

Ashland 31st Oct. 1830

My dear son.

The pressure of my correspondence and other engagements must be my apology for not writing you more frequently. You are however constantly in my hopes and thoughts - the more so perhaps because my regret and disappointment are so great in respect to your elder brothers. They are now both here, and I see nothing in the future, respecting either of them, to mitigate the mortification of the past. Theodore, after passing several months at St. Louis, consuming his money and time uselessly, has returned to commit fresh indiscretions at home. On the subject of a certain young lady he is, we all begin to fear, quite deranged. He seems to be doomed to misery and to render wretched all around him. Tom has been during two or three months abroad at home, in two debauches, and the last threatened his life. He is now well, and preparing to return to the Prairie, from which I shall be in constant dread of hearing of other impudencies.

I turn from these painful sons with pleasure to Anne who has been with us, with Mr. Erwin and the children, near two months. She is one of the few sources which I have of real happiness. About a week ago she brought me a grand daughter, a fine child, whom she proposes to give the name of your mother. She will yet remain some weeks with us and, what affords me inexhaustible satisfaction, there is a prospect of her permanent residence near me. Mr. Erwin has made a conditional purchase of the farm of the late Genl. Trotter lying between Ashland and Iowa, or which he intends to reside, if the purchase should not be defeated.

James has entered with credit the Freshman class of Transylvania, and John will shortly go into the preparatory department or to Mr. Peers. I should be extremely ^{glad} in conformity with your opinion, to send them both to Northampton, but the expense and the distance are too great.

Whatever relates to your present comfort and future destiny interests me greatly. I am happy to hear that by your promotion in the Academy you are now placed in a condition of comparative ease. My advice to you still is to persevere during the seven months that remain, and
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