The greatest number I have heard stated by their friends — was 400 & there they have been spending their time — waiting for as they say for the Other troops

And the Free State Men are also Gathering here from all this part of the Territory & we went out to drill this afternoon — & meet again to-morrow morning at Sunrise and at 2 O'Clock.

However the general impression that there will be no Official attack — but what they most fear is an attack by the Mob & most probably if they do it will be at night — & no doubt will be to-night or to-morrow night

There has been a constant guard for several nights with patrolls — to night the guards are trebled — The free state Men will give a good account of themselves I will warrant You — With the Missourians it may well be said "it is the manger's last kick"

In a political point of view — it will do more for the admission of Kansas as a State than all that ever has been done It seems that every thing the Missourians have done from the beginning has been Calculated to injure them & to favor the ~~contrad~~ advance of Freedom.

I wrote to William while at St Louis — but have received no answer — what is the Matter has he not Received it? — if so why don't he write — all are well except George who has had a short run of the Billous fever — but he is now getting better — I have no misgivings in coming out here — it is all I had anticipated & if I live and have my health — with the family — all will be realized — do not let these troubles which I have related affect You — whoever suffers whether as to property health or even death will do so in a good Cause — Kansas must be free

Yours truly O. Wilmarth

Direct to
Lawrence
Kansas Territory

Dec 5th they are fortifying the Town it is generally thought there will be a fight