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BIG SPRING, Deuel Co., Nebraska,
If not delivered within 10 days.

Mrs Sam Dale Stevens
North Andover
Mass

ABBOT & KIMBALL, +
+ **GENERAL MERCHANTS.**

JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. Jan 6th 1891

My dear Sister—

Only a few lines now. Arrived here this morning about 8 o'clock. Jessie has probably written you about our trip as far as London. We got there Monday morning and I left there Saturday afternoon for Cincinnati then to St Louis then via Kansas City & St Joe to Omaha arriving at O. Monday morning and leaving there last night. We were all very much disgusted with the route via Washington and West Virginia. The baby behaved wonderfully well and seemed to thrive on the canned milk. ~~She was~~ Amy was delighted to find her Grandfather at London and it was quite a surprise to us all. The folks decl intend to stay there three or four weeks but now more than likely they will

stark home soon as Mr Gammell will not probably work to stay away very long. I find that the Indian trouble north of me is a much more serious affair than I had supposed. Look Muratta and the old time out here all predict as bad times for this country if the Indians break loose at Pine Ridge.

With love to all

John

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JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. January 11th 1891

My dear Sister

Have now about got settled into the harness again and it hardly seems possible that I have been away for the last two months. Since getting back I have been so very busy have hardly had time to think over the strange events of the last two months. Shall be in a bustle for several weeks yet before I can get settled down and have time to calmly think it all over. Have been fagging up our books to the first of the year and Monday commence taking stock of stock and settling up the year business. Have not had time yet to go over to the ranch to see the live stock, nor have I had time to go over and call upon Sallie I intended however to go over to both places today

but it is very cold and the wind blows a gale and the air full of snow so I shall probably not go until next Monday

Had a letter from Jessie this morning from Ohio saying they were all well except a slight cold and expected to start for Moline the first of the week. Where they will probably stay two or three weeks before starting home. Jessie seems very anxious to get home and settled again

I found Mattie had done wonders in the way of collecting while I was away and think the business was in much better shape than I had expected to find it. I can't help ~~but feel~~ the almost constant feeling of thankfulness and obligation to you all at home for all the comfort and kind sympathy and help you have extended to me and the untold good it has been to me

How much we really have to be thankful for? We surely can never be recompensed to the loss of our Boy, except in a way, by the recollection of all that he was and promised to be and the thought that he was ours and is ours. Jessie could seem to get over the feeling that our boy had been left behind and that she was running away from him but above the feeling is the satisfactory ~~that he~~ ~~was not~~ that his body was not buried out here which would have been a very great pain for her to bear. Poor girl every night she goes to sleep sobbing for him and every morning

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GENERAL MERCHANTS.

JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. 189

— 2 —

she with them. I judge from her letters that she is much more contented since I left her in Ohio. It surely is a very great satisfaction to me to know that I can be of so much comfort to her. I hardly think even you who have seen so much of her can realize how deep her feeling are she has such a control of herself that she seems to some to be cold. She only relaxes herself when we are alone together or when she is by herself. How can I ever express my thankfulness to you for all you have been to her and me? It will be impossible for you realize how much our visit has been to me in every way, especial intellectually.

The last two months have been very happy as well as sad ones to us. Perhaps great lessons have been taught us. I hope now that in a very few weeks we shall have our home established again and be together

to help one another. I should feel very badly indeed if you thought for one minute that we had anything but the most entire confidence that you had done every thing that possibly could be done and nothing whatever that we could now wish undone.

I am rather surprised that Cousin Alice should wish to go back to Hardwick Sh or I should think Cambridge would be even so much more pleasant. I can't understand it at all

I send Ruth some Crumbs perhaps with accts of the wars in our State one with the Indians in the northwest and the other at Lincoln in the southern & both of which is a disgrace to our Government or rather the management of our Government. It now looks as though we are to have three Governors instead of one and a howling host for a Legislature

Hope Aggie feels better after her rest and visit at Lynn and that George is not now too busy at the office

With much love to you all I am

Your affectionate brother

J. A.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
GENERAL MERCHANTS.

JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. January 24th 1891

My dear Sister

What in the name of common sense am I to write about to make a letter? It has been terrible cold as you may have seen by the papers one morning 30° below zero and for a week it was hardly ever above zero even at noon day but as there was scarcely any wind we did not realize how cold it was nor did we or our stock suffer for the last fine day however it has been very mild and pleasant We are all as usual very well Ada not many but one day of school during the extreme cold weather. We are expecting every day to hear from Will saying when he will get home on his way home hope we will be able to keep him with us several weeks before he starts home. Shall be interested to hear how Dum and George enjoyed their trip to Washington

the more interested in your description of the appearance of Mr Stevens and the family at Washington. Sam ought to look in the Winter at Washington as his father recently if he could be spared from the business which is probably out of the question. Hope to hear that Mrs Radford has recovered and that they succeeded in finding a more comfortable home without any stairs that is the beauty of our house (the only one perhaps) Hope that you will soon be able to induce Agnes to make you her permanent visit but I am afraid that she will spend much of her time on the cars flying from place to place wearying herself out with other people's trouble. Glad to hear that Emma Olivia is at least no worse and presume she is improving. I just received a letter from Dennis Thomas saying that he would like to remain his term for another five years and also that Mr Ripley and Mr Draper had been digging up the brook and taking liberties which were very annoying to him and asking if I had given them permission to do so. I have replied that I certainly had not given them any permission to do anything of the kind so I suppose Mr R and Mr K will have a monkey & parrot time of it hope it will result favorably to Mr R.

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JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. 189

We had a nice letter from Aggie the other day telling of the doings at Melrose & Lyons. I wish we could have some of you delicate over wrought people and have with us for a season I think we could lick new life into you for here you can surely prove rest for body & mind especially mind. Mr & Mrs Emmell have been spending the day with us we had a good dinner and enjoyed the day. Arthur Drew finished about two months ago the Dr. Kelly treatment for drunkenness and so far it seems to be a success for he has been steadily employed ever since and Omaha in a Dry Goods Store and we have very favorable accounts of his habits from our Omaha friends I mk then a mental. that Kelly Cure? Do you know much of it in the East? With love to all from us all as ever.

John

ABBOT & KIMBALL, +
+ GENERAL MERCHANTS.

JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. March 12th 1891.

My dear Amy.-

It is half past eight, the children are both asleep and have been for some time and John has gone over to Lillie's to play a few games of cards so I am going to try and write a little for I don't believe John wrote to you last Sunday. We were glad to hear that you are all well, for we were a little afraid you were not ~~well or~~ something had happened, by your not writing, but you are very kind to take so much time to write to us and we appreciate it too for you don't know how much good your letter do us. We had one from Aggie a few days ago which we were also glad to receive for it had been some time since I had written to her. Yes indeed it does all seem very strange. I have to stop and think sometimes if it can be possible that I have seen you all so lately. It is all like a dream and the saddest dream of my life, and I never shall get over it. I can see nothing but his sweet little face & his voice rings in my ear constantly. I wish I could feel differently, but I get so discouraged and feel as though there is so little for us to live for. You will never know what it is until you have

to part with one of your own (which I hope you will never have to do) but it does us lots of good to know that you thought so well of our dear little boy and when you think of how much you saw in him by knowing him so short a time, you can realize how much more we saw by being with him from his birth. Poor little Amy is so lonely without him and talks of him every day and occasionally has a crying spell for him. She cut her finger the other day and after I had tied it up she came to me and said "Now if John had been here he could have told me I was going to cut my finger" then she said "I don't see why God couldn't make my skin & bone hard so I couldn't cut it". She is always talking about God and Angels.

Are you trying to do some of your own sewing? Send me samples of Abbie's dresses. Will you dress little m gingham altogether this summer? How are you making her dresses?

I will have to get Amy some ginghams for all she had last summer were made the year before and what she did not wear out will be too small. I have been trying to make Harriet a few clothes but I get disgusted

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JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. March 12th 1891

when I get what materials I have, out and no two things will go together and then have to send to Chicago or away somewhere for materials, sometimes I think it is just as cheap to buy them ready made, that is the dresses, I can manage the other things well enough. I put Hattie short clothes on last Sunday. She is so fat she looks like a ball She weighs 22 lb. and is awful fat. She don't seem like the same baby as when we left Andover. We have a young cow that gives just enough milk for her and it seems to agree with her splendidly, she still has only the two teeth. She appears so much older and will hold a handkerchief up over her eyes to play peek-a-boo. Nearly every one here thinks she looks like John. He would have been delighted with her now. She has a smile for every one that speaks to her and is very good. She has a bottle when I go to bed about 10. or 11. and another towards morning, and about twice during the day, instead of giving the bottle, I feed her cracker and milk which she enjoys. How often do you feed Dale now? Did he get the little shoes? How is Abbot? Does he remember us? Amy says sometimes she would like to stay there and have Uncle Sam for her Papa. and

she got tired of him she would have Uncle George.

Cousin Olivia is or has been with you, I suppose. Let us know how she is feeling. I never can help but think of her when I am feeling lonely and blue, for she must feel as though she is very much alone.

I am afraid you are trying to do too much. Don't run yourself to death so you are all played out but take things a little easy. I suppose you have the same help as you had? I have the girl that was with us when you were here. Amy got a card the other day from "Our Little Boys and the Nursery" ~~the other day~~ which I will send to you as I know nothing about it. I think the Woman's Journal still comes. Did you stop it?

Walter seems quite happy over having a little nephew. He knew nothing of it until it arrived. We thought it best to say nothing but thought perhaps he knew but he said he did not.

I must close now for it is getting late. John will be here by the time I am ready for bed I guess. I must tell you before I stop about the party we attended last week. It was the 25 anniversary of the

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JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. 189

marriage of Mr. & Mrs. Euston who live about nine miles north of town. We were invited to go out to spend the evening with about 14 others and John said he would go. He very seldom wants to go to such things but after he said he would it was hard to back out, so I got Mother to come over to stay with the children. Mr. & Mrs. Leach went with us, they took their baby 10 months old started about 3 o'clock and got home at 12. the thermometer was 14 below zero. when we got home. What do you think of that for a baby, she is a little mite of a thing walks all around by chairs and almost goes alone.

Harriet is going to wake up so must stop and get her milk ready. Love to all from all

Your loving sister Jessie Abbot.

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JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. March 16th 1891

My dear Sister.

We I am ashamed to have let two weeks slip by without writing. Your letter of last Sunday came in last Saturday on our great stodge election day. We have been pretty busy for the last three weeks with the stock. Are getting ready for spring farming. It now really seems like Spring as the snow has all gone, and the air mild and warm. The Farmers all seem to be hopefull for this season crop. We are all feeling well and the Children are all over with their colds. Amy now gets out a good deal now with the little Gunnell girl a few years older. The baby is remarkably well weighs now 22½ lbs and can sit up alone and Amy takes great pleasure in "Keeping care of him" You never saw

a child improves in flesh as she has since she got home she takes about all the milk from one cow and always seems hungry sleeps well and now has no humors that can be seen and the little bunches on her neck are almost gone. Mary talks a great deal about John the other day she said that she dreamed that she saw John and his book were all well and he "wasn't dead" "and Mamma he really aint dead he will come back" "cause he said he would" is it not strange that so young a mind should dwell on so much and in such an unusual way upon upon such a subject. She really seems to miss him more each day than she ever has before. Yesterday she asked me if John wings were large enough so he could fly like big angels cause then he would come and see her. Is not this prattle an indication if not a proof of immortality it is certainly inherent. For there is not the shadow doubt in her mind but which she will see John again. All children she now meets are compared to John but none are up to his standard with her

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JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. _____ 189__

Poor Cousin Olive she must be getting interested in something if it is her only hope and of her present constant grief what an awful thing it is not to have children. Jessie had a letter from Aggie a few days ago and we also received a book ("The Eugenic") which she or Geo sent but have not got had time to read it. Mrs Kimball is working hard to make comments for her Probation Church Aid with very little success. Our dancing party of a year ago has now changed into a spelling school but it is hard work to get up much interest in them. About the only social amusement here now is "High Five" parties.

Sawyer Dole is much more advanced than Harriet he was so far ahead when we were at Auburn

Mattie seems very much pleased with his nephew and says that he knew nothing whatever of it until the news came of its arrival and also seems pleased with the name Chas Carlton

Mr Kimball says "it" is a much better specimen of a baby than its father was at his age.

Please may add a few lines as well stop with love to all yours

Your most sincerely John

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North Andover
Mass

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JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. March 30th 1891

My dear Amy

We have been having the worst weather for the last two months and especially for the last week even snow home about three big snow storms within a week and over a foot of snow each time

We came by the Dowmans a few days before your letter came of Mr Peters death. It will seem strange not to see his form towering up in the place in church last Sunday. The security seems all affair to loose such an he too bad that you could not have seen more of Mr Clifford

Amy has been over to her Grandmothers for a week visit with Abby and has just got back bringing Abby with her You can hardly imagine how interesting it is to listen to

from conversation when they are not conscious of it. Last night when they went to bed, they sleeping together in the bed room. The door just ope a crack and Bottie ready to get into bed Abby told Amy she was going to pray, we listen to hear the prayer. We could just make out "Now I lay me & c" until amen in a rather solemn tone than a burst of laughter then Amy not to be out done in a very solemn tone repeated

Baby will not eat her dinner
Baby is a little sinner
Send it all to Peter Cook
What will ruby say to that
Amen

The rhyme she learned while over at her Grandmas. Should we teach her any other prayer what say you? She is certainly a very strange child and will question everything and always wants a reason

We have all about got over the effects of the La Grippe the Baby having the hardest time of it although she now seems quite well again Amy has an inflamed Eye that we are a little alarmed about as it seems to hang on so long

We got "Life" and forwarded it on

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JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. 189

directed to Cutler. Walter wants me to thank you especially for him. We have just got over a very severe chase of La Grippe I never saw a sicker looking man than he for three or four days he is feeling much better now however. Our detachment is still drugging along with some prospect of developing as soon a better weather sets in. This Month has been a very severe one for stock and many of the stockmen about here are losing lots of cattle for want of food & shelter We still have plenty of hay for ours We all send love & much amounts

Yours

John

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
GENERAL MERCHANTS.

JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. April 5th 1891

My dear Sister =

This has been the first pleasant spring-like week we have had this ~~week~~ spring the snow has about all gone and the grass is beginning to start. We are all feeling perfectly well again Harriet never looked better and her head is entirely free from pocks or humor of any kind as far as one can see. Last week Amy had trouble with one of her eyes but the trouble has entirely disappeared and we think it was nothing but a speck of gobinth in which caused it. We were amused and interested in your description of your visit to the Gymnasium No wonder Mary Ford did not care to recognize you.

I think that such a Gymnasium for women is just what is needed to bring very many women to more perfect health. Hope to hear favorable reports from the one you are starting at Osgood Hill We thought of you all last Friday evening wishing of course that we could have been unobserved spectators of the Gymnasium The description of the "Ball of Fire" made my mouth water. "What's the matter with Sidney"

Which as some of Helen Mansfield's love affairs
I am we suppose is happy in having a friend to remove
should like to be present at the performance
The "M D" baby Tim came through all right. Some of the
Sheldons must have dropped it into the hole as Jessie says
she sometime left it there We are mighty glad to know
recovered it Hope the Lessons proved a success
and not too many of the men sick regretting

We were delighted to find in the Tribune
Mr Clifford's letter which we suppose was in the
mine his remarks at Mr Peters funeral

Jessie had a letter from Aggie telling us about
the interview she and Eva had with Dr Cabot it
is some satisfaction to know just what his reason of
the case are and that Dr Worrall treatment was
in harmony with theirs. Aggie said nothing about
her own health. What do you think of her case
is she improving as we hoped.

We shall be interested in your account of the Sun
which we shall expect this week

The family all join with us in love to you all
from your affectionate bro

John

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North Andover
Mass.

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JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. April 12th 1891

My dear Sam

I desire this week letter to you as it is presumably a business one. On my way through Omaha last January I call at the N P Headquarters and made application for a piece of land which the Company own which joins town and has the spring upon it which used to supply the Water tank you may remember the spring which gave the town its name, located above to where Old Clarke House (or dug out) used to be the Company have lately put in a new tank and dug a well and put up a wind mill so they have no use for the spring or the land which was reserved on that account until now. On our application for

the land was first in order we have the first chance to buy the land at their appraisal what ever that may be. Now there are several on the farm who have applications in for it if we do not take it. If the price is less than four dollars per acre we expect to buy it as it is sold on ten years time one tenth cash and the balance on ten years time one tenth payable each year at 6% interest on deferred payments. This land has a value to us for a pasture because it is so near town and Sunday I am going to buy it I shall probably move our house onto it transferring the mortgage now holds on the house and lot to this land. Should the price be more than four dollars per acre we shall probably not feel like buying but consider it worth it land is.

The land is not good farm land because it is so rough or hilly some of it however might be valuable some for the house

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JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. 189

late should the town grow to be of any size it would have to be fenced which would cost about $300. Now if you still feel like making an investment this a good chance if you think it. We would be willing to rent it for a season or trade it may be made to pay interest on the investment the land has a low valuation so that the taxes would not be necessarily very heavy let us know what you think of it and we will send us more details as to location taxes probable crop &c. The more much interested in Amy ask of you Hermann which seems to be a grand success. Yours & Geo ~~and~~ It seems were for more successful

in location wood lands then we were perhaps it was be cause you did not spend so much time & studying New England types of character as we did and the lunch basket was not so well supplied as ours was I don't remember if you had any more interesting time of it than we did. Jessie promises to write to Amy this week so I must not exhaust all the topics which are always for two fair souls how to make a letter out of. Although I must tell you that Jessie has made two beautiful shirts out of the Storm Mill flannel She said that it was a shame to make up one of the pieces into a shirt as it would make such a nice cloak for Harriette but she was afraid of your if she did not so I must thank you again for the shirt as well as for the cloth hope to be able to return one of them to you perhaps around to spend around Big Spring with well guarantee that you can get it on as it is longer enough for May Marchand Now Jessie says it will about

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JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. _____ *189*____

enough to make a clean job after a few weekings

Jessie and the children have just gone off to visit with Mr & Mrs Ware over to the Gammell Ranch for the day I should probably drive over with a colt in the road cart and bring lots of fun breaking four three year old colts to drive and ride. Walter has gone out 20 miles south to spend Sunday with an old flame of his sister an expression for him the all winter in send love to you all

Sincerely Your John

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Mass

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JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. May 18th 1891

My dear Amy—

Today nothing has happened to keep me from writing and I am ashamed of my neglect. I naturally put off writing until Sunday and that day is always the busiest day in the week for all sorts of odd jobs are put off until then. The children are both quite well Harriet is now almost as big as Amy too heavy to be favored in walking. Does not every crop up but sits up by herself on the floor for hours at a time and is the best natured baby I ever saw. Amy says she (Harriet) is learning a "piece" to speak (Amy is the teacher) It is "Bar bar black sheep" and Harriet can say "Bar bar" Amy has lately found a new chum in a little girl who lives near us a regular Western type, ragged and dirty but otherwise quite decent. Some years or two younger than Amy. The other day we overheard the following conversation between them Amy seeing an old man go by asked her if he was her Grandpa "No my Grandpa died and man did come and take him and put him in a hole and cover him all up with dirt" then Amy broke in and said No. No angels did come

above from Heaven and take him up in the story just like they did two little John and there are holes in the sky that they go up through but you cant see the holes but I can see just one. Two again the other day when Abby was over here they were playing together picking flowers (weeds) Abby said that if they should eat some kind of grass that they would never die. Whereupon Amy said she would not eat any grass for if she died she might not die and then she would not be a angel and have wings. Today I took both she and Abby for a walk up in the pasture to see the colts and they both had their hands full of flowers and kept up a constant stream of questions which I doubt if Darwin or Gray could answer about the flowers some of which were. What kind of flowers make butterflys and dandelion flowers make little worms and what makes Johnny jump ups yellow &c &c

Amy has been very much interested in planting seeds and expects to have lots of flowers take water out to fork on her little apple tree every day. Nothing makes us so homesick out here as your accounts of riding George & Aggie with you to spend a fine day as it brings it to us so forcibly how far away we are and how impossible for such little visits are both a frolic. Hope Cousin Olivia will find relief by having something definite and practical to occupy her mind I am surprised that she should have bought Mr Prentiss interest in the land they held together which did she want of it. She should think Mr P could have sold it to better advantage than she could. Suppose Rodney Burnett intends to

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JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. 189

2

build another business block on the lot. Jessie says that Cousin Olivia sketched the pictures of John which were taken in Omaha the week and as yet we have not sent for any more expecting that possibly some some of us might go to Omaha and could then immediately get them. She has not forgotten her promise and will send them as soon as we get them. What strange things do happen at Auburn to think of the Dowes taken rooms at Vanarsdale and boarding at Egan's what a combination Egan & Mrs D will make. What does Es say about the arrangement I should have supposed the Ds would have left Auburn entirely rather than do to live in the face of all the comments on their changed condition of living. By the way is Bell Dale still in the Boston Post office in the old place we have supposed that he would probably have to go as Crowe did. We have our crop all in and much of it is up and looking well. Feed is now in splendid condition and the stock is picking up fresh. and the calf crop so far is very satisfactory

With love to you all

Affectionately

John

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NOV
19
NEB.

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
TWO 2 CENTS

Mrs Sam Dale Stevens.
North Andover.
Mass.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
GENERAL MERCHANTS.

JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. May 17th 1891

My dear Amy:

Sunday slipped by again without my writing but if I succeed in getting off today it will reach you before night Sunday at least. The last week has been immensely busy and I away from home from Tuesday till Saturday. Have been away on this irrigation business leaving here last Tuesday morning going by rail to Kimball in the extreme western part of the State there taking the stage and going overland to the little town of "Lewing" near which our proposed ditch will start from the country through which we went to be very interesting indeed find quite a dense pine forest up there and some of the finest bottom lands I have seen which are perfectly adapted to irrigation with an ample supply of water near at hand. We now find that it is going to be right to impossible to get a canal built which will water our high table land north of the town therefore we hope to dispose of our interest in our old

extension or or not to have all the money we have so far put into it. I wish you could have taken the ride across the country with us you can have no idea of the grandeur of the scenery high bluffs and deep ravines fine woods and on the little streams between the larger hills ~~little~~ are great cotton wood trees and every few miles you come a cross beautiful little valleys and ah look to the great valley of the North Platte River which ah averaging in some miles wide with the irrigating ditches winding their way across the upper reaches of the valley We are now planning to raise up a company and to go up there this Fall Jesse Lillie & Mrs Claude Summell there little girl and Amy with Claude Mr V and myself leaving Harrisburg with two wagons. Wish it might be that we could take some of your Jenkins along with us. The children continue to be very well. We have had a splendid rain. Crops never looked more promising. Wood is very ~~dull~~. The price of cattle is looking up. Walter expects soon to go to Cheyenne. And as usual there does not seem to be much of anything to write about. Therefore with love to each and all

Affectionately

John

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
GENERAL MERCHANTS.

JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. May 20th 1891

My dear Amy.

Hope this may reach you by Sunday. Walter starts for Cheyenne & Denver today and as I am to be alone in the store and will probably be rush pretty close inside. We have had an amount of afflicted ruins and the people are now all very bright, but they naturally are at this season the least flush of June and the 1st of July is the critical time. In regard to the community lot at Andover we hardly know which we would like seem to us as if the lot should be fixed up to correspond with the old lot. We would like to have somekind of a stone at John's grave but can not decide which we would like. We do want the lot rough in order any way and will try and make up our minds further in the month. Perhaps you or George

Miss Cousin Olive must get my carpenter with Mr Vannard and looking over the ground contrive some plan ~~for~~ to put the book in proper permanent shape

Perhaps you could help us in deciding upon a stone to murder Johnson. Do ask the dealers in such things how illustration & description which would help us to decide at a distance

We are glad to hear that Cousin Olivia seems so much better with anything important to take up her attention I can see no reason why she should not be well and happy and do lots of good. What news from Agnes and Cousin Anna Suppose David managed to pull them, the Cousin seems undoubtedly. We expect Mr & Mrs King of Oacoma to make us a visit of a few days on their way West, Last Evening the Town people got up a surprise party for Mr & Mr Charles Emmell to celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary. Quite a number lots of Ice Cream & Cake (Washington Pie) our social gathering now have had a goodly share of those old time flavors since the Kinsman ceased being "Professional" no cards, no dancing, & dark instead it is generally gossip and giggling by the women and a hurry to get home

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Big Spring, Neb. 189

by the mens, altho' the office look might was a pleasant exception

We have been having pretty cool weather with our rains and one day last week it snowed quite a little. Amy was very much surprised at seeing the snow and asked if it was Christmas time again. Jennie told her that it was not and that it should not snow at this season because it was summer. Pretty soon Amy wanted to know if we did not think that "God had gone crazy by making it snow in the summer time". Amy was very much interested in your account of the game you played at the Base Ball Club the per week game in particular. A bundle from you came to Jennie the other day which she was very much pleased with. For bad luck

named that right to Spanish ~~girl~~ shall be glad to name for "Ellen Marie"

By the way I have finished reading "Romola" George Elliott and enjoyed it mightily. How you read it? You remember Eggie gave me a beautiful illustrated copy the two vol. book Christmas

We enjoying "Life" very much indeed hope that the folks at Milwaukee and Cutten do also.

With love to all

Affectionately

John

Return to ABBOT & KIMBALL,
BIG SPRING, Deuel County, Nebraska,
If not delivered within 10 days.

BIG SPRING
JUN 8
NEB.

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
TWO CENTS 2

Mrs Sam Dale Stevens
North Andover
Mass.

To

ANSWERING YOURS OF

Manger, Printer, Omaha

JOHN H. ABBOT. WALTER KIMBALL.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

DEALERS IN

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

BIG SPRING, NEB. June 7th 188[illegible]

My dear Amy.

Your letter came last ~~Thursday~~ Friday but none the week before so don't think too hard of me for not writing last week. We are very happy over the prospects of a good crop the season as the crops never looked as promising before at this season of the year small grain is almost assured have been having the most delightful rains than last week. You were undoubtedly surprised to hear of Walter going East it was a sudden move on his part as all his moves are glad that he did go as I really believe he has wanted to for some time. He has had trouble with his teeth and though he might have to have some more of them taken off and intended to have it done as soon as he got home so he will not be able to get about he would be pleased to have you and Rose call on him. You will find him mighty interesting if you only have the patience to draw him out. There is actually nothing to write about this week except that we are all well and happy have not time to read have been somewhat interested in the Proof Boy's office have just received the much talked of "inaugural" from New York and am ready for. Your interest in your account of the anniversary meeting but I should hardly think there a answer with out Colyer, Linnett, Chadwick & Jones I think we have by far the best material now in the Week

Jane, Emmett, Effie & Judy, Mann, & Grother.
We expect to "put in" the evening with the Regatta boys
~~the~~ only regret so far Miss Elliott and Mr Lovejoy
remain at the dinner. We are now without a girl
(Domestic) which keeps Jenny very busy. We live though
principally on canned lobster, sardines, lettuce and
ice tea with toast & cream. By the way Jenny wants
me to ask you to get her 1/2 dozen rubber nipples
for the nursing bottles she got at No Andover they can't
be got here. I see that Uncle Ford was honorably
mentioned at the festival as being present there
and also at the first dinner fifty years ago
Ann very sorry I did not go out to see him last
winter. Jenny & Amy join me in love to you
all

Affectionately John

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
GENERAL MERCHANTS.

JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. June 20th 1891

My dear Amy

One day ahead this time sorry I let last Sunday slip by

Like you I will commence with the business part of my letter

I enclose Dft for $20.00 which will cancel the coupon note due July 1st 91 on the Enslow Mortgage please send me the note so that I may hand it to Mr E. he brought in the money yesterday.

I think the plan of selling your corner lot (Philip & Abbott St) to Bob Means is a very good one that is of course provided they will build a house that they intend to live in

There is no income now from the property as it is. And in all probability none of us will ever want to

build there. and then of course the price should cut something of a figure seems to me that corner ought to bring at least $3500. 4000. is not a cent too much that is if they intend to take it all. My lease to Mr Tomson I think holds until Dec 25th 1893 if I am not mistaken he pays $600 per year. We have been having the most delightfull weather and very much more rain has fallen this season than ever before since we have been here, and it now looks as though nothing but hail would prevent us from having an immense crop of small grain and hay. Corn is not looking so well it has been too cool for it as yet. Stock of all kinds never looked better if as well.

We noticed the death of your Pa in the "Tomsons" Jeanie will write tomorrow she says if she can find time We all send love Your sincerely John

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
GENERAL MERCHANTS.

JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. July 26th 1891

My dear Amy

Am hurtly ashamed of my self here it is three or four weeks since I first wrote commenced a letter last Sunday got two pages of regrets and excuses and then it stopped though each day that I would finish and send it. In the first place let me say that the plan of the homestead, is not out here am quite sure George has it in the safe deposit vault in Boston for I think I saw it last winter when we were looking over the papers for the plan of the wood land. After talking with Walter am more convinced than ever that it would be a good plan to sell the land in question to the Mormons as they will undoubtedly put up a good town and make an attractive place that will be a credit to the neighborhood as to prove you have hardly asked too much. Had a nice long letter from George say the here that Aggie does not improve in health we advised her coming out here to spend several months and I really believe it would be a great help to her as she would have literally nothing to do

and was excited to wish to know she could be out doors about all the time ~~in the best~~ and have the best air possible to breathe (and plenty of it) We cared very much for the quality of the food from an abstract standpoint but plenty of good bread potatoes chicken and vegetables cream & milk. George says it is out of the question but we could understand why. Don't you think it would be about the right kind of a change for him?

You write that Dale got about creeping we suppose but probably by that time he walks. Mattie told us how he would slide about in her "walker" Harriett does not try to walk although she creeps about all over the house and stands up and goes from tables to chairs about the room or her father by holding on with her hands. Amy has taken a much decided notion to go to Sunday school probably he came Chase and the other little girls go last Sunday she went and came home full of it said "Jesus did make wine" There were lots of jars full of water and a man though it was water but Jesus "fooled" him and made wine of it. In trying to explain it to him that it was a story but not exactly a true one and that wine could only be made out of grapes she sprang up and said "well Papa what the matter don't you know that was in heaven". Which of course settled it so far as I could see. We made up our minds however that she had better stay at home in the future but she wanted to go today so badly that Jesse consented she went and the result of it was that Amy washed and every thing that the teacher told her she said was not so and stuck to and on hearing Jesse said he came Papa said it was just as

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WALTER KIMBALL.

 Big Spring, Neb. 189

story. So of course we shall not let her go any more ah lunch until she is several years older.

Walter has been full of Anderson news and has been mighty interesting since he had a good time. We have not had a drop of rain here for three weeks and it has been raining almost daily all around us. We need rain for the corn but our wheat and small grain crop all got out of the way before it stopped raining and we are going to have the largest crop ever raised here the wheat harvest is well under way now. and barley all cut and flaxseed and the wheat and oats will be about all cut by the back of the week and now if we only can get a few more favorable showers we will have corn and potatoes in abundance potatoes any way. without any more rain. Tell Sam that I have enjoyed the Jesse Rusk mightily as so have some of my friends who I sometimes treat to a Yankee cigar. Harriet undoubtedly is pleased with the Rubber Cat for she has bitten off its head We all are still enjoying the candy & ginger snaps especially the ginger Jesse Lill & Mrs L have been admiring the dry goods. They all came to us in perfect order.

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GENERAL MERCHANTS.

JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. August 2nd 1891

My dear Amy.

In the first place have you read in the last two Registers "Life in the Bible" By McGarnett? if not do so. I have just this minute finished it. It calls to mind the conversation we had last winter about the revolve you and I began much to ~~read the~~ study the Bible. This series of Lessons seems to show the large scope of the subject and makes one realize how vast an understanding it would be and how impossible for many people to understand it satisfactorily and how useless too when one can get so much out of one such article as this which seems to go a long way towards filling the bill. I would also advise you to read Dr Briggs Inaugural address on the Authority of Holy Scripture. Which I will send you asking that you return it when done with it as I want to keep it. The marginal note and one sentence underlined were made to forcibly bring to notice there passages to some of my Presbyterian friends and have

no necessity for you.

We have had a very favorable week with a good rain to help the corn crop. We are all through with our small grain harvest which was the best we have ever had although it suffered a little for water the last two weeks before harvest. Corn is looking splendidly and promises a big crop. We are busy getting our grain house ready to handle the crop have been enlarging the capacity and can now handle about 10000 bushels a week if it comes in. Jessie and the children went to ride with the Ostrums leaving me with Unity & Regina and home letters to write then afterwards. We were interested and pleased to hear of Daisy Coolidge would like to see them. but you can't count much on theory as (Jessie frequently remarks) for as I remember Hattie always had good theories of life and conduct but so far the results do not seem to recommend them. Eyes argument seems to become a factor to be considered but does not his case seem to be a simple matter as the children and Margaret can now be considered as almost entirely apart for time. Do you suppose they are running up bill to keep up the rig they are running or is it that the business is more profitable or better managed

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Big Spring, Neb. 189

I don't suppose Ezra knows or cares I have some doubts about the feasibility and ~~practicability~~ and profit of a Nurserstand scheme would not it cost more than it came to. At all events it would need "constant supervision by a hygen authority" it seems to me

In regard to the price of the lot of land on the corner of Abbot & Philleps St Walter says it is worth 4000.00 perhaps he is somthing of a Real Estate boomer but that figure may not be too high We have had a charge of thin for the mails and one mail for the East going at 9.30 P.M. instead of 4 A.M. so you may get the letter Wednesday. We are all well and send love to you all

Yours affectionately John

Mrs. Sam'l D. Stevens

North Andover

Mass

[7 September, 1891]

Lynn
Sunday P.M.

Dear Amy.

Very much obliged indeed for the glasses which came yesterday to the office.

We waited over here on account of the weather and in hopes that Nellie would feel like starting with us.

The girl here left last night and N. will not leave her mother. A new one comes tomorrow night and N. has half promised to join us at Canton some day this week if things go well here.

John Maclaren arrived from Phil. this morning and we shall take the 7 o'clock train for Portland tonight. put up at the Preble House & go on to Canton at 8.50 AM tomorrow

You and Sam will be glad to hear that Fred turned up yesterday according to promise and left a check for $500. "On account" - This was just in time as I immediatly took up the mortgage of that amount with A.P.B. and had discharge signed to be recorded while we are away. Fred thinks he can arrange to get the balance within a few weeks and then we can settle up everything & breath easy - ~~We~~ The family had quite an explosion when I came down with the news last night. Aggie is sicked most to death - "All's well that ends well" -

If Willie comes later we may come home thro' the White Mountains for the sake of giving J. M. the chance of seeing the Crawford hotel & Mt. Washington. We can take the Grand Trunk at Mechanic Falls I think and "go round that way" coming back on the B.&M.

The weather here today is exactly what we had so much of last year but I dont believe that will happen again.

Wish you and Sam were to my your luck with us -

Aggie sends love

Yours

Grace

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ANDOVER, OCT 3 1891 MASS.

BIG SPRING SEP 29 91 NEB.

UNITED STATES POSTAGE TWO 2 CENTS

Mr Sam Dale Stevens
North Andover
Mass

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JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. Sept 27th 1891

My dear Sister,

Good gracious how long is it since I last wrote to you am ashamed to think of it. No wonder you think you are at a loss to know what has become of me. We are all well however and I have been too careless and lazy to write as I should have done. I believe we have not written since Harriett began to walk which was over a month ago and has been going about all over the house on the porch and sometimes in the yard she weighs 27 lbs and is perfectly well and always happy when she is full eats more than Amy twice over has been entirely weaned for over a week has nothing through the night drinks a cup of milk at bed time and nothing more until

Breakfast time drinks milk and
Cocoa (meat) eats toast & cream and oat
meal & cream the pulp of baked apple
roasted chicken bones from which the
meat has been removed custard
and bread & butter. Should judge from
Dulu photos (the last one taken with hat)
that she had even more hair than Dulu
She also talks quite a little or rather
says some single words very plainly
such as Papa, Mama, Cow baby Kittie peek.
drink (for drink) bite & c & c. We were mighty
pleased with the view of Ouray &
Mr A especially those of the hill and
surroundings. The reason I did not
write two weeks ago today was because
I started on that day for Salt Lake
to attend the "Irrigation Congress"
and did not get back for over a
week. The Congress was composed of
30 delegates each from each State
on Territory west of the Mississippi
River. said delegates to be appointed
by the Governors of the several States
Mr Leach and my self were the only

delegates from this part of the State and as we took together it made the trip more pleasant for each of us. We got to Salt Lake Tuesday morning. the Congress organized at noon of that day and lasting until Thursday evening. every minute of it was very interesting some of the brightest men of California, Colorado, Nevada Montana & Wyoming among us were especially taken with the Californians. and a body and one or two from Nevada Senator Jones and a young man a son in law of Senator Sharon also Arthur Foote the husband of Mary Hallock Foote. the author & artist. Men also mightily interested in the remarks and appearance of Brandish Woodruff of the Mormon Church who is a very remarkable man of 84 years full of vigor and which seems to be good common sense not over eloquent and probably not an

educated man Geo Q Cannon
also a prominent Mormon was a far
better speaker and more at ease
before so large an audience of strangers
The Salt Lake Choral Society gave a
complimentary concert at the Tabernacle
to the Congress which I think was by far
the grandest thing of the kind I ever
saw. Such a building as it is and such
an organ. The ladies I should judge
there was at least 200 were all dressed
in white or very light colors and sat
in the middle of stage the men on each
side tenors on the left and bass on
the right row of each in the center and
in front of the leader was the Mandolin
Club 30 young ladies in very bright
costume all alike. Should think the
building would seat at least twice as
many as Music Hall in Boston and
the stage (if that is the proper term to
apply to it) four times as large as
the stage of the Boston Theatre so you
can probably imagine the effect.
We went all over the building the day
before and the Mormon who showed you
around got us to go to the rear of
the gallery at the very furthest

Big Spring, Neb. ..... 189_

fourth from the stage when he rose and then he whispered to us and we could hear him then he dropped a pin (he said it was a pin) and of course we took his word for it. at all events we heard it fall upon the table. The Tabernacle and the bird Temple (an immense affair very grand and solid looking) and the Assembly Hall also a very fine brick small Sunday occupy one block in the City surrounded by a fine 10 ft high with large arched gateway inside the enclosure are the most perfectly kept grounds I ever saw and in the evening when all the grounds are illuminated with a mass of electric lights it is magnificent. I was particularly struck with the size and elegance of the business blocks throughout the City and

the quantity of them. and above all with the hospitality of the people both Mormon & Gentile I always did have a pretty good opinion of the Mormon and now I am delighted with them their religion is absurd so are most all of the so called religions I know of but this one has one redeeming feature which is not noticable in any of the others and that is its natural results I had a long talk with a Mormon Preacher who when I asked him what his business was said he was a lawyer, preacher and irrigator. I told him that his being a lawyer did not mean much and if he was anything like the minister in Nebraska that did not add much. but that if he was a good irrigator it was enough. he talked quite freely but was hard to pump. said that he had always worked hard on his farm and gave freely his 10 to the Church and was glad to and felt that he was well paid for in the good that the Church did mankind and that he was only doing his duty had a good deal to say about the hardships of early times when they first came into the Valley. Said in the most matter of fact way that God was with them and that they was His Chosen people

Big Spring, Neb. 189

and to prove it to that ~~was~~ that when they first came there they were all very poor had only a very fine lorain cow or sheep so fine that they could not afford to eat any beef or mutton, as they must keep all the cows for milk and the calves and the mutton for wool & increase, and the steers to work the farm therefore there was no meat to eat But that Fall (the first one) God sent thousands of Jack Rabbits into the Valley he saved the sage brush was just alive with them so they had plenty of meat and each year until they had plenty of beef & mutton the rabbits came but now there are hardly any. that prove it of course. ~~Speaking~~ the D & R G R R Co tendered a special train ~~for the~~ delegates for an excursion to Provo 40 miles south of S L ~~&~~ ten cars loads of us (took it in) left S L in the morning arriving at Provo at 10 o'clock was met at the train by a

Brass Band and a string of carriages and were taken all over the city to the Woolen mill the only one I think in Utah owned by Mormons then to the insane asylum then to Utah Lake. fresh water thirty miles long 8 or ten weeks then to the public square where were spread for our benefit tons & tons of grapes. apples. pears. peaches. melons. Plums &c all except the apples were the finest I ever saw. then to the Depot and back to Lehi where is located one of the best equipped Beet Sugar Factories in the country (owned by Mormons) after being shown over and through the works we were driven to the Opera house where a banquet were spread and presided over by Mormon girls with white aprons & caps and while eating we were entertained by the local glee club while sang temperance songs to us ~~then to of the~~ after dinner the Mayor delivered an address of welcome followed by 1 speech from the windy delegates then a drive through the town to depot then on to S L arriving about 4 P M just in time to take U P special train for an excursion to Garfield Beach where we arrive at about 5 P Clock about 300 of us went in bathing and. such

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{ JOHN H. ABBOT.
{ WALTER KIMBALL.

5

Big Spring, Neb. ..... 189..

bathing you never saw. The water is a dense as crystal and as salt as brine but you really can't swim in it it is impossible to keep your legs under water. The only way is to lay on your back and paddle about using your arms as paddles you can clasp your arms round your knees and float about like jug when you wade out where the water is a little more than breast deep up come your feet and you float like a ~~board~~ board the only trouble is to keep your head from going down and your feet from coming up. We swam in the water all of an hour it is warmer than the ocean and I did not feel in the least depressed upon coming out as I do when bathing in fresh water. got back to S L at 8 o'clock to dinner

so much for Preidy. Saturday Morning
the U.P. had a train of 10 cars ready to
take us north we arrived at Ogden
at 10.30 was met at the depot by the
Mayor and a Committee with carriages also
a band (that was a good one) then a drive
over the city then to the Opera House then a speech
then to the Reed Hotel to a very swell Breakfast
then to the train then up the Bear River
to see the 3 million dollars irrigation canal
and dams which take the water of Bear River
and spreads it for 90 miles over the upper
part of the Salt Lake Valley from there train
stopped at Brigham City ten minutes
the depot platform had tables spread the
whole length of it loaded down with
all kinds of beautiful fruit, cake sandwiches
milk, cream & ice water and the ladies
of the place there to help and load up
down with the good things there are two
the "spring" where the train stops long
enough to let us get out and run
up the side of the Mountain where some
dozen of spring bursting up some
scalding hot other within 10 feet of them
ice cold some salty some fresh
some strong of sulphur all kinds in fact

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6

Big Spring, Neb. ..... 189....

then back to the train and on up the canyon over trestles through tunnels looking down hundreds of feet to the big dam where the canal starts wonderfull engineering work to get that vast amount of water in a canal running for miles along the almost perpendicular side of a granite mountain. then out of the canyon into the beautifull Cache Valley to the city of Logan, the band wagon carriage drives to the Agricultural College there welcomed by the President of the College Mary & on then through the College buildings large substantial comfortable, with a technical department which allows to me to be unusual elaborate there is a terrestrial installation

but almost entirely under Mormon control and I should judge from what little I saw that it was as non sectarian as that of Nebraska at least which is largely controlled by orthodox denomination. I noticed the door of one recitation room I looked in and noticed some portraits on the walls thinks it a good chance to see specimens of the Mormon degenerate I went in but instead I saw on one side Dr Holmes & Whittier and on the other Lowell & Longfellow. then to the College dining hall to a banquet (they were all banquets) more good things to eat and pretty Mormon girls students this time then a drive over town to depot train leaving Logan at 7 P.M. back to S.L. 11.30 We were all overwhelmed with kindness of Mormon hospitality and with the beauty of this irrigated valley in the back of a dream desert. just think of work with enthusiasm perseverance of these old Mormons. to go into such a God forsaken desert and undertake to make a home

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Big Spring, Neb. 189

out of it was it not more heroic than that of the Pouritans coming to New England for the sake of worshipping God as they saw fit. And now within the life time of not many old people to see such results in it strange they should point with pride to their church and have they not far more reason than most religious sects to claim that they are God chosen people. For which I am of them I should think that ~~they~~ intellectually they were superior to the Methodists or Baptists and on a level with the Presbyterians & Congregationalists and morally equal to any of them.

With love to you all. let me stop short and ~~give the~~ give you the rest next time

Affectionately

JHA

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
General Merchandise,
Big Springs, Neb.
BIG SPRING, Deuel Co., Nebraska,
If not delivered within 10 days.

Mrs Mrs. L. T. Stevens
North Andover
Mass

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WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. Nov 8th 1891

My dear Anna

Your letter enclosing one of Margaret's to you came this morning. In regard to the leasing of a part of the old place as a building lot it seems to me to be entirely out of the question at present or at least during the life of the Dennis Thomson lease which excludes the whole place. I really know whether it would be proper to make any such arrangement even if it were possible. A much better way would be it seems to me if I had the means to build the house and the lease the house and land together possibly by the time the Thomson lease expires I may be able to make some such plan. I answer this rather hastily but it has suggested an idea which may develop into something practicable at all events if there

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Big Spring, Neb. ..... 189..

people want a definite answer at once I should say no.

Sam wrote somtime ago and enclosed some papers one was a Mortgage deed from Jesse to you to secure one note of $100. this I return herewith the other paper was a Deed of the lots I bought about five years ago in your name. at the time I sent you the deed to sign I wanted to sell the lots and wanted you to deed them to me so I could give title to them

I dont care now to sell them and it is not important for me to have the title to them. We have several times thought we might move one house upon the lots and if we do it would be just as well to have the title remain in your name as to hold a Mortgage

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WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. _____ 189__

We have been having beautiful weather lately and have been very busy getting in grain which keeps me busy outside and as truck is good Walter is busy inside. We have also been moving our store about 50 ft north onto a better foundation where we have a good cellar — also been building new store house and shede. I expect to go to Omaha in a week or so with two car loads of our cattle we will also have about two car loads of grain which we raised on our Ranche this season

Amy has been going to school now for three weeks and is mighty interested in it I guess. Asked Amy what I should tell you for her. She say tell Auntie Amy I am ahead of a little girl in school and am most through the "Chart." And that Abby stays with her all the week and goes to school with her

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{ WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. 189

4

and that she got her Magazine this morning and can read all the learn herself and can read it all herself some day

She talks almost as much about little John as she does any time since we got back, keeps asking "how old he would be now." You would not know Hannah she is so fair and fat not a particle of tanner to be seen anywhere. good natured especially when she can not have her own way she is far more mischievous than John was or any. does not make much progress in talking is quite clumsy but will stand a pretty hard knock without crying. is a tremendous eater and has a great fondness for meat and sweets both. gets very little on earth

We expect Will Stevens tomorrow we had a letter from him at Denver saying he would be here Nov 1st Jason and Lillie expect to go down to Gretna buy on a visit

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Big Spring, Neb. 189

to Mother Stoke Curtain where they expect to have Harriet picture taken which is the principle reason for the trip at this season

John has left this for me to finish but I guess he has written all the news. We were disappointed last week and this week Thursday by not getting a letter from you but suppose you were too busy to write. We had a fire in town the other night which created quite an excitement. if it had been just a little nearer our house might have caught, a large barn, two or three small buildings and a black smith shop burned down. whenever any thing starts it is bound to burn down for we have nothing to stop it fortunately it was a very quiet evening and a good many men in town who

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6.

Big Spring, Neb. 189_

worked hard carrying water to put on the near buildings to keep them from catching. If there had been a strong wind the main part of the town would have surely gone.

Lillie and I are talking of going to Gothenburg so as to get Hamlet picture I don't like to put it off till spring. Do you remember the lovely ride we took a year ago today, after you came home from church? We had Amy Abbotdale and little John and he went to sleep and did not wake up when we got home so I laid him on the bed and went to dinner and he soon woke up crying and threw up which was the first of his sickness and a year yesterday we had him in to Dr. Cabot. I can remember it all so clearly.

Lovingly your sister Jessie.

ABBOT & KIMBALL, +
+ **GENERAL MERCHANTS.**

JOHN H. ABBOT.
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. Nov 7th 1891

My dear Amy

Will Stevens arrived here last Thursday evening we are enjoying his visit very much he seems delighted with the west especially with Denver he thinks there would be a splendid country if we could get as good crops every year as we have this. We don't get understand which he intends he does think he intends to go to Salt Lake before going back Mattie Jennie and all the Andover news We have had him on several trips and in the country and have taught him how to play the western game of "high five". Harrie is mighty pleased with him and claims his attention while in the home

He sends love to home someone heard from the East He sends to every one all so much news Mr & Mrs G come over today to take dinner with us

Will try and write more next time

Yours with love to all

John

Mrs. S. D. S.

Mrs. Sam

Mrs. S. D. Stevens

Mrs Sam Dale Stevens

North Chelsea

Mass.

Big Spring Nebr. Dec. 6th 1891

My dear Amy

I really suppose I would put this letter off again if it was not absolutely necessary to close it yesterday am thoroughly ashamed for not writing more regularly and none of my old excuses are valid now for I have not been on any journey and while Will was here there was more or less going on that might be worked up into a letter. We have enjoyed his visit so much and were mighty sorry to have him start for Tekamah last Wednesday night. He went to Omaha with me just before he started West. We went in with two cars of Cattle going all the way on a freight train pretty "rocky" for Will but he seemed to enjoy it as a novelty. The people here all were very much taken with him especially the women folks

Walter was very anxious to have Nell go to one of our Big Spring dances so Thanksgiving Night they had quite two-out and Walter had great sport fitting Nell through While at Omaha we met Arthur Smith who had just returned from Boston & N.Y. had met Will Brother in N.Y. so got some late news from him of the Ewals

Will expects to be about 2 months in swinging round the circle Denver Santa Fe El Paso Sank Barbara Sans Francisco Portland Seattle Salt Lake & Chicago where Walter will meet him probably in February and then he has promised to make us a visit before starting for the Ewals. don't think it would be a very hard matter to make a Westerner of out of him. We have been have the most beautiful weather last week every the Children played out in the yard after supper by moon light just like a evening in September. Amy seems to be getting along nicely at School and the beauty of it is she likes to go and is very much interested

We are thinking of making an engagement with some "Dinner Menus" with the "Fat Baby from Nebraska" for Garrett finds all the so called fat baby stuff here in the shops she is really large around the body then any and around the shoulders. Like most fat people she is good natured but unlike them she is quite nervous and does not sleep any more than the other children have. But she will eat anything we will give her and as much of it. Jessie strange to say has not been well this week has been having dreadful headaches but seems to be better now. Shall it be too much to ask you to get with the enclosed Card a X Mas present for Bess & Aggie and folks at Andover I feel quilty in asking it knowing how busy you will be. But I know I have heard you say that you enjoyed it.

Big Spring Nebr. Dec 28th 91

My dear Amy.

Your letter of the 23rd telling of Cousin Asa's death came yesterday. poor Agnes. what a terrible thing. this pneumonia and grip. many about here are down with these sorts of ailments but they are not apparently so fatal out here. We hardly expected that we would ever see Cousin Ann again when said good bye to her last Winter but how sad it is when we try to realize or think of Dorchester with out Cousin Ann or Willie or the old place

Only think of poor sick me four children left of the Abbotts
We shall be very anxious to hear how Agnes is getting
along. I had never supposed that the Chambourgs people
wore such a hurtling look. Suppose as soon as Agnes does get
a little better she will start off again before she is half well
on a tour of relief, which she will need will be mental and
bodily rest (something that she probably never had or is likely
ever to get.) Am glad on her account that her ~~trip~~ duty at Dorchester
is over, but now what? Hope to hear soon that Agnes and
Cousin Olivia are both well. You speak of "Aggie being up but
not able to be out." Has she also been sick again
I'm in a relief the know that that nest will be broken up
at Dorchester (Daniel & all). What will become of all that
house full of interesting things.? The Christmas boys came out fine
and in good condition and gave us all lots of pleasure three
pretty children you are never sure than were Abby Amy & Harriett
They had a little tree and ~~they~~ up their stocking and Christmas morning
they were up a daylight but not dressed before 9 o'clock
Tell Lang that I hope he enjoyed his "afternoons Christmas" "Jesse
Pierce" as much as I did and that I shall save the balance until
We'll get back so as to have someone to enjoy them with me that
will appreciate them. The Magizine I must enjoy in the Popular Science
Monthly which you have so kindly sent me for several years. Jean
is delighted with the Muff the sent the Roarf over to Mrs Le by
Frank & Mrs Morrey and we have not seen any of the same
Harriett is mightily pleased with her toys and books and knows
which is hers and always insists upon showing of her thing to callers
and demands attention. Amy had several dolls & books as very
pretty little gold ring from her Uncle Emory and then she was a delightful
Christmas even if it was so cold that the Entertainment splended for
Xmas eve ~~and~~ had to be postponed. Geo & Aggie sent us
a beautiful Etching by E L Field called the Mouth of the Rio

the eatables in the box came through in good order the Candy and preserves are the wonder and admiration of our friends who we allow to taste but the crackers are too precious to offer to any one and in fact no one likes them but myself. Jane had a note this morning from Will from El Paso she sent us some fresh strawberries which however stood the trip badly but we managed to get some good ones out of the four boxes he says they have there three more to forward.

We noticed that Mr S had been appointed upon the Ways & Means Committee as is also our young Democratic Congressman Mr Bryan of Nebr.

The only thing we have got in for the Omaha Bee and we see very little except as it relates to the West in particular

Hope that the children at least had a merry christmas as they undoubtedly did But it must have been any thing but merry for the poor with the Grip & Pneumonia stalking about among our friends

Hope the have encouraging reports for the sick one next time

Affectionately Joh