Cul

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Lydia A. Morse
West Amesbury
Mass.

Amesbury Oct 31th 1853

My Dear Son.

I will now endeavor to ~~write~~ write you a few lines in return for your kind letter. You said you did not wish me to feel hard toward you, for persuading Lydia to leave her friends and go to a strange land, I can truly say that I do not blame you, although it was painful to part with a loving and affectionate daughter, I spose I shoule have done the same if I had been in your plac. When you receive this, if nothing should occur to prevent, Lydia will have met with you in Cal. and I hope it will be a happy meeting there to enjoy much happiness and prosperity, and ~~first~~ my Children, Seek first the kingdom of Heaven and all necessary things shall be added unto you. Lydia wrote to us from N. Y. to keep up good courage, and she would do the same, and we want to know if she has kept her promise. I was over to your Fathers and thay are all well, Aunt Wed is dead Daniels Mother, My eye sight is very poor and I can not see to write any more, You must excuse the shortness of the letter, and take the will for the deed, Give my best respects to your wife.

I remain Yours, Wm. Bray

Wm Gray
Oct. 31st 1853

Amesbury Nov. 13th Sunday.

To my affectionate daughter,

We received your letter dated Oct. 23rd. informing us of your good health, and safety ~~are~~ thus far on your long journey which relieve our anxiety in some degree, but still we feel concerned we are all under the protection of our heavenly Father, who watches over us by night or by day. I only hope you will not be unmindfull of his goodness. I expect your are know in Cal., if not in San Diego your new home, we are all in good health, Laura was at home two weeks since, and she should write you the next mail, I think doubtful as she has very few leisure moments. if not you must take the will for the deed, Mr Tilton has asked a dimission, and it has been granted, he will leave soon for Lynn to take charge of the new interest there we are in a sad condition indeed respecting a meeting this winter, for which we feel very bad, but we hope it will be sustained, we seem to have almost every thing to contend with, some say shut up the house, others not so, how it will be determined I know not, give my Love to all enquiring friends, Esp.r in particular,

affectionately Lydia Gay.

Dear Sister.

It was extremely gratifying and reviving, to hear that you had enjoyed a pleasant, and prosperous passage, thus far, and that you did not regret starting for California. we really did expect you to wish yourself at home, more than once before you reached your destined home. I cannot help thinking, however, that you did not write candidly the whole, but only the pleasantest part of it. I like to hear the bad news, (if there is any) as well as the good. I want you to write how you like living in Cal. I hope you will find it pleasant, doubtless you will. You must not expect to receive much that is news, as it is not an age since you left us, although it seems a good long while, and we miss you very much. I have paid that long-promised visit to Rebecca (dont it astonish you) and I met with a Mrs Judkins from Kingston, who said Ephraim boarded with her one winter, when he was teaching school, they thought very highly of him, he was a very agreable and amiable young mans (that is real news is it not)

Rebecca said she was very sorry you could not visit her, before you went away, and Oh the lots of Questions that are asked by every body, it is worse than a rainstorm. I hope you will not stay any longer in Cal. than is really necessary, a great mans say you are goineg to spend your days there, and will not care or want to live any where else. I curl my lip, and look as doubtful and unbeliving as I can, but they will talk. You wished me to write every little circumstance which occured, and so I will. The population of old Amesbury has increased lately, Mrs Allisson has a little circumstance, likewise Mrs J. Oak, Mrs M. Clement, Mrs Albert Pargent Mrs R Stuart and Mrs S. Evans, have received the same blessing. Caroline Pargent has become Mrs Caroline John P. William Larkin is married, and occupies his new house. Maria has been down to Jonathan Morrill's visiting, and likes Mrs Morrill very much, she is very pleasant, and appears like the first Mrs M. The first time Jonathan saw her, he was very much struck with her appearance, he never saw a person, that looked and appeared so much like his Sarah. The little girls are coming up on Saturday, and remain until Sunday night.

I wish you had stolen a little darky in Jamaica for me, I want one ~~very much~~ most awfully, and you cant guess what for, I am afraid there will never be another chance. Charles Nichols has succeeded in obtaining a housekeeper, she has not said any thing about leaving yet, and he thinks it is most wonderful and strange, she is a widow Lady from Danville, I do not know but they will strike up a bargain, if he does not think she is too old, (about 35 or 40) All send love and regards to you, and your worser half, and all the rest, and you must make the city ladies step, remember, I cannot think of any more to write, except that business is brisk in Newton so Charles says,

Your loving sister,

Sarah.

I do not remember whether I wrote about your silk or not, I will take this opportunity to say that I did not send it to Mr Y., but if I have a chance, to send it to Cal or bring it, I will,

WEST AMESBURY
MAR
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MASS.

Mr Ephraim W. Shores
San Diego
California.

West Amesbury Sunday Feb 6th 1854

My Dear Sister.

As I am at home to day I thought I would write to you as you requested, thinking you would like to hear from us, We are all well and hope you are enjoying the same blessing, Being unaccustomed to letter writing, I think it will be short. However I will try to tell the news in these diggings The dancers of the universalist Society went on a sleighride at Georgetown to attend a ball didnot return untill the next morning at eight O clock and we thought they must have had a good

time if staying out late would make it so. As it happen'd one day at the factory by breaking the machinery, the hands were thrown out of business Mr. F. Nichols thought he could not improve the time better then getting married, of course, had quite a wedding party about twentyfive guests at Mr. Sam's, and the knot was tied, but Eddy said that they didnot have any cake, I have just been eating a lot of poped corn, and I wish you and Ephriam were hear to pertake of some, Mr. Gould folks are well, Mother said that she was disapointed for not receiving a letter the last mail, Mr Gould often makes this remarks that the indians have got you, I hope soon to receive that promised letter when we last parted. yours affectionately

pleased excused all mistakes. John R. Gray

Beloved Daughter

As John has not filled this sheet I thought I would write and tell you how very well & smart I am went to Haverhill town other day shoping called on Laura she is well and enjoying herself a going to levee's &c. she thinks of not staying much longer unless Mr. Macy will advance her pay, he rather teach this summer said she had written you but not received any from you I've received yours dated Dec 15th which are the only ones I have likewise I hope we shall get letters the next mail I am very glad to hear you are so comfortably and agreeably settled I often think of you and the beautiful climate out there we have had about six weeks excellent sleighing but very extreme cold a part of time the thermometer down to 30 degree below zero one day 36 degrees a fine time for stay riding parties which by the way are frequent quite a party from the river went on

wednesday afternoon I being at uncle Hoyts
sas there saw Mr Neal and Lady. the sabbath
seems very long not in having a meeting to
attend your Father has gone to South-
hamton to meeting to cold for me to
acompany him they have a revival
in that place four or five young converts
I believe likewise at the falls on East Rivr
they have a great revival I understand
a number of Eph.'s cousins are interested
in it fifty or sixty enquirers Charles
has been to their meetings several
times says they are much engag'd
Mrs J. Morrill has a litte daughter
they have removed from Mr Kindicks in to
Dan.'l Morrills house with Dan.'l Weed
I want to tell you all the news
Mrs M Martin has little son
Ruth S. health is improving I think
if you can read this you will do well
Please excuse all mistakes, yours L. Gray

give my love to all inquiring friends

Amesbury July 12th

Agreeably to your request I inform you that we received yours dated June 3d containing those presents likewise two dollars in a former letter for which I feel greatful, Letters have come regular of late about once a fortnight we have sent the last number of Godeys you say you think of leaving spanish language, how is that will it prolong your stay in Cal.,, I hope not Farther & Otis are gone in salt meadows morning John has gone with them for his health which is not very good rather declining this very warm weather Mr. Gould is very kind and favours him he has not done much work for 2 or 3 weeks

Love to all

Lydia Gray

West Simsbury Mass

Mr Morse

Having become acquainted with the pecuniary affairs of Dea Gray and feeling interested in his behalf I take this method of calling your attention to a few particulars of which I accidently became aware. Perhaps you have not been informed that Maria has for a long time been sick it is now 4 years since she has been under the care of a Physician consequently the expences of such a long term of sickness must be very great. The Deacon has now attained

the age of threescore years and ten and is of course incompetent to labor as formerly therefore he must of necessity be in somewhat straitened circumstances I have discovered through a private source and of course she would not desire to have it known that Laura has taken in washing for a friend to purchase a suit of clothes for your Boy I know that they are willing to do every thing for him even to making sacrifices and he has been well provided for since he has been with them but he is now so large that it cost more to cloth him than formerly I hope you will excuse the liberty I have taken. I have been prompted by the best of motives and have felt that it was a duty to inform you of these facts

Your obedient servant

_____

Anonymous
March 1/ 1868
Concerning Dea. Grayson

the mail has arrived ~~have~~ no letters
from you we are greatly disapointed
you say time flies swiftly to be sure it
does over the same, when we are
anxiously waiting to hear from our
absent friends it seems differently
do write often as you consistently can
and oblige your friends

Lydia Gray

Amos Wr Mrs Atherton Mrs Stickney receives
letters Mrs S. had not heard since July
from her husband it has been reported
he was dead