

There is an excellent Seminary for Young Ladies in Lexington under the management of the Presbyterian Church. The buildings and grounds are the most commodious & beautiful I know. And Danville College, under the control of the same denomination stands very high. My experience at Princeton however didn't greatly impress me greatly with the advantages of college education.

I hope you will let me hear from you again soon, & let me know your final determination as to whether you will locate in Illinois.

Louisville Oct 4 1850

My dear Sparrow

Your letter of the 27th of July came to hand in due course of mail, and I am sincerely ashamed of myself for permitting to go unanswered so long. But the fact is that I am so completely out of the habit of writing any other than short business letters that the very idea of writing a letter of any other character embarrasses me as it used to do to make a speech. I do not even write to the members of my own family except on business. I know this is a wretched habit and one of which I have frequently determined to break myself, but have never yet succeeded. Besides this I was, when I received your letter, in very considerable pecuniary embarrassment in consequence of large liabilities I had incurred as surety. And this took up almost all my thoughts until, after much vacation, I have managed to work myself pretty well out of it.

It has been a long time my dear fellow since we met last, and I was greatly disappointed not to find you at Oshkosh.

Yet I derived a great deal of pleasure from my short visit, although it was not altogether unalloyed. It was a great pleasure to renew my acquaintance with your wife, and to see and to know your children. And among Mr Blackwells family I felt that I was among old friends. And ~~to witness~~ the heroic cheerfulness & hopefulness of the old gentleman ~~in the~~ and his charming daughters, in the midst of his reverses, was a study to make a better man of one. I was surprised to feel how much I missed Mrs Justice from the family circle.

Mr B reminded more than any one I ever before saw of my own dear old father, whom I have lost since you were here. He is like him in personal appearance, and especially so in the cheerful kindness and heartiness of his manner.

I have been greatly disappointed that you have not been here according to the partial promise contained in your letter. I do really long to have you in my own house and to have one more good long talk with you. Can't you & Mrs L. come over & pay us a visit some time this ~~summer~~ fall or winter & bring the children with you? You won't be likely to be much engrossed with business when you first begin, if you conclude to move to Illinois

I am a great believer in New Countries for large families. Though I confess it occurred to me that Okaw hardly could present a sufficient field for you. At the same time my judgement is decidedly against a City, and my judgement as to this is backed up by my experience. It takes a man longer to become known & begin to make a support. And although if he succeeds, he will do a larger business, his expenses are so much greater, that the clear profit is not much greater than in a small town while the wear & tear, ^{upon the constitution} is immensely greater.

Since I have been here the receipts from my profession have been very considerably more than they ever were in Leesington. But nothing like so large in proportion to my family expenses. And my health became so impaired that last winter I was compelled to give up business altogether, & as I then hoped forever. I have found myself however unable to live without business & have had to return to my office with the feelings of a doomed slave returning to his galley. I should have returned to Leesington, but I own a good deal of property in this vicinity, which requires my personal supervision, & which I was unable

A dispose of satisfactorily

Since you were here my adopted daughter
(whom I believe you did not see) is grown
up, and a young lady in society. This
is making me realize that I am beginning
to be a real old fellow. In fact this unpleas-
ant fact is often brought to my mind in
seeing the children not only of my contem-
poraries, but of those whom, when I first grew
up, I regarded as children. I know ~~the~~ ^{nothing}
which impressed me in this way ~~the~~ more
than to see your almost grown son. This is
unpleasant to me not so much because of
a dread of being old, as of the manifestation
it makes of how complete a failure my life
has been. It shows me that I am at a point
at which I ought to be able to say my life
has been a success. While the fact is I can not
not only not say that, but cannot, with all
my self esteem, conscientiously bring my-
self to say that it would have been one if
the world had done me justice.

My wife is, I presume, as little changed
since you saw her, as any one. And as
bright and cheerful at home. And this tho'
she has suffered great & long continued men-
tal agony in consequence of the death, in a duel,
of an adopted son to whom she was most de-
votedly attached. Present ~~the~~ ^{my} kindest remem-
brances to the members of your own family
as well as to those of Mr Blackwells, and
believe me truly yr friend
H. Lindell