

ulators out. So sure are they of the lands they claim that they make as much improvement as though they now had government deeds for them. So great is the number whose interest is to keep the speculator out, he durst not come, neither would it be safe for him to bid on a settler's improvement, for it is the avowed intention of many of them to protect their's with rifle, and defend their claims at the hazard of their lives. It was tried at Chicago and the squatters came off victorious. I write this, not that I approve of the measure, but seeing that the measure is adopted to receive its benefits. Should the lands come into market before I have time to make money to enter it I shall look at home for a supply for the purpose.

I have bought me part of a prairie team and am breaking prairie with another man, and intend putting in spring wheat and oats in the spring, and fencing this winter. I am at present boarding in the family of an eastern doctor, but think I shall soon follow the custom of the country, which is keeping bachelor's hall.

This is to all appearances as fine a sheep country as ever saw the light of the sun. When the country becomes a little older and the wild animals thinned off, I think I shall enter into wool growing, as I think there is a considerable extent of country that will be fine for this business. All the grasses that will grow at the East will flourish here in abundance. It produces white clover in abundance. The natural grass is not such as I supposed, tall as a man's head. It is not more than knee high on the dry prairie. The tall grass is on the low, wet land or close in the edge of the timber. I could as easily have summered 10,000 sheep as father can five hundred. The soil is a rich black loam with good wood and fine springs of water, which two things are greatly needed in a great many parts of the country farther south.

I think now that I shall not come home until the land comes into market. Ioway extends west of the Mississippi about one hundred miles and from Missouri about four hundred miles. It has lately been set off from Wisconsin Territory.

From your affectionate son,

GEORGE A. WHITMAN.

Turkey River Post Office,  
Thirty Miles Above Dubuque, Iowa Territory.

CORRECTION of second and third sentences on page 296, *Annals*, January, 1908, to read as follows: Mr. Benton had been defeated for re-election to that body, because of his opposing measures that led, under Mr. Douglas, to the repeal of the Compromise, under which Missouri came into the Union. Mr. Benton regarded that repeal as a breach of faith, an act of dishonor.

W. S.

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