Lowell, Nov. 19. 1848.

"Auld Acquaintance"—

One o' clock P. M.—

I have just finished my dinner, and am now going to make an effort to continue our neglected correspondence. I have fears that you will think me tardy in replying to your last (and first) communication, but I beg you to credit my delay to any other cause but forgetfulness. I am now full of business, doing nothing a great part of the time, and have for this reason delayed to write until now. I am leading a kind of life very like that of a Bedouin Arab, with this difference, that, while the savage roams in search of plunder and lives by open robbery, I travel to trade, and if I do not steal openly, I may sometimes be said to indulge in a "shave".

We both traverse deserts: he one of sand— I one of a different kind, where dollars like oasis are seldom found; In plain English, not being able to get work which requires only plane dealing, I have taken up the gouge to see what I can do with that. To be more explicit I now am engaged on weekdays in traversing Middlesex County trying to dispose of a few maps and charts to the in—

habitants that peradventure I may be able to give them some idea of the vast extent of our great country and at the same time get enough of the needful to keep life in my own body and that of a "numerous wife and no children." ——

2 1/2 o' clock — I have been interrupted by a visitor, and will now continue my rambling letter.

I have the Agency for Ensign's & Thayer's Maps of The World, The U. S. A. & New England, for Middlesex county and have commenced traveling with them. I can just make a living by it if I work hard, but money is so scarce that I earn every cent that I get twice over, and if I can find anything else to do I shall give this business up —

I have written to C. Bay, but have received no answer yet. I think you must have heard from Fred by this time, if so send us the news, will you?

There is not much of interest stirring in Lo. A young man died recently of Hydrophobia but a short distance from where I live; this occurrence has set people at work to kill off the unmuzzled dogs and stray cats in the city, with a vengance. It is no strange sight to see them tucked off for interment by wheelbarrow loads, and it is said that "Sassingers" have fallen in price within a few days — "Straws show which way the wind blows", and I shall not be surprised

to find people barking about the streets, with long ears, by & by; cats tails will be found coiled up in bustles, and female voices will attune themselves in unison with the delicate "yeows" of dead tabby cats and missing kittens —

To die the death of a dog, was once considered a sad affair, but now it is about as honorable as a soldier's — They are shot and carted off with about as much ceremony as some of our Mexican volunteers. ——

You mentioned something about a young miss who refused to send her love to me; this pains and surprises me extremely, for I had thought that no one who knew me would refuse to do that; and all who did not know me were longing to become acquainted with me. Miss S. must be aware that it would be very improper for me to make advances now, as it is yet leap year, and I might be taking business out of her hands, besides taking a leap in the dark. I hope she will think better of it by & by.

There, I have written all that I can think off and you must make the most of it, and answer as soon as convenient My regards to Father, Mother & Sister —

Yours with the trimmings, Ed.

S. F. Hutton.

Salem.

Mass.

Hubon Family Papers

1801 - 1966

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CORRESPONDENCE - Letter from Edward Hubon to his brother Frederick, 1848 November 19