

Springfield Mo.  
July 17, 1868

John Buckner

Esteemed Cousin

Notwithstanding

the shortness of our stay I know you will be pleased to hear from us; how we were received and how treated. & so on. We had quite a pleasant trip, and it would have been much more pleasant had it not been so swart. We were quite fortunate, not a single accident happening <sup>happening</sup> to us with the excep-  
tion of the breaking of one throat latch, and <sup>the</sup> hurting of some of our horses necks, though they have all gotten well with the exception of rats, and Frank is now working him; he and <sup>Wm</sup> Pichey went <sup>up</sup> to Mark's to day. We were just twelve days on the road, averaging about 31 miles per day; the horses look about as well as when we started; mine looks better, he stood the trip better than any of the rest. Our presence in these regions is a complete surprise to all, and not a very agreeable one to some of them judging from the way the gaze at us. I know they wish us back in a

Uncle B. has just com  
as I finish and is well  
my dearest regards to  
my all enquiring friends  
Grazal.

in a warmer climate, that number, are not very  
numerous. All with whom I have yet met appear glad  
to see me. We were at church last Sunday in the  
prairie Mr. Baxter preached a general discourse of  
Mrs. Foster a sister of Mrs. Jim Wood lately married.

We met many old acquaintances and friends,  
yet alas! how many familiar faces were absent, never  
have I missed them so much before, their places are  
supplied by others, yet by no means their equals in  
my estimation. Saturday morning July 18. I was  
prevented from finishing my letter yesterday evening,  
having stopped writing to assist Frank W. make a rake, he  
is now busy saving his hay; he left Uncle W. Roper in Round  
prairie Benton Co. Ark; he traded his interest in the cattle  
for two young bay horses that Uncle W. raised. Dave Roper  
sold his cattle in Springfield this week did very well I  
think; he had a certificate with the Benton Co seal upon it  
and the names of five of his Radical friends upon it cer-  
tifying that his cattle had been wintered in that Co.

Cattle are worth from 18 to 25 dollars here, horses from  
45 to 200 mules the same, though there is no great  
demand for either. I have been to town twice Spring-  
field is improving rapidly there are 15 brick stores  
being built now. There is considerable excitement <sup>and talk</sup>

