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Henry J. Purcell Esq  
Lexington  
Kentucky

Columbia March 1863.

Dear Sir

I regret to have to inform you, that the Constables Sheriffs are again engaged selling out on public auctions, those having been recently, I see Constable Sale, of his Stock a considerable quantity of, at great Sacrifice, and the Sheriff has laid upon the remaining Property (Not Covered by the trust to meet the pecuniary assistance, and the frequent relief he has received from you and your father, it appears to me has induced him to believe that it is right and proper for others to provide for his and his family wants, such things he certainly cannot nor does not recognize as farmers, but as matters of right, The effect of his release from his embarrassments by your liberality and goodness about four years ago, appears only to have produced the effect to give him additional time and credit to launch out into new Profligate expensives and bad trades - all the Property Secured to the family under the trust Sale, (The Stock part), is either ~~lost~~ <sup>traded</sup> or has been traded off by him for and therefore all his Stock now on hand is liable to the payment of his debts. ~~Until~~ <sup>Until</sup> the present time had no knowledge of his disposing of his one head of horses, one of which he took to Kentucky <sup>which</sup> you got, his family and the trustee was on the spot and if they saw the Property, departing without

advising me, I cannot hold myself censurable -  
What is best to be done under the Circumstances, I  
do not feel myself prepared to advise, The Stock will  
certainly be all sold and he will be left without the means  
of making a crop, If his Son Henry, was going to remain  
at home I would advise your Mother to purchase a few  
of the horses, and lend Henry to raise the next years crop  
Indeed I much regret that Henry goes from home or quit  
as the sacrifice would be to him to remain. It is certain  
that so far his fathers operations have never assisted  
in the support of the family, and I have no hope that  
the future will be better, and under such Circumstances,  
it does seem to me that Henry ought to give up his  
own interest to that of his Mother and younger Brothers  
and Sisters, I shall see that nothing remaining  
owed by the trust sale is levied upon, and shall not  
attempt the purchase of any thing to save it from  
sacrifice no matter what the Price may be, from  
my information I would suppose that he got over a debt  
of \$500 or upwards Contracted since the trust sale, on  
which he is not yet paid, what he has obtained for it  
I know not, all the money your Mother has received from  
her income since she has been here, has been expended  
for the benefit of his family, saving a small pillance of  
perhaps less than \$100 per year for herself, Indeed I much  
regret that she should have withdrawn her funds from  
your hands for the purchase of the Land and Negro Girl  
which certainly her income \$100. as she could benefit them

more with the money than the Land and Negro Girl  
will, I have thought it would be advisable for you  
and myself to sue him on all the bonds he is owing us  
and hereafter keep <sup>the judgments</sup> ~~them~~ alive to sell him out from time  
to time or might be necessary, ~~they could be~~ The judgments  
could be revived and kept alive by saving out a writ  
of Habeas corpus every three years at small expence.  
Should you desire it and will send your bonds  
against him I will have them sued on at our expence  
Court. I shall do so with much pleasure - Under the present  
State of Credit here there is no danger of his making  
at this time any debt unless they be of a Gambling  
Character, I expect to impart goods again this  
Spring or Summer, and if I apprehended danger  
of extending Credit to Sen. Men in our County, I would  
not do so. therefore I can safely say that at present  
is no danger of Jenkins increasing his debt by the  
purchase of any valuable Consideration, <sup>in my</sup> ~~and that~~ <sup>my</sup>  
your Mother is much distressed again and not very  
well but going about, The Balance of us all will  
Very Respectfully  
your friend  
Robert S. Barr

P.S. I expect to pass through by ~~on~~ the latter part of April  
or 4<sup>th</sup> May. It is understood that Henry Jenkins  
will leave here for Kentucky, in the course of 8 or 10  
days. Write me on the Receipt.

My dear sister it is nearly ten o'clock and I must  
hurry through. we are all well all the servants  
smallhair send their love too your Aunt Annie says  
that she hopes you are well and doing well.  
and they all have so many messages to send that  
I forget half.

Father Mother Lily cousin Maria & Jinkins all  
send their love to you. give my love to Clara  
your affectionate sister

Dear Mary

Ellen Duncan

I said myself of Ellen's kind  
and of the remaining space to say  
to you that I have long but vainly  
looked for a reply to one or other of  
my letters. You have not only not  
acknowledged their receipt, but you  
have not even made a passing allusion  
to them in any of your letters home.

As I have had no evidence that my  
messages are acceptable I shall cease to  
write to you till some evidence is given.

Yours affectionately

A. J. Jenkins

Saturday 27. 1855

My dear sister

I am sorry that I  
have not written to you before, but I did  
not like to write you a short letter but I  
thought you would be as glad to get a  
short one as well as a long one so I  
am a going to write as long as what I  
have to say will make it. It is quite  
cold but the sun is ~~quite~~ <sup>quite</sup> & clear, though  
father has just come in he says it is the  
best ice we have had and he is sorry that  
at he put up the other day this is so  
much better. I am a going down to the  
pond after I have finished my letter. I  
wish you were here to see would have so  
much better pleasure. Cousin Maria has  
not screamed since you left and we have

have not seen hair nor side of Dr Matthews  
since you left. Dr Jenkins has a very  
nice christmas gift of a silk cravat from  
Miss Mary Ellen and all so received a hand  
some diamond cross worth four hundred & 50  
said that it was very hand some she brought  
it down and stole it to her. Mother and father  
went to Mrs. Grates & a party on wednes  
day they had a very fine supper plenty  
for the inner and the outer man. I  
must tell you of the dancing party  
we had hear it was very pleasant in deed  
you ought to been there and to see cousin  
maria dancing you would have cracked  
your side laughing we had Scott to  
play for us he is from Bedford he plays  
very well. Mrs Macchristal has a little  
baby it is as red as a coal of Mrs McWhis  
hastal had the quinsy and Dr Jenkins had  
to dance it this evening it was so inter  
ested so much the baby is quite fat it was  
baptized when it was but two weeks old.

Brother Henry is not coming to Kentucky  
as we expected I am sorry for my own part  
but am glad for you that he is going to  
stay as you wish and be so near you.  
I have got to tell you that Mr Macchristal  
received a letter from your Ireland the  
day that John Henry who said that he  
was a going to send father some contraband  
of whiskey that is made underground.  
we are to have a party to night father has a  
bought Scott a new fiddle I must now stop  
as Scott has come in to play. So clock just finish  
dancing father had all of the children in  
here at first Lizzie solo second Lettie third  
Finnie fourth Julie fifth Annie last Miss Shir-  
-berlake was the star of the evening she danced  
terpsichoreally on the light of fantastic &c.  
Queen Victoria is very sick I do not think she  
will survive the winter she is curing with a  
mammary cancer I am very sorry I am a friend  
to that I will have to have her shot.



H. L. Bismarck Esq  
Lexington  
Ky

Take N.B. If you can spare  
 the money it is likely that  
 the company will allow you  
 to liquidate the remaining note  
 on the same terms and dis-  
 count 6 per cent for the time  
 it has to run. Write me on  
 this subject as soon as you  
 learn where a letter will reach  
 me in the next ten days  
 My best love to all  
 yours affectionately

W.D. Jenkins

225  
 50  
 175

St Louis Sept 27 57

Dear Uncle  
 I reached home with  
 some detention in consequence  
 of the fact that west of Indianapolis  
 there is but a daily train, coming  
 and you should leave on the morning  
 train to meet with the least detention  
 I had to lay over all night at Cin-  
 cinnati, three hours at Indianapolis  
 and about 15 hours at Terre Haute  
 finding both the Bank in Char-  
 leston and at noon gone in-  
 der. I was unable to cash your  
 check and I therefore enclose  
 it to you with the request that  
 you send the amount to James  
 McCarty Clerk of the County Court  
 to be applied on your taxes  
 I have been greatly distressed &  
 imposed upon by the act of the

Legislature deferring the payment  
of taxes till September. Instead  
of its being a general law apply-  
ing to the whole State as I and  
many others supposed; those  
counties having adopted the town-  
ship organization are specially  
excluded from enjoying the  
benefits of the law. Colles County  
unfortunately being among the lat-  
ter delinquent lands were sold  
at the regular period and hence  
we have to pay 110¢ additional  
taxes. Such partial and unjust  
legislation is disgraceful - estab-  
lishing the total stupidity and  
incompetence of the men composing  
the Legislature. I had a draft  
sent to James W. Prosser  
Charleston Ill for the amount  
of \$250 and I will make

up the deficit otherwise. I spent  
a day at home - found every thing  
getting on well and came to  
St Louis yesterday to find out  
what I could do here in the  
purchase of cattle. Having this  
morning visited the different  
cattle yards I am impressed  
with the belief that I can buy  
here on better terms and a better  
class of cattle than any where  
else. It is an outside price  
for the very best. The range  
is from \$1.35 to \$2.00. It may  
take me 10 days to I wish to  
buy the requisite number. I will  
write you definitely in a day or  
two. I made arrangements to  
pay the balance of your railroad  
land note. I get corn from  
13 to 14 cents and the company

Rosal Retreat  
June 3



Mrs Eliza Duncan  
Care of W. J. Duncan Esq  
Lexington Ky



Hermitage June 27<sup>th</sup> 1846

Dear Aunt

Your letter to Uncle Henry  
has just come to hand. Knowing that I  
could not convey it to him before he reach-  
ed home as he is probably there now this  
and being very anxious to hear from  
you all I have taken the questionable  
liberty of forwarding it. I hope you will  
forgive me for it. Uncle's visit was a  
source of great gratification and pleasure  
to me. His shortness was the only objection  
to it, and parting with him was really sad.  
I am again left alone, as far as dear friends  
are concerned and I am pained to add  
with but little prospect of seeing any of  
them again unless they visit me. My  
engagements are such that I fear for  
a good while to come I shall be unable  
to visit N.Y. I should delight to be present  
on the occasion of the visit of Aunt  
Mary here. To go back at any time would  
be a source of great pleasure, but that  
pleasure would be much enhanced by  
their presence at the same time. Uncle  
was completely charmed as you no doubt  
know with the appearance and prospects  
of this beautiful country and promised

Preserving what Mr. W. offered and give to the children  
of your own family

himself annual visits during the grouse  
shooting period accompanied by yourself  
and the children. This is a delightful  
program. I trust you will give your  
cooperation in carrying it out. The in-  
genuity he has in foot with Mr Van  
derin will if successful greatly enlarge  
his interests in the state and give to  
him one of the most beautiful farms  
I have seen in the state. Mr Van derin  
or say the farm is more attractive or more  
productive than that can be made at any  
little expense. The view commanded is  
really enchanting, a wide expanse of prairie  
beautiful woods, a forest fringe round the  
distant horizon. The town upon two rail-  
roads and a rapidly growing town most  
commandingly situated. If Uncle makes  
the trade, for which Mr Van seems ex-  
ceedingly anxious, when Henry sees it he will  
be I think confirmed in his purpose  
of making Illinois the scene of his agri-  
cultural operations. Since Uncle left  
nothing of interest has transpired beyond  
what I have conveyed to him through my  
letters conveyed to him by Mr Van derin.  
My friends are getting on very well. After three  
or four very cool days the weather had become quite  
hot, and rain is indicated which is very much need-  
ed.

Lexington Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> 1857

My Dear Uncle

I seat myself to write you a few lines. It is snowing very fast and the ground is already covered to the depth of an inch and a half. I have just been out and had <sup>my</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>youngest</sup> colt put in the stable and have taken a good look at it - It is what I call a fine colt of fair size and carries itself up well. it is a mare its colour is a dark bay with star and white feet. It has a beautiful head and neck and I think fine all over -

Henderson started yesterday to Mr Alexanders and Harry went down to Bourbon this morning and I told him to bring enough seed corn to plant all you wanted to plant here - The boys you ordered up are here but they cannot do much. the weather is so bad -

Aunt Mary Hall arrived yesterday.

on the cars from Paris - We breakfast a little  
~~earlier~~ earlier than we did before you and  
cousin Mary left but not quite soon enough  
for me to get to press - We all have been  
very lonesome since you and cousin Mary left  
and have missed you very much -

Miss Higgins has been complaining since you  
left but not been confined - all the rest  
are well - No news from home yet and  
I have given up all hopes of hearing from  
them - It is ~~the~~ still snowing very fast

it has been snowing just six hours and  
if it continues at the same rate all night  
it will be as deep a snow as we have had  
this winter, but I think it will turn to a  
rain and then we will have a muddy time of  
it - Give my love to cousin Henry and Mary -

Your affectionate nephew  
Jas. H. Perkins

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to



H. J. Duncan Sr  
Lexington  
Kentucky

any more & the amount will be  
sufficient for me to carry on my  
business without being cramped at  
any time. Every thing that I make under  
this arrangement will belong to my  
family. I have an insurance on my  
life for \$1000, premiums payable

Quarterly, on the return plan  
which will add about 5 per cent  
to the policy annually. I propose  
to give you this policy as security  
& will pay you back the amount  
in 2 years from the first of Feb next  
half next year & the balance in  
2 years. I will keep the premiums  
paid up promptly. With that amount  
of funds in 12 months I can make  
\$500 clear of all living expenses &  
when I pay you the first half I  
would have a capital of \$7500.  
I will not contract a debt nor will  
I credit out any thing but do a  
strictly cash business. You do not  
fail to answer this on ~~the~~ receipt  
A short time since I heard you  
was in bad health. Give my best love  
Aunt & Cousin Willie. Your affectionate  
D. Perkins Peckham

Sandwich Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> 1840

My Dear Uncle

I did think that I  
would not ever make an appeal  
to you or any one else for  
my assistance as long as I  
lived. But when I was puttled up  
as though I was a criminal I can  
not help making this last appeal.  
I will state the circumstances  
about a week ago I bought a  
bill of goods of a man here  
to secure a debt he owed in St. Louis  
to my merchant, & intended to pay  
him with a sight draft drawn  
on him by the firm but having  
mistaken the draft I could not  
tender it to him or any promised,  
but in the meantime wrote to the  
firm to that effect & one of them  
came immediately out, & tried  
to get him to settle the matter  
through me which he refused  
to do. Then the merchant immediately  
brought suit against him with the  
intention of getting out a garnishee  
on me which I expect will

he served on me tomorrow  
On yesterday the party claiming  
the goods swore out a *cahrias*  
against <sup>me</sup> setting the trial for  
next Thursday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month  
which was served on me & I  
either had to go right into trial  
give bail for my appearance  
or go to jail. I refused to give  
bail or go into trial, but  
went to the constable & told him  
he could take me to jail which  
I wanted done & I should have  
staid in Saline until tomorrow  
& then give bail for my appearance  
at the trial but I could not make  
it go, did not give bail or go  
into trial but told them on day  
of trial would be prepared to  
meet them, my merchants in St Louis  
have agreed to stand by me & foot all  
costs but I am afraid of one thing  
that I will be perplexed & harassed  
by other suits that may be brought  
on my individual debts & should  
it be done I would not want  
Henry to be spending time & money  
to come down here to attend to  
replevin the goods

There are a perfect set of  
Blood hounds here & when they  
get started there is no telling  
to what lengths they will  
go & entirely destroy my business,  
which I have got in a shape  
that is making us a decent support,  
& I expected from my increased  
facilities to have made something  
ahead this year. I carried the game  
~~business~~ such an extent this winter that  
I am satisfied that in the next 2  
years I can make myself easy. But should  
I be broke up again my family  
will be thrown on the charities  
of the world my health is not the  
best & am not able to stand much  
manual labor. Now I have this  
proposition to make you. I will  
settle up my business as far as  
Henry is responsible for me  
which I can do in the next 30  
days. I have sufficient on hand &  
due me to pay it up. You let  
my wife have \$5000 & make me  
her agent & if I do not succeed  
I shall never ask another dollar  
of you or any one else & by this  
arrangement I will never be annoyed

known. Pardon me in the ex-  
pression of the hope that you will apply  
yourself diligently and assiduously  
to your studies and that you may  
do credit to your state if you are I  
expect its only representative and  
have therefore its credit individually  
to sustain if to your family and  
to yourself. Resolve not to be sur-  
passed by any in your class. If  
there are honors strive earnestly to  
bear them off from all competi-  
tors. You can do it if you res-  
olutely will it. Always remember  
that the only esteem of friends worth  
having is that based upon good  
sense, intelligence and propriety of  
deportment and that these three  
qualities measure the capacity we  
have for usefulness in life and  
determine the amount of happi-  
ness that falls to our lot. Wealth  
without these gives no true and  
substantial enjoyment; but a  
added to them greatly enhances

Livington Nov 7 18

Dear Mary

Having a leisure  
hour this morning that I cannot  
fill up more pleasantly than  
in writing to you my first letter  
and knowing that any communi-  
cation from home will be heartily  
welcomed. I take up the pen to  
give you the little news that has trans-  
pired. (some of it very sad indeed)  
since you left. Ed. impinger  
came up yesterday to say that Mr  
Rankin died about 12 o'clock and  
that Mrs Rankin was extremely  
ill and that serious fears were  
entertained that she would also  
die. The death of Mr Rankin  
is peculiarly distressing, as his wife  
and children are in a great mea-  
sure dependent upon him for sup-  
port. if she also dies how sad  
will be the situation of the  
orphans. How precious and  
consoling became the blessed



promised of our Saviour, "To turn  
for the wind to the show lamb;"  
In a father to the orphan's  
The burial takes place tomorrow  
Cousin Maria and myself are  
going down. All are very well  
at home. Your ma says that  
she cannot yet realize that Henry  
and yourself have gone far away  
to be absent many months. It ap-  
pears to her that you have only  
taken a short trip and will  
be back in a few days. When  
I go out of an evening I miss your  
pleasant face and merry laugh  
very much. The family circle is  
incomplete without you. Dr  
Marshall is still there but I be-  
lieve intends to go home to day. Ellie  
has engaged much of his time  
in his reading to her from Miss  
Edgeworth's stories. The doctor seems  
as much interested as she  
Miss Davidson was married  
on Thursday in the Episcopal

Church to a Mr Moxley of Lau-  
isille. We have had two gentle  
and delightful showers since  
you left. The weather still con-  
tinues extremely pleasant. His  
constituted about the sum of the  
news I have to tell. Cousin  
Maria has the California fe-  
ver raging at its height. She has  
received but a single night at  
night since you left. She heard  
one of the loudest shrieks which  
she about midnight that ever  
struck upon her ear. She arou-  
sed her femme de chambre, Julia,  
from her sleep to ask her if she  
heard it too. I hope that you  
had a pleasant journey to Pitts-  
field and that you are pleased  
with the school. I am very sorry  
that Miss Emma McCaw's letter  
to you did not come to hand  
before you left. It would have  
been so much more pleasant for you  
to have been with her at New-

both our capacity for doing good  
and leading happy lives.

In looking over my hastily  
written letter I find that I  
have misspelt a word. (There may  
be more of the same sort.) I will  
not correct; but leave it for you to  
find and correct, as it will be an  
improving exercise for you to criti-  
cise my letters and point out any-  
thing you may find in violation  
of the rules of correct writing.  
Shall I take the same liberty  
with yours?

Write to me soon and tell me  
all about your school; how you  
like it; what you think of New-  
England girls and manners - what  
studies you are pursuing &c &c  
All send their love to you - excuse  
this short and uninteresting epistle  
and believe me to be your  
affectionate cousin

H. B. Jenkins

P.S. Since writing the preceding  
I have learned that Mr Rawlin  
will be buried this evening. We  
cannot therefore go down as we  
had intended

A.P.J

I regret Mr. A. is in the train yesterday morning & will not be able to do any very hard work.

able to do any very hard work. I have 8 or 10 very good hogs & I strained a point & bought a can for which I am yet in debt a balance of six dollars. Now I will make you a proposition which if you will accept will place me in a situation to go ahead if not I do not know how I shall get along. I have the finest sow pig of the Chester white stock I ever saw, she is 8 months old. Now if you will let me have one hundred dollars until I can pay you, which will not be longer than next spring. I will send you the finest boar or sow pig she has, to any place you want at free of charge, provided I do not meet with any more unforeseen misfortunes. Now let me hear from you immediately on the reception of this & let me entreat you not to treat me as heretofore by not answering, whether you will do it or not. I should like to hear from you so I can either try to make other arrangements or reconcile

The Misses, all of our friends in Mo are well. We did not have time to talk to them, remember me affectionately to your aunt & the children.  
Sandora June 29<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear uncle  
I write to you some time since, but have not heard from you as yet. I had resolved never to ask a solitary one of my relations for an other favor, even if starvation was staring me in the face, as I had come to the conclusion that they did not care whether I prospered or not. I have had a very hard time of it since I have been here although I have no reason to complain as I have managed to live & keep out of debt & was just getting in the way of making some money until I met with a very serious loss

a few nights since. by having  
my best horse run over  
& killed by the train on  
the O & M railroad & it  
is very doubtful whether  
I get any pay for him, as  
he was killed in the corporation.  
The horse had would have  
readily sold for \$125. but  
he was only valued for \$80, which  
if I get, it, will be 6 or 12  
months first, unless I can  
get another horse I will all  
most be deprived of the  
means of subsistence, as my  
team was my whole dependen-  
ce, I was making about \$60  
a month when I am not enga-  
ged at work in my crop, from  
this until fall will be the  
best time for me, with a  
team, as I can get more work  
than I can possibly do.

I would have had money  
enough to buy a horse  
but for our afflictions in  
the way of sickness, I just  
had paid up all of my Dr.  
bills amounting to \$75 besides  
desider other debts contracted  
last year in consequence of  
my sickness, now I am about  
out of debt but have no  
money ahead, I am buying  
my corn from Gales bounty  
I have received 2 car loads  
from there I sold it at a  
profit enough to make about  
\$70 this for myself in  
that way I intend to make  
my bed until the next crop  
comes in, & my eating expenses  
I make by buying & hauling  
flour from the mill, I try  
to make every edge cut. My  
health not being so good as it was  
previous to my sickness I am not



*Wm. American Regt*  
*Lyngton*  
*Pa*

St. Louis June 18

Dear Uncle

Your letter of the 17th  
inst was duly recd & acting upon  
the advice of authority therein con-  
tained I arranged my affairs  
as speedily as possible & was  
at this point on my way to St  
Joseph having negotiated a  
draft upon you at sight for  
the full amount of \$3000 as I  
had upon hand but about  
\$400 with no time and if possi-  
ble the best prospect of collecting  
more. I shall endeavor to  
manage the matter in such  
a way by the exchanges as  
as to lose nothing thereby & if possi-  
ble make something towards my  
travelling expenses in case of a  
failure to purchase stock.  
I see from this morning's papers  
that highly favorable accounts are  
coming in from the mines  
though I think these accounts  
are very likely as fabulous as  
the first of a favorable character

yet I have no doubt they will  
have no inconsiderable influence  
in stopping up immigration of  
settlers on the back track  
even if they were disposed even  
not to be in condition to return  
towards the mines for want of means  
to obtain a receipt of their stock  
will be badly if at all prepared  
for the back journey though not  
so sanguine as at first I am  
still persuaded that the prospects  
for profitable stock transactions  
fully warrant the expenditure in  
time & money necessary to satisfy  
myself upon the ground  
before reaching it. It is probable to morrow  
evening I will write you again  
Recent news from the Plains state  
that there are 8 or 10 thousand  
emigrants returning home  
I left the corn prospect at  
home very encouraging & the wheat  
promising much better than early in  
the spring.

Yours affectionately  
W. F. Johnson



Mr & Mrs Lane returned a few days since  
from their Northern Tour. He is looking very  
happy. But it is yet to come to ascertain  
whether he by any accession of happiness  
and so far example worthy of imitation  
by the disconsolate members of the edifica-  
tion club. Still still attend to their  
part. I went down to the pond last  
evening and soon caught 30 "New Light"  
We had them for breakfast this morning  
this is a very common thing. I wish  
you could participate in their enjoyment  
they are very nice. The strawberries are  
ripe. We had the first crop for supper yester-  
day. They are very small and scarce  
The cherries are ripening and are in  
great abundance. We are looking forward  
to a good time coming shortly. For a week  
past up to this morning the weather has been  
of middling temperature. My affection  
today is of a comfortable coolness. The rain  
today is looking unpropitiously beautiful. The crops  
are promising. Rain daily at regular intervals  
says, will insure a season of two or three weeks  
of it. I am the 17th of June no further  
gossip of interest. Hoping that this letter  
will meet with your apparent favor. At your hands  
then everal yours and I remain  
Yours affectionately  
W. G. Perkins

Succumbon

May 1855

Dear Mary

On yesterday I had the  
very agreeable surprise of finding a letter  
in the P. O. from yourself. I had almost  
abandoned all hope of again being the recipient  
of your particular favor. Pardon my doubts and  
accept my acknowledgments. Permit the expres-  
sion of the hope that you will shortly place  
me under renewed obligations of a similar  
nature. I regret to see from the general tone  
of your letter that frequent thoughts of home  
and friends intrude themselves upon your  
mind and impede your happiness by their  
presence. You must endeavor to shut out  
as far as possible such feelings. They are  
just enemies of educational progress. Apply  
as largely as possible with the remembrance  
that cluster around your home the well  
expected pleasure of your return when you  
shall have completed your studies  
live in the present and the future. At  
the past elude in the grace of present forget  
fulness as far as remembrance of the  
profit and pleasure of the present. Do not  
renounce the comfort of surroundings at home

with the discomfort of a boarding school  
Remember that the great objects to be at-  
tained more than compensate for all the  
little annoyances to which you may be  
subjected, separation from home and  
loved ones &c. I am very glad to perceive  
that the improved orthography of your let-  
ters and their general character since de-  
parted progress in that part of your education  
and I doubt not you are making correspon-  
ding advancement in other departments. But  
fear from the accounts you give in your  
letters to your mother and father that you  
are too closely and constantly confined to your  
school exercises to be entirely consistent with  
the preservation of your health. It is entire-  
ly your duty that Saturday, the day devoted immensi-  
ally to rest and recreation of the student,  
should have its bellowed moments im-  
proved by study, piano thumping or any thing else  
demands consequent labor. I do not desire to  
excite in you a rebellious spirit, but to support  
the opinion that it is all wrong. Ellen says she  
entirely coincides in my opinion. Thus advised  
I feel confident of being in the right. Your  
mountain excursions must be not only very  
delightful but of great service to you. I  
should delight to be able to accompany you  
in one of those wild and romantic scenes

the upon the heights that overlook the Berkshire  
valley. But with a company of boarding school  
slaves I should be as much out of place as  
a crow among a flock of parrots. No allusion  
is here intended to your legal accomplish-  
ments. But even in that the contrast is prob-  
ably as striking. You say that you think  
I am called to practice medicine. That may  
be; but it is not an effectual one. It has  
not a sufficient effect upon the patient. The  
call is not frequent enough for that. If  
the call was long, loud and frequent I should  
listen to it and respond; but coming in  
a whisper and like angel's visit I am justifi-  
fied in sending you no longer. You ask  
when I am going to Illinois. Some time  
during next month probably. I am awaiting  
the convenience of your father. We will ac-  
company one. I shall not have the pleasure  
of the company and counseling care of Mrs  
Judson. I fear that at present it would no effort on  
my part could induce any fair demand to  
answer to that expectation and be willing to  
undergo the discomforts and hardships of an  
Illinois life. When I shall have succeeded  
in getting up a handsome and comfortable  
stage I will, <sup>foot</sup> abroad to see if I can find  
a sweet-scented and gentle bird to fill it.  
But till then and that may never be.

in the past. Each of the sets  
meet once a week, (inviting gentlemen  
of course) and enjoy themselves in  
eating nuts, cake and the like, drink-  
ing a little wine, dancing and con-  
versation. They eschew magnificent  
suppers, forbid white kid gloves,  
require the guests to be spunked  
punctually at 7 o'clock and to  
return at 11. All very sensible arrange-  
ments. Two parties have already  
come off one at Mrs Brand's  
and the other at Dr Bell's.  
Miss Lucy W. M. gives one tonight.  
I have not yet attended; but not  
through want of invitations  
Some rumor says that several  
weddings are to take place during  
the winter. Miss Kate Morrison  
to Horace Brand. Miss Parrot  
Brand to Mr. Johnson. and Miss  
Mary Ellen Craig to Mr. Atkinson  
of Louisville. These ladies are all  
members of these anti-matrimo-  
nial clubs. This looks very much  
like the old saying that the very

Livingston Dec 17th

Received at Pittsfield Dec 18 1855

Dear Mary

Thus far I have  
received very little encouragement  
to write to you. I have had no evi-  
dence whatever that my letters will  
prove acceptable. You have not  
even notified me through your cor-  
respondence with home of the recep-  
tion of my letter. Possibly you did  
not get it. At any rate I am willing  
to make some allowance for your  
not writing on the ground that your  
time is fully and actively employed  
in your educational duties; and  
that you are restricted to a single  
day in your permission to write.  
Your brother Henry has written  
me two long letters  
As your mother and father will  
keep you posted up in home  
affairs I will limit myself to  
giving you news in and about  
town. First as to the weather. Ad-  
miral made his debut among

as a week ago and out of office  
politeness and familiarity ~~and~~  
~~we~~ insisted upon shaking hands  
We of course could not resist. Our  
hands and bodies too were shaken  
for a few days it was extremely  
cold. But the old fellow who last  
night put on a drop of dazzling  
white humor became a little wild  
but his face don't wear a quizzical smile  
by very considerable. But if his  
countenance has a cast of sternness  
here it must wear a constant smile  
up among the mountains around  
Northfield the girls of your school  
don't I presume engage in the  
popular exercise and amusement of  
winter in the Yankee states of  
racing. They confine themselves to  
coasting around the great Ocean of  
Truth and gathering pebbles upon  
its beach. Let me hope that by  
industry and application the  
museum of your mind may  
exhibit an impressive and valuable  
collection of these precious gems

Diamonds and pearls are drop in  
the comparison  
A number of the young ladies of  
this city have instituted two soci-  
eties which have for their object  
the promotion of social enjoyment  
They name them the Respiration  
and Independent Clubs and say  
that they are anti-matrimonial  
in their character and tendencies  
This I fear is a cloak to disguise  
their real aim and to seduce  
us young and susceptible gentle-  
men unsuspectingly into their  
society. Trusting that when we see  
and see these the formations of their  
clubs will gain them a ready  
victory over our hearts and make  
us sue supplicantly for a merciful  
answer to our petitions. But be-  
that as it may in spite of the object  
this will be the tendency and re-  
sult. I predict if these organi-  
zations are continued that more  
marriages will be solemnized in  
Lepington during the coming year  
than any year for a great period

opposite of what the ladies say  
except when they say no on par-  
ticular occasions is to be accep-  
ted as the truth. In conclusion  
for I have nothing more to write  
I will express the indulgence of a  
hope that this letter will meet  
with some sort of acknowledge-  
ment at your hands and if it  
does not I will take it for granted  
that my criticisms are not favorably  
received and shall dissent till I  
am otherwise instructed.

Your affectionate cousin

H. P. G.

To Miss Mary Dunsen

P.S. All at home are well

H. P. G.

Saunderland Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 1867

My Dear uncle

Since writing  
to Henry this morning  
I have found another house  
for sale which is as valua-  
ble as the other one I  
wrote about & can be had  
for \$1200 cash or \$1300  
at once by paying ~~40~~  
\$433 down & the balance  
in one or 2 years, this  
house has an excellent  
stable buggy house  
& other necessary  
buildings which the  
first house has not  
& thus it is in a  
more desirable part of  
the town I might  
possibly be able to make  
the hard trade with

Let me hear from you this week

I sent you a draft nice kind this morning  
all well give my love to Aunt & Cousin

but if I should not  
want you assist me  
in the purchase of it  
It is worth more than  
the house I live in & a  
much more convenient  
house for my business  
I am paying \$15 a month  
which is \$180 a year &  
the other would only be  
\$120 counting 10 per cent  
on the purchase I am  
if you will do this  
I will deposit \$30 a month  
in bank to your credit  
until principal & interest  
is paid I have paid for  
the last 12 months \$24  
rent every month but now  
I have rented half of my  
new house for \$5 per month  
which will reduce that \$60  
yours Truly D D Jenkins

into of the rebellion and its attending  
disasters to the country and to the par-  
ticular locality the bad choice to ag-  
gravate its evil, and hence instead  
of making a handsome profit of  
several thousand dollars as  
anticipated in the December before  
was lost over not inconsiderable.  
You will notice a trifling variation  
in the two tables each giving the  
amount of funds derived from land  
sources, one merely giving the amounts  
obtained at particular dates, and the  
other amounts obtained from particular  
individuals, principal and interest  
without date. The discrepancy is due  
to the fact, that I took no separate  
receipt of the principal & interest  
paid and a portion of the notes  
having passed out of my hands my data  
for computing the interest was not full  
and hence I have made an error  
of a few dollars. When you come  
out or when I visit try if there are  
any things you do not comprehend I  
do not doubt my ability to explain it to  
your satisfaction. I am sure to do  
yours respectfully  
J. P. [unclear]

Brooklyn May 15<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Sir

Accompanying this letter you  
will find all the information you de-  
sire of me through Henry. I have put  
it in its present form as early after your  
desire was made known to me as my  
other engagements would allow. As far as  
the means derived from you are concerned  
I presume you have the data at hand  
to test the correctness of the exhibit.  
The data may vary however as I regard-  
ed them reliable at the time the several  
amounts came to hand, also the  
amounts derived from the sale of  
lands I can vouch for their correct-  
ness as the note and other data in  
my possession enable me to verify the  
respective statements.  
The receipts from outside sources I mean  
independently of the sale of farm pro-  
duce amount to \$2,184.36, while the  
disbursements on your account amount  
to \$2,135.57, leaving a meager balance of 48.79  
to cover interest &c and this balance to be  
still further reduced by the difference of



your indebtedness here still and the appts  
in my hands about 150 \$  
This exhibit shows that I have devoted five  
years of the prime of my life, honestly &  
faithfully to no other result than a very  
plain and economical support during  
that period and that was derived at the  
expense of a good deal of ill health  
from ague, the consequences of which  
I do not hope speedily to get rid of. This is  
a full portraiture of all the benefits I  
have yet derived from our farming opera-  
tion. On the the other hand our arrange-  
ment closed at a period when I had  
reason to believe the farm was in such  
a forward state of improvement, that I  
might hope to reap substantial benefits  
from its continuation, to repay me for  
years of labor and discomfort. To you  
it was certainly convenient to have a farm  
of no small dimensions improved at a  
moderate cost, which ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> a very hand-  
some provision for a son just starting in  
life, ready to bestow upon him. I have  
~~had~~ <sup>had</sup> this provision in my mind of ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup>  
but must be honest that I am the  
chief sufferer from the absence of

returns. I have left all the consolation  
that integrity of purpose and honesty of  
action can furnish to alleviate the  
pains attending want of success, and  
am by no means discouraged from  
further effort. A brief review of the period  
of our connection is not out of place. We  
raised 4 crops, the first in '57 a tolerable  
crop in view of the fact that it was  
raised without cultivation. Hogs were bought  
to which to feed it. The crash of the  
autumn of '57 came and brought down  
the value of hogs & corn feed to them  
below the original cost of the hogs. And  
this year labor was worse than last.  
The crop of '58 was nearly a total fail-  
ure in every thing, and hence our  
profits this year were again on the  
wrong side of the balance sheet. In  
'59 the crops were again good; we  
bought cattle at remunerative moderate  
prices and fed well with them.  
Selling at very remunerative prices. In-  
deed the corn crop was good & if we had  
sold it in the grain we would have done  
pretty well as stalk and grain were  
selling well. The spring of '60 brought

children but for them my own 5 women  
be easily satisfied, but I want to keep  
them together & have a home for them the  
property is cheap give my love to all  
& please let me hear from you <sup>with your affectionate</sup>  
was looking for something & could not  
not find it. Why is it that you will  
not let me hear from you in regard to  
the Wilkes as I have written you several  
times to send it. I know you do not  
want to keep it, but I can not understand  
why you will not let me hear from  
you what you intend doing about it.  
You wrote me last winter that you  
had it & it was taken care of, but you  
did not say whether you would return  
it & at the same time you wrote that  
you would send the children  
fine pair of Berkshire pigs but have  
heard nothing more about them if  
you get instead to send, will you  
be so good as to do by the first of  
September as I would like to have  
them at the Central fair. Now I  
will make another proposition to you  
buy this house & deed it to the  
children & give me 5 years to  
pay you which I know I can do  
\$900 cash will buy it by me paying  
the \$250 rent & it is not necessary  
to pay it until the first of June I will  
pay you \$225 every year until it is  
paid off, please let me hear from

celebrated July 28<sup>th</sup> 1872  
My Dear Uncle  
I wrote you some time  
ago in reference to the purchase of  
the house I live in but had no  
answer from you. The owner of it has  
retired & it is the east & gone over to  
Yemas & the matter is yet open. The  
property is in the best of the business  
part of town, 5 lots fronting 100 feet  
& running back 120 feet to a wide  
street instead of an alley. It is a  
two story house with 5 comfortable  
rooms & such a house could not  
be built for less than 800 to 1000  
& the lots could be sold any day  
for \$600 or \$300 each, if there was  
any demand for them. I have 3  
barths of the ground planted in  
vegetables & have more than we can  
use in fact our garden is giving us  
all we eat except bread sugar &  
coffee & now I will state the terms on  
which I can buy it. I will owe  
\$230 back rent by the first of June  
by paying \$25 now \$125 the  
first of Dec which takes up all the  
rent then pay \$400 the first of June

then I can have it up for any to pay  
the \$600 first of June 1874 or make  
it in two payments \$300 in 1874  
+ \$300 in 1875 by paying interest  
upon the property is a great bargain  
I should like to buy it & if you  
will not me a little I can secure it  
I ask but little & that little is  
only \$250, \$125 now + \$125 the  
first of Dec. & I can then make  
arrangements for the \$400 or I  
have no fears but I can save that  
amount from Oct. Nov. & Dec.  
operations. I have made this month  
about \$70 & it is the poorest month  
of the season but I had a good  
run on chickens. Since the 1st of  
July I have got \$338.35 net purchases  
& net sales amounted to \$408.91  
since the first up to the 25th of the  
month. I have worked all seasons  
under great disadvantages no capital  
to operate on & yet I have kept  
my bills paid up close & I have  
worked very close & shall continue  
to do so just as long as I am able to  
go. I shall be able to do from 1000 to  
\$1300 worth of business each month

of Oct. Nov. & Dec. & with my  
advantages & facilities of the different  
months I know I can make \$700  
during those 3 months. At the end  
of this year I will have paid \$1360  
rent on this house commencing the  
first of September 1864 & in addition  
to that I have paid \$300 rent on  
warehouse since Jan 1865 to Jan  
1st 1872 making near \$9000  
& all of that paid except \$250  
but that amount has to be paid by  
the 1st of Dec. Now if you will  
let me have the 125 now & the 125  
the last of Nov. I can work through  
& secure the property & then I will  
have a house. Now you will have some  
idea how I work as nearly every day  
some one tells me that I will fail  
myself if I do not take it easier  
but I have to keep going all the  
time, but for my wifes long illness  
& death I would never be easier than  
I am. I have a family of 5 daughters &  
you know that it takes considerable  
to keep them & 3 of them about grown  
We are getting along as well as could  
be expected. I feel all the time as though



Mrs Mary Duneen  
of Westfield  
Care of Dr. Agnew } Mass.

morning and will get there Sunday morning  
I shall then be in 40 miles of you and would  
be strongly tempted to go on to Pittsfield and  
accompany you to church if the cars ran on  
that day. Of course they do not in that state  
of steady hail and gusty straightness  
Henry I suppose is now happy in the presence  
of his father. I anticipate great pleasure  
in meeting him. Seeing him will be among  
my chief pleasures attending the trip. In the  
same day I make my proposed call at  
Pittsfield. I will tell you yet when to expect  
me. You shall be duly notified. And  
when I write again I shall send you in-  
closed in the letter what you stand in  
reference to your distinguished correspondance.  
Mrs S should be a sister of Hooper. Her chi-  
rography is equally undecipherable except to ex-  
perts. I should have answered your request  
to night, had I felt in a mental condition  
equal to the task. I have managed to fill  
the sheet, and you will doubtless cavil long  
before you finish to perusal that dullness  
has undeputed empire. Pardon it and ascribe  
it to an inability to do better. I hope you will  
have better things in the future from me  
yours affectionately  
W. J. Jenkins

Buffalo Oct 17th 1857

Dear Mary

I don't know that I am spending the  
evening more pleasantly than in a little chat thro-  
-gh the medium of writing with yourself. It is my  
hope that you will devote as far from your part  
disposition towards myself at least as to talk back  
through the same medium. It is an old proverb  
that a woman will always have the last word. You  
are an illustration of the dangerous character of  
the imputation conveyed by this saying at least  
when put in the paper in regard to do it. I hope  
that you will not deem a continued effort in the  
same way necessary to prove the injuriousness  
yourself but that you will permit me occasion to escape  
to demonstrate that no wrong is done you by this  
saying. You are by this time doubtless re-established  
at the Institute regularly in bump again but the  
three spins that pull you up the difficult hill of  
science not get fully stretched some links a little  
twisted and requiring a short period to get them out  
of the kink and entanglement into which they  
get during your period of rest from labor - but  
when they are strengthened this restriction will en-  
able you to keep them more constantly and lightly  
on the stretch. Let it be your high aim and ambition

turn to me as he does the natural powers with which you are gifted and the opportunities you enjoy will permit you. You no occasion hereafter for painful regret that you have wasted the precious moments of youth, the period nature has designed for cultivating the mind and fitting it for the arduous and useful duties of manhood and active life. Remember that a mind well stored with useful information has resources of rational enjoyment that ignorance can not know. Besides this the increased consideration that it imparts in the estimation of those who surround us and the influence it possesses in making us friends whose friendship is worth possessing makes a well stored and carefully trained intellect and object worthy of the self denial and labor it requires to acquire it.

but I need not amuse you further the importance of this subject I am ever your friend. I and will be impelled thereby to exert myself to the utmost consistent with your health. I now turn to other things. My history since I left you is told in few words for no incident worthy of record has transpired since then. From Tuesday night, when we separated I remained in Erie till this morning at 4. I spent an hour very pleasantly with Genl Reed your father's old schoolmate. He has a beautiful residence in the city of Erie is a man of influence and possesses great wealth more than a million probably. He told me that he intended in a short time to take his eldest

daughter aged 16 to Philadelphia to school & speak to him of the reputation of the Institute and inquired the fact that you were there. He replied that it gave not much pleasure to him but preferred from considerations of state pride to send to Paris. He has 4 children living 2 boys & two girls and has lost five or six. Erie is a very pretty place and certainly gives no aptual evidence of a rebel heart, or vicious character on the part of its citizens. Everything is now quiet and as the Governor has signed a bill in accordance with their wishes there is no danger of further outbreak. It is the time now for the railroad company to rebel; but as they are not actuated by the passions of a mob and are not possessed of the power of mischief there is no fear that they will do it. I had fire and abuse and abuse rather and fire with all the changes that can be rung on these words become familiar sounds. How softly and quietly, how subdued the tone in which the little fellows advertised their republican campaign for the little fellows must have created an appetite in a pauper's full stomach for their articles. I arrived at Buffalo at 11 A.M. to day. The little fellows and reached here at 7 P.M. in good <sup>condition</sup>. The train that brought them brought altogether 3 cars of stock, 3 of cattle - 594 head and generally good cattle. There is but little probability at this time of selling here and if we do not sell tomorrow we will start for Albany Saturday



*W. C. Sumner Esq*  
*Superintendent*  
*Ill.*

Amelia Wells Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 1854

My dear Aunt & Uncle

Your exceeding  
kind & affectionate letters  
I rec<sup>d</sup> at the hands of Henry  
I prize very highly and in  
evidence of your warm regard  
& shall be endeavoring to jus-  
tify your confidence & you  
& to prove myself worthy of the  
steady and long continued  
note of kindness of which I  
have been the object.

Your letter, dear Aunt  
& Uncle being the first one  
written to me, and breathing  
as it does sentiments of almost  
parental love is to me a source  
of joyful ~~pleasure~~ <sup>pleasure</sup> as I have  
rarely experienced & will  
furnish a remembrance  
that will ever be valued from



my mind

Your concern and hearty  
invitation to us to visit you  
and enjoy the hospitality of  
my early home I shall most  
certainly accept at the ear-  
liest possible moment. We  
would do so now, but Sister  
Mary is very sick & may  
soon recover. Her urgent ap-  
peals, my own feelings & a  
sense of duty all tell me  
we should visit her, as it  
may be if long delayed.  
I shall never see her more.  
Your beautiful and most  
acceptable present to Miss  
Mary arrived several days  
since in good order. She is  
perfectly delighted with it &  
thinks me to convey to you  
both as well as to Miss  
Mary her warmest thanks

and to express to you for  
his her kindest regards, & to  
say to you that she expects ex-  
ceedingly that in some measure  
forbid your being present  
at our wedding. I am very  
sorry you will not be there.  
Being it seems from present  
indications will be the only  
relation to be there.  
Please excuse this imperfect  
expression of my feelings  
& accept my assurance of  
the kindest regard for  
you both & my earnest pray-  
er <sup>that</sup> ~~that~~ ~~that~~ long life & all  
the blessings of Providence  
may be yours  
With love to all I remain  
your affectionate nephew  
H. Jenkins

It is now really worth \$25 per acre as the hay crop alone would pay for it in two years, besides paying interest on the money. I have been here 5 years & have never seen hay worth less than \$10 per <sup>ton</sup> on the farm sold & sometimes \$23.

I thought some myself last fall for a party in St Louis at \$23 put on track here. Now you have the money that you could spare for this purpose & I know you could advance it for 2 years without any inconvenience to yourself & it would place me in

I send you this letter by Express

Sandronal August 1851

Dear uncle

I am addressing you on a subject which I want you to be sure & give me an answer about I have thought time & again that I would never ask assistance from any one, either relative or stranger, but when I see such an opportunity to make a good thing out of, I can not resist the temptation, to make the attempt to raise the means to carry it out. About five miles from this place west, 320 acres of fine land can be had at

at \$14 per acre 200 of  
which is well set in  
timothy & near 100 acres  
more is broke & in  
cultivation, 40 acres in  
Sorghum, which goes  
with the farm, but the  
hay is not included  
in the sale. The O & C  
R R runs through it  
& a switch can be had  
on the place or with  
in a mile of it. I have  
marked land since I  
have been here & have  
accumulated but little  
owing to misfortunes  
which I could not  
control. I have done  
a good deal of business  
on credit & without it  
I could not have made  
a living as my health

has been such for over  
a year that I could not  
do any work which is  
hard or requires much  
labour. I was informed  
of this farm being for  
sale this morning by  
a couple of gentlemen  
of this place who are  
both clever men & they  
told me that they were  
intending to make the  
effort to buy the place  
& they told me that if  
I could arrange to get  
the money as they let  
me know of it, I might  
go in with them. Now  
with one third of that  
farm it would give me  
a good living & in a few  
years it would sell for  
40 or \$50 per acre

5

a situation to live easy  
& not have to expose my  
self as much as I now  
do. I can easily satisfy  
you that a better investment  
in land cannot be made  
in this country. For  
buy this soil is as good  
as any in the state &  
the location gives it prece-  
dence over any other  
part of the state. I fear  
fruit it cannot be  
surpassed any where in  
the west, the farmers who  
have bearing peach orchar-  
ds are realising big prices  
for the fruit \$3.50 to \$4.00  
per bushel at home  
Now if you will make  
it suit you to advance  
the amount which is  
necessary to make the

6 The purchase you will be  
made entirely safe besides  
getting a good interest on  
your money. The terms  
are one third down &  
the balance one & 2 years  
at 10 percent off the  
two last payments for  
cash down, In the event  
that we should fail to  
make the payments you  
would make a good thing  
out of it as it is well  
worth twice the amount  
held at. Should you be  
inclined to go into it, any  
further information you  
may wish can be given you  
but we want to know as  
soon as possible so as the  
place can be secured, This  
is a small amount to you  
but a good deal to me &  
another such a chance

7th  
may not occur during my  
life & I would like very  
much to avail myself of  
the opportunity. Now I  
feel satisfied that you  
would like to see me do  
well & I assume <sup>you</sup> there is  
no one who has strived  
harder than I have to make  
an honest living. but from  
different causes I have been  
unfortunate. Tell Leansie  
• Ellen we can congratulate <sup>her</sup> &  
should have been pleased  
to have been able to attend  
the wedding, but did not  
receive any notice of it

until the morning of the day  
of the consummation of  
her marriage; But I suppose  
you thought we could not  
attend & therefore it did not  
make much difference when  
we received the invitation  
I shall send you some nice  
birds this full of my own  
netting. We are all well at  
present & living as we can  
Be sure & let me hear from  
you this week, about \$1700  
would secure this place &  
the crops would make the  
other two payments  
Yours affectionately J D Jenkins

can by paying for it when I sell, I have bought & sold about 75 bags in a very short time & will be able to increase the business I do all the hauling I can get. This week I have been hauling manure at 25¢ a load & make \$2.50 a day I want to put in a crop of about 25 acres of corn which I will be able to work & make my expenses besides I put up pork enough to do us besides selling about \$35 & now I have the best lot of shoats about town & the finest sow pig I ever saw when I get through my crop, I can do a good deal at the hay business I done a little

Sanctoval Apr 3<sup>rd</sup> 1860

Dear uncle

I write to you to see the purpose of asking you if you <sup>have</sup> heard any thing from our friends in Me. I have not heard any thing from any of them since last November. I have written several times but can not get an answer. The last time I heard <sup>from</sup> Henry he said he had not heard from them for some time, I can think of no reason why they do not write, unless it is our political troubles I learned through Henry first that all of them had gone secession, as towards from Harrie Wilson, I regretted very much that they had deserted the flag of their country. The flag under <sup>which</sup> they were born



reared, and which had always  
protected & would still have  
protected them if they had  
of remained true to it.

My wife has been very sick  
for some time, confined to her  
bed for 4 weeks & now she  
is not able to do any thing.  
it has been a hard time on  
me I have been cooking for  
3 weeks, that in addition  
to my outdoor work has  
kept me constantly busy  
her sickness has operated  
very much against me, as I  
had expense by which I  
could have made 75 or \$100  
in the month of March, but  
owing to her sickness I  
could not do any more than  
make expenses. I am now in  
a situation to make a good

deal of money this year if could  
only raise \$200 I <sup>will</sup> state to you  
how I can do it, I have now  
2 horses one of them does not  
suit me but is a very salable  
horse in order, would make  
a fine work horse, by hav-  
ing the means to buy 2 good  
work horses I could get  
him fat & then sell him  
for a good price & then I  
would have a team & a saddle  
horse, which I can sure out  
enough to make it pay for  
keeping him in addition  
to the use I would have  
for him myself. I can also  
make about \$20 a month in  
plow by having the money  
to pay down for it, I can  
get it 2 cts a lb cheaper  
by paying down than I

I miss my love & all your affection & desire

then as you let have it, and I will make it tell well for me if life & health lasts. I do not believe you have much confidence in my ability to handle money but I wish very much to disappoint <sup>you</sup> in that particular, what I have had to go through since I have been in Ills has been a good schooling for me, I would let me hear from you on the reception of this so that I can shape my business accordingly. \$200 is nothing & comparatively speaking <sup>to you</sup> but is a good deal to me in my situation. My children are growing fast 2 eldest are going to school & have been considerable help since their ma has been sick

last season & made it say I would have made money enough last year to have had enough on hand now to have enabled me to have enough to answer my purposes & carry out my plan which carried <sup>out</sup> will result in success, my spell of sickness last spring cost Mrs. May \$12 Bills & drug store bill was \$5 which is mostly paid & I had to contract other debt & expend money incident in my sickness, all of which is paid I will be about square when I get near load of corn which I have sent north for & have 80 or 100 bushels & \$15 left that is what will be left me besides my

my bags which are worth  
\$30. When I once get something  
about I can make money fast  
in a small way. In all my  
business I do not intend to  
risk any thing. In my opera-  
tions I know just what I  
make before I purchase.  
Now I have a proposition  
to make to you which if  
you accept it will be the  
best investment you ever  
made not that you will  
make any money in the  
operation but the satisfac-  
tion that it will give you  
to see a poor nephew  
succeed in gaining a competen-  
cy & possibly be the means  
of my making a fortune  
should my health permit.  
I am bound eventually to

succeed if economy industry  
& perseverance will accomplish  
any thing. My proposal is  
that you advance me \$200  
early this month or as soon  
as convenient & I will pay  
you next winter in Louis-  
ville, I sent game there to  
nearly that amount winter  
before last, my shipments  
to Louisville & Lexington  
amounted to more than that.  
I could have sent that much  
this winter but I was so  
situated that I could not  
hunt much & could not <sup>buy</sup> pay  
it an account of the change  
in the weather. Now you  
let me have that amount  
of money & you will be as  
certain to get by the 1st  
of Feb or Mar if <sup>you</sup> wish