

## Ephraim Nute to Amos Adams Lawrence

Transcription of a letter from the Amos Adams Lawrence Collection, Massachusetts Historical Society. In a letter marked "private", Ephraim Nute wrote from Lawrence, Kansas Territory, to Amos A. Lawrence in Massachusetts. Nute responded to Lawrence's suggestion that the college sit on the "broad table land on Mt. Oread or Capitol hill"; he supported the idea but feared that issues surrounding the land title would compromise the plan. Nute agreed with Lawrence about the importance of establishing schools, but he also concerned that the current political situation was not conducive to it, as the Territorial government was in the hands of "usurpers". He felt that "only one life now stands between us and the reopening of the civil war."

Creator: Nute, Ephraim

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## Ephraim Nute to Amos Adams Lawrence

Private

Lawrence Kansas March 4 1857

Mr. Lawrence

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 11<sup>th</sup> ult. reached me only by the last mail.

For the last month we have been almost entirely cut off from postal communication with the East, a small part of the mail only being brought through about once in two weeks. You are certainly right in your preference for the location of the college on the broad table land on Mt Oread or Capitol hill (the limits of the two are rather undefined.) But I had understood that the question concerning the tittle [!] ~~had hitherto~~ prevented the building of the preparatory school-house or academy for which the execution was made on that tract. I have not hesitated to locate our church & a house for myself on the side or lower table of the hill about which a similar question is mooted. The spot of which I wrote is very similar in fact a continuation of the same table, a little farther on the edge of the great basin in which the city is located & in plain sight from <sup>any</sup> ~~every~~ part of the same. There the land could be had without cost & with a clear undisputed tittle [!], after the present claimants have preempted.

If a float laid by Ex Gov. Robinson should hold, of which there seems some doubt there will be <sup>no</sup> difficulty in securing the more eligible spot. Until that question is decided there need perhaps be nothing done.

I feel deeply with you the importance of establishing a good system of common schools at an early day. But in the present state of our political affairs I see not how anything can be effected toward it. All the legislative powers ~~and~~ with the exception of Governor, all executive offices are in the hands of the usurpers. They have just perfected a system of <sup>?</sup> by which, without help from Congress, or civil war, their power is made perpetual. I apprehend troublous times for the next six months. Our people will not submit to the collection of taxes without resistance. The blood of

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76 will be up at the first attempt. The counsel of prudence will not always be heeded. Both parties are too ready to fight at the slightest provocation. Only one life now stands between <sup>us</sup> & the ~~reopening~~ of civil war & that is daily threatened & has already been once attempted. I believe that attempt was part of a deep laid plot which is not yet abandoned. If Geary had fallen we should have had another invasion ? ? by another proclamation from Woodson ? "the militia" to put down rebellion.

Perhaps I magnify the danger. God grant it may prove so. Just now all acts of alarm<sup>d</sup> are hushed for fear of deterring immigration for the Spring in which ~~this~~ <sup>lies out</sup> chief hope of deliverance from bondage. If this should be very large it may serve to intimidate our enemies. We have also a faint hope that Congress has done something for us before the adjournment.

The preparations for our two schools in Lawrence are about completed & we shall try to put them in operation two weeks from next Monday.

Yours sincerely,

E. Nute Jr.

Amos A. Lawrence Esqr.