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Letter, D. B. Strickland to Elizabeth Champion, December 28, 1838

D. B. Strickland

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Vandalia Illinois Dec 28th 1836

Beloved Friends

I have at last arrived at my destined place and take the present opportunity of redressing my pledge that is to write you. I have been in several parts of this State and have had a chance of seeing some of its smartest places I spent a few days in Alton, & Quincy then I proceeded to Springfield where I spent several weeks and am now here where I expect to remain for the present. The Legislature is in session here now and this place is very brisk indeed and as it regards myself am very busy, the Cashier and myself are all that are in the Branch and we have as much business as we can attend too. Yet we manage to go into the house once in a while to hear them speechify which is very amusing, talking it by and large we have five times and enjoy ourselves very much. This is a delightful country

and could you once take a ride over some of the Plains I think
you would say the same that I do. I have passed over them that were
16 Miles wide and you would not see a tree nor stump the whole distance
yes I will remember one time that I could see nothing but our boundary
Plains as far as the eye could extend either way, it put me in mind
of being out at sea when we could not see land, it was a beautiful
sight and now and then we would start up a drove of Deer that
would bound off before us, it was delightful and well worth
coming here for to see if nothing more - and then we have
Log Houses in this part of the world yet I had when I have
been traveling many a time slept in a log house that was so open
that you could look right out between the logs. I think
it a good idea to have them thus open for we can tell when the
sun is up, but then they are not quite so comfortable in a
windy night, for you have to cover your head up in the bed
cloths (if you so fortunate as to get a bed) to keep the wind off.
I have passed several nights on the floor with my carpet bag for
my pillow and my wraps for my bed, but that is when there
are a good many traveling one way and but one house in a belly
were might find you, but we make the best of it, to show you
how fast we travel here some times, will say that I was there 3 days

going 80 miles ~~in~~ on a mail Stage, we did not break down
but once, but we had to lift the coach out of the mire than 20 times
one night we stopt at a Log House the only house for 6 miles either
way and there were 3 Stage Loads that stopt there that night
and part of us took the soft side of an Oak Plant, for our bed.
but this is giving a view of the dark side of the ^{last} Picture
I have stopt at some houses that were nearly equal to our
Eastern houses, and have been at some private houses that were as
well furnished as any house that I ever visited in the
east yet Col Mather (our President's) house is not surpassed by
any in Springfield Mass in point of stye & I ha
many a happy evening there, I am much pleased with the
country and people yet I cannot say that, if I had no other
object in view than to enjoy myself that I should give it the
preference to New England. I do not think it as healthy
here as there nor do I think we can have the luxuries here
that we can there, I have not made up my mind to say that
I never will return to New England. We had two deaths
here last evening one of them was a member of the Legislature and
the other a citizen of this place. We have had two days sleighing

Stop
here

Jan 28

Post 25



Miss Elisabeth B. Champion
Care Doct. R. Champion
West Springfield
Mass



From Letta

Vandover 9/28