

Volume 1

Pages 123-124

SHCJ ARCHIVES - MAYFIELD

[Copied from Typescript copy of original]

The Convent July 22nd. 1878
Mayfield
Hawkhurst,
Sussex

+
J.M.J

My dear John (Bowen)

I received your letter and its enclosure yesterday and have taken a copy of the plan of the Bowen Estate to send to Mr. Bravo. He has large Estates himself in Jamaica and his family have lived there for many years going backwards & forwards at the right season, and avoiding all danger of infection of yellow fever – Unfortunately my poor brother and his only son went when the seeds of the disease were just ripe. – but with common care I think the climate as healthy as Italy especially in the mountains. I can remember hearing my dear Mother speak of it as being most delightful if only you protect yourself against the insects. If I were George I wld (sic) offer to go as Agent for the property & take all proper precautions to get the necessary information as to the sugar land and their productions and culture. Now that the slaves are emancipated of course there are plenty of negroes to hire. I do not advise you to go for no doubt your Mother needs your help, but the Estate ought not to go out of the family. If Tarita Milmo's father knew that there was a family estate like that in Jamaica he would not be quite in such a hurry as to say you sh^{ld} not correspond.

She is a charming girl & if you are really attached to her why not ask her Father for her hand, & send him a copy of

Continued below

the Estate which used to bring from \$10,000 to 20,000 annually. How much better would it be for both you and George for you to take an interest in the Jamaica sugar lands than to potter on with cattle on the ranche for Mexicans to steal!! Your father used to sell the Hides I understood by shipping them and I suppose the meat was sold to the Butchers or by other means turned to profit – The quantity of meat, cooked & hermetically sealed, in tin cans, used throughout England is amazing – it comes from South America and from Australia chiefly, When you or George intend to become wealthy gentlemen & settle in the beautiful mountains on your own Estates you must let me know & I will get you letters of recommendation or introductions to those who are thoroughly up in experience & in knowledge, but I sincerely hope you may let nothing induce you to sell your patrimony.

If Louis Duval spoke of you as a wealthy family no doubt he meant that you had the means to become so by the Texas and the Jamaica Estates. I will write again when I hear from Mr. Bravo.

Ever your loving aunt,
C.C.

I have written to Bella. I am better T. God.

[The last part of this letter is written around the margin]