

Galveston 27 Mar 1858

J. H. Brown Esq
San Francisco.

Dear Sir,

I have your favor of 20th Ultio:
and note what you say about your lands & your desire
to realize by making a "limping trade" - I regret however
that I can give you but poor encouragement to hope for
any very early disposition of them in this way unless at
merely nominal figures - An opportunity might however
be presented & if you will give me a minimum
figure for each tract, and also for the whole. I will do
what I can for you - I have prepared a P./A. which
you can execute & have authenticated by a commr. for
Texas & return to me with instructions, so that if an
opportunity should offer, I may be prepared to close
any offer that I may receive over your limits - It
frequently occurs, that parties, upon the spur of the moment,
make offers for lands they would not care, after having
time for reflection & enquiry, to confirm - Hence the
importance, should I attempt to negotiate a sale for
you, that I be prepared to consummate it, by making
titles at once -

I have sent to the Genl. Land Office for information
concerning the Richard Ross Survey, as I have examined
my abstract of titles again, without finding it reported -
De Cordova has been absent at the North for several months

& I believe has not yet returned — His absence
may account for you not receiving yr. Tax
rects. for 1857 — I suppose whoever has charge
of his business during his absence will have
attended to the payment —

I have examined the records in relation to your lots, and do
not find they have ever been sold for Taxes — I thought it best
not to speak to your agent on the subject, as by calling his
attention to the fact of C??gers heirs still having an interest, it
might interfere with you acquiring — You had better try in
some way or other to purchase, as the probability is that our
City property will shortly appreciate very rapidly — These lots
are well situated for a private residence & are in a good
neighborhood, & though just now they would not probably
sell for more than 400 \$ each or \$475 at most — I consider them
good property to keep. — If I can serve you in this let me know —
I have reports concerning all of your lands, but find none of
them Saleable for actual settlement — Those in Montgomery Co.
are represented as being of pretty good quality, but not yet

in the neighborhood of settlements — I would remark however that we cannot place much dependance upon reports from persons who has not examined the lands themselves, as they generally speak from a general knowledge of that particular section of country where the land is said to be located, or from common rumour — If you deem it adviseable I will have them all examined by a Surveyor before offering them —

I have not seen Mrs. Daniels Since the rect. of your letter, having been too busy to call upon her — I deputised Charlotte

to present your regards & also to kiss Sam for you & I think Sam did not seriously object to this duty being delegated, as he is evidently a "Chip from the Old block"

I delivered Mrs. B's message to my Wie & daughters, who in return desire to be kindly remembered to Mrs. Brown, to whom you will also please present my kindest regards, and say to her, I fully appreciate the "Many pretty things" she says of me, but she must be careful not to say them so loud that my Wife will hear! —

Very truly Yours

A. F. James