

Mark Wm to Kansas
Apr 5 - 1855

Methodist Mission House June 11th
Kansas Territory U.S.A.

Edwin A. Parrott Dayton O.

Dear Edd I had some hard thoughts
that you had not written, till I received Father's
letter making it appear otherwise. — though I have
not received your letter yet. If you have not sent
it to some other office — a likely thing — it has surely
miscarried. The tangled state of my affairs, besides the
uncommon complexity of our personal relations to
fashionable
society arising out of the Spang Case (What has become of
it?) have added to my natural desire to hear from
you first of all. Baygott wrote me, but with
characteristic implicity (it was the first letter
I had received from home) filled his sheet with
good advice & writing in general, omitting facts of
every kind, even those relating to our common
business, besides going so clear of the general current
of local events that the letter would have answered
as well for either pole as for the place from which
it was written. Hereafter I shall discourse with
in interrogative manner & as he has the virtue of
great promptitude, if I can succeed in leading
him would be a valuable correspondent. However
he deserves credit for this as for all things on the
score of motive — may other things be added thereto.

As, mentioned, a moment ago, Father's letter has been received, I thought I should defer the acknowledgment of it till the draft therein mentioned came to hand, besides there was a fact or two in connection with another matter, which induced me to defer it. I am & have been entirely out of money. It the greater misfortune to me as it has interfered in some measure with those little schemes for helping myself which I had laid out, among others a non attendance of the Court at Teaneck held on the first of the month. In a fit of desperation, though rational, I had determined to go with Gen Whitfield to the plains, when Father's letter arrived. I have made him or will, rather, make a proposition to let me have the use of a few hundred dollars, for the purpose of making an investment. Do me the kindness to forward the proposition with your influence, as I am much anxious in some way to further my fortunes in this field. I am at present installed in the Governor's room & will probably remain in it till his return. A fine farm the finest I ever saw (2000 acres), of meadow, & upland and wooded pastures and raising grain fields and orchards and gardens, of course supplies us with a good table and fine walks; the society though small being quite pleasant, you may reckon that my present situation is quite comfortable - I feel anxious to be more permanently settled however or I should desire no change, at least, not now.

A man (Mr Johnson) having died in the next room with
the Cholera on last Friday and several at
Beuts Camp in this neighborhood and one at Whitfield
our next neighbor ~~has~~ has thrown a cloud over our
little circle. Westport is 12 miles ⁱⁿ from here, giving us
daily opportunities of getting letters that like Peasey
Butter are "coming, coming". By the way I met your
friend Bill Miller in Westport. His brother Robt is
agent for the Shawnee Indians. Bill lives at Parkville
and, I learned afterwards, was one of the ring leaders
in the mob that destroyed George Parks property.
The more shame to him, I abhor the man, henceforth.

The family are all here I reckon, as the old man
is at Weston making overtures to edit a pro-slavery
paper at Paune. You know the antecedents of the old
Cock — that is enough. His sons, are no doubt his own
since they give promise of the same bad notoriety.
Of all the pro-slavery men I have met out here,
excuse me from the northern flunkies. They are the
most inveterate, ~~conscious~~ no doubt that their sincerity
is suspect — advocates of the system & the pliant tools
of those whom they wish to conciliate. When Kansas
gets to be free — which it surely will — they will of
course be equally loud on the other side. A season
of great excitement is approaching to wit: the meeting
of the Legislature at Paune. There will be much bad
feeling & I anticipate a grand row and smash up as the
result.