
At home near Taylorville Illinois
Sunday May 2, 1852

Dear sister

Am I to you indebted a letter or is it you to me the letter? I am confident well to begin this is two to your one. You must be more punctual in future. I got from Ma a letter, she had just got home from the river (your house). The old lady tells me you are all well and doing accordingly. Now sister I have no news to write you I have done a harder winter work this past than all I ever before and now I am more than busy planting corn. I am keeping what might be termed bachelor Hall together with a young man that I have hired for the year. We do our own cooking milking and make up our beds once a week regular which is Sunday morning, the same you know that we together [*with*] Rebecca used to have the pleasure of drinking a cup of coffee. On the aforesaid morning in each week the boys or rather the young men in town come out here occasionally of nights to play cards old (?) dodge (?). I have only built a room 16 x 18' with cellar underneath and thought that would do until I could get Mrs. R K Brooking [*a future wife*] to assist me in planning the construction of the remaining of building with the articles of furniture and livestock.

I have to commence with are these.

Indoor; bed and bedding yr dozen chairs, table, looking glass, trunk, old clothes hee hee.

Outdoors; 4 yoke cattle, saddle horse, 2 dogs, sharpshooter and cash, cow and calf, 14 hogs, say 40 chickens is about all.

I am beginning in quite a small way, you know "small boats are bound to stay near the shore." I have nothing new that would interest you and have been sick only once in the six months that I have been to the state and that lasted me some 10 days. It forseeded from exposure during the winter. I [*am*] still as has always been the case I am not much of a gallant or a ladies man. It is true I have called on quite a number of our town ladies at different times but have not yet found time to make my visits frequent. I expect it is from this fact that I take this view of the case, business before waiting on the ga, halls.

How does John make it nowadays getting rich or has he already got as much as he wants. If not, say to him I can put him in a way to get immensely wealthy in a short time. Come here and enter 10,000 acre land he may ask you why I don't myself before advising others. I would just answer that I have not the dough to enter with. I was for the first time in my life yesterday summoned by a constable to act as grand jury man in approaching court next week. I see my paper is almost exhausted so farewell for this time. My best regards and good wishes to Mrs. Hamilton, Sister V [Virginia] and Brother accept for yourself a share and kiss the little boys for Uncle Roger.

PS write soon

[Source document](#)