

From Abishai Stowell to "Dear Sister"

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Fort Smith. Ark.

Dec[.] 15th 1864

Dear Sister

Your letter (Nov[.] 28) is at hand[.] It found me in good health: but I am afraid that you are not as well as u might be under other circumstances; you complain of chronic rheumatism; and Im afraid that you neglect to try cure it: my advice to you is to get rid of it as soon as possible for what object can a little money be to you if you have to save it by suffering and (if you let it run long enough) dying to save it.

well times are pretty hard here now but there's a good time coming by & by! and though we have to put up with considerable hardship & privations now; I am glad to be able to bear my part; & though I

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am not in a place where there is much of the good work to do yet I feel that I am not [to] blame for that; for Soldiers have to go wherever they are sent and not where they like[.]

though the 7th Army Corps is doing nothing at present! still the good work goes on in other places & the day of restoration has already dawned & soon the sun of peace (not copperhead peace) will shine again on this once happy land of ours as in times of old (only slavery will be abolished & suffering beyond description will be ended)[.] then we will know how to appreciate blessings heretofore unfelt by us (a person has to be bound before they can appreciate freedom & to see Slavery before they can form an idea of its horrors & degradations).

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I will give you a list of prices here so that if you want to buy things cheap you will know where to find them.

List of Prices

Bacon[, ] old & strong[: ] 25 cts lb[.]

Beef[, ] fresh[: ] 8-12 1/2 cts lb[.]

Flour[, ] full of weevil[: ] one hundred barrel 100.00 pr bbl

coffee[, ] common[: ] 1.50 a lb[.]

apples[, ] seedling[: ] 8.00 per bushel or 1.00 per doz[.]

prairie chickens[, ] underfed[: ] 50 cts each

fox squirrels[, ] underfed[: ] 100 cts each

cat fish[, ] fresh from the river[: ] 25 cts lb[.]

tobacco[, ] old fashioned twists[: ] 75 cts each

whiskey[, ] sod corn[: ] 50 cts pr drink

soda[, ] in lb[.] papers[: ] 3.00 a paper

thread[, ] black cotton sewing[: ] 25 cts. pr skein

& every thing else in proportion.

I have'nt heard from Kansas scince I left there (in October[]) or Ill[.] scince July[.]

this is all from your brother[, ]

Abishai Stowell

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[P.S.] Direct to Ft[.] Smith[.]