

Kansas Memory



Charles and Sarah Robinson correspondence

Section 9, Pages 241 - 270

Correspondence between Charles Robinson, the first Governor of Kansas, his wife Sara, and others, mostly involving activities in the fight for a non-slavery Kansas. Some of the people discussed are Abraham Lincoln, James H. Lane, and Charles Jennison.

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passage of so wide and turbulent a water.
Sometimes you are sick and sometimes
it is so rough you can neither lie nor
sit in your berth but must needs cling to
things and beat about all night as well
as all day. wondering rather piteously
if the old ship is going to rock any harder
or not. But then there is much pleasant
sociability and long sunny days on deck
and wild phosphorescent evenings - and all
the novelty which amateur sea-faring
affords. We were glad to be ashore.
We went at once to Providence and
found our home at the City Hotel. Francke
came on for me, and after we had seen
those of our friends who were in town and
had gone to Rocky Point to a chowder. we
came via Niagara and Chicago to our
respective places of present abode. And it
is good to be quiet for a little. I have some
sewing to do. some books to read. and if
you will answer this soon. I shall have a

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Letter to write.

Mrs. Eddy thanks you very much for your last, which she proposes answering before a great while. She does without a servant, and though she does not have work enough to fill all her time, it is so hot that she only cares to rest when she is not obliged to be busy. We are visiting and taking wondrously. Some of our most available neighbors have been to see me and Col. Milner who has been absent from his regiment on account of a brief and severe illness has afforded us variety by a visit.

Now, dear, write me all the news.

How is the Governor. My best love and kindest remembrances to him. Where is Smith. Make my salaam to him if you see him. I am glad you have Mrs. Gay still. I suppose she does not forget, so give her a message from me. I shall remain here for the present; to catch my breath. The Meivils are all unsettled and may remain so for a while. Willie is not entirely well, but it was much that he went with us everywhere and came home safely. Yours lovingly.

S.P.D.

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They had a ~~few~~ ^{few} crab apples sent
in - I wish you had
them - Do you
have any? I
wrote down
Mother is
very well -
Philadelphia
here a few
days & will
be back
home with
her - Good
Bye Sophie

Bethelton Sept 7th 1862.

My dear Sara -

'Tis three weeks since
I wrote you but I've been busy - Pliny
has been here - he is very fubble - He
said his "honorable discharge" from the
"Army of the Potomac" - has gone now
to stay with Lucy a while - E. has
gone to Darby & vicinity - so I'm alone
I'm so mad I can not write about
the war - Granary Lincoln has that
coward Me Clellan in command
again - Pliny hates Me C. with
spider-hatred & says all the
soldiers he met do all the cheer-
ing about him - the papers tell
about it is false - How do matters
prosper in K? Do the Adminis-
tration recognise De as God? I see

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by the Journal that he receives no answers to his letters about enlisting. The quota of B. for the first \$100,000 was 34 for the second 50 - both are nearly full - The same bounty \$100 given to all - They are mostly young men - who have moved here ~~or~~ grown up since you left - I think of none you would know except Elisha Gigg & Oliver Walker - B. has furnished nearly two hundred soldiers for the war - The chief topic of conversation here aside from the war is Jane George's husband - She & Eddie left her father's about three weeks since - no one knows where they are excepting family friends - Mr. G. came here to see them - stopped over night at Mrs. Whited - & could not find his boy - came again last week with the same result -

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I did not see Mr G but hear he said "he never had cared anything about Jane" "He had never done or tried to do anything to please him" Jane consults the Spirits & acts accordingly - I should not suppose she could keep the boy hid long - how she can support herself & boy is a mystery to me - One other local cause of excitement occurred last week - There were several men & children in Mr Montague's yard & some few words passed between them about quite a trifling matter when Levi Arnold about eighteen drew a pistol from his pocket & shot Mr M aiming at his head - the balls two of them passed through his hat just grazing his head - Arnold is under bonds to keep the peace - The little night-boy 'tis thought - had been playing

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with matches & set some hay on fire unknown to him & gone further in to the barn - so he was smothered & for they did not hear him did not know he was in the barn till his bones were found.

Mr Gay has been very sick with fever several weeks is very low - your bean is quite pretty & lively purple - the pods when the sun shines on them are most beautiful - I've some very handsome straw flowers yellow & white - stiff flowers for little bouquets - Mr Clapp & Juliet have gone on a trip to Saratoga & all around - when do you expect Lizzie Leonard to come home? Prairie tiles still deals in high flour sentences it seems - This is the third pen I've tried to use writing this letter & have concluded the fault is mine wholly

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At last she will
done so & I guess
he means to let her
stay to her heart
out time — She can
go in secret &
Sunday evenings —
How many times
I've left visiting
to see if it had
been raining when
I went — but am
some — perhaps
some time I may
have something
interesting to write about —

1862

My dear Sister —

We have had a fine

Showers this morning the first one
since I can remember — for we
were covered with dust — The
weather the past week has been
very warm indeed — very sultry —

I did your letter of Sept. 7 a week
ago — & guess 'tis three weeks since
I have written — I see nothing of
any interest to write about —
The "was" you have the same
"unreliable" sources of information
I have — in the papers — How
many "glorious victories" we
have on paper! I'm unable
to find them any where else —

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It does seem as though the Rebels
might have been made to retreat
in a little disorder - Oh for a
General!! we hear of the death
of some of our boys - very little while
ago none you would know however -
The ladies here have formed a
"Soldiers Aid Society" have sent one
large box to the Hospital since
the late battles - have another
nearly ready - sent five during
the last year - They propose
having "Sociables" to raise money
to fill the boxes -

Mother has a world of Apples
this year & the Market is more
than full - we have dried quite
a number of bushels the last
week & report to be very busy
during the Fall picking & drying -
My hands are looking dubiously
today - peeling Apples & "fining"
grapes for wine & preserves -

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Bob. Darling enlisted under the last call for troops - hoping to be chosen Capt - bat - Enfield & Palmer enlisted with Bel. in forming a Co & chose a Capt. from Palmer - so he went into camp as a private & came home again ejected - not at all to his regret 'tis thought -

Mr George & family are a fruitful topic of conversation among the gossips - Mrs Strong called to see Emerson the other day to get his opinion about the safety of Jane returning to her Father's with Eddy - She said - "Jane was very homesick where she was - she was in a very large family & had not seen a familiar face since she left here" several weeks ago - Mr George sent some money to E. from Detroit (where he is now engaged in business) to hand to Mr Filer when he should sign a receipt -

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he sat - saying the money should be
repeated for Eddy - Mr F. refused
to sign the receipt - & flew into a towering
rage because E. did not write with
him ~~in~~ denouncing Mr G. as the worst
man in the world - E. told him "he
knew very little of the trouble" & Mr F.
told him "was since he knew all
about it - when his Jane was
so abused" Mr Horace Walker's
people have heard both sides &
do not hesitate to say they think
Jane very much to blame -

Her friends think she can "sup-
port herself handsomely with
her sewing machine - but it -
seems to me - she will have to be
content - with a ~~poor~~ very little -
when there is a machine at every
other house almost - 'Tis a hard
case - Mr G. says he will support
the child - but I guess he never
intended to live with Jane - he says
she never has done anything for his

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Coll.
Robinson, Chas.

KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

36490-

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Executive Department.

Boston, Sept. 29th 1862.

To His Excellency
The Governor of Kansas.

Governor:

I have the honor
herewith to inclose to you a copy of an address
to the President of the United States adopted by
the Governors who recently met at Altoona
Pennsylvania, and in their behalf to request
that your signature may be attached to it
before its publication.

Please reply to me by telegraph.

I have the honor to be
Respectfully Your ob't servt.

General Charles

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*From Gov. Andrew of Mass.
Boston, Sept. 29th 1862,*

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KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
Address to the President of the United States,

Adopted at a Meeting of Governors of the Loyal states held to take measures for the more active support of the Government, at Altoona, Penn., on the 14th day of September, A.D. 1832.

After nearly one year and a half spent in contest with an armed and gigantic rebellion against the National Government of the United States, the duty and purpose of the loyal states and People continue and must always remain as they were at its origin; namely, to restore and perpetuate the authority of this Government and the life of the Nation. No matter what consequences are involved in our fidelity, nevertheless this work of restoring the Republic, preserving the

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institutions of democratic liberty and justifying the hopes and toils of our fathers shall not fail to be performed. And we pledge without hesitation to the President of the United States the most loyal and cordial support, hereafter as heretofore, in the exercise of the functions of his great office. We recognize in him the chief Executive Magistrate of the Nation, the Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, their responsible and Constitutional head, whose rightful authority and power, as well as the Constitutional powers of Congress, must be vigorously and religiously guarded and preserved, as the condition upon which alone our form of government and the Constitutional rights and liberties of the people themselves can be saved from the wreck of

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anarchy or from the gulf of despotism.

In submision to the laws which may have been, or which may be duly enacted and to the lawful orders of the President. (Cooperating always in our own spes with the National government) we mean to continue in the most vigorous exercise of our own lawful and proper powers, contending against treason, rebellion, and the public enemies; and whether in public life or in private station, supporting the arms of the Union until its cause shall conquer—until final victory shall perch upon its standard, or the rebel foe shall yield a dutiful, rightful and unconditional submision.

And, imprefed with the conviction that an Army of Reserve ought, until the war shall end, to be constantly kept on foot, to be raised, armed, equipped and trained at home

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and ready for emergencies, we respectfully ask the President to call for such a force of volunteers for one year's service, of not less than 100,000 in the aggregate, the quota of each state to be raised after it shall have filled its quota of the requisitions already made, both for volunteers and for militia. We believe that this would be a measure of military prudence, while it would greatly promote the military education of the People.

We hail with heart felt gratitude and encouraged hope the proclamation of the President issued on the 22nd of September, declaring emancipated from their bondage all persons held to service or labor as slaves in the rebel states where rebellion shall last until the 1st day of January now next ensuing.

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The right of any persons to retain authority to compel any portion of the subjects of the National Government to rebel against it or to maintain its enemies, implies in those who are allowed possession of such authority the right to rebel themselves, and therefore, the right to establish martial law or military government in a State or Territory in rebellion, implies the right and ^{the} duty of such government to liberate the minds of all men living therein, by appropriate proclamations and assurances of protection, in order that all who are capable intellectually and morally of loyalty and obedience, may not be forced into treason and become unwilling tools of rebellious traitors. To have continued indefinitely the most efficient cause, support and stay of the rebellion, would have been,

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in our judgment, unjust to the loyal peo-
ple whose treasure and lives are made a
willing sacrifice on the altar of patriotism;
would have discriminated against the wife
who is compelled to surrender her husband,
against the parent who surrenders his child
to the hardships of the Camp and the perils
of battle; in favor of rebel masters, per-
mitted to retain their slaves. It would have
been a final decision alike against humanity,
against the right and duty of the government,
and against sound and wise national policy.

The decision of the President to
strike at the root of the rebellion, will lend
new vigor to the efforts and new life and
hope to the hearts of the People.

Cordially tendering to the President
our respectful assurances of personal and

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official confidence, we trust and believe that the policy now inaugurated will be crowned with success, will give speedy and triumphant victories over our enemies, and secure to this Nation and her people the blessing and favor of Almighty God. We believe that the blood of the heroes who have already fallen and of those who may yet give their lives for their country will not have been shed in vain.

The splendid valor of our soldiers, their patriotic endurance, their manly patriotism and their devotion to duty demand from us and from all their countrymen the homage of the sincerest gratitude and the pledge of our constant reinforcement and support. A just regard for these brave men whom we have contributed

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to place in the field, and for the importance of the duties which may lawfully pertin to us hereafter, has called us into friendly conference. And now, presenting to our National Chief Magistrate this conclusion of our deliberations, we devote ourselves to our country's service, and we will surround the President with our constant support, trusting that the fidelity and zeal of the loyal states and people will always assure him that he will be constantly maintained in pursuing with the utmost vigor this war for the preservation of the National life and the hopes of Humanity.

Signed by

A. G. Carter

John A. Andrew

Richard Yates

Israel Washburn Jr.

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Edward Johnson
Jad. J. Kirkwood
S. C. Morton
~~C. C. Morton~~
W^m Prague
F. H. Pierpoint
David Tod
A. J. Berry
Austin Blair.

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*Address of the Governor
to the President of the U. S.*

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1/2 more present at the next three
from Sir to Harry
Bill style - two
days ago we have
been sent to the
Sugar Bay Company
of course as are
having vacated
Sarah's cage money
will more
likely go up hill.
Tis gloomy cold
you say
while others
I should think
you would say
Don't mind little
one gone Harry
says his money
could see you
as your Apples
Today as a long dreary winter is
over as how I did it!! Bas-
did we "ever see" such weather
as we had last week - as hot-
as any we had in summer
we have had no frosts and yet
fall flowers are in abundance
Our Dahlias have been in
loom so long I'm fairly weary
of them - Tis three weeks since
I've written - but I've been so busy
I could not write - & am now
waiting for the bell to ring
for Church - Mother has a great
quantity of Apples this year - for
which there is ^{no} sale at all -
it impossible to give them away -

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I guess she has had one hundred barrels - Fall apples or all - I doubt whether she will realize forty dollars for them all - but they must be gathered & she is all broken & pieces - so I had the care & a hard time I've had of it - Some of our Farmers have put all theirs into their Cellars - headed - so they will be "cheap enough" all winter - Shouldn't you think McClellan would hide his head to have the rebels dash around him so - I should laugh to see them outwit him - if there was not so much desolation in the Country - Do you see that contemptible Springfield Republican? Holland has the credit of writing those pro-slavery laco-faco editorials - He is aspiring for a senatorship -

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"Missor" told Mrs. Webster,
Mass. politics are in a muddle.
Gov. Andrew is the regular Repub-
lican candidate for Gov. The only
objection to him is his anti-
slavery principles - so the hawks
and the Democrats have united
to put him down. Sims Child
being very active, Gov. Andrew has
been very wide awake since the
war & out of patience with
the slowness of the Administra-
tion & has but hesitated to
express his opinions upon the
conduct of the war - so the
Rep. Repub - is death on him -
Mark is one of the Amhersts -
so he will be exempt from
Drafting - though there will be
no draft in Mass. excepting in
Boston - How did you make
your silk gloves?

Allens & Walker & his little boy
Fuddie are very low indeed. Wish

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Fever - I think I wrote you Mr. Gay was very sick - he lives still but is quite feeble -

Did the family Leslie was sick in Paris return with her? When you wrote about them the son was very ill - they thought he never could cross the water.

The bell rings so good Mrs.
'twas a pity Dr. was absent in
season at the meeting of the Gov's
I saw a list of those present -
& concluded he was detained
after leaving home as you had
written he was coming later -
kind of a man is the Anti-Lane
candidate for Gov? How do you
like living in the City - After
Popes attack there was a meet-
ing called here of the ladies to
send supplies to the sick soldiers -
a society was formed to meet
to sew in Mr. White's hall as long
as the weather would permit -

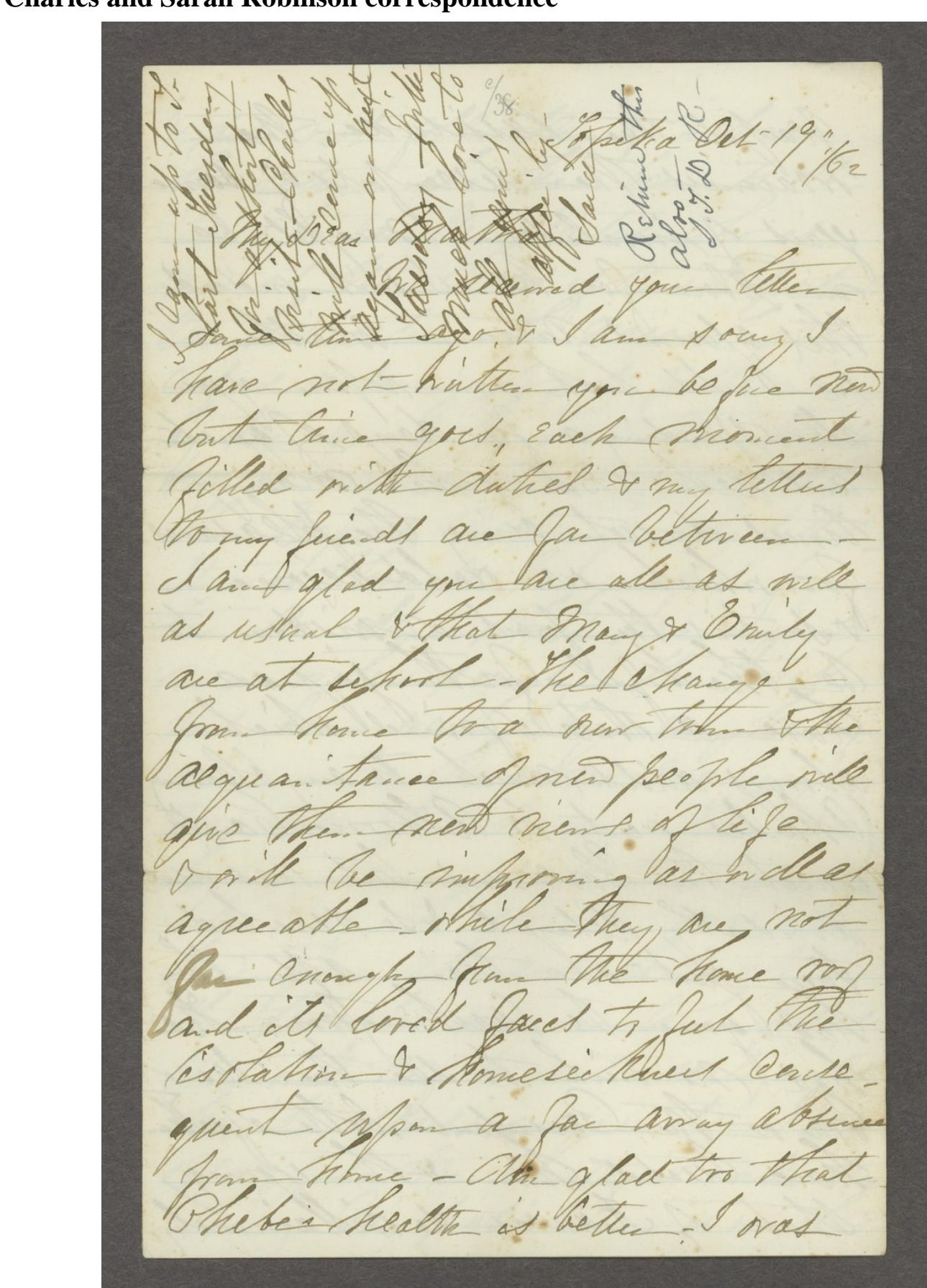
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Oct 19th 1862
Sarah Robinson
Dear Friends - I have just received your letter
and will answer it at once. I am sorry I
have not written you before now
but since you, each moment
filled with duties & my letters
to my friends are far between -
I am glad you are all as well
as usual & that Mary & Emily
are at school - The change
from home to a new town & the
acquaintance of new people will
give them fresh mts. of life
which will be improving as well as
agreeable - while they are not
far enough from the home of
and its loved ones to feel the
isolation & homesick their hearts -
spent upon a far away absence
from home - Am glad too that
Phoebe's health is better - I was



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feared the lassitude, the
weariness, the discomforts of some
grief & invalidism might be
in store for her - I wish indeed
this glorious Autumn weather
we could look in upon you
all spending a few days of quiet
and rest But sickness many
times do not bring the pleasures
for which we should rejoice
So it is the part of wisdom to
be thankful for the joys we
have a state of mind which
always adds much to any blessing
Charles went to Atchison Co, to
meet the Governors - but was un-
avoidably delayed & so reached
there just after train after they
had gone to Washington. He
had no wish to see the Secy of
War or the President - both of whom
have treated him & the young
State of Kansas so villainously

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(I did not follow this.) — Since his return he has been to St. Louis to see Genl Curtis who is now at the Head of this Department. On his return he narrowly escaped a severe & not fatal injury by the going off from the track on an embankment of 30 feet. The Express Message was killed. It was thought he jumped from the car. Some wheels were injured more or less severely. The track had been washed by a very heavy rain. We have no encouraging news to tell you. There is a Lord in Heaven & all the consolation I know of. The stinken ones who have given all and lost all in this terrible war are to be pitied. It is well they do not realize it's horrible mismanagement. I can not feel the Country is worth the saving. My patriotism is very low.

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Pur. from R. L. Montell, 1938

So far as Frank is concerned we
hope the Union ticket will be
elected over the machinations
of Jim Lane. See off Mr. Lincoln
We shall then be willing to die
Has Annette gone East? A week
or two ago Judge Cobb and Mr.
Smith were at Court at Standard
Court to Standard - Called at the
House where Alfred used to live
Found it unoccupied & vacant
He afterwards saw a lady who told
him Annette was going East - I
have wondered she did not go
before - It must be much more
pleasant than there to stay there
alone - I should have liked very
much to have had her visited
us before she left - I thought
several times I would write to her
to come, but knowing there was no
stage running between the places
I thought she would regard my
mentioning as an imposition. Little
must be quite a girl - I have written
nearly but you must excuse looks