

Bakersfield Feb 15 /58

Dear Son

Yours of the 13th ult is recd, it appears that you have not recd my last note as in that I put some questions which are not answered-- I wish to know what in your opinion will be the effect on property & emigration if the Lecompton Constitution is passed by Congress, & what effect has the money crisis had on real estate & business generally. Are their good claims for sale near Burlington & how does B-- prosper have you sold your Mill & Hotel & How did you find Matters & things on your return-- I Recd a Line from Cousin Francis, stating that he is out of employment & desires to emigrate to some place where he can obtain a Living. I think he would do well in a Hotel & if he could get there would you rent him your Hotel, his trade is useless now & the prospect a head is not flattering.

I find that your Mother is not willing to go to Kansas. she thinks if [I] go I shall return home sick & be contented to settle in old Vt & that is the reason she is willing I should go. we returned from a visiting tour last Saturday having spent the week Among our friends. they are in usual health. Jared is dady & mighty proud he is of his small image of Sin. I there Learned that Brother Harley designs to go [to] Kansas. John Dee is now at home he is the same old sixpence. there was many inquiries made in regard to you & Nathaniel says that he is glad that there is one Learnard that is somebody quite a compliment I think to the rest of us-- I hope how ever honorable or wealthy you may be, it will not be at the sacrifice of honor or principal. An open fair & honorable course in business as well as politics is the most reliable-- this Log rolling, buying & selling is calculated to undermine all honest Legislation & stability of our republican institutions. You have a sample of such maneuvering in Kansas emanating

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from our contemptabl[e] President, who sold himself to the Slave power & is now doing their dirty work of compelling a people to submit to a constitution--which they dispise & which they have had no voice in making, but enough of this Please write me often & let me know when the Missouri River is navigable. Also all the news afloat.

Nathaniel informed me that the Farrar place in Fairfax is for sale it is the two story House nearly opposite to the old Pottery the House has recently been repaired in good shape, there is 13 Acres of good land Barn & shed &c &c he thinks it can be bought for 1200 Dollars The Jotham French place is for sale About 25 Acres of Land a New Brick House &c &c Price 1500 Dollars-- Your Mother is not willing that I should buy in Bakersfield & she is not willing to go far from her native town. it may be best for us to purchase a small place for a home & live by our wits after I have looked over the Italy of America as K-- is call'd, what think you of the matter--

Write, write, on Reception of this scroll

Yours as ever

S. T. Learnard

It has been very cold for 4 days past sleighing good. how is it with you?