

Grinnell April 27th 1857

Sister Sarah E.

Thinking that my friends (if I have any) would like, by this time to know where I am and how it is likely to be for the future, I will relieve all anxiety after giving a few items of our journey and the weather since our arrival in this place. Every thing went pleasantly and safely, so that in 48 hours we should have been in Chicago had it not have been for an accident to the train just ahead of us on Friday morning early about 60 miles east of Chicago caused by the breaking of an axle to the forward passenger car by which 3 cars were smashed to pieces 2 of them being in pieces small enough for wood, by which 1 oldish woman and her little grandchild were killed outright, her husband's head nearly smashed, so that it is likely he died before night, and their son had both legs broken by being as it is supposed wound around an axle (perhaps he is dead) leaving one young lady uninjured these being all of one family and the only ones injured except some who had a few scratches, the old lady had her dress sewed full in every place with 20 dollar gold pieces, the above is true for Monroe and his father & Charles went to see them at a tavern close to the station.

The rest of the journey was safely made, We hired a team from Iowa City to this place, costing for both ^{to Grinnell} \$72,80

Now one word on temporal affairs. There is land here for within 5 or 6 miles from \$5,00 ~~up~~ to \$30 or a \$100, per acre being raw prairie, and also improved lands well fenced, being in 40 acre or 80 acre, or 160 acre lots, some are beyond my means but more within them, I can have a piece of 160 acres prairie 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 miles west of the village but not in sight for \$5, per acre to which is added the interest of \$800, at 10 per cent for 10 mos, being about \$870, one half paid now the other next January. This belongs to J B Grinnell.

(I would exchange 160 Acres of prairie for $\frac{1}{4}$ East side or $\frac{1}{2}$ of Wahkiakum)

There is another lot $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles north west of the village of 100 Acres, 60 A well fenced & 40 A plowed several years, of the other 40 A 20 makes good pasture, the rest has a few trees & bushes. for about \$1550, I know not certainly, the owner living in Mass, I shall ^{know} by the time you answer this, ~~the~~ The above 40 Acres Monroe & I can have to plant with corn for \$3.00 the acre. There is another lot of 100 Acres just one mile from the north-west corner of the village, (raw prairie) with a road running north side of it with houses, & lands fenced & improved north side of the road, The rail road is located & staked along the south side of it, with living water about 100 rods west of the east end of it, this lot is a part of 4 mile square or 160 Acres, the other 60 lying south side of the rail road as laid out, ~~part~~ part of it is plowed & soon will be fenced soon, this 60 A is separated from another 160 A by a road running west, with a house on it nearly enclosed, with another ready to be raised a short distance from it, I think you will see that this is & will be a good property and will soon be built all around with dwelling houses, it being right in sight of every thing, Grinnell owns this. He will sell for \$1500, $\frac{1}{3}$ now $\frac{1}{3}$ in 1 year & 6 mos. after, with 10 per cent. interest, but with cash he will sell for \$1200. I like this the best of any, I write this to know if any of you will send me a check of \$700, taking for security a mortgage on the same at 8 per cent. interest, with 25 to 40 Acres of it being ^{this year} fenced. This would leave me \$500. for other purposes & to build a small house on it as we have talked many times, If I couldn't fence it more land enough can be hired or taken on shares, so that with health I should have no fears, & you perfectly safe. Write the day after you get this without fail & say whether you will or will not do as I wish, It has been frosty & cold with much snow, but I have sowed 5 A of Wheat, shall sow in all 10 or 15 A. on $\frac{1}{2}$ share of Grinnell.

We are boarding with Dea Ford 2 yrs since from Mass, his wife is sister to Warner that worked for Guttie, they are nice people with 4 children, We are pleased & happy & so is Capor he loves,

Direct Geo. W. Cook, Grinnell, Poweshiek County, Iowa