

Franklin Lee Co. Iowa Aug. 12/55

My Dear Mary,

I arrived safely in this place after a short and pleasant journey - we were but forty hours on the cars from Tyrone ~~to~~ Burlington - Iowa - We stopped six hours in Ohio to visit Mrs Leach and found her well but still a little undecided in regard to her trip to California.

I found all our friends here enjoying good health and comfortably situated in one of the finest countries I have seen in the west the season here has been equally as wet as in Centre County - farmers have not near got their crops in yet and a great many fields of Oats will not be cut at all.

Mary, I think this a very fine and beautiful country all kinds of grain grows in abundance but there are no hands to cut and put it away - farmers must do all the work themselves and for that reason I think it will hardly suit me to be a farmer here and from what I can learn my friends all think me wise in going to California again provided I have any thing to depend on there although they advise me to locate land for future speculation.

Now Mary I think I have said enough of
Business. I am almost tired of traveling around
and shall be glad when I can say I have
a home of my own and a nice little wife
to make me happy, which will be shortly
if I am spared. Mary keep your courage
up and I think we will soon be able to live
as comfortably and as nice as the best.
from what I have seen in this country I am
inclined to think that before coming to this country
I should like to be able to improve the property
as far as building is concerned much better than
the farmers do at present and to do that
after buying good land in a good settlement
would cost almost as much as in Centre County.
My Uncle from Baltimore is here and seems pleased
that I am going to California - he has seen much of
the world and looks on every thing in a business
way - he thinks I can do well by going and
after my return settling in Iowa - as he is
very anxious to have all the Commission settle
in one place. but if I succeed in California
my country will suit me.
I must bring my scratch to a close. I will return in
the course of 10 days. Nothing more but believe me
Dear Mary to be yours until death

Irvin