5-5-1850

Letter to John Butler from Elijah Butler

Elijah Butler

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Bearmouth, May 20, 1850

Dear Brother,

It is with pleasure that I write to you, knowing there are many fine objects along the road that was interesting to the traveler. We passed through a small portion of scenery that was well improved, the best farms and the best houses I have seen in any country. It was a small portion of it, so well improved, but still, the rest of the country is not improved as much. There is some Mormon settlements along the road from Iron River on to the town. It is a very broken country, some beautiful, others not. I have wanted anything the Mormons that we met on the road, all of them looked almost good. Both their person and their houses. Their houses are about six or seven feet high. They are made of round logs, some of them are covered with boards, some with dirt and some with brush and some with straw. I saw one covered with hollow logs. They were split open, the hollow part turned up, and the two joints broke with the hollow turned down. We are camped on the mountains, near the place where a couple of miles of Rockville, a Mormon town, and the most extraneous place that I ever saw flowers worth the pain it was. As we broke it off, we live thing in abundance. Our cattle is doing well on the grass we have.
I shall write as often as I can. I would like to write often if it was convenient.

Your affectionate Father,

John M. Bullis
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Monmouth, OR 97361

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Title: Letter to John M. Butler (Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois) from E.D. Butler (Council Bluff)

Date: May 5, 1850

Transcription:

Counselbluff May 5th 1850

Dear Brother

It is with pleasure that I write you a few lines there has ben many objects along the road that was interesting to the travler we past though a small portion of Ioway that was well improved the best farms and the best houses and barns than I ever saw in any Country it was a small portion of it is well improved the rest of the Country is not improved at all there is some mormon settlements along the road from Desmoin River onto the Councilbluff. it is a verry broken country some butiful Prairie but no timber worth anything the mormons that are seteled on the road are miserable looking objects both their person and their houses their houses are about six or seven feet high they are made of round logs some of them are coverd with boards some with dirt and some with bark and some with straw I saw one coverd with hollow logs they were split open the hollow turnd up and then the joints broke with the hollow turnd down we are campt on the missourie river at the place caled council bluff it is about ten miles to Hanesville it is a mormon town and the most extravagant place that I ever saw flouer is worth $12[??] bacon 10 cts per lb everything in acordances our cattle is doing well on the grass we have not fed our cattle any for one week the graf is not sufficient to travle on yet we think that we can start in four or five days some of the company dont want to start before the 15th of this month I would like to start in the morning if the rest of the company was wiling we are a head of the croud of emigrance it has ben a verfy backward spring here we had a snow
sorm on the 16th of april and the snow lay on for three days we have had high winds all the time or nearley so we found Elijah Jones at Hanesvill they are with us we have organized our selves in to a company we held an election and elected Peter Shelton Capt E D Butler Lieutenant we have all agreed so far verry well considering my boys have done first rate this far and I think that we will get through without any trouble. we have onley three cowardly men in our company they are so fraid of the Indians that they are nearley sick

It has cost me about one hundred dollars for feed and [word illegible]. we have paid from 25cts to two dollars and 10 cts per bushel hay from $5 to 20 per tun we are all well and have ben ever since we started I am stouter than usual none of us wish ourselves back yet I should like to hear from you all before we start it is a very tiersom job to write much on the road I wrote to Father one week ago to day no more at present I shall write as often as I can I would like to write oftener if it was convenient

Your affectioate brother E.D. Butler
John M. Butler