

From William C. Connett, Jr. to James L. Thornberry

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Sparta Mo.

April 28th 1855

James L[.] Thornberry Esq.

Drss

We received one of your letters a few days ago from Shelbiville Ind. in which you seem to be enjoying good health & in fine spirits. I am happy to be able to inform you that we too are in fine health & spirits. We have had a change in our family since we last wrote to you. My sister Morand was married on the fifteenth of the present month to a Mr. Reid. he is a very respectable gentleman of fine estate, lives near St[.] Joseph. My father is at this time below with the principle part of his last years crop with which I think he will do well [*text stricken through*]--we are [MS. illegible] a large crop this season particularly hemp[,] about one hundred & fourty acres[.] it is just peaking through the ground at this time and looks fine[.]

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Our season this far has been very dry[.] we had a light shower last night but unless it is followed by another very soon we must suffer with the drouth but I have never known May or June to be to dry in this country[.]

The all absorbing topic here has been the Kansas election which is over & has resulted in the entire over-through of the free soil party. I was verry much gratified at the result for if the Northern States were to succeed in making it a free state and introducing their helish [MS. illegible] of theft and corruption which they are [MS. illegible] on the other states bordering on them & I am satisfied they would[.] I would be unwilling to remane here[.] such has been the course persued by them that I would almost be willing to see the bond that binds us to them severed and all intercourse [MS. illegible] between the to section[.] the constitution cannot continue unless you people of

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the free states let us alone in the management of our own domestic affairs. But the limits of a letter do not allow me to express my feelings on this subject. I am verry sorry that there is a [prospect?] of you settling in Ind. I would not live in a state that has done what she has in the case of our neighbour [MS. illegible] who had his property stolen from him at your seat of government and his life threatened if he did not dissent from any farther effort to regain his property[.] I know that it will be urged that it was done by a mob but that plea will not do[.] your governor could have ordered the militia and have put a stop to such a course of conduct[.] if they obeyed the order then [MS. illegible] would have got his property[.] if they refused to obey the order then it prove where your people stand on the subject that they would countenance the stealing of our property[.] but I must close[.]