

Cambridge June 7-1857

My Dear Father

Since my last  
your circulars of invitation  
have come to hand, and  
I took them to Boston on  
Friday - I will send you  
a list of the gentlemen  
who receive them - Mr  
Warren tells me that Mr  
Breckinridge has not  
yet decided to attend  
the celebration of the 17  
of June. I have not  
heard from Mr Silsbee  
yet but expect to in  
a day or two - I hope  
he may conclude to  
go. I should like to  
be in N.Y. on the 4<sup>th</sup>

but cannot - every thing  
must for the few  
years to come be  
subservient to my  
College duties -

On reference to Lister's acct  
I find that I have already  
paid out for her \$111.76 leaving  
a balance of \$38.24 - due on her  
acct. I should think \$200.  
will be necessary to pay  
her remaining indebtedness  
up to her reaching home.

The past week has been  
as quiet as usual - I  
went to Fresh Pond one  
evening to take a row  
the party consisted of  
seven and they had  
quite a nice time - we  
returned by 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  o'cl.  
I passed last evening

as usual at Miss Fay's  
found them quite  
agreeable &c - On yester-  
day I called with sister  
on Mrs Crowningshield &  
on Mrs Tudor - There is  
to be a great deal of  
gayety during the next  
few weeks and I  
fear much to the  
injury of study -

All our will and  
desire to be remembered  
Love to all

Your Afft Son  
Henry

Wly 23. Sp. 8<sup>th</sup> 1858

My Dear Mother

Thanks for  
your very kind letter  
of the first of this month  
I presume that you have  
already received letters  
telling of my safe arrival  
~~at~~ Sunday  
evening I had the  
pleasure of seeing Mr  
& Mrs Sparks Mrs & Miss Silsbee  
they are all well and  
desire to be most kindly  
remembered - leaving  
Mr Sparks I called  
at Dr Johnsons where  
I found the Dr & Mrs J.

Miss L. Bowditch - Mr, Mrs  
& Misses Ridgway all  
well - the Ridgways have  
taken possession of their  
new house and are  
very comfortable - They  
tell me that they are  
quite anxious to have  
sister Mary come on  
and make them a  
visit - If such an  
arrangement could be  
effected it would be  
very pleasant for Miss  
B. in some respects -

On Monday evening the  
usual game at foot  
ball came off on the  
delta between the Sophs  
and Freshmen - as usual  
there was a large atten-

dance of strangers - many  
ladies &c - The games  
were quite animated &  
several were quite long  
- I do not ~~not~~ know  
that any one was hurt  
badly but I should  
think it likely for there  
was some hard fighting  
- I have been quite busy  
since my return to  
Cambridge and will be  
so for some weeks to  
come - Please write  
often - Love to all  
Your Affec Son  
H.



N. J. Duncan Esq  
Care Mrs J. C. Ford  
Louisville  
Ky -

Lexington March 15<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Father

Mrs. Bigsby reached here on Saturday night via Cincinnati - from her we learn that your purpose remaining in Louisville until after the meeting of the Union Democratic Convention - The meeting which had been called for Saturday was not held as promptly as was intended, and I presume it would not have been held at all if the Radicals had not assembled in the Court House in large numbers before the hour named on the ringing of the bell. The accidental presence of a large body of Cavalry on the Court House square also had a depressing effect on our friends & many anxious enquiries were made as to what they were doing there. At all events some cause or other induced our friends who are not of the Madison Co school in Politics, to hesitate about having the meeting leaving a Deputation of Mandrup, Morgan & commenced temporarily - James Robertson appeared as speaker, Mather & prepared with the assistance of Jacob Keyser & M. Oldham & the Shave party - a substitute for those

originally offered - They very much resemble  
a saturated solution of dish-water - but  
seemed acceptable to a majority of the Senior  
Jury & Weak-Kneed Union Men & so  
they were unanimously adopted - Persons  
W & B did not participate in the meeting  
- I am inclined to fear that "weak-kneed"  
is not an inappropriate name for our  
anti-administration men judging from  
the graceful manner in which they "came  
in" on Saturday - Key seems to be  
subdued in this region - "Unquestioning  
Loyalty" is now the order of the day -

Do you advise me to attend the meeting  
in Louisville on the 18th - If you think I  
had better come down - telegraph me  
in the morning also whether to come  
to the Hotel & the Salt House or

You have probably seen from the  
news-papers that Judge Bradley has  
decided the Act of Congress making the  
Federal Currency & legal tender for the  
payment of debts to be constitutional  
a reversal is anticipated in the  
Court of Appeals - & an effort is being  
made to preclude their decision in advance  
by charging the Court with being Rebel

Bradley has also decided the Chan-  
delier question - They are only highly  
ornamental gas burners & are fixtures &  
pass under the deed - of course an  
appeal has been taken by Payne -  
The Monument's business came up  
on Saturday & in consequence of your  
absence I had it concluded until  
next Saturday -

The weather is fine & I presume your  
crops will begin ploughing today  
I went to the County on yesterday to  
see about your grape vines - John  
has already pruned them - I do not  
think they will do any good - the ground  
is entirely too wet -

All are well & you in much love to  
your wife my self Mrs Fnd & Alice  
Your affectionate  
W. T. Duncan jr

P. S.

Mrs High says that she & sister Mary  
have arranged to go South



W. J. Dumeau Esq  
Lexing ton



Bement Sep 5. 1864.

Dear Father

I have just reached  
this place from Monticello.  
I was just 2 days too  
late. Bowman returned  
the land on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and  
the sale will take place  
on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of Sep. There  
is but one hope left.  
Williams is said to have  
executed a deed of trust  
possibly the trustee will  
sell the chances for this  
place at a small sum  
in which case we  
could bid the land in.  
I will be at home on  
Friday. Love to all  
Your affectionate

you wished - from what I  
am able to hear in regard  
to the depredations on the timber  
I am satisfied that it will  
be best to sell - No Jenkins  
has secured some \$800 on  
your lands there this week.  
I will bring it in with me.

There was a very destructive  
torнадо passed over your  
Mattoon timber of Friday -  
Kation who lives on the land  
came up in yesterday to let  
us know that about one  
tenth of all the larger trees  
are blown over - This decided  
me to make the 12 N. Engine  
from Hamilton and I will  
first have it put up in  
that place & run it until the  
down temper can be used  
up.

Arcola. Sep. 28. 1874

Dear Father -

I have been steadily on  
the go since I came out. The  
result of my visit to Pyatt  
was announced in a letter  
to Lily - we had no trouble  
at all, except one of Bowman  
Jenkins that I should pay him  
10 per cent interest on his money  
while it was lying idle in  
the hands of the sheriff - I at  
once settled the matter by telling  
him that there was no use of  
talking about it I would  
not pay one cent - After  
that all passed off pleasantly  
& Bowman returned home  
greatly satisfied with his  
purchase - He says that I  
beat him in the divide -

I am decidedly of that opinion myself. I have talked with several large land owners among them Mr Bodman of Fremont. They all agree that I can realize a profit out of the transaction of from 30,000 to 35,000 \$. Mr Bodman says that he would not sell any land if he had it for less than \$50 per acre - that it will be worth that price in a short time - My own opinion is that the property is worth \$20. per acre, easily - Since I was out before there have been several sales in Douglas one by Dr. Heavy of 200 acres - 3 miles from Okean very moderate improvement & fetching at \$39. per acre

<sup>200 Acs</sup>  
- Vermont sold his open prairie at \$29. per acre - Wisconsin sold 400 acres - 200 of it prairie & 200 in the timber - the wood being all been cut off by the R.R. - & purchased by him at \$3. per acre in the spring - He sold at 27 \$ per acre - Webb just below me says he would not take \$50. per acre. All of the R.R. land west of me has been taken up except the 20 & the price for that is \$10. Mr Brand ought to purchase it - The demand seems to be greatly on the increase & it will advance rapidly for the next two months - I am going to Christian tomorrow to make arrangements for selling your lands there as

from me attended to - Gintore  
is the lawyer on both sides &  
is evidently trying to manufacture  
all the possible claims that  
can be brought into the case  
- Houston is Esq. Williams lawyer  
but he seems to have abandoned  
the case - I think it would  
be best to employ Mr. Kirtland  
to attend to the suit & and  
reduce the liability of Esq.  
Williams as much as possible  
- I find that Lindsay still  
owes J. S. Williams a balance  
of near \$1000. which was  
attached in that suit - but  
owing to Lindsay's death - seems  
to have been omitted - I  
do not see that I can  
get through my business  
here under 2. months - &  
more

2  
There was a great deal of  
damage done on the Prairie  
Horns blown down. Sticks  
& fences scattered - a train  
of Cows on the Fort Hunt  
& Altin R. R. blown over - and  
I have a lot of 90 head  
of Fat Cattle that became alarmed  
and stampeded during the storm  
& have not yet been found.  
- I wish you could manage  
to make me a visit of a  
few days, I want your  
advice in regard to future  
operations here, and you can  
give it much better on the  
ground - than in Ky - I am  
confident that if you will  
"back me up" sufficiently, that  
I can during the next 5 years  
make a fortune

Our Spring Wheat was threshed  
out last week & yielded  
27 bushels to the Acre, which  
at \$1.70 per bushel is \$45.90  
per acre on a rent of \$22.95,  
unfortunately we had only  
a small crop in - I  
purchased 100 head of Steers  
Cattle at \$30 per head - We  
will sell 200 head as soon  
as the domestic pasture of  
which we have 640 Acres  
fills - we refused an offer  
of 6¢ per lb. for 150 head of  
them to go off at once. I  
hope we may be able to get  
\$7. and as soon as we can  
get it we will sell - Hogs  
are very high. \$10. per Steer  
Hogs a Fat one in Chicago  
\$13. Dr. Perkins is now  
weighing 800 head of Cattle

purchased for the U. S. at  
prices from \$4.50 to \$3.62½ - good  
Cattle but thin in color - The  
high price of Corn is inducing  
holders of Cattle to sell off  
all that there is a Market  
for -

I will go over to Decatur on  
my way back from Christian  
& will send you in Exchange  
or by Express \$14,500. - \$4,500  
for you & 10,000 to be paid  
on my note for \$20,000 -  
provided they will allow  
the interest for the time which  
it has to run - I wish  
you would give my Johnson  
a cheque for \$60. & make him  
enclose my note to him, for  
that amount of interest paid -  
It will not do to let the  
Williams suit in Clark

I have written to Lily to  
 come out if she can get  
 any one to accompany her  
 - I wish that you & Mother  
 would visit me in Chicago  
 next week - I think a little  
 visit would do her a  
 great deal of good - and  
 if you can get Audys  
 wife to come out - you  
 might pass two or three  
 days very pleasantly on  
 this place -

I had almost forgotten to tell  
 you that I sent a Fall account  
 to Col. Sworrs at Cincinnati  
 a few days before I left home  
 if he returns in with an  
 order to pay it - please give  
 it to Capt Hall - if he does  
 not order it to be paid  
 keep the papers for me

Write to me at Chicago  
The Democracy here are  
very sanguine of success  
Love & all

Your affec  
W. G. Lawrence

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

Dear Foster -

I attended to the Business  
matter as you directed &  
had it charged to your Jc -

It is too late now being  
after 2. P. M. to get the note.

Your devoted Son

N. S. L.



Dear Hal - Call & see  
Boswell - If this is the day  
for the payment of the  
Braunau Note - I wish to pay  
it - If the note is payable in  
the Northern Bank - I will  
give a check for the amount  
& that will entitle me to  
the possession of the note  
which is the best & highest evi-  
dence of its payment - If other-  
wise I wish it charged to my  
account - I wish in a way  
that that will give direct  
& immediate remedy for its  
payment -

In haste

Yrs affectionately

AD

John