8-25-1855

Letter to Children from Peter and Rachel Butler

Peter Butler
Rachel Butler

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Dear Children,

I feel it to be my duty to write to you as often as I can conveniently and let you know we are all well and if I should only see you at all and spend a few days with you it would afford me more satisfaction than a month to write a hundred letters, but as I have stopped of late, I must allow myself of the only answer which is left me at present to be your thoughts by way of letter. This has all in very pleasant health at present, for which I am so thankful, and for the present I do sincerely hope that you have a happy time of it that you may all be enjoying. Although our county is tolerably healthy, though there has been several cases of cholera and smallpox, but believe it has mostly passed. I believe this country is so rich in its soil and climate, and some health has as well as the air which we have not the convenience here that we have in Illinois but we have some soil that poor will bear some better than in this city before last and it will most assuredly be the same always.

Believe this country is so rich in its soil and climate and some health has as well as the air which we have not the convenience here that we have in Illinois but we have some soil that poor will bear some better than in this city before last and it will most assuredly be the same always.

With love to you all,

Your ever,
The gold miners in California in 1852, it is supposed, that there are two thousand claims where gold has been found and almost every body talks of going as soon as they can get off it. I said that they are making from there to one hundred dollars a day.

The idea of the diggings are if successful, there will be great emigration from the States next season. The people in California are well aware of the nearest point from which they can take ship, and most of our folks are gone yet and I don't much expect they will go this fall or winter from what you wrote to me to let you know what amount of money you sent to me and as I had the double state to get it without having referred to your letter but rather sending it. I thought of you having to keep the draft and I sent you a bill of credits to that amount I paid that you sent by Rackham for $755.50. You also wanted me to send you the interest of the notes which I left with you I have no means of paying the amount as well as you have for your land. The note bill and if you will explain that you can tell me an amount I think you will find that the piece of the land has never been in the notes and if you are in earnest he will pay the amount over to you. By all means it is the best offer that he gave me on the note. I received a draft for $300 but I can't get it cashed yet. The rest of the draft will be in a time or two and I hope your brother and I will be able to have a good time.

I have been to Portland and if I can't do it here must have over 12 thousand dollars. If you should send me any more I want you to get an unregistered draft and that will go a way. I hope Wilson will pay off that fifteen hundred dollar note with the interest and that it is due next month. If he does not I want you to pay off the mortgage as soon as you can as I am in great need of funds. If you can sell the place that I got of them for 20 dollars per acre or more do so to me if Isaac makes me a little money in my farm and if he does not you can make it with my name you had better mention it to the purchaser so that there will be no misunderstanding. If you sell it as much down as you can put it you have to wait long but, the interest of the first six months you can get it. I will write to you between this time and next January and tell you what to do with the old place. I want you to write to me when you receive this letter and let me know how everything is about the old place. I am hoping to sell what you can get for it. I want to know how the house is doing and what the condition of the fence is and what it needs repairing I want you to tell me. I feel very thankful for the money I sent.
Title: Letter to children from Peter and Rachel Butler (Polk County Oregon Territory)

Date: August 25, 1855

Transcription:

Polk County Oregon Teretory August 25/55

Dear Children

I feel it to be my duty to write to you as often as I can conveniently and let you know how we are geting along, if I could only see you all and spend a few days with you it would afford me more satisfaction than it would to write a hundred letters, but as I am deprived of that happinefs, I must avail myself of the only resorce which is left me to communicate a few thoughts by way of letter. This leaves us all in reasonable health at preasent for which we aught to feel very thankfull, and I do cinearly hope when these lines reaches you that you will all be enjoying the same blesings. Our country is tolerable healthy though thare has been several cases of chill and fever, but I believe it has mostly subsided. I believe this country is some healthier than Illinois but we have some sickness and some deaths here as well as else where we have not the conveniences here that you have in Illinois but we have some hope that produce will bear some better price in this valey before long and it will most assuredly if the antisapations of the people are realized in relation to the gold mines on or near the Columbia river near fort Colville thare has been gold discovered in that vicinity which has caused as much excitement as the gold mines did in California in 1849 it is supposed that thare is two thousand persons already gone thare and almost every body talks of going as soon as they can get off. it is said that they are making from ten to one hundred dollars per day to the hand and if the diggins are of extensive thare will be greate iigration from the states next year to the mines for they are much nearer to the states than California the willamate valey is the nearest point from which they can get thier supplys. none of our folks are gone yet and I dont much expect they will go this fall or winter. John you wrote to me to let you know what amount of money you sent to me and as I had the duplicate I sent it without having reference to your letter but after sending it I thought of your having to buy the draft and upon examining your letter I find that you sent by Rankin to St Louis $975.50 You also wanted me to send you the exact amount of the notes which I left with you I have no means of noing the amount as well as you have for you have the sale bill and if you will examine that you can tell near enough. One thing I think you will find that the price of the harrow was never
put in the note and if Kizer is honest he will pay the amount over to you Elijah wants to know whether Ostrem payed off the note he gave him for the mule. I received a draft for $304 49/100 but I cant get it cashed yet, the best offer which I have had is to pay four per cent I will send it to Portland and if I cant do better I must loose over $12 dollars here and three dollars and fifty cents in St Louis. If you should ever send me any more I want you to get a governent draft and that will go at par I hope Wilson will pay off that fifteen hundred dollar note with the intrest when it is due next April but if he does not I want you to foreclose the morguage as soon as you can as I am in greate need of funds. If you can sell the place that I got of Isaac for 25 dollars per acre or more do so and if Isaac makes me a Title you have the power to make a title in my name and if he does not you can make it in his name you had better mention it to the purchaser so that thare will be no misunderstanding if you sell get as much down as you can and if you have to wait long have intrest 10 per cent if you can get it I will write to you between this time and next January and tell you what to do with the old place I want you to write to me when you receive this letter and let me know how every thing is about the old place and if I take a notion to sell what you can get for it. I want to know how the hedge is doing and what the condition of the fence is whether it needs repairs I want you to tell Beadly that I feel very thankful for the money he sent me for last years rent for I much needed it I hope he will send me this years rent for I have to pay ten per cent on money and that is an eating matr I want you to see your uncle Jo and ant July and tell them that I will try to write to them soon tell them that Calvin is as well as usual for him to be tell John E. Murphy's friends that he is well and doing well, tell Sy that all his friends are well as far as I know George Deweese has sold out and talks of going back to old Illinois but it is thought by some that he will buy again Young Elijah Davidson has sold his place near Portland and is going to move up near his father's he got four thousand dollars for five eightys he sold the other three last spring give my best love and respects to all my old friends tell them that I would be glad to see any of them or even hear from them, I suppose they all have more time to write than I have and I hope they will occupy a small portion of their leisure in writing something about the advantages of old Illinois I will come to a close for the present.

Your father & mother Peter Butler
Rachel Butler