

Asylum (Elgin P.O) Kane Co Ill. 5 Aug. '40

Dear Edwin:

I have lately received a letter from Mother and another from Eliza, from both which I learned that Mother was expected to start for Ill. in June, but I have seen or heard nothing from them since. Eliza expressed a good deal of regret, a rather year, that Ma would be so well pleased with Ill. that she would not return to Nassau. Now a shot has occurred to me, that I can relieve her ~~regret~~ ^{anxiety} on that score, if I can find inducements enough for you, to make you a resident of Ill. also, that we may all be at home here together... To do this I am sure I have only to persuade you to "come and see". And I think I may persuade you to accompany those who are coming on, if they have not yet started, by proposing to you, to come and take the plan I designed for Mr Hall, that is, to divide the expense of obtaining my location, and paying U.S. for it, and improving and carrying it on, and then own it together. If you would secure Jerome the repayment of ~~the~~ \$2000, which I have borrowed of him, and laid out ^(with \$2000 more) in purchasing, securing and improving, - you should have as much right ~~as~~ I have, to a claim of from 8 to 12,000 acs, of as good land as the world

affords, on which are concentrated almost every
natural advantage you could desire. We shall
of course have to make out 10/100 an. for U.S. when
he calls for it; a part of which may be this fall,
but more probably not till a year from that,
and the rest perhaps, in a year after. I have
80 acres broke and in cropping order, 40 more in the
same form; garden plenty, and could make a
shift to get along for house room for your family
if you chose to bring them along with you; as you
of course would, if you could sell a little your plan
than to your mind. I think indeed, that, even if you
had to let your property than lie still, you could
make more money by turning your energies
right in than with me; than by waiting than
than when the ungrateful soil is so loath to
make its returns. There is a much better stand
for a store too, I think, than when you are; &
for a tavern too; and your capital employed in
those ways than, would turn much quicker
and more profitably than here. I am not
afraid to work, I have got used to that than, but
I want somebody to go up with me, that is
willing for "a long pull, a strong pull, and a
pull altogether"; that, after a few years we may
sit down together and enjoy the comforts that
our labors have earned for ourselves & families.

I find our folks east are very much afraid that I shall keep school, some time before I die if I live so long; and mother in her last tells me, that all my friends there think I had better be starved out of that notion, or that it would be better for me, that they should withhold themselves, and advise all others (Jerome of course included) to withhold those ~~subscriptions~~ ~~subscriptions~~ out which I must lose the \$4200. I have laid out the ~~money~~ ~~money~~ and my self and family floundering in the mire of debt and poverty for the rest of our lives, than to run the risk of my strong inclination for teaching, when I should come to own the property, which I have been at so much labor, vexation, and expense, to secure; & which I should not have had in hand, if it had not been for my old school project for which I bought it; and to hold which I am still obliged to allow, that I intend to establish a school on it, if I am permitted to purchase it, and we get able to make a start; tho' I am ready to admit that it shall be as different from my old school project, as my ingenuity can contrive. And now I tell you, that if you come here, I may, possibly, if things come round right, and my friends consent, - devolve the care of farming concerns on you, and devote myself to imparting some of those mental stores, which have laid so long resting in my brain, to your children and mine, and as many more as may please to "come and take them". I should be glad if you would consent immediately to come and see, what I can not tell you in paper, nor Wilson with his tongue; and leave things as at home - that you need not return in a year, if you should think best to stay and try it one farming season before putting all on board the experiment. I should be glad to surround myself with all my old friends here in

new land; for I am sure if one man and well settled they
would never wish to return. But at any rate write me
promptly, as soon as you receive this, and let me know
what you think of my proposition; for I must immediately
make other arrangements if this does not suit.

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Wm R. Ball Esq
Samuel Park P.O.
Amherst Co. N.Y.
Chicago
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Amherst Co. N.Y.
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Samuel Park P.O.
Amherst Co. N.Y.
Chicago

Give my love to Eliza, and the children, and Angeline's
family, & Julia's and all the rest. Mary & my children
write in this expedition. I have written Jerome on this
subject & send to Chicago by the same hand. Our wheat crop
in this country, (a most promising one & very large) is destroyed
by the rust. I have no more than 3 acres out of 20 left to thresh.
Other grain good, even extraordinary promise. D. W. Elmer

D W Elmore

Elgin, Aug. 5.
1840.



"Come west
& take part
my farm."

James P. Ball Esq
Small Lake P O
Cuyahoga Co W

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D W Elmore

Elgin, Aug. 5.
1840.



"Come weel
& take part
of my farm."

Wm R. Ball Esq
Sand Lake P O
Puncheon N.Y.

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