

29 1860-02-28: Letter

From DMC: I do not know exactly when George and Electa left Grinnell to return to Connecticut, but the first paragraph below implies that they are at least no longer ecstatically happy about their move to Grinnell and the fourth paragraph asks Sarah to be on the lookout for property that George and Electa might acquire in the east. I do not know who Monroe is.

Grinnell, Feb 28th, 1860

Sister Sarah:

I received yours dated the 3d just saying you were all well and making a few inquiries. I will say as I have before that the first good opportunity I shall leave this prairie country. It may be in 2 months, 6 months, or even 2 or 3 years. I cannot now tell you when it may be.

We are now well and have been since I wrote you last. There is a plenty of every thing here but money and everything cheap for this reason making the labot of a year of but little value.

In Iowa City, wheat is worth 80 cts for bu, pork 5 to 6 dollars per hundred. Corn I think would not pay first rate to carry any further than to Marengo about 40 miles to which place the cars will be in 3 or 4 months. Nearly half the road is graded from the city to Marengo and more than half from here to Marengo. The contract for grading the road requires it to be all done by the first of July next, which I should think might be done as there about 700 men are now at on it. The rails are being laid west of the City as fast as the road-bed is finished.

What the future will give us here in the west I know not any more than I do what the east will give you but I have the opinion I formed 4 years since that the East is much the better place to live and labor in from every consideration except this rich and easily worked soil. You say if I have any intention of coming back this spring let you know. Now if I knew just what place I could have and the conditions of having it I should know just what effort to make to get back in time to begin the year to suit myself. I think this cannot be done and if not I must have a job of work of some kine for a year of a school in winter. Here are 2 items: a farm in season or work. Suppose some of you make a little effort in that direction and if no farm can be found that owuld suit me then see what kind of a job can be found. I care not where it is or what kind of the price if from 1 dollar to upward per day if house rent is not too high state the price. Suppose you ask Monroe (for one place) what chance if any and what it will be.

Please answer soon so whatever you way will determine nearly all the effort I shall make for the present. It has cold nearly all the time with but little snow. The wells have raised a little in the last few days from melting snow and a little rain. I do not believe it has rained 30 hours snce Monroe left up to the 21st inst. The manure that froze in the stable the 5th Dec really thawed for the first time on the 21st inst, yet everything has been frozen upmost the time since. The Congregationalists are making an effort to get a monister and build a church. They will succeed in both. A revival has been in progress here for the last 6 weeks to such an extent that one man said (in sport) that in 10 days there will not be a sinner in the place.

More next time. Attend to all I have said. Yours,
Geo. W. Cook