

P.S. The above is not even received Dec. 5th 1860

Doraville Jan. 14th 1861

Dear Bro. Thacher

My conscience ought to smite me with a vengeance for this long neglect of you if my little wife's statement is to be believed.

It has long been a source of grief as well as annoyance to me. That your respected sister Jennie, who has the honor to share my bed (except when I occupy the lounge) and board, should so often & persistently pervert the truth. Still I find comfort in the conviction that the fault is one of the judgment, rather than of the will. I am inclined to treat the matter leniently: sometimes choosing to suffer myself, rather than compromise her standing in the community where we reside. But to you I may speak in confidence of these things. Knowing full well that when you call to mind her many, many other faults & weaknesses, your brotherly affection & charity will prompt you to make due allowance for this one, which is perhaps the least of them all. But should this

Seem insufficient ground for the exercise of your charity. you will only need to call to mind the abuse of her and ill treatment you have yourself received in times past from her. to prepare you to excuse anything she can ever do, which is unjust or unkind to me.

Therefore; when she states to you that your bro. Henry could have written you any day of the last six weeks, don't look at the statement, as you would upon false ones in general, but charitably say, "it is only one of my brother's wife's eccentricities."

Honesty Thacher, there has been no time since I wrote Josiah, when my affairs & surrounding have presented just the right phase for recording for your benefit, otherwise I should have written soon after Josiah's letter left - as I then thought to do.

I wished to have my school under weigh before I wrote you, that I might be able to give you the cast of our winter's work: & that has obliged me to wait until now. Most unfortunately for us the thing has dragged along, so that although ready the third week in Nov. we did not get to work till Jan. 9th. As for the school & the general cast of Downsville, Jennie has posted you sufficiently perhaps for the present. I only wish to add that you must try

have not think of us as among heathen, or uneducated
uncultivated people. The citizens of D. are quite the
reverse of all this, & it is with many misgivings
that we enter upon our duties here. Not that we
are unable to teach all who may come, but we are
surrounded on all sides, by people of education
who know "what is what." Quite a number here
who are now engaged in other callings have
been at the head of Academies in New England: and
those who have gloried in the title of school teacher, for
a length of time, varying from one term, to fifteen
years, are met often. Couple this, with the fact,
that the school in D. has never been satisfactorily
conducted: & then please remember that these
children are Californians. the most indepen-
dent & saucy, of all independent & saucy children.
& I think you will understand why we shrink
from the task before us. I feel rather small by
the side of some half dozen of my boys, as I have
to look up to them, literally. But their size, does
not trouble me half so much as their knowledge of,
& preference for "saloonology" in all its branches.
But I do not design to detail the peculiarities of Cal.
boys or blimps at this time, and will drop this subject

for the present by saying that after teaching so long it
seems to be looked upon as a success by the people here.
The 100th every four weeks is not bad to take itself. so
although I did not come to Cal. to teach school. I say
"let 'er rip" for the present. One thing more concern-
ing the position of which I wrote you once in the sum-
mer - the change of the Water Cos. office. Without my
ever mentioning the matter to Mr. P. after what passed
between us last Spring. he learning that I was mak-
ing preparations to teach this winter, came to me
with the information, that he considered that office
mine, & had done so, for some time. Moreover that
he would like to have me wait, until the then incumbent
(absent in N. Y. on business for them) should return,
as it was possible that he might vacate at once
after his return. This I consented to do. Of course the
matter was kept dark. After Mr. C's return he soon
informed Mr. P. that he should like to occupy until
he sold his property. & being a No. 1 man, of course
they did not wish to hurry him, nor would I have
had them by any means. But when I left - Mr. P. told
me that should anything occur to vacate the office be-
fore my school engagement terminated he should
write me & should expect me to leave school or any-
thing else that I had in hand for he would make
it a better & a more permanent thing than he thought
I would find elsewhere. I tell you of this, because I did
feel decidedly ambitious to get the offer of that position for more
reasons than one. & I got it. Fair & square. Whether I ever take it or not
I am glad to have had the offer take a decided & tangible form.

With regard to the man I tell. he has not yet made
his appearance in Cal. & we are still without your
good letters & all the nice things you mention as
having been sent by him to your unworthy brother &
sister (particularly the latter) However we do thank
you most sincerely for your thoughtfulness of us
& when Jennie sees her boots, you may look for warm
expressions of gratitude from her, for sharing rather
of a large foot. She feels a proportionate degree of in-
terest in all that pertains to the same. I believe
he (Beck) has been looked for for the last three mos.
constantly. Don't go my whole pile on him between
you & I. When all measured up the quantity is
by no means excessive. (The man, I mean, not my
pile.) You say I have not yet spoken of your settle-
ment of my business last Jan. (1865). Then you
must have missed a letter from me. for I gave
expression to my approbation & gratitude both in
view of your success & kindness in adjusting my
affairs. To be honest Thacher I do not trouble my-
self much about my affairs in Wis. I feel that
you will take care of my assets & if you will
follow my ^{general} instructions with regard to my habili-
ties I feel that they need not be a source of embarrass-
ment or mortification to you. Here I stand in all

my Cal. affairs of course you would not be neglect-
ted a moment. But my burden here is a heavy
one. I have told you enough of it so that you will
understand me when I say that. I feel like tel-
ling my Wis. creditors that if they cannot make
anything of the property for which I worked five
years. they must wait patiently for me to get un-
der weigh again. In this connection I may say
that I have just received a letter from Johnson
expressing an earnest wish that his note might
be paid. or at least a part of it. I shall answer
it immediately. but all I can say is simply
this - that if I conclude to stay in D. & can dis-
pose of my property at A.C. I might pay it
but if I do not sell at that place. I shall have
just as much as I can do. to prevent the loss
of what I have already made. having payments
to make constantly which absorb everything. I
shall write him this & that is all I can do.

I do not believe it is necessary for me to
go over what I have already told you. in order
to convince you that I can't lift a finger for
Wisconsin debts. at present & that it will take the
best of financiering. to keep what I have made here.

thus far. Sometimes I feel as though I could not
endure this constant tension. & as though I had
rather give up my plans here & elsewhere & go back
to Lincoln where they all want me & shed out the
best of inducements for my return, and so end
this constant embarrassment & anxiety. A com-
fortable property would be the almost sure result
of such a move. Still I cannot bring myself to
that decision yet, & perhaps never shall. I do not
know what I want. God only knows whether or not it is
the thing which I ought to want & which I have
yet got to accept. — I am glad you kept back
of the Kansas matter - we must not lose a thousand
there by negligence. Our pressure seems to date from
that move. What papers do you wish from me
for Campbell if any? Oh dear! if that abominable
forever-to-be-hated R.R. Co. would only come out
with what they owe us! I do not see as you can
do anything, but I feel as though I would like
to split somebody's head open when I think of it.
I believe I would have seen them dragged thro'
all the sloughs between Tenosha & Harvard before
I would have put an instrument on their line
for them again. If you feel as I do, & I hear of some

of those officers getting thrashed one of these days I
shall know at once who did it.
Now for Mother's, our poor sick, suffering, yet patient
& loving Mother's relation to Bro. E. You have not ex-
plained to me just the position of affairs there
& yet I believe I understand them tolerably well.
But being powerless to ^{offer} any tangible assistance
I have not known what to say about it. Of course if
money is required to make the matter satisfac-
tory I should hardly know what to say or do. But I
judge that you have reference to an adjustment
of ~~the~~ it. The only way that suggests itself is to settle
up to some late date & give our note to Edwin for
the amt. due. In justice, interest should be allowed
on past due & the note bear interest till paid. Said
note might be given by Mother endorsed by her three
sons. (The best way I think) or we might divide the
debt & each give our note for our proportion. I simply
suggest this in the absence of any better way of doing E.
justice & maintaining our own self respect. It is too bad
too bad. To have it as it is. & being conscious of a determination to
straighten it all out some day, does not relieve my mind
of the burden at present. One of the objects for which I would
have my life prolonged is to see that whole matter just
as it should be. But I must close for now without as
I fear having said what will satisfy you about many things. But it
is late & I ought to go to bed. We thank you for all your love for us & fully
reciprocate it & most earnestly long for the time when we may talk
you by the house again & see for ourselves also, your dear Floy - Love when
and may our Father bless you in & through each other's prayers
Yr aff. brother H. N. W.