

Salem 9 February 1857

My Dear Sons

Your letter of 5 December was duly received. We were much pleased to hear that you were well. But a week afterwards Mother was told by Mrs Smith that Henry was quite sick so that he could not stand which worried her very much & wished me to write to have you come home as soon as possible. We were in the midst of moving up stairs to let John McKey have our tenement when Mother heard the news of Henry's illness. We have got comfortably established so that mother will get along easier with her work than when she had so much house room. Mother thinks we shall ^{have} plenty of room to get along with she will not have to go up & down stairs so much as when we lived below. We boarded Mr Bartlett 8 weeks, he has gone now in to Griffans as we could not accomodate him, but he is going to sea in a day or two in ship Independence. Capt Choate, to Valparaiso, & home. Our affairs at home has been very pleasant, & my business has increased, so that I have found very good doing all round here. Yesterday Sarah had a letter from Sam in which he states he will sail from Hong-Kong by the first of Jan^y & will probably be at home by the first of May. We have not heard a word from James McKey since they received a letter to John, his brother in Liverpool John having left there, the letter was sent here. We heard from Eliza Ann a few days ago & a letter from Ann. Burnham which is here inclosed. We also heard from Abraham's family & they are all well. They have the best best tenement now they have had since they were married. He has had work all the time. We begin to feel very anxious to have you at home where you can receive that care & attention in case of sickness. We fear you must suffer much when you are unwell. I believe I told you that Mr Harrington's had a letter from Richard, which cheered his mother much. Aaron Hewes died on his passage home two days before the ship arrived in New York. L. W. Southward came in the same ship. Grush's family hear from him now by every mail. We have not heard any thing of late from Eben Haskell.

Today is Sunday & Ellen Upton has just come in to tell us that her mother expects to go to Rochester tomorrow or next day to see her daughter Griswold who lays very sick & wishes to see her before she dies. Abram is to accompany her as far as Albany, which is half way. Our neighbor W^H Keal died about three weeks ago & his brother Nathan W died two months before each ~~and~~ of whom will leave half a million of dollars. I have told I believe before that Gamaliel Hodges died about six weeks ago, & he of course left a large amount of property. There has been a large number of sudden deaths for two months past. Day before yesterday Mr Devereux Dennis died suddenly. Last Sunday W Lee of the custom house notoriously died from the effects of a fall he received the day before. I furnished a mahogany coffin for him, & although it was Sunday there were from ten to twenty after his birth, not to be in his coffin, but to get in the office he held in the custom house. Among the rest of the office seekers E M Dalton stands conspicuous. Our Railroad depot on the north river has a great run of business. There has more ^{been} freight carried up & down this winter than there ever was before. So that next spring when they have better accommodation in buildings & stations it will increase a great deal. Tenaments now are very scarce, so that people who wish to move in the city can not find houses to live in. But as there are many buildings going on which will be finished in the spring, there will be many tenaments added to our present number, so I am in hopes the people will get accommodated. Will Pope was in while Ellen Upton was, but he could not think of anything for me to say to you on his account, he told me he had got run out of stock & that he was not going to write this time, as he wrote by the last mail S P Johnson has failed & his liabilities are 75000 Dollars & has but 15000 to pay with. He has offered his creditors 25 cents on a dollar but they had not concluded to take it the last accounts. Governor Boutwell will Lecture before the Mechanic Lyceum next Thursday evening. Mother attends the lectures, but I do not. Among the deaths I ought to have mentioned

Amos Jones son of Wm Jones in Liberty St. Mr Alden has been very sick & it was thought he would not recover, but he has got out again.

Clark that was with Lebew at San Francisco shipped as carpenter on board a ship bound to Calcutta & will come home by the way of cape of good hope, which is by far the surest way to get home comfortably. Many of the passengers get sick & die at Chagres & many others contract diseases there which break out after their arrival home. I should therefore think it most advisable to come round one of the capes if you can get a chance. We have just returned from a visit to Mrs. Popping's. She has been on a visit to New York & left the old folk there. She tells us to say that Thomas is not in much of a hurry to get married as he is so well accommodated. There is another improvement in Salem which I ought ^{not} to forget to name, that is the new Catholic church in Federal St. It takes a large portion of the people in the upper part of the town so that Sarah & her sister has a better chance to have a good seat. Church going is not so fashionable as it used to be, but the people are no worse than formerly. Religion is supported now partly by fairs to raise the wind. The first Society held a fair on the 25th of December & made upwards of two hundred dollars by it, & the 2^d Society are to hold one next Thursday & Friday to make a little something to help them along. But I do not think much of these fairs, for I think they are demoralising. It is in some measure a species of gambling I should give them my part in money & have nothing to do with it.

We have had a long spell of staying this winter & a good deal of cold weather of course which is very natural. There are several other deaths which I forget to mention. These are the old gentleman Purbeck & his daughter Sarah who has been sick so many years are both gone to their last home. Elisha Odlin the famous grog seller in Derby St has also paid the last debt. Charles Gardner has been in my shop this (Monday) morning went to the post office to see if we had anything from you, but we had none. So I will try to finish this with what I can think of. Frederick, I suppose on your hearing of the death of Mr Purbeck your mind will

be thrown back to the days of your boyhood when you & he used to tend shop together. The young Capt Burbeck has been put in employ by David Moore, Master of the brig Draco to South America. John & Very goes his mate. He has been one voyage & is now on the second. Take things altogether, business has been pretty fair this winter, & not a great deal of suffering. The temperance cause has been the means of alleviating a great deal of suffering. Gambling is carried on to a great extent in our midst in a secret manner, but it leaks out sometimes how it is carried on.

I have heard that many young men in Boston go regularly saturday nights after they were paid off, & leave all their earnings in Gardner's shoe corner of Washington & Norman St. You recollect that Joseph Nitting lost his wife soon after you left home, is now about to get married again. He is courtin' a girl in March St, her name is Parsons, & appears to be a first rate girl. Joseph has three children & stands very much in need of a wife. I think he will get a good one in her. Frederick I have not seen Caroline since I carried her letter over. Our city guards have had an invitation from one of the Boston companies to a ball. They will go tomorrow afternoon, breakfast at the house of the captain & return I know not when. As our city guards are one of our temperance companies, we have no fear of any of them coming home on their heads. There is to be a choice of Register of deeds this spring. Mr French is not to be a candidate, & Ephraim Brown is highly recommended as a proper person to fill the office. I think he is too. So I think I shall vote for him, as he has always treated me with attention whenever I have occasion to have any business at the office.

Boys I have racked my brain to spin out as long a letter as I have. I cannot think now of anything more to say to you at this time, so I must quit for the present, & pray that your health may be preserved & that you may speedily return home to enjoy the sweets of it.

We are Dear Sons your affectionate Parents
(To H. & S. H. Hubon)
Stockton California

Henry & Frances Hubon

Hubon Family Papers

1801 - 1966

MSS.0663

Box: 1 Folder: 4

**CORRESPONDENCE - Letter from
Henry and Frances Hubon to their sons,
Henry G. and Frederick, 1851 February 9**



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