

(12)

7/10/53

A
Book for Mary
not
finished
for
want
of
time

San Francisco Cal
July 10 1853

My dear Mary I have
sat down to the luxury
of reading over your two
last letters and congrat-
-ulate myself that
none have been lost
although it seems to me
my fun has come
I can't but wish you had
written every mail if
it was only to tell me
you were busy and
had not time to write
more, it would have
saved me a great many
steps and much an-
-sty. You may set it
down as a fixed fact

that I expect a letter
every mail and if I don't
get any I use every means
to ascertain if one come
and ~~and~~ if I do not get
a letter I can't but feel
some anxiety in consequence.

You and your Mother have
both had a very hard spring
work, which it seems to
me has been too hard for
the amount you receive
in the way of accommoda-
tion or a place to live
in. Now that your house
is in order I see how it will
be. It must be kept so, Every
Monday the rooms must be
cleaned. But I will not
pursue the subject, I
was only remembering what
I had seen you told. I
don't object to every person
having some occupation
I think every person
should have something
useful to do and should
do it well. My idea is

that if there is a good teacher
of music at Geneva to have
you take lessons, go up
and return in the cars
and practice thoroughly
at home, you have a great
deal to do to take care
of the baby and have nothing
to do for me let me write
me letters, I am as know-
ing and perhaps consulted
as much as upon some
subjects, don't you think
so, eh! Don't I think I know
how matters go at home
from what my poor memory
tells me, don't I think I
know you are often called
to breakfast and would, wouldn't
I let my hat against your
Bonnet that you are
sometimes called twice

shall we consider that
a bit and if you will draw
up a paper disclaiming
it and get your mother
to sign it I will send
on as much money as

my hat is worth for
your particulars are
What say you old girl
down with the fanned
-ation and ribbons

I have no doubt but
my hands are softer
than yours although
a week ago mine looked
as though I had been
picking up Potatoes
for a month but
I have got them clear
now and they look better
Evening I have been to
church this evening
and heard a very excellent
sermon from a text in
Revelations concerning the
white horse and rider
that went forth to con-
quer. Mr Robinson
of the Pine Street Baptist
Church is probably the
most eloquent preacher
in the city. He is young
and talented

Yesterday I went to
Mr. Lord's to buy some
freight books for the
boat and in conversation
said he as if trying to recol-
-lect, who was it who had
called upon me the other
day from Auburn and form-
-erly from Waterloo. I suggested
George, yes said he that is the
name he come here and
introduced himself and
he said he was looking for
business. I had some con-
versation with him and
as I had no want of more
help about my business
I thought I would interest
myself in trying to
find him a place and
asked him to call again
but have not seen him
since. That was just about
the way with my conversation
with George. It seems as
though he thought if anyone
wished to befriend him all
they had to do was to down
with the cash and no words

It seems George Wrote his
father that I told him
I was going home when
I left Auburn. That was
strange for I never said
a word to him or any one
about going home. I had
no idea whatever of it
Now if he has written one
untruth home he may
have written many more
There has been many things
passed between us that
would indicate a want
of friendly feeling and
the truth would never
lead his father to suppose
I had neglected him.

We go to Sacramento
tomorrow, and I expect
to be busy. A good many
visitors have been on the
boat to day among them
a Doctor who has a Drug
Store in the City but who
has for some time been
head steward on the
Steam Senators.

I must have my letters
for home finished by
Thursday night as the
mail closes Friday
night and we shall
go up the river on Friday
if our boat is not bought
off which is very frequently
done, so this Friday let
the last quiet evening
I shall have for some
time, I am glad to hear
that Elizabeth is so well
pleased with Brookbrook
school and hope the oppor-
tunity will not go with
Mr. Inman. and I don't see
why it should. But before
this time you probably have
seen Elizabeth and the
matter is decided, I
should have been very
glad to have seen that
meeting between Lib and
the baby, How did baby
act? Give my love to Elizabeth
and I should be glad of a

letter from her and give
my thanks to your Mother
for her note and I hope
she will write me after
I am sorry she is not out
-aking to take care of the
garden, I would rather
have a man hired to hoe
it and see that he does
hoe up your flowers

I have put on one
of my flannel shirts to day
for the first, It is a very
nice shirt and a good flannel
I think the linen the best
I ever wore, There is a linen
band around the wrist
about an inch wide and the
button and button hole are
in that and the wristband
is stitched and sewed to the
band But I must not
write more to night, I
hope your influenza is not
troubling you now and
that you will get more
flesh with more appetite
Good night. C.

I keep a piece of muslin
curtain by my desk to
wipe my pen with and
it is a great improvement
to wipe your pen occasion-
ally while you are writing
The ink flows much better
and the mark is finer
Wednesday morning
July 13

We went up to Sac-
ramento on Monday
and returned yesterday
and go again to day
We had all the freight
we could carry and
a very good number
of passengers, Receipts
\$614 Expense about \$400
leaving a profit of \$200
The freight is piling
in this morning
as fast as our men
can take the accounts
and three more put
it aboard, You will

not expect me to
write any long letters
perhaps if you know
how courtantly I am
occupied and how
much confusion there
must be, I shall not
have any more Sunday
at present as we are
to come down from
Sacramento on that
day. But we shall have
one day to rest here
~~perhaps~~ on Friday

You will have written
about that man some
a long time before you
will get this. If you
have it extended a year
I shall feel the capier
particularly if I should
be taken sick but don't
feel afraid that I shall
jump over board in
order to get the money
I have a little of the
head ache this morning

probably from being up
late for two nights and
the temptation to eat
is rather strong as we
have good cooking by
a colored man.

Thursday Night July 14

We are now on our
way from Peruvia
to San Francisco

We have made a successful
trip. The profit on
two trips that we
have made will
amount to near \$500
dollars. The first
trip the receipts were
\$515. This trip \$725
or about that. I am
glad of it as it will
be all the better for
me. The vessel rocks
and jars so I don't
write very well but
I guess you can read

I sometimes shrink
when I am in haste
in writing that you
will have to smell it
out or guess it out
for I can hardly read
it myself. I have not
had any time in Savan-
na to go up and
see Mr. Bulburs and
in fact I don't feel any
particular desire to
go but when I go
up I think I shall call
on them and hope I
will find Mrs. S. well
enough to see me.

I saw Baird and
he had just returned
from Derry with
a new wife. He did
not look as cheerful
and happy as when
I saw him before. Do
you suppose there is
any reason, or is it pos-
sible that a honeymoon
can't be a sweet noon
altogether - wholly -

But you would laugh
to see a honey moon
couple are here on the
boat this evening, such
leanings on each other
such loving looks
and holding of hands
are a sight funny

We are now passing
that little island
or large rock that
I remember writing
you was covered with
such a multitude
of birds last summer
when we passed it
going up to Sacramento
the first day of August
a year ago I can't
help but think of
the difference in my
feelings just now
and just then, then
we took deck paper
to save money, after
paying our paper board

had two dollars left
and I had about \$15
George was having chills
and I had not got
over all apprehension
after our exposure
to cholera, My strength
was so reduced by sea
sickness and consequent
indigestion that I was
very weak and the
days were very hot
But I hope such
days are gone for
ever, I don't want to
see any more of them
I am sure. It is
now 1/2 past 11 and we
will be at San Francisco
in about an hour, after
that I shall not have but
little time to write for
I must soon go to bed
My head aches, has all
glone and I am
feeling very well, Dr.
did not come on board
it seems to me my store

ack has more power or
ability to resist the
effect of indigestion
or perhaps I should say
my liver is more active

It is of no use for
me to tell you how
much I want to see
you all for I can't

Please tell your
mother that I don't
write to her in this
letter it is because
I have nothing so much
to you that I have no
time or ideas, I wish
you would get up
familiar letters often
The drawing of the
great coffee course
off some days ago,
but I don't know whether
you think I am any
thing or not, I will
see in the morning
but rather expect
it did, not

Friday Morning

I am now going
up to the Post Office
and on the way
will see if the
ticket has drawn
any thing if it
has I will tell
you before I read
my letter, I have
been counting
up my cash
and find all right
had over \$200 in

gold. It is a
bright pleasant
morning and
I am very well.
At 4 PM we leave
for Sacramento
and stay over
there until noon
Sunday.

Love to all

Admiral C,

(10)

7/2/59

16-26/11

It is
a long road that has
no ending
Vide old Adage
on
A disquisition on
matters and things as
they are in the authors
experience
Addressed to the author
Wife

Not read
this page
till last

Friday Evening July 8

It is all humbug to say Friday
is an unlucky day for her
I am on Friday evening made
glad and happy by the events
of a Friday. After waiting
and watching, thinking and
dreading, your two letters
have been received and you
were all well altho' tired.
Tired with house cleaning
as late as June 1 or 2 for you
are not very liberal with dates,
and shall I say it, nor with
letters. I have been an extra-
vagant dog to day, I have
spent \$51 for clothes. What
a hole that will make in
my wages but I shall have
a \$50 to send to you
the first of August for all
that. I bought a blue frock
coat, a black cloth vest and
black doeskin pants 2 shirts
and 2 pair worsted drawers
Coat \$24, Vest \$7, Pants \$10 shirts
\$3 each Drawers \$2 each. They are
all good, I got them so that I
might appear well and feel well
as there is much in appearance

San Francisco July 2, 1853

My dear Mary This is Saturday
Evening and I have looked all
around for something to do to
entertain me and drive dull
care away. I had nothing
to do in the city but go to
Com Chon? washing establishment
and get four shirts a collar
and pair of socks and pay 10¢
for washing, I give you his
name as it is on his printed
card, They call themselves China-
man. I have just been reading
your last letter received written
May 2 and which I must have
had more than a month. It
is two months today since it
was written, I am feeling very
lonely to night I have no
one to talk with no baby to play
with and after reading your letter
and looking at your and babies
daguerotypes which you lay
opened between my letter and
the ink stand I had nothing
to do but make you a book and
write you. I went down to
the ship chandlers to day to
buy for the boat some cotton
duck and Oarke and bought a
pair of middling size and

quality for which I paid 1/- It
come from Los Angeles which
is down the coast, This after
noon I went to the Bank, (Page
Bacon & Co) and got \$5.00 and paid
about among the dockmen. My
odd time today I have been
putting things to rights in the
office, It has all been cleared
out and painted. The oil cloth
taken up and scrubbed and
I have made a vigorous onslaught
on the cockroaches, I have studied
their habits a little and think
I can beat them in a fight,
I found them gathered in the
corners in the wood work
back of the drawers where I
keep my papers and clothes
and I had noticed that they
do not congregate where the
wood has been painted so
I got a paint brush and
pot of lead colored paint
and paid right on to
cock roaches and wood all
the same, It makes me
enormous laugh to think
how they scatted and
got away as fast as possible
with their painted backs
I saw one afterwards with

his painted back in the saloon
on a window standing around
as curly as a dog with a sock head

Steam was got up on the
Boat last evening for the
first time and at turn was
taken in the Bay which pleased
all parties. The boat seems
to be much improved, she was
hauled up at a new wharf
out of the dust & finish
painting. They now expect to
have her ready about July
8th. The weather is quite

cool now a days. This evening
the thermometer stands
at 60. My health and appetite
are excellent I get as hungry
as a bear and weigh 165

The Sacramento Boats have
just come in which means
bed time 1/2 past 9. I will
tip these people who are
looking at me from their
dormitories a good night
and hope they are sleeping
soundly and sweetly while
the ~~great~~ days are pleasant
and there is some change
beside calm, and storms
of wind and dust

Sunday Evening July 3rd

I have not been to church
to day at all. The fact is I
have not bought any new clothes
yet because I had no place
to keep them and did not
want them around while
my room was being painted.
I shall buy nearly an entire
suit this week. This morning
I shaved and washed a regular
old fashioned wash and some
time after walked into the
city. I met with Perry during
his team with soda. His
man has been sick a day
or two and he does the
distributing in part. He
told me he thought the
days sale would amount
to 500 dozen to day which
would give them a profit
of over \$175. When the Post
boys now is out of the
business part of the city
and among the old ships
that are anchored and are
used for houses and storage
they can't be visited except
by boats now but soon
the Steam Paddy will come

will fill this vicinity all up
with sand. I see hens on some
of the old ships or hulks they
are called here the hens running
around loose and tame. One
one I saw a woman feeding
some pretty dogs, and saw
a babies hand sliding over
the glass in the cabin window
which reminded me strongly
that I had seen something
of the kind at home

Then
have been occasional rollicks
of fire crackers let off through
the city to day but this evening
there was a perfect roar
through the city with an
occasional cannon or some
heavy gun, I heard one this
fore noon and thought a
steamer had come and walk
ed down to see but it is
nearly time for a mail yet
The Brother Jonathan come
yesterday and brought New York
dates to May 30 five days later
I see a Commissioner has
been appointed to the Land
-wick Islands, so much further

will soon be on his way home
I believe he has decided to
go by one of the returning
California Clippers

I wrote you that George
did not come back to see
me as he promised and I
expected. When I first went
to the hotel I did not see
Mr Woodin the proprietor but
afterward went and saw him
he said Geo came there and
he did not ask him any
thing for his board or lodging
and that George came to
him one afternoon and
told him he was out of money
Mr Woodin asked him how
much he had when he left
Dubuque Geo said 30 or 40 dollars
and it was gone, Mr W could
not say any other information
than that he had gambled
it away, For he said his
clothing was not expensive
and none of it appeared new
and what else could he have
done with so much money
in so short time, He told
me Mr Woodin (Geo) that

Mr W. paid him \$100 the clothing
he needed to buy and any
other necessary expense could
not have amounted to near
that sum and it may be
Geo. had saved money enough
to take him back and
perhaps more, I hope he was
not entirely without money
and after he told me that
he received \$100 I thought
he of course had money by
him and I would not be
any more inquisitive, I shall
write him again and if he
wants any thing to do I will
do the best I can at finding
him something that will pay
him some wages. Tomorrow
is to be a great expedition,
day with the Steamers and
if we are ready we should
be going somewhere but
our boat will be covered
with fresh paint.

I don't see how you can
write a book full in one

day as you did you last for
It is now part 9, and I have
done but little towards filling
a book beside I should get
tired and my stock of ideas
would all melt away and
vanish under such a call
for copy. The roar of fire
crackers in the city amounts
to a perfect tumult with
an occasional big gun and
now and then a rocket.

Now will you spend tomorrow
I am glad to know this is
time sufficient for you to
have received the first draft
for \$50 which I must
have mailed before June 1
and I am glad to know
there is another on the way
and that I have another more
than half earned. In fact
what I have and what the
Boat owes me now will
amount to \$70 But I am
writing away as though the
mail was to leave tomorrow
when in fact it will be near
two weeks to next mail day

I have a copy of Johnsons
Raselas that I have been reading
some in the day but there is
so much confusion and too
much talking to be done to
scarcely allow one to read a
reflective or any way profound
book with much profit.

Raselas is filled with profound
observations upon the duties
of life and the philosophy of
happiness. To use an expression
that is perhaps new
July 4. There is lots of noise
this morning and more flags
flying than you could count
all over the shipping and
city. I notice several British
flags raised one very large
one on a high building in
the city. This is a great country
for flags. There are four
or more high poles raised in
Auburn and much of the
time flags are flying on
them. It is not a bad idea
to have a flag up before a store.
I saw yesterday or Saturday
rather a monster flag for

The McKelumme Drill
canal company's celebration
that probably comes off to
day. It was 50 feet long
and cost \$200. They will
need a tall pole and a
stiff breeze to fly it.
My thermometer in hanging
here stands at 60, when I
got up it stood at 59, and
hangs over my desk. I bought
it from New York and have
had the good fortune to
keep it safe and sound.
July 5 evening, I went last evening
to the plaza to see the fire works.
There was a great crowd and a
great firing off of crackers
and pyrotechnics. But the fire works
come out slowly and I left
at nine cold and dissatisfied.
The first fire works I ever
saw were got up by Prof Blanchard
at Casenoid and were
much better than any I have
ever seen since. The great draw-
ing comes off this evening
but I think I had rather
stay at home than go for
the little time I should enjoy
- 56

To stay, I will try to ascertain
tomorrow what gunnles have
prize prizes, I have lighted
my candle to night with a
match I brought from home.
My matches, papers, and postage
stamps are all set on the
stoves but I dried them at
Panama and have used most
of them since. The name of
the Boat has been changed
from S.B. Wheeler to The Arrow
and A.R.R.W. is painted in
large letters on both wheel houses
It is now about decided that
we take our first trip up the
river next Saturday the 9th but
I don't know whether it is
to be up the Sacramento or
San Joaquin to Stockton
I hope a mail will come
before the Boat leaves as I
am quite anxious to get letters,
and do you wonder at it, Don
I have waited and wished
and it has all done no good
I can't understand it well
as the second ship should
have certainly brought them

if the first failed, but I
must forget there were some
mail bags left at Panama
This has been quite a working
day with me, This morning
I took down some brass trim-
mings in my room that
the painters had daubed
and cleaned them with
sand paper and put them
up a gain, I then painted
the smoke chimney, went up
a ladder and painted
it black, I then finished
painting the steam pipe
but painting a bright yellow
red to a green pipe and
then I painted some of
the iron work of the engine
about dark Black and
expect to finish it tomorrow
morning, There was in,
the old Hoar a small sized
keel just about like your
smallest one at home, I
have painted it nicely and
it is under my berth to
be used for washing in
as I used to at home

At the same time I painted
the safe that belongs in the
office and had become rusty
and brown a bright rather
dark green, the same color
as the outside of my kitchen.
How does the Baby like
to be washed now, in your
last you told me you had
washed her clean but she was
all in a sweat and wanted
to go out but you had said
no, and then when you went
out to tea she broke the gold
pew, O the rogue, Mr Ken-
ner is going home in the
next steamer and when
you get this will probably
be in Louisiana, He is a
very dear nice man and
it is no wonder I should say
so for he is very much my
friend, perhaps I should
say prejudiced in my
favor, I think I wrote
you that Nichols has
gone to searching which
probably means he has taken
up a piece of wild land.

and has had it surveyed
and has commenced to
improve it in order to
hold his claim, There is
a law that any person
can take up I think 150
acres of land if he puts
on improvements to the
value of \$250 and then
I think he is obliged to
continue to cultivate it,
I laugh and smile to
think of my Westfall indebted-
ness or rather credit, As I
saw it, it would not be
a good joke to dig \$40
and pay it out on an old
board bill and suppose
he has lost perhaps most
of his wages while he was
boarding there, Mr Wood
in told me Westfall was
looking very well and fleshy
when he saw him last,
but he thought he was not
making much money

It is now half past nine
and I will retire Do you
laugh at the prospect, but
a tip and good night &c,

At the Book Store they charge
Twenty five cents for the
little blank books for letters
At wholesale paper is not
very dear here, I paid for
a half ream for the Book
of the kind this book is made
of & 2, to Mr Lord who by
the way is a very pleasant
friendly man, and when
ever I go to his store I
have his whole attention
About the last time I saw
him he had just received letter
from home in reply to those
sent to inform them of the
death of his brother, He told
me his parents and the family
were very deeply affected
and almost inconsolable
I have just been thinking
what a different kind of
life I lead from what I did
at Auburn, There are about
all the necessities and comfort-
-to of life and most of its lux-
-uries excepting the luxury
of home, How long do
you suppose I will sleep,

in the first week after I
get home. It is true I
rest less than I have
at any time since I left
home but somehow I am
all alone

I have been to the
post office since supper
and I can hardly tell what
I went for and of course
I found nothing. This is the
6th. I see the drawing of the
great raffle is put off until
the 11th.

After writing the above
I found I should soon have
my book full and also that
my pond was about exhausted
I have now made up four
other books and have
partly filled one for my
mother to send to Leze-
nonia. I am becoming
quite confirmed in
my belief that I have
the Micaules infirmity
of writing too many letters.
Because for three months
I have not received answers
to more than one half I have

amitting, so not one half
and allowing that one half
of my letters contained nothing
to answer which is perhaps
again estimate of their value
the world is still indebted
to me, and if I did not
remember that my correspondents
had friends to talk with
children to take care of, tea
to get dishes to wash, and
that with most persons
it is no easy task to write
when they have a plenty
of leisure, I should at once
perhaps break friendship
with half the world at least
and give the other half
a regular blowing up.
But from the consideration
named I will defer the
demonstration for the
present until I am sure
it amounts to neglect
then unless, then
I don't write letters until
I have some to answer at
least, But it is getting
late, and if you dream of
me dream that I am well

and not any despairing
and above all wants wants
to see any dear wife

Good night &
Thursday Eve July 1, 1849
The Cali-
-fornia Steamer with
the Mails come this
morning and I have been
to the Post Office and up
to see Henry with my usual
sorrow and have received
no letter whatever, I
feel too sad to write.

Three mails have come
in a period of five weeks
without a word for me

The last letter of yours
that I received was directed
to Mr Charles Jackson
San Francisco California
and down at the bottom
in a smaller hand and
very well written and arran-
ged to escape attention
care of H W Furman Box
246, I don't know why
you have changed
from the direction I
gave you before I came
to San Francisco in regard

to discontinue my letters
for me to Henry with
two envelopes and it
is of little use to put
Box 261 at the corner
or down at the bottom
I will show you
how

Mr. Henry W. Freeman
Box 261 San Francisco
California

Your manner of writing
a direction is plain
enough but it is of no
use to send a letter to
the care of another and
Box 261 should be put
on a line with San Fran-
cisco and in print as
large letters and figures
I don't want my name
to appear on the out-
side of the envelope for
it will do more harm
than good and don't
make any variation
from these directions
until I give you par-
ticular direction when
change to make

Put my name on the
inside envelope of course

It may seem to make
more of this than is worth
while but anxiety that
has continued and in-
creased for four or five weeks
is my season and to-
night I feel lonely and
desolate enough to

attach a good deal of im-
portance to the loss of our
letter to say nothing of
three. Good night
July 8. Afternoon, C

I tell you
I don't feel any bad this
afternoon, I have just
~~finished~~ reading your
two letters the first written
19 May and the other
commenced the 20th and
finished and mailed I
don't know when. That
other Chas Jackson had
them and the man I saw
in the office who gave me
my letter I did not see
him, said that on the
way down from the
office he (C.J.) thought
the letter was post
marked New York
and broke the envelope
but did not read the
letter, one envelope was
broken and I don't know
whether the letter had

been read or not. It is true
the post mark was so
blindly put on that
I could not tell when
it was mailed or when
I presume Jackson is as
much a gentleman as
most men are but I
would very much rather
open my letters first
I can't attempt to
answer the letter now
and will defer for
another week all
matters relating to
them. At noon we started
out with the Arrow on
a trial trip and flourished
up and down the bay and
went up to meet our old
competitor the Guadalupe
and turned around and
beat her down all to
shore strings. We are now
at long wharf ready for
a start tomorrow but
none of us as yet know when

tomorrow
somebody
put me go