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**Calendar to the Archibald S. Johnston Papers,
1837- 1847**

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Author: Johnston, Archibald S. (1811-1893)

Extent: 13 items (1 legal sized folder)

Call number: Manuscripts Plb.

Accession information: 2652, 3921.

Background:

Importer and wholesale dry goods merchant with offices located at 28 East Bay Street, in Charleston, S.C.; Archibald Simpson Johnston was married to Agnes Bolton Ewing.

Summary:

Letters, 10 Feb. 1837-11 Dec. 1847, from A.S. Johnston in Charleston, S.C., to his brother, Alexander R. Johnston in Greenock, Scotland, re family affairs, crop conditions, shipments of cotton, prices, his business as "Wholesale Dry Goods Merchant" in the firm of Watson, Johnston & Co., the settlement of an estate and news of friends in Charleston and elsewhere in the U.S.

Abbreviations / Legend ADS = autographed document signed

ALS = autographed letter signed

ALS(T) = typed copy of autographed letter signed

LS = letter signed

n.d. = undated

ALS, 10 Feb[ruary] 1837, Charleston, S[outh] C[arolina]
Alexander [Johnston] to Mr. Arch[ibal]d S. Johnston, Kippan and Lindsay,
Greenock, [Scotland] (re: his arrival in Charleston, a tour of the city including a
visit to “the reading room and Library” and conveying news of relatives living in
America.)

ALS, 29 June 1837, Augusta, [Georgia]
“Adam” to Mr. A[rchibald] S. Johnston, care of Kippan and Lindsay, Greenock,
[Scotland] (re: family matters.)

ALS, 30 Jan[uary] 1839, Charleston, S[outh] C[arolina]
Arch[ibal]d S. Johnston to Alexander R. Johnston Esq., care of Messrs. And[re]w
Stewart and Co[mpany], Greenock, [Scotland] (re: the deaths of their Aunt
Margaret and Cousin George and conveying news of relatives in America.)

ALS, 23 April 1842, Charleston, S[outh] C[arolina]
Archibald [S. Johnston] to Mr. Alex[ander] R. Johnston, Greenock, [Scotland] (re:
rumors of an upcoming war with England and his poor shipping prospects.)

ALS, 25 August 1842, Charleston, S[outh] C[arolina]
Archibald [S. Johnston] to Mr. Alex[ander] R. Johnston, Greenock, [Scotland] (re:
the prospects of a “a very large crop of every article grown here,” the end of the
First Opium War (1840-1842) – “There is some appearance of the China War
being ended – if so, it will tend much to improve business, and shipping must
consequently also advance...,” the improved health of the residents of

Charleston – “...precautions now used are much greater than formerly and I am in hopes that we will have it very mild should sickness even break out – formerly...the streets after rain were like a sheet of water, which acted upon by the sun caused a complete steam bath, and sickness followed, but now nothing almost of that kind is to be seen...,” the declining “spirit trade” in Charleston – “that business has no chance here now, nothing but temperance meetings night after night, and thousands signing the pledge,” his desire that Alexander bring “a full suit of tartan made in the true highland costume for a child about 2 years old” on his return to Charleston, conveying news of family members living in America, and inquiring about acquaintances living in Greenock.)

ALS, 26 Oct[ober] 1842, Charleston, [South Carolina]
Archibald [S. Johnston] to Alex[ander] R. Johnston Esq., Greenock, [Scotland]
(re: shipping prospects, the settlement of their Uncle Walter’s estate, and conveying news of relatives living in America.)

AL, 2 December 1842, Greenock, [Scotland]
[Alexander R. Johnston] to A[rchibald] S. [Johnston] Esq., Charleston, So[uth] C[arolina] (re: shipping prospects). [Appears to be the first page of a multi-page letter.]

ALS, 10 Oct[ober] 1843, Charleston, [South Carolina]
Archibald [S. Johnston] to Mr. Alexander R. Johnston, Greenock, [Scotland] (re: an outbreak of yellow fever in Mobile and enclosing the Power of Attorney for the “Old Gentleman.”)

ALS, 20 Dec[ember] 1843, Charleston, S[outh] C[arolina]
Archibald [S. Johnston] to Alexander R. Johnston Esq., Greenock, [Scotland] (re: cotton and shipping prospects, the settlement of their Uncle Walter’s estate, and conveying news of relatives living in America.)

ALS, 11 June 1844, Charleston, S[outh] C[arolina]
Arch[ibal]d S. Johnson to “My Dear Brother” [Alexander R. Johnson] (conveying news of relative living in America and noting “Texas is all the rage.”)

ALS, 27 July 1844, Charleston, [South Carolina]
A[rchibald] S. Johnston to Mr. Alex[ander] R. Johnston, Greenock, [Scotland]
(commenting on Alexander’s guano speculation and notifying him of a change in Archibald’s co-partnership.) Attached is a circular letter, 1 July 1844, Charleston, S[outh] C[arolina], announcing the change of the co-partnership once known as

“Watson, Crews, & Co.,” subscribers: “S. Watson, A.J. Crews, and A.S. Johnston” to “Watson, Johnston, & Co.,” subscribers: “Stephen Watson, Abr’m J. Crews, Arch’d S. Johnston, and John H. Brawley.” Letter notes that the new business “as Importers and Wholesale Dry Goods Merchants...will be opened with a superior Stock of direct importation,” and is located at “No. 28 East-Bay.”

ALS, 25 Feb[ruary], 1845, Charleston, [South Carolina]
 A[rchibald] S. J[ohnston] to Mr. Alex[ander] R. Johnston, Greenock, [Scotland]
 (re: the arrival of the *Charlotte Harrison* in New Orleans and shipping prospects in Charleston.)

ALS, 26 Sept[ember], 1845, Charleston, [South Carolina]
 Archibald [S. Johnston] to Alex[ander] R. Johnston (conveying news of relatives living in America and commenting that “We have now delightful weather, and have passed the healthiest summer ever known, tho’ at the same time the hottest.”)

ALS, 11 Dec[ember] 1847, Charleston, [South Carolina]
 Archibald [S. Johnston] to Alex[ander] R. Johnston Esq., Greenock, [Scotland]
 (re: the lack of shipping due to depressed cotton prices and conveying news of relatives living in America.)