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WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS,

1855.

MY DEAR SIR:—

I have received your letter and am glad to answer it, so far as it is in my power. I trust that you understand that I hold no official connection with the Emigrant Aid Company. Nor have I ever held any, though announced as its Secretary, by mistake, in the New York Tribune. To apply to that Company you will address Dr. Thomas H. Webb, who is its Secretary, in Boston.

As soon as the navigation of the Missouri River is regularly open,—as early, at least, as the first of March, this company will send forward parties, as often, at least, as once a week on Tuesday afternoon, at half past two o'clock, from Boston to Kansas. These parties go by way of Albany, Buffalo, Chicago, and Alton. The tickets from Boston to Kansas city, on the frontier of the territory, cost twenty-five dollars:—these are first class tickets, but do not include board. Each passenger is permitted to take three hundred pounds of baggage without extra payment.

Passengers who wish to join these parties at any point west of Worcester, can purchase tickets at a reduction proportionable to their distance from Boston.

In case more than one person in a neighborhood wish to emigrate, they ought, in every instance, to fix on the same day of starting, and appoint one of their number to correspond with the Secretary of the Emigrant Aid Company, and make the necessary arrangements with him.

The Company does not undertake to render any assistance to the Emigrant on his way to Kansas, beyond the arrangements by which his passage is reduced to twenty-five dollars. It sends, however, an agent with every train, who will see to all the business arrangements of the party, and, in case women or children are to emigrate alone, they can be placed under his protection.

At Kansas city the Emigrant Aid Company owns a Hotel, and at Lawrence city two boarding houses, in which Emigrants can be accommodated,—not with Astor House fare, but with such conveniences as new Western towns can give, at reasonable rates.

The only settlement yet made by the Emigrant Aid Company is Lawrence, about eight miles west of the mouth of the Wah-ka-rusa creek, on the south side of Kansas River. So nearly as we are at present informed, there are now there between one and two thousand persons. There is a Steam Saw-mill, one or more other Steam Engines, three printing presses, on one of which the Herald of Freedom is published, a school, and church organization. The church edifice is not yet completed. All travel to Lawrence passes through Kansas city on the West line of Missouri, where travellers leave the Missouri River Steam-boats. The distance from Kansas city to Lawrence is between forty and fifty miles.

The Company proposes to establish other settlements this Spring in other parts of the Territory.

I would caution you or any of your friends who propose emigrating, not to pay money to any Emigrant Leagues, except for the purchase of Passage Tickets, unless you have perfect confidence in the Officers. Some small "Leagues" have been formed, which have raised money by assessment, with the supposition that the members thus procured particular advantages in Kansas; and these funds were then all wasted. You will need all the money you can get, in Kansas, after you have arrived.

The Emigrant Aid Company does not attempt to furnish land to settlers unless, in special instances, a man needs to purchase some small lot for particular purposes, from the Company.

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Every Emigrant, on the other hand, can take from Government one hundred and sixty acres. He will not have to pay for this, till the government has completed its surveys, which have not yet been begun. He will then pay one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. Emigrants should be very cautious, before they arrive on the spot, how they attempt to buy on better terms than these, which are certainly very favorable.

At Kansas city you or your friends will find Mr. S. Pomeroy, the Financial Agent of the Company; and at Lawrence city, Dr. Charles Robinson and Mr. Branscomb, also officers of the Company, on whom you may implicitly rely, as men of high integrity and of accurate knowledge of that country, for advice and information as to your movements and location.

I constantly receive letters asking what sort of men are wanted in Kansas.

In answer, I have to say, that all sorts of men and women who can do anything are wanted there, and none others.

I advise no person to go who is comfortably off at home.

But I know the soil to be rich and the climate healthy. Land can be obtained for almost nothing, and very plentiful returns had, with much less labor than is demanded on our New England farms. For some time to come the stream of emigration thither, and to states West of Kansas, will keep up the market for agricultural produce, and make a good demand for the labor of mechanics of different trades. I have advices from there to the end of last year, which state that the cold weather was then passed, and that it had not been so severe but that men had worked in building &c. in the open air, with very little interruption. There is every sort of timber except evergreen timber; coal is abundant for use as fuel, iron ore in rich specimens is found in different parts of the territory.

The settlements which have thus far been made have proved to be in very healthy situations.

No correct estimate can be made of the present population of Kansas.

The Indians in the vicinity of the settlers have been under the instruction of missionaries and others for many years, and have thus far proved good neighbors. They carry on considerable farming operations.

We are already certain that a very large emigration will go into Kansas from New England, New York, and the North Western States in the course of the next Spring.

If you or any of your friends wish to assist in that movement, without going, you have two methods of assisting the Emigrant Aid Company.

Its officers are:—

AMOS A. LAWRENCE, of Boston,  
J. M. S. WILLIAMS, of Cambridge,  
ELI THAYER, Worcester, } Trustees.

Mr. LAWRENCE, is Treasurer, and Dr. THOMAS H. WEBB, of Boston, is Secretary. His office is at the Mass. Hist. Society's rooms, next door south of the Museum, in Tremont street.

1. You can become a subscriber to its stock, by taking one or more shares, of the value of twenty dollars each. This stock is invested in such improvements in Kansas as promote the comfort, health, and success of the Emigrants; at the same time the investments return a fair profit to the Company. You readily understand, that in a new region *Capital* is the great necessity. By investing Capital in Saw Mills, Grist Mills, Steam Engines, boarding houses &c. &c., the Emigrant Aid Company expects to promote the purposes of its Emigrants so far as to relieve the emigration into Kansas of much of the suffering which usually awaits the settlement of a new country.