

Winnebagö Apr 3d 96

My dear Friends

The telegram took all
the bad thoughts out of
me in two minutes
I had been full of them
for several days in regard
to the petition. Hope to tell you
more sometimes. I am glad to
know that one note north of
Pearson & Dixon has been struck
in the right direction & if it
is not all we wish we may
hope for more to follow.
The weather has been warm
for more than a week & that
appeared to be putting Lazippe
in the back ground last night
the wind turned north & the day is
very cold.

I presume you will soon come to
the front again this far it

has appeared to hit the strongest
the hardest by removing me in
I think it will do no let me trouble
mate a little longer I have a little
ambition that will be paid in
the first of May I shall take
the mortgage away as soon as
the other is settled I heard

yesterday that his assistant
(who picks the grapes) draws a high
salary ~~the other very different~~
In regard to Brothers will

I do not think it very strong
but I think there is something
stronger behind it & probably

be just as well as it is
The farm mentioned for the
Heirs was his but it seems
it is here now & that leaves only
the home farm & 30 or 40 acres
a little way off from it

When they were married
they were about equal in
property They were neither of
them young & the marriage
was something of a business
arrangement (very sensible of course)
They on her money was to be used
in company but the principal
she must keep good The farm
is not the one he owned when
they were married That was
good rich level land & under good
cultivation The present one
required a great amount of
money & hard work to get it as
it now is It was a fine ridge
possibly some of her money was
used & if so I have no doubt but
she has obligation to show for
every dollar Eugene Terry was here
when he was 16 years old & he
understood all about their

business matters. He told me she wanted the House fixed over & said if he would build a Barn she would fix the House. He built a Barn that cost three thousand & she put fifteen hundred on the House. He thought she was a good deal the sharpest on any kind of a deal & I think she was about right. Father had made over to Stephen all he had except one thousand. Father died in 1853. Stephen was appointed Executor in 1857 & gave Bonds for two thousand nothing more or reckoned so the estate was never closed. She had sister & brother & I have exhausted all peaceable means to get my part. When the terrible suffering of the colored was in Kansas when purhased &

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Cattle was there at work I wrote to Brother ~~and~~ them barrels begining of them to do something for the relief of the sufferers. I told him if he would send them what was my due I would be thankful but not a dollar was sent. Brother had always been an abolitionist the same as Father. Then wrote to Judge Abing who was then a Lawyer of no mean repute. He knew all about it. I told him if it would cause any hard feeling between him & Brother he need not say anything about it. His answer was that he would say to Brother the same as he would to me that it was a plain case ~~said~~. When Abing was here time off the fair he asked me about

said it would amount to
quite a little sum forty years on
interest I have heard that he
said since the death that its
outlived in six years it had
been over twenty years when
he wrote me it was a plain
case The reason I am so
anxious about it is to lessen
the amount to the heirs
some of them are the most
unworthy beings on earth
If there can be any way to collect it
I should rejoice not that I want it
for myself but to do some good
Please pardon me for asking so much
of your time & patience for this purpose
Much love to all as well as pity
for the sick people to hear they
are better

E. Bennett.