

Matagorda May 23, 1837

My Father

I have received no letters from you or from home lately except one of March 13th from mama received this date in one of your letters to Banta you enquired of him if he or myself wanted any money and if So would try to Send us Some. I advised him not to request any Sent him then as he nor myself had any particular need of any and as the State of the country was then So unsettled it would not have been advisable to lay out munej for almost any kind of Property - but Since - what we most feared has at last come & been defeated viz. the Mexican fleet which came off and blockaded our coast but only held it for three weeks at the end of which time one of their vessels was Sunk Two ran on Shore and their best one captured by a USA Sloop of war the Natches and Sent to Pensacola as a Pirate this circumstance throws the cost of the defense of our coast off from us and is assumed by the USA and without the coast the Mexicans cannot injure Texas in the three weeks the Mexicans took from our coast Seven vessels five of which were of the USA - one of which was retaken the Balence are in open account to be Settled with USA - our country is now in a State of Tranquility So far as enemies are concerned but there is some commotion in Congress in relation to the Land Law by which the land office was to be open on the first of June- I have just returned from the Seat of Government and I am Satisfied that the land office

will not be opened at the time Specified by law this
I regret as I have been at Some Expense in building me
a good house on a League of Land which I Selected
as my head right and it is one of very great value
and I am extermely anxious to know whether I Shall
Succeed in getting my patent for the Same- But in
relation to the Subjects I first named in this Banta is anxious
to buy Some Land and has not as much money as will
buy him any considerable Quantity- and for my own Part
Justice to my devoted wife requires that I Should provide her
with a good Servant and I cannot well Spare from my
operations & Business more than about \$300- or four and I would
like to get from home about \$4 or \$500 more which will
be necessary in order to purchase a good Servant
I could buy one now but it would criple me So much
in my means that I would not be able to make the
necessary advances on consignments & the commission
Business that I am doing- of the amount I want there
must have been Due to May at least \$150 this Spring
for rents and interest in the Hands of Mr. Glen and besides
Mr. Glen holds in his hands the half of 65 Shares Mohawk
Bank Stock \$5 each amounting to \$162.50 which Mary & myself
both wish him to Sell & have ready the money against we
may Send for it unless he is willing to make up an amt
equal to \$300- including the amt due to May in his hands
for rents & interest this Spring- We are Some what at a
loss how to Send home- but have concluded that Banta
Should the next time the Martha goes out which will be
in about 6 weeks- go with her to N. Orleans - and thence

either to Philadelphia or New York- and on his arrival
then apprise you by letter & thus communicate with home
However I hope that if you Should receive this within 4 or 5
weeks you will immediately write to him and direct to N.
Orleans advising him what course to pursue- also a Short
line of instructions both to Philadelphia & New York advising
him which he may receive So Soon as he gets there-
provided he goes-as the distance is great & considerable
Expense in going from here home We may yet wait till
we again hear from you but I think most likely that
Banta will go as before named- him & myself are well
but Mary is not well now and I do not expect that She will
be untill she is again a mother_ She expects to be confined in
August- We wish that you could apprise Mr. Glen of our intention
of Sending home & our wishes- although I intend to write to him
by the next vessel from this port with particulars the capt
the vessel is only waiting for me & I must close this- it is
the Martha & I own one fourth of her I spoke more of her
in my letter of last evening to mama please write us
immediately on receipt of this. I think we will get
letters in less time hereafter as the mails are well established
here now Banta writes to John & you will receive his by
the same mail I Suppose- Let us all be remembered
to all our friends and our best wishes and affections
accepted in haste

Your Son
A Mitchell

Wednesday Morning May 24th

(Envelope)

(Postmark)
New Orleans La. June 9 25

Mr. Hugh Mitchell
Spreakers Baisin P.O.
Montgomery Co.
New York
USA

May 23
1837

[This is a *LITERAL* transcription, complete with original spelling, punctuation, and line breaks.
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