

him when I first come into the country. You ask
if I think your daguerotype a good likeness. I do. Henry
was looking at it a few minutes ago and said it was the
picture of a handsome woman. The relationship between
you has probably affected his judgment. Do you
suppose you would like to come out here, I don't know
whether you would get homesick or not. I
sometimes think I would be glad to have you
here and then again I have some misgivings but
on the whole if you run here I should be glad
of it. Mr. Rensen said that Amanda Dous & Husband
I can't think of his name are keeping house in Happy
Valley which is a part of the city, and they have a man
and his wife boarding with them who pay \$60 a week
and another man and wife who pay \$40. They are
living in a house that Dous paid \$4000 for.

There are many most princely incomes from rent here
I think he receives a thousand dollars a month for
some property he has on one of the wharfs. It is a great
plan to make money when one gets a start.

But I am writing a long letter
as well as an up hill one. What do you think of my Daguer-
type, and how do you like your pin head. I hope you
are better but have some misgivings. Last night I had
a turn of sick head ache, the first for a long time. I
have been very well and have had a strong appetite and
eat too much, I am all right again to day.

I shall feel anxious to know how the talks
between your Mother and W. W. W. come on, but I don't
suppose you can hurry the answers to come any ahead
of the mail. There is a French man and wife in the next
room who talk in French very loud and incessantly.
They go to bed early and are now snoring in good English.

I have not time to write more and I think
my head is about empty. I will finish by saying I am
glad to hear in San Francisco and not in Auburn. God bless you.

San Francisco April 8. 1853

My dear Mary

It was just as you expected
your second letter directed here has been received
and the others have gone to Auburn. The new steamer
John L Stephens arrived on Sunday morning with the mails
I heard the guns and went down to the wharf and
remained there until she was fastened to the wharf
and went on board. She is a noble ship, and I wished
you were aboard with baby and if they have no particular
objections I wish your Mother and Libby were there
too. But this may create a wrong impression for
I am not yet settled but I am in a way I think
of soon becoming so, I am with Williams and Leman
doing what would make you laugh at home
and if you are inclined that way you may laugh
now, we are ranching, and what is that. I'll tell
you, They have five men with Perry makes six. The board
of the men cost \$7. a week each and Perry's probably
cost him \$15 which makes \$60 a week. They have a
room adjoining their factory and I, yes, I do the
cooking and have done it for 3 days. We have not
talked up the matter of wages yet but Perry
said he should expect to pay about \$60 a month
for a Cook. An then premiums for room and water
sent free (to me) and soon I intend to be manufacturing
Vinegar

Well, so much is reasonably certain and bids fair
for profits, as I can do all I am doing and make
Vinegar too, I room with Perry, have a nice room
and the best sleeping I have had since I left home.

My acquaintance with W. S. will, if nothing
better comes up, very likely lead to schemes of
business with them. Let me say nothing more
about that now, I had a long conversation with
Rensen last evening, I have known that he was about
to make a move with his machinery whether
Nichols was ready to proceed or not and last evening
he told me he was looking around to see what he
will do with the machinery providing Nichols
would do nothing with the smelting. Nichols is
near Gras Valley when I saw him and several other
letters have already passed between them and things
must soon come to a point, Rensen said to me
last evening that what ever he did with the
machinery I should have a plan in, and I am
quite sure I shall act an important part
in the play, let it be quartz, foundry, grist mill
sawing and planing or any thing.

I have written all about myself but I must
tell you the joy I felt from receiving your letter
was much damped by the account from your health.
How much I want to know how you are to day.
If you are sick I must come home, that is certain
and take care of you but I hope before this you are
well

How much I want to see the baby and get acquainted
with her again, I have been much amused by your account
of her tricks, I am glad my letter gave you pleasure
and made your heart more light, I hope there has
been nothing in what I have written since to change
materially that feeling, I am very anxious to know
how you are situated to day and what has been
done with the business, if any thing, I send a paper
with this — This is the first of the weekly mails, I sent
a book by the last mail a week to day and I don't
know as I shall be able to fill a book every week, still
I don't know but I might find an endless deal of nothing
if I had time to write it down, When the letters come
down from Auburn I may have enough to fill the two
books I have already made, I made some first rate
biscuits from your recipe written in my little book, do
you remember showing me how, and to day I made the
best Oyster soup I ever ate, Don't you feel proud of me
I really hope you will not feel bad about it for I think
it will end well

Evening I have been reading your letter again and wish most
heartily that your pleasant and cheerful frame of mind has
continued to this day, Henry has just come in and
brought me a white envelope saying as you are writing
to your wife you must use a white envelope, and
sends his best regards, I shall have to write you much
about him if I remain here, He is a very clever fellow
and I think him much smarter than when I saw

I intend to procure a draft for \$25 and send you to receive for three months
my life insurance if you think best. The policy does not expire before
the middle of June and you can delay paying probably two weeks
after you get this which will be time enough to receive two
more letters from me. Stearns S. B. Wheeler
I have just heard a word from
Newfall and George at Auburn
I hope to get your letter before I mail this. I wish to go in the Golden Gate tomorrow. He says at the same dock as
this morning. Adieu.
My dear Mary

In the last letter I received from
Kempelau he addressed me as his "Wandering brother", I did
not think before that such an appellation suited me
but now I believe it does. Here I am at Alviso 8 miles up the
Gandolupa river that empties into the southern or eastern
I don't exactly know which, end of the Bay of San Francisco
Santa Clara where Mr. Bannister's school is, is 6 miles up
the San Jose valley and in plain sight and San Jose village
is 6 miles farther up and would probably be in sight if it were
not for trees that intercept the view. The first trip up was
a pleasure excursion last Saturday 23. There were several ladies
aboard among them Mrs. Amanda Dous Halliday and her husband
she looks better and healthier than at home and her husband is
I believe, a very nice man, a little on the John Hobbs order. The invi-
-ted me to call on them and take dinner there. I shall do the first
the first leisure I have in San Francisco and if particularly invited
which I presume I shall be I shall perhaps do the second. Well, we
all went up to San Jose, stopped at Paine's Hotel, not much of a house
take the people away but a good deal of a house with them then
Board \$4. a day. Four Chinamen improved into very good Yankees
speaking good English for table waiters. A part of the company went
on Sunday to the New Alameda mines (Quick Silver) 15 miles
above. I have a sample of ore (Cinnabar) that they get the quick silver
from it looks like red chalk. The pinch than is about the same size, and

is very heavy, I wish you had it at home, I did not go to the mines
but remained and went to church, In the morning went to the Presbyterian
and heard an excellent discourse from a talented young man, The church
was a neat little building and the congregation appeared just like home
excepting it was made up mostly of people in the prime of life and
they were a little better dressed, but they were all Yankees in appearance
In the evening I went to the first Methodist church, they have two, and heard
a regular loud sermon, well enough perhaps but too much sound for the
sense, They all sang one part and all sang in different or rather indifferant
pitch or tune, Their house was better than the Presbyterian but their service
very much below it in every thing but noise, San Jose is an old place or city
they call it, it has 3 or 4 thousand inhabitants, was a Jesuit Mission called
the Pablo. The old adobe church is in good repair, the candles are burning
before the altar and the Senoritas were at their devotions, the Señors
don't seem to be as religiously inclined, I saw a couple, man and wife
I presume come in to church on horse back, They were on one horse, the lady
sitting before the gent, riding at a gallop, At the church he helped her off very
tenderly and pulled her deep down all round to make it hang well, then
jumped on his horse and rode away at a good smart gallop and she went
to church, They all seem to ride on horse back and ride very fast
and most of the men wear the fancy colored blankets with their heads through
a hole in the center. Apr 29, We left Aliso at 9 this morning and have
got out of the river and below on the flats as they are called have
got a ground and shall be obliged to wait until the tide
rises and helps us off, I hope to find a letter from you
at San Francisco which makes me impatient at the delay
Here I am in the Captains Office which I have all to
myself, It is a snug little room with two beds, but one of them
have ~~bed~~ in it which I occupy, There is a desk before the stained

glass window with drawers under to the floor, which gives me
three for my clothing, enough is it not for my seven or eight shirts
and as many socks, a close wash stand with bowl and pitcher
and a middling sized gilt framed looking glass makes up the
furniture, There is a small iron safe in the office with about \$300
in it which I put in last night for safe keeping, My position
on board is the same as I wrote you before, I have the full
management of the money and passengers as well as freight
keep all the accounts with the hands and pay out all
the money, I have no other work to do, I think I shall
be able to please them and make it a paying plan for myself

They had an old Steam Boat Clerk on board for two trips to
get me initiated but he was a man they had no confidence
in or perhaps he would have had the plan as he was already acquainted
with the business. We have on board that cousin of Louise Eldridge
that I have written you about before, he is on his way home
expects to go on the Golden Gate tomorrow, I have a considerable
amount of writing to do on the boat which with the letters I have
to write keeps me quite busy, I have had but one letter from
George since I left Auburn, I answered that immediately
and asked him to write me. About that time I received your
letter in answer to the one I wrote Mr. Wood or rather in answer
to my letter sent at the same time and he probably
got a letter from home the same mail which may
account for his silence, What do you think - has he
broke with me - The music teacher in Mr. Barnettes
school was killed on the Jersey Lind, Mr. D. told me
her income was about \$800 a year, don't you wish
you were here to take her place, I hope I shall hear

by you next that you are ⁴⁻²⁸⁻⁵⁷ letter or well and that Helen
back has healed up, It is now after dinner, we have
just got off the box and are steaming away for San Francisco
I am sorry for the delay as it may, if no way can be found to
avoid the box be the means of the steamer being laid up, If
that should happen I must look up something else where
until the time expires for which the boat was hired
to keep off the Stockton and Sacramento routes which
is the 16 June, I have I have 2 letters that Henry
gave me to read the last time I was at his room as I
had no time to read them then, Henry from his room
sent one from Honolulu to him, One is from Aunt Mary
and one from Uncle Henry and both addressed to
Miss Luth, I know it would make you laugh
heartily to read Aunt Mary's letter, It is well written
good smooth English with a pleasant vein of humor
and one of the four pages is devoted to you and me
Ah, what would you give to know what she says, I should
feel of you sits on both of your sides at once if I caught
you reading the praise of your husband and the praise
of his wife slightly, just slightly, the least bit in the
world qualified — she writes the little girl now in her
second year is a very nice bright little girl with a fair share
of gifts — you know an an owner of us lacking in that material
she said nothing about you girls, Uncle Henry's letter is
short and a half is well written I mean good sense
and good English, Henry wants to see you, I mean
cousin Henry in San Francisco, Evening 5, O'clock we are moving
San Francisco, The afternoon breeze is up dead ahead and the
boat rolls some, I have to leave pretty well to write, The steward has my
the bell and the passengers have been invited up to the captain's office
to settle which means my office, The tickets are collected except \$81
And now that my work is done for the trip I have let down the
cash and am all alone with my letter and thinking of home and you
Love by Aunt Mary's letter that Henry has thought of having Dick
come out here, Aunt Mary suggests that Aunt Soph come out with
him, That Grand Mother could live with Henry, That Aunt Soph would
be a good house keeper, a cheerful companion and wise counsellor
all of which is true, Henry gave me the letters to read and I parted with
him in haste just as he was getting up and have not seen him since, I
fancy he may have thought the mutual night suggest to my mind some other

that we had not talked about