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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Holograph signed letter, sent from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to Charles Douglass</th>
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<td>Call Number</td>
<td>JWJ MSS 240</td>
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<tr>
<td>Published/Created Date</td>
<td>1891-04</td>
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<td>Collection Title</td>
<td>Walter O. Evans collection of Frederick Douglass and Douglass family papers</td>
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My dear Charles: yours is the only letter telling me of the death of Louise. Since I learned the nature of her disease and the impossibility of any cure, it is a relief that she has passed away beyond the reach of pain and death. The blow is a bad one to us all but we must suffer and be strong. I feel duty for you because yours has been a most bitter experience. Few families have been made to suffer as yours has in the loss of dear ones.
but your experience should make you strong. You are still young and strong and have I hope much of life and usefulness before you. It is not for you to despair. The world is still before you.

You are leading an honorable life and letting a noble example. Your life is useful, if not all that you could wish it to be. The facts that you can super

alize your ideas by bravely meeting them. I have no
time to look into the
Ordway keeps just now for the lecture paper that brought your letter and the 9th-12th leave us an hour or more and carry letters to know for the states and I have one or more beside them to open to be sent by her.

You hardly know how glad I am to have letters from you and I hope you will keep in touch. You will see by the papers that I am falling through something an ordeal.
just now myself. The papers in the States are telling of trouble between myself and Rear Admiral Ghearde. I hope you will keep nothing on the subject, but I will give you a hint which will enable you to explain it to yourself. What may come may explained more fully to the public if I am forced to defend my self from unjust untrue & false charges concerning my inefficiency. In the first place you must bear in mind
that no man of color was enrolled by the merchants of New York as ministers to Hayti. I add that the place is desired not only for a Whitman but a White man who will favor not merely American interests in general, but the interests of Mr. P. Clyde in particular. That the said Mr. P. Clyde, runs a line of steamers between New York and several ports of Hayti—thats he also wishes to put several more steamers on this line, both in order to do so he wishes to obtain a subsidy of several hundred thousand dollars not from the United States but from the Government of Hayti. For this purpose...
has had an agent, a certain
Captain Read in PortauPrince
Arriving a year back, that Mr. Clyde
was the ear and the support of
the Secretary of State and the
Secretary of the Navy, and
that these officials have
urged me to prevail the
Haytian Government to make
this rich donation to Mr.
Clyde as far as I could
so contentedly with
my position as Minister
resident. Accordingly I
gave the measure my
warm support as I
thought that the freeing
of those American steers
might be made subject to Hayti as well to American interests, but the time came when Mr. Clyde's agent wished me to go a step or two farther in promoting this enterprise than I felt at liberty to go and further than I felt it right to go. He wanted me to go to the Palace to take leave of President Hyppolite to press upon him on that ceremonial occasion, the duty of granting this concession five hundred thousand dollars to Mr. Clyde. This I felt out of place and I refused to do it.
The next thing the large party asked me to do was to promise the Haitian Government that if they would grant the Clydesdale concession, I would not press the claims of other American citizens against the Haitian Government. Then I could not and would not do, and in this I have offended the sad agent Read and possibly the Secretary of the Navy. Admiral Ghanta and Mr. Clydes you will see by this that I am in a position to fully defend myself if I should find it necessary to do so.

There came the demand for
To a U.S. Consul station at the
Isle of St. Nicholas. This too I have
pressed upon the Hayti Government;
but luck is the predilection
of Hayti against, accoring
Americans to get a foothold
on any part of their Country
that this Colony Station became
for fails. As a consequence that
shore Admiral Chevardi was
sent here two months ago to
accomplish what I failed to
accomplish. I have honestly
cooperated with him in this
matter but we have thus
far failed and as some one
must be blamed for the
failure I selected to bear
this blame. I write these
facts to that in case any
accident should befall
I may be able to vindicate my memory. As I am not writing to dever by this mail I wish to throw with them the contents of this letter but of course you will let no body else see these contents I'm health loving your father
Legation of the United States
Port au Prince, Haiti

Char. A. Douglass
318 A St. N.W.
Capitol Hill
Washington D.C.
U.S.A.

Apr. 1791