RIT
MS
4:I.1

Lawrence K.T. Jan 4th 55

Dear Father & Mother.

Yours of the 27th ult is at hand, being a long time detained on route written by Margaret dated 10th Dec arrived with it at the time. We have written to you of late but owing to the irregularity of the Mails it is very uncertain whether they go safe or not. We were very sorry to hear of Robert being so afflicted with the Rheumatism. Cotton clothing is a very unhealthy kind of dress in the winter season. It is somewhat strange to find so young a person so much afflicted with that disease.

Well we rec'd the Clock you speak of. As to what you should bring with you I mean your Beds & Bed clothing all as feather beds cannot be had in this Country at all. You need not overload yourself with Cotton clothing as you will then but little need for such thing. Were it not for Ready's family I would advise you to all come by the Cars & boats. & I still think it would be best for you & Mother & Margaret & Susan & Robert if he is sickly to come on the Cars & let George & William bring Ready's family & the wagon through. It will take near two months to come by wagons from

Chattanooga to Tennessee. While you could
come by R.R. & boats in 10 days or 2 weeks
it would cost you about $150 more by
the last mentioned route. Or if you did not
wish to separate altogether the way you could
bring you all to Nelson's Sugar Lines in Gov-
nor Chatanooga then you could take the
Cars to Nashville & then a boat to St Louis
This will be the cheapest & quickest
route for you if you should come by
land because you can go due West for
200 or 300 miles then bear up through
Tennessee in a North West direction
toward St Louis. & if Walker is going to
Mississippi you could come more
of the way with him & it would not
be much out of your way to go by your
land in Miss. You would save a good
deal earlier by going this way than if you
should go directly N. North & Middle
& probably find better roads. As Marquis
writes you have sold your land I suppose you
will try to move down in the Spring.
Know of nothing except what I have mentioned
that you could profitably bring with you
as to the Clock you can get a very good clock
in the West for $5.00 or $10.00. I think your
better plan is to sell off every thing if you
can get any thing for them as ale.
Sometimes I think this would be the best plan
to sell off every thing but the bed clothes

& buy to spring Carryalls & pair two horses
in each & roll along that way. But I must
by suggest all these plans & that you can
select which is the best for you. As to
your bring the money in gold that
might be dangerous of some one robbing
you which would not be the case if
you had it in checks. & you can very
easily get the gold for the checks at St
Louis. & they would be a great deal easier
carried than gold. Junkins & myself
have not been doing much for some time
with the team we have been trying to earn
it but could not as he did want to go
to Iowa to enter some land but he has
given up the idea & is now making
$4.00 a day with it. As they is very high &
there was but little hauling to do we thought
we could make more to sell the hand
hog & then buy in the spring but I thought
I would help them so that if you come
out you would probably need them.
as one yoke of cattle which cost $80.
is worth as much on a farm as two good
horses. Dole is working at $2.00 Friday
& McDonald at $20.00 per month, all
well satisfied. Mr Miller has not
gone yet to see his Mother. He wants
to go in March next. & remains all summer.
All the squatters are improving
their claims very fast & every week