



Lawrence Feb 15th 1858

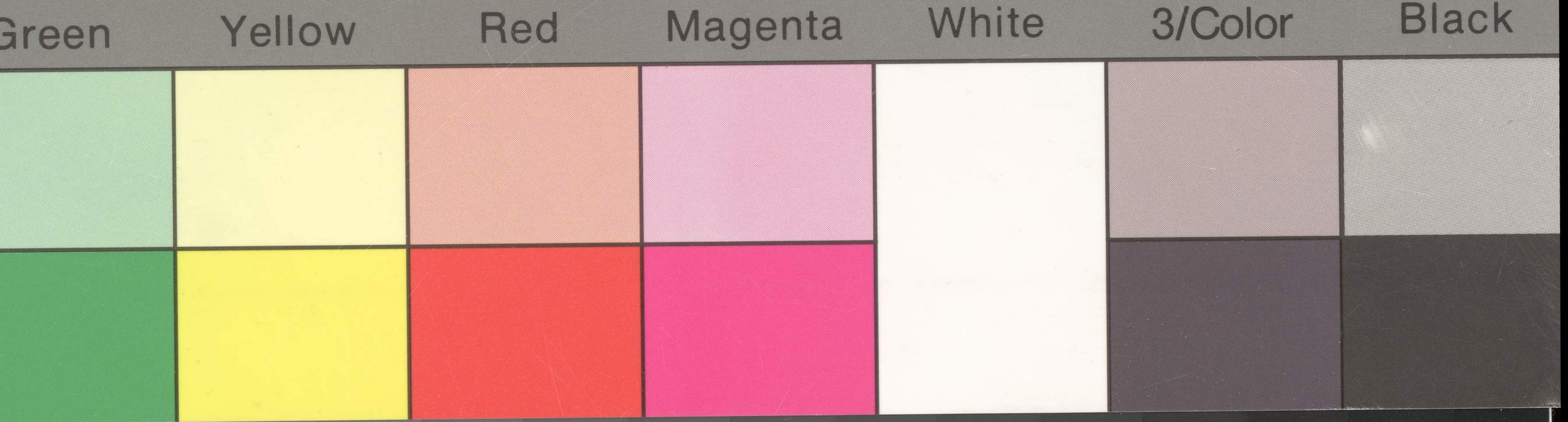
Dear Sister

I have now written quite a number of letters to the folks at home and about home and have received only two for 3 or 4 months. But I must not complain, but write, and write again. I suppose the rule is when any body leaves home, to write back every few days, and let his friends know all about himself - but if he wants to hear from them he can gather up his duds, travel back and go round and see them. It's true traveling costs a little - from here home and back again, all expenses calculated, less than \$100. But what is that small

sum compared to the valuable
 time of friends consumed in
 writing letters - To a person
 of my fortune, and one who
 has had as many streaks of
 good luck as I have it is
 no consideration at all. These
 weighty reasons almost tempt
 me to make the trip. When
 I would get home you know if
 I would to ride there would be no
 trouble (except in getting the money)
 to buy a horse - and if I could
 get no horse - then I could walk
 around among the kin folks.

But I am afraid that I shall
 not have this pleasure this
 spring, and shall have to wait till
 money can be borrowed at less than
 5 percent a month, or till I
 get richer than I am at present.
 Talking about riches - of hopes
 and anxieties, disappointments and

would
 have
 now
 to get
 what
 expense
 "Marling"
 The
 I have
 adding
 at what
 want
 exactly
 at the
 got
 on the
 make
 half
 they
 to me
 all day
 others
 dozen.



able troubles were marketable, I would
now have been rich long ago - and might
now have a princely fortune. I manage
to get along however without letting
what is called trouble and misfortune
express me believing that
"Grievous sorrow hath less power to bite
The man that smokes at it and makes it light"
I have already enough of gray hairs without
adding to them by fretting and repining
at what can't be helped. I don't
want you to infer ^{from the above} that I am
exactly a beggar or a pauper though
at times I may be a contented one. I have
got down property - that is shares
in paper and other towns enough to
make one rich if they were worth
it all half what their projectors professed
less than they will be worth - about enough
to make a good sized farm if the lots
presently all lay together - some of these are valuable
others worth at present about 10 cents per
dozen. The nominal value of the whole



at present - no \$3,000, or \$4,000 This
is the nominal value, but - as there
is hardly any money at all in the country
probably one half that would be all
that could be realized, This has cost
me nothing of any consequence directly
the shares, with one or two exceptions
having ~~been~~ presented to me by the
proprietors of the original town, to
gain my weighty influence, or
obtain a notice in the papers,
I hope with some of these to
raise money to start the Free state
this spring, though I was almost
discouraged last fall, with the delin-
quency of the patrons, I had enough ~~en-
standing~~ to have continued at ease
but I was determined to pay in
now as I went.

This is not a public letter and you
need not show it to others than those
at home
Yours truly R. Elliott

I
quit
to
about
only
but
I see
any
sent
let us
from
to
get
back
them
little
again
them