

At sea, July 22<sup>d</sup> 1857.

Mr. Mosse,

Dear Sir,

Today I feel better than I have for several days past, and my hope is strong that I shall get time to take your dear child to its grand parents; Edward is very well, with the exception of the prickly-heat, he was some feverish when his other double-tooth came through, he eats well and sleeps well and oh I am very thankful for that blessing, every one is very kind to us, if we get as much attention on the other side, I think we will get along very well, I dread to part with this stewardess she is so good; Yesterday I could not get up, Eddy spent part of the day playing on the floor beside me, and a part of it in the berth with me, so for his sake I got up to day, you may judge how bad I look, when I tell you the little children says, is she going to die, Ma-ma? I knew when I left, that I should suffer much, but I hoped that I should



live and I trust so still.

I am told that in three days more we shall be at Panama, I hope we shall not have such rough weather on the other side as we have had on this, almost every one <sup>on</sup> board has been sick.

I wish you to give my love to my husband, I will write him a long letter soon as I get safe home, I hope he will forgive me for not writing to him from San Francisco, I hope he will get business and keep it, for he will not miss me so much when he has plenty to do.

Please remember me to my friends. Mrs. Whaley wrote from Acapulca, and many others. I think I should have written a few lines but Eddy was asleep by my side out in the public cabin and I could not leave him, besides I did not <sup>know</sup> as it was a safe way. Mrs. W. has told me many things that Mrs. P. has said about me that I never dreamed of what her heart is made of, or what her aim is, in trying to ruin me I know not.

Eddy is awake, Upon your esteemed friend

F. J. Stevens.

P. J.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup>. Eddy is still very well, in the day he is a very good boy, but cross at night on account of the heat, but every one says it is not so warm here as they expected to find it; to-morrow we shall be at Panama than I shall feel as though I was getting home. Give my love to my husband, and tell him I would have written him a page to-day but I feel so bad I cannot write. You shall all hear from me soon as I get home, and get well. I find out now that I was sick when I left home, but I had too much care to think of self.

Yours with respect

F. J. Stevens

P. J. Saturday. Edward is quite well this morning, he slept well last night, to-night I expect a great fuss, for we are told that we shall have to leave the boat about 3 o'clock in the morning. Will you please say to Mrs. Whaley that her wife & children



are well. she would have written, but cannot  
get a stamp -

good by.

Please tell me all about  
how my husband gets along

F P S.

Mrs Henry

Sumner

July 25<sup>th</sup> 1862



Brooklyn N. Y. August 2<sup>d</sup> / 57

Mr Morse,

Dear sir,

It is now seven days since I arrived, & have but just written to your brother, I have been so unwell, that I was fearful I should not be able to go on with him, Little Eddy stood the voyage much better than I did, I never shall forget my sufferings, I truly believe if we had been out six days longer I should now be in the sea - I cannot tell ~~why~~ I do not get strength and an appetite, every afternoon I have a fever, my hands and face are very hot, and yet my face is as pale as though I were dead.

Every afternoon the girl takes Eddy out and he enjoys it very much: two days before we arrived Eddy & a little boy of the Lady that roomed with me, was taken down with fever, I was fortunate enough to break Edwards up, the next morning he was quite bright, but since then his head has several bites, the Doctor says it saved him from a worse sickness -

I do not feel like keeping my head up - I cannot write to my husband now, soon as I get good news I will write, you can let him take all the part that relates to me, please write me all about him. I hope you received the Letter I sent from Panama.



Oh how it pained at Panama, I got very wet, and there  
is were I took a cold that I fear will never leave me.

Mrs Whaly was very sea-sick but not so much as I  
was, the day we arrived she was as lively as though  
she had not been sick, while I could hardly get on  
walk. I know not what I should have done, had not  
a gentleman (Mr Smith) taken Eddy on deck an hour in  
the morning and afternoon

Remember me to Mrs Donohoe tell her  
I will write her if I ever get able -

I would like to say more but my head is burning

With much respect

S J Stevens.

Mrs Stevens  
Aug 2d  
New York

Eddy has just come home  
and he is looking quite happy.

E W Morse Esq<sup>r</sup>

San Diego.  
Cal -



East Cambridge February 7<sup>th</sup> 1858

W<sup>m</sup> Morse,

Dear Sir,

Your kind favors of December six & twenty first, was received with much pleasure on the third & fourth of this month. I know not how to express my gratitude for it if it was not for you, I should learn nothing from San Diego, and I need not tell you that I feel a deep interest in the place and many there, and should were my husband not there, I am very thankful to learn that he has something to do, I dread that he will be out of business, wandering about and no home, nor any one to care for him but I feel you will always be his friend, and I feel very grateful for all your kindness do you think there in any prospect of his

P.S. I wrote to my husband about two weeks since I have sent to him, once or twice before, and directed them to your care in one of the ways, for Mrs. Donald.



sending for me? I do not wish to go back to  
L. D. to go through what I have, but I would go  
if my husband can maintain me, if ever I do go  
back I want to go on a farm, so if he has nothing  
better to do he had better get a place near Mr.  
Browns, and when he sends me enough to pay  
my passage back I will go to him, I have not  
heard a line from him yet, he promised to send me  
an Otter skin, can you bring it? I hope you will  
come home this summer, your poor mother  
& father so long to see you, and all your friends,  
you ask, do I not want to see little Eddie, oh I  
long very much to see him, sweet child  
I fear he will forget me, I have felt an ache  
ing void ever since he left my arms.

I am in my brother's family, it is a comfort  
to be with them, although painful to see my  
dear brother in the way he is, but he is very  
calm most of the time, he has been a great rea-  
der but now he seldom looks into a book, for

if he does he finds something to make him cross  
with all the world, his constant theme is religion,  
but he appears much better this winter than last,  
so we feel in hopes in time he will quite recover.

I have been longing to go to W. Amherst for two  
months but in a young family there is so much to  
do, and days short & cold, that I know not when I  
shall be able to leave, but I shall try to go soon  
as it is a little warmer, I have been wanting to write  
but could not tell them what day to look for me  
and it would be necessary, as some one would have  
to meet me to take me to the house, I hear nothing  
from them, I wrote last, you do not mention but what  
he has been well, so I trust he has.

I do not think you have received all my  
letters, I wrote you just after I lost my dear father  
he only lived seven weeks after I returned, it was a  
great consolation to us both to meet again, but still  
very hard to me to lose him so soon, Oh! it is dread-  
ful as you say, to put our dear ones away under the



cold ground — but I was Taught what value  
to put upon earthly things, when your beloved  
wife left us — but she is happy, God knows best  
why he took her home so soon, let us not be too  
selfish and wish her back again to die —

Poor Mr & Mrs Donahue I pity very much; I wrote  
to her some time since, I beg she will answer it.

I feel sorry for Mr Ladd, but had she married  
a worthier man he would have more reason to grieve

How bad Mrs Whaley must feel to learn of her  
husbands misfortune, how dreadful

Please remember me to Mrs Robinson, and to all  
that feel an interest in me, I am very glad to learn that  
Dr Hornstedt is getting friendly with Dona Rosarie, I hope  
they will give up his wife, I think they will if she is firm.

Soon as I see Eddie I shall write again, and  
shall always feel thankful for your letters, it is a  
great blessing to have one kind friend; little Eddie  
I know has found many, but I do not know as his  
Aunt Laura has taken much care of him, for I suppose  
her school takes all her time, she looks and appears  
very much like your dear wife — With much esteem  
Stanley Stevens.



Miss Stevens

April 29<sup>th</sup>

East. Cambridge, April 29<sup>th</sup> 1858

My much esteemed friend,

Your kind favor of  
March 21<sup>st</sup> was received yesterday, Eddie's  
birth-day — I have neglected too  
long to tell you about my visit at W.  
Amesbury, I did not think of stopping but  
one week, but I hated to come from  
there, after stopping two weeks, what a  
kind good family they are, and Mr Gray  
is wonderful man, they have much to  
say about you, and are looking forward  
to the summer months to bring you  
home, oh how they long to see you, and  
do you not long to see Eddie? when I  
think of him, I can see his laughing eyes  
(so much like his own dear mother's)  
and his rose cheeks, as he looked up



with a bright smile, his look told me instant  
ly that I was not forgotten, oh what joy went  
to my soul, darling one when shall I see him  
again, I might have loved <sup>him</sup> better had he been my  
own but, *quim saba*, he was quite well and  
very happy, Maria is a very devoted mother,  
Laura loves him as well, but it does not  
come so handy for her to tend babies as to  
tend school, they are fine girls, I have not  
written to them since I returned, I was sick  
for several days after I returned, and the 2<sup>d</sup> of  
April I was called to Gloucester, my last Aunt  
was called suddenly home, she had been well  
all winter only a cough, but she has gone  
to her last home, she has looked forward  
to it without fear, feeling her saviour was there  
to receive her, but I pity poor uncle, they  
have lived so many years together (44) many old  
and many young have been called to part, but  
to me, no trial was ever like yours, but I will not

probe your wound - all that love & esteem you  
deeply sympathize with you.

May 7<sup>th</sup> I have been quite unwell the last  
two weeks, some days I have felt dull thinking I should  
never be any better, but I am calm and resigned to my  
Fathers will, it is best for me if I must go, he will receive  
me why should I fear, I have been kept by his mercy  
many years, and have received so many blessings from his hand  
why should I not trust him to the end

"Oh for a firm and lasting faith  
So credit all the Almighty saith."

A few days since I received a letter from my husband, so  
I mistake it is two weeks since, he is very anxious for me  
to come back, but says he does not know how to send the  
money for my passage, can you not put him in the way, I  
told him to go to you, for you would be likely to do better  
about it than he would, and that you talked of coming home  
this summer, and I could go back with you I hope you will  
come home for they all long to see you, and I believe Eddie will  
know you, but if you stop much longer he will not, and he will  
change and you cannot see that face as when last you saw it and  
oh what a blow it will be, God forbid you should know that  
fang, Mr Gray thought he had altered so I would not know him - Grand  
had picked him out among a thousand, he looks like his  
mother, I am so thankful for your sake, how can you keep from him?  
I was delighted that your dear sister is blessed with a daughter  
it was born white I was at W Amherst, I only called there once, did  
not see your father while there, I enquired after coming from church  
if he was there, and they said he was, I should have thought he would  
have stopped in the porch and spoken to me, but they say he is faithful.



I am very sorry to learn that San Diego is not improving, and  
dull as ever, but your account of the mines are not quite  
as bad as husbands, I hope they will prove good yet, I am  
truly sorry to learn the coal mine have turned out so bad poor  
Mr Ladd, I pity him he has seen so much trouble, but fortune  
Wheel is ever turning, he is down now but it will be his  
turn ~~with come~~ to be up some day.

How is Mrs Ames, happy as ever,  
but no, she cannot be very happy although many would think  
so, some dislike him, think there is no good about him, but I think  
there is much good about him, had his dear Eliza lived he might  
have been very different from what he will be for he cannot find an  
other like her - oh how happy they are in that bright land

If Dr Hammond is still in San Diego will you ask him if  
it is more healthy for me there than here, he knows my constitution  
and can tell, one thing is sure, I have felt quite unwell ever  
since I have been here, but than I was but just alive when I got  
there; and do you advise me to come back, can I trust that  
my husband will continue to do well, but you will say I know him  
best, but a wife is blind, and it is best they should be.

I shall not write to Mrs Donohue till  
she answers my letter please remember me to her, to Mrs Conroy,  
Mrs Robinson, Mrs — I cannot think of her name they lived  
in Mrs Robinsons house when I left, her husband you wrote me had the  
public school. I am glad Mrs Warty is coming to her poor husband.

I do not care about going back, if I was well I should not mind  
and I hate too, to leave my poor brother and family, Edward still  
has that way of talking to himself some days he is more quiet  
than others, I mean he does not walk the floor nor have so many mo-  
tions with his hands, he sleeps well and has an excellent appetite

We had quite a snow storm the day Edgie was two years old  
I do not know what your friends will think by my not writing  
to them but when I do I hope I shall find a letter from them  
this - I feel very tired, my head pains me much, I do not think  
you got the letter I sent you for I never hear of you receiving any  
Please remember me to Dona Victoria family  
Yours with esteem  
Fannie & Elvans.



My Aunt says she would send me some money if she knew how to send it, could you not put him in a way? I wrote you that I was very sick - for several weeks I did not expect to live the summer - but for the last seven weeks I have been under the care of a Homeopathic Dr and have gained very fast - almost well enough to go to California.

I have been very busy or I should have answered your kind letter before.

My sister's family is large - she has many - I have forgotten to tell you she has another daughter six weeks old - we could have done without it - but would not part with it now - it is a fine child.

I must now say a few words to my husband. Yours with much respect

Flamine J. Hallens  
Aug 15<sup>th</sup> 1858

East Cambridge, Aug<sup>th</sup> 13/58

Mr Morse,

My poor friend,

What shall

I say to comfort you - your dear boy, I have not seen since last March, I wrote you on my return from there, you do not mention if you received it, in your date of June, which was most thankfully received the middle of July, but you will not think I was so very glad, if I can neglect so long to answer it, one cause is I was sick with a side ache and to write made it worse, it always brings it on when I have not had it for a week or ten days, - then I was out at Jamaica Plains a



week, and our increasing family, makes it hard to find time to write, I have told you that I make it my home with my brother and his wife, she has another daughter, it is a fine child and now she has come among us we should not like to part with her, but poor Maria had as much as she could well get through with, without another care, she is almost a saint; my dear brother remains about the same as he has been for two years past, he enjoys good health, but his mind is so weak that he cannot do any business, "Man is born to sorrow"

I received a very kind epistle from Laura about three weeks since in answer to one I wrote her last April she was teaching at East Kingston, and was soon to have a vacation, being weary of so long a confinement, and longing to see little Eddie, she misses him very much, says every day, he grows more interesting and is a lovely child, he is

leaning to talk fast; can say Grandpa and Laura and such words so cunning, she wishes I could hear him, and says I must come and make them a visit this summer. I should like very <sup>much</sup> to go there and spend a month, for no where have I ever passed my time, more pleasantly, Mr Gray is one of the best of men, I will be thought when I listen to Mrs Morse telling me one of her parents and brothers and sisters that I should feel so deep an interest in them; your dear boy I long to see, I love him too well, for my own happiness, you I trust will understand me; that I am sometimes sick at heart to see him, and feel he is far away, and he will forget me; but his loving looks I never can forget; sweet boy, God bless you.

Your mother's health is rather poor this summer, I pray she may improve, for your sake, for you would hardly forgive yourself should be taken from you before your return: I feel your heart is with your dear ones at home, and you would be with them if you could; - Trust in the mercy



Mrs Stevens August 8 1785

of God, He will give you power to say  
"Thy will be done," and a heart to feel  
that "He doeth all things well."

I shall enclose a few lines to Mrs  
Donahue & to my husband, he may be  
away, do you think he will send for me  
and more, do you think I could be con-  
tented; is Mrs Winty any more so than she  
was; one thing, I feel more resigned to the  
will of my Heavenly Father than I ever have  
been, and I know that trials and pain pass  
away, this home however bright it may  
appear has many dark spots, none are  
or can be happy but those who have cast  
themselves at the feet of their Saviour and given  
themselves up, all that Christ requires is,  
that you feel you want of Him.

I was out to Jamaica Plain last  
week - Mr Jones told me that they had  
appointed my husband to go to the Island of St  
Peters to take account of the cattle there, and  
that Mr Robinson wrote him that he had  
gone, his date was about the first of June  
if I remember right, Let me know when  
you write if you know anything about it.



Oh I hope I shall be able to go and see Eddie this summer, sweet boy.  
But how must you long to see him; but I would not be too  
unhappy about it. Brighter days will come, all will get be bright.  
I trust this in great haste, it is evening and company has just come in.

Yours Truly  
F. J. Stevens

Please remember  
me to the  
Aunt, there is  
the way, then  
to all my  
friends.

Mrs Stevens  
July 18<sup>th</sup> 1859

East Cambridge December 26<sup>th</sup> 1858

Mr. Morse:

My much esteemed friend,

Your favor of  
November 7<sup>th</sup> was received with a thankful  
heart day before yesterday, I was glad to learn that  
my husband had something to do, but friend that  
I have heard he has been busy ever since I left,  
but one contrives somehow never to make money,  
there is but little hope of my ever seeing him  
again, if I wait till he sends enough to pay my  
passage out, but there is no other way for  
him to expect me to get to him; in his  
last letter he wished me to get some of our  
relations to send enough to take me to Cali-  
fornia, but they are too glad to have me with  
them, it is the last thing they would do, send me  
away if they were rich enough to give away three  
or four hundred dollars: I often wish I was at San  
Diego, it is so hard to live parted from your sweet-  
est and dearest one — I expect nothing, but  
live trusting that all will be for my best  
good let what will happen. God's will be done.







on the coast till you settled your business, for it was too  
bad to have you spend six or seven hundred dollars to  
just come home to spend only a few months with  
them. I know they all think every thing of you.

Do you think it is best for me to go to San Diego  
should I ever have a chance? Do you think my husband  
can or will maintain me? I ought to know well enough  
myself - my experience of the last fifteen years,  
ought to teach me something; there never was a better  
hearted man, I do not know but of one fault, and that  
is one that lowers man lower than the beasts, my  
heart turns sick when I think of going back to California  
and see again the sorrow I have had to pass through

In a few year he will be free - I pray he may  
find a partner, that he will be happy <sup>with</sup> he is not  
one that can be happy alone, I pity him, lost about  
without a home; I should have <sup>thought</sup> he would have gone to  
the Gold Mines, upon the Gila River, he needs a little.

I was very sorry to learn the death of  
Mr Larkin, do you know the cause of his death? he  
appeared to enjoy perfect health when I last saw him.

February 2<sup>d</sup> At last my dear friends  
have heard from Laura, she returned from West-Townsend the  
30<sup>th</sup> of January. Maria has been quite out-of-health, and her  
Mother surrounded by many cares could not find time  
to write. She says Eddie would like to see his Aunt Samie.  
He has grown very fat and pretty, as well as cunning.  
She says your Mother is better than she was last Fall, and that  
she will live to welcome the return of her only son to his  
native home; Mrs. Walker's little girl is heavy as Eddie.  
They often write to you of course, so this is nothing new.



Fanny G. Stevens  
July, 1857

Ann Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 1857

East Cambridge, August. 1<sup>st</sup> 59

My much esteemed friend:

Although I can hardly hold up my head, yet I must compose a letter to you, for sick or well you shall not be neglected longer, but I will go and take my egg, than I may feel stronger.

Forsooth in the evening, I have just come from a short walk, yet I feel very much fatigued my breath has been miserable all the spring the Doctor thought if I lived through April I should pass a comfortable summer, but as far as I can judge I grow more feeble every day, I have a bad cough, and have night sweats, in the morning I have a chill, at noon a high fever, by three o'clock I drag myself up stairs to dress, in an hour I come down, (I would like to stop <sup>there</sup> longer, it is so quiet there, but I feel I must try and do a little sewing for my sister, she has four young children and it takes her about all the time to cook for them



Last summer she had a good American girl, but she wanted two dollars per week, and that is more than Maria could pay, for her Guardian only allows her fifty dollars per month; Capt. Pelley pays a little once in a while he has treated my sister shamefully. Oh the Moore it is almost impossible for me to write, with two or three crying children round, the moment I take my pen they commence to cry and fret; there is a family living in the rooms above us, she has a little girl six years old and a boy three, and twins girls ten months old, and cross enough they are, and I have the benefit of their music, besides three or four nursery one in one family, Oh how I long for a quiet place.

You tell me I must go and see Eddie this summer, Oh that I could go to that darling home, I could stay there always, they are so good so kind. I had a letter from Laura the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, she had not heard from you for a long time, she says she cannot help thinking but what something has happened to you, and all your friends fret worried about you; your mother is very sick, she says if she could only see you she could die in peace. Laura wished me to let her know when I heard from you, for she could not get it out of her mind but what something unusual had happened; I long to see Laura and have a good chat with her.

I am very sorry the meddles could not let you a home, I would not mind them, it is a shame that you must be debared from the only comfort you had; I have moaned with you for that dear, sweet, good wife, I can see her before me now with her happy smile, her bright blue eye, and her rosy cheek; and oh I never can forget that dreadful day when we looked upon her lifeless form — O my friend "cast thy burden upon the Lord".

The doctor all things well;

August 3<sup>rd</sup>. I am very to hear so sad an account of San Diego, I was in hopes the mumps was going to make everybody sick —

Jerson turned out as I expected, the only wonder is, how he escaped so long, I saw him but a few times before I found out he was a very mean man,

Will you give my love to Mrs Donahue and ask her to go to Mrs Lyons and look in my trunks and find a pr of vases; and give them to Doña Rosais, with my compliments, I send much love to all her family, dear little Pabel we shall meet no more on earth but we shall in a brighter land, in that heavenly city.

I wish <sup>my</sup> Donahue would find for, an old journal that I put into one of the trunks, and burn it, I would not like that any one should read it.



I have written Hubert a long letter, but it  
may make him cross instead of sad, for I have  
told him how unkindly he has treated me  
to take all my hard earnings, and not send me  
anything but promises of money, he is in a  
great way for me to come back, I suppose it  
is to be a cat's paw for him, it is so long since  
I heard from <sup>him</sup> that I almost forget that I have a  
husband, this may sound cruel to you, but my  
poor heart was broken years ago

I feel an interest in many in San Diego  
please remember me to all who inquire for  
me, is Mrs Robinson well? you did not tell  
me anything about the school

I was very much grieved to learn the  
death of Mr Larkin, do you know what  
was the cause of his death?

I feel very sad when I think I may  
never see Eddie again, oh he was a darling  
boy, God grant you may before many  
months chasp him to your happy bosom, but  
there will be an alloy — I am not satisfied  
with this letter, please excuse from a true friend  
Dorrie S. Stevens

If I get any letter I will write to Mrs Donahue.



Mrs Stevens  
+  
Mrs Gray

Dec 14<sup>th</sup>

Am

East Cambridge, Nov 2<sup>o</sup> / 59

My friend,

It is a long time  
since I heard any thing from  
you, my husband wrote me  
in July, and mentioned that you  
had turned farmer; I should  
like to have one of your long  
letters, to get the news, my  
husband, is so cross. Because I  
came home he dont know  
how or what to do, says I  
made a foolish bargain, that  
you ought to have paid my  
passage back; now Mr Morse  
do not mind what he says



I always felt that I was well paid  
and more than paid, I could have  
gone back had I been well, the  
thought never entered my head not  
to do so till I became too feeble to  
go, I have told him in all my  
letters how miserable I was but  
I should not think he thought  
much about it; in my last I  
told him I was not expected  
to live, but a few months and yet  
he does not even say he was  
sorry

November 10<sup>th</sup>

I am failing very fast, I should  
like to say more but it is too  
late — oh that I could see  
dear Eddie, if I could afford it  
I would send for Mr Gray to  
bring him up, I have just lost  
ten dollars, and feel straggled. It was  
lost some how coming from  
N Y

it is months since I heard from  
any of your family, I have  
not written for what could I  
say but that I am sick,  
and that I long to see you  
please give my love  
to all my friends

I'm one of my father's  
Mansions I trust to meet  
you beloved one — I am  
very happy — all is joy  
within — I suffer more  
from a sore throat than  
any thing else, it is dread  
ful.

Farewell  
From your friend

Fannie J. Sherry



East Cambridge Dec<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1859

To E. Morse Esq

Dear Sir.

It is with sad-  
ness, that I record the death of my  
Sister Mrs Stevens, She died the 8<sup>th</sup>  
inst, of Consumption, & at her request  
I send you this letter, also enclose you  
a letter which I received from Laura  
Gray, two days ago, thinking any thing  
from there which spoke of little Eddie  
would be acceptable.

I have written to Captain Stevens by  
this mail, I do not know how he will  
receive the news of his wifes death,  
She did not seem to think she was  
sick. Please to let her friends  
there know of her decease.

Very respectfully yours

P. Maria Gray;