

Sunday Feb 24 1851

Dear Julia I once more sit down to write to you at last. It is some time since I wrote my last letter I own but I have been waiting to hear from you & so put it off a while, but I can't wait any longer, I must write to you if I don't hear from home at all. I have not heard a word from home yet & you cannot tell nor imagine how much I want to hear from you & Leonore and also Mother & Caroline & A D but I suppose I must bide my time. I have ~~so~~ enjoyed almost perfect health ever since I left home & worked hard ever since I have been in the mine, but have not made much yet I am now at work on the Merced River but don't expect to stay here long, as soon as the spring opens I think of going to the Southern mines as the diggings here are too uncertain to suit me. I was just on the point of leaving the Chilliary camp for Bear Valley when I wrote to you last well I went there & made a poor speculation

of it. There was five of us went there together, we staid there about seven weeks & just paid our way and that was all. But that was better than a good many did throughtout the mines as the dry diggings could not be worked for the lack of water. There has not been any rain here this Winter to speak of & it has been hard times for ^{all} classes here and no mistake. I had ninety dollars in gold when I left the Chillian Camp & it took nearly all of it to get to Bear Valley & after I got there, the Indians commenced depredating on the miners killing some and stealing every thing that they could lay their hands upon. & Upon this there was a general call for men to turn out and fight them, an express came into the valley about two oclock one morning requesting if possible that one man from each tent should go stating that we should be provided with provisions and mules by the High Sheriff of the County so I told my partner that I would go for one & started with twenty five more, for the mountains expecting to be joined by two hundred more on our way, we went on

the Indian hunter

with James Savage for our leader into the mountains & buried the murdered men some of them having twenty & thirty arrows sticking in them when we found them. our reinforcements not coming according to agreement we cruised about a week in search of the dark skinned gentry but they kept clear of us & our provisions giving out we returned home disgusted with the meanness of miners in general. in weather turning out set to fight themselves nor furnishing provisions for others to do it. It cost me twenty dollars besides my time & now I say let every man fight his own Indians. soon after coming back I found that for the want of water ~~water~~ we could do nothing in the Valley I came here to the Merced River where I could make something besides my board by working hard. I have been here five weeks & have got about eight ounces of Merced gold which is worth from twenty two to twenty three dollars an ounce at the mint in the states so people tell me although it brings but sixteen here. I expect to work here a few weeks longer before I go to the Northern mines & I think that I shall

send home by express as much as I
can spare when I start from here.
I suppose you need it now but I have
done as well as I could but have been
rather unfortunate. If I had worked on
the rivers this winter instead of going
into the dry diggings I suppose I should
have had ~~five~~ five hundred dollars now
but it is too late to do it now. I think
that I can make about twice as much
here as I can at home almost anywhere
and if you & my creditors will wait
^{with} patience untill I can get enough to
pay my debts and a little more I will
be back again never to leave you
more. if God so wills it I hope it will
in a year from this date. I heard the
other day that ~~Stull~~ Sulli'vara had
gone home by the way of the ~~Pinus~~
uncle Galen is at home before now
I suppose. I have not got any news
from any one that you know that I
can think of except the death of Charles
Kouncevell by the way I saw a N^o
Bedford paper a day or two ago which
had the death of Gilbert Kouncevell
in it but no other news for me

You must tell Frank to take
good care of you and not to let
you want for anything for if
I have my health I am sure
to get enough to make all square
when I get home. Tell Isaac & Charles
not to be frightened yet awhile for
I am good for it yet if the wine
stands fair. I dont want you to let
any one see my letters nor to tell
any one what I write about my
affairs excepting Mother or Caroline
or perhaps Frank & Horatio. I dont
want every one to know how poor
or how well I am doing. Tell Carolyn
to take the best of care of Mother &
tell them both that they must do it
for the sake of G & me if not for their
own. You must tell Helen not
to get married until I get home
for I want ~~to~~ to pick out a man
for her myself. I know it will be
a long time for her to wait (a whole
year) but it will be better for her
in the end tell C O to be a good
girl & mind what is told by her
Aunt & G. Mother & not to forget

Uncle Harrison. O by the way
these Indian affairs which you will
doubtless hear much exaggerated you
need not be alarmed for me for
I am out of the way of them
and intend to take care of myself
for your sake & that of our boy.
& now Julia do write every month
if you have not forgotten me entirely
for you cant imagine how much
I want to hear from you. I
have been pretty homesick sometime
but shall get worse if I dont hear
from you soon direct your letters
to San Francisco. & I send for them
by express from where ever I be.
and now Julia goes bye & ~~God~~
god bless you I am all alone at
present & I believe I shall have to
cry a little for I help it be a good
girl take care of yourself & the boy
kiss him four hundred times for
me & let him kiss you eight hundred
times for me I must close now wut shall
write again soon from your ever
affectionate ~~Uncle~~ Harrison I Allen

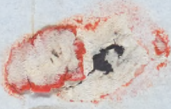
Mrs. Harrison L. Allen
New Bedford
Mass.
To the care of Charles A. Morton
Esq

Fracton May the 25th 1851

My dearest Husband it is with much pleasure I sit down to write to you to let you know you are not forgotten by one that loves you we are all in quite good health at this time and I hope and pray that this letter will find you enjoying the same good blessing your Mother's health is quite good although she is not quite as well now as usual but she has been very well for her to be this Spring Caroline is well and so is Ann Otis Leonard is well he has got the Whooping Cough not but he has got it very light indeed and I feel in hopes that he will get along well with out any trouble my own health is quite good Frank and the rest of the folks are well Mother's health is not very good about as usual though I have just received letters from you one dated Feb 24 the other March 14 and so rejoiced to get them and to have such good long ones to and to hear that you had received one of mine you must not think because you do not get more letters that I have forgotten you for since that one that you have got I have written four letters before this, one I sent to San Francisco and three to Stockton Can Uncle Galen thought I had better direct my letters to Stockton and so I did I am very glad you wrote me where to send them by the way that box of gold dust came safe and sound to N^o Bedford as quick as I got your letter I got Mr. Morton to go down to N^o Bedford and he found it there and a letter for him and he sent it on to the mint but they say that it will not fetch more than sixteen or seventeen dollars an ounce but I expect to get it before I close my letter and will let you know all about it Charles Morton called here yesterday and wanted to know if I was going to write soon and I told him

I was and he told me I must write for you ^{not} to send home
any more gold dust but if you was ~~it~~ going to send any
more to send it Draft for it was ~~it~~ going to be pretty expensive
to get it in to money I have got along nicely since you went away
on account of money I had a little left when the gold arrived
Frank has been very good to me and so has all the rest but for
all that I miss you very much they cannot make your place good
thier is something whispers in my heart I am alone with my little
boy he is a great deal of company for me and cheers my lonely
hours but I think sometimes that if you was here I should not
have any lonely hours to day is sunday and I have been to meeting
to here Elder Cushman preach we had a very good meeting and I
came home and every thing looks green and pleasant but still thier
is a gloom spread over things around me becuse I miss you ~~are~~
I have been down into the orchard since I came from meeting ~~and~~
~~it~~ reminded me of the day you left home last august and I ~~did~~
to come in I felt so gloomy for last summer the day you went
away after you left I went down into the orchard to reflect
on your leaving home and ^{the} past and seemed to me as though I
had done many things wrong since I was united to you but I hope
^{you} will forgive me for them all Leonard says papa cried when he
went away to California last summer for he see him and I should
not wonder if he did and someone else to Frank has moved over
to the Long plain and lives in the George Kelley house he has
bought the Abner Bradley farm made a great bargain folks
say he said I must write to you to hurry home and buy the
Grandfather Allen farm Helen says she is most tired waiting
for that man you are going to get for her she wants you to
make haste and get home and scare him up Helen sends her
Love to you Daniel Pierce is going a Whaling sails the 2 of June

May the 30th since writing the above my money has arrived from the mint
the amount was 1 hundred and 79 dollars and 89 cts Charles said that the
package was marked 1 hundred and 60 dollars when it first come to N^o
Bedford before he sent it to the mint I paid him over 4 dollars for
getting it for me which was as low as he could do the business he said
the whole cost of getting from San Francisco to N^o York and his expenses
were about 18 dollars and he thinks that if you should send any more
that it would be best to send A Draft for he says that is much less
cost I shall pay the insurance money and be saving of the rest and
keep dark about your affairs so never fear By the way Caroline has had
A letter lately from Granville it was dated the 1st of January he was well
and liked very well and had got 1 hundred and 40 Carrells sperm oil he
said he had been homesick some and that I suppose you know some
thing about yourself and know how to try him but I hope that the
time is not far distant when you will both be permitted to return home
if god spares your life and I hope and pray he will to return home
once more for we all want to see you much you cannot imagine Harrison
how much I want to see you and Leonard wants to see you very much
he wanted me to write to papa that he was A good boy and he is A
pretty good boy I think I have not spoilt him it I hope he wanted
I should send papa one of his curls and so I have please put one of your
curls in the next letter for I should like to see how your hair looks if I
cannot see your face Uncle Ealen is at home Ellen haps house for him Tracy
Allen has come home and Sullivan Allen to Lorenzo Braly has got home
Courtney Churty strong they say Adaline White is quite sick they do not expect
her to recover the spinall complaint I believe this makes 3 letters I have sent
to San Francisco and 3 that I have sent to Stockton since you left home
I have written all I can think of now I shall write every month and you must every
chance you have be A good boy and remember me Caroline sends love to you so I
must bid you good bye god bless you Harrison from your loving wife Julia Allen



Mr Harrison L Allen

San Francisco California