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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