

last two years owing to the dry season in a great measure. The dissentary has prevailed this season. There has been some considerable fever also and fever again. It is a great deal more sickly in the open than in the timbered land.

There is Government land in the town joining. Plenty of it too. There is second hand land a plenty in this town for sale. I think you would do well to come and see before you buy elsewhere.

Crops are tolerable good this season. I have seven acres of crops this year. I have raised about 100 bushels of corn this year and about as (many) potatoes. I have two acres of wheat. It was injured with the rust. Some of it was not worth much. I keep a yoke of oxen and one cow. I am fattening four hogs this fall.

Reuben has a school engaged for the winter. \$20 per month in Marshall. William talks of taking a school this winter in Vermontville.

We have some sport hunting accasionally. I will name one instance. The people on one end of the village have been annoyed by the intrusion of (a) monstrous large black bear amongst their pigs. He would come in (the) daytime and take a pig and off with him before anybody could come to the rescue. The people made some ineffectual attempts to waylay him and shoot him. We came to the conclusion that we could surround him and kill him. Accordingly we mustered all the men, boys and dogs we could (about thirty in all). We divided into two parties surrounded four or five hundred acres. When the men were all stationed and were all ready the horn blew and we moved to the center like it was (a) party surrounding the enemy. We had not proceeded far before the cry of bear was heard and the dogs began to yell and it was with difficulty they could be held with a rope til the proper time to let them go. One man came up within two rods of the bear and snapped his old musket at him. It did not go off. Then the old bear broke through the ring near a boy that had no gun and he made the best use of his legs he could. It so happened there were two large dogs near by and two or three rifles near by. On hearing the cry that the bear (had) broken through the ring the dogs were cut loose and they overtook him in going 100 rods and commenced battle. One dog behind the other (a bull dog) at his head. The man that shot at him first came up