Amesbury, June 27, 1849.

My Dear Son,

I now take my pen for the first time, since you sailed for California to give you the news of the day in this region. I believe A. B. Morse and others have written to you before this. We have heard nothing from you since you sailed, which could be relied on, except that the "Leonore was spoken, seven days out from Rio Geniero, fifty seven days from Boston, bound for California, all well." I heard yesterday that the Edward Everett had arrived at San Francisco, It may be so. I hope you will arrive there well, by the time this letter reaches there, which I suppose will be in about forty days. We feel anxious to see a letter written by your own hand. — I do not plant much. Have not laid out to do much. Mr. Howell works with me. Hoing the second time. Mowed a little about the buildings. Very dry. The crop of hay will fall short unless there is rain soon. Very hot last week. Thermometer at 98°: Some places 106°. The little house on Howard's was burned to the ground 25th Inst. between 8 & 9 P.M. and another house in South hampton 2 P.M. belonging to Wm. Stevens. Your Uncle Benj. raised his house yesterday. It sets partly over the old cellar. Mr Woodman Colby and Mr. Wm Colby died last month. The measles are somewhat prevalent in this region. I suppose the Meeting house is being raised to day, on a spot below, & a little back of Frederic Sargents at the River. The assessments on your stock in the W. A. M. Co. is $50 none of which I have paid for the want of the wherewith, Shares selling for $35. The Factory is in operation, making wheels, turning hubs &c. All well at the Pond hills, Capt Quimbys wife is dead. I have a new horse; gave $75 to boot; he works well yet.

We all want to see you, Hope you will return as soon as convenient. We all enjoy pretty good health. Write as often as you can. We have

been looking for a letter, for a long while. It is reported here that letters in Rio Jeneiro, not port paid, bound to the U.S. are detained. This will cross the Isthmus, yet I shall pay the portage here.
Eldridge M. Morse lives in the shop; and his father in a part of the old house.
We all wish your return home well, with, or without gold. Give my regards to Amos Reed & his friends here, I believe enjoy good health. Keep your habits good, not expose yourselves to rains and damps at night, for on this depends, in a great measure, your health.
June 29/49 It rains to day, very much wanted, And as I think of nothing more worthy of notice I will wind up this communication, by saying that your Mother joins with me, and is anxious to hear from you. Write as often as convenient.

From your affectionate father,

John S Morse.

Ephraim Reed Morse.
San Francisco.
California.
U.S.A.

Wt. Amesbury. Mass. June 29 } Paid. 40

Ephraim W Morse.

San Francisco.

California.

U.S.A.

1850

West-Amesbury June 29th 1849

Dear Brother,

We have been expecting a letter from you this great while but have not recived any yet, I thought we should have had one from you before we wrote, but I suppose you feel as anxious to hear from us as we from you, and I thought I would write you a few lines. — We all should like to see you very much indeed, and we all miss you very much, you ought to be at home to see about our flower garden, I fixed the front garden up myself and made it look real nice, but the weeds have come up again, and I must go out mornings and pull them up, the Rose Peony has had some beautiful blooms on it, has some on it now but not so handsome as the first. I set out 21 Dahlia's in the front garden, some of them are considerable large, the Rose Bug's are very plenty they came very early this year, they have eaten the grapes most all up I felt provoked for it hung full, and they have eaten the leaves on that tall cherry tree, and I suppose the cherry's, for it blossomed full there is not so many now I suppose it is most time for them to go off they were on the running Rose, Father put some ashes on it, and on the Grape Vine, Hannah told us about it, she said she saw it in the paper, that they would all drop off if put on. I cannot find that Snow Ball bush, that Daniel gave you I suppose it must have died I am going to have another. Independent day is next week, I wish you could be at home, they are not going to have any thing at Newburyport the Town would not raise a cent, so they said, I believe there is to be something at the Mills Village. Louisa Phenny is married, She and Daniel send their love to you, and should like to see you very much indeed. Alva is not very well they expect he will have the

Measle's, he wants to see you very much, he says you had all better turn round and come back again, Ella says she wish there was no California, and then she could see Uncle Ephy, Hannah and the rest of the family are all well, and send their love to you, and they all want to see you, Rebecca Davis teaches their school. I saw Mary E. S. Titcomb a short time since, she says she is living in hope and expectation of that dipper full of gold she told you to get her, I am going over there this summer to make her a visit. Jerome Hoyt died last month. — We have a Sewing Circle here for the purpose of furnishing the Meeting House, meet once in two weeks. Mary E Sargent has had the Measle's George did not take them, there is a great many that have had them at the River, I have been expecting to have them, but have not yet.

I hope your health is good, and will continue to be so, you must come home soon you must not stay over a year. I hope Amos is well, we all send our love to him. Mother said she should like to send you some Pie and Cake, do you have any. Philip would have written some in this letter, he was not here, and Father thought it was best to send them both together, he will write some other time, sends his love to you, and says he should like to see you very much.

I must draw my letter to a close as Father is waiting, to carry it over to the Post Office. Mother and myself send our love to you I hope you and Amos will enjoy yourselves. excuse bad writing as I am in a hurry. goodby

From your affectionate sister

T. Maria Morse

Ephraim W. Morse.

San Francisco.

California.

Amesbury Oct. 3rd 1849.

My Dear son,

Your favor dated at San Francisco July 6th being the first since you sailed, came to hand on the 15th ult. as also one to Maria, Elbridge &c. We were all glad to hear of your arrival, safe at California and of your good health. Write as often as you can. Letters were sent to you which I think must have arrived at San Francisco before this time, postage paid. Henry Sweetser has written home to his friends here telling them not to prepay the postage on letters sent to him, if they do, he will not get them. I shall not pay the postage on this. 40 cents will pay it there, though not of so much value as here. In your next, you will state whether you wish the postage prepaid or not. My horse, with which I was well pleased sickened and died last September. I have no horse now. The Meeting house at the River, is being finished. I have paid your subscription. There has been some assesments on shares in the West Ames. Manf. Co. but being short for funds I have paid none. I believe shares in that company have been sold for $30 I do not know what they are now. I would advise you to keep a good look out, and guard against fraud, and also to be cautious what you say in speaking the character of any one, to any body else as it may give offence to their friends here. I have been careful not to make public one clause in your letter thinking it could do no good, yet I should like to hear all the particulars as you progress from time to time. Give my respects to Amos Weed and all others of my acquaintance in that region. All your friends and Amos Weeks I believe enjoy

good health. S. F. Morrill's wife has been sick, but is convalescent & boy and the maid is quite unwell now. There has been some deaths since you sailed, some of them I believe I named in a previous letter to you. Charles Hoyt son of Joh Hoyt and Mr Collier died recently. Mr Sawyer the Baptist minister at the Mills, and Hiram Collins with others sailed for San. Francisco via of the Horne Collins and Sawyer left the vessel in some port in South America and have arrived home; I understand there was some difficulty in the company, I was not treated well, Capt. very arbitrary &c. but this is all hearsay. I do not know the name of the vessel. There is quite a fever for California here, Salisb. Mills and Newbury port; & Mr Grant and Bachelder they say are going from this place. Eben L Higgins says he is going, but I hardly believe it.

Your Uncle Benj. and Ethridge have got their house about ready to move in. John Martin intends to build a house just above Mr Higgins's, Cyrus Sargent is finishing a house near his barn. & Mr Colby has bought and moved into the Stickney house.—

And think of nothing further which may be of interest to you I shall wind up by wishing you a safe return home; Your Mother joins with me: but not by the way of the Horne!

Affectionately yours &c.

John S Morse

Eph. H. Morse
San Francisco.
California

Mt. Auburn. Mass. Oct. 4th 1850 | 80

Ephraim W Morse.

San. Francisco.

California.

Care of the New England and California Trading and Mining Company.

Capt. Greene.

West Amesbury Tuesday October 2d 1849

My Dear Brother,

We received your letters Saturday Sept 15th Alden brought them up at noon, we were very glad to hear from you indeed, and I intended to answer your letter before now, but have not had much leisure time, I thought I would commence one this afternoon, and finish it tomorrow. It rained hard yesterday, pleasant to-day but rather cold, Mother washed yesterday and spread the clothes on the grass, and when she went to take them up this morning they were frozen. I had my Hair cut off saturday it was so thin I thought it would grow thicker. I have been saving Flower Seeds this afternoon, the Dahlia's have not done anything this summer, there has but one bloomed and that has just bloomed, and is in the back garden, Ruth C. Bowl's look beautifully, they bloomed a long time ago, they have the Yellow, Dark Red and Pink. I believe they have not done very well this year anywhere, I do not know why unless it was because it was so dry during the summer. Most of the Peach Trees bloomed, but we did not have a dozen from them, Annette said they were going to wait until you came home, there was one Pear Tree in the front garden had 10 pears on it, I think it was the same that bore last year I have forgotten the name. By the way, you said you had not received any letters from us, Father and I both sent you a letter (done up in the same wrapper together) June 9th I do not know as it was hardly for you to get them when you wrote yours, I hope you have received them before now, it was strange you did not get Elbridge's, he sent his in May.

If you have received our letters you will know that we had a new Horse in the Spring, he died 4 or 5 weeks ago, we do not know what ailed him it seemed more like the consumption than anything else, he fell away so fast, he was a light Red a very pretty horse, we all liked him very much indeed, and felt very sorry to loose him, we had just got acquainted with him, and were not afraid to drive him anywhere. I belong to the Sewing Circle, it met at our house last week on wednesday afternoon, we voted to buy a Sofa and some Chairs and a Table if we have money enough I should like a Carpet but we can do without that present, and we passed a vote that Father should get the things, I believe the Meeting House is nearly finished, the outside is rather pretty, the inside I cannot tell as I have not been in. Wednesday Oct. 3d. Osgood and Jacob were over here Sunday to hear about your letter, they went down to the River to Meeting in the afternoon, Revd Mr Adams preached of Newburyport, he preaches in the Brick Meeting House there, he exchanged with Mr Pinkham our minister) Jacob said he was going to write to you, and I believe Osgood was. Aunt Tukesbury is down here to-day. There has been 2 Steamboats on the River this summer, they were the California and Sarah, I believe they have both been sold to go to California, I have not been in either of them. "Where is the Sailboat" you say, I can hardly tell you but I suppose it is in the Pond, the nearest I have been to it or seen it is from the chamber windows, I have not been down to the Pond this summer. Charles Floyt is not living, he died in september. The Choir are going to meet at Daniel's Saturday evening, to select a piece for Dedication. Mary Elisabeth drinks Tea, she commenced drinking it when she had the Measles, I told her you would laugh at her if you was at home, she says she has not drank any before for 12 years. Eldridge and Uncle Benjamin are moving into their new house

Thursday morning Oct 4th. I should think you done pretty well in not being sea sick any longer than you was, we were very glad to hear that you and Amos had such a pleasant voyage and enjoyed such good health. Your Birth Day is very near at hand. Mother says you must come home Thanksgiving, I wish you could be at home. You say you can make as good flour bread as Hannah I should like some of it, when you return we shall set you to cooking. Ask Amos if he has done up his bosoms yet, I'm thinking, he will not use his Hot Irons much. We all send our respects to Amos. Alva is up here, he has been here over 5 weeks, he says he should like to see you very much, sends his love to you. I am very much obliged for the present you sent me, Ella and are going to see which can keep it the longest. Apples are very scarce here, we shall not have so many as we had last year, I guess you will miss them. I was over to Mary E.S. Titcomb's in the summer and staid 2 weeks, had a beautiful time. Mrs Titcomb wished me to let her know, when we received a letter from you, I have not yet but must soon, Mary is coming over here in the winter to stay. Sarah E Jackson has returned from St Louis, I have not seen her, but Mother has, I believe her health is very good, I should like to see her very much, and shall call when I go down. I have been to Beach twice, Father and Mother went with us the last time, had a very good time, but missed you. You must write often, for we shall want to hear how you are getting along. I intend to write to you often, I believe Daniel is going to write to you and Amos, we are all well. Fanny and I are making an Album Quilt, I send you these 4 pieces of linen they are for the middle of the square's, I want you if you please, to write your name and a Motto on 2 (write them both alike) and Amos write his name and a Motto on the other 2, I will be very much obligied to you both if you will, and

send them home in your letter. I shall send you some papers before long. The Sewing Circle meets at Lydia Ann's next week. But I must draw my letter to a close, all friends send their best respects, Hannah and all the family, Mother and Myself all send our love to you.

Goodby from your affectionate Sister.

S. Maria Morse.

Amesbury July 4th, 1850.

My son,

Your favor of the third of May last, dated at San Diego came to hand on or about the seventh ult. We had been looking for one for a long time. Aud as you said nothing about your health, of course, we presume it was good. We were much pleased to hear from you, and that you had left the mines. The account which you give of the prospects of emigrants to California is generally believed here. Last Saturday I saw Sargent, the Book seller, of Newburyport, who says his brother now in California writes to the same effect. You mentioned nothing about Amos Weed. His friends are always anxious to hear from him. When you write give some account of him if you can.

I should think 8 or 12 letters had been sent to you from this place.— C. Osgood Morse has been looking for one from you;- says he will not write to you till he gets one. The first were directed to San Francisco, next to Benicia, and last to Sacramento City. The first letters, the Postage was paid; but hearing of gross negligence of Post Masters in that quarter and seeing some letters stating that if the postage was paid such letters would fail of their destination, I have since neglected to prepay the postage, being determined that Uncle Sam have no pay unless he delivers the letter, and shall continue to do so unless you wish me to pay it, as I stated in a former letter.

John J Stickney is reported to have arrived at San Francisco the first of June, which was the first news from him since he sailed, I believe.

We have had a backward season. Cold and wet. It is now fine weather

Vegitation looks well. There will be a good crop of hay, hardly fit to cut yet. The second hoeing of corn is not all done yet. I have planted the winter rye piece with corn, and about an acre of potatoes. Mr Rowell continues to work for me, and lives in the old house. Mr. Hayt has moved out.

Amos Weeds friends and we would have felt easier if you had kept together. Unless your prospects are very good, I think you had better return to old Somersbury. — A number who went from this region have got back, and say that they have seen enough of the Elephant, that there is much speculation and humbug in the California business.

Your Uncle Inkersbury is dead, and Eph. Goodwin's wife was buried yesterday.

A new Meeting House has been built at the River; and a number of dwelling houses on new streets laid out, which gives the village quite different appearance.

I exchanged horses since you left, and lost him, and have since bought another.

Philip boards here and works with Eph. Goodwin.

Unless you are sure of making much more than you can here, you had better come home. Be careful who you connect yourself with. You cannot tell much about strangers. They will appear very honest till they can see a chance to shave you and clear. You probably have learned something of that by experience before this. A Mr Rand now in this town has returned from California, says Bart. Dow is in San Francisco. A great rascal. Any one who puts himself under his care having much money is sure to die. Had seen 4 or 5 in his tent dead at once, and he drunk.

We hear some pitiful stories. And some not so bad.

Hannah has been unwell, but is now better . . .

Write as often as you can conveniently. Be careful of your health. If the climate dont suit your health, return before you loose.

Yours truly.

John S Morse.

E. W. Morse.
San Diego.
California.

W. Amesbury Mass. July 4th 40

Ephraim W. Morse

San Diego.

California.

1857

Amesbury Oct. 7, 1850.

My son

It is now harvest time. I am now gathering apples, but they are rather scattering — Mr Rowell and I collect about a dozen bushels per day, of cider apples, rather scarce in this vicinity; Baldwins bear well this year, some of the trees you grafted bear; I shall have more than I had last year, both winter and cider apples, but rather scarce considering the number of trees. Col. Flanders and Bartlett grafted one day last spring. Mr Rowell cut down most of the pines in the orchard over the hill.

Potatoes are a failure. I think I shall not be able to get my seed, they are rotten. — Corn a middling crop. Hay a good crop. Rye and wheat rather light. — Potatoes $1 per bush. Corn 70cts. Flour from $5 to $7 per bbl. - Labor $1 per day.

Philip boards with us. He and Maria started to go down east to-day, will be gone two or three weeks. He works at Eph. Goodwin's. His brother is at home late from California says he touched at Sandiego, and if he had known you had been there would have found you out. He is going to California soon, thinks he shall call at your place.

John J Stickney is in California, and has already sent home a draft of $100 to his wife. — Mr Bradbury has remitted, I understand $900 or $1000 and is at the mines I believe. Some have returned home with little or nothing. — Dott. Josiah Eastman's Brother Joseph who also is a physician has been to California & returned, I think has not done great.

Amos Weed has sent home a number of letters to his friends here

dated at Benicia, says he is making $8 or $10 per day to work on a wharf building at that place, says the same company, (I think Aspinwall & Co of N. York) have engaged to build one at Sandiego, thinks he shall go there and help build that. He enquires of his friends if they know any thing about you, has not heard from you since he saw you at Benicia. He has not yet remitted any money to his father.

I learn that it costs from $400 to $1000 for one person to come from California here.

According to the best information I can get $1000 is worth as much here to live on, as $10000 there, so that a man there with his $10000 is no better off than he would be here with his $1000; but if he can get here with his $10000 it will be better. Unless the prospect is very good I think you had better come home. Be careful who you get in company with; give them no chance to run away with much money at a time; Amos does not much in favor of the officers of the Leonore. Be careful of your health. Live as near as you can as you were bred up.

I think this is the fifth letter, though you do not acknowledge so many, yet I think you must have received some since you wrote. Write as often as you can. Osgood Morse says he won't write to you till he has had one from you.

Your friends here are all well. Mr. Howell lives in the old house yet, and works with me, — he and I does about as much as one hand ought to do.

All the money which you may accumulate over and above what may be necessary for your business, you had better remit home for I suspect there are a plenty of rogues there watching every person who has money. Treat every one civilly, but keep your business to yourself as much as you can. Robers & theives are plenty here. Congress has risen. Now that California is a State, it will be governed by some laws similar to other States, but it will take some time to do away old prejudices. I say again make no enemies if it can possibly be avoided.

As it is late in the evening, and as I think of nothing more worth communicating I will close by subscribing myself your affectionate father.

John S Morse.

N.B. You will receive a paper or two when this arrives.

W. Amesbury, Mass. Oct 9th 1850 40

Ephraim W Morse.

San Diego.

California.

U.S.A.

Received Nov 19th

Amesbury November 21st, 1850.

My son,

Your letter of the 2nd ult. to your Mother was received on the ninth instant which was anxiously looked for, and we were much pleased to hear that your enjoyed good health & that Amos Weed was at Sandiego. — His father and mother were pleased also to hear that he was with, or near you, I hope that both of you will do well. — All is not gold that shines. The Gold and California fever is much abated in this quarter; yet we hear that the Steamers for California are crowded with emigrants. — How long it will be before people will be undeceived it is impossible to tell; Alfred E. Goodwin was at New York when the last Steamer went out and he said the excitement was great; many had found large lumps of Gold and made their fortunes, but none of the knowing ones went; but I have seen no letters of yours holding out great inducements to go to California, Sargent the Bookseller of Newburyport says his brother who is out there writes in the same strain. —

John J. Stilkney is out there and has sent home a draft to his wife of $100; I hope he will do well. I believe I named this in my last letter which you did not acknowledge the receipt of. you may have received it before this time — As I kept no copy it will not be strange if I allude to some of the same topics contained in my last.

Our town Meeting for the choice of State officers was held on the second Tuesday of the present month — The Democrats and Free soil.

united for State reform, neither giving up any national principle. Enough of the votes are in, we think to insure a democratic house, which will insure a Democratic Governor; as there will be no choice by the People. If it should prove to be so, it will be a very great change. The Free Soilers go strong for nullifying the Fugitive Slave Law: and we have had two sermons in our Meeting house at the River, one by a man from Lowell, the other from our minister Mr Pinkham, openly, and boldly encouraging the violation of the Fugitive Slave Law; but I hold that the laws must be sustained untill they can be repealed or altered.

There has lately been a fire at the River, which destroyed three dwelling houses and four barns and shops owned by Wm Chase, Eli Fullington and Wm Haskell & Co all on the south side of the Street, and damaged Patten Sargent's brick house 2 or 3 hundred dollars all insured at 2/3 or 3/4 of the value.

We have not yet settled with the contractor for building the M. House he having not fulfilled the contract, a trial is to be had soon. — The aisles and many of the pews are carpeted and cushioned. I own three pews, rent one for ten per cent, the other two we & Leonard's family occupy — A splendid Chandelier hangs in the center of the house. Now a little about my domestic affairs. Mr Howell is the same old sixpence; works for me about all that he does any where. — We have but just done digging my potatoes, — The potatoe crop is a complete failure. — We could only dig about a bushel a piece per day — One piece of half an acre I thought was not worth digging; but the other day went and dug them and found 1½ bushels — I have only about 4 barrels. My corn back of the barn was pretty good, not quite husked out yet. The winter wry looks well. — Mr Howell gathered the oil nuts at the halves, 4 or 5 bush. Walnuts Andrew gathered, but few. Good crops of hay, barn well filled — have 4 oxen and 4 cows. — Bad luck in horses, which I believe I stated in a former letter — Swapt the old mare for a horse, gave $75 to boot, a very good horse, sickened and died. This last spring gave $105 for another, a good one, but will not go in the cider mill — good carriage horse —

The trees in the garden remains as you left them, they ought to have been taken up & set out, but I have had so much to attend to, was obliged to let them remain as there were, paid Mr Flanders 8 or 9 dollars for setting grafts — Apples not very plenty — made a dozen barrels of cider — had 4 or 5 bbls russets, a few baldwins from grafts which you set &c. — I am now making a trough to go down to the spring — cut a large butt pine over near to Capt. Nichols' containing 2 cords of wood beside the trough. — I dug out the Spring in September, and laid a pipe at the bottom to carry off the water till the dirt settled, and now am about stopping the pipe and let the water rise in the pump or log — For the want of help and strength, I am obliged to let many things go as they are — all that I can do is a few of those which must be done. — Alston Colby has lost his wife, and broke up house keeping, and works out. — Aaron Hoyt lives in his house. — Your uncle Eukesbury, Wm Colby and Woodman Colby are dead. — Cyrus Sargent has built him a new house, married and moved into it — Alden B. Morse has enlarged his house. — Few streets have been laid out at the River & four houses built on one of them.

There has been a good many letters sent to you from this place as well as news papers; I think this makes the 6th or 7th which I have written; if you don't receive them there must be fault some where. To carry the idea that you are of some importance I will add to the superscription some title — I think Uncle Sam ought not to get pay unless he delivers the letters there I have not paid the postage. Write often. My sheet is full; late at night and must wind up. Yours &c.

John S Morse

Mt. Auburn Mo. Nov. 22 40

Ephraim W. Morse Esq.

Sandiego,

California

Recd Jan 4th

West-Amesbury Nov. 17th 1850.

My Dear Brother,

As I had a few liesure moments, I thought I would improve them by commencing a letter to you. Mother received a letter from you Nov. 9th, in which you said your health was good, and I hope it will continue so. We were all very glad to hear that Amos was with you, and was well, and I hope you will keep together as long as you remain in California, and I hope that will not be long. Daniel & George received letters from you in October. I intended to write to you by the Mail that sailed on the 11th, but had just returned from a visit to Portsmouth, Berwick, Portland and Augusta; we were gone nearly a month, we had very pleasant weather, and a very pleasant visit. I spent 4 or 5 days with Uncle Samuel, he was well; I also spent 3 or 4 days with Abby, she was well, all except her eyes, and they were gaining slowly, she has to be very careful of them. Franklin has a very pleasant situation in Augusta, it is a very pleasant place, but not so pleasant as Portland, for P. is a beautiful place, you must come home and go there. It has rained to-day, we have not had any before for 3 weeks, last night it rained quite hard. — — Philip will write to you by the next Mail. We have sent you quite a number of papers and will send you more. write often

Thursday evening Nov. 21st I must finish this letter to-night, to send it over to the Office by Philip, in the morning; Father is writing one to send with it. We are very busy this week preparing for Thanksgiving, it is a week from to-day, (Nov 28th) we would like to have you at home, but I suppose that will be an impossible thing, unless you are on your way home. Mother says she would like to send you some of our Thanksgiving Pies and Cake, and some of those nice Barnard Apples, that you said you should like, if she had any way to send them, but she says you must come home as soon as you can, for she wants to see you very much, and certainly we all do very much indeed; it is a long time since we saw you, in a few short months, (and they will quickly pass away) and then it will be 2 years since you left your native land; we often speak of what you said before you left, that "a year would soon roll away" and it certainly has, as the old saying is "Time and Tide wait for no man". Mother also requested me to say to you, that she did not see you at home when "Peaches and Plums were ripe". Patience was down here the first of the evening, she and her Mother send their love to you. Mr Bowel says he wish you would come, for he would like to see you. There was quite a fire at the River Village about a month ago, (I was in Portsmouth at the time) it burnt 7 buildings, 3 dwelling houses and the rest were barns and shops, it burnt from Mr Patten Sargent's house to Mr William Chase's all down, it damaged Mr P. Sargent's house consider-able, but the others it burnt to the ground, some think it was the work of an incendiary, and others think it was done by carelessness. I must draw my letter to a close, as it getting to be late, Father, Mother, Philip, Dan and Phoebe and all hands myself included, send their love to you. Goodby from your affectionate Sister
We all send our best respects to Amos, ask him if he has used his flute Maria very much

Amesbury Jan. 21st, 1851.

My Dear son,

This morning, being very pleasant for the season, I thought I would write a few lines to you, though there is not much news transpiring at this time.

Congress is now in session, but I do not learn that much legislation is done for the benefit of the country, but to receive petitions, refer them or lay them on the table; among them are many abolition petitions. There seemes yet a majority opposed to agitating the qustion of slavery at present, And I cannot think any good can result from it.

I see by the papers that a reduction of the Postage is talked of in earnest, one or two sections of the bill has passed the House. One that on all letters not over half an ounce to any part of the United States three cents, and for each additional ounce three cents. Books not weighing over thirty ounces deemed mailable matter. No postage on newspapers delivered in the county where published, or within thirty miles. Four times the amount on letters, and three times on printed matter from the Pacific coast. So that if the bill should finally pass, the postage will be greatly reduced between here and San Diego.

The legislature of this state is also in session. By a coalition of the Democrats, and Free-Soilers for effecting some reforms in the state, they have elected a Democratic Governor, Treasurer, &c. and some other officers of the Free Soilers. They have for some days past been engaged in choosing a United States Senator for six years from the fourth of March next, but have not yet been able

to effect a choice, Charls Sumner had the largest number of votes the Free Soil candidate, Robert C Winthrop a whig the next. Many of the Dem. will not vote for Sumner, (he being an old Federalist and a violent abolitionist) they say that the coalition was never intended to extend further than certain reforms within the State. George S. Boutwell is Governor.

We had another trial yesterday for Representative to Congress, but I hardly think there will be any choice this time. James H. Duncan of Haverhill was the highest at the last trial and will be this. He is a whig.

As to domestic affairs, I have not much that is new to write, but what I have ~~before~~ stated in previous letters, but I do not learn that you have received all yet. Perhaps some are at Sacramento, and Benicia. Some of our neighbors have died since you left. Viz. Woodman Colby, Wm Colby, Alston G. Colby's wife, and your uncle Sukesbury. Your friends here that are left are well. Your uncle Amos Weed was not very well last week, but yesterday was pretty well. Hannah rec'd a letter from you by the last Steamer, and I understand Eph. Huntington one. The letter you sent to Maria dated I believe about the second of Nov. was a little short of a month on its passage, they have generally been 40 days. The letter with gold in to Maria has not yet arrived. Things on the farm remain much as when you left. I got some more trees grafted last spring, those in the garden in statu quo. Mr Rowell lives in the old house yet. Mr Hoyt moved out last spring. I don't do much this winter but to take care of the cattle, have not got the oxen shod. The trees in the garden ought to be transplanted. Potatoes rotted. Did not get my seed corn good. Hay good. Not a great crop of apples, but enough for home consumption. Might spare a few bbls. if they could be sent to you. When they get the Rail Road talked of, across the Isthmus, communication will be easier. I understand by the directors of the West Amesbury Manufacturing Company that you took a $100 stock and paid in $50; they want the remainder, but as you left no word with me it stands due to the Comp. I suppose you will be obliged to pay it, although the stock I believe is under par, as I stated to you in a former letter, which perhaps you have not received. Col. Colby says he thinks it may be made to pay good interest. Maria still lives at home. -- I understand Osgood C Morse is married. His Mother is not very well.

Our Meeting House at the River is so far completed that the pews are sold. I have two. Pews sold well. We have not yet settled with builder. He slighted the work so much that the Committee refused to make the last payment. He has sued, but the case is not yet decided. He put in a set of old pews; we have taken them out & put in new ones. Mr Pinkham preaches in the M. H. yet.

Write as often as you can. Give us a description of the inhabitants and country round about. Of its products, time of planting &c &c.

Your mother says if you intend to farm, you had better try some of ours, unless you can raise much larger crops, and of more value by a great deal in California. — Be careful with whom you enter into partnership. There is much deception in the world. Keep your business to yourself. Let no one know that you have much money on hand. We hear of many murders and robberies committed. — Mr Bradbury & 5 or 6 others at the Mills have returned, some poor & sick, say half, Mr Bradbury, Caldwell and Titcomb it is said have $10 000 each, some doubting. Mr B. was very sick on his return, the ship was much crowded, all had to stand up, but the sick, B. set on a box made his will, not expecting to live to arrive home, but is improving. Take care of your health. Keep good company. Be diligent, but not over anxious.

I am your affectionate father,

John S Morse

While writing the last line on the outside, Lidian informs me

E. W. Morse San Diego Cal.

At some places in New Hampshire 27° below — I suppose 27 above is a low as it ever is at your place —

Mr. Thos. Allen, Concord, N.H.
January, 1853

40

Enquire of Mrs. C.
San Diego.
California.

Care Messrs. &c

I send you the Massachusetts Ploughman, which may aid you a little in farming, if it should happen to suit that latitude which it may with a little variation as to time. Your season of planting may have arrived; ours is some months ahead. We have had a few days cold; Mercury at my house 2° below zero. At the River 10° below.

West Amesbury March 12th, 1851.

My son,

I received your favor of the 9th Dec. last, last night. — I had done looking for it, as they generally arrive on the 9th or 24th of the month or near those times. — You acknowledge the receipt of a letter from me, dated the 7th of Oct. last; — of course I conclude that was the last one which you had received. — I sent one to you at San Diego, covering one from Maria on or about the 24th of November, which you ought to have received, also the Massachusetts Ploughman sent the last of Jan. or the first of Feb.; and a letter which you may have received before this. — Philip and Maria have also sent a letter and papers which I presume you have before this time, as it takes but about five weeks to go or come. I have been aware of the misrepresentations in the papers concerning the success of the gold diggers. One in a hundred may do well. We all rejoice to hear that you enjoy good health. Perhaps it is unnecessary for me to remind you to take good care of that; but your all depends upon it. Mr Bradbury has lately arrived home. Says he enjoyed, generally, while at the mines, tolerably good health. Was in the diggings 4 or 5 months south of the Ulea, I do not recollect the name. Came home across the Isthmus; was sick on his way home from Havana. Suffered much, the ship being over crowded with passengers, so much so that the well ones were obliged to stand and the sick to sit on a block or chest. Mr B. is now in good health. Says he shall not go out again at present though he did think some of returning; he says a man who goes out there runs the risk of his life, although he met with no trouble or difficulty on that score. He had a gun but it was not loaded half the time; sold it when he left the mines, in company with a number of Mexicans, and felt himself safe in their company, unarmed. But when he arrived at the Isthmus, the company with whom he purposed to go left him and one more, they hired two or three men to carry their bagage

across the Isthmus; he then bought a pistol, loaded it, put on the cap &c. kept it by him, took it out now and then, careful to let the company see that he was armed; but does not know as it did any good or hurt. Mr B. delivered a lecture on California, a few evenings since in the Meeting house at the River. He says one of their company was expelled before they arrived out, and eleven left immediately after, of course relinquished their stock, and the company soon dissolved, and each one went on his own hook. In the course of his lecture he said our good Captain Smith, I thought ironically. I rather think he was treated rough on board the ship. Priest Sawyer from the Mills who sailed to go round the Horn some time after you, was treated so bad that he left the vessel I think at Valparaiso and returned, says he owes his life to Mr French who took his part. Mr French is of Salisbury who owned the boat in the pond. — Mr Bradbury previous to his return, had sent home to his wife $700 or $800, and it is thought he brought home $2000 or more. — March 13th rather cold, a flight of snow. No sleighing. Rather cold. — 14th This morning Thermometer at 12 above zero. February was generally a pleasant month. Not much sleding since. I intended to have got some wood out of Back River swamp; but there has been but few days that I could get in, and then slippery; cattle not shod; so that I have done but little except cutting wood for the fire, and taking care of the cattle; did think of building a barn this coming season, but concluded not. — I don't feel much like driving a head. — Mr Howell works for me occasionally. Has been chopping at pine hill, for Daniel Weed & Daniel Morrill for a month or more. Stephen Osgood has arrived home from Cal., in passing across the Isthmus hired a man to carry his trunk, and when a little out of sight cleared with the trunk and contents; in it was a letter containing $10. for Mrs. J. J. Stickney. — Last season I had some grafting done, which I believe I mentioned in a former letter; and think of doing some more this spring; but don't feel very anxious. I do not lay out to do a large business in the farming line; May plant some corn; there is not much encouragement to plant Potatoes, not so. —

March 15/51. moderate, this morning thermr. at 30° above zero: no sleding. All well to day, and nothing new; bake beans for dinner to day. 16th & 17th raw cold N.E. wind; to day the 18th, tough N.E. snow storm. — I have just been reading an account of a robbery on board of a steam boat — a messenger with $forty thousand dollars to carry to a considerable distance entered the steam boat and was setting on the sofa alone in the room, a gentleman, to all appearance, came in commenced conversation, and soon enquired the time of day, and while looking at the clock was struck by a slug shot on the head which stunded him; he thinks he was struck more than once; but as soon as he came to himself, screamed murder and people from the other rooms rushed in; but the robber was gone with the carpet bag containing the $40000: a search was immediately made throughout the town; but the robber has escaped detection so far. — Keep a good look out for these wolves, in sheep's clothing. Shew but little money at a time. Lay no temptations. — Let your concerns be best known to yourself. — Mr Howell has cut most all the pines in the orchard over the hill, and burned them up. — My fire wood since last spring has principally been alders, birches, and apple tree brush, and I find it very good wood. — I intend to have a lot cut this spring to burn next summer. — The trees in the garden ought to be moved this season; but don't think it will be done. — David has sold 5 or 6 hundred dollars worth of standing wood, at pine hill, to Eldridge, and John Sanborn. — The late snow has made some sleding in the woods; but is going very fast to day the 21st; It froze some last night. — You said nothing about Amos Weed in your letter. His friends would always like to hear of his health &c when you write; — His and your friends in this region are all well. Our folks all send their respects to you, and also to Amos Weed.

Yours truly,
John J. Morse.

Ephm. W. Morse.
San Diego. California.

West Amesbury Mass March 21 / 40

Ephraim W. Morse.
San Diego.
California.

Recd May 2d

Wt. Amesbury Mt. July 9 } Paid. 6

1851

Ephraim W. Morse.

San Diego.

California.

Recd ~~Aug~~ 17th
(paid) Aug

W. Amesbury, July 8, 1851.

My Dear son,

It is from two to three month since we have received a letter from you, — we should like to hear oftener. Write every mail steamer. Please give some information about Amos Weed always, when you write, for his mother is always anxious to hear from him. There has been but few letters received in this place, from California for a long time. — People in this place are anxious to hear from their friends out there. — Moses Currier, at the River has a son out there. — Jacob Nichols' son has arrived home at the Oaks Village, One was drowned in California with gold dust about him. A number, who went from Newburyport, have returned, I believe not very rich. — Stephen Osgood from the Mills lost his trunk containing all his effects, by an untrusty carrier who ran off with it. When you return keep a good look out for robbers murderers, and black legs. — It is some times sickly at the Istmus, when it is most healthy there I have no means of knowing. — Take the healthy season to return, if you can find when that is. — We hear of much crime committed in California and at the Istmuth. — Be carefull to keep good company, and good care of your health. Your sister Hannah is quite unwell, not able to do much; She was here week before last, and while here her health was somewhat improved; — The rest of your friends here generally enjoy good health.

The new Postage law went into effect the first Inst., so that letters to, and from California will be reduced one half — Col. Bailey says six cents, others say twenty cents to California.

There are quite a number of buildings being erected at the River, and Corner Villages, this season. — B. Franklin Sargent has bought

John Stuart's house at the Corner, has married and moved into it. I do not recollect many changes since my last. John Martin has a house nearly finished a little above Eben Wiggins, on the same side of the street. I plant but little corn or potatoes this year; I saved but about four barrels of potatoes last year, on account of the rot. I am now hoing corn for the last time this season; Mr Howell works most of the time with me; both of us about equal to one good man; Corn is rather low for the season; Some are beginning to hay. I shall not hay much till next week. do not think I shall cut so much as last year though a good year for hay. Fruit will be not very plenty, no peaches on our trees or very few. I had no grafts set this season and have neglected to trim the apple trees last spring having been very busy. The trees in the garden remain as they were. They ought to be transplanted. I have four oxen and three cows, the same as when you left except one cow I sold. We look for your uncle Samuel West here to day or tomorrow.

Two Steam boats now ply between Newbury port and Haverhill — And two or three stages. — Newbury-port has been increased in territory, and has become a city, and Caleb Cushing Mayor of the City.

I believe I stated in a former letter that in the great storm last spring I had about twenty cords of wood blown down. — I may have repeated some things which I have stated in former communications, but they may have no other effect than to bring home to your mind, which it seems you have nearly forgotten.

We should have some grapes; but for the rose bugs which destroy them.

It is now about half past three P. M. and I am going out to finish hilling one piece of corn — The San Diego Herald came to day. - We send with letter papers; - Postage paid on both, letter & papers.

Please write often. We expected a letter from you this time, but are disappointed.

Yours truly, John S Morse.

West-Amesbury July 9th 1851.

My Dear Brother,

Philip received a paper from you last night, we have not had any letters from you for a long time, we expected one this last Mail but were very much disappointed, I hope we shall have one before long. I hope your health is good, and I also hope you will come home soon. They have not heard from Amos for a long time, if you know anything about him please write. I sent you a letter in April and Philip sent some papers; but I cannot write much more as Philip is waiting to carry the letter to the Post Office. I will write you about the $ in a short time. Mother, Hannah and her family, Philip, all hands and myself included send their love to you. Write me soon. Goodly from your affectionate Sister Marica.

West Amesbury Mass. March 20 Paid - 6

No 2

Ephraim W. Morse.

San Diego.

Cal.

Cal. April 28

(Mail box 13)

Amesbury March 15th, 1852

My Dear son,

Ere you receive this you will probably have reached your place of destination, (San Diego) I inclose a letter from Mr Little of St. addressed to you at West Amesbury: I venture to break the seal and read it. — From the letter which he lately received from his brother out there, he thinks as you will see by reading it, that every thing may be all right concerning your property at San Diego. I hope you will find it so. — Take good care of your health. I possible give offence to no one, and live peaceably with all. Be careful to shew, or to have but little money about your person; for there may be wolves about you, who may appear in sheep's clothing. I think if you can find a safe conveyance, you had better remit home, rather than have much about you at any one time.

Lydia Anne received your letter, dated the day before you expected to sail; we have heard nothing from you since. She is at our house most of the time, well and hearty. The rest of us are all well, except

your Mother, who gains very slowly. She is not able to do any thing yet. Keeps about the house. Sometimes up and sometimes down. Not able to rise from her chair without help. Has a good appetite to eat, which is a favorable simptom. Sits at the table at meal times. Is yet subject to considerable pain. Write every opportunity. Let us know how you find things at San Diego. Matters and things here remain much the same, as when you left, Except the weather, which is much milder. Snow mostly gone. Sleeding done. 18th quite a snow storm.— Lydia Ann received a letter from you as you will see by her note inclosed.— 19th Sleded up a few logs from the fries. Snow wasting fast. Very bad travelling here. 19th Your Mother is some what better to day; begun to sew a little.

I repeat again; write often; for we are all anxious to hear how you get along out there. Amos Weed's friends will be also anxious to hear from him; When you can give information concerning him

E. W. Morse.

John S Morse.

San Diego. Cal.

Union Village March 9th, 52

Mr Moore Respected Sir I take the liberty of addressing you a few lines I received a letter from my Brother to day he says in his letter (on the Death of Mr Slack Mr Cotton took an inventory of the Goods and shut up the Store) he said nothing of the whereabouts of Mr Cotton but I hope stronger now that every thing is right as that occurs un bearable stiff his letter was dated 11th Jany the reason why not getting one before was he being out to the Cotton ado two Mos and four days narrowly escaping Death by the Indians I am quite anxious to hear from E. W. I wish you would be so kind as to let me know when you hear from him Remember me to his Wife and Sister and accept the warm wishes of Yours

G. H. Tilton

P.S I shall direct to E. W not knowing your given name G. H. T.

Sent June 15th

you probably found in the desk my note for the full amount which you had against me. I was somewhat surprised at the amount, not but that I had had the sums but that I should be charged with them all & no credit given me for work on the farm. It seems to me that for four years or a part of 4 years my time was worth rather more than my board, it is true I occasionally had a little money of you, but I think not much as I used ~~the~~ school money for expenses.

I have forgotten the amt of the note so I wish you would write me exactly how I stand so that I may form my plans for the future understanding as I shall not probably come home till I have tried to make up my losses or at least pay my debts.

I am obliged to remain here 6 or 8 months before the business can be settled according to law and I have already commenced my form trade, of buying & selling though business is much duller than it was when I left & there is more competition another store having started near my while ours was closed.

Sent per 18 [illegible]

George having expressed his belief that everything was right, from the work of letters taking on inventory I will set you right ~~I will commence at the beginning~~, soon after I left San Diego Mr Clark was taken quite unwell so much so that he scarcely attended to business, allowed people who had not the slightest means of paying to contract debts to the amount of Near $1000 dollars which is a total loss, allowed Cotton the charge of everything without any restrictions whatever when he went to Sonora. Though he was then so sick that he had to be carried on board. Cotton 7 or 8 weeks afterwards closed the store & took an inventory, just when he should have kept it open for then during about 3 months the town was crowded with strangers & as well as I can judge from reports here & what I did see could have cleared $2000.00 at least, but instead of doing that he want pay for taking care of what remains - the house & farm, - the goods, horses, hogs & chickens having ramoved to parts unknown. of the ten cords of wood ~~which brought~~ and it was worth 20 per cord last winter - only 3 are accounted for.

Debts come in which I did not dream of some of which I believe to be fraudulent and one of 200 $ I believe I can prove is. The facts are these We have a bill against Don Santiago Aguella at California in his standing here - to the amount of 200 $ 160 of it being money loaned & the balance it I suppose he brings against us ~~Mr Clark~~ a bill of 212.00, one of the items being for a horse which he ~~sold another man~~ himself bought for 5.00 & which he sold to another man Mr Clark ~~money Bailey~~ with it to do

have a demand against the estate of Pickering
700 dollars admr lives in S.F. pay 75 cts the
dollar debts from atlantic states from his brother
who is to marry the widow looks suspicious

Thomas Sizer

West Amesbury, Mass., July 22 } Paid: 6

1452

Ephraim W. Morse.

San Diego.

California

Recd 1850 4 [illegible]

Paid
S. A. M.

West Amesbury July 19/52.

Dear son,

Your letter of the 15th of June last, mailed 17th, came to hand the 17th of July, just one month, — I am not much disappointed as to the property which you left at San Diego. If possible keep on good terms with all; but have a good look out; Look well to the administrator of Mr Stack. See that every thing both to the collection of debts, and paying out also; but deal gentlemanly with all. In regard to letters which you have seen addressed by Mrs. to Mr. Pickering, you would perhaps do well to secure the originals, or attested copies. I could probably ascertain the character of his (Pickering's) Brother if I knew his christian name, if necessary) — My experience leads me to believe that debts may be brought in against the estate of a deceased person, which is not strictly due, but cannot be got rid of, without spending more than the debt, or demande

In regard to the note which you left, I have to say, that at the time, I supposed you intended I should have a claim, in case any accident should happen to your property in Cal. - I do not find any minutes, and I believe I kept none whatever of any money which you may have had of me till the time you went to California; neither did I keep any account of your labor; The note which you left is for $755. dated Feb 14/52. You need not give yourself any uneasiness about the note, it can be easily settled on your return. You can make out your account for labor, which may be deducted if you please. I care but little what amount. What estate I leave my children will have. I have made no will; I should have probably made one

before this if you had been living at home. — I want somebody to carry on the farm, have some thoughts of letting it out. I do not want to work so hard as I do — It is now haying time — I mow as much as Mr. Rowell, and then milk night and morning: Your mother is not able to milk or do much of any thing. She is yet quite lame — Gains slowly — The rest of us enjoy good health. You say nothing about your health, and of course I conclude it is good. If you think that you could be contented to work on the farm, we should like to have you carry it on. — It is not likely that I shall be able many years to work as I now do, being over 72 years of age.

We have got our hoeing over three times — but some hay — The crop of hay, will be about two thirds as much as last year —

I saw Mr. Bradbury a short time ago. — He thinks he shall go to California in about a month from this — thinks he shall call at San Diego and see you.

Take good care of your health — Keep good company and return as soon as convenient, and for your interest to do so.

Your Mother and all send their love to you, and wish you a good journey home to old Amesbury once more — We think you can make a good living here; but must be diligent on a farm: — Instead of three dollars per day, you must be content with one, and perhaps less.

I am your affectionate father.

John S Morse.

Mt. Auburn, Mass. Nov. 15 Paid 6

1852

Ephraim W. Morse.

San Diego.

California.

Paid 9d. M.

Recd Dec. 4th "

Amesbury Oct. 16th 1852.

My Dear son,

To day is the coldest this season, some snow fell yesterday; there will be a heavy frost this night. — My winter apples are chiefly out, and potatoes not dug. — I have enjoyed health till within a few days. And not able to do much. — Mr Rowell is unwell, not able to do much. — One of the Cider Mill screws has failed. — John Pressey is now here making a new one. — Apples are very plenty. — I shall not pick all mine, they will not pay for picking and making into cider; no sale for it. The mill has been going for a long time, and is engaged till the middle of November. Some make two pressings per day. — There will be cartloads of apples eaten by cattle or lost. — Mr Rowell has been sick about two months, and help is scarce which it very hard for me at my age

17th Ice this morning half an inch thick. — We have had as many peaches this season as we wanted and some pears & grapes. — A middling crop of other produce. — Your Mother is yet quite unwell, not able to do much, though she keeps about the house. — not able to milk, which I have to do. —

30th Ann Chase from Newburyport has been here over a month assists some about the house. —

In regard to the questions in your letter of last June, you doubtless found the answers in a letter addressed to you immediately after the receipt of yours; the note can be easily squared on your return, which I hope may not be long. — We have rec'd no letter from you since last June. — I believe this is the third or fourth I have sent to you — I think you may do well here among your friends.

I wish you would write me soon, whether you intend to return soon and carry on the farm, or not, if not I must make some calculations to hire a hand, or let the place out. — I want some body to go ahead. — I have to be man and boy, and I find I cannot stand it as I used to do; though to day hearty and so much occupied that I cannot get time to write in the day time, therefore am obliged to scribble these lines in the evening.

which may puzzle you to read. Nov. 1/52 most of my apples are gathered — but my corn is not in, and manure not hauled out; cannot get help. — Mr Howell and I don't do so much as I used to do alone — and being sick a week or ten days, has made me behind in my work — I work till dark and then milk in the evening — Your uncle Thomas Morse helps me some, but he is not such help as I should like. — It is very difficult to find a man that will take the right care of every thing on the farm — If I rent out the farm, it will probably run down — I am rather at a loss to know what to do. —

It is town meeting to morrow, to choose Electors for President — Pierce, we think will be the next President, Before you receive this you will probably have heard of the death of Daniel Webster, who died on the 24th ult.

In this School District we have much altercation about building a new school house, Saml. Stevens, Nicholas Sargent Alden B Morse and two or three others were determined to have a new one, but could not get a vote to build one, except by agreeing with the hear-hill folks above me to locate it on your uncle Benjamins land below the brook, and after having a number of illegal meetings and throwing up one tax, and assessing another of $400, my proportion of which was over $40; succeeded in locating it on the land above named, where it is now being built — Some still refuse to pay their taxes, relying on the illegality of the proceedings. —

Ethridge M Morse Zacheus P Thurlo, and David M Fukesbury are the building committee. —

There will probably be a rather tax of $400 before it is completed so that my taxes for the house will be over $1.80 — Moses Sargent jr and David M Fukesbury will build one quarter of the house. —

Write as often as you can, let us know your intentions about returning. — We hear from you now and then by the way of Lydia Ann. — all send their respects to you

Yours truly John S Morse

E. W. Morse
San Diego Cal.

Mt. Amesbury Mass. Dec 17th Paid. 6

1852

Ephraim W. Morse. Esq.

San Diego.

California.

Recd Jan 26
1853

Paid
Jan 13
SSM

Amesbury Dec. 16th, 1852.

My Dear son,

Your letter mailed at San Diego on the 18th ult. arrived here on the 14th inst. 26 days from San Diego, which was quite acceptable. You may think, perhaps, that I might write much oftener than I do, but I cannot get time to do my own writing in the day time; I do not like to write much in the evening by lamp light, although at the request of your Mother I am now trying to write this letter by a light made from poor oil; cannot find any good oil.
This I believe will make the fourth or fifth letter which I have sent to you; although some considerable time has elapsed since the last, and as I have kept no copy, I may repeat some things which you have already been advised.
There seems to be nothing at this time very new or interesting; the Elections being all over: last monday being the day to fill all vacancies in this state for Representatives to Congress by a plurality vote. Mr Upham, whig is elected in this District by a few votes. Almost all the towns gave a plurality for Hood, Democrat, except Salem. —
Jonathan Nason, Democrat, is elected representative to the General Court from this town. — —
We have had very pleasant weather for this climate, this fall, till within a few days, which has given me good time to get my work over with others; but I have some more

wood to get up yet which may be done by sleighing.
It is now much colder, 12° or 14° above zero; ground frozen, and some snow on the ground, but no sleighing: this evening looks like more snow; four inches more wo'all make sleighing good. David, Ethridge, Daniel, and all your friends here are as well as usual, except Maria who is not very well to day, but generally enjoys good health. ——
People did not finish making cider here till December; there being over three hundred barrels made at my mill this season, although Capt Moses Sargent has a mill near the factory, where he has erected a house, and made considerable cider for people at his mill.
Robert Bagley has built a house up on the Merrill place. Giles Sargent has erected a house where the Lancaster homestead John Hoag has built one on his place; and a number has been erected at or near the Corner, and at the River; and a new School House has been built in this District, on land of your Uncle Benjamin's, just below my brook, with patent seats. The school will probably be kept in it next week. But the inhabitants at the lower corner are much dissatisfied with the location; threaten to have it sold and build another on the plain ——
Take care of your health which you say is good now, and be careful not to lay any temptations before people by shewing or letting them know that you have money on hand, or of your intention of returning, perhaps the least said about it the better.
It is thought by some, as Mr Slack was taken sick immediately after you left, that foul play might have been used to get him out of the way. — I suspect there are desperate characters in California, will take life for a small amount of money. — If you have much perhaps it will be best to remit, before you leave; But of that you can judge best. —
We always look for a letter to some of us on the arrival of every Steamer, always pleased to hear from you. Write often.
It is now about nine o'clock in the evening, and as I have about run out for materials, must draw to a close by bidding you good night, the clock now striking. —

John S Morse.

Mr Amesbury Mass. Feby 3 Paid . 6

1853

Ephraim E. Morse. Esq.

Rich Marks San Diego.

California

Paid
S.D. Mo.
Feb 3

Dark Foggy Morning & no Snow

Amesbury Feb. 3, 1853.

My Dear son,

Having received a paper from you, by the last steamer, also one for Mr. Rowell, has put me in mind to write you although I have nothing new that will be very interesting, yet for the sake of keeping up a living correspondence, and to induce you to write to some of us, often, as we like to hear of your welfare at California, and how things go out there, is one reason why I now write, being now much engaged.

Mr Rowell has not yet recovered the use of his hands and arms but I think is improving in health. He is not able, or at least he does but little, I have been trying all winter to get him to cut some pines and alders down in the pasture, but he has cut none yet, thinks he shall cut some soon. His family is as well as usual; and your friends generally enjoy good health, your mother is some better, gains slowly, keeps at work about the house, &c. Your uncle Samuel Weed at Portland slipt down this winter and broke his thigh.

There is no snow of any consequence here. I have not had my sleigh out yet. There has been more snow South of us, good sleighing in Boston for a week or two past. It is quite pleasant here, Thermometer at fever heat, and rains this morning.

I saw David M Eckesburg yesterday, he thought he should write you by this steamer, by the way he is appointed a Justice of the Peace. He thinks it might be well for you to put in for the Post Office or Collector of Sandiego; thinks there will be a change generally, that you can resign at any time when you wish to come home, that you might finish settling up your affairs as well, supposing the emoluments worth looking after; perhaps you might get some help here if you should try for it. If you could get Mr Webster in your favor and a few prominent men would be all that would be necessary.

We should like to have you come home as soon as you can think you can be contente here, and your affairs finished at San Diego.

Annette Sawyer is here and sends her respects to you, as also, do all the rest of the family. Hannah was here last week but not very well, for the most part of the time keeps about the House.

We have a Whig administration in Mass. this year, it is expected they will undo all that was done in the way of reform for the last two years.

Philip is waiting to take this to the Post Office and I must wind up, I think of nothing more about the farm which that is worth communicating.

Lydia Ann, and Mr Grey's folks are well.

If you should think of making application for an office, write by next mail if you wish for any assistance from this quarter.

In haste From your affectionate father

John S Moore

E. S. Moore
San Diego
California

Wm Amesbury Mass. Aug 16 / Paid.

1853

Ephraim W. Morse. Esq.

San Diego.

California

Paid
U.S. 111.
Aug

West Amesbury Aug. 16, 1853.

My Dear sons,

I received yours of July 1/53 in about one month. in which you think you will not come home for one or two years. — I was in hopes that you would return much sooner. Your friends here enjoy good health, generally. — Your aunt Daniel Weed has been sick, but is better. — Abigail Weed who Married a Mr Wells of Portland is dead. — I have done haying, got all in before this wet weather which commenced about the 25th July — Middling crop of hay — Corn looks well — Apples will be scarce —

Lydia Ann I believe has determined to go out to California about the 5th Sept. — As to the Money which you request me to let her have, I must borrow, which I do not like to do, but I may do it. — Take care of your health. — Take heed who you connect yourself with in business. but more next time. I must close or shall be too late for this Mail. —

Yours very truly.

John S Morse

A. D. Moore
April 1854

Amesbury April 17, 1854.

My Dear son,

My apology for not writing oftener may be the multiplicity of business, cares, and incidents relative to farming, which engross my attention; and perhaps partly owing to negligence; there being but little news stirring which would be interesting to you; all things seem to remain as they were, excepting the changing of residences, &c. Mr Goodwin late of the Rocks Village has moved into a part of Alston G. Colby's house, Hiram Colby into the Stickney house, Albert & Edward into John P Sargent's house opposite Giles Sargent's, a man who works in the West Factory is to move into Col. Colby's new house, Judith Colby goes to the River, and Mr Rogers has moved from the old Colby house to Methuen & John Morse is married and lives in his fathers house; the two Irish families living in Mrs. Johnson's house are to move into the Stickney house — Also a number of deaths have occured this spring in this vicinity to wit: Dea Thomas Morse of West Newbury, Judith Chase, Eben P. Page and the second child of Alden B Morse of Amesbury; and the widow Weed at the Button Wood died on the day that she was ninety nine years old: So that you will see the living are continually changing, that if you do not return soon, you will be a stranger to the people in this region, and they strangers to you. — Hiram Colby has moved into Stickney house. We have no regular Minister at the River since Mr Silton left. They have none at the Universalist. — Mr Paine has asked to be dismissed at the Orthodox also.

As to farming, it now looks discouraging, wind Easterly, cold, and snowing fast, ~~the~~ snow which fell last week three inches deep is not all gone yet. Mr. Howell for some time back has been cutting up the small pines on the hill east of the orchard. They make much more wood than I was aware of. He will make good wages. I think I shall cut

nearly all the pines on the high land east of the wall by the orchard it being good feeding land, and will be much easier finding the cattle when they are wanting. I may leave an acre or two of the thickest of them near that clump of pines North of the orchard, also in the Bussey lot although it is good pasture land; but all Southwest of the wall, over the hill I shall let grow, especially the young wood — some of the old trees ought to be cut in order to let the young ones grow — They are wanting for boards and timber to repair the old barn, or to build a new one — If I do not build, the old one must be repaired soon — ought to be this season But I do not feel much like undertaking to do either, I cannot do the work that I once could — as for hiring the work all done, it will cost more money than I have to spare — I must hire the work done on the farm, or a great part of it. I shall do but little farming this year — The winter rye piece I shall plant with corn, and a small piece of potatoes, sow some oats, and perhaps a little summer rye. — The encouragement for raising potatoes is small a great part of mine rotted last year, — The quality of the sound ones was good, and mostly eaten up. I dont know as I can get any to plant. — The price is from ninety to one hundred cents per bushel. — Flour $9 to $10 — Ind. corn $1.25 bush, Rye $1.25 bu, Hay $18 ton Rye straw $10 Ton — Stock high — Six feet and half oxen $125. — Cows from $25 to $50. — good horses from $150 to $200 and some higher, but I have none of these articles to sell, therefore am not much benefited by the high prices — I have been for a few days past cutting aldars for summer wood, and shall cut a few white birches which make the best of fire wood if sawed and split for the fire in the winter or spring. — Last Spring I cut a lot in the plain meadow up next to David's, which lasted almost through the winter; being put into the wood house in the fall. — I have cut no pine wood yet, but must cut two or three cord between this and hoing if, help can be obtained.

I could employ one or two hands trimming appletrees one or two weeks, and two more grafting but shall probably let it pass as I did last year. — The trees in the garden ought to be transplanted this spring, but have no body to do it, and no convenient place to set them — I have thought for a year or two that I would move the wall back of the house and take in to the garden an acre of the horse pasture and set some of the trees there — The plum trees begin to fail, and some of the peach-trees have gone, and others going back.

Now One on the clock I have just been down to the barn to turn out the cattle to water and clean them out, the storm is so severe that I could hardly keep them out of the barn long enough to drink. A very cold snow storm 5 O'clock P. M. wind North East.

I think Mr. Gray's folks are all well, and your aunt Sukesbury David M. Sukesbury's family, Daniel and Phoomy also — Mr. Osgood Morse lives at Newburyport, reading law at Mr Stone's, his Mother is there a part of the time. —

Daniel O Weed has proved his Mothers Will and taken out letters of administration, has had the real estate appraised — Daniel E Morrill refused to shew any of the Personal estate, therefore none yet appraised — Morrill says he has a bill of sale of the personal estate but refuses to shew the original bill, says a copy may be had at the Town Clerk's office — Morrill has a deed of all the Real estate except a part of a pew in the Universalist Meeting house — The consideration of the deed is for her future Maintenance — She lived about three weeks after signing the deed. It seems hard that D. O. Weed having lived with and taken care, and maintained his Mother all his life time and get nothing for it — and D. E. Morrill have the whole for supporting her three weeks. It is supposed the deed is good for nothing against creditors — D. O.

will present to the Judge a bill for supporting his mother for some five or six years past, and probably will get reasonable pay although Morrill may object to its allowance — Weed has the sympathy of all the neighbors. — Morrill by way of excuse says that he did not interfere untill he saw that his Mother suffered. Some strangers may believe it — but those most acquainted tell a very different story. — Morrill and Weed, notwithstanding they have been such good friends now corrispond by mediators. — The estate probably will not be settled much short of a year from this time — Now eight o'clock in the evening, I suppose the sun is more than one hour high in San Diego, and warm and pleasant, but here the snow continues to fall — looks likely to be a stormy night. Philip has just arrived from his work.

You said in your letter of the 17 February last, which was Mailed March first and came to hand on the first day of April last that Lydia Ann was well and contented; but said nothing about your own health, — of cours I suppose it to be good. Ella has been here two weeks and don't want to go home yet. — Andrew is quite unwell: all the rest of your friends here, I believe enjoy good health, — By the way Ellbridge M Morse is one of the Selectmen of Amesbury this year. — Your Mother and all send their respects to you, and hope that you will want to see old Amesbury soon.

A son of Peter Lurrier of Hallowell Me. has lately returned from the Mines in Cal. with about $30 000, having sent it at sundry times to his brother in Lynn. — A son of John Huntington has returned, came near being drowned, swam ashore, his money being about him — 20 or 30 drowned, money and all went to the bottom — I think if you have money to send home you had better send it at different times.

As my sheet is full I will with sincere regards subscribe myself your affectionate father John S Morse.

18th April Morning 7 A.M. the storm is somewhat abated, ground all covered with snow. This goes to the S.C. this morning by Philip

J. S. Moore
July 2nd 1855

West Amesbury, July 2nd, 1855.

My Dear son,

Your letter commenced Jan. 12th '55. & finished the 18th of March, '55, came to hand about the last of April 1855, and have not heard much about you since, except, now & then a paper and from Mr Gray. — I have sent one or two letters to you previous to receiving yours, which I presume you have not received, as you make no mention of them, (you may have received them since) Although two months have elapsed since receiving yours, I have had but just time to write my own business letters; — It has so happened that I have been much hurried in my own business, and other. — As to farming I have calculated to do but little — labor is high, and I have nobody but Mr. Rowell, and he not much better than I am, and I can do but little, I have not been able to do much for two weeks past, for three or four days past it has been very warm, thermometer indicating 90° to 100°. Too hot for me to work out of doors. Plant about three acres, corn, potatoes, beans, all told. Last year my corn was cut off by the drought. I shall have to buy. Rye gone — My rye or the old winter rye lot promises well. I have agreed with John Martin to reap it for the seed, (3 bush.) Rye is from $1.50 to $2.00 per bush. Ind. corn from $1.00 to $1.25 — Flour from $11.00 to $13.00 per bbl. — Potatoes $1.00 per bush., butter $0.25 per lb. and other produce in proportion — but my dish is bottom up, none of these articles to sell, and being obliged to hire my work done on the farm I shall probably go astern this year. — Your Mother is not able

to do much, but keeps about the house, always busy here and there — Sends her love to you and Lydia Ann, says you better come home, that you can live well enough here, in this good old town of Amesbury. I have but little news to tell you, all things remain as they were, except a few changes in taxation. Daniel O Weed lives in your aunt Sukesbury's house, works part of his time at shoe making — sold the Sixbury house over the pond, & salt marsh in Salisbury & standing grass on his farm on pond hills — intends to build a house on his farm next year. — I passed by David J.'s house the other day, and saw evidently, signs of a decent fence being built near the road by his house. — Your uncle Benj. has been quite unwell this last spring, had a number of fainting spells, is some better, not able to do much. — Alden's boy swallowed a cent the other day, — long time going down, but now is some what better ~~now~~ — Philip and Maria lives here yet. — Your niece Annett Sawyer is married to one Joshua Grant. — I believe all well at Mr Gray's. — General time of health in this vicinity. —

It is expected the commissioners will be on to lay out a new road round Bear Hill, from Back River to intersect the Bear hill road by Capt. Shurtlo's; the petition contemplates also one from Johnson's corner to the River but we think we shall loose that.

Last night the bell rang for fire; it proved to be Jacob S. Fellington's old house, burned down flat.

In regard to the money which you want me to advance I am sorry to say I cannot do it without disposing of some profitable stock which I do not like to do. — The money which I have let you and Lydia have has kept me short, I have been obliged to hire $500. this spring. I think on the whole you had better wind up your business as soon as you can and return home and carry on the farm — you can do as well as other young men about here.

From your affectionate father, John S. Morse.

Maria also sends her love to you & Lydia

J. D. Morse
Jan. 4th 1856

West Amesbury Jan. 4th, 1856.

My son Ephraim,

Your letter of the 19th of October last, was received on the 3rd inst. with a paper to me and one to David. You say it is a great while since you have heard from us — I sent one to you this last fall — Maria has also sent one letter and some papers, and how many more I know not, but you do not acknowledge the receipt of any. If you have received all we have forwarded to you, you will not get much news from this. We get once in a while a paper from you, but I should think not so many as you say you send. We have had a very mild fall, December quite mild till last week when we had snow for the first time, and plenty for sleding — about one foot on a level, and to quite cold — wind blowing hard from the North West — snow flying briskly — not a very good path here though. Isaac Williams has just called for, and taken the winnowing Mill, for Joseph Hayes at the Corner, to winnow some barley. I have last recently finished threshing my oats; they grew opposite the Old house on the other side of the meadow, next the Rogers land, middling crop. — I planted but about 1½ acre of corn near the barn and garden; and three quaters of an acre of potatoes — fair crop of each — potatoes not diseased — Not a great crop of hay — barn not so full as it has been some years — but I didn't summer over so so much as the year before. I had a decent crop of winter rye on the old winter rye lot behind the barn — raised about

one and a half bushels of white beans, and as many colored — made twenty bbls. of cider — perhaps as many barrels of apples of all kinds saved — I gave my sweet apples to the cattle. Winter rye straw sold for $10 per ton — There was about $200 bbls of cider made at the cider mill this last fall. — Mr Howell lives in the old house as usual — does but little except what he does for me. I let him one of my cows last season. Sarah Ann did the Milking. I have two old hogs — intend to kill them as soon as the weather is mild enough. Now 4 on the clock P.M. snow flying briskly — shan't kill the hogs until it is warmer. I have 4 oxen, and three cows & horse which constitutes my live stock at the barn, except 25 hens and chickens. — Killed 3 to day — sell none — have bought but little fresh meat since thanksgiving — eat chickens &c &c. By the way Leonard's family were here at thanksgiving. — I presume you have heard before this, that Annett is married and has one child, so that you have become a Great Uncle to quite a pretty male child. Philip boards here yet and works at the River.

Leonard Sawyer is getting a Patent for an axel tree arm. It is thought may be worth something — the wheel is fastened on by a screw on the inside — much easier taking the wheel off and on. Mrs Gray has been sick but I believe has recovered. Mr Gray is cutting & hauling wood, timber &c, does making shoes —

My old sled is worn out so that I have none, with which to break paths — must get one made before I can sled any. We do not hear any thing from Amos Weed — wonder where he is, or what he is doing. — All your friends here enjoy good health. Daniel C. Weed is building a house at the Pond hills on his land opposite your aunt Thomas Weeds — cellar dug and stoned — intends to put it up in the spring. — Now at sunset wind and snow still whistling by promiscuously, and cold.

Saturday Jan. 5th quite cold Thermometer at two above Zero at Sunrise — 10 A.M. snow falls, light as feathers — now going down to the barn to water my cattle — I have this fall put in a new tube in my spring — works well yet. Sunday 6th last night tough nothcast snow storm; much drifted. 3 P.M fair and cold, wind Northwest, snow flies. Monday 7th out breaking paths. Tuesday the 8th I went up to Mr Hayes to get him to make a sled — agreed to come to day the 9th — but this morning it was so cold, I did not go up after him, the Mercury indicating 8° below Zero. — Betty Farmer died either Sunday or Monday morning, it is supposed that she has left a large estate — made a will the day before she died and gave her property to her second cousins. — Money is said to be rather tight in this region — some failures; viz John Lewis, Geo. Kendrick, and rumor says that Capt. Benj. Atkinson was hard pushed, but his friends say that he has not failed. — Mr. Oak, who traded where Stephen Patten used to, has sold out to Stephen Bancroft and Mr Downing, who are now trading there, and it is said they sell as much, and as cheap as either of the other stores, or rather, I should have said cheaper. — Stephen Bancroft formerly traded with Simeon Howell near the Depot in Newton N.H. — Elbridge M Morse & John Sanborn are in the wood business buying and selling — David carries on about as usual. — Aaron Sawyer lives at Lowell — doing I think as well as he ever was. — Hannah, and two children, Ella, & Frances, were here yesterday; Phoeny also and Daniel in the evening. — J. Andrew J Sawyer is very recently married, and boards with Annett; he works in his father's Shop in company with a young man by the name of Howell. — but I think he would have done better to hired out a spell longer at 20 cents per hour; though it is said he is the best workman in the place — has been offered $900 for a job which he asked $1000; had not agreed yet.

It is now time for me to tie up my cattle, therefore must quit writing for this day — may write some more perhaps as the Mail does not go till the 20th, and I should not wonder if I should be guilty of some repetition by having so many jobs at it. —— Thursday 10th 4° below zero — Friday 11th 16° above zero in the morning, Mr Hoyt is here to day making sled, quite cold & windy, snow flies considerable — It is supposed by some that Betty Farmer has left from $50 000 to 100.000 to her second cousins, about 50 in number Lydia Ann's Mother is one of the fortunate ones — Sunday 13th fresh snow storm, drifted much, much more than I have known it since I built my house — Monday 14th — out breaking paths — snow very deep and stiff — All day breaking from David's to the lower corner drifted down my lane very much. Wednesday 16th more pleasant & roads passable — Thursday 17th pleasant — killed my hogs Newell, John Morse & Philip helped — I send you two papers with this; and as my stock of news is about all used up, I must wind up for this time — hoping this will arrive in due time and find you all well. — Give, Marie's, Philip's, your Mother's and my respects to Lydia Ann. — We have looked for you home this fall. We should all like to see you. —

John E. Morse.

E. W. Morse,
San Diego,
California.

(West) Amesbury Dec. 15th 1856

My Dear son,

I have neither written to, nor heard from you for a long time. We did look for you home before cold weather; but as that has set in in good earnest, we have all given up the idea of your returning till warm weather. We have had quite cold weather for two or three weeks past; about two weeks good sleighing; now, snow about all gone; frost nearly out. 16th Cold, ground frozen. 17th Windy and cold. Went out to take down a part of the old shed, which is much dilapidated, but soon returned not accomplishing much. — I do but little, except to take care of my stock, which consists of four oxen, three cows, one heifer, and one horse at the barn. My wood is in the wood house dry — I intend cutting some green wood to burn with it in the coldest weather.

Mr. Rowell lives in the old house yet, all in their usual health. — What labor he does is chiefly for me — helps me generally when I want, and that is but little in the winter, and slow at that. I think some of hiring a hand next summer; but do not think that I can raise enough more to pay the hand — but must either hire or do less on the farm unless you come home and take charge yourself, which may be as well for you, unless you are doing very well where you are.

Generally things remain as when you were here — but little doing which is either new or interesting. — David has fitted

P.S. Daniel O. Heal has moved into his new house about a month — You are leaving thus from Thomas Heal. — Write often — Don't wait for me — We should like to hear from you every month till you arrive safe home. —

up the old Plumer house, and a man and family moved into it and works for David.

A new road has been laid out and worked round Bear Hill commencing near Bak River passing through land of R. Bagley, Sanborn & Morse, Jona. Sargent, G. H. Sargent and L. P. Thurlo, entering Bear Hill road between Sargent and Thurlo's, avoiding the hill and saving one eighth of a mile distance, and a beautiful road it is too; also the Commissioners have widened and straightened the corners opposite your uncle Benj's and my brook, making quite an alteration in the appearance of Bear Hill road, and making it easer for Newton teames to go to the Corner.

John Morse lives with his father and is quite unwell, so much so as to have the doctor. — J. Andrew J. Sawyer is married & has one child and moved to (West) Lynn. Mass. Annette Sawyer is married to Joshua Grant, and has also one child, a fine boy. So you see you are now a great Uncle.

Giles Sargent has built a new house and barn where the old Lockeston house stood, and a Mr. Hewett has built a house between there and Hunts.

Philip and S. Maria lives here yet, he has bought W. H. Haskell's house at the River. Haskell has bought Albert Sargent's house at the Corner; at which place there has been a number of bad failures the past season, Henry Hayes, John Elliott, the Adamses, &c.

Your Mother, and all, send their best regards to you and Lydia Ann, hoping that we shall see you both here next summer, with the Boy. — Politics ran high here in the last Presidential election, Mass. went for Fremont — but Buchanan has got it, and I am glad of it.

With much esteem I am your affectionate father

John S. Morse

Dec 15th 1856

West Amesbury, Jan 17th, 1857.

My Dear son,

We received on the evening of the 14th Inst. from you, the painful intelligence, that Lydia Ann was no more. We all sympathize with you, in your irreparable loss, which is all that we can do to aswage or relieve your troubles. We all, in our imaginations, had anticipated much pleasure in seeing you with your wife and little son in the course of next summer, but it was not so to be, and it is our duty to calmly submit to the overruling providence of God, who does all things right; but when one looses a near and dear friend it is impossible not to feel sad at the loss; but immoderate grief is wrong, it is injurious to both body and mind. Such affliction will weare off in time, and it is well that it is so, otherwise we should be unfit for any kind of business. It will be poor consolation to you to tell you that the lot of others are as afflictive as yours. Elbridge M Moses's wife has lately lost two sisters, Seth Currier's wife died in Salem not long since, and soon after her husband, who was intemperate, committed suicide — the wife of John Bartlett also living in Newburyport, died very sudden but a few days ago — Moses G. Clement lost his wife not long since leaving one child, and Lawrence Welch a catholic living at the Rivers Village in this town lost his wife last night; so you see you are not alone in these sad afflictions, but that you will say, and justly too is no comfort for ~~you~~ me.

Your friends all enjoy good health. — Philip and Maria lives

with us yet. I believe they intend to go to keeping house in the Spring. He has bought Haskell's house at the River Village. — 18 Sunday Morning very cold 11° below zero at my house — over at the corner 14° below. — Down at the River in some places 20. — I see by the papers at the West, the mercury ranged from 18 to 40 below. — Monday 19th a cold snow storm wind blowing a gale from the N. E. — Tuesday 20 wind N. W. snow flying tremendously, much drifted. Wednesday 21st more moderate — people breaking paths — to day the 22 snow storm wind N. W. snow flies briskly. ~~Thurs~~. 23rd 17 below — Sat 24th 16° — Newton depot 40 below. I intended to have sent this by the last Mail, but was too late; shall endeavor to send it by the next; and in the mean time may give you some record of the times in this vicinity. ——

Mr Howell still lives in the old house; does but little except what he does for me — ties up my cattle if I happen to be absent I do but little except to take care of my cattle — one horse, four oxen, three cows, and a heifer. ——

Philip and Maria has written to you by the last Mail, which you will probably receive two week before this. — By the way, I sent a letter to you five or six weeks ago, the receipt of which you did not acknowledge, I presume it was not received. I have received papers from you at sundry times, but they are a great while on the passage. We are pleased to hear from you often. Write frequently. I think, unless you are doing exceeding well out there you had better make up your mind to settle up your business, and return to old Amesbury next spring, and see to carrying on the farm; if it is well carried on we can all live as independant as any where else, and be among our friends and relations. You may have friends out there, but if you should be sick, you would be likely to have more sympathy from your friends here, than there.

I am advised that on the 23rd & 24th Inst. at the lower corner, upper corner, and at the River Village the mercury ranged from 20° to 36° below zero, the coldest weather that I have known hear for many years. — This morning Sunday 25th more moderate 2 degrees above zero; cattle in the barn not quite so frosty — Hay and wood goes away quite fast. — I have in the wood house a plenty of pine wood, but not much hard — I now and then, when it is not too cold, cut a tree of hard and haul up to burn with the pine. ——

Moses Sargent at the lower corner who is about 49 years of age was married on the 30th ult. to Persis Crane a girl just 20 years of age that very day.

I think I told you in my last letter that Daniel O. Weed had built a house at the Pond Hills and moved into it, — a very pretty house.

Do you hear any thing about Amos Weed — what is he about and how is he doing. — Any thing about John Stickney. I have lately, confidentially, and it may as well be kept so, heard that he (Amos) had sent home for money; his father is not able to send money out there; and if he should ask my advice, I could not consientiously advise him to do so. It seems Amos is concerned in turning a stream of water some where in the vicinity of the mines; — it may be profitable — but there are so many Sharks in the world, that a man must look well to his own interest, and twice before he leaps; slow and sure is generally the best way to accumulate a competency of this

world's goods. I am not without some fears that Amos may be beating the bush for another to catch the bird —
Jan. 30th quite pleasant, decent sleighing, I went to Newburyport.
Saturday 31st snow storm, in the evening rain. — Sunday Feb. 1st fair weather — went to meeting — Steamer I understand is in, but now letters from you. Understand Col. Colby received one from J. J. Stickney.
To day Monday morning, rather colder Thermometer indicating 20° above zero.
The Mail goes out the 5th; and as I think of nothing more that may be new, or interesting to you, I shall wind up by repeating once more our sympathy and regard for you, hoping that you may settle up your affairs in that far off land, and return next spring to old Amesbury to live with your friends and relations.
Your Mother, you are well aware, is anxious for your return. — And I think you may do as well here.
Your Mother joins with me in this communication.

I am with sincere regards your
affectionate father —

John S. Morse.

P.S. Mo
Jan 19 ⊕

Published in Lett & Philip March 29 ⊕

S. Morse
Mich 3d
Order ~~[illegible]~~ of
May 23 d

West Amesbury. Mass. Feb. 18th, 1857.

My Son,

As I have written to you so lately, Feb 3rd Inst. I have but little news to tell you. Mr. Gray informed me that he had received a line from you, saying among other things that you enjoyed good health which I was glad to hear. The letter appears to have been about six weeks on the way; it ought to come in four weeks. My letter ought to be at your place by the 4th of March.

Your friends here, are all well now. There has been a number of deaths in this vicinity lately. Col. Stephen Bayley the Post Master; George Little; the youngest child, a girl of Alden B. Morse; and two or three others are dead.

It is now quite warm, snow nearly all gone, frost out in some places, very bad traveling. 20th a little cooler some snow fell last night.

On the second of March will be our annual town meeting, not much excitement about politics now — the Freemont folks are quite still. — It is said that Mr. Gray, last fall, voted for Freemont, with his boys, which I was sorry to hear.

Philip and Maria are here with us yet; and Mr Rowell in the Old house as usual.

I have not concluded yet, whether to hire a hand this season or not. I think you had better settle up your affairs out there and come home early in the spring, and take care of the farm. I do not feel like working very hard; there is

a good deal of labor needs to be done on the farm. I have cut, or rather caused to cut and hauled in to Sawd's Mill a few logs for boards and plank, and the tops into fire wood. — March 2 a cold blustering day, our annual Town Meeting — all passed off quietly — made choice of Elbridge M. Morse, Wm Swett, and Nathan Huse for Selectmen. — It was so cold and windy and snowy that I put up my horse at your uncle Amos Reed's, and walked down to the town house and back. This morning Wednesday March 3rd cold and cloudy, but little snow on the ground. — Feb. was quite a pleasant month. I should not wonder if March should be much colder. I send this by Philip, to the Post Office this morning, the clock now striking eight. — So I must bid you good bye, hoping to to see you with your little one early this spring.

Yours affectionately,

John S. Morse.

P. S. Your Mother wishes me to say again come home as soon as the last of April and bring the Boy

J. S. Morse.

J. D. Mr Dear 14
Wed Jan 8 [illegible]

West Amesbury Nov. 10th 1857.

My Dear Son,

Your letter by the Overland Mail, dated August 2th 1856 was recived Oct. 19th 1857 – 72 days, I suppose. In regard to your Lapper speculation, you may make something or you may lose all.– I would advise not to run great risks – slow and sure is generally the best. – I had thus far neglected to answer this letter knowing that Philip and Maria had written and given all the information requested –

Be carefull with whom you enter into partnership – always know how the concern stands every week –

Your favor of Oct. 6th Mailed the 27th '57 was recivd Nov 27th one month on the way. Also the two papers was recivd about the same time.

In regard to the office of County Treasurer which you speak of it may be worth something, if you do not lose by receiving bad money, or otherwise come under heavy responsibilities. The salary of Essex County Treasurer is about $1000. I think you may lay by something, if you are careful about your expenses; and you might do the same here among your friends.

Our Elections are over. The Republicans have carried the state. David M. Eukesbury Esq. was run on the Democratic ticket for Senator and run 20 ahead of the Governor, in this town.

Hard times for money in the Atlantic States, owing I think to excessive speculation. A great many have failed, and still failing. Stock, breadstuffs, all kinds of produce, are coming down. Flour which has been from $10 to $12 per bbl, is now

from 87 to 9 per bbl.

Indian corn is generally good, mine was very good, other grains light;—potatoes rotted and very light crop and poor quality, from 50 to 90 hills to a bushel. Hay pretty good and got well.

My stock now consists of a horse spavined on both hind legs, 2 oxen 3 cows, 1 2 years old, and 2 calves, all which I intend to keep through this winter.

Nov 14/57 It is now quit cold frosty weather — has been very pleasant this fall till within a few days. I have got my fall work quite done — have had Alvah Sawyer about a month to help me.

Your friends here are all well. Eddy is at Mr. Gray's, very well, gaining in flesh, but cannot yet quite go alone.

You have probably heard before this that one of Mr Gray's daughters is married to Henry Sargent, a son of Patten Sargent, and that Ann Lizie has one child, and Anette two children, and Andrew who now lives in Lynn has one child.

As I do not now think of any think else which may be new or interesting to you, I will wind up this epistle by saying that I think you may live in old Amesbury as well, and as comfortable as in San Diego, that your friends here would be pleased to have you wind up your business in Cal. and return to the old farm.

Your Mother and all send there best regards to you, saying <u>Come Home</u>. The letter addressed to Mrs. Stevens I have not yet forwarded, not knowing her residence — have sent a line to Gloucester, had no answer yet — will forward it as soon as I find out her address.

From your affectionate Father,

John S. Morse.

West Amesbury Dec 31st, 1857.

My dear son,

Your letter dated the 6th–7th of October via of Panama, arrived about the 7th of Nov. '57. — Yours of August 8th by the first Over land Mail arrived here Oct. 19th, I think I have written you since the receipt of the last, which you have probably received before this. Yours of Nov. 21st, 1857, came to hand day before yesterday, in which you your winter has hardly begun. Ours has been very mild so far, very little snow — some snow and rain last night — rather slushy to day. Last winter we had very cold weather before this time — by the papers I see that in the western States it has been very cold this season, 12° below zero. We have had no North-east snow storms yet, nor no tough northwesters, as you suppose. So far as East and West is concerned, the weather seems to be reversed — colder West than here.

Eddy, as you call him, is well and hearty — Maria Gray brought him over here a few days ago — he gets up readily by things — walks by leading, but creeps yet; I think will go alone soon. I had not been into Mr. Grays for 2 or 3 weeks. He had forgotten me. He will probaly not know you. I do not understand as he minds more about cold than other children.

Your mother's health and mine is good, I do but little beside taking care of my horse, two calves, one heifer, three cows, and two oxen. Maria & Philip are well — works at the River yet.

Hannah's family are all well. Annette has two, and Ann Lizie

one child — and Andrew J. one lives in Lynn.

Be careful how you travel the country alone — I hear of many murders committed in Lower California — the Indians I understand are troublesome in that region, and the Mexicans set very little by the lives of others. Be careful how you run great risks, and who you trust. Men go to California to make money perhaps honestly if they can.

It is thought here, that the Mormons will cause the Government a good deal of trouble, and expense, before they are subdued.

Your friends here are generally in good health. Sarah Gray is married to Henry Sargent and moved to his house at the River.

I do not now think of any thing more, that will be interesting to you, and therefore wind up this epistle by subscribing Myself,

Your affectionate father,

John S. Morse

P. S. Jan. 2/58 I saw Mr Gray yesterday, said Eddie could go alone. Hannah is here — says she has had no letter from you, but has written to you a number of times.

Your Mother says you had better wind up your affairs in Cal. and come home, and I think you may live as as well here as there — The more business you do the more money you will want to carry it on

John S. Morse.

Ephraim W. Morse, Esq.

San Diago.

Cal.

D. Morse
Jany 2d

Admitted in Exchange
Sealed

J. S. Moore

Jany 10, 59

West Amesbury Mass. Jan. 10/59

My Dear son,

As I have not heard from you for a long time I thought I would write a few lines to let you know that we had not forgotten you. I do not get much time to write letters. I have my cattle to take care of, my wood to cut, and a good many chores to do in the house, as it is very difficult to get good help in doors. I do but little else, except what I am obliged to be gone from home. I have not quite got through with Probate business, but one case only now on hand, that of Thomas Sargent Jr (sometimes called the Merchant) who died July 13/58. About the first of August last Nicholas Sargent the chaise maker at the lower corner died, but I do not settle that estate.

The weather is quite cold here, we have to keep a good fire to keep warm, the Thermometer 6° below Zero at 7 A.M. 5 P.M. 10° below — 11th, at 7 A.M. 16° below, under the piazza, probably would have gone down one or two degrees on the N. end of wood house

Now the 26th. milder for the last ten days but has been very slippery, difficult for me to go to, and from the barn to take care of the cattle I have had better luck than some, for I have not fallen yet.

To day killed one of my pigs ten months old, weighed 370lb. – the other pig should have killed if he had not been lamed on the ice in the pen. Your uncle Benj. is quite unwell, I think dropsical, and nervous withall, it worries him some that Elbridge is gone to Boston, representative to General Court now sitting. He comes home Saturday nights – Otis Gray lives there now; and is hauling wood from Newton Neck when sledding is good. – Well at your uncle Thomas's David's, aunt Tukesbury's, Daniel's, and your uncle Amos Weeds, have not heard from Amos for a good while. – Hannah's family are all well, some of them in this town, and some in Lynn, but three at home, the youngest.

Your Mother is very sick, very much pressed for breath, has been this fortnight past, now Feb. 10th 8o – cannot lay down but a little while at a time, is obliged to set up most of the time nights, as well as days. – Doctor Robinson attends her as a Physician. I do not see as she grows any better, she is very weak, no appetite, nothing tastes good, very feeble indeed. She has a great desire to see you once more, but that is uncertain. Three thousand miles apart, and a very different climate, good Sleighing here last week, rained yesterday, Fair to day, but colder.

I am much pained to be obliged to write as above about your Mothers health; but she and I are old folks. We want some one to take care of the place we cannot expect to do much, if we were well, My health is good for a man of my age, almost 79. It is difficult to get help of any kind, but good help is scarce. We should be glad if you could wind up your business in Cal. and come home –

Philip & Maria are here yet. I do not know what we should do but for Maria although she has a great fat baby to take care of weighing 27 or 28lb., although it is very good, it requires a good deal of time to tend it, and as we have nobody else here now, it takes considerable of my time in the house.

In reference to the cold on the 11th ultimo I forgot to say that the Mercury ranged much lower in other places than at my house: at George H. Sargent's it went down to 20° below zero — at the lower and upper corner from 20° to 24°, and at the depot in Newton N.H. it went down to 34° below zero. It is reported colder in Boston than for many years. This Morning February 11th, 6° above zero, which seems to be cold enough for me, when going to the barn to fodder the cattle; viz. 2 oxen, 3 cows, 1 3 year old heifer, 1 2 year old heifer, 2 calves and 1 old horse — Philip keeps his horse here nights. He works at the river.

Mr Gray I understand is out of health, not very sick. Fell out of a sleigh and hurt his side. I called into his house this afternoon. Eddie is well, a smart fine boy to talk & play. Your Mother had a restless night. Is better more comfortable to day the 12th, but quite sick. 13th & 14th about the same. She with all your friends send their love to you, hoping that you will return soon. My sheet is nearly full and must close this letter by subscribing myself your affectionate father.

John F. Morse

(West) Amesbury May 30th 1859

My dear son Ephraim W. Moore,

None of your friends here, have received a letter from you for a long time, (say 3 or 4 months) although Hannah has written, Ella I believe has written twice, Mr. Gray's folks have written, and I wrote I think in February last, in which I stated that your Mother was very sick and had a great desire to see you. She is still very sick no better. If you ever see her alive, according to present appearances it must be soon.

I think I also state that your uncle Benjamin was sick, he died about 2 or 3 weeks ago.

We had made up our minds to write to some person in San Diego for information concerning you; but having had two or three Newspapers come in the Mail recently arrived the address appearing in your hand writing I concluded to address you one more.

My health is tolerably good but cannot do much work. I plant but little, I do not lay out to do much. I do not want but two cows for me to take care of, I have four and a heifer. Mr. Rowell takes one and I want to sell two. No body to milk and suckle the calves but myself, that I do not like very well. It is very difficult getting a maid at any rate, much more to milk. We have no maid at present, Maria has to do the work with what Philip does in the morning before going to his work, and Hannah comes up once in a while and stays a day or two at a time.

It would be pleasing if you could wind up your business in California, and take charge of the farm, and relieve me of some of the care and trouble rather than get any body else.

B. Franklin Morse was here day before yesterday lately from Valparaiso in Chili.

Elbridge M. Morse was Representative to General Court this year.

David M. Inkesberry was a candidate for Senator, but failed to get it for want of votes.

Your friends here look for you home this season, very strong. I had like to forgotten to tell you that Eddie was here last week well and hearty, a fine smart boy, can run about almost any where.

Florence, Maria's child can run alone a very good child of its age.

Hannah has now but three children at home Sarah, Ella, and Frances.

I am yours affectionately,

John S. Morse.

E. H. Morse Esq.
San Diego.
Cal.

J. S. Morse
May 30. 1889

West Amesbury, July 11th, 1859.

My Son Ephraim W. Morse,

Your friends here have been somewhat alarmed, concerning your welfare. They could not learn that any one had received a letter from you for three or four months. You had been I believe heretofore in the habit of writing to some one as often, as once a month; therefore, you will not be surprised when you receive this, for a reason for my writing to J. Judson Ames, the Editor of the San Diego Herald; of which you may have been informed about these days.

Some of Mr Gray's folks received a letter from you on the seventh inst. which gave us great pleasure to know that you were still among the living and well; but we were very sorry to hear that you could not make it convenient to come home; we had looked very strong for your return home this summer.

Your Mother is very sick. Suffers much with the dropsy. Her limbs and body are much swollen. She has a strong desire to live to see you one more. But it is not likely that you will ever see her again. She has been sick a great while; it is very difficult to get help to take care of her. I am not able to do much. Hiring work done. I have not laid out to raise much. I have sold two cows this spring for want of help to take care of them. Yet we have two now; but don't know but I must

sell one of them. I do not know that we shall make any cheese; Maria and Philip live here yet, but she knows nothing about making cheese. Can make and take care of the butter when the baby is well, but that has been sick last week, and the maid has left us, and I have had to be about the house. We do not know when, nor where to look for another girl. We find it very difficult to get a girl that suits, and when we do somebody else wants her. How we can get along I do not know; we want you at home to take care of the farm. I don't want the care of it; all I want is a living from it.

I plant this year only about one acre of corn, and about the same with potatoes. Have about 2 Acres of barley, and one and an half of winter rye. Corn is very low. The season has been very wet and cold til within a few days; it has been quite warm, Some have begun to hay; though the grass in general grows as fast as it ever did. But if the weather holds fair and good there will be a great deal cut this week. I may cut a little this week, but aught to finish next week. It is quite warm in the middle of the days, but cool nights and mornings.

We had a severe cold winter. Killed nearly all the peach-trees. There will be a small crop of apples this season. A middling crop of hay. Pastures good

Bear hill is rather increasing as to inhabitants, one house now building on Capt. Thurlo's land, and I believe two more under contract I believe on Sandis's land. Some have died since you left

Your Uncle Benjamin Morse died last spring. Thomas Sargent Jr and Nikolas Sargent both at the lower corner died about a year ago. Nikolas Hoyt hung himself last week.

By the way, do you hear any thing from Amos Weed, his friends have had no letter from him this four or five months.

One of your aunt Morse's girls at Kingston died last spring.

Your Mother says again, her love to you, but come home. Your sisters and all send their respects to you; but say come home

All your friends here wonder that you do not come home. You have been in California so long I suppose it may be difficult to wind up your affairs suddenly; but if you can wind up all your concerns in that region, and come home I think you may live comfortably here. You can live with us, or you can build a house if necessary. Write often, though it may be short. As I think of nothing more that may be interesting to you now, I will close this letter by subscribing myself your

Affectionate Father.

John S. Morse.

Eph. W. Morse. Esq.
San Diego.
Cal.

R. A. Moore
July 19th 1859

N. J. Moise
Aug 17 1859
Answered Oct 15th mailed Nov 1st

West Amesbury, August, 17th, 1859.

My Dear son Ephraim,

Your favor of the 4th ult. was received on the 11th inst. with much pleasure - to your friends here, especially to your Mother, who had a great desire to see you once more; she was then, and had been for nearly a year very sick, - very much pressed for breath - suffered a great deal - was very patient in all her sickness. You have probably ere this received letters from me one mailed about the first of June - one on the 17th to F. Judson Ames which you will see before this reaches you and one the 11th of July last past. For four or five Months no letters were received by any of our friends here from you, although letters had been sent to you from this regions, and sufficient time had elapsed for an answer. It was thought best to write to a stranger in San Diego to learn your whereabouts. We were uneasy concerning your welfare. We had looked for you home this summer; some thought you might be on the way home, in order to take us by surprise; but I did not think you would do so. I thought you would send a line previous to your starting, that if any thing unlucky, should happen to you, on the way, we might know where to look for information. Come Home

I have just finished haying — got the barn almost full. I sowed five bushels of barley — have got that all in, together with about two bushels sowing of winter rye. All pretty good. I have worked much harder than I wanted to do, being broken of my rest. Mr. Rowell helped, but he did not want to do more than I did. I hired Silas Rogers 3½ days, and Wm. A. Buzzell 17 days in haying. Mr B. married Sally Ann Morse, and lives in Mr. N. B. Tilton's, opposite the Uncle Ben land, and boarded at home; it not being convenient for us to board. It is very difficult to get help in the house. I have been obliged to be in, and near by the house, or within the sound of the horn for a long time.

I think I shall let my place out, if I should live another year, and not try to carry it on myself; unless you come home. You say you have gone to farming. I have land enough for one farm. I think you may live as independent here as you can in California. Sell out, dispose of your property and convert in into money or something that you can bring with you, and <u>Come Home</u> and take care of the farm. You must know that I am in my eightieth year. My health is pretty good. Mariah & Hannah says <u>Come Home.</u> I think I informed you in my last letter of the death of your uncle Benjamin: And now I have to inform you that your Mother died on the 13th Inst. being exactly 75 y 5 mo. old. I feel alone, every thing looks gloomy to me. I can write no more:- But say <u>Come Home.</u>

Eph. W. Morse. San Diego. Cal.

John F. Morse.

San Diego Calª Feb 21st 1860

Dear Father

It pains me very much to hear that you have been suffering from a cancer I have only just now heard of it. And it is painful to feel that I am so far away and unable to go home.

About two years ago I was worth fifteen or twenty thousand dollars but now I have but little more than would pay expenses home, and it was through no fault or imprudence of mine that I have lost.

Two different parties in San Francisco with whom I was connected in business failed at the same time and ruined me. I have been collecting and settling up my affairs, and after paying all claims against me in full, I may have a little left, but it will indeed be a little.

I had not intended to pain you with the account of my losses, but for fear that you would think that I was ungrateful in not coming home, I am obliged to do so.

Some parties among the Californians who owed me, could pay in stock, and a friend offering to purchase 4 or 500 head of breeding sheep and let me take them on shares, such appeared to me the best opportunity to make a start in the world again, and now judging from one years experience in this business I believe it to be profitable and sure and that a few years of ordinary prosperity would again give me a competency.

By scrimping what little I have and the

chance of making more, I could raise money enough I presume to pay my expenses home but I dislike the idea of coming home a Beggar, especially when I feel that a few years would place me in different circumstances. I long to go home, I wish to see you all, and all my old friends but how can I? I wish to see my boy and have him with me but how can I?

I have been trying to make arrangements to go home in the Spring but I fear that I shall not succeed. A party had proposed going home overland in such a way that the expense would be trifling but I think they have given up the idea at least for the present.

My health is good always is here

Remember me to Mama & Nel

and believe

you affy son

Copy
P.S. Dec Feb 27. 60
& May 20. "

Dear Father

Have now 1300 sheep expect 200 or 300 more within a couple months also we have on Ranch about 70 head cattle & 14 head of horses and mules. milch 6 cows might milk 15 or 20 mode of milking &c heavy post &c account of Hay wild oats &c
What about my trees the Bartlett Pear Sutherside Angoulême & &c &c Grape vine & running rose

It is so long since I have done any hard work that I doubt feel myself able, even if I had the inclination which I certainly never had.

I can ride a horse 60 miles in a day, and many a day have I sat in the saddle from sunrise to sunset, I have held the plow behind two horses from 7 o'clock a.m. till sunset, without nooning simply changing horses at noon, but there is no hard work in that like hoeing and mowing &c. I came to California to get money enough to live without hard work intending to return to the old farm where, God knows it has always been my wish to live and die. I dont think I am lazy - I know I am not but I dislike hard work, and in part I dont believe I ever was able to do hard work. I do know that I can live here without work and make money, in a fine climate and judging the future by the past, always have good health, so that if I find that I cannot live comfortably easy at home, I shall perhaps want to get back here again,

I dont wish to live in Idleness, but I dont wish to be compelled by poverty to work when I dont feel like it or when I dont wish to.

J. E. Moore
March 20th 60

West Amesbury March 20/60.

My Son Ephraim,

I received your favor of Feb. 21st, last evening, and was not much surprised to hear of your misfortune in business I have been for a long time afraid that you were to credulous; that you would place too much confidence in other people whose only object was to get money, honestly if they can, but at all hazards get it, whether of foes or friends. It seems to me to late in the day to stay out there to retrieve a lost fortune. You have been out there ten or eleven years, and I want you at home to take charge of the farm, and I also want to know what disposition to make of what little property I have. I do not wish it to go to pay the debts of any of my children. I hope what little property I leave, may be some benefit to my children and grandchildren. It is not very likely at my age, (eighty) that I can do much to increase property, but rather to deminish it.

I have for a fortnight or three weeks past been hauled up with a severe cold, such a one as I have not had this ten or twenty years, but am now some what better, so much so that I attend to business abroad. I was at the River yesterday appraising an estate. Mr Rowell takes some care when I am gone, is cutting wood and auldars for summer use. He is slow, not perhaps very profitable, but he is near by and I don't know as I can do any better at present. I have thought of hiring a hand for the season, which would relieve me of much trouble, provided he was a good hand; but I cannot see how I can raise enough more to to pay him. It will take a good deal of produce beside time and trouble in carrying it to market to raise a hundred dollars. Therefore I have concluded to do what I can with the help of Mr. Rowell, and some other help in haying. Same are beginning to plow; the frost is out in many places; If I am as well as I now am, I shall try to drive the team when plowing.

I sent a letter to you, overland, which you will probably receive before the middle of April, and as I keep no copies of letters sent to you, it will not be strange if I should repeat somewhat in that. — I have not much news to to write you. All well. Philip and Maria lives with me yet. It is a good ways from his work. I suspect he will want to move soon.

In regard to your loss of property; you cannot keep it private long. People go from this region to California, and almost every body knows me, and that I have my only son out there, and they will be likely to hear and give information. I think you may as well give the information from your own pen first. I do not know that any body knows it here yet. I have said nothing, though often asked the question how you were doing. I have not told Maria. You will do as you think best about making it public first. It will be known ere long, without doubt —

I think you may as well come home this summer, property or no property. You can live well enough here; and if you come home

soon you may be of some service to me. It will relieve me from much care and trouble which I should like to get rid of. I do not want to be idle, but shold like to do what I pleased, and every thing going on just as well as when I was young and able to do a good days work.

All your friends would like to see you at home one more, for good and all, with, or without riches. Do not stay thinking to get rich before you return home; for they ~~they~~ may take themselves wings fly away at the very moment when you think you are ready to return.

I suspect Amos Weed has been unfortunate in all his speculations. I believe it is over a year since they have received any letter from him. His father wants him at home very much. Amos ought if he can send home what his father let him have he needs it.

Yours affectionately

John S. Morse.

E. W. Morse,
San Diego Cal.

J. J. Moore March 8, 60

West Amesbury March 8th, 1860.

My Dear son Ephraim,

Maria had a letter from you last night, via Overland, dated January 29/60 at San Diego, Post-marked Arizonia N. M. Feb. 12/60 — Maria Gray had one from you a day or two before. — We rejoice to hear that you enjoy good health; but regret that no time set when you will return home. We looked for you last summer; we hope we shall see you at home as early as May next; I want somebody to take care of the farm. I am not able to do much. I am at this time, and have been for about a week past hauled up with a severe cold. I do not go out much, especially yesterday, and today, being stormy; therefor I have a little time to write.

Day before yesterday, Mr Gray, Maria Gray, and Eddie called over to see me. Eddie is a well, fine smart little boy. You would not know him, probably, from any other boy of that age. They started for home at dusk: Mr. Gray called in again in the evening, and gave me a little medicine, (called the Pain killer) which he thought would help me; I am now taking it, and I think I am rather improving, though a hard cough yet, not so easily got rid of as though I were younger. If I live till the 16th of this month I shall be 80 years of age. — If you ever think of relieving me from care and trouble, I hope you will, on the receipt of this, think it time to start

for home, so that you arrive in Old Amesbury in May. Nothing would give us more pleasure — do not wait to get more money. If you have got enough to get home with, come home. If you have not I will furnish you with some — If there is any honest man out there leave your business with him, with directions to settle up your affairs and send on the proceeds; but do not think of going back to California again. I want you to take care of the farm —

Maria, and Philip lives here yet. I hardly know what I should do without them, good help is so scarce — Philip has bought the Ephraim Goodwin place; and I suppose will want to move this Spring; if so I must look out for help.

Patience Sukesbury had a severe cold, but is better — David's wife is not very well — Elbridge's youngest child is quite sick. The rest of your friends here are I believe ~~are~~ all well, and all want to see you at home.

Elbridge was Representative last year, and David is one of the Selectmen this year.

Your Daguerreotype was duly received, but not in time for your Mother to see it.

I do not think of any thing more, that will be interesting to you, therefore will wind up by subscribing myself your

affectionate father.

John S. Morse.

E. W. Morse.
San Diego.
Cal.

J. S. M.
Aug 16. 60

West Amesbury Aug. 16th 1860

My son Ephraim H. Morse,

Your favor of the 13th ult. arrived here on the 14th Inst. (Post mark illegible) and were much pleased to hear from you, but should have been much more so if you had arrived instead of the letter. Last winter I did expect to see you this summer, but when spring came I had given up all hopes of seeing you this year, and you say nothing about it in this letter, and of course I suppose you do not intend to come very soon; If you are ever, or intend ever to be any comfort or benefit to me, it must according to the course of nature be soon. You have been gone over eleven years; I want somebody to take care of the farm, and relieve me of all anxiety about it. I don't want to idle, but I don't want the care and trouble of it.

Mr Howell lives in the old house yet, is quite infirm, does but little except what he does

for me, so that he must get his living pretty much out of me, and of course have but little to sell. I do not lay out to do great on the farm. I raised no grain this season; plant one acre of potatoes, and two and half of corn; hire it hoed, and hire my haying done, have done haying except the meadow at Cobbers brook. Hay is about a middling crop. Corn looks well and potatoes also. It is now a growing time for vegitation, wet and warm.

Philip and Maria live here yet, and a girl from the East is living with us now.

Yesterday we had quite a party of Philip's friends consisting of his Mother, James wife and children late from California, his sister Howell and children from Portsmouth N. H., and John Weeds wife from the Ferry; but I was gone from home till almost night, on the new contemplated road, from Johnson's corner to the River village with Elbridge, David, and others. Leonard and Mr Wright has a Mill privilege on the new road and work there at the chaise making business. Considerable of it done by machinery.

I believe I informed you that your Aunt Morse at Kingston was dead; about a month ago your aunt Morse at Southampton died rather sudden. The rest of your friends here enjoy general health.

David, and Elbridge go on as usual farming &c.

Daniel O. Weed is farming and doing very well, at the Pond Hills built a new house nearly opposite your aunt Thomas Weeds.

C. Osgood Morse lives at Newburyport, practising Law in company with Harrison Johnson, they have a good deal of business, I should think more than any lawyers in town. Osgood has no family but a wife; is now the only heir to his Mothers Estate.

Your Uncle Amos Weeds folks will be glad to hear from Amos, they feel very anxious about him not having had a line from him for a great while, I dont know how long; I wonder he don't let them know that he is alive if he is living; Judith has once written to the Post Master of San Francisco and was informed that he was there and well.

Capt. Jackson is still in the Custom House at Newburyport. Mrs Jackson died a year or two since. I have not seen him for a long time, I presume he gets along as usual. Mr Walker also remains in the Custom House at Boston, and of course is doing well as to a living, I think must be quite forehanded.

Eddie is a fine little boy. Grows as fast as other boys of his age, but knows nothing of his father except what is told him; they show him your likeness and tell him you are in California, and is learned to say when asked where his father is, that, "he is in Cal."

I dont see him very often. Mr Gray's folks & Helene are all well. Laura is keeping school in this District.

I want you to wind up your affairs in Cal. and come home. I dont care how soon. I hope you will be ready to start for home on the receipt of these lines.

From your Father

John S. Morse.

Phil'p and Marie send their love to you, and say you better come home.

E. H. Morse
San Diego
Cal.

J. S. Morse
Jan 9. 61

West Amesbury Jan. 9th, 1861.

My son Ephraim

I have this moment received your letter dated Palomar Rancho, San Diego County, Dec. 12th 1860. Post Marked Dec. 18: the name of the Post office I am not able to decipher. 22 days on its passage. In regard to the weather, I think it was then, good sleighing here; but little snow on the ground. There is now about eight or ten inches of snow and first rate sleding. I have just returned home from East Kingston. Started at 4 P.M to convey a woman home who has been living here the week past. I find it very difficult to get a good maid. She may come back again if her grand daughter gets well. I have nobody here now but Marie, and I do not know as I should try to get any body just yet if both of her children were well. Florance the oldest almost three years has for the last four week been very sick with the Erysipelas; but is now getting. Sets up all day, cannot walk yet. The youngest about nine months, I believe they will call Alice, is well, but requires looking after. Philip boards here yet, and is hearty. My health is pretty good for a man of my age, though not able to do much. I take care of the cattle, and saw up some wood for the fire. You did not acknowledge in your letter of the 20th Aug. 1860. nor in the one just arrived of any letter from me — I wrote

I think in July last, in pretty strong terms for you to come home and I was in hopes when I received another letter I should see the time set for your return home, but am sadly disappointed. I hope in your next you will set the time, and may it be short. If the manure you speak of could be spread on my land, it would improve it greatly

As to Politics, I do not trouble my head much about them. South Carolina I think is rather hasty, though the abolitionists have given them cause for complaint. Massachusetts and some other States have past laws nulifying the constitution and laws of the United States. All the Slave holding States have ever asked is to be let alone. And pray, why should we interfere with their institutions. I cannot see how S. Carolina can be any better off, or how she can live as a separate Confederacy. It look a little like a civil war. I hope it may be avoided. Elbridge has for a long time been abolition, freesoil, and now republican; yet in every thing else Democratic. There should be no North, no South, no East, no West, but all united as a whole

Edie is well, a smart little boy. Hannah's health is pretty good. Abiah, Ella, and Frances live at home. Annett has two children and lives at the River. Ann Lizie has two children and lives in Linn, J. Andrew J. has two children, lives also in Linn, & well. Aaron & Caroline live in Lowell. John & his wife lives in his fathers house — Engaged to the Colbys; Alvin lives on B. Hill, Amos lives at the Corner, William at the River, Hiram is dead. — Eph. Huntington is out South. George Sargent is married, two children lives where his father did. Mary lives at the Corner. — Mr. Walker is yet in the Custom House. Samuel Phillips is cashier of a Bank in Chelsea, John, I believe is in Boston or vicinity. — Mr Gray's family are well; Laura is teaching school in Bear Hill District. In regard to your return home, I would like to know when I may look for you. Mr. Gray's family and mine, wish me to request you to come home.

Jan. 10/61 8 P.M

I have made no disposition of my property yet; I have been waiting for your return; not knowing but you might possibly have creditors who might attach property here; if it should happen to be so I should wish to avoid it, but hope otherwise. Do you ever hear from Amos Weed. His father has had no letter from him I believe for eighteen months. I wonder that he don't write at least once a year to let them know his whereabouts, and that he is among the living. Judith has written to the Post Master of San Francisco, who returned an answer that he was there and well; but they do not believe it. His friends feel anxious to hear from him. If you know where he is tell him to write to his father. A letter from him will relieve their anxiety much if it did not contain ten words beside his name.

I believe I have heretofore informed you, that a new road

has been made round Bean Hill, avoiding the hill entirely, and shortening the distance and now a road is being made from Johnson's corner to the River Village. Leonard, and a Mr. Wright has a Mill with a water power by the road, where they saw, and work considerable stuff for carriages. Leonard works at the blacksmith business, under the room used ~~used~~ for the wood work. It is a small stream but good power.

Your aunt Peter Morse, and aunt Moses Morse are both dead, John, and Jacob, & Susan live on the farm. — Os good lives in Newburyport, practicing law in company with Harrison Johnson. They have considerable business. I saw Eddie yesterday and to day, he says he wants to see father; but you will not know each other if you live to see him. I do not now think of any thing else of importance to write, and will wind up by repeating what your friends say. Hannah says come home. Philip and Maria say come home Mr Gray & folks say come home. And I also say come, come home — and all send their love to you.

Write often and let us know your whereabouts and especially of your health. Also if you can, give some information about Amos.

E. W. Morse
Palomar Rancho
San Diego County
Cal.

From your father,

John S. Morse.

West Amesbury May 3rd, 1867.

My dear Ephraim.

Your favor dated the 8th of March 1867, and Mailed the 19th, was received on the 27th of Apr. which I had been looking for some time, and was glad to hear that you enjoy good health, but was sorry to hear that you could not come home and take charge of the farm: although I had given up the idea of your coming this season, and not feeling able to carry it on myself, I had agreed with Leonard Sawyer and his wife to come, and they have moved here, and we live as one family. My health is pretty good, but cannot do much work. We are plowing a little, but it is quite cold yet, last night froze ice as thick as window glass, I have not sowed or planted any thing yet except a few peas in the garden yesterday. To day Leonard and your uncle Thomas Morse are picking rock and hauling them off of a piece of land which I laid down to grass last year I do not feel like laying out great in the farming line although I doint do much else. I am now administrator of but one estate which I intend to close up as soon as possible.

I was not sorry to hear that you had married a lady from New England, hope she will influence you to come home and pay us a visit at least while we are all well and hearty.

I heard by the way of Amos Weed last fall that you was about being married so that I lost all hops of seeing you at present.

I would like to see your face once more at home. You did not inform me of the precise time of your marriage, of course I could not enter it on the records in the Family Bible.

As to the fruit trees in the garden which you inquire about. The peach trees are about all gone. The plums are also gone, and the dwarf pears also, or nearly all. There are several pear trees and apple trees in the garden a little too near together to bear well. The Old Man apple, the gravenstein and some others, names unknown. The baldwin apples in the Uncle Ben land have done well, but are failing. The tree on which so many kinds were grafted has borne well. The earliest apple I think was the Summer Rose, one limb front of the barn; the rest of the tree was the Williams apple quite early; The Summer Rose is dead. The Beef Steakes are about done bearing. The Gravenstone is a very good apple but not a great bearer. There are some pines in the Uncle Ben land where the bushes were, but mostly hard wood. The pines were cut down in the orchard over the hill, but the apple trees have not done much since, a good many of them have died and been cut down. The plain has not been plowed since you left. David saws considerable. In the old orchard you speak of, there are but few trees left, not of much value. The choke pear in the pasture is all gone. It was formerly an apple pear tree. A very few oil-nut trees round the lots. The pear graft in the thorn bush I think died the next year, as also did the plums in the wild cherry. The drain to the frog pond let off all the water except a little in the hole where we hauled out wood. David and Daniel and Elbridge are doing well. David has been one of the Selectmen four or five years in succession, Elbridge collector a number of years, but is not this year. Eddie is a fine boy, was here a few days ago, said he had sixteen dollars in the savings bank. I gave him with some other things that I believe you left here, an other dollar to put in. When your marriage was mentioned to him, he said he should have to see two shaggers now, his father was a stranger. He enquires sometimes if I have lately had a letter from his father. He would like very much to see you; personally he knows nothing about you. Come home as soon as you possibly can.

The farm has not been growing any better for some years, but rather worse. Blackberry vines are getting in all over the mowing land, and especially in the horse pasture in the Uncle Ben land. Thought to be pastured with sheep four or five years to kill them. Not having any sheep so long, and dreading the labor of running after them which would of course sometimes be necessary to keep them where they ought to be, I have not thought it best to keep any, hoping all the time that you would come home, and then you might do as you pleased. Mr. Rowell is still unable to do any thing on the farm. I have let him have the use of one cow for some years when he was able to work for me, and I thought I would let the girls have her this year also. To day (the 8th) it is raining not doing much, but taking care of the cattle which consists only of three cows, two oxen, one yearling heifer, and one horse,

two hogs. Leonard's horse is here now, I have about twenty two or three hens, and probably from six to twelve woodchucks which I should be glad to get rid of; think I shall buy another trap and try to catch some of them. I planted last year back of the barn, a few white beans, but the rascals destroyed them. I think I shall plant a few there this years also, but shant get many uless I can get rid of these pests. Leonard and I, yesterday put up our outward fence round the lot and pasture, and intended to have finished putting up the fence except round the plain meadow, to day. My hay land is pretty much bowed out. The land which I laid down to grass in 1865 did not do much, grass was killed by the drouth. I think I shall sow some Hungarian grass this year; it is said to be good fodder, but must be sown every year, does not live in the ground over winter. Vegetation of all kinds is rather backward. Apple trees are beginning to show some leaves and buds. It is thought by good judges that there'll be a good blow. Grass is short yet, but this rain makes it look green. By the way, where is Amos Weed now and what is he doing; does he lay up any thing against a "wet day". His father has a grandchild lives with him, old enough to do some work. I see I am getting near the end of this sheet, and up by saying that my wife, Leonard and his wife send their regard to you and your wife. Please give my respects to your wife although as Eddie says a stranger to me. I still remain your affectionate father. John S. Morse.

E. S. Morse
Jan 1/68

West Amesbury Jan.y 2nd, 1868.

My Dear son,

Ephraim Weed Morse,

Another new year made its appearance here yesterday, and overhauling some of my papers, it occured to me that I had not written to you since I received a line from a woman, whom I suposed to be your wife, though she does not exeltly say so. It was recieved on the 12 of Sept. 67 — Dated July 30/67. Mailed Aug. 12/67. You will see by the date that I have had no direct intelligence from you for more than a year, which seems a long time to me. It is pleasing to read a line once in a while from the only son I have, whom I anticipated ere this would have been here and have taken care of the farm. Perhaps I ought not to say that I have had nothing from you, for the note from your wife, which I much pleased to read, amounts to the same thing.

I have not seen Eddie, as you call him, for some time, don't know as I exactly knew his name, but I think he is well or I should have heard of it. He is quite a smart, well behaved boy. Maria Gray is quite unwell yet. The rest of the family all well. David, Elbridge, and Daniel, are about the same old sir-pecuers as ever. Philip and Maria have another baby, four children in the whole, Florance, Alice, Arthur, and baby. Hannah's children are all married; Ella to Wm Tuson; Frances, to Joseph Howell Leonard and his wife lives with me, and make but one family. He has done the work on the farm the last season, I, although well do but little. Leonard is fiting up a room in the Mill house has put in some machinery, and will in a few days have in a steam Engine, intending to make chaise bow-props, for which he has a patent.

He thinks it will drive my cider mill instead of a horse, and can be run cheaper than with horse power; last year about 160 barrels and this fall only about 111 bbls. was made, I should think Eldridge made two thirds of it for himself and for others.

I would like to have you come home and take care of the farm; notwithstanding Leonard does well, is smart, and all live well together; but I fear when he gets into the machine shop, he may not like to leave it for the plow, it will be harder out, in the hot sun, though he can turn his hand to any things. He can do as much on the farm, take it altogether, as any body I can hire, but if he does well in the shop he can make more money. We often when about the farm see something which puts us in mind of Ephraim W. Morse. Last summer Sarah Ann Rowell turned up a turtle with your initials, and I think 1843 distinctly to be seen on the under shell, and Helen Woods (my wife's daughter) and Sarah Miller who was on a visit here last summer turned another up, with a later date. Sarah Ann I believe has seen the same turtle about every year since you left Amesbury; so you see we often see something to put us mind of you. An apple tree that we pass very often to go to the spring, which bore well a small apple, now nearly dead except some branches from some pieces of sticks which you stuck in near the bottom, which now bears baldwins. Come home and see these things for your self. Leonard has found water near the edge of the meadow where, when I was a boy we used to water the cattle, which he thinks will afford water for his Engine, and has laid a pipe from it to the Mill-house. Come home in the spring and see it, when it will probably be in operation. We have had quite cold weather here, but little snow yet not enough for sleding. Saturday Jan. 4/68 snows here to day. Thursday Jan. 9/68 Sleighs have ran here four or five days past, some spots of bare ground, better in Newton N.H. This morning I have been down in the woods to look round a little and show James Pressey where to cut up some dead trees which have been blown down; Leonard has gone down with James. Good time to haul it out. Mr. Rowell is sick not able to do any thing the past year. Has been out this fall pleasant days. His wife has not been able to walk for several years. The old house had become so leaky that I been obliged to shingle it or they must have moved they knew not where. I did not intend even to make any repairs on it. To make it rentable, it wants new window frames and sashes, with glass. I have let him have the use of one of my cows the past year, but am not certain as I shall any longer, but I do not know what they would do if they had to pay house rent and for the use of the cow. The cost of shingling the house was nearly $100. I do not think that either of them will ever be able to do any thing for their support, in future. It is a little more trouble for me to write now than it used to be, after writing some time my hand trembles a little. Leonard and his wife, and my wife all desire to be remembered to you, although some of them only know you by reputation. I repeat again, come home and see them for yourself. Wind up your affairs in Cal. as soon as you possibly can. Give my kind regards to your wife, tell her that we should be much pleased to see her here with you. I am still your affectionate father John S. Morse

P.S. I thought when neare the bottom of the page on the, I was on the last, but come to turn over I find more room yet. Annette, Ella, and Frances, live at the River Village in Amesbury, and Anlizzie in Lynn. J. Andrew J. Sawyer also lives in Lynn; I had like to have said with his second wife, but I beleive they have disolved partnership for the present. I don't know as any body blames him for disolving. She was young and with all very pretty looking; could appear and behave well, when she chose so to do. She was a good writer, could write a handsome letter. Might have been a help to him by keeping his Books; she was a stranger to him as well as to all his relations. I saw her once or twice only, appeared well then.
Ephraim Aloah Sawyer now lives at the Landing in Aaron G. Sawyer's house, works in the shop where his father used to work. All Leonard's sons, and sons in law I believe have the trade, and work at some parts of a chaise. Elbridge and David does considerable in the wood business, keep a large team and hired hand. Elbridge keeps four large oxen, David four or six.
My stock is small, one yoke, three cows and a heifer and a horse. Leonard keeps his horse here, so the we shall be likely to get rid of a great part of our hay before pasturing time comes a long. It would be better for the place to keep more and make more manure, which is much wanting. — As to politics I say but little, but will just ask if you have read the president's annual Message if not read it, it is the best since Gen. Jackson's. I now dosnt hesitate to express my opinion of men and measures, though before the war closed it was dangerous to do so

John S. Morse.

E. S. Moore
Aug 24/70

W. Amesbury Aug. 24th 1870.

My Dear Son Ephraim,

I received your letter of the 29th ult. Mailed the 2nd instant on the 13th being eleven days on its passage with two papers — I have received two or three previous, and one last week. They do not come very regular — Perhaps somebody takes them out on the way here — I was glad to hear that business was the cause which prevented your visit here this summer for as I said in my last letter, I did think I might see you before this time — My family if possible were more disappointed than I was, as well a your nephews, nieces, and cousins. As to the Barnard apples (now generally called Beefstake) they almost done bearing, only two that has any life, one has a few on it this year, the other none. The earliest apple I believe is the Williams apple, the Rose on the same tree was a little earlier but that limb is dead. The Gravenstein near the wood house is quite a large tree now but never has borne many bears very well this year — I think it is not a great bearer, the apples are large — The apple crop will be large this year, in this region — although I shall have but a few more than I had last year, my trees are old like myself and can't do much — No apples have yet been brought to the cider mill ~~yet~~ have not yet done pouring. There will probably be as many as Leonard will want to make into cider before the ground freezes up. Cider apples may be worth from fifteen to twenty cents a bushel, and cider ten dollars per barrel. Vinegar good, made of cider, is from twelve to sixteen dollars per barrel — Poor vinegar made from other ingredients, less.

Labor is high, can't afford to do much on the farm. I think it won't pay to hire all the work done, and therefore do not do but little, and so the land is running over to wood and bushes, so much so that I can pasture but little stock, was in hopes you would come home and take charge of it, but that hope I have nearly lost; but the wood still grows, but that is no present income. The Boston and Maine Rail Road company have run out a route from Seabrook Depot to West Amesbury Corner through my wood near the plain meadow. If you were here, you would probably be surprized to see the alteration made by the timber grown since you left. Leonard Sawyer and his wife, Mr. Richardson and his family, who lives at the River Village, Dort. Miller of Rhode Island and the daughter of my wife, and my wife who is recovering from her late sickness and I went to Hampton Beach yesterday, had a fine time of it, except the dust. It is very dry here. No rain since we began to hay except one shower week before last. Corn rolls. Beans drying up. Very dry. People got their hay this season without getting it wet. If you should come here now ~~you~~ and go to the Beaches you would be surprized to see the Villages spring up there. They are now places of great resort, both for health and pleasure.

You ask how near the Telegraph is. At Seabury pat, Haverhill, Mills and W. Amesbury (Corner) so that a dispatch apparently may be sent from here to California less than no time. Start from here at twelve at noon and arrive in Cal. before nine in the morning. My wife, Leonard and all send their regards to you, and with myself say come home.

John S. Morse.

J. S. M.
Dec 5/70

W. Amesbury. Monday. Dec. 5th, 1870.

My Dear son, Ephraim W. Morse.

Your letter of July 29/70 was received August 13/70 Having nothing in particular whereof to write you, time has rapidly rolled on till now, I am pained to inform you that Maria, within the last three weeks past has lost two children. Clary, the youngest child about three years of age, and Arthur, a son, about seven years old was buried yesterday — both of them very amiable pretty children. The loss of whom they feel most keenly. So you see the young die as well as the old. I believe I told you in my last letter to you that your Uncle Thomas Morse was dead. Your Aunt Morse now lives in the house, and has taken charge of all his effects without any regard to law, and if the heirs are content may pass off well. She lets half of the house to another family. Your Uncle Amos Weed is quite feeble. His grandson, now almost grown up lives with him and is a great help to him, I hardly know what he would do if it was not for him. I am thinking of calling down to see him. I think it would be very pleasant if Amos would now come home and take care of him now he is past labor.

Dec. 8th. There has been great changes in this region since you left. You would find quite a change even in the appearance of the old farm, Run over to Rees, especially as over

~~down~~ the hill and in the Uncle Ben land. Quite to many bushes, some of which I cut down after haying was over, I did not like to set them along side of the wall. The mowers are so afraid of dulling their sickles that hardly dare cut off a large shine of herdsgrass: so I take my scythe and cut down some of them, but I find I can do but little of that which ought to be done. Most of the haying is now done by machinery, and they cannot get very near the fence. I have a horse rake but no mower, but may buy one next season. I do but little work myself. I ride short routes, to Salisbury, Newburyport & Haverhill &c. &c. Maria has another girl born since the other two died, so that she has now three, Florence, Alice, and the babe. Gaylon P. Tilesbury is married and lives in the house with his father who comes on about as usual. Elbridge, Daniel, and others of your former acquaintance about the same. The Rail Road talked of here is gone by the board. There is a telegraph station at the Mills Village and at West Amesbury Corner.

Apples plenty, Leonard has just finished making cider about 400 barrels at $1 per Bbl. — Mill runs by steam power will now be used for making carriage bow irons, at which you if here, could work at. Remember me to your wife. My wife Leonard & his wife send their regards to you & wife

Come home and see your aged father

John S. Morse

West Newbury Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

No. 2763

West Newbury, May 23d 1857

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, in Policy No. 2763 dated the twenty third day of May 1857, issued by the WEST NEWBURY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, I promise to pay the said Company, or their Treasurer for the time being, the sum of Ninety four Dollars 100, in such portions, and at such time or times, as the Directors of said Company may, agreeably to their Act of Incorporation and By-Laws, require.

$94.00

Press note
May 23/59

2763

John S. Morse
A.

2100.

94.

June 9. 1864

Indee

by the morning e[illegible] the purpose of effec[illegible] settlement between you & me which may be satisfactory to both parties. For, from the slight knowledge which I had of you while at Amesbury; I am unwilling to believe that there can be any serious difficulty. I have therefore to request that you will be at home at Lowell at the time aforesaid and for the purpose aforesaid. If it will be inconvenient for you on that day please to inform me when you can attend to it by the next mail.

I am very respectfully your obedient servant

J S M