letter from the Father to St Louis Vermont

Bakersfield Sept 22/57

Dear Son

On Recpt of yours of the 5th of August I wrote you in relation to my closing up business & going to Kansas & expected an answer ere this-- will you write when you design comming home--if you come we can then talk over the matter about going to K & possibly it might be best to take a few good[s] along rather than sacrifice much on them-- My business is quite good & the reason of my thinking of going to K-- is to locate where it is milder than it is in Vt My friends here object to my leaving--they say you are doing well & being far advanced in life a change of climate &c might be injurious & that we should be subject to many privations incident to new settlements. All true, yet I would like to see your much praised & extol'd land--then, if it did not suit I would settle perm an ently in old Vt-- I wish you to give me your opinion in regard to the prospect of K's becomming a Slave State it appears that Walker is backing down in regard to permitting the free state men voting--& that you are again to be visited by hords of D--ls from Mo--. is Brown of the H all right we occasionally get his paper but there is so much about himself & what he has done for the cause of freedom we gain but an indeffinite knowledge of the affairs of Kansas--

Your Grandmother Dee has been with us the week past. She returned to day. our friends in Fairfax & Georgia are in usual health things in this town are about the same as heretofore. J D is quite feeble. Rud Paige has bought J H Walker out, he is going West, Emily Oakes has gone West. Hatty Pratt is soon off & so they go property is very high. I think there must be a crash in this country we have over traded, that is the ballance of trade with Europe is immense our exports are limited, consequently we are drained of Gold & Silver I advise you to keep close along shore & then if a Storm arises you can anchor in some bog--sell your lots when they

command a good price & keep your Business a[s] close as possible, better have a little & have it your own than to have large possessions & be liable to be called on for large sums, which you cannot meet. Steady & sure gains are most reliable, there are many heavy failures in our Citys, & money is <u>not</u> plenty-- I wrote you in relation to that Box of Goods sent Mr Arny. I think I can collect the pay if Mr Arny did not Receive the Box Send or bring the List of articles furnished by Mr Hall &c it is quite cool & unpleasant crops are usually fair except Potatoes--

Yours as ever for freedom & Down on the Slave power & <u>Modern democracy</u>

S. T. Learnard