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I have mailed 3 News papers. I am all the way happy
to get some when it is convenient for you

Oxford Henry County Illinois
July 23rd 1856

James Dawson Esq
Dear Sir

As I received one Number Chronicle
by yesterdays Mail. I took notice of an
Enquiry marked with Pencil, Who is Mr Blair
as I lived some 14 years at River
John and was frequent at Piston doing
business " and was a subscriber to the first
New Paper you Published" (the little Bee)

from the above Reasons I thought you
would have known who was sending the papers

I am Robert Blair's Oldest Son of
"slow" of Daniel Dixon Esq is living yet at
Piston he is acquainted as we were old
school boys, altho I am some 8 or 10 years older
also I formed some acquaintance with
Henry B Saroway of Piston

If these men are still living Please Remit
to them " There is a half brother of mine
that runs a Stage from Piston to Pugwash
his Name is James, One Reason of me sending
papers to you was " at first I sent some to my
old Neighbour Mr McKenzie of River John, but I suppose
he had to look after his Carpenters Driving
trunks so he could not get time to write
or send " I got letters from George Perin

Letter of James
Dawson
1856

As I was "a slow man or a Reformer
When in Nova Scotia" It became more Convinced
to my views when I came to the United States
To be a Democrat as I always thought the
Majority of Subjects or Citizens ought to
Govern and if People are Enlightened
they certainly know how, but the present
System of our Government I do not call
Democracy: It bears the name but that is
all. It is Aristocracy, for Example
three hundred thousand Slave holders wish
to Rule 22 Millions. Still President Pierce
and his Administration also most of the
Southern Senators (with our S. A. Douglas,
would cram down our throats that they
are the only Democrats and have
made a platform for Mr. Buchanan
to stand on full as ridiculous as the one
they have been working on, 2 years
" Illinois which has always been a
strong Democratic State will not go for
Buchanan" Still it is my opinion
Mr. Gilmore runs " Buchanan will be elected
and I am afraid this jilbuster spirit
will be revived more. Slavery be extended
and the final up or down will be
a Revolution" The way Northern and
Southern men talk to each other when
they meet shows what is coming.

Fifteen years has Passed since I bid
friends in Nova Scotia farewell I have
had some Crosses in my path yet
I feel Grateful to that kind Providence
that has guarded me my life long
that I can say Myself & family
are enjoying good health and has been
a general thing since I have been
in Illinois " Altho I was a
stranger far from those friends of my
youth I have tried to live in that
way to be Esteemed as a good Citizen
I Received the Appointment as
Post Master some Over 3 years ago, but
we are only as those who hang on Princes
favours and can be dismissed at the
will of P.M. general " this is ~~the~~ our Government
keeps about 22 thousand that I call Government
Success, viz, If you dont vote for, or Electioneer
for our side we will turn you off " I mean
Post Masters " As for our prairie County you
have no doubt Read all about it
One great want is Wood more than threequarters
of the land is Clear in this County " the
Prairie Soil is very Rich " A Great part of
our farming labour is Don by Machinery
Corn is planted 2 men & 2 horses will plant
from 12 to 14 acres of Corn in a Day " And
7 men and 4 horses will Reap and Bind, Shuck

14 acres of Wheat in a Day all the thrashing
is done with Machinery " If you could get
a peep at Illinois now as we are in
the height of our harvest " the weather
is very warm Men is scarce at 1.25 to 1.50 a Day
there was a great quantity of Wheat sowed
It is a very common to see a farmer have 40 acres
of Wheat besides Oats & Corn
and a great many has from 80 to 100 Acres

Our Wheat & Oats are very good in this
Part of the County this year " In some of the
Southern Counties of this State the bug has destroyed
the Wheat " Our Corn in general looks well
We had a Drouth which hurt the late Corn
the Price of Wheat is from 80 to One Dollar bushel
Delivered at the Railroad 14 miles from here

As I must close my letter trusting
I may find you & family the Blessing of God
While in declining life " If you can get a
little time you will write let me know
Change at Peaton I suppose there is many
that I used to be acquainted with has you
from whence no traveler can return
I Remain yours Truly
Wm Blair

N.B. there was a kind of Oats in Nova Scotia
you used to have them they had no hull
I should like very much to have a
few kernels to get the seeds I think this
Climate would suit them well