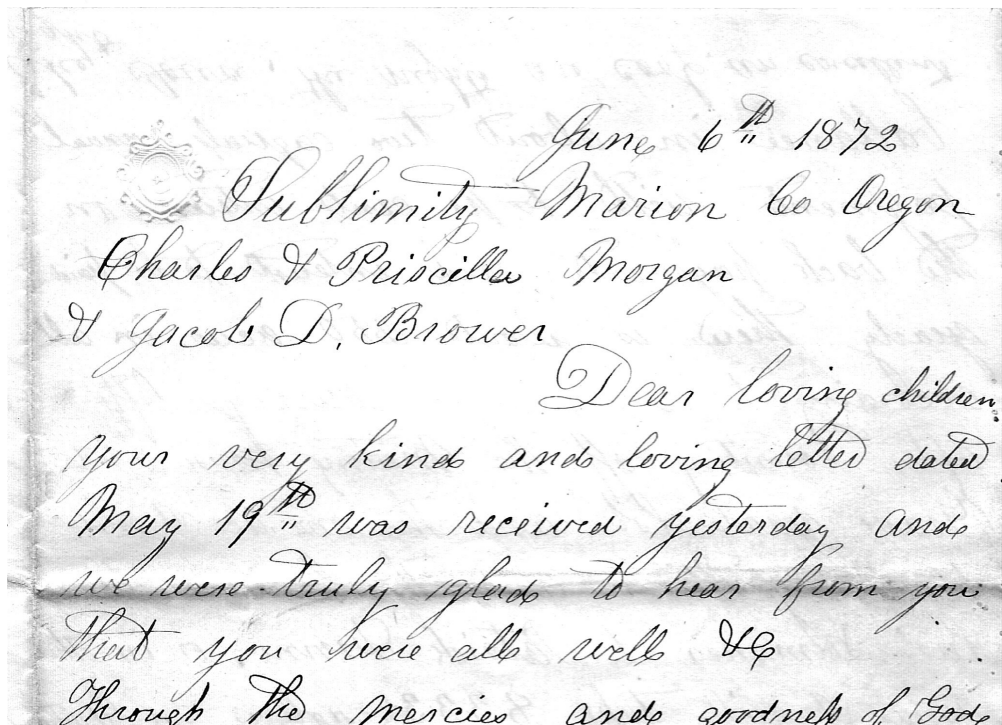


(to) Charles Morgan
or Jacob D. Brower
South English
Keokuk County
Iowa
(from) Turner Oregon June 10 1872



June 6, 1872
Sublimity Marion Co. Oregon

Charles & Priscilla Morgan
& Jacob D. Brower

Dear loving children,

Your very kind and loving letter dated May 19th was received yesterday and we were truly glad to hear from you that you were all well. (Abbrev. inserted)

Through the mercies and goodness of God we are enjoying the rich blessing of God. The comforts of life and the blessing of health for which we feel to be truly gratefull to our heavenly Father. Fondly hope these few lines will reach you in due time and find you all well both in Body and mind.

Now as regards the price of our land or Farm in there I ask 33 1/3 dollars an acre in United States Currency (Green backs) or a check on New York Bank or I will take 30 dollars an acre in United States coin (Gold) about 5000 dollars down and the

(End of Page 1)

ballance in about two equal annual payments with 10 per cent interest on the back payment said interest to be paid yearly. There is about 250 acres in all according to the Government survey left after counting off the Meeting house and Grave yards lot and the one acre I sold to Henry Stoner and the land I sold last Summer to Patrick Divine or in other words I will take 8333 1/3 dollars in United States currency (Green Backs) or 7500 dollars U.S. coin (Gold) for our lands in Iowa or I will take 10000 dollars for all of our Lands and loose or Chattle property ~~save our Clothing Bed clothes, etc. etc.~~ including my share of the grain

left of last year and this year in Iowa.

And if you are agreed give possession (?) in part of the house and a part (?) of farm plow land the 1st (?) of September and full possession say the last of October. The down payment to be made in Sep or October at which time we will give the Purchaser a Warranty Deed

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and they give a mortgage on the land for the back payment. God willing I intend coming in there next fall start from here as soon as I can leave after harvest after our grain is threshed and some hauled to market to get some Spending money to go on. Spring crop harvest comes very late here in this northern climate so that I may not get started from here much before the last of September. Such being the case I want you and Mr. Jonathan F. White to act as my agents for me and sell our farm in there. You show the farm. Tell them the terms. Show this letter to J F. White and tell him I want him to act with you and you with him and both of you to do all you can for me in the way of selling the farm to the best advantage for me but not an illegal advantage, I mean for you and him to do well for me honestly. I think it best to have the farm sold before I come there from the fact that it may

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be to late to suit a purchaser to wait until October. The purchaser would wish to know and perhaps be on the farm before I would return and if a sale of my lands should be made before I return let J. F. White do the writing count and receive the Money in your presence and let him take care of the Money as he no doubt has a Safe to Keep it in. I want him if he pleases to act as agent with you he has always been a very particular Friend of mine and I hope he always will be and more than this I have left my sale notes in his hands for collection. No in conclusion of the Matter I want you and him to keep me posted on the above do the best

you can for me. Tell the folks my farm is for sale, tell them the terms so that a sale can be made by fall. it always takes time to accomplish such matters as the above therefore I write as soon as I do about the above.

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(End of Page 4)

I think I have offered our farm reasonable enough. I have word from several others in there that think that 33 1/3 dollars an acre is not too much. We are having very nice pleasant weather. Fall wheat Spring wheat oats and vegetables look very well generally. This is one of the greatest countries for wild Straw berries I ever seen. they are very nice. some are very large. We have been eating straw berries for the last two weeks or more. Apples & Cherries will not be as plenty this year as last year from the fact they did not bloom so abundantly. The Oregonians say this is a late backwards spring but from what you say it is not near so cold and chilly here as in there. We have not had any wet weather here since the 10th of March only frequent showers. The dry weather sets in here they say about the 1st of July and continues dry untill the fall.

(End of Page 5)

We have never regretted our coming to Oregon as yet. We are all well satisfied so far have no desire or inclination to more back to Iowa yet at the same time we would like to see you all and many others and talk with many. Do you think of coming out with me next fall. If we can sell out in there and you wish to do so that is come out here I will do as I said before I left in there I will pay Priscilla's and Jacob D. travelling expenses. We would be very glad if you would all come out here provided you fell so disposed. We do not wish to persuade you nor no other person to come to this country for fear that you might not like it. We think this is the making of a very good country. Yet some people do not like this country but as a general thing the people here like this country well enough, there are things here we like very well and

(End of page 6)

There are some things here we do not like but this we find go where we will. The fact is this is no Paradise far from it. It has its advantages and disadvantages. But we think that if we can dispose of our property in there at a fair price and can invest the money here in the Far West (Oregon) we can spend the remainder of our days here comfortable and do better for our children out here than if we had remained in Iowa. And we think we can serve the Lord here as well as any where and if people have a mind to do so they can serve Satan here as well as any where. But Satan is a hard Master to serve he is So very expensive he so many of his subjects to Steal Murder fight get drunk and do all manner of mischief full of Malice, stuffed with pride Etc. Etc all well calculated to destroy peace and harmony and finally destroy our soul in the world to come and debar us from having a peaceful hour.

(End of page 7)

to die Therefore let us serve God that good being to divine acceptance and all will be well in the future. Barbara received your letter dated May 15th the 29th of May says she will not answer said letter untill she receives and answer from the one she wrote to you about the 1st Sunday in May she says She is very busy at present. We have not received an answer from Sol Coffman (?) and Mon ? Hixon? Yet perhaps they think that it is not worthy of of an answer. Tell them we have not forgotten them yet and that we still love and repect them of course they can do as they please about writing to us yet we would be very gald to receive letters from them. I must close by sending our best love and respects to you all and all the neighbors.

Please answer this letter soon and give us the general news for we always glad to hear from you all and all the neighbors. We remain as every you loving Parents

David & Salome Brower

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(Additional lines – no paper wasted!)

June 7th a very nice morning we have beautiful weather her generally only it is very wet here in the winter. (across top of pages 5 and 8)

The weather is calm here not windy like Iowa, the nights are cool an excellent country to sleep to enjoy a good rest at night (across top of pages 2 and 3)

We are living on what is called the Coy (?) farm we sowed some oats & spring wheat and have home? truck ? patches ? (across top of pages 6 and 7)

June 7th you may sell some of my corn get all you can for it. it looks like as if 25 cents per bushel is very low. I I had it here I think I could get \$1.00 per bushel but this is no corn country but do the best you can and if cannot get more than 25 and if there is any money in there for me I wish you would send me some by Draft Check on one of leading banks of New York. J. F. White will know how to procure a Draft get him to assist you. I am needing money very much. I forgot to mention this on the two sheets therefore I thought I would write a little more this evening. Mother and the children are out in the Straw berry patch gathering

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Straw berries. They went after supper. Mother & Levi and I are going down to the Salem Hills to morrow I have meeting there to morrow Polls (?) and on the next day Sunday it is about 14 or 15 miles west of us return home on Monday that is if we live and the Lord will we have meeting every Sunday and sometimes twice on Sunday once a month here in this neighborhood namely the first Sunday in the month Our

communion meeting will be (God willing) at Br. John Leedy's in Linn Co about 25 miles nearly south of us the 15th and 16th of this month. We are all going except Levi he will stay at home and take care of the things while we are gone we have two borrowed cows one gives milk the other one will come in soon we think, Now I must close again hoping to hear from you soon again

Fare ye well
D & S Brower

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Addendum: The following is an *excerpt* from a subsequent letter.

Sept. 1st, 1873
Sublimity, Marion Co. Oregon
Charley and Priscilla Morgan,

Dear Loving Children,

After our kind regards to you I will inform you that we are all in usual health . . . I completed the trade that I wrote about in my last letter via our farm in Iowa for a farm here in this country, seven miles east of Salem belonging to James Kline. I give him our farm in there for his farm out here and he gives me personal property to the amount of \$500.00 to boot or in other words I give him (James Kline) \$5,500.00 in gold for his farm and he gives me \$6,000 in gold for our farm in there which is equal to \$7,000 in green backs which was my price last fall while I was in there. Green backs are only worth 85 cents on the dollar now and have been for the last six or nine months here and in New York. James Kline expects to start for Iowa in about 3 weeks going by private conveyance to Sacramento California thence by railroad to Iowa City thence to our old home. Will arrive there if he has good luck, between the 20th and 31st of October. He wants full possession of the house you live in when they arrive there. He has a large family and one son married. They all expect to live together in the house this coming winter. . . Now as regards to Priscilla's traveling expenses to come to this country, I will do as I said. I will pay it. You will pay her board bill, provided you come as we come via the cheapest way. Come on the emigrant cars to San Francisco California.

It will cost you 58 dollars from Ottumwa Iowa to San Francisco a passenger in green backs and from San Francisco to Portland Oregon on the steamer on the ocean and Columbia River. it will cost 15 dollars in gold steerage passage or 30 dollars in gold cabin passage and from Portland Oregon to Salem railroad fare \$3.00 a passenger. Boarding on the steamer is included in the 15 or 30 dollars fare so that if you come as we came when we moved out here via go on the emigrant train to San Francisco thence steerage passage to Portland thence by railroad to Salem. Your traveling expenses from Ottumwa Iowa to Salem Oregon would be 76 dollars each. Then there would be some bus fares in San Francisco. You would there have to get your trunks conveyed to the steamer and perhaps you may have to lay over at San Francisco a few days waiting for a steamer to sail for Portland Oregon. Some people have had to lay over there 5 or 6 days waiting for a steamer. If so, several families might rent a room a few days. You would have your own blankets to sleep on such as you had on the road and then buy provisions and probably do your own cooking as we did on the road coming from Ottumwa to San Francisco. I have learned that is the cheapest to take the train at Ottumwa there you can buy a through ticket on the emigrant cars for San Francisco. Start from about or near midnight, next morning about 10 o'clock you would be at Omaha. The emigrant starts there for the west at 6 o'clock P.M. Or should you prefer coming by railroad and stage from California to Salem you would buy your through tickets at Ottumwa for Sacramento Cal, not from San

Francisco but only to Sacramento it will cost \$58, the same as it would to San Francisco. You would arrive at Sacramento in the evening. There you would remain until next day, perhaps noon, and while you are there buy a through ticket to Salem. Taking the overland route will cost 45 or 50 dollars a passenger in gold besides your board bill and that is from 50 to 75 cents a meal. You will have to stage near 300 miles, some very rough roads. It is a very tiresome way to travel day and night. I thought when we moved out here I would not like to travel on the ocean anymore and last fall when we come here I got so very tired and worn out on the stage . . . From your parents who very often think of you,

David & Salome Brower.

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The following is an excerpt from *The Amateur Emigrant* by Robert Louis Stevenson, a travel memoir of his journey from Scotland to California in 1879-1880.

It illustrates emigrant rail travel of the day.

"It was about two in the afternoon of Friday that I found myself in front of the Emigrant House [in Council Bluffs, Iowa], with more than a hundred others, to be sorted and boxed for the journey. A white-haired official, with a stick under one arm, and a list in the other hand, stood apart in front of us, and called name after name in the tone of a command. At each name you would see a family gather up its brats and bundles and run for the hindmost of the three cars that stood awaiting us, and I soon concluded that this was to be set apart for the women and children. The second or central car, it turned out, was devoted to men travelling alone, and the third to the Chinese.

"I suppose the reader has some notion of an American railroad car, that long, narrow wooden box, like a flat-roofed Noah's ark, with a stove and a convenience, one at either end, a passage down the middle, and transverse benches upon either hand.

"Those destined for emigrants on the Union Pacific are only remarkable for their extreme plainness, nothing but wood entering in any part into their constitution, and for the usual inefficacy of the lamps, which often went out and shed but a dying glimmer even while they burned.

"The benches are too short for anything but a young child. Where there is scarce elbow-room for two to sit, there will not be space enough for one to lie. Hence the company, or rather, as it appears from certain bills about the Transfer Station, the company's servants, have conceived a plan for the better accommodation of travellers. They prevail on every two to chum together. To each of the chums they sell a board and three square cushions stuffed with straw, and covered with thin cotton.

"The benches can be made to face each other in pairs, for the backs are reversible. On the approach of night the boards are laid from bench to bench, making a couch wide enough for two, and long enough for a man of the middle height; and the chums lie down side by side upon the cushions with the head to the conductor's van and the feet to the engine. When the train is full, of course this plan is impossible, for there must not be more than one to every bench, neither can it be carried out unless the chums agree, neither can it be carried out unless the chums agree. . . "

"A great personage on an American train is the newsboy. He sells books (such books !), papers, fruit, lollipops, and cigars; and on emigrant journeys, soap, towels, tin washing-dishes, tin coffee pitchers, coffee, tea, sugar, and tinned eatables, mostly hash or beans and bacon.

"Early next morning the newsboy went around the cars, and chumming on a more extended principle became the order of the hour. It requires but a co-partnery of two to manage beds; but washing and eating can be carried on most economically by a syndicate of three. I myself entered a little after sunrise into articles of agreement, and became one of the firm of Pennsylvania, Shakespeare, and Dubuque.

"Shakespeare was my own nickname on the cars; Pennsylvania that of my bedfellow; and Dubuque, the name of a place in the State of Iowa, that of an amiable young fellow going west to cure an asthma, and retarding his recovery by incessantly chewing or smoking, and sometimes chewing and smoking together. I have never seen tobacco so sillily abused.

"Shakespeare bought a tin washing-dish, Dubuque a towel, and Pennsylvania a brick of soap.. The partners used these instruments, one after another, according to the order of their first awaking; and when the firm had finished there was no want of borrowers. Each filled the tin dish at the water filter opposite the stove, and retired with the whole stock in trade to the platform of the car. There he knelt down, supporting himself by a shoulder against the woodwork; or one elbow crooked about the railing, and made a shift to wash his face and neck and hands - a cold, an insufficient, and, if the train is moving rapidly, a somewhat dangerous toilet."