

Capt. Hedges
Say Harbor

My Dear Old Friend

Since I last sawd the
pleasure of seeing you I have had
a variety of Experiences Embracing
changes of fortune & scenes —

I received a letter from R. Bruce
Forcham having date the 4th of
April announcing the death of
Capt. W. W. Dering that him self
few purer, & braver hearted men
ever lived, For the last fourteen
years I have known him with
great personal familiarity and
have never had occasion to
doubt his high manly integrity
& his devotion as a friend.

He has occupied many positions
of great responsibility and has

always proved himself incorruptible although he has been tempted vastly more than many men of acknowledged greatness, who have fallen

He never faltered in the performance of his duty or his implied obligations. He had the respect of all who knew him, was loved by many, and will be mourned by many manly hearts. To his relations I am sure it will be a great shock though perhaps the long absence from them will modify their grief. I am sure it will not deaden it. As Bruce requested me to write them informing them of the fact, I have to urge you to perform the said office for me, knowing you to have been his old friend & your being acquainted with the family, it will come from you with less

abruptness than from me, direct-^{ly}. He died at Magdalena Bay on the 17th of March after an illness of two months without any further particulars. I can assure his friends that he was ministered to by those who loved him for of my knowledge, there was not a person within ~~two~~ ^{two} hundred miles, but knew him, & loved him & would have given everything friendship could command & money could collect. I am shocked and grieved, as I should be, at the loss of a true brave friend that he has been to me. Three years ago I found him in San Francisco when he joined me in the expedition to Lower California where I had great interest at stake. His eye then had all its fire, and his heart its old courage; but I perceived

Physically he was much
broken I always favoured him
as much as possible, tho he
would never admit any depre-
-ciation of his strength, I could
see ^{that} he was gradually failing
I think he was fairly worn out,
& died purely of having exer-
-sted the machinery of life

He was temperate generous &
brave Peace to his ashes - the
world is better ^{& sicker} for his ^{being} ^{in it}
& as I believe in a future state,
I believe he will be happier,
if there are any degrees of bliss,
there than to remain here.

He has done his work here as
we shall all soon have accomp-
lished ours, when I hope through
the divine mercy ^{to} find happiness -

Please my dear friend excuse me
for asking so much of you, please
make my condolences to his relatives

and friendly acknowledge the
receipt of this. Faithfully your
friend J B G Asham

147 Front Street