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Bakersfield, Jan 19th 1858

Dear Son--

Some days since we Recd a line from you desiring me to come to K-- & attend to your business for you to go to the Gold region which will not be convenient for me to do, & I hardly think it advisable for you to go there You might possibly obtain the desired object Gold, yet the risk & danger attending the journey, would not compensate for ^{the} expense risk & trouble, rather sell your saw mill as I advised Last Spring if you had then done so you would now be far better off as you could have paid your debts & been quite independant. I sent you a short time since a rough plan of the House I design to build & have let the Job at \$825-- & expect as convenient & Good looking House as there is in the village. we are anxious to have a home of our own I shall need the interest on the \$800--if it will be convenient for you to pay it, & I would like to dispose of those 2 half lots on Con-- St. if you can dispose of them for \$100 each Let them Slide, or for Less if you think best. We have had the coldest weather know[n] for many years 40° below zero in many places Sleighing good & well improved Your Mothers health is better than it was in the fall & I am gaining as I weigh 187 1/2# We have not seen or heard from our friends in Geo or Fairfax for some time yet I suppose they are in usual health-- How goes Legislature I hope you will pass some Law to send a few hundred of thoseimps of darkness near fort Scott where they deserve to be-- I fear that Kansas is doomed to be bled again at every pore, as the Administration will punish free State men & let those proslavery hounds go without even censure-- I fear the result will be civil War, for I cannot believe that the free states will secumb to the slave power or be chained to the car of slavery--all this trouble will operate against Kansas being settled & coming into the Union as a state--