

From James Montgomery to George L. Stearns

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Mound City, Linn Co., Kans.,  
March 11th 1861.

Geo. L. Stearns Esqr.;

Dear Sir:

Your several letters were partly answered in Lawrence.

The first delay was caused by want of Ink. The weather was so cold, I could not keep it, and after losing four bottles in succession, I gave out trying to keep it. The weather is now warm, but I am so pressed, with other affairs that I have little time for writing.

I did not see Mr. Lincoln. I passed through Springfield in the night. I was so short of funds that I feared to risk a halt; and, besides he was so much [*text stricken through*] pressed with company, that It would hardly have paid to call on him.

When I got home, I lacked two dollars of having money enough to pay what I had borrowed to start on. I would like, very much, to go to Washington, As you suggest, but I am too much pressed with business, at home. I lost so much time, last fall and winter, that I have, now, not an hour to spare.

You ask what I think of Stewart's operations. -- I suppose you refer to the policy of sending fugitives to Canada. I will say that my opinions have undergone no change since I saw you, in Boston. I think it will cost less to protect them here, than it will to send them to Canada; and, besides, the principle is much better. "He shall dwell among you, [*text stricken through*] even within thy gates, in a good place where it liketh him best." Deut. XXIII: 15, 16, does not allow us to send him to Canada against his will.

Mr. Bird, you will remember[,] was very positive that we could not protect

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them here, while I was quite as positive in the opinion that we could. We have one that we have kept over three years; and we have at least a dozen that we have kept from six months to a year. We have not had one killed or taken from us yet, in this part of the country, and we have been tried, quite as severely, as we are likely [*text stricken through*] ever to be again.

Kansas is truly a free state, and ever shall be. A fugitive can [*text stricken through*] travel as safely here, [*text stricken through*] in Southern Kansas, as he can in Canada.

An Old Free Darky was kidnapped a few weeks since, by a party of Missouri Militia but he need not have been had he kept his arms in condition for use. He had two guns, and the man with whom he lived, two more, and, yet, not one of the four guns could be fired for want of caps. The party was perfectly cowardly, and a single shot would have dispersed them. But, suppose they can succeed in capturing one occasionally; they will find him a dangerous missionary among their plans in the South, and he will, generally, return, bringing company with him.

The Senatorial question is running high here, now, and the candiates are going through a regular sweat[.]

It is, however, much to be regretted that any of them, in their jealousy of [Pomeroy?], should misrepresent the condition of the country, and, yet, this is what I fear some of them have done.

I have just received a letter from Mr. Smalley, in forming me that a lady whose name he is not at liberty to mention, has placed in your hands \$.25 for my use, I fully appreciate the delicacy of this compliment, and yet, I shall not rest easy until I have discovered "the secret".

Mr. Da-Lee, of Lawrence, has a "Negative," from which he is printing pictures, that I think are better representations of my [*text stricken through*] phiz, than any that I have ever seen before. As soon as can get me them, I beg her to accept it. They were not finished when I left Lawrence.

Yours Truly,  
Jas. Montgomery