

Copied

Elm Hill, Jan 29th 1860 -

Bro Peter,

To day I rec'd two letters from you, one dated Dec. 29. the other, Jan. 18th 1860. - I thank you for writing to me, & give me information which I was anxious to hear. My papers have stopped - I know not why. If I can, I will come on in the spring - My health is improving slowly. There has been much sickness this winter in this section of the County and many deaths. Mrs Jones, the wife of R. M. Jones, Adam Leflore, Isaac Gardner, Emily, the daughter of Jos. Decker are among the dead. — We have had a very severe winter. It is the hardest winter I have seen since I have been in this Country - a great many stock died up, & such an increase of moflves in the prairies, it has astonished every one all about here. — Corn is very scarce though out the region. It is reported that wheat is killed out by the late freeze in Texas & flour has risen from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 dollars per hundred at the mill - & selling at \$8. at the ^{boggs} depot.

Feb 3^d. I waited to hear from the convention to write you something, but I have heard nothing very definite from them - are still in session - the Committee to whom was referred to report on the question of sectioning the land reported favorable to that measure which passed soon afterwards among some of the members - Joseph P. Totten in favor of it so I am told. It is thought the leading men of the present administration are many of them, in favor of this measure of surveying the County off into sections, but scarcely - Leflow & Hartins are in tight place now too. They never dreamt of such a thing - they thought

thoughts if they get in to power, they would be quiet
& see easy time & have the nation too, for Walker &
Folson would ruin the Country. But that Commu-
nication from Pennsylvania Greenwood has com-
pelled them completely. They say now, they are
sorry to sacrifice the land, but they are compelled
to adopt that measure. I understand they have
made a considerable change in the Con-
stitution - going very strong for cheap - judicial
ly changed back to ^{the} old manner as it used
to be in the old constitution - In all this be-
ginning of excitement, I have adopted the
way of Capt. R. M. Jones to keep aloof - The
experience of the past has taught me as truly myself
any other man to adopt the course. You will not blame
me when I tell you that but a few months ago,
during the popular excitement, my life came very
near being cut off though heated paper urged one
by designing desegregates - not that I was guilty of
any charge - & some of them who were greatly dis-
affected toward me are still in a bad state of
feeling, & who would very easily roused up to a
bad, un governable passion, ready to do any mis-
chief by the heat of passion - My friends are
satisfied with the course I have taken - Re-
tirement from political life seems to be my
sure safety - For there is a mighty heavy cloud
just beyond the eastern hills - This people will
be torn up & scattered & sink to rise no
more

I do not like to think of it my self; you
and I can not save them - It is beyond our
power - We have not that influence we once had
In that midst of general crush, there are
many ironouds who will become vastly rich.

Brother John, you know, is self taught man,
whose opinion is most surely ^{to be} correct. He says, that
doom is now fixed upon the Cherokees, so no law
even so wise, could not make of any avail -
that restlessness has got hold on the minds of
the people that nothing will quiet ~~it~~, brought on
partly by themselves and partly by the power
of white men, coming upon them heavier & lighter
every year - I feel gloomy & melancholy at
the thought of it. Only consolation I have is, I have done
my best these thirty years to save them. I am truly sor-
ry to see that there is not that strong love & attachment
which ~~once~~ existed among brothers & relatives as it used
to be in former times in the nation - Still God can
bring a change & save sink as will be saved -
My only hope is in you - for He reigns, & will govern
the destiny of man - John T. Olson & his wife joined
the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to the as-
tonishment of the Neighbors - Billy Olson's
grand son, Anna's son by the name of Dew, killed
a Cherokee in a drinking spree on Texas side -
Zachariah Cobbt killed a Cherokee by shooting
near home train - drinking - Edward Stet is
married to Rebecca Cobbt - I do not hear
that the Commissioners on claims, are doing much

But full blood have it among themselves that
they are going to receive a big Annuity soon,
because, there's a new government - but under
Walker it could not be done. - What sly
& fortunate men are Washington to feed the
people with delusions & can hole up & go
on from delusions to delusions & never
receive an entire fall - I was informed,
that Gen. D. W. Cooper was in New Orleans
on the last of Dec. waiting for an answer
from Washington who had written on for two months
leaves of absence - Did he go on to the Washington?
There is a great quietness in this neighbourhood
no drinking - no disturbance of any kind -
The great building at Armstrong Academy is now
completed - they have Board in it - too fine
for those dirty Indian boys to do for you who
Under the present arrangement no Chatauque boy
can receive a competent education there -
I hope, a better day will come - I do not think
that Capt. Nail is fully competent to the task of
managing the business of the public Schools of
the Nation as it should be, but then, I will
not comment -

Now Sir, I am anxious to be at my post
to at Washington to assist in pushing on matters
through as soon as possible, for I am getting
tired of it - & my general health is failing.

Please write often - We did not get
the Eastern mail at all for two months -
& we are behind the time -

I remain yours as ever
(Confidential) Israel T. Brown