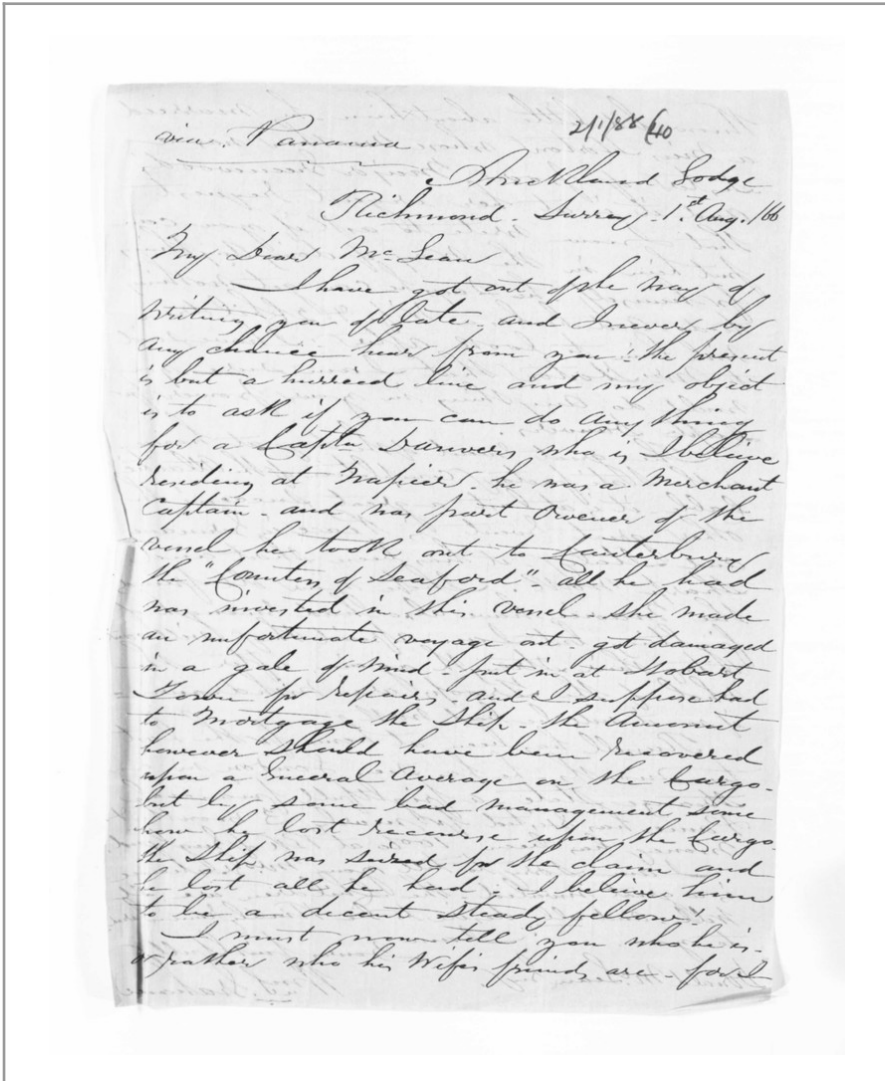


2 pages written 1 Aug 1866 by William Smellie Grahame to Sir Donald McLean



via Panama 21/8x/66  
 Sir Donald McLean  
 Richmond Surrey 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 1866  
 My Dear Mr. Lean  
 I have got out of the way of  
 writing you of late, and I never by  
 any chance hear from you. The present  
 is but a hurried line and my object  
 is to ask if you can do any thing  
 for a Capt. Barvers who is I believe  
 residing at Napier. he was a Merchant  
 Captain and was part owner of the  
 vessel he took out to Featherston  
 the "Countess of Seaforth". all he had  
 was invested in this vessel. she made  
 an unfortunate voyage out got damaged  
 in a gale of wind. put in at Hobart  
 Town for repairs and I suppose had  
 to mortgage the ship. the amount  
 however should have been recovered  
 upon a General Average on the cargo.  
 but by some bad management some  
 how by lost recourse upon the cargo  
 the ship was seized for the claim and  
 he lost all he had. I believe him  
 to be a decent steady fellow.  
 I must now tell you who he is.  
 His father who his Wife's friends are - for

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know but little about him - he married  
 a Miss Norton whose brother was a  
 sister of poor Major Greenwood,  
 and it is at her urgent request  
 that I now write to ask if you can  
 put him in the way of doing any thing  
 for himself - he says he can get nothing  
 to do - and he has a Wife & 2 children  
 wish him to look after - I have said  
 to Mrs Norton that I am sure you  
 would do any thing in your power for  
 latter services.

The great event of the day at home  
 is the satisfactory completion of the Atlantic  
 cable - it is at last a great success - the  
 other great event is Peace in Germany  
 and Italy - it has been short and  
 sharp war. I hope your old friends  
 the Mexicans have also had enough of  
 fighting, but I am afraid they will want  
 to try their strength again after the  
 whole of the Troops are withdrawn -  
 if so - it will be bad war.

Russell has been at home for the last  
 two months - he has seen London in a  
 strange state - a frightful financial  
 Panic has lasted for nearly 3 months &  
 money has been 100% at 10% of England.

I am sorry to tell you Mrs Graham  
 is a great invalid - the children are all  
 well - and all desire to be kindly remembered  
 to you. I am Yours faithfully  
 Donald McLean Esq. Wm. Smellie Grahame