

Galveston 27 Mar 1858

J. N. Brown Esq
San Francisco.

Dear Sir,

I have your favor of 20th ulto: and note what you say about your lands & your desire to realize by making a "lumping 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 Comm^r 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 Hop 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 your 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 Congress being still having an interest, it might interfere with your 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 200 \$ 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 dependence 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 rumor - If you deem it advisable I will have them all examined by a Surveyor before offering them -

I have not seen Mr. Daniels since the recd. of your letter, having been too busy to call upon her - I deposited 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 wife & 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