

Exford Henry County Illinois

February 8th 1861

James Dawson, Esq

CH 380

Dear Sir

Some time over 4 years ago I wrote a letter to you believing you to be quite an extensive reader & understood much of the feeling of the American people

as I lived 14 years in the County of Piéton at River John by my trading in Piéton formed some acquaintance I was formerly from Truro Colchester & I have been near 20 years in Ill^o have been P^o Master for near 8 years which has given me a good chance of reading & learning the System of this government

four years ago I felt some alarmed as to the duration of this government but it passed away

But now things look alarming Six of the 32 ^{States} in revolt things depend now much in what move the 2 great leading Powers of Europe take, that is England & France

I cannot think that England can permit the Cotton States to be ruined by revolution

Which will eventually be if a general war comes on for in three years they will be obliged to kill one third of their Negroes as their will be Insurrections amounting to Negroes No tongue can describe the awful calamity

that will follow, for I believe in less than
7 years large portions of some of the Cotton
States will be awful anarchy, Negroes
will have the control of whole Counties

and we will have a hard time
in the West, as the South & West of Illinois
is settled from Virginia & Kentucky

So is Indiana, there is fight in those
Virginians & Kentuckians, they will not stand
and call each other liars & traitors

either have a nock down or draw a knife
or Revolver, those Southern men

blame the Northern & Eastern men of being
abolitionist and say they are the cause
of all this trouble

Now if a Revolution comes we will
have a hard time in Southern Illinois
they would soon commence to shoot each other.

I still have hopes that a
Compromise will be effected

Which will bring those
Seceding States back

Now both of those contending
Parties are much to blame on in the fact
as I am neither a Yankky or a
Southerner I can look at the matter
without being much partial

Now you know that every good

Subjects or Citizens will Obey the Laws
of the Country they live in and Stand
By its Constitution

Slavery was in the Government when
the Confederacy was first formed

and the Originators of the General
Constitution Guarded it much allowing
Each State to form their Own Domestic
Laws for Example Illinois declares
in its Constitution that no Negro or
Molatto shall come into this State
this is a Sovereign right

Again Kentucky on our South
declares in hers Negroes property

this according to the general Confederacy
is right

But the great trouble is
the Western Territory, the South say
a part of this is theirs, as it was paid for
or Conquered by the General Government
and claim she has a right to take
her Negro property then when they Emigrant
the North says no they may
take any property Except Negro
or property in Negroes

and now the whole Nation is
going into deadly Conflict What
About

The Mighty Negro which but little
Reverence paid to I assure you
for my self I do not like
Slavery yet I wish to be a good
Citizen & obey the laws & Constitution
of that Country I have adopted for
my home & my Children
During the Canvass of the last
Presidential Election I was what we
call an interventionist (that is throw
the whole Slavery question out of Congress
leave it to the people of the Territory
to form their own Constitution as they
Chose or as the States do, leaving
Congress power to regulate the sale of its
lands and military posts & Indian agents
But I saw long before the Election
this would fail, so I did not vote
this was the only way the trouble could
be settled as I thought,

The other 2 parties was dead
opposed to each other. Republicans want
Congress to rule the Domestic ^{Slavery} of territory
or prohibit it. The South Democrats
wanted Congress to rule Territory &
protect Slavery, this is the Rock that
those parties are foundering on
Iowa July 18th 1854 Wm Blair Am

Oxford Ill 9th July/61

CH 380

Letter
to
Mr. Blair
8 July 1861
B

I feel thankful to that God who has protected me my life long or to be an Old man of over 60 years that I can inform you that my family is all well at present

We have 10 Children living and 13 Grand Children the most of them live in our little town of Oxford

I oft have thought I would like to visit the land of my Fathers But I have given it up as some 4 years ago when the great financial Crises in this Country I was largely in the Groery Business I trusted out considerable when the Crash came it Broke me up

But I feel greatful I live in a land where there is plenty of Bread, so I trust that kind Providence that has led us until now will still the few more years or days of my life

you can Rembr me to my old
acquaintance at Pictou if they are
still living Henry B Narraway &
John Patton & Robert Patton

I write sometimes to my friend
at River John that is Alex McKenzie &
Geo Perin^{son} it is seldom I get any
Nova Scotia newspapers now days

If you could get time I should
like you to write

Our Crops of Wheat & Oats
and Corn good last season Wheat
is 43 Cents Bushel Oats 16 cents, Corn 18 cent
Bushel Park $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 Dollars hundred

We have almost a Nova Scotia
Winter Sledging ever since Christmas
Snow about 10 inches deep now

I sent to New Brunswick and
got a few of the Oiler or hulless oat
they do well on our rich Prairie
land, Our farmers make large quantity
of Molasses from the China Sugar Cane
Some are making Sugar

2 years ago the peaches was
mostly winter killed apples good
Plumbs not plenty grapes grow tolerable
w 12