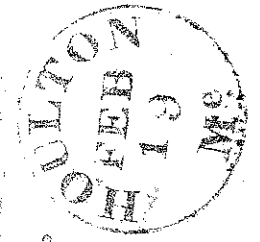


Ms. A. 1. 1. 1. 1.

Don't know when they are going to be married
she is to good for him, we had not know enough
for eloying till the 28 of Dec, now there is about
18 inches, Towle has got his wife in hand, Stover
is keeping school in the old commissary store,
18 horses 200 bushels Oats & Co with some men have
been taken ~~for~~ supposed to be trespassing, it will
turn out a force suspect. I shall let you
know more next letter about it

Almond Richards Esq
Cincinnati
Mo



J. B. Patten

The St. Croix road is not kept open this winter, the road
to Houlton is decent, My health is good & hope you
are also well, Please for Harrison, do all
you can in the way of election, all the old
betrons send their respects to you, I shall be
happy to receive a letter from you after which
I will give you more information as I now
have not now
Almond Richards, J. B. Patten

Fort Fairfield Feb 17, 1840

My Dear Old friend

J. B. Patten

I have ventured to accost you
in this style for three reasons, 1st because I am a
friend to you, 2^d because we are both whigs, 3^d because
we both have fought, bled & come near die'g, that is
we would of done all this if Gov Fairfield & his associates
had not of back'd out, as it was we fought & bled some
in facing) I - as army of black flies & musketors, no
thanks to Fairfield for that for if he had of had two
words to say we must of back'd out of this scrape also

Yours of Dec 28 was duly received, and with
unbounded gratefulness you have my thanks, your
apology is satisfactory, bulk whether mine we be
satisfactory to you I cant say, when I received your
letter I intended to answer it a medially but
being most essentially out of humor yours like two
other, (one from a brother) have lain till now ~~is~~
unanswered & yours is the first I have taken up

Capt Parrot's leaving this place has been
an unfortunate thing for some of the old volentes,
also for the state, but as Towle is a Loro all other
Profocos will sanction his doings if it were to sink
the state in coarsacting ruin & disgrace, as it
happens thank God he don't know enough to comm
any very serious act but is confined to small
dirty tricks characteristic to men of his party & capacity

to illustrate this I shall rehearse some of his doings, before Capt. Parrott left this place he introduced me to Capt. Towle labouring under certain disadvantages (that of my hand) and capable of certain duties, an offer was made to me by Capt. Towle to make I told him that for the sum of \$18 I did not wish so to do, he told me that if I performed extra duties I would be entitled to extra pay) and those considerations I concluded to sign the required paper, three days after this I was ordered to work chopping wood for a coal pit, I informed Mr. Towle of the disease of my hand which rendered it unfit for use, he hesitated it not but afterwards set me to work clearing out the boom & rafting timber, this was in Dec & the water was extremely cold, freezing at the edges of the river, the second day I was laid up sick by pains of the hand & being in the water, the third day I continued the work, after this I was put to cleaning markets under the supervision of one of his new men that knew about as much as some of your frenchmen that work on the road.

All this I would not stand longer without making my ^{petition} know to the Land Agent which I did by a letter to him expressing in round terms my dissatisfaction of the treatment which I had received, this letter was met with a prompt & satisfactory reply in which he expresses sorrow at my finding my self so unpleasantly situated, and says he has suggested to Capt. Towle

my claim & capacity for business &c, so it seems Capt. Towle heard from him, but what was the issue, the next business pointed out to me was to stand guard at the upper block house where I am now, Col. Jones, Esg. M. McIntire & Capt. Perrot have decided that I had a claim on the state but if this is the claim which I have I cannot expect much at the hands of God ~~or~~ on the final day of accounts let me sleep, Capt. Towle in all his movements has rode me at the expense of some of his own men who do not know enough to go in when it rains.

Mr. Adams has not escaped his narrowness when Towle first come here he was to work at carpentering but he has been kicked about till now he is on guard at the Fort, In many instances Towle gives orders which is not in accordance with justice and the men will not obey them which makes him appear ridiculous, I have been expecting to go in to the wood with Mr. Maddox, but he has not yet come in or do I know when he will.

Capt. Perrot & Col. Jones have been acquitted of ~~an~~ erecting a nuisance, I have been acquitted of a riot for taking Smith's goods, Mr. Wing, Doubly & myself stop at the upper block house, Mess. Kelley & Cady at the Fort, Mr. Starnes is published to stay Johnson, Mrs. J. Doughter who would of thought it

2/14
2/8/1840