
Christian County Illinois
November 18, 1852

Dear Friend

Yours was read in due time some three weeks or a month since and I have set time and again to answer but have neglected it up to this. To proceed I am getting along in the world the best way I know how. This year I only raised 40 acres of corn having all the land to fence I am now fencing 160 acres more and will have in corn next season say 175 acres. As far as stock is concerned, I have few and being a new beginner and a poor man, I expect to buy some three-year-old steers about 1 February to feed my corn to. I have set out quite a number of fruit trees this fall say 72 apple trees but you river folks would think that quite a small orchard but here it is considered large and I intend to make it larger. In the spring is not that as good a time for setting out as fall? Well John how are you chalken out your way, I mean as to getting rich? As for me it makes no difference whether I am rich or poor as I have no wife and children to provide for and don't intend to have. Do you ever hear from the old folks in Clark and the old man Brooking [*his father*] made of a curious composition. Do you ever hear from Louis? [*Louis is John Anthony's brother*] It is not everyone that gets rich that goes to California. Remember me to each and everyone of your father's family together with all of my river friends. Write soon.

Yours Ever
Roger

My dear sister the short space I have left enough however to say howdy and goodbye. I sometimes feel like getting on my horse and striking out for the Ohio River and from thence to me old native county but when I come to reflect, it is here that all my interest lies. Well Princy in two or three years I will have, I think, a nice farm but now a portion of it is in a state of nature. I will set out in the spring a few miles of fence of Osage Orange. Remember me to your little boys. I live in hopes of seeing you next September. Let me hear from you and I will in future give you a more lengthy epistle. Good bye, Farewell R K Brooking

[Source document](#)