RH
MS
4:I.2

Lawrence K.T. Jan 25th 1856

Dear Father & Mother

Yours, of the 3rd inst, is at hand. We are glad to hear from you, that all are well, presuming that Robert is better. But we are sorry that you appear so much discouraged, at the prospect, of coming to Kansas, & at having sold your land. I do not think you should be. You will probably remember what I told you, on the day I first left home, before we got to Chester, of I was advising you to leave the South, I told you that before ten years this slavery question would work a civil war, & that it would be better for you & your family to be in a Free State. This is a strong probability now that my prediction will come true. And even supposing we have a civil war in Kansas, you should not regret having sold out, as in that event, it will become general, every man in the South would be impressed into service to defend slave property & rights for the South. There would be much better for you to be in a Free State or some of the Western Slave States. As to the interest on your money, it would amount to nothing, compared with what you could make by investing it in real estate in the West. Never go in debt for money

As to the state of affairs here, they are yet highly excited. The elections, for State officers, come off and resulted in a difficulty near Fremont. The Proslavery men then, with the aid of some from Mo, attempted to break up the election and got into a little skirmish & 8 or 9 wounded were found on both sides. Two proslavery men were badly wounded, but none on our side. It was not long until some 8 of our men were taken prisoners, but they were all released except one Brown, who commanded the little party of women. They just butchered him up cutting him all to pieces with hatchets. After they had beat & chopped him stocking they traded him his miles in the cold & then sent him home to his distressed wife, when he lived a few hours & died.

This incensed our people very much, but it is now very generally believed, that we are notable to cope with all Missouri.

The people thus have always believed, that the Mos were cowards & would not fight. Knowing the character of Southern men, I have always told them differently. But the last war fully substantiated the truth of what I had always said. & this is the reason that Robinson & Lane made the Treaty, agreeing to assist in the execution of the laws, as they thought they were not this ready to fight. They did not act wisely about it, for as soon as the enemy had disbanded, they again defied

the Sheriff to execute the laws. This has aroused the enemy, & they are now dailling the forces in every part of the State. My policy was to make no treaty of peace, unless we could get our own terms, & when made to stick by it to the end. To say nothing about the laws as we were acting on the defensive to protect our lives & property, but to require them to leave the Territory & deliver into the hands of Justice the murderers of Barber. But the others thought that by putting them off & agreeing to enforce the laws, for the time, until we could get reinforcements from the States, would be best. This is a Yankee way of doing a thing, but it is not in accordance with the policy of high minded honorable men.

They have now sent to the States for men, money & munitions of war. The enemy has heard this & are also preparing for the contest. Our Commanders acted highly impolitic in letting this be known, but they presume so much on the cowardice of the enemy, that they imagine they can frighten them into terms, which fact will, I fear, prove disastrous to our cause, as the enemy can conquer us & cut off our reinforcements before they can reach us. The Legislature meets the 4th of March next & it is said that the enemy is lined attacking & dispersing & that today was defeated bill for the Legislature, by the Eastern men, because I am a Southerner and advocate this treasonous policy. This prejudices