

San Diego Cal. May 7th 1873

Dear Aaron

Your kind letter
with photoⁿ of Lucy came last - week -

We are delighted with the picture
not only because it is of your daughter -
but it is a fine picture in itself - I
can see papa's looks repeated & you
know or if you did not - it will do you
no harm to tell you now that we used
to think you handsome - Her eyes
say she has some of your fun & frolic
in her temperament - Tell Miss Lucy
we are very happy to make her ac-
quaintance & hope sometime it may
be in person with Papa & Mama -
Do you think hard things for

My business in writing? — You would
not if you knew how monotonous life
is with me — There is not enough change
of season or business to give me the
slightest idea of the time of year —
No warm & sunshiny all the time
& said time slips away & nothing
accomplished —

We have sold our ranch where
we are living & changed our P. Office
address to San Diego — These are the
two events since I wrote you last —
The route from San Diego of the Rail-
road is not yet decided but they are
talking of going the northern and
leaving National City — the go by —
We are not fretting any about it — it'll
be time enough for that when it's de-
cided — You have learned in Oregon
that Railroads are "werry uncertain"
My last letter from Louise
says she can see that Mother is failing
to not as active & strong as last —

season tho, she does not give up her
braiding & worsted work - Mrs. Hampson
Charlie is still there -

I should have told you in connection
with the Railroad affairs that they had
Commenced work here - the papers say
vigorously - When we passed the gang
Laid-out there were eight men - two
dump carts - four wheel barrows &
quite a deal! - for our rain stopped
so short - that we have at present
for near three months except one
slight - hail storm - While you
have had in more than plenty we have
lost our crops again & thinking four
years trying without ever making
a crop ^{any} we concluded to let some
one else try the job & see how they like
it - Irrigation by windmills is
not to our taste -

Thanks for pamphlet - on Oregon
It's amusing to read the statements
which are perhaps literally true & yet

Are as far from the reality - as we find
the big stories told of Cal., to be from
the actual state of affairs in bulk - The
Cases of great-yields &c., are the ex-
ceptions & not the rule - You can't
live without-work here - any more than
in less 'favoured' Climates

Do you have a garden or house-
plants? - Your City is probably look'g
beautifully - waking from its winter nap
I should like to be back in Besmore to
see the Apple Orchards in bloom in June
There are a few little trees here - but - with
you I suppose there are trees that vie
with the best Eastern specimens -

I have had to write very
hastily for this Bowl - having been
most-sick as well as hindered - so
please excuse -

Love to Lucy your wife & your self
From E. V. M. B. Steele

1873



D. W. Wakefield Esq.
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1873 SAN DIEGO, CA (BLUE CAN)

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