

Montpelier,

Nov 6th 1858

Dear Son

Having completed the business of the day & retired to my room, my mind turns homeward to my little family circle & there I see a seat long vacant by the absence of an only Son, one that we cherish with the fondest affection & so far as we know has sustained an irreproachable reputation, a great consolation to us, I can assure you "act well your part there all the honor lies." Call not that honor or fame that will not endure the scrutiny & even derision of weak & unprincipled men who care only to survey the surface of things, & not see whether a mans actions & conduct is founded upon the immutable principal of right & Justice--

I am aware that many have no greater aspirations than to float upon the bubble of fame without that anchor of principal which should govern & direct their intercourse with their fellow men--they are ready to ride any hobby that promises success in this ever changing world. I would ask can our institutions & the best interests of Society be safe in the custody of such men, I answer nay--they would as readily sell their friends as enemys if they could but reach the goal of their ambition--

Legislation as conducted here & elsewhere is not to my mind satisfactory, many men do not seem to realise the great responsibility resting upon them as Legislators they appear to be ignorant of the nature & effect of Laws & pay but little attention to their passage, there is usually too much log rolling I would have each measure stand or fall on its own merits How is it in regard to Land Speculation, have you secured the lot adjoining the lot we bought or any other

Some time since I wrote you in regard to the disposal of my interest in Lawrence I would like to sell those two half Lots if they can be sold