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Park & Preston; and, if at the depot,  
it may be used up, and if shipped  
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Elson & Templeman have treated me  
like dogs in my event. God, I have  
uniformly written to them politely,  
and in some cases sent them a  
stamp to answer with, and they have  
neither paid the debt, or, deigned to  
answer my letters, or, write a word  
in explanation. Now Uncle I want

Greensburg Ind. Dec. 2<sup>d</sup> 1873

My Dear Uncle,

Father rec'd a letter from you last week,  
containing the sad news of the death of  
you dear baby. For a long time I had  
been apprehensive that some trouble would  
befal you, knowing that the fatal  
fever was prevalent in many places  
of Texas, and I so wrote you in a  
letter over a month ago, which I di-  
rected to Courtney, and which I fear  
you did not receive. It is very hard  
for one to measure the extent of his loss,  
when suddenly bereft of a tender and  
loved plant of his own household.  
And there are no words that give comfort  
to the grief stricken one. To know that  
you have the heart-felt sympathy of far distant  
friends in this sore bereavement, may not  
lessen the pang which comes from a

realizing sense of that eternal  
separation between you and your  
dear child, and yet it may bring  
to you some little comfort after all -  
knowing that you are not forgotten.

We believe in God's divine revelation, though  
I grieve to know that our lives do  
not always conform to its teachings.

The sum of human experience teaches  
that we, who live to maturity, experience  
a far greater amount of sorrow than  
joy. This being the case, and the Bible  
true, the little darling whom you mourn,  
is transplanted to a realm of peace  
and bliss, and will live forever in  
that world where sickness and sorrow  
are not known. This is my faith, and  
I trust it is yours; and if yours, you  
cannot but submit, and say, God's will,  
not mine be done. The dear little child  
is not alone up yonder. She will not <sup>be</sup> without  
loving ones to surround her. We shall know

each other there, and, perchance,  
mother and children are together,  
without a want or fear, and are  
awaiting the coming of ~~the~~ those  
behind. That we all may meet together  
in the happy land is my earnest prayer.

As, already said  
I wrote you to Courtney, I trust you  
will have received the letter ere this reaches  
you, for I wrote on some business important  
to myself. I will merely recapitulate in brief.  
You know I sold to Nelson & Templeman  
Navasota, BBL Kell. Bourbon \$3.00,  
and, that there was a misunderstanding as  
to whether the pay was to be specie or  
currency. So soon as I learned this,  
I wrote them to remit to my agents  
Park & Preston, Galveston in currency,  
when they were pleased to do so.  
They had already written my agents  
in a seeming ill humor, that the  
liquor was subject to their order.

I ask you to do me the favor which in like circumstances I would do for you, and that is, to go to Navasota and see these men, and find out what is the matter and whether they have or have not used the whiskey, and, if not, where is it. Take charge of it, if you find it (and they don't wish to pay for it,) and then write to me. If the whiskey is not used, it is the best to day in the state, and is worth here \$4<sup>50</sup> per gal. Whatever your expenses are I will pay. I am in a very close place. My Texas trip has nearly ruined me, and if I don't get this money I will be in a still worse fix. I hereby authorize you to receive and receipt for the money for the whiskey, which you can express to me, or, send me a check from your bank on New York. You can say this and show

Your Authority to Mess Elson  
& Templeman. I have already  
paid Mess Park & Preston their  
Commission on this sale, so that  
there is no necessity of the money  
passing through their hands. But,  
if Elson & Templeman want to pay it  
through them let them remit <sup>to them</sup>. Please  
do these things for me, and fix the  
matter up. Acknowledge the  
receipt of this, and let me  
hear from you, so soon as you  
have gone to Navasota. A  
All of us are in usual health.  
Believe me your aff. nephew

P.S.

J. N. Hallingford

If you are in any doubt as to how to proceed, you  
had better consult some reliable lawyer or col-  
lecting agent. and if you think best place the  
matter in his hands and write me his name  
and address.

J. N. M.

Greensburg Ind. Dec 2th 1873

My Dear Uncle,

Father recvd a letter from you last week, containing the sad news of the death of your dear baby. For a long time I had been apprehensive that some trouble would befall you, knowing that the fateful fever was prevalent in many places of Texas, and I so wrote you in a letter over a month ago, which I directed to Courtney, and which I fear you did not receive. It is very hard for one to measure the extent of his loss, when suddenly bereft of a tender and loved plant of his own household. And there are no words that give comfort in the grief stricken one. To know that you have the heart-felt sympathy of far distant friends in this sore bereavement, may not lessen the pang which comes from a realizing sense of that eternal separation between you and your dear child, and yet it may bring to you some little comfort after all - knowing that you are not forgotten.

We believe in God's divine revelation, though I grieve to know that our lives do not always conform to it's teachings. The sum of human experience teaches that we, who live to maturity, experience a far greater amount of sorrow than joy. This being the case, and the Bible true, the little darling whom you mourn, is transplanted to a realm of peace and bliss, and will live forever in that world where sickness and sorrow are not known. This is my faith, and I trust it is your's; and if your's, you cannot but submit, and say, God's will, not mine be done. The dear little child is not alone up yonder. She will not be without loving ones to surround her. We shall know each other there, and, perchance, mother and children are together, without a want or fear, and are awaiting the coming of those behind. That we all may meet together in the happy land is my earnest prayer.

As already said I wrote you at Courtney. I trust you will have recvd the letter 'ere this reaches you, for I wrote on some business important to myself. I will merely recapitulate in brief. You know I sold to Elson & Templeman, Navasota 1 Bbl Kelln Bourbon \$3.00, and, that there was a misunderstanding as to whether the pay was to be specie or currency. So soon as I learned this, I wrote them to remit to my agents Park & Preston, Galveston in currency, when they were pleased to do so. They had already written my agents in a seeming ill humor, that the liquor was subject to their order.

I wrote them to keep the whiskey and pay for it in currency, if that was their understanding. Now, from that day to this we have not been able to hear one word from Elson & Templeman on the subject. I have written repeatedly, and so have Park & Preston, but they wont answer and have not paid one cent. I fear they sent the Bbl to the depot, or, reshipped it to Park & Preston, and, if at the depot, it may be used up, and if shipped back, it may be lost. Certainly Elson & Templeman have treated me like dogs in

any event. First, I have uniformly written to them politely, and in some cases sent them a stamp to answer with, and they have neither paid the debt, or, deigned to answer my letters, or, write a word in explanation. Now Uncle I want to ask you to do me the favor which in like circumstances I would do for you, and that is, to go to Navasota and see these men, and find out what is the matter and whether they have or have not used the whiskey, and if not, where is it. Take charge of it, if you find it (and they don't wish to pay for it) and then write to me. If the whiskey is not used, it is the best to day in the state, and is worth here \$4.50 per gal. Whatever your expences are I will pay. I am in a very close place. My Texas trip has nearly ruined me, and if I don't get this money I will be in a still worse fix. I hereby authorize you to receive and receipt for the money for the whiskey, which you can experss to me, or, send me a check from your Bank or New York. You can say this and show your authority to Mrss. Elson & Templeman. I have already paid Mrss. Park & Preston their commission on this sale, so that there is no necessity of the money passing through their hands. But, if Elson & Templeman want to pay it through them let them remit to them. Please do these things for me, and fix the matter up. Acknowledge the receipt of this, and let me hear from you, as soon as you have gone to Navasota.

All of us are in usual health.

Believe me your aff nephew

J.N. Wallingford

P.S. If you are in any doubt as to how to proceed, you had better consult some reliable lawyer or collecting agent and if you think best place the matter in his hands and write me his name and address.

J.N.W.

**Commentary on the letter by Nick Wallingford 11 August 2008:**

This is my transcription of a letter from John Nicholas Wallingford, son of Hiram Wallingford, to his uncle Thomas Ginn Wallingford in Texas. Hiram and T.G. were both sons of Nicholas Wallingford and Mary Ginn/Guinn, born in Mason County, Kentucky. T.G. and his wife Evaline Debell had moved down to Texas in late 1855.

The baby referred to in the first paragraph would be Evaline Debelle Wallingford, born 12 October 1869 and died 9 September 1873 - one month short of being 4 years old. The baby's mother (also Evaline...) had died 15 January 1870, when the baby was only 3 months old.

John refers to a letter written to Courtney, which T.G. may not have received. This indicates that T.G. and the children had moved down to the Fields Store area prior to this date.

John refers to his "Texas trip" and the fact that it nearly ruined him financially. No family records exist that refers to this trip, though there is a reference in one of Hiram's letters to T.G. that implies that Hiram, too, had visited T.G. in Texas.

An interesting combination of religious convictions relating to the death of a loved one - followed on by a business related letter asking T.G. to collect money due on the sale of whiskey! T.G., incidentally, was apparently abstemious toward alcohol for his entire life!