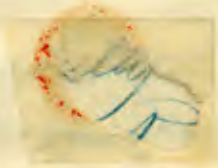


Frank P.M.

Mrs. J. B. Hunt P.M.
at Anthon Iowa City

This Excellency John Reynolds
Steam Packet "Amaranth" 3
Jefferson City Mo

1852



Newark N.J. Oct 5th 1842
His Excellency Thomas Reynolds

Sir

Your reward for Smith & Rockwell is making a great stir among the "brethren" at the "City of Nauvoo" Smith it is said has fortified himself in some sort of a den and ~~the~~ this I do not vouch for, & Rockwell has left the Country. I am informed that the Gov of Illinois has added \$4000 more to your reward and I at this time know of no life traitors those persons that are on the alert determined to arrest him if possible then will be some Judas among themselves I think I am in hopes to have it in my power to announce to you the capture of Smith by a week from this evening. Yesterday was a day that was set for about 50 of them to come down to our Town to select lots, but by an order from the "prophet" they all remained at home. This ^{is propagated by} I have from one of the Mormons & I have no doubt but it is correct. The intention of the three persons above alluded to, is to seize Smith some night in his own house perhaps, gag him, & carry him on board a small boat and bring him down to my house & keep him securely in a room, in the 3rd story until the arrival of one of our regular St Louis Packets, one of which leaves here every night in the week except Monday night. I am the agent for all of those Packets & when once on board there will be no further difficulty. If the enterprise succeeds I am entitled to one fourth of the Reward which I will take pleasure in bestowing on the State of Missouri. One of them there is now in Nauvoo and has been there for 3 days since which time I have heard nothing from him; but ^{I have} no doubt but that he is making all the discoveries that can be made without creating suspicion. They are all careful & active

fellows & will do nothing without the utmost caution, & if they should, accidentally, be detected it will take the half of Newwood to arrest them, for all is planned, either for victory or defeat.

Thus, I have given you the outlines of the plan & it is needless to say to you that it is in confidence. In the course of two months, our Town will be overrun with these cutthroats as one of the principal owners in the Town has sold his interest to them.

I shall leave here with my effects in the month of March for Missouri or sooner if I can get my business shaped so that I can leave without too great a loss. I am selling goods here & think of locating in some County seat in the South Western part of Missouri should I find a location to suit me. I have now on hands about 70 heads of Cattle that I shall send off this Fall to Van Buren County.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servant
S. J. Hunt