

# Newspaper Letters of Samuel Bowles's Across the Continent (1865.



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THESIS

# Journalism, Letters, and Nation: T Letters of Samuel Bowles's Across Continent (1865)

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#### Abstract

Newspaper publisher Samuel Bowles set out on a trip in the e see and write about the United States of America. A leading fi political discourses before and after the Civil War, Bowles sh series of thirty-two letters, addressed to the readers of his in newspaper, the Springfield Republican. The letters were subs book, *Across the Continent: A Summer's Journey to the Roc Mormons, and the Pacific States*, with Speaker Colfax, and co narrative of adventures from the plains of Kansas to Salt Lake Rocky Mountains, to the Pacific Coast and the Pacific Northw with the personality of the author and bring textual snapshots. Although Bowles's letters may, in other contexts, be dismiss newspaper articles, the *Across the Continent* letters suggest enduring, something more important to the often disparate literature, and American nationality. This study, therefore, bri establish Bowles as a literary journalist writing in the form of letter with implications for an ideology of nationalism that wa wake of the Civil War. It is the first critical study of Bowles's A to adopt a literary perspective. Chapter One provides histori contemporary commentary on Bowles to establish his influe existing approaches to letters and letter-writing, known as ep Two and Three introduce and explore the form of epistolary. Bowles's letters of *Across the Continent* to illustrate and sup Chapter Four then suggests that many of the same qualities t letters function as epistolary texts also place Bowles within a journalism. Finally, Chapter Five examines ways that Bowles' letters articulate the new ideology of nationhood emerging i

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