

Old Letters

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OLD LETTERS.

EDITED BY WILLIAM SALTER.

I.

HENRY DODGE TO HIS DAUGHTERS, SALINA AND CHRISTIANA.

The following letter of Henry Dodge affords a glimpse into his fine domestic character. His daughter, Salina, became the wife of Major F. Truett; Christiana, the wife of James Clarke, third Governor of the Territory of Iowa.

FORT LEAVENWORTH, March 4, 1835.

Misses Salina and Christiana Dodge, Female Academy, Kaskaskia, Illinois.

MY DEAR CHILDREN: I received my youngest daughter's letter, dated on the 19th of January, by the last mail. The mails have been very irregular at this post during the winter. Your Mama, as well as myself, was exceedingly anxious to hear from you. I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from Mr. Morrison by the same mail that brought me Christiana's letter, informing me of the progress my younger daughter was making in her education, which was a source of great gratification to her parents. On consulting with your Mama, as well as the expressed desire of my youngest daughter, I concluded to permit you both to remain at school during the next summer. I have written to Mr. Morrison by this mail to furnish you the necessary clothing that you may want, as well to pay your schooling for the quarter ending on the 11th of June, and that I would remit the amount to Mr. Collier, merchant at St. Louis, subject to his order.

I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you next season, and in the meantime it will be a source of great gratification to your parents to receive letters from you both frequently. I hope, my dear children, you are both deeply impressed with the importance of improving every hour to advantage. Your future prospects, your happiness and usefulness in life will greatly depend upon the use you now make of your time. The minds of the young are susceptible of receiving early impressions that is to have a lasting influence on their actions and respectability through life. And be assured that although I am not with you I think of you daily and hope to see you learned and accomplished young ladies.

Present your Mama's as well as my best respects to the Sisters who have charge of the female academy.

Affectionately your father,

H. DODGE.

II.

HENRY DODGE TO GEORGE W. JONES.

MADISON, Jan. 8, 1848.

Gen'l George W. Jones, Dubuque, Iowa.

DEAR SIR: Mr. George Hyer is anxious to obtain a District of Public Surveying. He is a highly respectable gentleman and is at present the editor of the "Rock River Pilot," a Democratic paper printed at Watertown, in this Territory. He is a man of talent and every way trustworthy and deserves the respect and confidence of the Democratic party in Wisconsin.

Mr. Hyer thinks that a surveying expedition would have a tendency to restore his health, which has been delicate for some time.

Mr. Delaplaine, with whom you are acquainted, informs me that Mr. Hyer is an excellent practical surveyor. I desire always to give my aid to men of worth and integrity, to those whose situation requires help, and if consistent with your official arrangements I would be much gratified if Mr. Hyer could obtain the surveying he desires.

I am, with much esteem,

Your ob't serv't.

HENRY DODGE.

III.

GEORGE LEWIS TO W. S., BURLINGTON.

The writer was pastor of a Welch congregation on Flint creek, Des Moines county. With his family and some of his people he went to Kansas, July, 1855, where they took up claims between Lecompton and Lawrence. He describes what he there witnessed.

LAWRENCE, KANSAS, July 12, 1856.

* * * One day I had a conversation with a man from Virginia (who lives about a mile from me) about the Congressional Committee and the bogus laws. I told him frankly my opinion, not mistrusting him to be a traitor, for he had never taken an active part with the pro-slavery party; but he went down to Lecompton that day and charged me of being a spy between Lecompton and Lawrence, and I received word before night that day that it was not safe for me to go either to Lecompton or Lawrence. One night an attempt was made to burn the house of one of my neighbors, but the owner got wind of it the day before. A company of Free-Soilers under arms gathered to protect the house, and when the mob got together they were fired upon—one horse was killed, one

man slightly wounded, two were taken prisoners and released next morning; the son of the governor being one of the gang, and another person ran into the woods close by, and did not leave till evening next day. The next day the governor went out on an exploring expedition for Sharp's rifles. He threatened to tear the heart out of one lady if she would not tell where her husband was. The lady was in a delicate condition. She felt much alarmed at the threat and the consequence was she miscarried and there she remained from 2 o'clock p. m. till 10 that evening all alone. * * * The governor was intoxicated so that he could hardly steer his horse that day. It is reported that when he gets in a state of inebriety he forgets himself; then his pro-slavery friends curse him because he does not do so and so, and then he curses them, and tells them to go and do it; and afterwards, when he is reminded of it, he does not recollect anything about it. With such a man at the head of your affairs, what can we expect but murders, pillages and outrages to take place?

One day lately I had been on an errand to Lecompton and was returning. About a mile from home I met a Southerner, and the following conversation occurred:

Southerner—"Where are you going, my friend?"

Myself—"I am going home, Sir."

Southerner—"What is the news?"

Myself—"Nothing special."

Southerner—"What paper is that?" (I had a newspaper in my hand.)

Myself—"It is the Lecompton Union, Sir."

(Having a pro-slavery paper in my hand, I suppose he thought I was '*right on the goose*,' pro-slavery phrase.)

Southerner—"The Abolitionists have killed four men again."

Myself—"Where at?"

Southerner—"At Hickory Point, where they killed 8 before. They are taking the law in *their own hands*; we will have to do the same. We must scour the Territory. We will soon give them, 'Hark from the tombs.' Where did you come from to this territory, my friend?"

Myself—"From the State of Iowa, Sir."

Southerner—"I suppose you are a *Free Soiler* then."

Myself—"Certainly; but I am willing to abide by the decision of the *Ballot* box. If it becomes a *free State*, I know I can live in it; and if it becomes a *Slave State*, if I could not live in it, I suppose my pro-slavery friends would permit me to leave."

Southerner (smiling)—"You talk like a sensible man."

Myself—"That is the way I always talk. I do not want anything but to carry out republican principles."

My Southern friend left smiling. When the advocates of Slavery are met on that ground, they are compelled to admit that their opponents are right; but the trouble is they will turn round and cut their throats the first time they can have.

During the late disturbances here, it appeared as though the bottomless pit had taken an emetic and vomited all its filth upon this vicinity. You can judge what a miserable condition we have been in when peaceful citizens were arrested, dragged to the camp and kept prisoners for days, unless they could give a satisfactory account of themselves; horses were stolen in broad daylight * * * and threats were made to drive the *Freesoilers* away from their claims, or kill them all to give room to Southern settlers. * * * I was very thankful I had no horse for them to disturb; for it was with great difficulty that I managed to keep a yearling colt from being stolen by them. The sacking of Lawrence is nothing to be compared to the outrages that have been committed since in murdering the citizens, stealing horses, stopping teams on the highway and robbing them of their contents, and the teamsters of their money. They even stopped the stage one day, and robbed the passengers. Brother Hughes has been for 9 months sick a great part of the time of the chills. * * * The mob searched his house lately for *Sharp's Rifles*.

Brother Jones was one of the party who rescued Bronson from Sheriff Jones last fall. The mob have been in search of him lately; but nobody would tell them where he lived, everybody pretended not to know such a man, even those who were intimately acquainted with him, he is now in very low circumstances, he can not get but very little work, for the disturbance has discouraged a great portion of our people so that there is but little enterprise in the Territory at present. * * * I have not received a cent from any source since I came to the Territory. * * * The people have lost so much time so that they were not able to plant the half of what they otherwise would, so I have but little hopes of getting anything from them. I would be very thankful if I could get some clothing, and it would be a great help to me. * * *

LAWRENCE CITY, K. T., Aug. 26, 1856.

* * * I feel under great obligations to your ladies for sympathy to us that are annoyed by the invaders from a neighboring State. Our prospect is gloomy. Violence and outrage reign in the territory and men do not feel safe to go away from home. Occasionally, a man is attacked and butchered by the ruffians.
* * *

LAWRENCE, Oct. 13, 1856.

* * * It gives me great encouragement to find that the friends of freedom sympathize with us in our persecutions.

Things are a good deal quieter now than when I wrote to you before. On Sunday, Sept. 14th, a large army of the enemy made their appearance at Franklin, four miles from this place, and some 400 came up within a mile of this place, and about 15 of our boys went out to meet them. They exchanged several shots; none of our boys were hurt, but several of them were killed. The Missourians expected there were 2,000 men in Lawrence; but Lane and many of his men were gone away, and there were but some 350 men in the place. If the enemy had been aware of this, they could have come in very easy; but there would have been a great slaughter, for the citizens would have fired on them from the houses. The reason why Lane and his men had left was that Geary, the new governor, had stated if there was any fighting to be done, he would do it with the U. S. troops. About 10 o'clock Sunday night the troops came down from Lecompton; about 400 of them, with four pieces of cannon to guard the town. Early Monday morning the governor came down and went down to Franklin, and ordered the Territorial militia to disband. * * * Some of them came up this way and wanted to cross the Kansas river at this place, but our boys would not promise not to fire on them; so the governor concluded they had better not attempt it. They camped on the hill south of town, and next morning went up to Lecompton, and five miles from this place they stole several horses, and shot David Buffum in the bowels so that he died the next morning. They had stolen his horses before they shot him, and some of them had been to his house a couple of weeks before and plundered it of about \$300.00 worth at that time. * * * Because he would not admit that he owned a Sharp's rifle, and because he would not tell where it was, he was shot. * * * The governor has organized several companies of militia throughout the Territory, one at this place. I was present at the organization of that company when in addressing the soldiers he remarked that twelve months would not roll round till Kansas' wrongs would be righted as right as they ever would be. The governor is anxious to keep things still during the Presidential campaign. After the Presidential election I would not be surprised in the least if he should turn out to be pro-slavery. There are over 100 prisoners of our boys at Lecompton who are to be tried they say next week. What appears to me very strange is if the governor is as anxious to do right as he pretends to be what is the reason that there are no prisoners on the pro-slavery side. It looks to me like a one-sided affair. * * *

The election is over; seven votes were polled at Lawrence, and I understood over 400 at Lecompton, and upwards of 2,000 at Leav-

enworth. * * * I know not what will be the result. * * * I have succeeded, after camping about four weeks on the open Prairie, to get into a house, for which I will have to pay \$2.00 per month of rent. There is neither upper nor lower floor in it, and neither a door nor a window in it. Since my house was burnt, all my books and bed and bedding got wet. * * * I have succeeded to get \$10 worth of provisions from the relief fund; when we use that up I do not know whence to obtain any more from. A part of the company conducted by Mr. Eldridge [T. B.] has arrived, but my box has not arrived with them. I hope the other part of the company will bring it. * * *

* * * Excuse my poor writing; you must recollect that I have neither a table nor a desk. * * * Many thanks to you for your sympathies and exertions on our behalf.

IV.

EDWARD JONES TO W. S., BURLINGTON.

LAWRENCE, KANSAS TERRITORY, 2nd August, 1856.

REV. PASTOR: * * * We are greatly encouraged by the tidings of sympathy we receive from the friends of the down trodden Kansas. * * * The border ruffians are still among us committing depredations. Week before last 9 horses were stolen from this immediate vicinity. This week a store situated three miles from here has been robbed of some 500 dollars worth of goods. In fact the southerners organized militia of the Territory are an organized band of robbers guarded by U. S. soldiers from the Free State Settlers. * * * I started for Kansas with my family from Iowa with 3 dollars in my pocket, worked in Lawrence the first winter. In April, '55, moved on this claim where we lived since, have a horse worth 125 dollars, a cow, a yearling and a calf, a wagon worth 75 dollars, and 90 acres of land fenced in, about 12 only under cultivation. * * * This spring * * * I engaged to work in Lawrence through the season at 2½ dollars a day. [He was a carpenter.] Engaged a man and a team to plow my land, put my crops in, &c. Here comes one of my neighbors, tells me the soldiers headed by the sheriff were in pursuit of some twenty whom they wanted to take prisoners, of which I was one. I had to quit work, flee for safety until after court. Court being over, I resumed work; worked about a week, then comes the sack of Lawrence, which finally frustrated all my plans, all business being completely stagnated. Ever since have been called out on military duties, disbanded and re-banded time and again, laid out nights watching property, * * * harrassed by the demons incarnate, shielded by the not less demoniacal U. S. army. * * *

Owing to what I have stated above, I am involved in debt about 100 dollars, which grieves me most as much as the border ruffians; but I have the produce of five acres of wheat to meet it when I am able to get it threshed and cleaned, and have some 7 acres of corn that looks promising. I have not suffered any personal insults or injuries from border ruffians, but I charge to them our bare feet, bare knees, bare elbows and scant table. We have been able to get bread enough. * * * These facts I state at your request and not of complaint. I have enlisted for the war, and am prepared to bear its privations as a good soldier. * * * The sympathy and aid of the friends of freedom is justly merited by the self-sacrificing band of freemen (though downtrodden) in Kansas. There are many that are truly suffering such as would have been on a fair way of acquiring a respectable living, if not fortunes. If our friends wish to help us in our present embarrassing circumstances it would be highly acceptable. We have kept Sabbath School as regular as circumstances would admit, have pretty good attendance, rather destitute of books. We have organized a church some four weeks. Lewis visits us every other Sabbath, preaches in Welsh in the morning, English in the afternoon. Our church is a Union Congregational church composed of members of different denominations and different nations. How far our warlike position and feeling is consistent with the principles of Christianity I do not know, but I am persuaded that such are the only principles destined to carry us safely through every campaign, political and military, * * * to the happy period when the government of this world will be in the hands of the people of the Most High. * * *

V.

THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON TO W. S., BURLINGTON.

BURLINGTON, Sept. 5, 1856.

Rev. L. H. Parker, of Galesburg, recommended me to you. I am on my way to Nebraska City to raise 50 or 100 emigrants from Iowa to Kansas—good men. I will pay the stage fare across the State of any whom you or Gov. Grimes will recommend, will support them (in camp) till they reach Kansas & after that in case of war. I will provide tents, blankets, camp equipage, rifles (partly Sharp's), side arms & ammunition. They will find me at Nebraska City Hotel.

Please write me as soon as possible, & give the names of good men, ministers & others in western Iowa, who will help me find men.

T. W. HIGGINSON,
Agt. Nat. Kansas Com.

VI.

HORACE WHITE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY NATIONAL KANSAS COMMITTEE, TO W. S.

CHICAGO, Nov. 28, 1856.

Yours 24th received. * * * Please put all your clothing in one box if possible and direct it F. M. Lawrence, K. T. Simmons & Leadbeater, St. Louis, Mo. No. 424. * * * I will record No. 424 in our shipments as used at Burlington, Iowa. * * * Please inform us when your shipment is made and notify Messrs. Simmons & Leadbeater, St. Louis, stating that it is done under our directions. They will pay freight.

VII.

REV. JOHN TODD TO W. S.

TABOR, FREMONT Co., IOWA, Sept. 17, 1856.

Yours of the 9th came by last mail. * * * The Kansas forces had been congregating here for more than three weeks until yesterday. Our little village has been their headquarters on this side the river since the arrival of Lane's company. You are right in saying that men are wanted. Such was the call for men that it was much feared that our friends in the Territory would be reduced to a state of suffering before a sufficient force could be raised to conduct safely to them the provisions which were here waiting to be conveyed. So imperative was the call for help in the shape of men that I myself volunteered, and should have gone yesterday with the last company but for the fact that more cheering intelligence reached us on Monday. The road is said to be now open. Several skirmishes have taken place & Lane is in command of the Territory. * * *

Provisions for Kansas can be obtained here very easily. Messrs. Howe (Samuel S.), Hyatt (Thaddeus), Higginson (T. W.), &c., have been here and anything which can be done here to forward the cause of Freedom will be done most cheerfully. Br. J. N. Parsons, of Barnstable, Mass., a man of excellent spirit and conductor of a Mass. company, has been with us much of the time for more than a fortnight, but left on the 16th inst. It is to be deplored that of the leading men in this matter so few are Christian men. * * * They may be instrumental in securing to Kansas civil liberty, but other men and other influences must be employed before Kansas can be Christianized. They are by no means possessed of the spirit of the Pilgrim Fathers. Surely we have fallen on degenerate times, & I fear for our country, lest a just retribution is about to overwhelm us in an awful destruction. * * *

VIII.

JAMES W. GRIMES TO SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD, STATE SENATOR OF
JOHNSON AND IOWA COUNTIES.

BURLINGTON, 9 March, 1857.

* * * In relation to the University you are now one of the Trustees, if I mistake not. What is proposed to be done? Will the board of instruction be filled and the institution placed fairly on its legs? * * * I trust that some place may be found for Professor Hedrick, of North Carolina, who is one of the waifs thrown upon the republican coast by the political storm of 1856. He is said by everybody who knows him to be a scientific man. * * * He was imprudent enough to entertain and express an independent thought, * * * he fearlessly expressed the opinion that this government was not established as a great slavery-propagandizing machine, and that the true interests of the Southern States did not justify the extension of the area of human servitude. * * *

Mr. Lathrop told me that Mr. Dean [Amos] was ready to come to the State this spring and put the University in complete operation, if possession could be obtained of the capitol building.

* * * Now as the Capitol and the University are both located by the new Constitution [framed by the Third Constitutional Convention, Jan. 19-March 5, 1857], I do not propose to take any action in the matter until the Constitution is acted upon by the people.

* * * The New Constitution will be adopted by 20,000 or 25,000 majority, and thus the whole question will be set at rest without the assumption of any responsibility on my part. But if the Trustees of the University and citizens of the town generally conceive that it is of any importance to inaugurate the University President, Profs., etc., at once, i. e., this spring, and so signify their desire in some tangible shape, by petition, for instance, so as to justify me in acting, I shall have no hesitation in doing so. It is a matter about which I am perfectly indifferent save that I would like to see the University & especially the Normal School under good headway. I am convinced that the new Constitution is destined to be popular, and that it will be adopted by an overwhelming majority. The Democracy as a party were too shrewd to be drawn into opposition to it. * * * I have seen Johnstone [Edward], Gillaspay [George], Harris [Amos] and Palmer [David P.] since their return from the Convention, & they are uniform in the opinion that there will be no organized opposition to its adoption in their counties of Lee, Wapello, Davis & Appanoose—all democratic.

Our main efforts must be directed to carrying the legislature in October. There can be no trouble about the August election [on the Constitution]. As far as it regards any aspirations that I may

have, I wish my friends to entirely disregard them and labor alone for the advancement of our party and its principles. I desire to prevent our party from being dissevered, scattered upon * * * before it is firmly consolidated. Above all I do not want to see this done before I get out of office. I have aided in keeping them together pretty well. We are in a much better condition than I expected we would be in two years ago. It will be very important to us that we secure the right kind of a man for governor in October. If we get a weak man, either intellectually or politically, we shall be swamped. I would suggest your name if I did not think it better for you to be a candidate for Congress next year, with a prospect for a senatorship two years hence. If, however, you prefer to be a candidate for governor in October, or if you prefer to be a candidate for the Senate in place of Jones [G. W.], you may rely upon my co-operation and aid. I am disposed to assist in selecting those men who can do us the most good. I want somebody in Congress from this State who has some common sense. * * * If I should be a candidate, I would meet with a very warm opposition from my townsman, Col. F. H. Warren. He imagines that I ought to have assisted him into the Senate two years ago, when I did not deem it my duty to mingle in the strife going on for that office.'

IX.

HENRY DODGE, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM WISCONSIN TERRITORY, TO A. C. DODGE, U. S. MINISTER TO SPAIN.

WASHINGTON, Ap. 23, 1857.

* * * R. J. Walker is a strong man with the President, and I have no doubt he is to be a candidate before the next National Convention for the Presidency. His acceptance of the office of Governor of Kansas is one of his preparatory steps, and if he can succeed in settling the existing difficulties in that unfortunate Territory it will be raising him in the estimation of public opinion, and if he succeeds in his Pacific R. R. measure, he will be strong. Jeff. Davis told Col. Bequette and myself that Mr. Buchanan had *vibrated* 8 days (was the term he used) between Walker and Cass which he would appoint Sec. of State. He certainly selected a good man in Cass. Walker I never had much confidence in. He is a man of fine talents, sufficient for any office in the Government, but I have always doubted his integrity, and I think it would have been a great misfortune to the people of the U. S. to have preferred him to Gen'l Cass as Secretary of State.

¹ For full details of the joint efforts and speeches of Grimes and Kirkwood in carrying the October election, and of Kirkwood giving his vote in the legislature for the election of Grimes to the U. S. Senate, see the *Life of Samuel J. Kirkwood* by H. W. Lathrop, 1893, pp. 58-61.

X.

JAMES W. GRIMES TO EDWARD C. DAVID, DUBUQUE.

BURLINGTON, NOV. 11, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 6th inst. is at hand. I know I have to expect the most bitter and unrelenting opposition of the Jones democrats, but as a compensation for that, the anti-Jones men do not regard me in so unfavorable a light. I happen to know that this is the case with some of them.

The editor of the Times knows but little of the condition of politics or of the politicians in this State, or he would not hazard the remarks he made to you. The republicans will be a *unit* when it comes to vote in the Joint Convention, and if they were not, if the democrats were driven to the necessity of voting for republicans, they would not all vote for Bissell [F. E.] The editors of the Times are completely sold in this contest. I know more, living here, about affairs in DuBuque than they seem to know. I hardly think any good would come from any articles being published in the DuBuque papers. The contest is as good as settled.

The story that there was an understanding with Lowe about the Senator I feel authorized from what I know to pronounce false. Lowe came to me and importuned me to enter the canvass actively for him—said he could not be elected unless I would do so. I did so, and he has written to me since the election saying that his success was attributable to my exertions. The God's truth is there would never have been and would therefore be now no republican majority in this State to elect anybody had it not been for my time, money and strength spent in the cause. Every intelligent man in the State who knows anything of our politics knows this. Gen. Jones and his clique know it, and hence their maledictions. I understand the whole influence of the DuBuque and Pacific R. R. Co. is to enter the lists against me and for Bissell.

There are just two things that can be done at DuBuque to aid me; 1st, to see Grimes [Joseph] of Colesburg, the member from Delaware Co., Woodward [J. S.] of Independence, Cooley [E. E.] of Decorah; let them understand the true condition of things in DuBuque, and get them committed in my favor. 2d, to have three or four active, influential friends of mine at Des Moines from DuBuque at the commencement of the session, to let the members know that the sentiment in DuBuque is not all one way.

I think F has told more lies in the article you enclose than I ever saw crowded together in the same space. Instead of two-thirds of the population being north of the south line of Jackson County, three-fourths of it is south of that line. He says the north has never had any offices. Let us look at it a moment. The governor has been from DuBuque and Jackson eight out of eleven

years we have been a State. A Senator [U. S.] has always resided at DuBuque. Geo. Greene was á resident of DuBuque and was elected as a DuBuque man to the Supreme Court of the State. Lincoln Clark was in Congress from DuBuque. Davis [Timothy] is now in Congress from Clayton, and is about to remove to DuBuque.

Poor DuBuque! To satisfy thy capacious maw, the whole republican party of the State must be put into the keeping of men who have never turned their hands over to sustain it. Well, we shall see about that.

I write you with the utmost *abandon* and confidence. Allow me to say in conclusion, that I have no fear of the result. I believe I am as good as elected. It will take an awful pile of money in these hard times to buy up members enough to defeat me. I do not often go into a contest of this description to be beaten.

XI.

HENRY DODGE TO GEORGE W. JONES.

MIN'L POINT, March 2nd, 1858.

Gen. George W. Jones, U. States Senate, Washington.

MY DEAR JONES: As Augustus corresponds directly with you, please let me know when he may return. I understood that Henry Madder had written to his brother that Augustus would return in April and that he would go to Rome on his return to the U. States. I presumed that the President had determined on his successor and that he would submit the name of the Minister to Spain for the action of the Senate, that he might be confirmed before he started and that the same vessel that conveyed him to Spain would bring Augustus and his family to the U. States; presuming that you knew the views of the President and Secretary of State on that subject and that you could give me reliable information, we are all anxious to hear from you on a subject of so much interest to us all. In my last letter I enclosed you one from Col. Steever to myself which I asked you to show to the President and to return it to me. Mr. Steever is a *man of talent*. He is in our Legislature and is sustaining the President with a boldness and directness of purpose that is highly creditable to him. I intend to send the President one of his speeches. He will be elected to Congress from Milwaukee. He was in the Mexican War with Gen'l Pierce and as the Gen'l stated to me, acquitted himself with great credit. He should have been appointed Post Master at Milwaukee and would have received the appointment but for the improper interference of *R. J. Walker*. I do hope you will reject Sharpstien in the Senate. I have written to Gen. Davis and Mr. Yulee on that subject. Sharpstien is not reliable in any respect. He was a strong free-soiler in 1848, went strong for Martin Van

Buren and has been changing his politicks to get office and availed himself of the influence of *Walker* with the President. The President stated to me that *Walker* had recommended him. He is a man of no influence and cannot help the Democratic Party. My regard for Gen. Pierce prevented my having him rejected as Dist. Attny. for Wisconsin by the Senate. I hope the Douglas and Walker men will not be reappointed to offices in this state. They will endeavor to deceive the President with *false professions* of supporting *his administration*. What is to be the policy of the President on the subject of the Land and other offices? Do you know? Let me hear from you on that subject. The admission of Kansas, I see, swallows everything up. Douglas & Walker will find it an *uphill concern* to reach the Presidency. If Kansas could be made a Slave state to keep up the Slave states when there are two free states asking for admission in the Union, it would satisfy the Southern people. I *fear the consequences* unless Kansas is made a Slave state. Mrs. Dodge and myself desire to be remembered to Mrs. Jones and your family.

Affectionately & Truly your friend and obt. Serv.,

HENRY DODGE.

XII.

MIN'L POINT, March 15th, 1858.

Hon. George W. Jones, U. S. Senate.

MY DEAR JONES: I fear I am going to be troublesome, as I had promised our mutual friend, Gen'l L—, a letter to the Secretary of the Interior recommending him for the office of Surveyor Gen'l and that I would enclose the letter to you to be used as you might think proper. I now redeem my pledge to him. If you read the letter you will find I have endeavored to do him and the President and Cabinet justice. You know I never deceive friends. Amongst my *many sins* I don't think that one will stare me in the face. Let me know how my friend Davis is. I have missed him from the Senate.

I see my successor in the Senate wants to do something to *distinguish himself*. He is, I think, pretty well named. He *carries more Sale than Ballast*.

The Senate of the U. States is a place that a gentleman should be well prepared to speak unless he wants to become a *Laughing Stock*.

I know you are crowded to death with letters and office business. You know I have often advised you to not make a slave of yourself. You have, I hope, some time to live and I hope you will take better care of yourself.

I shall have to trouble you with letters for some of my friends in the Land Offices. Drop me a few lines when you can find time. Remember us in all kindness to Mrs. Jones and your family.

Truly your old and sincere friend,

HENRY DODGE.

XIII.

MIN'L POINT, May 12th, 1858.

Gen. George W. Jones, U. States Senate, Washington.

MY DEAR JONES: I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your several interesting letters, accompanied by several letters from Augustus to you which *are herewith* returned, for which I return you my thanks. Your letter on the subject of the death of Col. Benton and the visit of the President was of the most feeling and interesting character; it was an act of justice on the part of the President, showing his regard to a great Statesman, and would have a tendency to silence Political slanderers who were disposed to *assert* that Col. Benton had expressed himself strongly against the Lacompton measure. Our Lamented Friend done the Joneses & Dodges justice in saying they were always his true friends. Benton was a great man, by nature, and his untiring industry & perseverance, with his great experience in public life, has placed him in the front rank of American Statesmen. I would have been much gratified could he have lived to have completed his Literary Production, which occupied his *last hours* of life. (*Peace to his Manes.*) * * *

Capt. May's printed paper is herewith returned. The part I acted in the Black Hawk war, I am willing shall be judged by posterity. There has been already several histories of that war. Ex-Govrs. Ford and Reynolds both have written histories of that war. Gen'l Smith has also written the history of Wisconsin, in which he has attempted to give a history on the same subject. Ford wrote from Political considerations and done me great injustice. "The History of Davenport, Past and Present," I know nothing about. Capt. May appears to be governed by good motives. I think, however, the book is intended to make money, and there may be some expected advantage politically. Capt. May wanted the office of *Surveyor Gen'l*. I was pledged to Gen'l ———. From the tone of his letters I was under the impression that if disappointed in that office he would be an applicant for something else. He has been corresponding with the President, to whom he is well known, and as the appointing power belongs to him, I will leave him in the hands of the President.

Your aiding the appointments of Ellis, Rodolph & Plowman was a great triumph of integrity and principle, over the more reckless

and unprincipled *men in the State*. Such men as Ellis, Rodolph & Plowman will do credit and support the administration by an *honest discharge of their duties*. * * * I am going to Texas this summer and will see your Brother. The winters in Wisconsin will, I think, be too severe for Mrs. Dodge. Write me what you think of Texas in a few lines, directed to Dixon. I know you must be pressed to death by letters and personal calls for your aid at the Office.

God grant you good health, long life and prosperity, is the sincere wish of your old and sincere friend,

HENRY DODGE.

XIV.

JAMES W. GRIMES TO SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD, IOWA CITY.

BURLINGTON, Oct. 25, 1859.

DEAR KIRKWOOD: * * * Your majority * * * will probably go to about 3,200. You have got a difficult task before you for two years to navigate the ship of State without a cent of money. There is now due to the State from the several Counties between three and four hundred thousand dollars, and no taxes will be paid this year, for there is no money in the country to pay with. The government has got to be carried on principally upon credit. You must put on your thinking cap and begin to devise the ways and means of doing it. We must abolish our present County system & give the *people* a chance to govern themselves a little more than they do under the county judge system. County officers should be paid by fees as formerly and the amount paid jurymen should be decreased to one half of what it is now. * * * Send the county judges to purgatory * * * the constitution declares that not a dollar shall be paid without this specific appropriation. * * *

Above all things else give us a registry law, and abolish the county organization. I leave for Washington in about three weeks. I hope you will not fail to write to me often & keep me advised of what is going on in Iowa. Our democrats * * * expected to carry the State with money. They have spent their money, they have alienated personal friends, they have belittled themselves in their own estimation, & have accomplished nothing by it. Dodge has not been seen for some days.

XV.

SENATOR GRIMES TO GOVERNOR KIRKWOOD.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10, 1863.

I received two letters last night, each saying that there was a scheme on foot to run Mason [Charles] against me for the Senate, making a coalition between the democrats and some *retainers*. No

such thing can be carried into execution for very many reasons, and I doubt if any such exists. I know how suspicious men are apt to be about matters of this kind, and particularly in such inflammable times as these. But I would like to know if the project really has an existence. Have you heard anything of it, or seen or heard anything that impressed you with the idea that it might be so?
* * * Let me hear from you. This in confidence.

XVI.

GEN. ROBERT E. LEE TO GEORGE W. JONES, DUBUQUE.

LXINGTON, VA., 8th Jan'y, 1869.

I have been gratified recently by a visit from an old friend, Capt. James May, now of Rock Island City. Among the many pleasing reminiscences of bygone times & scenes recalled by his visit is the recollection of you, extending back to the time when you were a young delegate to Congress from Wisconsin [Territory]. I have a distinct recollection of your appearance, & a pleasing one of our intercourse & social meetings at General Gratiot's hospitable house.
* * * I know that you have felt keenly the calamities of the country, even amidst your own afflictions, but I did not intend to touch upon that subject; but merely to express to you my pleasure in hearing of you, & conversing of you with one who admires and esteems you, as your friends always do. There is another friend, I hope I may call him so, of former years, of whom I was also delighted to learn & converse—Gen'l Augustus C. Dodge. His manly character and honest frankness impressed me most forcibly, & I was glad to know of his well being. Gen'l Henry Dodge has passed away from us & left us his sterling worth and good deeds to remember. But those who have gone are happier than those who remain. They are spared what we have to see & meet; but my trust in the mercy of God is so great, & my faith in the good sense and probity of the American people is so strong, that I know that all things will in time come right—I hope that you may live to enjoy that good time & that Gen'l Dodge may participate in it. Although he is at some distance from you, I hope that you sometimes enjoy his company, & that you will give him my warm regards. To yourself I wish every happiness, & am with great respect,

Your friend and servant,

R. E. LEE.

XVII.

HANNIBAL HAMLIN TO A. C. DODGE.

LEGATION OF THE U. S. OF AMERICA, MADRID, June 7, 1881.

MY DEAR OLD FRIEND: I have your esteemed favor of the 16th ult. * * * How many pleasant memories of the long past it

revives of the times when we occupied the same seat, or rather seats side by side in the House of Rep's. and later on our service in the Senate. Of course we did not think alike and act together upon all questions, but it is surely a pleasure to us both to know that there never was any disagreement to disturb the friendly relations which have always existed.

I thank you for your kind and friendly suggestions, made from your official experience here and your knowledge of the Spanish people. I can understand their force and correctness. Indeed I have marked out for myself as nearly as possible the course you suggest.

I have been aware that there is much of historic interest in Spain to be seen. The localities you name, as well as others, I intend to visit while I remain in this Legation. Indeed that was the great inducement for me to go abroad. * * * The business of this Legation has largely increased since you were at its head; so while I may not have quite as much leisure as you found, yet I will have enough to see *all* that is of decided interest in Spain and I mean to do so.

I will endeavor to find a copy of paper containing what I said to the King and his reply. His reception was very cordial, and I was very favorably impressed with the appearance of both the King and Queen. * * *

Will also from time to time endeavor to send you a paper as you request. In haste but with pleasant memories of "auld lang syne," I am,

Very truly yours,

H. HAMLIN.

DIARY KEPT BY WILLIAM EDMUNDSON, OF OSKALOOSA, WHILE CROSSING THE WESTERN PLAINS IN 1850.

Left Oskaloosa, Iowa, in the Stage on Monday morning, May 20th, 1850, and arrived on the evening of the same day at Fort Des Moines and found my company 9 in number encamped on Raccoon River about a mile from the Town.

May 21st—Traveled about 22 miles and camped on the North River.

May 22nd—Traveled 23 miles and encamped on the Middle River North Side. This day it commenced raining Slowly about 12 O'clock and continued till near Sundown.

May 23rd—This morning it commenced raining before day and continued till about 10 O'clock when we Started and Traveled 15

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