

J. H. Kagi to his sister

From Cleveland, Ohio, Kagi jokingly writes his sister that, in the absence of any letters from the family, he fears they had set off for "Pikes Peak, and had died of suffering on the route, as others have." Kagi expects to leave in order to take up his "business in earnest" shortly--that is, to implement John Brown's plan and move on Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

Creator: Kagi, John Henry, 1835-1859

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Wendland, Ohio June 8, 1857.

My dear Sister —

I to-day receive your first letter since I left you (dated May 20.)

You cannot imagine the pleasure I gave me; for, not having heard one word from you, I began to think you had probably all perished for Pike's Peak, and had died in suffering on the route, as others have, the news of which — though much exaggerated, no doubt — reaches us every day. I am glad that it is different, and that you are yet alive, even if you are not enjoying the best of health.

I fear that the late frost which has extended nearly all over the Northern States has reached you also in its course of destruction. It has cut off all the corn, completely ruined the wheat, and destroyed almost the entire fruit crop of every description. You have not fruit to lose, I suppose, of course; but what you wrote me, — and also corn. I hope, indeed, that you have escaped the general devastation. The price of flour rose \$1.00 — the next

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morning in consequence of the fact -
 I now expect to leave here the last
 of this week or the first of next. When I do leave
 I will be going in my business in earnest.
 I will write you again before leaving, when
 I shall be able to give you my future ad-
 dress.
 You think it would not be safe for me
 to come back now. It may be so, though if
 there was any thing to be made by the attempt
 I should not hesitate to make it. As a
 matter of fact I do expect to go to St. Louis
City - some day, and to see the very hounds
who now yell so savagely in my back make
yells as loud, and more to the fact that in my
favor. What care I for that? I will play with
them when it pleases me.
 Let me prescribe for your health, and that
 of father. Two of my years have seen what I have un-
 dergone. I have always found the principle embodied
 in the advice I am about to give you of some
 benefit to myself, and therefore know of what I speak.
 It is this - Always keep in good spirits
 and hopeful - believing that all is for the best - and not
 thinking that you are singled out by fate for living chess-
 men in his games of honor and of death.
 Follow this and you will never regret
 being alive.
 From the present Good Bye.
 J. H. Kagi.