

Aliso Cal May 13, 1853

Dearest Mary

This is Sunday evening and I have passed the most quiet day particularly after noon I have yet experienced since I left home, I have had for reading a volume of Little Living Age for 1844 from May to August, I think you have the same at home, if so, turn to page 444 and read Haynes Bailey's birth-day ode as coming from me.

This morning the Engineer brought me his wife's daguerotype and a daguerotype of his two daughters, little girls, His family are in Brooklyn, and he has been away from over 3 years. The pictures were not very well taken but showed to be the members of a very good looking family, I then brought out your son's babies. He and the Captain looked at them and said my wife looked like an intelligent and handsome woman and baby as fat as a cut.

A gentleman and lady who go down with us tomorrow just came into the cabin and I went in and talked with them a little while. The lady does not like Cal, They have been here nearly a year and a half - one from Montreal, she is one of the kind that can't talk, she had a pretty face but don't know what to say, Her husband was just as uninteresting as his wife.

It is now three weeks since I have been on the Steam Boat and it has become a matter of course with me a kind of every day life and still you don't yet know any thing about it, You now know probably that I have been in San Francisco two or three weeks and that I was living with Henry, Mr Pease and Lady and Annanda Dous Halliday come up with us on Saturday and went up to San Jose, Mr Halliday has been having fever and ague, expected

to have a chill on the boat but escaped, Mr Pease said
in talking with me about the business of the Boat that
I was "all right" a local phrase meaning he was satisfied with
me, As every thing will be favorable in the morning which
means favorable tides we shall probably make a quick run
to San Francisco and may be there in time to send you this letter
in the steamer that leaves tomorrow the John Stephens, I mailed
one on Friday evening for you, Do you write every mail as I do
I don't complain because I did not get one by the first weekly mail
for you next one was so good and long, I hope to find another
at San Francisco on Monday, It is seven months to day since I left
home, long months I am much I have witnessed and experienced
in that time and altho I have not accomplished as much as I hoped
to still I feel as though I now have reason to expect something better

I did not find any thing at San Francisco from Geo or Beattie
I don't know but they have cut me, but I don't think I will
give it up so and shall write them again, I suppose Geo
has his wages settled and that he will soon be able to send
home some money, You must have later news from him, Geo,
at home than I have although I saw a man on the boat from
Suburn who saw Geo about 3 weeks ago, I hope he is doing well

I don't know how the folks at home could have got the idea
at home that I neglected George, It is true he had occasional
attacks of fever and ague until winter or late in the fall
and although I think he never had more than two shakes at any
one time still he did not probably feel any well at any time
although he ate probably as much as he used to at home and
appeared as plucky as usual, I saw so much of the ague and fever
at Suburn that I knew just how it worked, Malaria would

Minus would get sick and come in to get doctored, The doctor would break up the disease and the patient would get up at once, his appetite would increase until he would think himself well again and then they would put in to eat and get the worth of their money, One large meal of hearty food would bring on the shakes next day to a certainty, One day I saw him clear off a large plate of baked pork and beans, and help himself to more, I cautioned him for I knew what was coming but it did not prevent him from finishing the next also and the next day he was down again, I might have spent more money for him but it would have done no good as he had a supply of the best remedy known there and had as good board as the best man in town free while it cost them \$12 or more a week, Perhaps he thinks I had no agency in the matter and that it would have been the same with him if I had not been there, but it is a great mistake.

It seems from what you write that there has been nothing paid on the house rent for the last year, If that is the case I hope soon to send you a draft large enough to settle it up, I hope Mr. Mushon will take the garden for aside from the Asparagus you will get but little good from it unless the strawberries do well, I try to think how you are situated now, This is the middle of May altho' it seems to be no particular time of the year here with you the early flowers are gone and the next are coming on The Apples, plums and peaches are in bloom about this time the trees and grass are getting green and all things appear pleasant if it don't rain, Above all I hope you are well and from your last letter I take courage to hope it is so, This will be a meager letter as it follows the other so soon but it will not cost much if it is worth but little.

San Francisco May 21. 1853

My dear wife

I have just finished reading your letter commenced April 13, and finished 19, and it has done my heart good. Your write of improved health excepting a little dyspepsia, I hope that will soon wear away. But before I attempt an answer to your letter I will tell you more about matters here. It is past 9 o'clock evening or night and I am not at all sleepy but suppose my eyes will grow heavy by and by so I will write on. My other letter in this envelope was finished and ready to mail but I then learned that the Steam did not leave with the mails until Tuesday 24, and concluded to wait a little longer. This boat has been in opposition, and a sailing opposition, but in price of passage. Last night I went out to walk a little up Commercial street and when I returned I found Mr Pease and the Captain of the other boat on the wharf talking. Mr Pease called me and said he had concluded not to have the Boat go up the next day and wished me to tell the Captain so when he came aboard. They had compromised the matter and the Wheeler is to load up for a two or three weeks to be improved. Don & Pease rode down on the wharf this morning and said they wanted me to remain on the Boat and expressed themselves in a way showing they were particularly well pleased with me. They have paid no attention to my cash accounts altho I have received and paid out over \$2400. What would you think if I should become a Steam Boat Captain, would you laugh at the idea, still such a thing may be strange as it might seem. "A prophet"

Mrs Sinclair (Dorset) takes a benefit to night and the Capt & wife and the Engineer have gone. Tickets \$2. This morning early I heard a cannon fired and soon after another and I don't know but another, and the coaches soon commenced rolling along the wharf. I got up and found that three

Our steamer had come in at one time, The old propeller Columbus that
should have been here six days ago with the weekly mail and the Northern
with the regular mail come to the dock nearly at the same time, the
Northern coming first, The Brother Jonathan come in at the same time
The mail was large and the Box letters were not delivered before 6 o'clock
P.M., I went up at half past six and took the lower end of a line as long
as from your gate to Depot and it was near an hour before it come any turn
and I left a line nearly as long marching up, Those not having boxes must
wait until tomorrow and then take their turns in run larger lines, As I was
coming away I met the other Chf. in the line he hailed me and asked if I
had any letters for him His plan of business is but a few rods from the Boat and
I will go in the morning and see if he got any of my letters, I received but one
letter, yours, I was so extravagant as to spend 2/- for a Sunday Age to read
tomorrow. Date 16 April, The papers to day bring news of the death of our President
King and the flag of the City shaw low at half mast all day, I expected to get
two letters from you to day but don't complain because the one you sent me
was so good, You don't say anything about the weekly mail, do you know there is one
I would write more to night but my eyes are growing heavy, Ah a flea in my
sock has just waked me up and I shook him into my work bowl and caught the
gentleman and cracked his head, There are but a few here compared with Auburn
and they are but little trouble to me, I can't but laugh at what you write of
Westfall, I think when I get home I will put my business into your hands
and see if you will read people on your own account as well as you do on mine
Still I can't but think he will pay me, It is at this moment past mid night
with you and I hope you are passing the time in sweet "rest and
quietness" May God watch over you and keep you from harm,
Sunday P.M., Good night L.

I have been to the Pine Street Baptist Church and heard a very
long prayer and a good sermon, much the best I have heard in San Fran
cisco and almost as good as I heard at San Jose, Your book letter is before me

I am glad you keep up the practice of writing in books, I should do so too but I some how
of late don't get a book made. I feel like giving you a shaking just enough to make you
laugh when I read what you say of writing on washing day, you commenced your letter
after you had done some washing and had nailed my fork fast in the edge
of the seat in the church slip which you say I can go after if I want it, Don't be sorry old lady
so the singing by the parish school boys has worn out and the old choir is recruited, I
should have thought the old or rather childrens singing would have worn out long ago, it
is well enough for our lot but I should not think a repetition would be any more
interesting than a visitation in geography repeated at this it does very well over. I
should be awful glad to hear the old choir again, the singing to day was very good, It seems
the last letter I wrote you had seemed guess the one I wrote from Brass Valley, when I had a hard
tramp and spent \$10, and gained nothing, It was perhaps not exactly safe to walk one that
road alone and I did have company one way but the other way I was alone, The man that
cut down that honey suckle must have been a genius, one of Sammys seekers
It will probably sprout up and grow rapidly covering the "observatory" before fall
but I am sorry to think it is cut down, You write of you and your mother riding along
this summer and having so much to do out of doors I hope you will not attempt much in the
garden as it costs more than it comes to, I hope the peaches will bear and give you as many
as you desire, The baby will be a great deal of comfort for you still I don't say you will be
glad when she is asleep and perhaps not sorry when she wakes, Now I should like to see
her helping about the work but I don't suppose I could think it cunning very to see her
digging with the little hoe in a flower bed, I think matters at the store are in good
hands, Mr. Flanck seems to be a very respectable reliable man and his brother I think
a very good merchant, I am glad he is there and feel much easier than before
and the money Mr. G. has probably made him easy with his fears, You mention my
sick head aches, they are much better than at home, I have had but one thum in two
months, I don't get any cake on the boat now do I eat meat, we have fresh salmon about
every meat, I eat some of that, it is my nice, how many times I have wished you had some
of it, they grow large weighing 15 to 25 pounds or more, I made some fish cake ginger
bread at Humpys and had plenty of the best of milk there we have poor milk generally
on the Boat, I shall try to have some better, The baby has something of an appetite has she
don't let her eat too much, Your reflections about the loss of money - travelling - and
the use of poverty are to the point and are correct, It is well to remember them
The baby is sick when you write but before you close your letter she seems better
I hope she will not have any return of the swelled neck.

I suppose I need not say any
thing in particular about the Hitchcock visit, I am sorry to have any such
unpleasant take place and I presume such was the feeling when he wrote to you, An
arrogant spirit will always be true to itself and we are always safest when we ask
nothing of friends or enemies, My brothers and sisters are truly kind in the feelings toward
me and you too I believe, but I never expect to ask or receive any pecuniary favors of any
of them, Indeed the world sometimes seems to repulse and then coldly away when we
expected an emblem of friendship and sympathy, We think we should ask differently
and some persons do, but let it pass as a lesson learned, I am glad that all the
pecuniary obligations we are under to relatives is but a trifle and I hope soon to be
all, "Let the dead past bury its dead" Perhaps the last letter you had seemed
from me was written in a desponding moment, It is sometimes a little
hard to bear when I think of our separation but I will endeavor to take
courage and gather strength from your words "be strong" I know if we are
together I should never have those feelings

Tuesday Morning

I expected to finish my letter yesterday but
had a thum of sick head ache, Late for supper Sunday some poor pan cakes

5/21/53

and they made me almost sick in the night. I ate no breakfast but a little dinner and in the afternoon my head commenced to ache and did not stop until bed time. I did not try the Brandy, very likely it would have stopped it if I had but I don't like the idea of using it even for medicine. I did not get any letter from Cazemiro by this mail. I did not rise any early this morning but have had time to shave and write a little. I feel very well. The bell has just rung for breakfast.

This must be mailed before noon, and I shall not have time to add any thing more. The boat is to be hauled out to go round to the place for repairs this morning.

I always love to linger a little with my letters to you before I finish them. It seems like parting with something I dearly love. I hope I shall get a letter from you by the next weekly mail. Adieu.

Sincerely and Affectionately

Charles

I have not written to any one else by this mail.

San Francisco May 28, 1853

My dear Wife

This is Saturday night and near bed time but my thoughts of home and my desire to spend tomorrow there are so strongly impressed upon my mind that I must commence a letter of some little length. I think I wrote in my last that our boat has been moved to Pacific wharf where the Sacramento boat comes in and now as I commence writing they have just arrived and the swell they make tosses our boat around quite like being at sea, just now I don't remember much I wrote you in my last letter perhaps because there was not much in it. It is now a week since we have been laid up. A new partner has come in among the owners Capt. A. J. of the Steam Senator, I have settled up the old matters of the boat and paid off the men and have got my pay and shall send you \$50 by this letter. I have now near \$80 and would send \$85. But if winter is a going to last all summer long I shall be obliged to buy an over coat and before our boat comes out again I shall need a new coat, probably a black frock or perhaps a brown frock with a velvet collar (black) something near the shade of my cloak at home, every body here wears sack or frock coats.

Thursday evening for a wonder this has been a wet day, altho it has not rained hard it has rained a long time and just enough to keep people in doors. The officers all went off the boat this morning excepting myself and I concluded to remain. And generally I had rather remain aboard than leave the boat from choice and it pleases the owners to go on to the boat and find me there attending to matters and seeing that all is safe. From my first month I received \$5. The week I shall get more and I should have had more the last month if the boat had been making money but as it was she lost money but gained the pleasure of having one day and then opponents one on that point i.e. alternate days. My business now is mostly looking, on, heavy business you say, I go up to the ship yard in the morning where they are getting out the stuff that is to be used in lengthening the boat and occasionally through the day go and see that the interests of the owners of the boat is attended to and at night take the account of the time of the men and the stuff used. I spend a part of my time on the boat sleep and eat there. We live well on the boat but not exactly my style although I get along with it any well still I would rather eat from your table and any likely you would be better pleased with what I get. We are in a perfect crowd of steamers here are the Confidence, Nelson, Hunk, Thomas and Senator, Newbold, and A. Wheeler. The Camanche left this morning for Marysville. The way runs between San Francisco and Colusa which is at or about the head of navigation on the Sacramento. It is the landing for Shasta where A. Curtis lives. If we go there I shall probably see him. I have not written him in a long time.

I went up to Henry's this afternoon and made him a visit read his paper looked over the May number of Harper's Magazine and left him picking up his heels on the bed and have no doubt but he soon went to sleep after I left. He has just secured a paper from Honolulu but no letters. His father still probably takes one of the returning California Clipper ships for home as soon as a successful arrival. It may be that the appointment will not be soon made but all the probabilities are that he will be removed.

It seems to me I have been writing a long time to get to the bottom of my first page. Do you suppose I shall succeed in filling three others before Saturday night when the mail closes. I think it very doubtful unless I get a letter from you to write an answer to.

It seems to me I have been writing weekly letters for a long time but I have not yet got answering often than one in two weeks. By the last mail I sent you this letter I wonder what you thought when you saw this letter come at once. Did you expect to find some valuable news, I am glad that I can send you something this time for it really does me good to send you money. What a pity that I must go to the mines at all and yet it may have all been well enough, for perhaps at that time I could not have filled the plan I now do. I think I have learned something since I have been in the country. Now I do not expect to wait for paying occupation as long as I remain here, till my heart goes out daily and hourly home.

There coming the bell of the daymen to Boat which means led time, my watch is at the watch maker's, I found I could not do any well without it and it would not go. The Boat clock is away to be repaired and regulated so to night we have no time at all. I have in my pocket a \$50 slug that I would give you to see you to night which I suppose you would take upon those terms would, do you particularly if we could have a week's visit.

Monday evening.

No mail from home and I must finish my letter, for tomorrow evening the mail closes. I have written to Charlotte to go by this mail which must do for the Cazenovia people. This time I am some how dull and sleepy to night just because when I wish to be most awake. But such is human weakness, I have seen Perry Childs Mr. Rensen and a Mr. Straubinger who used to live in Cazenovia and was clerk for Mr. Sinslaw. He has just returned from Australia, he went out on business - did not go to the mines. He says the chances for mining there are not equal to California. The government has pounced upon it and tax as usual every thing taxable. An American or any foreigner must pay \$13 a month for the privilege of digging and then they measure off a few feet and let him go to work, but he is obliged to dig where they say and if he finds gold all rights but if he don't find it he must dig to a certain depth before he will be allowed to change plans.

This has been a regular San Francisco day. This afternoon and evening the wind blows hard and the dust and every thing the wind can move fly right sharp. What

a place this is for ladies to walk out on an after noon, such
a day as this particularly, I met several walking this after noon
at the lower end of California Street. They were richly dressed and
staid, sober Mrs. Stubbins-looking people, the goods on the walk had
drawn them into the street and then the drays were rattling and
the wind blowing a gale, they managed to keep their bonnets on
and not make any exhibitions but they appeared like poor persecuted
people, I sometimes get a notion that this country is not fit
for decent people to live in any way and that if they are decent
when they come here they soon learn off decent practices. But
such is not altogether true.

After Noon May 3rd, I have just come from the express office
where I paid \$51.50 for the inclosed draft on Adams & Co New York.
Mr. Mercer will be glad to pay you \$50 for it, You must
write your name Mary Jackson across the back in the middle
where I have drawn a pencil mark, You will see the draft
is drawn to the order of Mary Jackson, By writing your name
across the back it is understood you order it paid to
any one who presents it at Adams & Co. office in New York.
I have a draft just like it in every respect excepting it
is second. If you should not get the first the second will
draw the money, Your Mother is right about living from
the store, It is best for you to get your living as far as you
can from the store, The money for this draft you can use
just as you think best, I saw Mr. Goodin from Auburn
to day, the man George lives with, His father is very sick
with bilious fever here and he has come down to see
him, He tells me that George is in excellent health as
fat as he can walk, He says he does tolerably well in

his store, The only thing he finds fault with is George is hasty temper and he says he has never seen that but hears of it occasionally from customers, I hope George will try to please and will stay long enough at least to earn the money it cost him to come out here I am very well, and now don't have enough to do to keep me busy, or keep me from thinking a great deal about home, You ask me is you lost better how I manage to get the kind of food I used to eat at home or how I get along without it, For a week I have been trying meat diet, When we have any tender beef or veal I eat it and as yet I have not had any unpleasant feeling from it, I am satisfied that if I do eat meat I must eat a small meal, I intend to continue it until I am satisfied,

I notice the vignette of the draft is a scene in the mines but it is not well done. The picture gives but a poor idea of the manner of using a tom I have looked for a ring, I find such a one as I wish to send you will cost \$10, a broad gold ring plain, At Auburn I could get such a ring for 6 or 7 dollars perhaps I will get one from there, I met Henry this morning on his Soda Wagon He is on the whole a very nice fellow and I think will make money this summer. A ship just arrived that brought them 900 dozen soda bottles, These bottles are of a size to hold a tumbler full and after the soda is drunk out they are returned to be filled again, There are probably ten Barrels of white sugar used a day here to sweeten soda water that is drunk in the city. It is now past 4 and I must go to the ship yard and get the account of work and lumber for the day and will mail my two letters on the way.

Remember me to Elizabeth when you write her and also to Mr Wood and Lady and Sarah. I hope you and your Mother will find a way to pass the summer with some good degree of daily enjoyment and write me long letters and often
Much Love
C.