ready to confirm and ratify their contract as soon as conjunction against construction is removed, to which end J. B. Gordon has secured cooperation of New Jersey Attorney General. Hugh and J. B. going home.

November 7, 1885

Gordon to Capt. Chas. F. Smith (Jacksonville, Florida)
Wants detailed statement on sales to date of ties, stock, and other company property sent to him at Atlanta. Things are encouraging. Find out why Heim is suing company and see if adjustment can be made.

November 10, 1885 (marked through in pencil "out")

Gordon to Silas M. Stillwell (18 Exchange Place, New York)
Answers to inquiries about progress of road, costs, etc.

November 11, 1885

Gordon to Hon. Henry C. Hall, U.S. Minister (Guatemala)
Has never intended to use his influence in Washington to force Hall's cooperation in controversy with Guatemalan government. Suggestion that President Cleveland connected with matter is ridiculous.

November 10, 1885

Gordon to Silas M. Stillwell (18 Exchange Pl., New York)
Gives information requested about expenditures, costs, securities.

November 11, 1885

Gordon to J. V. Smedley (London)
Has been ready for two years for consolidation of I.R.R. with J.T. & K.W. and with Indian River (R.R.). Latter roads' lines no legal bar to construction of I.R.R. lines between same points nor threat to I.R.R. land grant. Wishes to know on which terms other roads will amalgamate.

November 12, 1885

Gordon to Wm. Dugdale (Baltimore, Maryland)
Knows of no purchaser for Dugdale's construction stock at moment. Stock will probably have no marketable value until construction actually begun.

November 13, 1885

Gordon to Col. Conant, General manager, Florida Southern Railroad (Palatka, Florida)
Telegram - Maxwell can't get fastenings. Can't Conant deliver them immediately.

November 12, 1885

Gordon to Major Holmes Conrad (Winchester, Virginia)
Distressed by Conrad's low opinion of his ability. Lists points which demonstrate injustice of Conrad's sentiments. Charges of obduracy, vagueness, unjust. Continues with lengthy vindication of his actions.

November 21, 1885

Hugh Gordon to Hon. J. H. Brewer (Trenton, New Jersey)
J. B. Gordon has made arrangement with Brewer regarding outstanding obligations there. H. Gordon wishes authorization to draw on Brewer for \$650.

November 23, 1885

Hugh Gordon to Messrs. H. L. Hotchkiss & Company (36 Broad St.)
Part of note to Mrs. Baldwin, held by addressees, paid; and extension given on balance. Mrs. B. evidently has failed to inform addressees of this arrangement.

Hugh Gordon to Edw. L. McCandless, cashier
Fanny Gordon is to get \$100 of \$1000 sent by Major Warren, and balance is to be telegraphed to H. H. G.

November 24, 1885

Hugh Gordon to Virginia W. Baldwin (59 E. 11th St., New York)
Mrs. B. agreed to extension herself and now allows her brokers to protest J. G.'s note. Grateful for all her kindness. Did not expect an experience such as this; forbears all comment since she is a lady.

November 25, 1885

Hugh Gordon to Edw. S. McCandless, cashier

Under instructions from J. B. Gordon, has today drawn on McCandless for \$900 in J. B.'s name. Sends letter from J. B. authorizing such action.

Hugh Gordon to Messrs. H. L. Hotchkiss & Company (36 Broad St.)

There has been misunderstanding between himself and Mrs. Baldwin, but had no intention of questioning her sincerity.

December 3, 1885

Gordon to Hon. J. H. Brewer (Trenton, New Jersey)

Telegram. Have bonds with new Treasurer's name been printed? Waiting only for names, cooperation, and an answer.

Gordon to Genl. Jas. A. Williamson (629 F St., NW, Washington)

"Am waiting on Brewer. Telegraphed him, but hear nothing-"

October 24, 1885

Gordon to Thos. H. Roberts (North Shapleigh, Maine)

After panic, had to wait for some restoration of confidence. Has concluded contract with some capitalists. Expects to be able to deliver bond soon.

October 20, 1885

Gordon to "General "

If bank sells securities left by Gen., Gordon will hold himself bound to replace them and pay any other expenses as soon as he is able. Grave legal difficulties and other matters connected with arrangement with Glen people necessitate a meeting.

October 19, 1885

Gordon to G. S. Glen, President American Exchange or American Real Estate Exchange (no. 1 Broadway, New York)

Has received purported contract with construction company signed by Glen and Harmer. Original contract between I.R.R. and construction company has numerous conflicts with former document. No act contravening original contract can have effect without consent of the consent of the R. R. Company

October 20, 1885

Hugh Gordon to Gerrit S. Glen (1 Broadway)

J. B. Gordon willing to go through with proposed contract with Glen's company if a few modifications are made.

October 19, 1885

Gordon to Hon. A. C. Harmer (Germantown, Pennsylvania)

Lists reasons why he is very much dissatisfied with terms of agreement with Harmer and Major Conrad and with results of program since he turned stock over to them.

October 9, 1885

Hugh Gordon to Col. D. C. Forney (Washington)

Meant no personal abuse to Forney in hasty letter, the request for the return of which was never acknowledged. Explains discrepancies between two of his letters. Does not feel that contract represents agreement as understood by J. B. Gordon. Was certain that Conrad had agreed to insertion of a certain clause. Will not be present tomorrow evening because meeting cannot be legally held under present auspices.

Hugh H. Gordon to Col. A. C. Harmer (Washington)

Harmer has no authority to call construction company meeting at which he has notified H. Gordon to appear with Glen contracts and company seal.

October 7, 1885

Hugh Gordon (New York) to Major Holmes Conrad (Winchester, Virginia)

Harmer will call at Forney's request a directors' meeting and invite Conrad to see if contract presented for execution was same as that drawn up by Holmes. Wishes conference postponed until J. B. Gordon's return. Company helpless under present arrangement; but there is legal way to get rid of whole crowd and restore management to their own hands. Expects no help from Forney.

Hugh Gordon to Col. D. C. Forney (Washington)

Spoke too harshly of Harmer in letter, but surprised at Forney's refusal to return it. Did not mean to charge that Glen had altered contract. Will give a candid opinion of Harmer's conduct in latter's presence if necessary.

October 5, 1885

Hugh Gordon to "Major"

H. Gordon refused to sign contract presented by Glen, and Harmer signed it over the farme 's protest. Contract signed gives Glen parties exclusive on bond sales . Gives other objectionable details of contract.

Hugh Gordon to Col. Forney

Convinced that his refusal to execute contract is proper, as none of the features objectionable to J. B. Gordon were deleted as the latter had assumed. Glen and his crowd have absolute control of bond issue. Conrad' s provision subjecting contract to stockholder ratification does not appear in Glen version, nor a clause requiring Glen parties to pay construction company expenses. Used stronger language than necessary in letter and wishes to recall it.

August 31, 1885

Jno. C. Whitner (Atlanta) to Gen. J. B. Gordon (New York)

Wishes to know when track can be laid and bonds delivered, as there are many potential investors interested.

Last page of a letter of unknown length from Hugh Gordon. Condolences for the death, apparently suicide, of McK. (?), confidential secretary. Praises his devotion, regrets his death at a time when success seems to be coming to the enterprise.

**A brief abstract for Letterbook F.
1886, November to December 1889**

November 16, 1886

Gordon to Capt. J. McIntosh Kell (? Ga.)

Offers Kell position of Adjutant General at urging of Kell's friends throughout state. Incumbent vacating as of January 1, 1887 due to bad eyesight.

November 17, 1886

Gordon to John Hastings (Troy, New York)

Sends correct report of inaugural address as requested. Intention was to express interest in whole country; concern is for lasting national and state liberty. Distressed by criticism of extreme papers in interest of party.

Gordon to J. W. Lancaster Esq. (Hawkinsville, Georgia)

Did all for his friend Martin that he felt he could do while remaining consistent with his position. Remains grateful to Martin.

Gordon to Mr. Orlando McClendon (Newnan, Georgia)

Encloses letter relating to Clay Company, which he and Walter owned jointly, for McC. As administrator of Walter's estate. Delivery of Gordon's deed had been postponed until settlement of claim against him by company which built Ga. Pacific R.R. Wishes to settle matter between himself and estate quickly.

November 18, 1886

Gordon to Rev. Samuel Boykin (Atlanta)

Thanks for good wishes in letter of 12th.

Gordon to J. C. Overstreet (Sylvania, Georgia)

Recognizes obligation to promote Overstreet's interest and will speak to Mr. Crenshaw in former's behalf.

Gordon to J. A. Mason (Saulsburg, Tennessee)

Hopes Mason will secure desired position, but does not feel he can aid as Gov. Taylor might consider action on Gordon's part interference in matters which do not concern Governor of Georgia.

Gordon to C. B. Richardson (Los Angeles, California)

Not proper for him to seek influence of Federal administration in making appointments, especially in other states. Happy to aid Col. Smith in any way consistent with duties.

Gordon to Geo. W. Burch (Calhoun, Georgia)
Cannot respond to request for pecuniary aid. Has many such demands.

Gordon to A. C. Perry (Conyers, Georgia)
Position of Adjutant General has already been filled. Appreciated kind references to himself.

November 17, 1886

Gordon to S.S. Williams (127 S. Forsyth St., Atlanta)
Has no position open for servants at executive mansion.

November 18, 1886

Gordon to Thos. M. Turner (Sparta, Georgia)
Has no position at the moment to which he could appoint Turner's son.

November 21, 1886

Gordon to Judge John W. Ashby (Gainesville, Florida)
Requests that Judge withhold draft on him until his brother comes to Florida and has conference with Judge about this matter and drainage scheme.

December 2, 1886

Gordon to Jno. R. Dos Passos (New York)
Bank officer directed by bank in New York to put note in suit. Dos Passos has failed to provide \$250,000 promised in January. It was not possible to pay note, and pressing matter now would add to disaster which followed above-mentioned disappointment.

December 6, 1886

Gordon to Gov. A. M. Scales (Raleigh, North Carolina)
In answer to inquiry, one Ga. railroad was leased one time.

Gordon to P. A. Stovall Esq. (Athens, Georgia)
Bill for experimental stations would be objectionable. Has pardoned Jackson.

Gordon to Col. Pearce Thorne (Dalton, Georgia)
Thanks to Agricultural Society for beautiful compliment paid him, the design and skill of which have evoked much admiration.

Gordon to A. J. Harp (Ellaville, Georgia)
Sent no money for services in recent state campaign; has never paid a newspaper for its influence.

Gordon to A. C. Perry Esq. (Conyers, Georgia)
Received recommendation for Ayers, but has decided to re-appoint present Penitentiary Dept. officials.

Gordon to H. C. Kittles (Rocky Ford, Georgia)
Cannot aid Kittles. No vacancies in Executive Department or Custom House.

Gordon to Maj. John F. Edwards (Decatur, Georgia)
Re-appointing old Penitentiary Dept. officers. Patronage of Georgia governor very small, scarcely half a dozen positions to bestow.

Gordon to J. W. Wright (Conyers, Georgia)
Will cheerfully aid Wright as far as he can. Will send endorsement if latter wishes.

Gordon to J. W. Bell (Shady Grove, Carroll County, Georgia)
Cannot respond to request for (financial) aid to construct a church.

Gordon to Seaborn E. Jones (Taylor's Creek, Georgia)
Has no position to which he can appoint Jones.

December 7, 1886

Gordon to T. J. Marshall (Reynolds, Georgia)
Wants to clear up some misapprehensions. Is not in good financial shape because R. R. enterprise is at standstill. Has no unkind thoughts about Chess, though Chess cannot afford to pay a debt to Gordon at the moment. Has forgotten particulars about rents transactions, but thinks Marshall seized corn crop and is thus paid. May wish to see latter in a few weeks.

December 13, 1886

Gordon to John H. Traylor (Forest Home, Georgia)
Thanks for compliments on inaugural address. Surprised at press's failure to comment on it. Letters indicate support from majority of citizens for its principles.

December 14, 1886

Gordon to Hon. Geo. H. Walter (Charleston, South Carolina)
Official duties prevent acceptance of invitation to "New England Society" anniversary celebration.

Gordon to Colquitt
Confidential note. Should urge Judge Newman to appoint Judge Lester, who is competent and in financial need.

December 13, 1886

Gordon to Governor
Wishes to see addressee on U. S. Board of R. R. commissioners; will speak with Brown and Colquitt about it. Addressee must aid in bringing to bear influence from the other states.

December 16, 1886

Gordon to Judge R. R. Harris (Rome, Georgia)
Explains why he cannot re-appoint Harris to City Court.

December 20, 1886

Gordon to C. B. Howard

Surprised at hostility of Howard's letter. Howard gave unwarranted and misconstrued meaning to Gordon's letter to Marshall. Howard's and Gordon's recollections of circumstances of former transactions do not coincide. Gordon suffered more by their business relations. Wants affairs between them settled finally.

December 21, 1886

Gordon to Gov. H. D. McDaniel (Monroe, Georgia)

Confidential - Wishes advice on opinions of those who advocate Nunnally instead of Felker for solicitor of Walton County court.

December 29, 1886

Gordon to J. R. Dospassos (New York)

Very pressed by official duties. When time allows, will try to bring about agreement between themselves.

January 4, 1887

Gordon to H. M. Edge (Fort Monroe, Virginia)

Will endorse a petition of Edge's friends supporting Edge for appointment.

Gordon to Dr. J. R. Burton (Valdosta, Georgia)

Knows of no opening for Burton's son.

Gordon to J. G. Bird

Cannot respond to numerous calls such as Bird's for (financial) aid.

Gordon to Rev C. W. Lane (Athens, Georgia)

Has no position in which to place Mr. Orr.

Letter to Mr. McDowell which seems to concern Fla. R. R. enterprise. Type faded to point of illegibility.

January 10, 1887

Gordon to E. C. Machen (55 Broadway, New York)

Glad that injunction in New York has been dissolved and that Machen can proceed with his own and International's work.

Gordon to Charles Dudley Warner (Hartford, Connecticut)

Private correspondence. Thanks for kind reference to himself from Warner in the "Courant". Has no pecuniary interest in state prisoners or lease system. Feels deeply wrong done him by Forum article, but does not wish newspaper controversy with a woman.

Gordon to Mr. Miller

Private correspondence. Content similar to above.

January 24, 1887

Gordon to Hon A. H. Colquitt (U.S. Senate)

Requests that Colquitt try to help Mr. Thomas secure position he wants.

Gordon to President Grover Cleveland Washington)

Reasons why he would urge appointment of former Gov. James M. Smith of Georgia as one of Commissioners to be appointed under Interstate Commerce Law.

Gordon to Capt. J. F. Burke, commanding, Gate City Guards (Atlanta, Georgia)

Public engagements prevent him from accepting kind invitation to accompany Guards on European tour.

Gordon to Mrs. Harriet Wakeley (Chatoogaville, Georgia)

Cannot render assistance requested and suggests that she apply for a bank loan. Additional note in own hand - Would be glad to meet her sometime; remembers her well.

February 4, 1887

Gordon to Col. Jno. C. Champers, president, Florida Mid. R. R. & Drainage Company (Orange Lake, Florida)

Gives proposal for chartering new company to replace the present above-named company and gives reasons why. Assumes Tunno, with whom he is not on terms, would cooperate.

February 7, 1887

Gordon to Judge Jno. W. Ashby (Gainesville, Florida)

Introduction of Mark Hardin, who goes to Florida to do work for them in drainage business.

Interested parties will be Gordon, Ashby, Hardin, Colquitt, E. C. Gordon, and Brown. Money to drain available if lands can be secured, to which end he suggests two possible plans.

February 9, 1887

Gordon to Captain Newell

Strictly confidential. Got "thro", but has "left a heritage bad blood in the case I fear." Newell can help at end of term arrange for good of Institution and Gordon's comfort if they can have Col. Bob Humber elected steward.

February 8, 1887

Gordon to W. H. Hidell (Rome, Georgia)

Words to which Hidell alludes in reference to Mr. Stephens were expression of sincere conviction as to character of latter.

February 9, 1887

Gordon to Judge J. W. Ashby (Gainesville, Florida)

Continues with suggestions, which he was unable to complete before Hardin left, for chartering drainage company.

February 10, 1887

Gordon to Thomas Seddon, R. & D. R. R. (#2 Wall St.)

Will be in New York with Pat Calhoun the 14th. Requests Seddon to be ready to go into question of a settlement.

Gordon to W. P. Price (Dahlongega, Georgia)

Has investigated sufficiently to be satisfied that money can be raised to put road through and develop property. Makes suggestion of basis for their status relative to each other and to the enterprise.

February 11, 1887

Gordon to Dr. George R. Ghiselin (Tremont House, Dearborn & Lake St., Chicago, Illinois)

After conference with state geologist and other investigation, believes gold to be found along streams. Proceeding quietly to control most important of these localities. Wishes to know to what extent Ghiselin can command necessary capital.

February 14, 1887

Gordon to Gov. A. G. McGrath (Charleston, South Carolina)

Wants to be sure titles to Wellsman land in Taylor County, Georgia, which he purchased with J.P. Carson, are clear. Wants to convert his plantation adjoining this land into a stock ranch; has given up on cultivation there.

Gordon to Robert N. Gourdin (Charleston, South Carolina)

Content similar to above.

Gordon to Hon. O. M. Roberts (Austin, Texas)

Cannot give address there in June because of preparation necessary for July Legislature meeting in Georgia. Thanks for honor Roberts' faculty has conferred upon him.

February 16, 1887

Gordon to Gen. Rufus Ingalls, Dredging Company (New York)

Wants full information about dredging machine. Has Florida projects in mind.

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Confidential. McGrath says no obstacles to Wellsman title. They ought to induce Mr. Marshall to put Mitchell lands into their scheme. Elaborates his proposal for Flint River Land and Livestock Company

February 24, 1887

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Ready to pay his half of first note, but can't now cash other deferred notes. Will not put out any money for running a form. Sorry he can't specify a time to come visit.

February 25, 1887

Gordon to O. D. Baldwin, Prest. Etc.

Encloses certified check for acceptance to be cancelled and returned.

February 28, 1887

Gordon to Hon. L. A. Dean and Dr. Holmes (Rome, Georgia)

Private correspondence. Submits suggestions for organizing a capital building effort for Rome. Would only expect to participate in measure that addressees and their friends think reasonable.

March 2, 1887

Gordon to Judge W. Means (Evinston Florida Southern RR Florida)

Sends \$250. Wants to know what prospect is. Cramped and annoyed beyond measure almost.

March 3, 1887

Gordon to Hon. L. A. Dean, representing Trustees, Rome Land, Iron, and Improvement Company (Rome, Georgia)

His suggestions as to his relationship to Rome L. I. & I. Company Should receive no payment unless sufficient amount of stock taken to insure success.

March 9, 1887

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Sends his half of first payment on Brown place and for expense in getting Williams off. Leaving for New York.

Undated

Gordon to Hon. C.C. Jones (Augusta, Florida)

Telegram - Other engagements make acceptance impossible.

March 16, 1887

Gordon to C. P. Gordon Esq. (Carrollton, Georgia)

C. P. Gordon's community seems to be divided over best person for an office, and J. B. Gordon takes a "hands off" position.

Gordon to Maj. W. S. Basinger (Dahlonga, Georgia)

Due to unfortunate wording of bill to which Maj. referred, appropriation will not be immediately available, as Gordon understands situation.

Gordon to Mr. John W. Ballard (Carrollton, Georgia)

As close friends are on both sides of controversy over railway postal clerk appointment on S. G. and N. Alabama R.R., Gordon will remain neutral. (Same position in question in letter of same date to Gordon.)

Gordon to Hon. W. F. Brown (Carrollton, Georgia)

Similar in content to above.

Gordon to "Judge"
Similar in content to above.

March 17, 1887

Gordon to Mrs. O. N. Payne, Sec. etc. (Knoxville, Tennessee)
Declines invitation to speak on occasion of decoration of soldiers' graves in Knoxville.

March 18, 1887

Gordon to "Major"
Declines invitation to take interest in "Montana Prospect and Mining Company".

March 17, 1887

Gordon to J. F. Scott (Decatur, Alabama)
Scott's letter unjust. Gordon has not had use of Scott's money invested in International; Scott bought stock from Gordon's brother, at a time when everyone thought it very valuable.

March 19, 1887

Gordon to His Grace, the Duke of Sutherland (Fernandina, Florida)
Anxious to confer with Duke about canal in South Georgia - north Florida and to lay before him possibility of securing very valuable Alabama and Mississippi lands.

March 23, 1887

Gordon to J. W. Clarke (Newnan, Georgia)
Glad to learn of his approval of uniting their forces. Necessary to secure leases on large area to attract capital for development.

Private and confidential letter to Mr. George M. ? (Gadsden)
Marked "not used", and half of each page torn out.

March 29, 1887

Gordon to Colley
Private correspondence. In view of work he is to do, feels he deserves larger share of profits - half to himself and half for Colley and Shubrick. Wants candid response. Seems advisable to press option work.

Undated

Gordon to Mr. Howell, cashier (Clarksville, Tennessee)
Hopes soon to make formal report on International enterprise. Borrowed on individual responsibility to maintain work and stands to lose enormously in case of failure.

April 1, 1887

Gordon to Gov. J. M. Smith (Columbus, Georgia)
Stopped in Washington and talked to Lamar and Lamont about President's appointing Bragg. Has not forgotten Smith. Feels regret and disappointment at result and that best thing has not been done.

Gordon to Seddon

Will send copies of his statement to Maj. Johnston and Maj. Jos. Bryan. Wishes to dispose of matter at once. Fairness demands that Gordon should be paid. Requests that Seddon telegraph date of Directors' meeting.

April 5, 1887

Gordon to Captain J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Likes idea of having Bryan as associate. Can probably get better terms on Mitchell place if Gordon's name not mentioned.

Gordon to Gen. S. W. Ferguson (Greenville, Mississippi)

Asks a few questions so as to be better able to judge if money can be secured for purchase of lands in question.

April 6, 1887

Gordon to Col. W. L. Brown (New York)

Money tied up in Florida R. R. enterprise. Sends 5 month note for debt to Brown. Mrs. Gordon sends regards.

Gordon to Alfred Sully (2 Broadway, New York)

Sully is right. Gordon regrets that he did not consent to arbitration as Sully suggested, but cannot get to New York. Suggest that he and Maj. Johnston select arbitrators to meet where he (Gordon) is.

April 8, 1887

Gordon to Col. D. M. Sloan (Pilot Mountain, North Carolina)

Will send blank forms when others are printed, so as to send two kinds to accommodate preferences of signers. Must secure magnetic ores, as ordinary ores are worth little. Secure options at once if such ore found.

Gordon to Gen. E. P. Alexander (Savannah, Georgia)

Confidential. Undertaking to build narrow-gauge road from Gainesville to Dahlonega. Would like to buy old iron rails which Alexander is taking up with bonds.

April 7, 1887

Gordon to Messrs. C. P. & J. C. Cooper (Jacksonville, Florida)

Has sent man to London to contract for I. R.R. bonds and is still awaiting results. Greatly obligated to them for their indulgence, and will pay them as soon as possible. Has mortgaged all personal property because of I.R.R. losses.

April 9, 1887

Gordon to Mrs. L. M. Minear (Washington)

Nothing has been done with Florida R.R. enterprise. Prospects uncertain.

April 11, 1887

Gordon to Hon. L. A. Dean

Is having Financial Plans printed; wants plan to appear in several selected papers simultaneously. Gives his understanding of arrangement between himself and Trustees concerning stock to be sold at Rome and other points.

April 12, 1887

Gordon to Maj. J. W. Green, Prest. Georgia RR (Augusta, Georgia)

Confidential. Gives several reasons why, as suggested in letter to Alexander, it is in Central R.R.'s interest to have very close relations to Extension. Would like response soon.

April 14, 1887

Gordon to T. J. Marshall (Reynolds, Georgia)

Encloses two notes, both due within two months, though he feels that he is neither legally nor morally bound to pay this money because debts were against another and are out of date. Wishes to look into rent matter further before paying money due.

April 16, 1887

Gordon to Fred Owsley (247 Ashland Avenue)

Encloses proposition of Rome Land Company. Attractive and safe scheme. Owsley will get 2 1/2% commission on stock sales. Love to Luly and baby.

May 5, 1887

Gordon to Interstate Commerce Commission

Recommends David Lester for sub-clerk position.

Gordon to Hon. R. Morrison, Interstate Commerce Comm.

Sends Lester's application and wishes to enlist Morrison's strong personal interest. Encloses other endorsements.

May 6, 1887

Gordon to Hon. J. S. Williams, Chairman, Comm. on Corps. & Land Grants
(Senate Chamber, Tallahassee, Florida)

Reasons why it would be a great wrong for state to withdraw I.R.R.'s grant. Will send Hugh to answer comm. inquiries if necessary.

Gordon to Mr. Thomas Seddon (No. 2 Wall St., New York)

Barely legible. Suggestion that settlement be brought about by arbitration.

Gordon to Major Holmes Conrad (Winchester, Virginia)

Conrad's ill feeling unjust and unwarranted by facts. Gordon did not try to make misrepresentations or profit by Conrad's losses and is himself in financial straits. Did not employ Conrad, but intends to see Conrad's expense account paid.

May 30, 1887

Gordon to Hon. H. S. Williams, Chairman, etc.

Has learned that Williams is investigating manner in which construction company stock was marketed. Public statement to Florida House was full account of whole matter. Would be act of supreme bad faith on Florida's part to bring death to the enterprise. Will submit books to inspection and furnish any information.

May 31, 1887

Gordon to Mr. John T. Owen (Cartersville, Georgia)

Partially illegible. Involves a company out of Memphis which failed a year since. Apparently an insurance company with whom Owen had a policy. Gordon says Owen did not really lose any money.

June 8, 1887

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Proposes plan for Flint R. Land & Livestock Company which would leave them in entire control. Small doubts about ability to sell preferred stock and to run concern properly. Wishes to know at once if Carson wants to go in.

June 17, 1887

Gordon to Mrs. Baldwin (59 E. 11th St., New York)

Has finally borrowed enough to pay her \$500 due. Will send money to Mr. Horack, who is to see that proper cancellation of mortgage made and paper delivered. Knows nothing of money she claims due for board; she will have to take up claim with Hugh Gordon. Never asked her to invest in railroad.

June 18, 1887

Gordon to C. L. Horack (Bennett Bldg., New York)

Requests Horack to take Mrs. Baldwin check for \$500, sight draft for interest. Gives instructions as to manner in which mortgage on his plantation is to be cancelled. May have to give Machen notice.

June 22, 1887

Gordon to Thomas Sedden (New York)

Would be glad to meet Sedden and Maj. Johnston for conference and avoid long litigation. Would like statement of securities due him upon payment of unpaid assessments. Would prefer conference in Georgia.

June 23, 1887

Gordon to "Sirs"

Would like to buy some rails and rolling stock. Describes situation in detail so that addressees might understand payment problem.

June 24, 1887

Gordon to Captain Hall (Dahlonge)

Will write about dredge later. Has idea of organizing a company to buy some rich lands, now used only for minerals, for cultivation and livestock in the gold belt around Dahlonge.

Gordon to Hon. C. T. Belt (Bettwood)

Sends blanks. Get options for as long as possible. Wishes to be kept posted on options taken, and complete records kept on character of land.

June 28, 1887

Gordon to Col. John Bush (Birmingham, Alabama)

Private correspondence. Asks if Bush and his company are disposed to confer on matter of streams in Alabama and Georgia over which large syndicate has gained control for gold mining purposes.

July 1, 1887

Gordon to "Sir"

Will send report of state geologist. If addressee's attorney will call on Col. Merrill, the former may find something of interest.

July 7, 1887

Gordon to Dr. Geo. R. Ghiselin (Chicago)

Will forward geologist's report. Leases secured. Expects large profits. Wishes to know if Ghiselin can secure capitalists.

Hugh Gordon to Col. E. Jno. Ellis (Washington)

Conrad says Disston people ready to build International. Wishes to know outlook, whether or not tangible results are likely this time. Would be willing to close with them.

Hugh Gordon to Fred N. Gorrod (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Replies for J. B. Gordon. They have had no correspondence with Shute. Willing to consider any proposition from bona fide capitalists for building I.R.R.

July 9, 1887

Gordon to D. K. McCamy (Dalton, Georgia)

Mr. Glenn and Gordon were hung in effigy on gallows intended for Holman. Glenn had nothing to do with Gordon's commuting Holman's sentence and was against clemency.

July 21, 1887

Hugh Gordon to Col. E. Jno. Ellis (Washington)

Hugh and J. B. Gordon willing to sacrifice future profits to obtain arrangement which will secure payments due them and return of stockholders' money. Elaborates on developments in situation up to present, essentially Machen's efforts. Requests Ellis' and Maj. Conrad's counsel.

July 27, 1887

Hugh Gordon to J. W. Clarke (Newnan, Georgia)

H. G. employed as attorney for McCutchen, J. B. Gordon, and assoc. to protect their interests in leases taken by Clarke as trustee. If Clarke attempts any disposition of property, a court injunction will be sought; and Clarke will be held responsible for any damage to above parties' interests.

July 30, 1887

Hugh Gordon to L. M. Shute Esq. (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Asks for references who will substantiate that Shute can indeed begin construction immediately.

August 3, 1887

Unsigned [content indicates Gordon] to Messrs. T. L. Airey & Company (New Orleans)

C. L. Horock present representative of company in New York. Hopes bond negotiations with German bankers will close successfully. Stands to be heaviest loser if venture fails absolutely. Still not without hope despite difficulties.

August 19, 1887

Gordon to Mr. Bayard Stockton (Trenton, New Jersey)

Construction company has no money to pay tax due. Will pay with first available funds.

August 17, 1887

Gordon to Senator J. R. West (Washington)

Owners of Cartersville & Gainesville R. R. charter are honorable and trustworthy. Mineral region geologically rich. Road should be a good one if built. Hopes to see West in Philadelphia next month.

August 23, 1887

Gordon to Senator Jackson

Turner and Whitaker both competent for Troup county appointment; but Turner's supporters are greater and he was active in Gordon's last campaign. Sorry to disappoint Jackson and others by this choice, but hopes Senator will understand.

September 2, 1887

Gordon to Dr. George R. Ghiselin (Tremont House, Chicago)

Telegram - They want immediate money for rich lands in Georgia and Alabama. Will make liberal proposition in return for Ghiselin's securing money.

September 5, 1887

Gordon to Col. J. H. McRae (McRae, Virginia)

Has considerable amount of construction company stock; but does not feel he can conscientiously sell any to McRae, as prospects are bleak.

September 6, 1887

Gordon to Thomas Sedden

Why does Sedden hesitate to accede to suggestion of arbitration if he is anxious for friendly settlement. Gordon cannot consent to suggestion that he yield all claims and equities and cancel the company's obligations and his own. Submits another proposition.

September 12, 1887

Hugh Gordon to Col. E. Jno. Ellis (Washington)

Has Col. abandoned negotiations with Disston people? Machen's efforts in Europe absolute failure. Machen willing to surrender his contract. Wants to know situation with Disston.

September 28, 1887

Gordon to Lou Chisolm (LaGrange, Georgia)

Sends check for \$87. Thinks he owes \$20 less, but because of Chisolm's kindness, doesn't begrudge him extra \$20.

October 8, 1887

Gordon to E. A. Beardley (Autenberg, Ohio)

Consented to act as Director of Tallapoosa Land & Mfg. Company on strength of his knowledge of gentlemen managing it. Suggests that Beardley correspond with company president Col. G. W. Adair, for particulars.

Gordon to Col. O. B. Thompson (Gainesville, Georgia)

Sends \$4 for man who did testing and is sorry for delay. Is there any news from troublesome old maids?

October 11, 1887

Gordon to Messrs. Hagar, Hagood, & Company (New York)

Encloses \$0.35 postage for toothbrush bought some time ago.

Gordon to John R. Lang (Baltimore, Maryland)

No apology necessary for Lang's inquiry about state of I.R.R. investment. Regrets that positive assurance of success not forthcoming. Not expecting big profits, but still has not despaired of success. Trying to arrange combination with a Florida R. R. already in operation.

Gordon to Mr. Raymond

Land grant has not expired, and no adverse legislation has been passed by Florida Legislature. Trying to arrange combination with Fla. Railway & Navigation Company

October 12, 1887

Gordon to J. R. Harris (Scottsboro, Alabama)

Did not intend, in delaying, to treat Harris or his claim with contempt. Would pay money due OR coal land purchases if it were available.

Gordon to W. H. McDow (Wildwood, Florida)

I.R. R. has no funds to pay bill to Armstrong & Curry. Hopes present negotiations will produce funds to pay all bills and build road.

Gordon to Mrs. C. E. Staunton (Ontario, Canada)

Would not advise Tallapoosa as a place for Mrs. Staunton's son to locate as a dentist until it grows a little.

Gordon to Hon. R. U. Johnson (Editorial Dept. Century Magazine, New York)

Apologizes that he has not had chance before to write promised article, but will try to so it at once.

Undated telegram

Gordon to Edward H. Goff, American Electric Mfg. Company (18 Cortlandt St., New York)

J. D. Paige has not called for package sent c/o Gordon: hasn't seen Mr. Fontaine, agent for Georgia. Wishes to know more about company, his relation to it. Friends have urged him to sever connection with "American Company"

November 11, 1887

Gordon to Hon. J. A. Billup (?, Ga.)

Billup's complaint not well-founded. So many close personal and political friends had applied for position that Gordon had finally had to decide by application date.

November 12, 1887

Gordon to E. C. Machen (New York)

Wants to go on with International, put work under way without longer delay.

Gordon to Col. E. C. McDowell (Columbia, Tennessee)

Cannot take McDowell's Florida R.R. stock off his hands in the way suggested. Had great faith in venture and stands to lose heavily.

November 15, 1887

Gordon to Miss I. T. Munson (New Haven, Connecticut)

Advises her to get details from Adair before investing in Tallapoosa Land Company

November 16, 1887

Gordon to Hon. J. C. Greeley (Jacksonville, Florida)

Capt. Smith owes I. R.R. money, not vice versa. His claims are unfounded, and he kept proceeds from sales of ties.

November 18, 1887

Gordon to D. A. Fish (Oglethorpe, Georgia)

Distressed that he cannot himself respond to Fish's request for aid. Trying to find some way to make provision for disabled and needy comrades.

November 21, 1887

Gordon to John E. Jones, Prest. Central Ga. Bk. (Macon, Georgia)

Explains details of plan for buying adjoining land and making his plantation into livestock ranch, and unconventional method he would like to use to provide collateral for a 90-day loan of \$7000.

November 22, 1887

Gordon to R. L. Spencer (Tallapoosa, Georgia)

Spencer jumped to hasty conclusions. Requested his Tallapoosa stock to be subdivided so that part could be used as collateral in a loan. Feels his connection with company is to its benefit.

November 29, 1887

Gordon to Mrs. E. H. Brown (South New Port, Georgia)

Mrs. Brown should correspond with Adair and get full facts on the Tallapoosa land company

December 13, 1887

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Beginning to canvass for the \$35 thousand. Discusses how they might divide interest in company. If arrangement not satisfactory, is willing to let three disinterested parties decide. Attached is Carson's letter of December 21, 1887, accepting Gordon's first proposition.

December 12, 1887

Gordon to Capt. F. D. Wimberly (Twiggs County)

Has decided that he will raise \$200 thousand to make scheme [different from above] successful. Discusses disposition of funds and stock, commissions, etc. Attached is Wimberly's acceptance of Gordon's program.

December 19, 1887

Gordon to J. W. Taylor (?, Ga.)

Does not want Taylor to throw away any opportunity waiting on him. Would do Taylor wrong in encouraging him to depend on Gordon's selling the property.

Gordon to John F. Flournoy Esq. (Columbus, Georgia)

Flournoy's statements have decided Gordon's course. Will at once proceed to reorganize firm and put wholly reliable men in all offices. Consider Carson out.

Gordon to W. J. M. Thomas (Dalton, Georgia)

Doesn't recall any of claims or transactions to which Thomas refers. Knows of no claim against him by Robert Hembry.

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Since Carson seems dissatisfied with arrangement, suggests that he (Gordon) buy Carson's half of Brown place or that arbitrators decide on land division. Certain circumstances make it hard for Gordon to get capital under present arrangements.

December 20, 1887

Gordon to Col. George T. Fry (?, Georgia)

Impressed with Fry's railroad scheme, but has no time to contribute to it now. Much regrets to feel compelled to decline Fry's offer.

Hugh Gordon to Frank Robbins (Tallapoosa, Georgia)

Strictly confidential. Mr. Barker of "Southern Agent" says Robbins has information about Tallapoosa Land etc, Company that J. B. Gordon ought to know.

Hugh Gordon to Frank Rinnon (sp?) (Tallapoosa, Georgia)

Content same as above.

Gordon to Horatio Crain (Key West, Florida)

Inclined to believe Herald's article about Tallapoosa Company false and malicious.

Gordon to Mrs. E. H. Brown (South New Port, Georgia)

Since Brown found correspondence with Tallapoosa unsatisfactory, sends him a prospectus on another enterprise which is under Gordon's personal control and sure to be very successful.

Gordon to Col. W. S. Wallace (Butler, Georgia)

Fence in front of Mitchell place can remain for present year, provided he has unrestricted use of cabins inside. Glad to oblige the Administrations in any way.

December 23, 1887

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Carson has accepted Gordon's Dec. 10th proposition. Has not yet sold any stock, but determined to raise money. Discusses economizing and efficient operation of ranch.

Undated

Gordon to Howard J. Beck. (Baltimore, Maryland)

Believes Herald article about Tallapoosa Company false. Adair and McBride invite inspection of their property and books. Suggests that Beck write Adair about exchanging stock for land.

December 23, 1887

Gordon to Corbin Banking Company (113 New York City)

Encloses letter from attorney for W. B. & B. M. Tarver. Bought right given to Tarver by addressee of a ten-year redemption with intention of uniting lands with others of his land company. Company cannot afford land suit, and will take other lands if such action is contemplated by addressee.

December 26, 1887

Hugh Gordon to Minter Wimberly (Bullords, Georgia)

Wimberly must arrange for renewal of options, and for as long as possible. Takes long time to raise the \$200,000 necessary.

December 29, 1887

Gordon to Secretary A. J. C. Club (no. 1 Broadway, New York)
Wants transfer of five Jersey cows to him recorded.

December 31, 1887

Gordon to Sam W. Silberman (88 Canal St., New York)
Officers of Tallapoosa state that a Herald representative has invested several thousand dollars in the company since the paper published its attack. Does not think Adair and McBride would do anything dishonorable. Suggests that Silberman write them.

Gordon to Mr. Anias E. Kundert (Corunna, Illinois)
Advises Kundert to write Adair for particulars on Tallapoosa Company

January 3, 1888

Hugh Gordon to Capt. F. D. Wimberly (Bullards, Georgia)
Encloses letter from Corbin Banking; no trouble in arranging with them. Waiting to hear from Wimberly in reference to renewal of options. J. B. Gordon requests return of Corbin letter.

January 5, 1888

Gordon to G. R. Mathews (Reynolds, Georgia)
Mathews apparently hired to work as overseer with J. P. Carson. Discusses his salary and manner of payment, duties, some details of running ranch.

January 20, 1888

Gordon to Messrs. Christian & Christian, attorneys at Law (Richmond, Virginia)
Wants to see renewal of R.R. charter placed in their hands by E. A. Hoyt of New York. Feels road will be built if state of Virginia renews charter.

January 25, 1888

Gordon to D. C. Armstrong (Notasnega (?), Alabama)
Cannot personally pay account due Armstrong by I. R.R., which owes Gordon money also.
Would help him if he could.

Gordon to Morris A. Tyng (Decatur, Alabama)
Highly indignant response to Tyng's charges of misrepresentation by W. S. Gordon, J. B.'s deceased brother. Statements made by W. S. were true at time they were made. Unresponsible charges are unmanly and ungenerous.

February 9, 1888

Gordon to Dr. W. E. Forrest (Decatur, Alabama)
Wants Forrest to deduce number of lost stock certificate and to issue and forward new one.

February 15, 1888

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Carson is to draw on him at one day's sight for portion of next payment on Brown place. Wishes Carson could borrow to pay off note and clear deed. What would be contracting cost of having break put up? Wrote about planting fruit trees.

March 3, 1888

Hugh Gordon to Judge H. G. Bond, Gen. Mgr. etc. (Decatur, Alabama)

Mistake about certificate unintentional and will be rectified.

Hugh Gordon to Messrs. Hardy & Company (Birmingham, Alabama)

Mistake about Decatur stock unintentional. J. B. Gordon has accounted for all except 50 shares; he will regret mistake and rectify it.

March 6, 1888

Gordon to J. J. Hall (Akron, Ohio)

Wishes to start a club, "Hunters Association", of gentlemen from North, South, West for mainly social purposes. Hopes each member will become active worker. Will write to men mentioned by Hall.

Gordon to Col. D. W. Thomas (Akron, Ohio)

Welcomes Thomas as member of Associated Hunters. Content similar to above.

March 7, 1888

Gordon to Judge H. G. Bond, Business Manager etc. (Decatur, Alabama)

Every certificate sold by Gordon sold through Hardy and Company Fifty shares lost or mislaid; only mistake has been in the number of the lost certificate, and Bond or somebody else in Decatur office is responsible for that error. Gordon gave no affidavit or number for lost certificate.

Gordon to Jno. R. Dos Passes (New York)

Was too pressed to meet Dos Passes while in New York. Dos Passes' failure to carry out contract in R.R. enterprise has nearly ruined Gordon. Considers \$7,000 a debt of honor, but will pay it when Dos Passes places Gordon where Dos Passes' agreement and honor bind him to place Gordon.

March 8, 1888

Gordon (for Chestatee Gold Mining and Dredging Company) to Fred S. Ross & Assoc.

Proposes that addressees furnish capital to make some tests for gold in NE Georgia. Explains what is involved in testing - a canal to re-channel river, etc.

Gordon to W. O. Jones (Atlanta, Georgia)

Compelled to ask Jones to take diseased house off his hands and repay the money. Jones warranted the house as sound.

March 9, 1888

Gordon to Mr. Orlando McClendon (Newnan, Georgia)

Wishes to settle business of Clay County plantation which he had owned with his deceased brother. Suggests arbitrators to avoid any disagreeable differences as to what is right.

Undated

Gordon to R. G. Mathews (Reynolds, Georgia)

Sends copy of instructions to Capt. Carson on planting of pear trees.

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Partially illegible. Content similar to above.

March 10, 1888

Gordon to Alex Brown (Baltimore, Maryland)

Lengthy proposal for Brown's joining I.R.R. enterprise to help get road built. Suggests terms, arrangements, etc. Suggests second mortgage bonds or income land grant bonds. Does not wish to provoke hostile legislation. Does not wish to miss opportunities of Florida "boom".

March 14, 1888

Gordon to Gen. P. M. B. Young (Cartersville)

Telegram - "Jackson detained in Court till Monday - Will try others - Don't hesitate act independently and save your interests if opportunity occurs."

Undated

Gordon to Mr. Goff

Partially illegible. Concerns Huston Thompson Company, which is proposing to open a depot (?) in Atlanta. Col. Burr should come to aid in developing a place to cover whole Southern states.

March 20, 1888

Gordon to Dr. (?) Fox

Has check for \$10 which he has just handed to Capt. B. J. Davis, for whom it was intended.

March 19, 1888

Gordon to Mr. Brown

Largely illegible due to fading. Apparently concerns plan submitted by Brown in response to Gordon's plan. Brown's plan, according to Gordon, does not differ materially. Believes he can secure at least \$500,000 in good values along lines.

March 20, 1888

Gordon to Gen. Sam Thomas (10 Wall St., New York)

Requests Thomas to find out if Schley's remark meant that he would supply the money or that he would raise it. Supplies figures on land, which Thomas has seen. Land has value in quarrying. Encloses letter from Col. Sublett, distinguished mining engineer and geologist.

March 27, 1888

Gordon to E. C. Machen (Macon, Georgia)

To get Brown. to go in with Machen, proposed to add Machen's fourth, making their interest one half. Delay is crushing. Wants Machen to see him, then go to Baltimore and close with Brown.

April 5, 1888

Gordon to Captain W. S. Fuller

Improper for him to comment on matters referred to in Fuller's note, as they are local issues.

Gordon to W. M. Fudge (Oxford, Florida)

No policy-holder lost so much by Southern Life Insurance Company's failure as did Gordon. Company paid all death losses; could not do that and pay back policy-holders' money, too.

April 6, 1888

Gordon to Mr. G. R. Mathews

Enumerates information he desires in an itemized statement of financial status of ranch to date.

April 13, 1888

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson

Must forbid any more drafts except after special authority from himself, after being informed of purpose to which money will be put. Sending down some mules and horses and potatoes.

Gordon to Walter T. Forbes (Dallas, Texas)

Had talks with Oliver and Judge Tomkins. Lists points brought up by Oliver, so that Forbes will know how to respond when they meet. Feels there is new era in paper pulp and company could make several millions in clear profit. Encloses possible organizational plan. Wants Forbes to spend day in Atlanta on way to New York.

April 16, 1888

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Discusses use of horses and mules. Mill was not placed near R. R. as directed. Gives list of instructions concerning lumber which must be complied with. Wants to go to work at once on big break at R.R.

April 18, 1888

Gordon to Mr. Goff

Sends as requested obligation to place his stock in American Loan & Trust Company for 18 months. Asks several questions about status of this stock. Sorry to see Goff sever his active connection to company.

Gordon to Mr. Machen

Encloses letter in which Brown refuses to take hold of I.R.R. enterprise. What does Machen intend to do? Afraid Machen is too absorbed in other matters.

April 19, 1888

Gordon to Judge J. S. Pope

It is due to candor and to Pope to let Pope know that his re-appointment in Pike County is not a foregone conclusion, as many leading citizens endorse his opponent or even both men.

Gordon to Capt. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Encloses book and sends instructions about operation of lumber mill.

April 23, 1888

Gordon to W. T. Forbes (Dallas, Texas)

Has to go to Immigration Convention in North Carolina and cannot leave in time to go to Dallas. Would be good to get Alliance to take hold, but terms must be such that absolute control retained. Suggests that Alliance appoint a "commission" to come treat with them. Must be no mistakes, especially at outset.

April 24, 1888

Gordon to W. T. Forbes

Encloses requested note from Gen. Jno. C. Brown. Will discuss modifications of Gordon's pencilled notes. Must guard against being squeezed out by strong capitalists.

April 28, 1888

Gordon to Maj. Holmes Conrad (Winchester, Virginia)

Disston will speak to associates about making a proposition. Interested in any reasonable deal to get stockholders' money back, but is not willing to give up all rights before negotiating. Would like some small return for efforts. Value of land grant still good.

May 1, 1888

Gordon to Mr. Arnold

Further instructions about grade of lumber to be turned out by lumber mill.

May 6, 1888

Gordon to Captain (Carson)

Maj. Peter Pelham arriving as general manager of all operations of Flint River Land & Livestock company Essential that such a large business run efficiently. He will be elected vice-president of company, and Carson General Superintendent of farming and planting operations. Business should be conducted in name of company not connected with individuals.

May 15, 1888

Gordon to Captain Carson

Must know at once whether Carson wishes to join company or go his own way. Discusses where levee should be built.

May 16, 1888

Gordon to Mr. Alexander

Interested in sketch of young Col. Bayard Wilkeson. No truth to story connected with himself. To select a brave officer as special target inconsistent with his nature. Cites example of brave Federal officer at Antietam whom he ordered his men not to shoot - according to his men, as he was then shot himself and has no recollection. Placement of troops in sketch not accurate.

May 19, 1888

Gordon to Orlando McClendon (Newnan, Georgia)

Has put lot of money into Clay county plantation with deceased brother. Cannot afford to have matter go unsettled any longer.

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Accepts Carson's first proposition. Better that he remain in company Would prefer to buy Carson out than sell his own half of Brown property. Carson will be paid for his house when bond sales provide money. Deed will be written in such a way as to protect Carson. Leaving for New York.

June 8, 1888

Gordon to Gov. Phineas C. Lounsbury. President, Exchange National Bank (257 Broadway, New York)

Telegram - "I am using your name with Norvin Green's, Inman's, Generals Thomas and Brice and others Directors Rockmart Company Telegraph authority."

June 12, 1888

Gordon to W. B. Crittendon (?)

Reports confirm that Chestatee rich in gold. Submits two possible propositions for putting addressee's dredgers to work.

June 22, 1888

J. C. Wall (Wallview, Tennessee or Stevenson, Alabama)

Has never understood settlement between his brothers and Wall. Will meet any obligations if latter can explain how Gordon became involved.

June 23, 1888

Gordon to Governor Lounsbury (257 Broadway)

Sending copies of Rockmart. Greatest property he ever saw. Will soon start taking subscriptions and would like to know how to get at Lounsbury's monied friends. Private note - Lounsbury is to get free \$2500 of Bonds and \$25,000 of full paid stock.

June 28, 1888

Gordon to Michigan Buggy Company (345 Wabash Ave., Chicago)

Inquires about prices of buckboard and cart and requests full description.

August 16, 1888

Gordon to M. W. Cloer (Hassler's Mill, Georgia)

Interested in what Cloer says about smelting out ore and wants more information about minerals lands controlled by Cloer and tin ore.

August 17, 1888

Gordon to J. C. Wall (Stevenson, Alabama)

On basis of E. C. Gordon's statement sent by Wall, will assume latter's claim is valid; sends \$50, balance to be remitted soon.

September 5, 1888

Gordon to Paul McDaniel (Reynolds, Georgia)

Instructions for McDaniel to follow in inspecting lumber at Arnold's mill.

September 6, 1888

Gordon to E. Scofield, cashier (First Nat. Bank, New York)

Acceptance for \$800 discounted for him by Scofield falls due on 11th. Wishes to renew for \$600. Has incurred heavy expenses - daughter's wedding , followed by her prolonged illness, and two grandchildren's typhoid fever.

Gordon to Col. J. C. Wall (Wallview, Tennessee)

Sends check for \$50. Will have to pay as he can; he and family have been ill.

September 8, 1888

Gordon to Col. Lesley

Explains his plan for getting [I. R.R.] land grant, due to expire in February 1890, extended by organizing "The Fla. Development Company " to buy out I.R.R. charter and grants.

September 11, 1888

Gordon to Mr.? B. Stetson (Bucyrus?)

When can Stetson's foreman begin construction of the boat? Can workmen start preparing timbers as they come out of mill? Other comments & questions concerning boat and mill operations. Put Crittenden on subscription list. All taken, but can raise a little more if necessary and let Stetson in for something.

September 12, 1888

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Pelham can move kitchen if he wishes. Will purchase engine, gin, etc. if price can be agreed upon. Has to go to NE Georgia for a few days and will get down as soon as possible.

September 14, 1888

Gordon to Dr. W. Little, c/o Little & Wilkinson (Mobile, Alabama)

Sends information on Rockmart movement. Anxious for Southern people to get as large a holding as possible. Wishes to be notified if Little or friends are interested.

September 17, 1888

Gordon to Col. C. L. Stowell (Rochester, New York)

Sends some requested Rockmart papers. Much of whole amount taken as soon as books opened. Stowell's commissions to be paid in stock. Will send matter in few days which he thinks Stowell can handle in England.

September 20, 1888

Gordon to Garnett Andrews

Rockmart matter progresses favorably. Would like names of potential investors. Andrews' status remains just as if options had been renewed instead of transferred to Gordon.

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Company had no money, and he has had to get it by asking personal favors of friends. Would never have attempted to make crop this year if he had known they couldn't sell or borrow upon bonds. Carson has not thought over situation - Gordon's raising money on personal property etc. - before asking for pay.

September 26, 1888

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson

Wants information on parties who want oak lumber. Carson's offer to Arnold liberal and should not go higher. If Arnold won't settle at that figure, he will have to wait until some of lumber is sold; and they will settle according to the contract.

Gordon

Undated, unaddressed description of his half interest in an orange grove on Orange Lake, Florida. Wishes to borrow on mortgage of this half interest to push improvements and pay a \$2000 debt.

Undated

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Telegram - No disposition to injure Capt. Arnold. Will pay according to contract, but can't pay amount demanded.

October 10, 1888

Gordon to Orlando McClendon Esq. (Newnan, Georgia)

Willing to leave settlement of Clay County property to arbitration. Would deplore a suit, but without agreement on arbitration, duty to himself and family will require this.

Date indiscernible

Gordon to Loulie

Will make full statement for her, but prefers to have businessmen inspect it. She can choose a relative for arbitrator if she wants, while he would not choose anyone related for himself.

November 14, 1888

Gordon to Mr. Flint

Authority obtained from Tarvers to take possession of lands upon agreement with Flint. Gives basis upon which he is willing to have "Ocmulgee Land and Live Stock Company" undertake program. Prompt answer necessary.

December 6, 1888

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Shouldn't have consented to Carson's \$400 draft. Carson's actions indicate effort to have Gordon pay for former's house and leave stock still Carson's, something which Gordon has no intention of doing. Carson's action in matter very strange.

Gordon to "Judge"

Wants Mr. Plant to lend him \$5000 on orange grove interest. \$2000 judgement against him levied on grove will be transferred to Plant to enable latter to force payment of loan whenever demanded by him. Trying to develop property for daughter.

December 7, 1888

Gordon to Messrs. Echols and Richards (Meat market, Atlanta, Georgia)

Wants information on beef cattle prices during certain months.

Telegram from J. A. Bridges (Flora, Indiana)

"The kind of mares you want will cost in the neighborhood of sixty dollars here. Have bought few. Answer here."

Gordon's reply - December 7, 1888

Cannot afford mares at such prices.

December 11, 1888

Gordon to Marion Bryan

Hopes Bryan, as Carson's brother-in-law, can keep Carson from further mistakes. Carson's actions have put Gordon to serious inconvenience. Should have made Carson responsible for share of last year's losses. Carson cannot be again associated with direction of company No dividends paid out until losses and loans repaid, however many years this takes. If Carson does not sell out, can remain in his house under certain terms.

Undated

Gordon to Loulie

Sends account against Mountain Meadow. Reviews proposition for arbitration. Wants matter settled. Hugh Gordon and Mr. Lewis heard late Walter Gordon say deeds would be made to J. B. when R. & D. matter settled.

January 10, [1889?]

Gordon to Hon. Chas. Estes (Augusta, Georgia)

Thanks Estes for information about English Walnuts. Asks more questions on subject.

February 11, 1889

Gordon to "Orlando"

Orlando should have no hesitation about letting arbitrators settle matters between Gordon and Loula. Settlement will be simple. Wrong to keep property from Gordon. Without prompt answer, must institute friendly suit.

February 13, 1889

Gordon to Judge James F. Willis (Columbus, Georgia)

Sends affidavit in reference to Carson's effort to have receiver appointed for Flint River Land and Livestock Company Such a proceeding groundless and in the nature of blackmail. Financial condition of company excellent, and there is no reason for appointment of a receiver. Charter has been strictly followed; stock has not been over-issued. Willis to be his representative to Judge Smith.

February 15, 1889

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Note Asking him to pay all the note on Brown place received. According to contract, Carson should send half. Estate attorney's figure on amount due and Carson's do not agree.

February 16, 1889

Gordon to Hon. Jonathan Norcross (at Thomasville, Georgia)

Sorry Norcross is not feeling well. Encloses receipt for \$200 subscribed to Chestatee Dredging Company and requests check.

Gordon to Robt. A. Howard (c/o E. P. Hamilton & Company, 96 Broadway)

"Are you willing to rest under the imputation of having taken advantage of my friendship & confidence in you, to obtain money from me?"

February 20, 1889

Gordon to Maj. P. Pelham (Reynolds, Georgia)

Busy with contested election cases. Gordon is solely responsible for Pelham's presence at Flint River, and Carson solely responsible for necessity of bringing Pelham. Discusses history of his dealings with Carson and Carson's bad faith. Matter will go into courts.

February 23, 1889

Gordon to Major Thomas P. Branch (Augusta, Georgia)

Requests Branch and friends send check immediately for \$1000 in the Chestatee dredging business or to return their receipt.

February 25, 1889

Gordon to Loula

Distressed by implications of her hesitation to settle with him on Clay County matter. Urges arbitration.

February 26, 1889

Gordon to Capt. J. P. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Discusses Carson's conduct, which has lessened his regrets at having to resort to courts to settle between them.

March 2, 1889

John to "My Sweet Sister"

Unhappy over her letter. Did not mean to hurt her. The business matter should be settled in a business way. Wants to leave matter to disinterested men because she and Orlando both say the other is handling it, and nothing has been accomplished.

Gordon to Orlando

Writes again about possibility of arbitration on Mountain Meadow property. Hates to think of suit between himself and Loula. No necessity for disagreement; facts are clear.

April 3, 1889

Hugh Gordon to A. S. Platt (4 Liberty Place, New York)

Platt has been recommended as responsible assayist. Wants to be sure he understands Platt's terms correctly.

Goraon to ?

Almost entirely illegible.

April 6, 1889

Gordon to Col. A. C. Carson (Butler, Georgia)

Of three methods of settlement proposed, J. P. Carson chose arbitration and then reneged. Then hoped matter could be amiably settled in court. No advantage taken of Carson as minority stockholder; would regret having to take steps to rectify such misrepresentations. May go to Reynolds and would be happy to see A. C. C.

April 12, 1889

Gordon to Mr. J. P. Mansfield, Cleveland Linseed Oil Company (Euclid Ave, Cleveland, Ohio)
He and Forbes wish to arrive Cleveland May 3 or 4. Due at New York Centennial. Wishes to see entire oil-making process before Mansfield's mills shut down. Proceeding to organize Farmers' Alliance Association in South to control all cottonseed. This information confidential for Mansfield and business associates.

April 19, 1888 (?)

Gordon to Mr. W. B. Crittendon, general manager (Bucyrus, Ohio)

Regrets delay in paying account of Bucyrus Mfg. Company. Subscribers have been slow to respond with money for dredge; will try to secure either funds or new subscribers in New York.

May 14, 1889

Gordon to Messrs. Mansfield, Henrick, Evans (Cleveland, Ohio)

Will outline ideas in matter discussed between them. Concerns processing of cotton seed. No power in his section could stand before such arrangement as he proceeds to propose. Wishes to hear from them.

Gordon to Capt. Jno. M. Brosius (87 Capital Ave., Atlanta)

Explains plan to combine best features of roller gin and old saw gin, and wants aid of Brosius' superior mechanical ability, for which he will be given one fourth interest and promised no monetary assessments.

Gordon to Dr. Amos Fox, secretary, Fulton County Survivors Assoc.

Surprised at Assoc.'s refusal to aid a badly disabled veteran simply because he doesn't live in Fulton County. There is no Assoc. in Gordon County to take care of him.

May 29, 1889

Gordon to G. E. Herrick (Cleveland, Ohio)

Pleased to have Herrick's letter and replies to his inquiries about organization, raising capital, number of plants, etc. Apparently concerns his cottonseed project. Hoping to see Herrick and associates in a few days.

June 3, 1889

Gordon to Robt. Bryce (New York)

Encloses certificate for 199 shares in Brunswick Harbor and Land Company to be used as collateral against \$1500 loan. Greatly relieved, as it is impossible to meet draft now.

June 12, 1889

Gordon to Sheppard Homans, Prest. Etc.

Accepts proposition that payments on \$15,000 policy will be cancelled as they fall due in consideration of his aid to the company Either party can cancel arrangement. Homans will inform Mr. Wynn so that policy will not be forfeited.

Gordon to George R. Briggs (Montezuma, Georgia)

Discusses matters between company and J. P. Carson which must be submitted to the courts and those to be submitted to arbitration.

June 13, 1889

Gordon to Col. W. L. Brown (Evening News Office, New York)

Would like to borrow \$5,000 with Florida orange grove property as collateral rather than \$10,000 in Flint River Company bonds, as bonds not ready for several months. Describes status of these lands. Brown can opt to exchange property mortgage for bonds.

Hugh Gordon to Jas. A. Simmons (45 Broadway, New York)

J. B. Gordon has drawn on Simmons as instructed. Col. Thompson has been urged to push work and therefore needs more funds. Will need pump soon. Has competent manager.

June 24, 1889

Henry W. Grady Esq. (Atlanta, Georgia)

Has heard that Grady told Julius Brown that Gordon is predicting early death of Brown's father and is seeking to influence votes for himself as latter's successor, and that Grady had written a certain Constitution editorial. Wishes to know if Grady did these things and why.

Gordon to Henry W. Grady Esq. (Atlanta, Georgia)

Private correspondence. Similar to above.

July 1, 1889

Gordon to J. W. Evans

Wants to know reason for delay in concluding arrangement with Mr. Forbes and himself. Evans' Company's annual income under arrangement would exceed price at which they could sell whole process.

July 5, 1889

Gordon to H. ?, Esq. (Atlanta, Georgia)

Partially illegible. Some of Brown's statements untrue. Never contemplated writing a certain letter. Accepts addressee's disclaimer of intention to reflect on Gordon in editorial. Addressee misunderstood mutual friend who said Gordon had asked for support. Experienced amazement at hearing addressee a party to wrong Gordon felt so keenly.

July 6, 1889

Gordon to Ja. A. Simmons, Aldrich Constr. (45 Broadway, New York)

Telegram - "Yours asking shipping directions never received. Very sorry about delay. Ship pump machinery to O. B. Thompson, Gainesville, Georgia, immediately.

Hugh Gordon to Mr. Jas. A. Simmons (45 Broadway, New York)

Ship quickly so that machinery will arrive before mechanic goes on vacation. Dredging results improving. Drawing on Simmons for \$500. Reports on progress of operation.

Gordon to W. B. Crittendon, general manager, (Bucyrus, Ohio)

Appreciates their patience about money due them. Failure of small pump has caused problems, but expect new one to solve whole situation. Needs competent engineer to replace one who is leaving.

July 9, 1889

Gordon to Mr. George R. ? (Montezuma)

Partially illegible. Concerns dealings with J. P. Carson and Mrs. Carson's worries. [Barely legible - Carson has apparently died.]

July 11, 1889

Gordon to Holmes (?), (Senate Chamber?)

Partially illegible. Concerns judgeship appointment. Must appoint Haynes.

July 12, 1889

Hugh Gordon to A. B. Linderman (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

[Legibility poor.] Had hoped to see Linderman to settle on his interest in Okefenokee Drainage matter, which he discusses. Harmony among selves absolutely necessary in this undertaking. Requests that Linderman return enclosed agreement signed. Copy of agreement follows.

Gordon to Mr. Chappell

Decisions on appointments most painful. Sorry he has had to withdraw promise to Sen. Holmes that he would appoint Chappell.

Gordon to President & cashier, Fourth Nat. Bank (New York)

Requests that they pardon delays in forwarding acceptance and new draft to replace expired one. Draw on him at sight for interest.

July 24, 1889

Gordon to W. W. Littlejohn (Decatur, Alabama)

Wishes to know what draft or note was paid by money drawn from First National Bank of New York.

Gordon to Judge Spencer Atkinson (Brunswick, Georgia)

Confidential correspondence. Unfortunate that Atkinson's brother applied for county judgeship while Atkinson is Superior Court judge. Suggests that brother withdraw name. Requests telegraph on receipt of this letter.

Unsigned to Judge ? M. Reese

Reese's letter suggests he has been offended by Gordon, who would greatly regret this.

Hugh Gordon to James A. Simmons (45 Broadway, New York)

Simmons has sent rotary pump. New pontoon boat completed and afloat. Discusses operation. Forwards \$500 draft. Hopes to see Simmons in New York about matters of importance.

July 27, 1889

Gordon to Col. A. A. Carson and George R. Briggs

Feels offer for Capt. Carson's interest more than he should have offered under circumstances.

Would prefer that they arrange payment of Capt. Carson's debt to Gordon and the company and let Mrs. Carson retain the interest.

Gordon to H. P. Howard (Dublin, Georgia)

Only influence in appointment of Judge Haynes was sense of official duty.

Gordon to ?

Illegible.

August 8, 1889

Gordon to Mr. Marshall

Marshall's own fault that he didn't get money for Chess Howard debt when Gordon first wrote former.

August 12, 1889

Gordon to Hon. James B. Conyers (Cartersville, Georgia)

Explains why he did not feel authorized to comply with Conyers' request for further delay and argument in case. Could not question unanimous opinion of both Representatives and Senator.

August 20, 1889

Notarized deposition by Hugh Gordon (Fulton County)

Thinks his \$150 watch stolen by porter in Pullman car he took. Negligence and indifference of conductor left no recourse except to appeal to Pullman Company in Atlanta.

Hugh Gordon to A. L. Koatz (?), Agent Pullman Palace Car Company (Atlanta)

Letter to accompany above statement.

August 27, 1889

Gordon to C. T. Stowell (Vienna, Georgia)

Partially illegible. Concerns bill passed by both houses of Georgia Legislature which apparently displeased Stowell and other members of Confederate Veterans Association in Dooly County.

August 28, 1889

Gordon to James A. Simmons (45 Broadway, New York)

Discusses terms by which they might arrange compan 's debt to Bucyrus company, with mortgage on dredge and fixtures a possibility. To mortgage would add stock bonus to get Simmons' friend to advance money. Requests Simmons to see \$250 draft at Hanover Bank be taken up; has drawn on him for remaining \$250. Prospects good, and they are impatient to start dredge.

August 29, 1889

Hugh Gordon to Waldorf H. Phillips (Times Bldg., New York)

If Waldorf would get bill for charter ready soon, H. G. might be able to secure its passage before legislature adjourns; but this would be difficult.

Gordon to Orlando McClendon (Newnan, Georgia)

As three years have brought no settlement on Mountain Meadow property, has instructed his attorney to proceed in courts. In no condition to neglect his interests any longer.

September 3, 1889

Hugh Gordon to Col. O. B. Thompson (Gainesville, Georgia)

Impatient like him about hose which is being shipped. Cannot afford to advance him the \$250 requested.

Gordon to Judge of Probate or Ordinary Court of Clay County (Ashland, Alabama)
Wishes to know name and address of administrator of property of deceased brother Walter in Alabama. Walter left no will.

Gordon - addressee illegible

Partially illegible. Concerns property owned by him and Walter. Gives account of their transactions. Wishes to know whether he should proceed by bill of direct suit, in federal or state court. Hugh will work under addressee's direction if latter undertakes case. Postscript concerns something to do with Governor Jones of Alabama after next election.

September 5, 1889

Hugh Gordon to Mutual Reserve Fund Life Assn. (Porter Bldg., New York)
Encloses self-explanatory letter from Arnold and Arnold, attorneys. Wishes full information on points therein and instructions on how addressees wish him to proceed.

September 6, 1889

Hugh Gordon to J. P. Child (139 Broadway, New York)
Reference to J. B. G. in clipping enclosed by Child is an outrage, especially since it is connected with disgusting stuff about H. H. G. Will confer with Child in New York as to best course to pursue in matter.

September 10, 1889

Unsigned to Mrs. Charlotte B. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)
Mrs. C.'s letter betrays her lack of information. Feels tempted to turn matter over to courts. Gives facts to show injustice of her suspicions. Still willing to use arbitration. Capt. Carson transferred his deeds to Brown place to company voluntarily, and Gordon had to pay \$1000 on Carson's interest. Carson's estate bound for share of losses in their farming venture. Will withdraw his proposition and have courts investigate accounts to protect himself against unjust criticisms.

Gordon to Col. A. A. Carson and George R. Briggs

Encloses copy of his reply to Mrs. Carson. Sorry to send matter to courts, but his good name is at stake. She misjudged his efforts to help her.

September 18, 1889

Gordon to James A. Simmons (45 Broadway, New York)
Afraid that Simmons does not understand that they propose as security on loan a first mortgage upon entire plant. Partially illegible.

Brother John to Sweet Sister

Has tried to avoid a suit, but that is only way left for him to protect himself.

September 18, 1889

Gordon to Robert Bonner's Sons (Spruce & William St., New York)
Received check for \$200. If time permits, will write requested article on impressions of centennial at Philadelphia two years ago, or else will return check.

September 25, 1889

Gordon to Jas. A. Simmons (45 Broadway, New York)

Writes to clear up confusion about some drafts. Expects their enterprise to be great success.

Hugh Gordon to W. G. Oakman, vice president, etc. (2 Wall St., New York)

Was to secure, on commission basis, large claims against U.S. government due the R. & D. R. R. Company and receive rail pass for whole line for these services. Did not receive pass because of its questionable nature under Interstate Commerce law, but would like pass good within state of Georgia.

September 30, 1889

Gordon to Walter T. Forbes (Atlanta)

Sends prospectus of Ocmulgee Land and Livestock company Describes value of lands involved.

October 8, 1889

Unsigned [Gordon] to W. B. Crittenden, General manager (Bucyrus, Ohio)

Understands their impatience about unpaid money and explains company's difficult circumstances. Several subscribers backed out. Simmons was to put up money in return for mortgage, but hasn't heard from him. Feels sure of great success, and C's company will be paid.

October 9, 1889

Gordon to Judge Roberts (Eastman, Georgia)

Confidential correspondence. Enormity of outrage, if there is any truth to old lady's statement, warrants investigation by state authorities. Convicts are county convicts, not state; and Governor cannot intervene. Requests Roberts, judge of that circuit, to look into matter quickly and quietly.

October 10, 1889

Gordon to James T. Woodward (Hanover National Bank, New York)

Hopes Woodward will join Inman, Belmont, and others who have agreed to take Flint River Company bonds for making a loan. If Woodward finds such arrangement unsatisfactory, hopes he will let loan run another twelve months substituting as security same amount of new bonds as he has of old ones. Would consider this a great personal favor.

October 15, 1889

Gordon to Norman W. Dodge (New York City)

Mr. Bruce has had to sell South Brunswick stock which he held as security on a \$1500 loan to Gordon. Wishes to know at what price he might it back from Dodge and Mr. Hilton.

Undated

Proposition signed by Gordon for himself and associates. Involves purchase of property owned by Dean and associates.

October 31, 1889

Gordon and H. Gordon to Dr. G. (?) A. Kar.. ?

Matter of their proposed corporation in fine shape. Thinks bill for canal company will pass legislature shortly. They accept addressee's terms for division of interests.

Undated

Gordon to Col. A. A. Carson (Columbus, Georgia)

Has no desire to injure Mrs. [J.P.] Carson. Main interest not money due him from Carson's estate, but inexcusable, absurd talk about his taking advantage of a widow etc. With good wishes for A. A. C. and every disposition to aid Mrs. Carson.

November 5, 1889

Gordon to Messrs. Coffin & Seaton (El Paso, Texas)

Introduces self and requests information on onion seed which they sell.

November 11, 1889

Gordon to Col. Carey Thornton (Columbus, Georgia)

Mrs. Carson has changed her mind about arbitrating and refers him to Thornton, her attorney. Would prefer a prompt settlement, avoiding litigation if possible; otherwise, wishes to set date for submission of matter to courts in friendly suit.

December 14, 1889

Hugh Gordon to Wm. C. Chase, Prest. etc. (Washington)

Likes to familiarize self with business venture before joining it. Will consent to act as director for Georgia on conditions mentioned in their conversation, with option of withdrawing if he so desires after further investigation.

Gordon to Judge Henry M. Herman (Mills Bldg., New York)

Minutes and Record Books of I.R.R. not in box sent by Judge. Requests Judge to find them and send them express, marking package "D. H. Frank no. 958."

December 17, 1889

Gordon to Mr(s). Charlotte B. Carson (Reynolds, Georgia)

Company will have no land to rent Mrs. Carson next year, as put under cultivation. Company will also use all laborers, houses, and all rails.

December 18, 1889

Gordon to Mrs. T. B. McKellar (Greenwood, South Carolina)

Writes to acquaint her with exact condition of things on her plantation which he will rent for 5 years beginning January, 1890. Much of property needs repair, land is worn out. Asks if she would be willing to sell at some point during lease, in which case, he would not hesitate to make investments necessary to regain value of place. Capt. Carson had offered \$3,000 for it.

**A brief abstract for Letterbook G.
1890 February to November 1890**

February 18, 1890

Gordon to J. W. Thompson, Ed. People ' s Journal (Jacksonville, Florida)
Will be glad to confer with conservative colored men at their Atlanta convention in March.

February 28, 1890

Gordon to S. Handelbaum (H. B. Claflin & Company, New York)
Thanks for compliment. No amount of salary would induce him to take position in business suggested by addressee.

March 4, 1890

Gordon to Mrs. McKellar (Greenwood, South Carolina)
If Mrs. McK would agree now on reasonable price of plantation at end of Gordon's five – year lease, he could afford improvement investment.

March 22, 1890

Gordon to Maj. R. P. Duncan (Louisville, Kentucky)
Accepts proposition to become president of Clayton Sewing Machine Motor Company being organized by addressee, W. H. Clayton, and C. E. Powell; but adds some of own alterations to stock details. Wants no entangling alliances, particularly with Brosius people.

March 24, 1890

Telegram reply from Duncan - "Your modification of my proposition accepted have written"
Note follows.

April 3, 1890

Gordon to A. J. C. Pope (Butler, Georgia)
Fi fas cannot be levied on lands deeded by Carson to Flint River Company, thereby evading debt.
Insists that advertisement of Mrs. Carson's stock for sale be made, in accordance with law.

April 9, 1890

Gordon to Col. Carey Thornton (Columbus, Georgia)
Mrs. Carson's demands unreasonable. Willing to join Thornton and A. A. Carson in peaceable settlement on reasonable terms.

Gordon (Pres. Clayton Sewing Machine Motor Company) to Dwight ? Machine Company
(262 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut)
Orders a spindle drill press and spindle drill.
Gordon to ? Machine Tool Company (Cincinnati, Ohio)
Barely legible. Machinery order.

April 10, 1890

Gordon to J. Kerr Brauch (Richmond, Virginia)

Dredge enterprise working well; expects to start paying dividend, in spite of many accidents and delays.

Gordon (Clayton Sewing Machine Motor Company) to Jones & Laughlins: Limited
(Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)
Machinery order.

April 11, 1890

Hugh Gordon to Maj. R. P. Duncan (Louisville, Kentucky)

Has read charter, made couple of slight changes. J. B. Gordon will try to sign and return it promptly.

April 18, 1890

Gordon for Clayton Sewing Machine Motor Company to Messrs. E. Gould & Eberhardt
(Newark, New Jersey)
Hopes they will expedite shipment of gear cutter.

Undated

Gordon to Col. W. W. Barry (Bedford City, Virginia)

Suggests plan of raising money for their proposed railroad and the securing of the charter.
Confidential - Thinks they should divide another block of construction stock between themselves. Wants his relation to Barry's Bedford City Land Company definitely understood.
Will begin negotiations with Atlanta & Florida R. R. people and Georgia Midland people.
Hunter's Park lands very important.

May 22, 1890

Gordon to Mr. Marshall

What sort of settlement, land or money, can be arranged outside of court to dissolve Chess Howard's debt to Gordon - \$1,000 plus interest since 1883.

June 19, 1890

Hugh Gordon to Col. O. B. Thompson (Gainesville, Georgia)

Chestatee gold enterprise a failure. J. B. and Hugh cannot afford to put any more money into it.
If no gold turns up when dredge moved to best place, must shut down and give it up.

June ?, 1890

Gordon to Dr. N. A. Pratt (Atlanta, Georgia)

Wants reports on 1,000 in section 16, and in sections 17 and 21. Must raise \$100,000 on it by August 1 or lose it. After report secure as much good phosphate land as possible with long options. discusses division of interests.

June 21, 1890

Gordon to W. F. Alexander (Augusta, Georgia)

Would be happy for Alexander to visit him at home to discuss possibility of Gordon's connection with Alexander's movement.

July 5, 1890

Gordon to G. E. Herrick (Cleveland, Ohio)

Herrick's insertion of a clause entirely defeats program and makes it unacceptable. Explains how stock in new company must be made full paid by arrangement with Forbes and Gordon. Must stop all negotiations with Alliance until authority received to strike the clause.

Postscript - Prospectus almost ready. Feels can handle this gigantic undertaking by enlisting Alliance and Farmers Association.

July 10, 1890

Gordon to Messrs. Barrs and Clark (Ocala, Florida)

Hopes addressees will extend options. Liberal policy on their part will promote mutual interests.

September 16, 1890

Gordon to Hon. L. F. Livingston (Atlanta, Georgia)

Has received note denying having made statements reflecting on Gordon's character. Agrees to see L. at noon at the Capitol, along with two gentlemen named by L.

September 19, 1890

Gordon to Clark Howell, Editor Constitution

Partially illegible. If Constitution is going to condemn independent pro-Gordon movement in senatorial race, should condemn independent anti-Gordon movement as well.

September 22, 1890

Gordon to Dr. H. V. Hardwick (Conyers, Georgia)

Deplores any split in Democratic party. Always urges his friends to vote for regular nominees (rather than independents). Cannot afford dissension in Democratic ranks however grave the injustice to any candidate. Being grossly misrepresented to Alliance friends, but feels they will not be deceived.

Gordon to Hon. A. M. Helm (Conyers, Georgia)

Appreciates Helm's devotion, but does not want him to do anything, in an effort to help Gordon, which would jeopardize Democratic party unity in Rockdale.

Gordon to Hon. A. C. McCalla (Conyers, Georgia)

Content similar to above.

October 2, 1890

Gordon to Hon. L. L. Folk [or Felk] (Washington)

Concluded from addressee's letter that he is interested in cooperating in development of cotton oil company Will use his name on private circular. After reading his letter, has decided to change

name from Farmers or Alliance Company to "Farmers Co-operative Cotton Oil and Paper Stock Company"

October 20, 1890

Gordon (Governor) to J. G. J. Dunham, Ordinary (Marion County)

Cannot arrange compensation for cattle lost to disease. Had Commissioner Agriculture investigate and quarantine, but funds for this purpose have run out. Has proposed relevant legislation, but no action forthcoming from legislature.

November 29, 1890

Hugh Gordon (Atlanta) to Mr. ? Harper, Pres. Mut. Res. Fund Life Association (? , New York)
Barely legible. Involves Sibley's suit against the Association for \$27 thousand and upcoming trial or hearing.

prepared by Jan Silverstein