

From John B. Wood to George L. Stearns

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Lawrence Kansas

Nov 19th 1861

George L[.] Stearns Esq[.]

Dear Sir[.]

Contrabands in large numbers are fleeing from Missouri into Kansas and especially into Lawrence[.] 131 came into Lawrence in ten days, yesterday 27 had arrived at 2 P.M. Thus far they have been taken care of; as the farmers needed help and hundreds if not thousands are now employed in harvesting who will soon be out of employment; and then they will gather into town for us to feed and clothe. No doubt a part of the farmers will provide for, those now at work for them, during the winter; but all will not do it; then as to the newcomers; there is not an intelligent slave in Mo. but knows where Lawrence is; and we shall have them here by thousands, and unless our friends from the east assist there will be starvation and death among them. there will be much suffering at all events.

As you have heretofore shewn yourself much interested in behalf of this oppressed class of our fellow men will you not lay this matter before

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the friends of humanity at the East and ask them to send us funds to relieve their wants[.]

I would recommend that funds be sent to Rev[.] John S. Brown of Lawrence[.] Mr[.] Brown is the pastor of the Unitarian Church in this town as you can learn from the Unitarian Association at Boston[.]

Respectfully Yours[.]

John B[.] Wood

P.S. I was not out last eve in consequence of [MS. illegible] but since writing the above I learn that 86 came into town in one drove last evening[.] J.B.W.