

and turns to dissonance all the voices of its melody. It furrows the forehead with premature wrinkles, it plucks the eye of its light, it drags all nobleness and kingliness out of the port and bearing of a man. It takes the soul out of his laugh, and all stateliness and freedom from his walk. Come not under its accursed dominion. Pass it by as you would pass by a leper, or one smitten by the plague. Touch it not. Taste not of its fruit, for it shall turn to bitterness and ashes on your lips. Finally, we say, to each and to all, but we speak especially, to you young men, KEEP OUT OF DEBT.—Exchange paper.—*Bloomington* (now Muscatine) *Herald*, May 21, 1841, p. 3, c. 1. In the Newspaper Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.

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### GETTING OFF FROM IOWA TO CALIFORNIA IN THE SPRING OF 1850

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The letter herewith published was presented by Mr. H. S. Cresswell of Ottumwa. It was addressed to his father, Robert Cresswell, by a brother. All names employed in it are of persons from families of neighbors in and near the home of Robert Cresswell in Van Buren County, Iowa.

Camp Near Austen<sup>1</sup> Fremont County Iowa Apr 26/50

Dear Brother

after I left you I went down to Soap Creek Mill<sup>2</sup> rods varey bad. Met the Boys there staid their over Sunday Started 8th Munday & drove 15 Miles tusday 9th 20 miles 10th Wednesday Passed where Calen's lives called & Seen them drove 20 all day windy & Cold. 11th Thursday Cold drove 28 miles 12 Friday cold & spitting snow passed lost camps drove 30 miles Saturday 13 cold & windy passed through Pisga paid \$1.00 pr bus for corn drove 22 miles Sunday 14 Snow fell 3 in deep drove 25 miles & camped in the Prairie without wood that night Monday 15th cold drove 8 miles to cook breckfast camped on little Plat<sup>3</sup> in all drove 25 miles 16 Tuesday cold & very windy camped on Nishnebotano drove 30 miles today two horses died of the cholic Wednesday 17th Snow drove 17 miles camped on Silver Creek. fine country considerable settlement of Mormons up & down the creek paid \$1.50 Pr bus for corn. 18 Thursday windy & cold drove 15 miles to

<sup>1</sup>Austen, at this date, was on the west bank of the Nishnabotna River in Fremont County, Iowa, in the northwest corner of the present Washington Township, and was a post office from 1850 to 1859. It was then the county seat in 1850. Good roads, for that time, led north and south which were crossed here by another east and west, which Mr. Cresswell and many other California-bound travelers followed. We are following the spelling, capitalizing, punctuation, etc., as they appear in the original letter.

<sup>2</sup>Soap Creek Mill was then in Section 3, Salt Creek Township, Davis County, owned by James C. Jordan of Iowaville, who lived on the left bank of Des Moines River in Section 1, Salt Creek Township, Davis County. Roads from this mill radiated in different directions, one southward to Bloomfield, crossed the one running east and west, which Mr. Cresswell followed.

<sup>3</sup>In Taylor County, Iowa.

Kanesville it is situated 4 miles from the Mo river among the bluffs the town has a real backwoods appearance all log cabbins most of them covered with dirt like a Potato hole their is a great buisness done here this spring every level place is covered with wagons I suppose at a ruff guess when we came their was 8 or 9 nine hundred wagons there & in the vicinity & Still coming & some crossing the River & starting for the Plains. lots of Pretty Girls here I seen all My Mormon friends from Bonaparte Kearns Jane M Donal, Parker Degraw & Several others to tedious to Mention and lots of California emigrants of my acquaintance I will mention the names of Some of them Brawley McDow 3 Mores Rupley Millizer Harve Rabb Tom Christy Haney Ed Henry & several others als Rufus Summerlain. 19. 20. 21 and 22 second strolled around Kanesville takeing items the streets was crowded with Peple Some attending to getting ready fore a start Some fitting & hollowing. More drunk than any thing elce but none that I seen Praying. Provisions & Feed was varey scarce & high Corn 1.50 to 2.50 & as high as 3.00 Pr bus Flower \$5.50 to \$6.50 pr hundred Hard Bread \$10.00 to 12\$ Pr 100 lbs & every thing in Proportion & not to be had at that. 23d Tuesday we left thare for Fort Carney<sup>4</sup> in order to obotain provisions & stores at more redused prise if possible if not to get what we wanted. Fort Carney is some 40 or 45 miles below Kanes Ville at the best starting point south of the Platt. we got corn from \$1 to 1.25 Pr bus Flower 4\$ Pr 100 [lbs?] we have got what grain we want to start with say 60 bus corn to 12 Horses that will do us till grass gets up sow Horses can live on it. Sunday 28th about ready to start I think we will get off about 1st day of May. Willowby Easling Drane Runy Burget Stone & Carson Keith & some others [left here?] & crossed the River on the 26th instant in good hart & spirits teams looks well. our teams stands travel varey well considering the roads & weathe we have had to pas through the roads was varey bad for the first 100 Mile but still getting better—a greate maney slughs to cross in the Prairie that was dismal bad. we have not been bothered with high water yet the Forward emigrants bridged all the streams that was difficult to cross so that we had now trouble to get across them we have had a dismal time for cold. cold wind & some snow but now rein rein would help to bring forward the grass at this time the weather is beginning to get more warm & grass is starting out slowley I think by the 10 of May their will be grass anuff to for cattle to live on. this has been the most backward spring I ever seen it has bee varey hard on the Emigrants & not fine for the Natives some of the Emigrants will see sites that have started on yet before the grass gets up sufficient for beasts to live on. Some have started out with not more than 10 bus of corn to feed on till gras rises & that [was] some 10 days back neather Horses or Oxen could live on gras yet. I have traded horses twist since I seen

<sup>4</sup>Fort Kearney at Table Creek (near Nebraska City) on right bank of Missouri River. A ferry license was granted by Fremont (Iowa) County commissioners to J. Boulware in January, 1850, "opposite old Ft. Kearney"—where there had been one as early as 1844.

you I have a Horse worth 75\$ for the horse [10\$] I had at Ottumwa he was next thing to now horse Bob McCousland lied me out of 20\$ on the trade I made with him but I have made it up. if I ever go back to Bonaparte (which I expect to if I live) I will try & make it back of him. the boys are all well Brad J H Bell Sam & Morgan. Morgan sends his best respects to you wishes you all the pleasure imadginable & sais he wants you to Marry Sarlah before he comes back. I have had the best of health ever—since I left you and good Spirits. write soow that I will get it by the middle or lat of August in California. give my respects to all inquiring friends. I remain your Brother till death

John M Cresswell. to

Robert Cresswell Jr

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### OLD HICKORY SPEAKS HIS MIND

Hermitage 19 May 1845

Mr James K. Polk  
President U States

Dear Sir.

I have examined all the papers in the case of Lt Roberts of the Army, and if I was President I would not hesitate to restore him to his full rank in the Dragoons with all his pay and perquisites. He was unlawfully dismissed, and I would have Genl Scott know that in my administration *injustice shall not be done to individuals* to save the ends of "*public policy.*" I do hope that you will learn Genl Scott his place as general in the Army, and have him know that his principle "that justice must yield to policy will not be the rule of your administration. I wish to see Lt Roberts fully restored.

Signed

ANDREW JACKSON

I was present at the Hermitage, and saw Genl Jackson write the letter of which the within is a copy.

R. ARMSTRONG.

Washington D C. 13 Dec 1852

The original of this letter is in one of the Courts of Iowa, as evidence in a "libel suit," and cannot at present be procured from the files of the Court.

B. S. ROBERTS  
Lt Col U.S.A

[On back of letter]

Genl Jacksons letter to Mr Polk

The last letter he ever wrote

[The foregoing letter with endorsements is from the collections of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa. Editor ANNALS.]

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