

Topeka Mo. 1859.

The Guild Association of Kansas  
to The Oregon Association of Congl  
& New School Pres. Ministers &  
Churches

Dear Brethren

Your welcome letter of  
sympathy & kindly greeting was  
only read & in Oct last was presented  
to the Assn. at its meeting in Manhattan  
Please accept our assurances that it  
was to us the source of no little pleasure  
& encouragement. Your familiarity  
{ by personal experience } with some of  
the sources of our trouble makes your  
sympathy the more welcome as being  
from a knowledge of our case.

Since your meeting & the writing  
of your letter nearly a year has gone  
by, to no one of no little excitement  
tho. in this respect falling below former  
one.

Election after election has been holden at  
each one of which so inquisitively have our  
foes planned that but little progress has  
been made toward freedom of action.

Our proposed Constitution the people  
first choice, was rejected really because  
it was for freedom - nominally for  
want of some legal forms. Those legal  
forms coupled with, a new Constitution  
was found at Seaview during the  
last year, & because still too liberal  
this is persistently ignored, & a bill is  
passed by which our voting against  
admission with Slavery "shall be  
considered an expression of our  
unwillingness" to assume the burdens  
of self government. Because we are  
unwilling that our brothers blood, the  
blood shed for freedom, should reproach  
us as servants, we are to lie under  
restrictions such as hamstring the limbs

of no one of our sister States.

But we hide our time, jolly  
believing that "the morning cometh"  
surely it may be, but no help  
surely. We are hopeful believers in that  
maxim of the old heathens which comes  
us that tho. "The mill of the god, grind  
slow, it grind to powder" The "why" we  
do not always see, but that God rules &  
rules well we firmly believe. That He has  
been with us we cannot doubt. The  
History of our bloody struggle proves  
this. On the one side was a small  
company, but a few hundred of  
freedom loving men & women; on  
the other the whole South; nearly or  
quite a half of the north; with all  
the influence; the civil, political,  
premiancy & military power of an  
utterly corrupt & partisan administration  
"only" on the side of their opposers was power

From the President in his mansion to  
the smallest postmaster or the humblest  
told-writer; among the wide spread  
army of government officials, our friends  
were scarcely known. Army, navy  
& treasury were at the service of our  
enemies. A shameful, but a literal  
& undisputed fact is it that the bloodiest  
murders among our enemies, have  
uniformly been made the recipients  
of governmental patronage.

Against all this array of power  
by God's help we have made head; with  
hammer & trowel in hand and sword  
girded at the side, His servants have  
budded & morally we are the victors.

The kidnapper may get upon our  
soil commit his foul wrongs & by the  
connivance of our rulers go unpunished  
to clear him a judge, a federal  
appointee may deny the negro's right

to testify in court. Our citizens  
may be seized upon our own soil  
& taken to another State for trial  
upon charges of which our laws  
know nothing, & a Federal governor  
may know of no way to help the  
wrong; but we are morally the victors.  
In state of bloody warfare, of want  
& suffering, of every kind. The  
meeting & school house, those citadels  
of freedom, have been reared, & are being  
filled with those who in the school of  
a bitter experience have learned an  
<sup>intense</sup> hatred of Slavery, & have taken  
pledges of unyielding hostility to it & its  
supporters. Better too than this the  
aspiration of its supporters has led them  
to such steps as has fully explained  
the character, demands, & results of the  
system to all who will learn. Our sufferings  
& their causes have been read by the

nation & so our enemies have fallen into  
their own pit, & we can sing into the  
Lord for He hath triumphed gloriously".

Our minutes of which I herewith  
send two copies will tell you of the work  
which we have in troublous times been  
enabled by God's help to do. Twenty one  
living churches, already found; chosen  
within the year, stand to day as tokens  
of God's readiness to help faithful prayer  
& Christian effort. Evidence of his  
favor toward the cause of Home Missions  
was M.S. Pres Church healthy & growing  
under the care of the H. M. Soc. is also  
in existence, but the very large preeminence  
of the M. England element among the  
people & ministers from the first settlement  
of the Ter. makes the band of the  
promoting form of ch. government. The  
Ages of the H. M. Society will at any time  
in any allowable way will aid in the

organization of any club of either order as  
the people may wish.

Our Methodist brethren, reported  
Apr. 15, '58 in Kansas about 1778 members  
& probationers, & are active their efforts,  
having among them many good & faithful men  
& ministers.

Amid the excitement of war, of  
frequent political contests, of a spirit  
of speculation, & now the ~~the~~ gold fever  
raised by the Rocky Mountain mines  
have religion & undisturbed has found poor  
soil & air in which to grow. We need  
not tell you of idleness, indifference &  
backsliding of Christian character  
wrecked & ruined amid such strife, privation  
& suffering. You can well understand how  
soon a heart well filled with grace, that  
grace finds little to aid its growth in a  
constant sense of opposition & wrong  
inflicted too by a power seem to aid

& protect us. Yet trusting in the one  
who hath thus far helped us we set up  
our Ebenezer. & pray that we may be  
purified & strengthened by a sense of  
His constant presence

In the progress of your work as from  
time to time set before us we feel that  
deeper interests which companionship in  
labor should produce. At the best you are  
our neighbors but between us lies yet  
much land to be ~~acquired~~ possessed - ruled  
by truth or error. That as is our work  
it must sink into utter insignificance, in  
the eyes of him who feels his masters power  
& who consequently can say "I can do  
all things through Christ which  
strengtheneth me." May this view, the  
faith, the motto be our own.

With the warmest of Christian &  
fraternal greetings, & asking still a place  
in your sympathies & prayers.

In behalf of Mrs. I am truly  
Yrs in Chr love. Lewis Bodwell.