

### 31 ?????-??-??; part of some other letter

*From DMC: The mention towards the end of John Brown's passing through Grinnell with 11 slaves and George Cook's transport of 2 slaves to Iowa City perhaps fixes the date. This letter clearly dates from somewhere between April 1857 (when George and Electa arrived in Grinnell) and 2 December 1859 when John Brown died (by hanging after the Harper's Ferry raid. I do not know who Lam and Holcomb (County judge) are, nor do I know to whom the pronoun "he" in several places refers. That may also give a clue as to the letter of which this text is page 3.*

*From DMC: What follows claims to be page 3 of something else.*

It is no great honor or profit but for anyone who is fishing every little thing is thought to be a stepping stone to go higher. He may go as high as he can for aught I care. Contrast this place with Boonsboro. This place gold while that is brass. I asked him what he does on Sunday. He said ??? staid at home. Lam said he staid at home for he says he could not go to the Methodists. They disagreed so among themselves that they would almost fight every Sunday. Baptists have preaching once a month. While here Sunday is quiet, most going to Church. Here they tax themselves willingly for schools and take pride in having it known all over the state where they use up the public money and I wait till the next dividend comes around.

The prairies there is not as high as here and the timber not over 1/4 as high (in value I mean). He says the place has changed greatly since he went there. The old settler selling out and new ones taking their places mostly west of Pennsylvania.

These old settlers are mostly from Kentucky, Virginia, and the Carolinas and are what are called at the south but the slaves "poor whites" but few of them can read. Who would swap places with him, not I. After a long conversation with him about the good and bad of both places, he says these words, "Your place has a reputation for good as our place has for evil and it is known with us as "Yankee Town". He has entered into partnership in law business with 2 others. He will be admitted to the Bar at the next District Court at Boonsboro so look out for some speeches if he comes that way. He gave me three cards, one of which I send in this letter. Holcomb has been County Judge. He married the widow of a Universalist minister. He wrote pieces descriptive of Boonsboro that were published in Universalist Papers. This is the way he came to Boonsboro.

Eleven slaves with all their baggage fillins 3 wagons came here yesterday. Several white men are with them all well armed headed by old Capt. Brown of Kansas. (Ask G. Leonard who he is) He has a long white Beard and the top of his head slick up like mule's ears. They take the cars at the City for Canada, the whites going back. One has been here since last fall. I carried 2 to the City last fall when I went down. This is a station of the Underground R. Road, and we expect it will be one for the upper ground one. More next time, Yours, Geo. W. Cook.