

copied

October 24<sup>th</sup> 1870.

Dear Charles -

Yours dated the 7<sup>th</sup> of Oct reached me safely. I wrote you not long since, perhaps you have rec'd it before now - I have been quite sick, but am well as usual now - We have had two very sudden deaths in our neighbourhood - Elizabeth Hudson spent the day with me, sewing & went home after sundown, apparently well & died before day - which was on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst - On the 16 inst Alexander was shot, while asleep & killed - we do not know who killed him, but the shadowy suspicion of Ossian, the circumstance evidence, is very strong, yet they do not know that he had any enmity against him, only that of being a vigard - several deaths having occurred during the past year, which perhaps are attributed to him - Moses Dyer is our judge now. Mr Hudson was dejected - The pamphlets have all arrived - No news as yet from the Council - Two white men from Laramie, from Rocky Comfort, I forgot

the other name have been among the negroes  
taking their votes whether they proper living  
under the U. S. government or Christians, all voted  
unanimously for the U. S. They told them by  
so voting that when the land is seceding  
the negroes would get some, land &c.  
one of the men (the name I have forgotten)  
said he was going on to Washington soon,  
& that he was there not long since &c.  
They also told them they had no right  
to gather our part of the crop, & I suppose  
a good deal more, such stuff - I told them  
in our hands, if they refused to pick the cotton  
I would hire hands & take care of it, also  
that these low white men had no business  
in here, from what Pa had written, & soon  
brought them to their senses. These men  
never go among any of the white folks but  
stay among the negroes, they also requested the  
negroes to be at Rocky Comfort by the 20<sup>th</sup> but  
I believe none went. Capt Holman is here  
selling goods for "McLean & Holman"  
I am always glad to hear from you all &  
hope the children are improving & all are well  
I write in haste as I am expecting the  
mail carrier every minute - Your friend  
M. R. Phillips