

Edward
November 3rd - arrived 14th
Jan'y 2/76

West Amesbury Jan 2nd /76

Dear father:

Perhaps when you glance at this letter, you will think I have changed my name, but I can assure you I have not, I had only a half sheet, and so I borrowed of Laura.

Your letter dated Dec. 21st reached me on the 31st, making the trip in about nine days. The New Years present, for which I am very thankful, came all right. You asked me to tell you about the trees that

were set out on the farm.

Did you not receive a letter from Aunt Sawyer, telling you about them, she explained it much better than I can, but as you asked me I will do my best. The Tallman Sweet was the one Orin could not find, and he substituted for them, the Danvers Sweet, an apple that ripens about the same time. The Marengo Crab is doing well. Some of the Peaches have started above, and some below the graft. The Quinces I believe are both dead, and Orin says it is so dry you will not be able to grow them there, Mr. Martin, in setting out the trees, lost off most of the tags, and so I can not tell

which have died. You did not tell me the variety, with which to graft that pear tree in the garden, Northeast the house, and I should much prefer to see someone graft, before I tried the art.

Some time ago you ^{asked} how the "Old horse" was doing. I do not think she will be able to do your riding, next summer, she was quite smart last summer, but in the Fall she failed very much. I went down to the Mills about two weeks ago, and I think I was nearly an hour and a half going.

I do not like to hurry her it makes her stumble so. She is able to do some work if she is not hurried, and I think it is most to bad to kill her. I haul ed seventeen cwt. down to the

corner a short time ago, and she
took it along without any trouble.
Unless she is kept pretty well this
winter she will be likely to die in the
Spring. Please answer this soon and
give me your opinion. Grandma
is gaining slowly, she sits up five or
six hours a day. Grandpa is pretty
well in bodily health but his mind
is no better. Laura and Maria
are both pretty well, only they are
rather tired with so much extra work.

All send their love.

Please remember

me to Mother.

Hoping this will find
you well.

I remain as ever

Your Loving Son

E W Morse.

AL 6816

West Amesbury Feb 9th / 1876

Dear Father:

I have not received that long letter yet, but as I have some business to transact, I thought I would write you. You will find enclosed, a letter, directed to you, which was put in Elbridge's box, he opened it, and found it was not for him, and he sent it to me, by Clyde Clement. I found it was not for me, and so I thought I would send it to you. In my letter to Mother, I told you I had not had but two sleigh-rides, but last Wednesday, it snowed through the night, I should think about three inches fell.

It was quite good sleighing the rest of the week, but Sunday night, it rained and the snow left in a hurry. It is snowing now quite fast, and I think there will be enough to use a sleigh tomorrow, but I suppose snow that comes now, will not last long, for the Sun is a great deal warmer, as it comes North.

Mr. Wiggin told me sometime since, that he would like to have me graduate in July, with the class that will graduate then.

I am studying geometry now, and that takes the place of Latin. If I go in with the rest of the class, I can graduate and receive a Diploma, but I do not think it would pay to write another Essay. The last first of last week it was very slippery and quite a

^{number} fell. A woman in Newton, ^{fell and} broke her hip, she had to be lashed to a board and the Dr., thinks she will have keep that position, certainly five weeks. In my last letter to Mother I spoke of the town being divided, but we are not sure yet that it will be done very soon; they have called a town meeting for next Saturday, I will write soon and let you know the result. The name is not fully decided upon some want it called ~~at~~ Merrimac. We are

all as well as when I wrote Mother. Please excuse all mistakes as I have written a great deal to day for me, as I have copied a written examination on Nat. Hist.

It is now twenty minutes past nine, and I will bid you

Good Night
E. W. M.

Edward
July 9/76

and July 27-8

Return to E. W. MORSE,
SAN DIEGO, Cal.,
if not delivered within 10 days.



Mr Edward W. Morse
West Amherst
Mass.

San Diego Feby 29th 1876

Dear Edward

I owe you a long letter, and I will try to pay the debt now.

In your letter from "Riverton" of Jan'y 29th you speak of a mild open winter, now here in San Diego we have had the coldest weather known for many years - frost was seen on the sidewalks in town, though I have not heard of any thing being injured in the gardens. Nothing in our garden was touched though we have growing tomatoes, Bananas, Oranges, Guavas &c that are easily affected by frost.

I believe fruit trees generally make as much growth here in one year as in Massachusetts in three. We visited a Mr Steele last month about four miles from here ^{who} has a young orchard of 1000 fruit trees, Apples, Pears, Peaches, Apricots, Plums, Cherries &c with a few Oranges Lemons Almonds and Walnuts. He bought and moved on to the place two years ago this month and it did not then contain a tree, and in the March following he set out two or three hundred, none of which were larger than my finger, and yet the other day when we were there I measured several peach trees and found them 13 inches in circumference and this last season one of them bore nearly half a bushel of peaches, and others only a little less. This year they will bear bushels as they are full of fruit buds. We saw still hanging on several of the apple & Pear trees which

were set out only last year, several fine looking specimens of apples & Pears. During the last 3 months Mr Steele has sold from two acres cultivated in vegetables over \$700 worth, at his door. Yet this land has never had one load of manure hauled upon it, neither for the trees nor vegetables. Stable keepers and others are obliged to hire people to haul the manure out of their yards & dump it into the Bay or fill up some hole in the street. Some farmers who are cultivating light sandy lands convenient to town often use manure and it is used in the gardens in town considerably - The Chenevre also use it in their market gardens, but the supply is greater than the demand.

We are expecting a prosperous season for the farmers and Honey raisers this year. We have had good rains and the grain is looking finely. I wish you could see some of these large grain fields - I could show you one which is six miles across it in one direction and about five miles in the other. It is owned by different parties, though one man owns about two thousand acres of it, but there are no fences to divide it, not even along side of the roads which pass through it. This tract of country is a level plain, quite surrounded by hills & mountains with scarcely a tree upon it. Not more than eight or ten different families are living upon it. Some of them however are setting out orchards of fruit trees and one man this year is setting out a forest of 5000 Eucalyptus trees.

During the month of January there was not one rainy day, that is not one day upon which it rained all day, like the East, but there were ten days upon which rain fell, so you see our rainy season is not very wet. Several times during the winter we have seen the mountains about 40 miles in an air line away - covered white with snow and sometimes the wind coming from there feels quite cool, but fortunately it never is strong from that direction scarcely ever sufficiently strong to turn a heavy wave. During the day it never comes from that direction only at night and only an hour or two before daylight. The reason is that during the day the sun heats up the earth and as the heated air rises, cooler air from the ocean flows in to take its place, while at night the earth having lost its heat can no longer warm the air, and the waters of the ocean remaining warm warms the air above it till it is warmer than the air on the land, the warm air rises and air from the land flows off to take its place. This ebb & flow of the air goes on with clock like regularity here every day in the year except during some great commotion of the atmosphere caused by storms. It is this regularity which makes our climate so remarkably equable. Back in the country they have a more uneven climate, hotter in summer and colder in winter. At the Periplomme Mine, where Mr Amos Weed is now stopping, he writes me that they had a foot of snow, at one time, though it did not last.

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long where the bees had a chance to shine upon it not more than 8 or 10 days.

I intended to have sent on to Amesbury a lot of honey, but owing to the increase of freight charges by the monopoly controlling the Pacific Railroad & Steamship line I found I could not do so reasonably nor safely unless a full car load was sent. I tried to make arrangements with parties who were shipping by the car load, to allow me to ship a small quantity with them and I did make an arrangement with one party but they failed to inform me when they were ready to ship, so that chance failed.

Honey raising is a very interesting pursuit. We have 59 hives of bees situated in a very romantic little valley 28 miles from here, surrounded by steeper, higher and rockier hills than you ever saw, with only one way to get in and out, but a very good road that way. We call it "Oak Glen" because there are so many oak trees. They are the evergreen oak with a leaf something like an apple tree leaf. I enclose one or two. We go out to see them about once a month & usually stop a couple nights. A man interested with us stops there all the time. The bees seldom sting one, - I have never been stung by them but once & that was the first time I visited them. I was a little afraid of them and kept some distance behind Mr Smith who had charge of them but before I had got near the hives some of the bees started on the "war path" passed right by Mr Smith and attached

me, thinking discretion was the better part of valor I started rather hurriedly for the house, but in spite of the best use of my hands got stung over the eye and it seems that is the place they attack most often. Now I often go and sit down within three feet of the entrance to the hive and watch the busy workers carrying in pollen or bee bread, or open the door of the hive and see what they are doing inside. There probably was not a day during the whole year except ^{during} a severe storm, that the bees did not gather honey or pollen.

It is interesting to see the different colors of the pollen, some white, some yellow as saffron, some red and all intermediate colors. Some bees carry honey some pollen, & some water for the use of the "brood" or unmatured bees. The bees hatch from an egg into a white worm and which has to be fed by the nurse bees for nearly 3 weeks before they change into a bee. The Queen which lays all the eggs, several thousand a day during the breeding season, never leaves the hive. She is of a different shape from the other bees and is easily distinguished from them.

I wish you could have had some of our nice honey that we have been selling at 7^c per lb. We sell strained honey at 6 or 7^c and comb honey at 13 to 18^c per lb.

Although it did not rain last year from March to the last of October yet flowers were blossoming every day in the year, though perhaps more plentifully during the months of May, June & July, than others. There is however one plant, the wild Sage which produces the most delicious honey often blossoms as late as August. The leaf looks &

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smells very much like our common garden Sage but larger every way, the plant itself grows from two to four feet high and the flower stalks from four to ten feet high according to the quality of the soil. One would think it would taste of the Sage, but it does not and is certainly the most delicious honey made as well as the whitest & best looking. There is also another plant which looks a little like our "Hard-back" but grows larger & more branching and is more plentiful even than the Sage through the country, thousands of acres together being completely covered with it, called "Eriogonum" ("Paniculatum") botanically, which blossoms late and from which the bees gather a great deal of excellent honey. Our bee keepers call it the Sheet Anshor of the Apiary, for it grows on the dry and often barren hill sides & plains, in fact grows, and everywhere and furnishes an immense amount of honey.

I wish you ^{would} tell Mr Sawyer that I want him to set out trees in the place of those that died last year. I would also like to have some more Pear trees set out. I hope you will graft that Pear tree back of the house this spring, there is no secret about grafting, only to have the inside of the bark of the graft & of the stock agree or come together, & to do this the graft should be put in at a slight angle & should be cut a little thinner on the inside. If you are afraid to trust yourself let some one graft one half & you graft the other half of the trees.

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Your letter of Feb 9th is at hand, with enclosure - the latter is not for me, I have sent for no catalogues nor made any inquiries about Piano Fortes. I send Postal Card to L. C. Boardman & let him know what became of his letter.

I hear that you have had a very remarkable winter, generally warm and pleasant, very little extremely cold weather.

In San Diego we had a few days of colder weather than we have known for many years - frost was seen on the plank sidewalks, but I have not heard that even the tenderest plants in the gardens have been touched. We have had but very little rain but it has fallen so gradually and at times when most needed, that the farmers feel confident of raising very heavy crops. The grain fields near town are looking splendidly, the wheat on some of them being already a foot high.

28th It is raining beautifully to day and I think we are certain to have a heavy rain for the wind last night blew almost a gale from the south. All our rains come from the south, and the quantity depends upon the strength of the wind - if the wind is light we get only a light rain, but if strong and also of considerable duration before it begins to rain, then we are certain of a heavy rain.

I will send you a few seeds of the Turkish Melon, which you can plant as a curiosity though it is doubtful if

They will ripen with you. They are a Muskmelon that will keep as well as a squash. I eat one a few days ago, perfectly sound that was probably picked from the vines last October. They are not so good as a Nutmeg Melon but they taste very well. It is said they will keep a year.

Picked grapes from our vines on New Years day that were fresh & good - we had covered them with thin muslin to keep them from the birds & bees.

I am glad you are studying Geometry I think it will be of more benefit than Latin, to you. Perhaps you had better, if your eyes are strong enough, keep along with your class and graduate with them. I shall want you to take charge of and carry on the farm just as soon as you think you can do so. You are old enough now to, at least partly, realize your responsibilities and duties as a member of society and to feel that, real life, is quite different from a school boys idea of it; that you must rely more upon yourself than upon friends in the cares & perplexities of business which will soon be upon you.

I have been interrupted a good deal while writing this & there may be many repetitions, but it is the long letter I promised you.

I think Merrimac is a much prettier name than Riverston but I shall be sorry to lose the good old name of Amherst.

Your affectionate father

E. W. Morse

Be self-reliant; but be courteous & gentlemanly to all, at home & abroad.

Edward
May 5/76

Merrimac May 5th/76.

Dear Father:

When I received that long letter, I did not think it would be so long, before I should answer it, but there are so many little things to do, that a long time has passed unnoticed, since I received your letter.

The letter was very interesting to me, and I fear should I attempt to write one as long, it would fail to interest you as much.

Aunt Sawyer wished me to tell you that Mr. Thurlow, the Cashier, that went from Newburyport

to Colorado, came home last summer, and stopped about two months. His health was improved very much, and well it might be, for he had done no work, since he went there. The horse has failed a great deal since last Fall, and I don't think it pays to keep her, for a younger horse would do the work she is able to do, and a great deal of riding beside, which she cannot do. A smart horse would not eat any more than she does, far as long as I keep her, I shall give her enough to eat. As there was not any thing said about the grain, I do not know as you was intending to furnish it, but I supposed you would do as you had done

the year before. I got some grain and I have got it to pay for, if it is convenient for you to send some money, I should be very glad of it, but if not, I shall have to contrive some way to earn some. I go to school half a day and find enough to do on Grandpa's place the rest of the time. The class droped one study that I was in, and my other studies coming in the afternoon, I thought I would not go in the morning. Grandpa is not able to do any work and sits in the house most of the time, and I do not like to ask them for money, because they need all they have, to buy comforts for them, which are very necessary for them, in their feebleness.

The times are very dull about here; one man up to this time last year had supplied one firm in Providence, with 45 carriages, this year he has sent only five. So many are out of work, that a great number have moved away. Grandpa's cottage has been vacant 6 months thus depriving them of quite a sum. The cost of those ashes you asked me to ^{get} is \$10.00. The collector was taking a list of property, the other day, and he asked me if I paid a poll tax, and then he asked me how old I was. I told him I was twenty, and he said I must pay a tax. How is it that I must pay a tax a year before I can vote, some of the boys do not pay a tax until they are 22.

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Did you receive a letter from Florence, I believe she wrote you in Mar. when I saw her last, she had not heard from you, but was expecting to soon. I was over to the farm, a few days since, and Mr. Goodwin was there building wall, and he said there was fencing enough, for two men to do for a year.

The times are so hard now that wood does not sell very well, and I should think it would be as well to let the rest stand, for it is young, and does not waste. I understood that Elbridge was going to have it all cut off.

I heard by Aunt Sawyer, that you were not coming home this summer, and was very sorry to learn it, although I had hardly dared hope you would come. Perhaps if you do not come to see me soon, I may learn the trade of Mr. Weston, and walk out and visit you. Uncle Sawyer has got to be Great-grandfather, Andrew's daughter has got a boy, six weeks old. Grandma is about the same as when I wrote you last, but is quite feeble.

All send love.

With much respect
I remain as ever
Your Loving Son,

E. W. Morse

You will have to
get them at the Haverhill Post office

San Diego May 27/76

Edward

My Dear Son

Your letter of 5th inst. was duly received. I find myself very busy and so shall be unable to write you a long letter. To show you how my time is occupied I will tell you the different kinds of business I attend to, 1st Bank Director 3 to 5 meetings a week, 2^d President & Director of "Central Market Co" about one meeting a week, 3^d President of "Free Reading Room Association" about two meetings a month, 4th President & Director of the "San Diego Tanning Association" about two or three meetings a week, 5th Treasurer of the "San Diego Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons" about two or three meetings a month & other work, 6th Director & Treasurer of the "Masonic & Odd Fellows Building Association" about one a week, 7th Director in the "San Diego Gas Co" about one meeting a month, 8th Treasurer & Director in the "San Diego Library Association" about one or two meetings a year, 9th Director in the "San Diego & Utah Southern Rail Road Co." about one meeting a week, 10th Vice President of the "San Diego & Gila N. R. Co." about two or three meetings a year, 11th Public Administrator of the County of San Diego, business for every day, and in the Probate Court two or three times a week, 12th my own private business, and perhaps half a dozen other things that I don't remember.

at the moment. ^{but you see I have occasion}
to be ~~some what busy~~ ^{of these things}
I have allowed to the forced ~~reference~~ ^{reference} for
the good of the Public, without any direct
pecuniary benefit, but I am getting tired
of so much work & have determined to make
some wholesale resignations pretty soon.

Did Mrs Sawyer tell you Mr Thuelow's
address in Colorado I should like to write
to him.

You can do with the Old Man what you
think is best.

I do not know when a Poll Tax is assessed
in Massachusetts - it is different in different States
Elbridge can tell you. In some States it is between
the ages of 18 and 50, but no one can vote in any
of the States till they are 21.

I received a letter from Florence, haven't
answered it yet, you can understand why now,
but I will try to do so soon. I write a good
many business letters every week.

I presume there is considerable fencing to
build on the farm, where was Goodwin building
wall when you saw him? Has Mr Sawyer a yoke
of Cattle yet, & a Cow,
I am very sorry that I can't come home this summer
I regret very much that I can not take you with
us to visit the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia
I had fully counted upon doing so and it is
a great disappointment to me, but times are so dull
and there has been so great a change in our prospects
that I do not deem it advisable. Should our prospects
improve as we hope next year, we shall then certainly

come on, but we shall have missed the great expo-
sition, never to see another.

I must close - I send you
Post office order for \$25.00 enclosed
addressed to Edward W. Morse. You will have
to receipt for it as Edward W. Morse.

Yours truly
E. W. Morse

in Massachusetts - it is different in different states
perhaps can tell you. In our state it is between
the age of 18 and 20, but we can vote in any
of the states till we are 21.

I received a letter from Thomas, parent
and son of you, you can understand why now
but I will try to do so soon. I write a good
many business letters every week.

Of course there is considerable farming to
be done on the farm, where was your father's
well when you saw him? Has Mr. Sawyer a job
of cattle yet? & a cow.

I am very sorry that I can't come here this time
I report very much that I can't take you with
us to visit the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia.
I had fully counted upon doing so and it is
a great disappointment to me, but there are other
and there has been so great a change in our affairs
that I do not deem it advisable. Would our affairs
improve as we hope next year, we shall then certainly

Merriam, July 28/76.

Dear Father:

I did not follow your example, in letter writing, as you intermated, to Aunt Lawyer, but answered your last, soon after receiving it, and you should have got it before you wrote her. I have received no word from you, since Apr. beside the letter I got from Mother, a week or two ago, which I will try and answer soon. The barn will look pretty handsome when completed I should judge, but progresses rather slowly now, there being only three men at work.

The barn ^{was} completed enough so that I commenced haying the eleventh of July, and although there were but five good hay days, up to the twenty-fifth, none of my hay got wet.

There were days that the sun would shine a little, and the air being so hot, hay made very well. I have begun to raise my stock for the farm. Grandma gave me the calf that came from her cow, and I brought it up on skim milk, so that they could set all the milk for cream. When the calf was old enough to turn out I bought another for a dollar when it was two days old and brought it up in the same ⁿanner. Today the

calf is seven weeks old and is as large as they will average at that age. I think I have made a good beginning on stocking the farm, but I am almost afraid the calves would get lost in that big barn. I think it makes calves a grate deal tamer to bring them up by hand. The calf I turned out I did not see again for two or three week, and when I went into the pasture to give it some salt, it came up to me while the other Mr Hoyt's I could not catch. I do not see why the calf should come to me without it knew my step, for Mr Hoyt's calf was raised in the same ⁿanner.

Edward

July 28/77

Aug 9th When I began this letter, I thought you would receive it, by this time, but I forgot all about it, when I could attend to finishing it. I got a paper from you yesterday, telling of the committee raised to forward the P. R. enterprise. I think it may be a good idea, but I fear you will have to fight, hard and long, before you accomplish the end, you are looking for. I do not wish to discourage you, for I do not care how soon you succeed, in getting your P. R., for than I shall expect to see you, and that I wish to do as soon as

possible. In my last letter to you, which perhaps you did not receive, I mentioned the death of Mr Ephraim Huntington. He was taken sick in the field, and taken to the house. I think he lived only a week. He died the same day that Maria Currier, Mrs Jewksbury's daughter, did, who as you know had

been sick a long time with
consumption.

Grandma, Aunts, Maria and
Laura, are about the same as
when I wrote you last.

Please remember me to Mother
and write soon.

As the ink is
getting low I will draw my
epistle to a close.

With much love I will say "Good By"
Ed.

Merrimac, July 31st / 76.

Dear Father:

I suppose you have been disappointed, in not hearing from me before, but I had all I could attend to, in preparing for the graduating exercises, which took place in the Congregational Church, on the 30th of June.

Enclosed you will find a programme, also an invitation to the reception, which I send to give you an idea of the style &c.

As it is too late for you

to attend, I thought it
^{would} do just as well to send
one that had been used,
as I had no other.

The young ladies, seven
in number, belonging to the
graduating class, were dressed
in the most elaborate man-
ner. Each had a new white
dress, made for the occasion
and a new pair of white
"Kid's", and some of them
had a new pair of boots.

They ^{sack} had a class ring,
costing five dollars apiece.
They had flowers in their
hair, and vines interwoven
with flowers, hung grace-
fully about their persons,
whatever you may think of
my description they looked

very pretty. Your humble
servant, being the only
gentleman in class, had
a very important part
to perform, in order to save
a collision, owing to so
much finery and such
extended trails. I conclude
I must have done my
part well, as I received
some compliments in
that line, and people
usually mean what they
say.

Mr Bartlett
has left us, and is preach-
ing now in Athol, Mass.

He left the morning
after the graduating exer-
cises took place. He preach-
ed his farewell sermon in
the afternoon of the last

Edward

July 31/76

sabbath of June. There was no service at the congregational church, and so our house was well filled.

We have had supplies since Mr. Bartlett left, but are in hopes to settle one soon.

You asked me some questions in your letter, that I will try to answer, although it has been so long that perhaps you may have heard all you wish to know. You asked if Mr. Sawyer had got a cow, and a yoke of oxen, he still owns a cow and one ox, and Elbudge owns

the other. Elbridge has
got six ^{steers}, two or three years
old, that have been pastured
with the oxen, in your
pasture, that are "hog fat"
and will probably be sold for
beef in the Fall. When
I wrote you that Mr. Good-
win was building fence
on the farm, he was at
work in that lot back
of the old house, and arou-
nd the pasture in order
to keep Elbridge's cattle
in. I suppose the fence
will be some better next
Spring, for the work done
on it last, but it will

probably be thrown down to some extent, by the frost next winter, and the work will have to be done over, therefore, I think, Elbridge should pay for the post-ure, or the fencing, as he has had the benefit, therefrom. The "Old horse" is looking well, and does very well, for short drives, although she is rather ^{slow} for a fast young man. We had very warm weather in July, day after day, the thermometer, stood high in the nineties, and one day at the corner it stood at one hundred and two. At Newton June, I think it went as high as one hundred and fifteen.

I forgot to say all I intended to about the horse and so I will speak of her again. I had her shod the other day and she behaved pretty well, for the blacksmith was ready for her, but the last time before that she was shod, when they were taking off the shoes she laid down. Her joints are stiff and she does not like the twisting motion in pulling the shoe off. I think when cold weather comes it will be all most impossible to shoe her.

Grandma has felt the extreme heat, very perceptibly, and is not quite so strong, as she was last

summer. The rest remain
about the same as usual.
All send their regards.

Please remember me
to Mother.

Please write soon.
With much love I remain
as ever, Your son,
E. W. Moore

San Diego Aug 27th 1876

My Dear Edward

I think I discovered in your last letter to mother that you were quite desirous of visiting the Centennial Exposition.

We have thought the matter over and although money is very scarce with us this year, yet taking into consideration, that for many years, perhaps never, will you have so good an opportunity to gain so much information, with so little expenditure of time and money, that we think you had better take the trip.

I will send you in a few days a draft for sufficient to pay

your expenses. Today is Sunday
and the Banks not open.

I think you say the fare for the
round trip (excursion ticket) from
Boston to Philadelphia is \$11⁰⁰

you will need to remain several
days, perhaps a week to see much
which will cost you \$10⁰⁰ or \$15⁰⁰
more, so I will send you \$40⁰⁰
that you may have sufficient.

Now I will make
several conditions -

1st you must only go in
company with such
persons as shall be perfectly
satisfactory to your Aunt
Lana & Maria

2^d you must look upon the
trip as a study for the im-
-provement of your mind, not
as a simple pleasure excur-
-sion, and in order that what
you see may make a deeper
impression upon your mind
I shall require as one of the
conditions that you give me
a history of your trip & of what
you see at the Exposition, or

at least some of the things
that appeared most interesting

I don't want any formal
description, but after you get
home, as often as once a
month or when most convenient,
write us a letter about the
trip and what you saw,
just as you would tell it to us,
& not a prosy or poetical description.
This will help impress it upon
your mind, besides being very
interesting to us.

We had desired very much
to go ourselves and hoped
to come on and take you
with us, but the hard times
prevent, and the next best
thing is to have you go and
describe it to us.

Is E. M. Huntington in
Amesbury now? His address
in Phil^a is, 1034 Spring Garden, st.

I think Mother wrote you while we were out in the Country - I had quite a severe time with my lame back, but it is very much better now, though not quite well yet. We spent 5 days at the "Agua Caliente" hot sulphur springs. The water boils up out of a granite ledge, jetting up through the seams, over a space 20 feet square perhaps, and all combined forming quite a brook as you would call it - in New England about 4 inches deep & 2 feet (two) wide. The thermometer shows the water to be 140° . One can smell the sulphur long before they come near the springs, and the water tastes more like the smell of rotten eggs than anything I can liken it to. yet people get to like the taste of it very much.

The springs are owned and controlled by a tribe of Indians who can not speak a word of English, yet during the summer there are often 50 white people (sometimes 150 it is said) stopping there. They all talk Spanish and as I talk it also our party had a great advantage over many

The old Chief and I became quite confidential, he would call on me for an interpreter and to read his letters, for he couldnt even read Spanish and one day at a Council of 4 Captains of different tribes they called on me to read a Spanish letter they had received, and to write an answer (in Spanish) that they dictated. We occupied the Chiefs house - he moved out especially for us - but you must get mother to write you a description of it and of our living there.

Yours truly
your affectionate father
E. W. Morse

Return to E. W. MORSE,
SAN DIEGO, Cal.
If not delivered within 10 days



Ans.

Edward W. Morse
Merima
Essex Co.
Mass.

San Diego Sept 4/76
Edward W. Morse Esq.

My Dear Son

Enclosed

you will please find a draft
on N. Y. for \$40 = payable
to E. W. Morse. They will
cash it for you, I presume,
at the Bank, by your
endorsing it - that is by
your writing your name
E. W. Morse (not Edward)
across the back of it.

I should like very
much to have you go to the
"Centennial" for there is so
much to be seen there, that
you may never have an
opportunity to see again.

I am very busy so you
must excuse this short letter

your aff. father E. W. Morse

Merrimac Sep. 19th /70.

Dear Father:

I received your letter of Sep. 4th, containing the draft all right, also the one telling of your proposal.

I trust I am very grateful for the opportunity, to attend the exposition and will do my best to give you an idea of the exhibition. I called as you requested upon Mr. C. W. Bradbury, but could not get any money. He said

you was very kind to lend
him the money and he
was sorry that he could
not let me have it
but said it was utterly
impossible. He remark-
ed that you held a note
against him (without Int.)
but he always intended to
pay you interest. Mr.
Amos Weed gave me
five dollars, the other day
that he borrowed of you
when he came on. One
of the conditions in your
letter was that I should
go to Phil. with a party
that would suit my
Aunts. Parties are go-
ing from here nearly
every day. I have

have had an invitation
to accompany Amos
Weed, but he will not go
until Oct. and I should
like to go before. I had
an invitation this morn-
ing to go with Mr. Foun-
tin and possibly I
may accept. Sometime
since Mr. Ralph Sargent
gave a party in his
grove in honor of Amos
Weed and about sixty
Sargent cousins assembled.
Today I am invited to
meet the Weed cousins
at Aunt Weed's shou-
ld the weather be un-
favorable it will take
place on the next fair
day.

Please excuse

Edward
Sept 19/76

this short letter and I
will write more after I
have taken my trip to
Phil. Please tell
Mother I will write her
soon. We all send
love.

From Your Affect.

Edward W. Morse

Mr C. W. Bradbury of
Amesbury Mills owes me
\$20. (Gold) I wish you would
call on him and ask him
if it is convenient to pay
it to you now.

you can show him this
for your authority to ask
for it.

E. W. Morse

To Edward W. Morse

Sept 4th 1876

Edmund

Sept 20/76

Phil. Sept 27th 1876

Dear Father:

The next day after writing you, I found the party that suited my Aunts, in Mr. Saberton Coby, and so we started for the centennial on the 23rd of Sept. (Saturday) and arrived here Monday stopping in N. Y. Sunday, it was a rainy day and so we did not go round, as much as we would have liked to.

In the morning I went to Trinity church, which I will describe to you in

future letter. In the afternoon we attempted to go to the explosion of "Hell gate" but the horse car we got into did not reach there on account of a car ahead of the line breaking down. They tried to run and that made us keep stopping but after a while they took it off and we went until we saw crowds coming back but then we concluded the explosion was over and so we got out and walked back.

Sept. 28th

To night I have witnessed the best "Fire Works" ever shown in America or perhaps in the World. One day last week I think there was a great delegation to the Centennial from

the state of New York some one said there were about one hundred and thirty thousand people on the grounds. The State of Pen. concluded to see what she could do in that line and so she ordered all business stopped and the people to go to the centennial and perhaps you could judge how much crowd there would be but you will be surprised when I tell you that it was thought there was between two and three hundred thousand people on the ground and there were many that did not go in on account of the jam. I suppose we shall know to morrow just how many went on

to the grounds. I am having a nice time and seeing a great deal and perhaps learning something but there is just enough to see for three years and see new objects every day that is if one should study every thing.

It is now half past ten and I will close with much love to all

Your Affect. son

E W Morse

Edmund

Nov 9/76

Merrimac Nov. 6th 1876

Beloved-Father:

When I wrote you last, I was picking apples on the farm and a hard job it was. The wind blew very hard, a great part of the time, and the trees, having so much surplus top, on account of not being trimmed, it was almost impossible, to keep on them.

I let the picking out on shares, they having a third for picking of what they picked from the trees. I picked some from the trees, and all of those on the

ground, nearly two hundred bushels, and hauled them to the mill. It took all my capital, to obtain barrels, which I could prevented, had I known of picking the apples a year before, for I could have got them for fifteen cents or a shilling apiece the year that there was no apples.

There is not much call for apples, and they are so cheap, I fear I shall not get my capital back, so that I can buy clothes, for Winter. I have it from good authority, that Elbridge is going to have two hundred cords of wood, cut on the farm, this winter and the rest, even to little saplings, cleared off next

Winter. The men have already commenced work. I should like to know if it is your intention, to have it cut off, while it is so young and growing so fast? Uncle Sawyer thought, by what you said, while in conversation with him, that it was not. Quite a quantity of wood that was cut on the farm, three and four years ago, is not disposed of, and it is not growing any better, by the long seasoning, it has been subjected to. Persons of good judgment, think it very strange that you are having more wood cut, while it is so cheap, and so much on the

farm that is not dis-
posed of. Uncle Sawyer
said, you had not wrote
him, what to do with the
hay. It must be disposed
of soon, or it will spoil,
and that leads me to say,
that there must be a new
barn, or the old one repair-
ed, it is not policy to pay
seventy five or a hundred dol-
lars, to cut and put hay in
such a barn as that. There
are holes on the roof, large
enough for a man to enter,
and the boards on the sides
are rotted away, so that the
snow comes in in such qu-
antities, that it has to be shov-
eled out. The lumber does
not sell very well, and

people have remarked to me, that they should reserve boards enough, to cover a new barn. As I have not got much work to do, for the present, I could dispose of some of the hay, if I had a team to haul it with, but I expect to kill the old horse soon, and then I shall have none. There ought to be some kind of live stock on the farm, to eat up the poor hay, and enrich the land. The farm is not growing any better by cutting off the hay, and giving it nothing in return. The hay cut two

years ago, a part of which still remains in the barn, has grown musty, and this years crop, being on top of the old hay, will spoil quicker, for I have heard it said, by old farmers, that if you left a few pounds of musty hay, in a mow the mold will work its way to the top. I hope you will not think me too forward, in writing this letter, for I felt it my duty, as you had not been here, for some time, to let you know how it looks, to observers, and there are a plenty, who make it their business, to look at other folks affairs.

Hopping to see you early in the Spring, I am truly
Affect. Son. Ed. Morse.

Edward

March 26/77

Merrimac Mar. 26th/77

Dear Father.

As it is very damp and misty today, and uncomfortable being out, I thought I would take this opportunity, to send you a few lines.

Grandma is not quite so well as she was in Feb. There have been more storms and East winds, this month, and they do not suit her, as well as good clear weather, from the North west. If she can get through April, without losing all she has gained, she will probably, be

better in May and June. I was very sorry, to learn from Mother, that you were not coming home this Summer, for it has been so long since you were here, that I should like to have a look at you, and a talk with you, about my future, and what I saw at Phil. For you must know it is a great deal easier, to talk when any one can ask you questions, than it is to write it out on paper. Next month I shall be a man, and I suppose after that time, I cannot contract bills and oblige you to pay them, therefore I must look out for myself. I had thought

if you were coming this year, to do what work was required on Grandma's place, and what unoccupied time I had, to work out by the day, and then I should be free, to act on the suggestions, you might make, but if you are not coming, I should want a chance of work, every day. But still I do not care, to work in a shop, until I am 24 years old, and then have nothing but a trade, that will let you loaf, six months in a year, on account of "Hard times". Several men have been cutting wood on the farm, at 40¢ per cord. I should think that they had cut more than 100 cords, I suppose it is for sale, and

I suppose Joe Colby, stands ready to haul it to market, at 75¢ per cord. Now if I had a team, I could draw the wood as well as not.

And the \$15.00 Joe receives per 100 cords, would have bought a horse good enough last winter. I suppose horses are worth more now, but twice the sum I mentioned, will buy a horse such as you will need on the farm in haying, or else you will have to hire, at 25¢ per hour. You said in a letter to me, some months ago, that you wanted me to take the farm, when I thought I could manage it, you did not state the conditions, on which you wanted me to take it,

therefore, until I had a talk with you, I could not tell how soon I should be able to take it. Elbridge said you had not said anything to him about disposing of the hay, and so he sent a fellow, who wanted two hundred, to me, and although I was not authorized to sell, I let him have it. About a month ago Elbridge asked me over, to give my opinion about a new barn, he said you was going to build, if that is so, the hay will have to be sold, as part of the old barn, will work in to the new. Elbridge wrote you about the cost of a barn,

but the last time I saw
him, said he had not
heard from you.

Please ~~write~~ answer this at
your earliest convenience,
and give me the knowl-
edge you have obtained,
to help me as I go out in
to the world. Maria has
not been well, since Grandpa
died, but we are in hopes
she will be better after set-
tled weather.

Hoping to see
you before '77 shall end
you will find me as ever,
Your Affect. Son

Edward Wallace Morse.

Return to E. W. MORSE,
SAN DIEGO, Cal.

If not delivered within 10 days.



Ans. Steiner

*Edward W. Morse
Merimac
Essex Co.
Mass.*

San Diego Sept 25th 1877

Dear Edward

I have been trying to get time to write you a long letter, and in doing so have failed to write you at all for a long time, so I will write a short one now and a long one, perhaps, next time.

I hope you will not follow my example in letter writing, but write often and give me all the news about the people, about the farm, and whatever is going on that may be interesting to me, and especially I want to know, what is going on at the farm. I have made arrangements with Edbridge to put up a barn, with your assistance, and as it is for you I shall expect you to do a good deal towards the building of it. You can not only do a good deal of actual work yourself but can see that

others who may be employed, work faithfully and do their work right. I want you to consult with Colbridge in regard to the plan, location and details of the barn and make all the suggestions that you think of.

I have great confidence in his experience and have left pretty much all the details to him, but I know he would like to have you talk freely with him about it.

I have thought the barn should be set about even with the shed, which would give a barn cellar without much work. The barn yard however should not be the principal view from the sitting room windows of the house; It can be as well I think on the south west side of the barn. A large part of the material in the old barn can be worked in just as good as new, and I want you to see that everything is worked in that can be economically.

You have always said you wanted to be a farmer, well; here is a farm all ready for you, needing care and work, which I want you to take charge of and have everything you can make from it, provided you conduct yourself properly and I have confidence enough in you to believe that you will. It is my intention after you have been on probation awhile to give you the farm by deed if everything is satisfactory so that you can now begin to farm it and carry it on in the way most satisfactory to yourself. Elbridge will be glad to give you advice and assist at any time and I want you to call on him for it. He will tell you where you had better plow up this year and how much &c. I shall want you to let Maria & Philip have what apples they need from the farm which I expect will be all the rent you will have to pay beside the taxes. I want you to rely

upon yourself and feel the responsibility of the position you are now taking, as the absolute manager of the farm, remembering that you are young and will need advice from those who are older and more experienced and I especially recommend Elbridge to you & shall ask him to advise with you.

I made a contract when I was in Amesbury, with Elbridge for the wood and timber so you will have nothing to do with that. Sufficient was reserved for the use of the farm however, the location of which Elbridge can point out to you.

You are a sensible young man, have been brought up in the habits of industry and economy and can now see that you have the opportunity of practicing these virtues, and I trust and believe you will reflect credit upon the family, and especially your aunts to whom you owe so much for their kind care and the good principles taught you.

You are young strong and healthy, and ought to be able to support yourself and lay up something each year. The times are so hard here you must not expect any assistance from me.

Please write me what you think of doing on the farm and write often, don't wait for me, for you have as much business on your hands as I have.

We will come on some of these days and see how you succeed in carrying on the farm; when we get our rail-
= road. Laura & Maria
Ferns; many people are gathering them, making pictures with them
& sending them east. They work up into most beautiful pictures using the backs or front as they need the different shades.

Love to all
Your affectionate father E. W. Morse

Edmund
May 7/77

Merrimac May 7/77

Dear Father:

I have followed your example in letter writing, faithfully. My time has been pretty well occupied since I received your letter, in working on Grandma's place, and over to the farm. Last week was very hot, for the time of year, and Saturday, being as warm as any day, and owing to drinking so much water, I got pretty well used up. I am better now, owing to rest obtained on account of a storm, this week. I

suppose when you read this, you will think I should not amount too much in haying, but I think you will not be surprised, when I tell you the Mercury stood at 96° in the shade, that we felt the heat very much.

You said in your last letter, I could take the farm, as soon as I wished. I have decided to accept your proposal, and I thank you very much for your kind offer. You spoke of my laying by, a sum every year. I have been thinking it over, and I fail to see how it can be done. I think with a farm run down as that is, and to stock it myself, I shall do well to make the ends

meet, and I am determined not to run in debt, if I can help it. The taxes are more than I expected, and it is against the law (of the potato beetle) to raise potatoes. The canker-worm is liable to spoil the trees, at any time, and so I think the farmers have a great deal to contend with.

You remember I presume that last Fall you gave me authority, to collect a bill of Mr Bradbury, of Amesbury. I went, but could not get anything, and as I was planning to go again, about a month ago, I heard of his death. There have been a great many deaths, this last Winter & Spring. Among the number, was Mr

Ephraim Huntington, who
was taken sick in ^{the} field, and
died in about two weeks.

Another, whom you would
know, was Maria Currier,
David's eldest daughter, who
had been sick a long time.

To-day is somewhat cooler than
the day I mentioned; the
mercury stood at 56° above zero
today at two o'clock.

We are all about the same
as usual.

Please write soon.
Please remember me to mother.

Hoping the time will be short
that will bring you to the
East

I am as ever

Your Farmer

E. W. Morse.

Edmund
Aug 30/77

Merrimac, Aug. 30th/77.

Dear Father:

In due time, I received your letter of the 31st ultimo, for which I am very grateful. I have not forgotten that I promised in my last letter, to write Mother soon. As you asked me several questions, I will take this opportunity, to answer them, and give you what information I am able too. You asked me if I had a horse, how much I paid for it, what kind of an animal it is &c. I suppose you hear that I am independent, and bought

a horse without asking any body's advice, I hear remarks to that effect, and why should not you, but I say they are untrue, for I got the horse on trial, and the first place I went to, was to see Elbridge, but he not being at home, I went to Uncle Leonard, and he thought it quite a good horse. I asked the opinion of quite a number, and only one man called her over seven years old, and some only five. Some said she was cheap enough for \$125.00 and upon their judgement I paid some more than that, about \$150. She is not very handsome, but is a good work horse, is afraid of nothing, and will work any where you ask her too. You ask

ed me how I liked the barn, I think when it is completed, it will look first rate, I think it will be very handy in unloading hay, and there is such good ventilation, that hay ought to keep very well indeed. When you come East I can talk with you about the barn, a great deal better, than I can put it on paper, and I hope I shall have the chance very soon. I worked on the cellar, both digging and hauling stones, and it being very hot for the season, I got used up, with drinking a considerable amount of water, and so I laid by, to recruit for haying. I was there, and helped in raising, but since then, have not worked much, for

as soon, as the barn was shingled
I commenced haying, and when
I finished, the barn was so far
along, that I could not work to
advantage. You spoke of my
plowing this Fall. I think I
shall lay down a small piece
north of the barn. I think
if I had a team of my own,
I should plow this Fall, and
then again cross wise in the
Spring. I almost need oren
or another horse, both in seed
time, and in haying. I suppose
oren would be better, for there
is pasturing enough to fat them
and still have their work, in
the Spring and in haying.
One question you asked, was,
how much hay did I sell.

When the old barn was to
be taken down, there was

Edward

Merrimac Nov. 13th / 87.

Dear Father,

It is a very long time since I heard from you, and I do wish you would write ^{more} often, for I do not like to write four or five, without hearing from you at all. As this is intended for a business letter, I will proceed to business at once. Last Spring when you said I could take the farm, and have the sole management, I supposed it meant ^a the land, and buildings, to occupy, or rent as I chose. As

Grandma wanted a man,
in the house, nights, I
thought I would stop with
her, and let Uncle Leonard
live there just as he
had in the past. In the
Spring I asked him how
much rent he paid, and he
said \$100 a year, I told him
I thought it was not enough,
he said it was your own price
and so I said no more about
it. Calculating upon the
pasture rent, and six months
house rent, I thought I could
pay for a horse this fall,
and so I gave my note
at six month, which I
think a very foolish thing
on my part, and which

will never occur again.

To day I settled with Uncle
Leonard for pasturing the
cow, and told him I should
like six months rent, the
first of Dec. He then told
me, what I think he should
have told me, when I was
talking with him in the
Spring, and that is that
you were owing him, and
he expected the rent for pay.
Did you not expect me to
have the rent after I took
the farm? The income
from the pasture, is nearly
\$100, but with out the \$50 I was
so sure of, I cannot meet
the demand against me. The
note is due on the 11th of Dec.

Please write soon and send
your advise. The farm
is as you know very much
run down. In haying I am
oblidge to hire, and at some
other times, I can not do the
work alone, and I should
have known better than to
have taken the farm, had I
not relied upon the rent, to
use on such occasions

The taxes are as much as
I can get from the farm, and
so you see I have ways enough
for the rent. Grandma has
been very sick indeed, but is bet-
ter now, sitting ^{up} about three hours

With much love I remain
Your son
Edward.

several tons of hay in it. Elbridge said he had no authority, from you to sell it, and as it had to be closed immediately, I accepted the chance offered, and sold about \$35 worth, and Elbridge sold the rest. Your idea of feeding out the hay to keep it on the farm, I think a very good one indeed, but at present it will take the biggest part, to pay the taxes. You asked me I think how much hay there was this year. I think with the meadow hay, there are about twelve tons. I

should think there were three tons of meadow hay, but the remainder, is not all first class English hay, by any means.

We had some very warm weather in the early part of the season, but in July we had so much cloudy weather, that it was quite comfortable, but for the last week it has been very hot indeed. It cools off in the night, so we can stand the heat better than we could a month ago.

The first of June when I took the farm, I asked Elbridge how much rent

Leonard paid, and how much he ought to pay, and he would not tell, but said I could find out by you.

Uncle Leonard said you rented it to him for \$100. per year. When I said it was not enough, he said it was your proposition, and he thought it quite enough. Please write soon and give me your idea, of how much the buildings should rent for.

Grandma is about the same as she was, last summer. She sits up about half a day, but does not walk about much. Maria

is better than she was
in the Spring. She does
considerable work, but on
account of her side, troubling
her when she rides, can not
take the air she ought.

You said the lady who
took care of me as a baby,
wanted my picture as a memento,
I can not gratify the desire,
and the best I can do, is
to send one taken three
years before, I arrived at
that glorious position.

Enclosed you will find my
photograph. Please
excuse all mistakes and
write soon.

With much
love I remain your affect.

son

E. W. Morse Jr.

Merrimac, Dec. 31st/77.

Dear Father:

I thought I would write you, before the dying year should breathe its last; therefore, I take this opportunity to inform you, what I should have done before, that the letter containing the draft, came all right, and in season for me to meet the demand.

Please accept my sincere thanks, for the assistance you granted me, in my time of need. We have had a very pleasant Winter so far, there having been

no snow, and the mercury not falling lower than 8° above Zero. Today is colder and windy, but is what we call good winter weather. Very often when I am down to Aunt Maria the girls speak of writing to you, they are almost afraid to write you, but I think if you should write them again, they would answer it.

You asked me if the barn proved to be handy, in farming operations. I can say that it is very handy indeed, but there are several things that are not as I expressed a desire to have them.

The shed is not built, neither is the cow yard, or the barn cellar boarded, and there are no stairs to get down in the cellar. Those things that I spoke of are easily remedied but what I dislike the most is the hovel. In planning the barn we thought it best to have the hovel, 12 ft deep so that there would be room enough, to go behind the cattle without brushing against them, but the man that took Mr. Nickerson's place, did not know more than to measure the crib, of the old barn, and make this one as deep, which makes it a foot deeper, than it need be, and which

makes a foot less of room
behind the cattle. Elbridge
saw the mistake before the
floor was laid, but they had
the pieces nailed to the floor
ing, that gives the floor
its slant, and so he did
not have it altered. I think
it could be done now but
he says it cant. If I had
discovered it before the
floor was completed, and
the workmen left, I would
have had it fixed, for
it is to bad to get soiled,
or your legs broken, by a
kicking or, when it might
have been prevented, if the
Carpenter, had known beans,
when the bag ~~is~~ was untied.

Grandma, as I believe I told
you, in a former letter, was
sick in Sept. but is better
now and sits up from 11 A.M.
until seven or eight in the
evening.

Aunt Laura and
Maria are comfortable, and
so am I.

We all send love.
Please excuse all mistakes.
Also write, when you can
find time.

With a "Happy New Year",
I remain your son,

Edward W Morse.

Edmund

Dec 31/77

~~Edmund~~

Merrimac Feb. 9th /78.

Dear Father:

As it is stormy and unpleasant being out, I will take this opportunity to send you the news.

We have had two snow-storms that made skidding, and a curious fact about them was, that each of them, lasted just seven days.

The last snow fell to the depth of ten or twelve inches on a level, and would probably have lasted longer, had the wind not blown it into heaps, from three to six feet deep, while in other places

the ground was bare.

You have asked me questions in previous letters, that I will answer to the best of my ability. There is a cellar under the whole barn, or will be when it is dug out, Elbridge thought it would be well to have it, to mix with the manure, but it is so full of gravel, that I think it will not amount to much.

There will only be a few tons of hay, more than I shall feed out to my horse, cow, and calves, and that I shall sell. The apples five Bbl. of the first quality I sold for four dollars apiece. The cider apples brought .40 c. per Bush. You spoke of the fences, part of them are pretty good, those that have been fixed within a few

years, but the others are very poor. I spoke to Elbridge about some poles, and he said I could have them; he wanted to know how many I wanted, and I told him 150, but he did not take much stock in that remark. I suppose I could get along with a less number this year, but if one should break I should have to go and buy some, for there are none left on the farm, much larger than a bean pole, and unless I had a stock on hand, it would spoil a day to procure some. You asked me if I had presented the note you sent me. I was advised to give the note to a lawyer, by those who knew Mrs. Bradbury, and so I gave it to a

young lawyer that
acquainted with. He sent
her a letter, but she took no
notice of it, and then he called
upon her. She pleaded poverty
and remarked that all her
husband left her, was \$500.00
worth of debts, and nothing to
pay them with. The lawyer
after finding that there was
property, had another talk
with her, after which she thoug
ht it best to send him the
money. You will re-
member that some time ago,
you told me Elbridge would
show me the wood reserved
for the farm. I spoke to
him about it, and he said all
this side the brook was reserved.
This winter he began to cut
the hard wood on this side and

I asked him how that was
and he said he meant that
only the pine was reserved.

I asked him if there was any
hard wood retained, and he
said there was not. If that
be the case, I would like to
know what I am to do for
wood when I get to house-
keeping.

We are all as well, and
send love as usual.

Hoping to
see you in Merrimac, this
coming season. I still
remain

Your Loving Son

+ Edward.

Edmund Kelly 9/18

and 18624

Ans.



*Edward W. Morse
Merrimac
Mass.*

Merrimac Apr. 5th 178.

Dear Father:

I believe I am not owing you, or mother a letter, but as it is storming, I thought I would drop you a few lines. Some time ago I got the idea, and I do not know, whether it was from you, or Elbridge, that I could have all the poles I wanted, to fence the farm, and with that idea, I cut and hauled out, about seventy five. Since I cut them, it occurred to me, that Elbridge might wish me to pay for them, I wished to know if you intended me to pay for them, if so, I think

I can do it. Since I took the farm one year ago, I have bought a horse, cow, a heifer two years old, and have raised two calves up to one year old, and the beauty of it all is, that they are all paid for. I have made more this year, than I can for several years to come, for I took the liberty to use the farm last ^{year} without paying the taxes, and thus pay rent in advance. This year I shall have to make out the taxes, and next Fall, if not before, I shall go over to baard with Uncle Leonard, for I cannot afford to haul the hay over here, and the dressing back. The Spring is earlier than usual and I suppose I shall soon

have to work very hard, that is what every one says I must do in order to succeed.

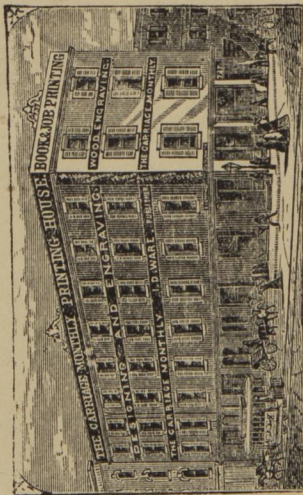
Grandma has not been quite so well since I wrote you last. I wish if it is possible, you would come on this ^{year}, for I would like to have a talk with you.

Please excuse all mistakes, for I have hurried, wishing to write another before the mail goes out, and this is the second today.

With much love, I remain
Your son,
Edward.

Edward
April 5/78

and Apr 24



The Carriage Monthly,

I. D. WARE, Publisher,

And General Book and Job Printer,

P. O. Box 2769.

PHILADELPHIA.

as to Wood

I think we can find
a piece of land nearby
with plenty on it
very low and old

urn to E. W. MORSE,
SAN DIEGO, California,
ot delivered within 10 days.



Edward W. Morse
Merrimac
Essex Co.
Mass.

San Diego Feb 24/78
Dear Edward

I received your letter of the 5th inst. in due season. It was such a letter as I like to get from you, telling me all about your farming operations - no, I won't say quite so much as that, but at least it told me more than you usually do. Now that is what I want to hear about, any little thing that you might not think was worth writing about will be interesting to us. Don't look away from home to look up news but tell us of what is right about you, as for instance, how many cows you have, their age, color, size &c &c how many cows you pastured & for whom & how much, how you used to feed them in the stormy days of winter &c &c How you get one flowing &c when you commenced, where you flowed, how deep you flow, what you plant &c &c

I don't expect you to pay this year for the poles, for I think that would be rather too much. If our Railroad bill should pass Congress early we may come on this season, otherwise I fear we shall not be able to get away.

You inquired about Hard wood for your own fire when you get to house-keeping - I am glad to see that you are looking ahead - well, I think we can find a way out of that difficulty and when I come on we will talk it over.

I send you papers & magazines occasionally, do you get them? Do you take any papers & magazines?

We are having a very fine season here for all kinds of farming produce from honey to wheat, and 5 times as much grain will be shipped as ever before. For more than a month we have been shipping new potatoes to San Francisco. We have been eating new potatoes and strawberries all winter. I saw Sabbias & Gladiolas in bloom several days ago. We are also eating Mammans from our garden, and we have figs nearly ripe, yet our pear trees have not blossomed yet, our Apples are half grown, and Peach trees just out of bloom. Our Guavas, Chirimoyas, Japan Persimmon, Japan Plum, Date Palms and Fan Palms are growing finely.

Your Affectionate Father
E. W. Morse

Merrimac May 12/70

Dear Father:

I received your letter about one week since, but have been so very busy that I could find no time to answer it. I have a few spare moments, and I do not know how I can spend them better than in writing to you. Perhaps you may hear before this letter reaches you, of the death of Patience, but in case you should not, I will inform you of it. She was a great sufferer from heart disease but died quite easy. She was buried

yesterday. She was sick I think about four weeks.

You wanted to know about my farming operations. I plowed up about an acre back of the barn, and if I have dress ing enough I shall plow up some more. Uncle Otis and I changed work in plowing, by puting our horses together. Some how my horse lamed her sholder, and after a while a swelling appeared as large as a good sized orange. Some that saw it thought it would come to a sore, and if so I could not use her for some months. Therefore I bought a horse and it has taken all my change. I remember that some time since, you said I must not

expect help from you, but I thought perhaps you would lend me one hundred dollars, without interest, until Fall, when I could replace it. If you could, it would be a great accomodation to me, for then I could save the discount on the taxes and have a little to use which would be very convenient.

Grandma is not as well as when I wrote you last.

You will pardon me for not writing more until I finish planting.

Hoping to see you this season I remain

Your Loving Son

Edward.

Edward

May 17/78

Edward
Sept 1/78

HAMILTON
MADE

Merrimac Sept. 1st /78.

Dear Father:

I thought I should like to know if I had parents in Cal. and so I take this opportunity to write you.

I have not heard from either you, or mother, since very early last Spring.

Last May, or early in June, I wrote you a letter, that I thought you would answer if you received it, even if you could not help me. In it I asked for a loan of fifty or a hundred dollars, without interest, for an indefinite time.

I did not ask for money, to have a good time with a set of young fellows, but to enable me to obtain carts, and harnesses, of which you know there is a poor stock. Last Spring I had to get a horse-cart, and as my horse got lame, and I did not want to sacrifice on her, I bought an old one to do my work, and that made me somewhat short for cash.

After haying as I could not find any body to sell too far cash I traded the horse for a cheap buggy. If I had a hundred dollars to spend now, I could put myself in the way of

having more money, next Fall than I have now.

I had to borrow money to use in haying, of my Aunt. I remember well you said I must not expect help from you, and I want you to know now if you do not know before, that, that money you let me have, last Fall was a loan, for I did not receive but a half

years rent of Leonard. In one of your letters you asked how I take care of my stock in Winter, I do not know but what that has been answered, but in case it has not, I will tell you now. Last year as I had only one

cow, and two colts, I kept
them at Grandma's place,
but it is very much like
work, to haul the hay over
here, and dressing back
I hardly think as I have more
stock now that I shall do it
this Winter although I may
stop with Grandma as long
as she lives. Grandma is
not as well as she was the
first part of the season, she
took cold about three weeks
ago and has been quite sick
since. Aunt Laura has
not been able to do any work
this Summer.

Please write soon

From your Affect. Son
Edward

Merrimac Feb 11th 1879.

Dear Father:

As you are cognizant of the fact, that I have not received any letters from you since last March (1878), I admit you plainly told me that I was not to expect help from you. I supposed you meant gifts and none of those have I had far more than a year. You helped me on the part of that note for the horse and it was paid you through Uncle Leonard by my not receiving any house rent until Dec 1877.

when I took the farm the
June before. The tax bill
of 1877 was not presented
to me, and I thought I ought
not pay the rent until I
had had the use of the farm
a year, so I did not offer
to pay it. I told them
to present me the bill
of '78 and they did so, but
owing to my horse getting
injured and my having
to purchase carts, I have
not paid it. Now I do
not know what has been
written to you, by my friends
and perhaps nothing has,
but I know they do a
great deal of talking here,
I do not feel that I have
done very wrong, but had
you been here I should

asked advice, but as you
were not I acted to the
best of my knowledge
When I asked you for help
I put it in the way of
a loan instead of a gift
but in the last asked for
your advice and have re-
ceived nothing from you
since. I owe between
\$50.00 and \$75.00 beside the
tax of \$80.00 I have stock
enough to cancel that amount
unless I get the money
soon shall sell and
quit farming, if you
could or know of any
body that would let me
have the money I should
like to try it another
year for my stock will
be of more income and

I think I could pay it back
before long. I suppose you
know that I live on the farm
I work with Uncle So - to pay
my board this Winter and
I think perhaps I can work
enough more to make the
difference in the Summer.
I should not feel like board-
ing with Grandma, longer,
with out paying her more
than what I could do on
her land. I was real sorry
that we could not get that
honey you sent Uncle
Philip an order for.

I have missed your letters
a great deal perhaps not
so much as I should had
I not received one now

Page 5th

and then from a lady friend
I doubt not you have heard
that I was to engage in mat-
rimony in the Spring (I have
heard so several times and
to different ladies) but that
is not so, it has not pro-
gressed far as yet but if
you come on this season
perhaps I can show you the
lady, it is some one you
never saw. I tell you that
for Mother's benefit for
she might try to guess
who it was. Since the
third of Jan. we have
had fast rate sleighing
and not very cold wea-
ther and you can believe
it has been well im-

proved but to night we
are having a heavy
rain and I fear this
is the last of the sleighing.

It is now ten o'clock and
I think I will bid you

"Good Night"

Remember me to Mother

Please write soon

With the love I remain

Your Affect. Son

Ed.

Edward
July 11. 1877

Marumac May 2nd 1891.

Dear Father:

I hope you will not feel the least hurt if I send you a sheet of paper on which you will spend fifteen minutes in writing me a letter; there are some questions I would like to ask you about my future. I would like to talk with personally but if you are not coming on this year I would like to ask them by letter and I do not care to do that unless I get answers to the letters I write you.

In haste and with love

I am ever your affectionate son
E. W. Moore

Edmund

May 2/80

1880
Merrimac June 27th

Dear Father:

I do not know
as I have given time enough
to allow for an answer to
my last, but I wanted to
talk with you and so
took the ~~liberty~~ liberty to
write you, without waiting
for an answer. I hope
father you will not be dis-
pleased with my last. I
was not angry, for I know
you have a great deal to
do, but I did feel just a
little hurt, that you did not
write me in two years and
a half. I wish you were
here so I could talk with

you face to face, about what I wish to consult you.

Perhaps you thought when you spoke to me about going away to school, I did not appreciate it, one great reason was, because I was so bashful, I did not dare to go among strangers. As I grow older, I see I do not know anything, and as one after another, goes away and gets more education, I feel the want of it, as I look into the future, and see where I shall be, compared with them, ~~socially~~ socially: I have not killed the farmer by any means, for I like farming, and the care of stock, but I have

arrived at the conclusion, that more knowledge, will help me enjoy my occupation more, and also give me an equal footing with some of the ^{more} humble members of Farmers Clubs &c. When I was attending school, I did not improve my opportunities as I ought, but it seems to me with the knowledge of life, I have now, I could learn more in a specified time, than ~~now~~ I could then. Please write soon and tell me what you think about it. I have got no definite plan, have not been thinking strongly upon it until very recently. In the three years that have passed, I think I could have

Edwin

June 27/80

at the expense of the farm,
procured the means which
would have put me in the
way of getting an education,
but I have not done that,
in every thing I have done,
I have tried to benefit the
farm, so that in future
years, the returns might
be greater. Aunt Susan says
tell Mother she is going to
write soon, she has a great
deal of pain in her hands
an to hold a pen hurts
her very much; or she
would have written before.
Grandma Gray's family are
about the same as when
I wrote you last. With much
love your Aff. son Ned.

Merrimac Aug. 4th/80

Dear Father:

I was very much pleased to receive a letter from you the other day more so than I can express. I am very thankful for the transfer of that property. The dividends amounted to fifty five dollars and fifty cents and just now I can use it to advantage. You spoke of insurance. I believe the barn has not been insured for more than a year I don't know whether I spoke of it or not. Elbridge had a builder's insurance

on the barn which lasted
a year. Bailey Sargent is
agent for the West New
bury Insurance Co. Last
Spring I was selling about
twenty five quarts of milk
but some of them were Winte
customers that is they owned
cows and when they gave
milk my custom fell
off to about twelve qts.
so that I have not got very
rich this summer. It left
me with quite a quantity
of milk and so I took
it to my Grandmother's
and they made butter of
it. I have bought a route
down to Merrimacport
of about thirty quarts and
that with what I have at
the farm and what I hope

gain will be all I want
to do this Winter. I took
the route the first of Aug.
and have been buying a
few quarts but I think I
know where there is a cow
for ~~a~~ sale that will give
twelve or fourteen^{een} quarts a
day. The last cow I bought
gives nice milk but not
more than four or five
qts. a day and I think I
shall exchange her for one
that gives more. When
I wrote you I had not as I
told you matured any
plans about ~~any~~ ^{an} education
but I have been thinking per-
haps I could get something
by selling milk and have
trout enough to more than
pay expenses if sombody

took my place after a year
or so I could with what I might
earn at the college go through
with the course. I am pretty
sure I could do that if I
was not in debt now. There
is another idea I have had
and that is to get out of
debt if possible by selling
milk for a year and then
dispose of my property that
would be most enough to
meet the demands I don't
quite like the idea of selling
what I have worked so hard
to gain. I don't think
Father that I deserved the
censure you gave me for
I remember of telling you

of two calves I raised of a
yearling heifer I bought and
the old cow I bought of Grand
ma and also what the two
younger heifers did in butter
making last Sept. and Oct.
and Mother did not mention
it in her letter and you
did not seem to be much
interested however let the
past be past and if I feel
you take an interest in my
affairs I shall like to write
and will do so to the best
of my ability I will not
write more now as I wish to
go away

Your Affect. Son
Please write soon Edward

Edmund

Aug 14/80

Edmund
Aug 30/80

Merrimac Aug 30th/80.

Dear Father:

I was pleased that you should answer so promptly and I will do likewise. I have an hour before I wish to get up my cows and I don't know how to employ it better than in writing to you. Grandma is very sick and I have just returned from trying to get some one to help them. I have been taking watches there and it keeps me up so late and I have to get up so early in the morning that I am feeling a little played out.

You asked some questions about my milk route. If I succeed in getting up in the morning about four o'clock I can get down to the River about seven. To milk eight cows and strain the milk and do all the other chores it takes me from two and a half to three hours the best I can do. It takes about two hours to deliver the milk but as I have the cans washed at my Grand ma's it is quite late before I get home. For the reason that my forenoon was broken into so much I did not plant only a small piece with peas and potatoes so I could get off the crops in time to seed down this Fall. On one piece I sowed

Oats which I shall seed to grass this Fall with the other. Another reason why I did not plant more was because I did not have money with which to hire. You wished to know how much I am in debt doubtless you will be surprised when I say in the neighborhood of four hundred Dollars. I suppose you will wonder how I could contract such a debt. The first year it cost me almost one hundred besides what I and my horse did and Uncle Leonard thought it cost about that every year. The second year I owned my horse she got lame some how and I got another one which I lost a number of dollars. I owe some on

some of the cows. I think
if Uncle Leonard got an hun-
dred Dol. for doing the haying
he made a good thing for the
second year I had the place it
did not cost but about fifty
dollars and this year not
so much.

Perhaps shall feel more
like writing the next time
and will do better in regard
to length.

With love I remain
Your son
Reed.

Edmund
Sept 26/80

Merrimac Sep 26th 1880

Dear Father:

Perhaps you thought my last letter was too short to require an answer and so I will lengthen it a little. I hardly know what I said but perhaps I did not explain about my debts as I ought. I have been boarding with Uncle Leonard two years next Jan as I suppose you know. I pay one hundred and eight y. two dollars per year while the rent is only one hundred. All that know what I pay say that the rent ought to cover my board bill. I got

in rather a tight place
about a year ago and got
an hundred dollars of Uncle
Otis. That with the two years
board and a few smaller bills
make about four hundred.
Now I wish to ask a favor
of you if you can't comply
I would like you to write just
the same. I am young
and I find they are afraid
to let me have money. I
thought perhaps you might get
me the money as you are
older and got a stronger name.
Unless I have some money to
use I shall have to tell them
I can't furnish milk longer and
have to dispose of my property.
I don't like to do that it looks
to much like a 'fail up'.

I was down to Boston the
seventeenth which was the
two hundred and fiftieth anniver-
ary of the settlement. There
was a large crowd of people
in Boston as one would real-
ize if he tried to go along
the side walk. I got there
about noon and went right to
the Common where they said
the procession would go first.
We soon found out that it was
to come there last. I had a good
place and so I stood there three
hours before I saw the procession
and then it took three hours
to pass. I think however I got
paid for I saw what I never did
before and that was heavy artillery
as it goes into battle. The troops
especially those looked and did very
well indeed. All the different

trades were represented first there
be a cart sho^{ing} the way earthen
ware was made an hundred years
ago and then there follow a cart
showing the way it is done at
the present time Did I tell
you that Grandma was failing
in my last letter. About two
months ago she was taken worse
and gradually failed until last
Sat when she passed away she
suffered a great deal the last
few ~~or~~ weeks she was unconcious
two days before she ~~she~~ died
but you could see by the work
ing of her face that she still
suffered at times It is now
my bed time and I will bid
you "Good Night" With love
E. W. Moore.

Edmund

Nov 14/80

Merrimac Nov 14th 1880

Dear Father:

When I received your last I expected to answer it immediately but just at that time Uncle Otis sold his farm and rented Aunt Morse's place he of his own accord made me this proposition that we go into partnership and that find a market for his hay. I thought if we did so I should not want so much money and so I delayed writing while I was thinking upon the question he changed his mind. He is not very well and is fearfully nervous and I think it will be better not

to form ~~any~~ any partnership although it would be very nice to have some one to help milk and take care of the cows while I was away with the milk.

I suppose that place where my Aunts live will be sold the house in which they live at any rate and perhaps the small tenement. Now what I wish to know is if they feel like coming over here and taking charge of this house and I board with them if by so doing I can benefit my pocket what are your objections. Alfred Hoyt was over here the other day and wanted a will of his father Nicholas Hoyt which he said was -
hear It seems he Alfred was appointed executor and he says by paying out an hundred dollars he owns the place. Near the time his

father died he was crazy and was carried to Worcester and got better since then he has been very rational. About two years ago his brother died and his widow and sons have taken the income of the place and not allowed Alfred anything it has worried him until he has become crazy although they did not notice until after he was over here to night he is in the lock-up and will be taken to Worcester to morrow. You spoke of my disposing of those shares but I hardly like to do that as they are paying about 4% now. I needed the money now and as Uncle Otis had a little I got a couple of hundred of him for a month until ~~it~~ I could get word to you. He let me

more worth
than I could
will write
more soon
With much
love your
son Edward

have an hundred a year ago and if he succeed in finding a small place that suites him he will want that too. The income is small and expenses large at present. I need three hundred to square with Otis and if I could have two hundred more I think I could get along first rate I know that is a large sum for a small fellow like me but I assure you I do not want to use it for trash like what many young men do with their earnings I wish you to remember I do not ask it only as a loan. Please excuse mistakes as I have hurried for I like to retire early as I get up from half past three to half past four hardly ever later than five I have been very busy of late hoping

Edward

Jan 2/81

Merrimac Jan 2nd 1881

My Dear Father:

I have been looking for a letter from you for some time. In your last you spoke in such a manner as to make me think you would try to help me some. on the strength of that I got two hundred dollars of Wmch Ots as I told you and the time for which I hired it is about expired.

Did I state to large a sum. As near as I can judge my indebtedness is between five and six hundred dollars. A part of it is bills which ought to be paid immediate ly. My personal property

2)

aside from the present you
you gave me, is worth reck-
oning what ~~they~~ it ^{is} worth today
or what it would bring under
the "Hammer", about one thou-
sand dollars. I was short of
funds last year and so I did
not plant much and so I have
most of last year's dressing
that with this. Winters will al-
low quite a field of corn and
I shall want some one to help
me a part of the time but un-
less I get these bills paid I can't
do it for as fast as I get any
money they get it away for I
can't bear to be dunned. I did
not get fodder enough from
the farm to keep my stock
this winter and so I need money
now. I would like to get through
this winter somehow for next

3) Summer the returns would come
seemingly without so much
cost. Perhaps you know by this
time that the relation between
Carrie and I formed so pleas-
antly a year ago has come to
an end just the reason for which
I am at a loss to know you
may be surprised if you had

~~Handwritten scribble~~ E. W. M.

4) Had been here you would have
have been more so. I expected
no such termination if it had
any other young lady I might
have looked for it but from
the proceedings I was sure as you
might say of different results



Have you learned of the death
of Uncle Philip's little boy
who was a baby when you
were here. He died of croup
two weeks ago today.
I will bid you ~~adieu~~ Good
Night now for I am writ-
ing in the cold and also
I wish to milk so I can
go down to Uncle Philip's
for I have not been there
since Irrie was sick.
With love I remain
Your son
Edward

Merrimac May 15th 1891.

Dear Father:

It has been a long time since I heard from you the last being the one containing the check for which I thank you very much. It ought to have been answered before but I have been very busy indeed, taking care of a doz. cows and milking ^{eight or nine} twice a day and delivering the milk occupied my time from very early in the morning until I was tired

enough to go to bed. It was just impossible for me to milk and started as soon as the other milk men they having two or three men with them and so. Wm. Charles will work with me this Summer. At present I have sixty customers averaging about a many quarts per day. I have had sixty eight at one time but some of them ~~are~~ have moved away. If I could ~~do~~ ninety dol less net gain per month it would be quite nice but it takes the greater part for fodder. It is true that I have quite an amount of dressing to use this Spring and that is why I engaged in

the milk trade so that I could benefit the farm. I hope you will decide to come East this year for I want to see you very much. All that I can get from the farm I wish to put back upon it in some form. There is a good deal that ought to be laid out upon the buildings the house needs painting and shingling or soon the weather I will pay upon the house itself. The new barn is not set high enough and I do not like the looks of the yard but with little or no expense that can be remedied at some time in the year when business is not so driving. Do you realize that

Edward

May 15, 1881

I am over twenty five and I should like to know something of my future and as I wish you would come on this year that we might have a good chat. I think I had better draw this epistle to a close so will bid you "Good Day"

Sincerely your son

Edward

Edward
Apr 5/82

Merima Apr 5th/82

Dear Father,

Did you receive
a letter from me about two
months ago. I wrote you but
have not received one from you
since a year ago. I told you
of Uncle Otis' sickness; he has
since died and the family had
to be broken up for Alice his
wife has fits every three or four
weeks and is ^{sc.} not able to carry
for a family. He had note
against me to the amount of

three hundred dollars. Uncle John is Amin, he will give me some little time but I have hired a fellow to work for me and I want to put all the money I can, right back on the farm. There is a deal of talk about my proceedings and perhaps you hear from it, but although I do not put a large sum of money in my pocket I feel pretty well satisfied for I have a lot of dressing worth from one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars to spread on the farm this Spring and I had an equal quantity that I used last year. Through my own exertions I have got

to gather a property consisting of cows tools carts &c. worth nearly a thousand dollars. Now what I want is to ask a favor of you. I don't want to mortgage my property and feel when I meet any one that he owns my property. I would like you to let me five hundred dollars that I might pay the notes I spoke of and some other bills. I will give you my word of honor that not one cent of it shall you lose. My receipts for milk are about ~~one~~ one hundred and eight dollars per month but the cows have to eat something and I have to use a great deal of money and so I can not

make out from the receipts this
Summer, much in favor of the
notes. If you could raise the
money and trust me with it another
hundred would place me where
I could work to better advantage but
five hundred I must have or sell what
I have got and probably at a discount
and then go floating around with
nothing to do. It seems to me
it would be better for me and
you to keep on in the
same business for surely the
farm is benefited every year.
I would like to ask if you wish
to keep the old house standing
it is sadly out of repair and
getting more so daily. If I
could take it down I would
like to use parts of it for other
buildings. Please write as soon as you
receive this. I shall look for an answer on
return mail. After your son C. W. '66.

Edward
Jan 6/82

Merumac Jan 26th 1882

Dear Father,

I have been expecting a letter from you for some time but have looked in vain and so I thought I would write you a few lines. Do you realize it is almost a year since we exchanged letters; I hope you will excuse me for not writing for in order to carry on my milk business I have to rise very early and when it comes night I feel pretty tired and sleepy. I suppose before this reaches

you you will have heard of the weather we have had for a few days ~~past~~ past. Last Sunday was a very pleasant morning after a light snow fall. in the afternoon the wind blew and the thermometer fell. at Monday morning it stood a zero. Tuesday morning fourteen below. Wednesday morning it was eight below and this morning (Thur) it must have thirty above for it was raining when I got up. I have told you how the thermometer stood on Bear Hill at the village in went lower and I believe at Kutoon junction it was twenty eight below zero. In my last letter I told you

I believe, that Bailey Sargent was the
 Insurance agent. I think that it
 should be attended to for there are
 a great many fires around now.
 There is a man in company with
 Mr Sawyer in his prop business
 and he with his wife and boy
 board here this winter. About
 the first thing the little fellow
 did was to tip ~~it~~ over the lamp
 but as it went over it went out
 so no damage was done.

I sell about sixty qts of milk
 per day and as I have quite
 a territory to go over in dis-
 posing of it, it takes so
 much of my time that I can
 not give my cows the proper
 care in winter and cannot

much more than a half day
 in summer and so I have to
 hire some one to help me.
 As Mrs Sawyer will not board
 any one for me it makes it
~~very~~ very bad. Uncle Charles
 worked with me last summer
 and lived at the corner but
 it made it very hard as he
 had to get up as early as
 three o'clock in order to get over
 here in time to help me milk
 Uncle Otis who lives on Aunt
 Morse's place has helped me
 milk this winter but his health
 is not very good and he has
 not come over to take care of
 the cows as much as I could
 wish. He is now sick and

to day I ask Mrs Sawyer if she would board a young fellow for me and she said she could not. In order to do the work all myself I should have to get by half past three and retire about ten beside working hard all the time and I can't do that, I can get up about that time in summer if I can go to bed by eight or half past. When I came over here they agreed to board me for three and half dollars they said they did not want to make any thing they only wanted pay for the row provisions. I found out that others were getting boarded less than I. I spoke of it but

I said they would not board me
any cheaper I intermated that
as I was manager of the place
I could get somone here that
would board me cheaper they said
you had told them something
I don't know what that over
balanced all I might say and
so the matter was dropped
It seemed to me however that
if I was the sole ~~man~~ manager
of the place as you said
some four years ago I had
power to make a change in
the house especially if it would
help me Please write soon

Remember me to mother

Excuse all mistakes
With love I am as ever
Your Affc. Son
Ned.

Edward
July 30/81

Merrimac July 30/81

Dear Father:

I don't know how to write you but if you were where I could speak to you I should know what to say for you would be likely to ask a question or so. You wonder how I could get so in debt and not be very extravagant it is just as easy as can be to get into debt the way I have got into debt was in using money on the

form when I ought to have
paid bills. I dont know
exactly but I suppose I owe
Uncle Leonard most three
hundred beside the rent I
tried to earn money one
Autumn by making cider
but as I told you he asked
me a dollar and half for the
power to grind each cheese
and if I had any one to
help me I did not make
much out of it I worked
very hard and ground out
a few cheese alone and
the money I got was used
directly or indirectly on the
farm. Sometimes I have not
slept more than six or seven

hours and the rest of the time
by four I have worked. I have
missed a great many enjoyments
(for the moment) that other
young men have had in
order that I might benefit
this farm and purchase things
to make work easier I want
you to bear in mind that
there was no stock or tools
on the place when I took it
I have got to gather quite an
amt. of property and it
seems to bad to have it
go now and still not quite
pay I have worked hard
and done my best and
to have nothing for five
years work is not very

congratulating If I owned a
deed of this place I can tell you in
a few words what I should do
I should mortgage it for a
thousand dollars and with
that amount I should place
myself in the way of clearing
two hundred and fifty dollars per
year and in four years I should
be free. If I was out of
debt to day I could make
above expenses two hundred and
fifty dollars every year I know
I could do that for I have figured
on it and that amount is not
considered with the dressing
about fifteen cards worth
about one hundred and twenty
dollars more and even if
I did not make \$250. I have

young stock and in two years if
nothing happens to them my prop-
erty will be worth over a thousand
I could then sell part of it and
pay the mortgage and be better
off by some hundreds. The trouble
is I have not got any money
nor can I get it because they are
afraid to trust me they want
Real estate that they can murther
on to if any thing happens
I have got to have money in
about a month or let the thing
slide for what they will bring
I would like you to write me
just what I had better do

6)

The farm five years ago would hardly pay the taxes and my board and was continually growing worse. I think that it will cut three times as much hay next year as it did when ~~it~~ took it.

I hardly know what more to say only let me hear from you as soon as you receive this. I do not know but six or seven hundred would do for me but I wanted enough to buy my grain before it got to be thirty five dollars per ton as I paid last year for some of it. While Elber only paid fifteen.
Yours Affly
Edward

We are all fully expecting a great advance in real estate before the close of the year - it may not come till next year - but that it will come within a year or two all believe. One railroad (our first to the sea) is nearly completed to a connection ^{with} the railroad system of the whole country (125 miles long) another railroad will probably reach us before the close of the year, and still another will be started to run through northern Mexico, making San Diego the terminus of three great railroads. When this occurs, should I be fortunate enough to hold any real estate, it will make me a rich man.

In the mean time you will have to use your own judgment and resources. If you can raise the money to pay the Estate by mortgaging your property, I think you had better do so, there is nothing disreputable or improper in your doing so, provided you are economical and industrious. The kind of business you are in is considered profitable everywhere and if you can hold on to it in any favorable manner I should think it was best for

San Diego April 22 1852

Dear Edward

I would most willingly let you have the money you ask for, if I had it, but the unfortunate fact is I not only have no money to loan, but I am considerably in debt myself upon which I am paying a heavy rate of interest. I have a large amount of real estate but it will not yet sell at remunerative prices - it is steadily increasing in value and I fully believe in a year or two will bring me out all right. Ten years ago I

Edwood

June 15th / 82

Merrimac June 15th / 82

Dear Father:

I suppose you will be surprised to hear from me again in this way but I want your advice I have been consulting Elbridge and he says I better write you We have made what I think is a fair estimate of my property and my debts they each amount to about one thousand the small bills and all amount to

more than I expected. Elbridge says that it probably that I can not secure money on he thought it doubtful if I could raise more than four hundred on it yet he thought it was really worth a thousand.

He suggested giving them a per centage but should not feel like ~~giving~~ staying here on the farm after I had failed. He did not take into consideration the dressing I have put on the land or the crops I shall be likely to gather this year. I have been somewhat unfortunate I have lost about one hundred and seventy five dollars in

the last ^{nine} months that with what I have got out now occasioned by the death of Uncle Otis has straighten me beyond what I am able to bear. There will be twelve or fifteen tons of hay and two and half acres of corn to add to the property. If I had real estate I should be all right for I honestly think if I had enough to square my indebtedness I think in a few years I should be all wright although Elbridge thinks I am not doing very well according to his reckoning I am clearing \$18.00 per month and I should a great deal more than double that if I had money

so I could buy my grain
when it was cheap as he does
He says if I should raise four
hundred and pay part of my debts
the others would pounce on me
and as I could pay them nothing
and my property mortgaged
there would be trouble

I hardly know what to write
I you can understand my situa-
tion it is well I have tried
to write plainly I feel it
was a mistake my coming
here to board Leonard is a
man that talks fair and
deceives folks yet one wants
to be on a farm to work it
I do not want you to think I
am tired of farming or think I
can not get a living from a
farm but if I fail I shall

leave this place I have had to buy all my stock and tools and if I had not been unfortunate I should have now property enough to raise money to settle all my pressing bills.

I shall expect an answer as soon as July Fourth Please tell me just what you think and write as soon as you get this

Your Loving son
Edward

If you were only here so I could
talk with you I should like it
I can't write as I want to I
have a peice of potatoes that
ought to yeald me from 20.00
to 50.00 also the apple crop
should yeald an equal amount
if not double it four years
ago I received about a hundred
dollar for the apples. Elbridge
took no notice of these and
reckoned my expenses full as
high as they would allow and
only from the milk and
house rent gave me a profit
of \$18.00 only this afternoon
he remarked that if I made
25.00 per month I should d
well. My mind works

faster than my pen when I spoke of real estate I meant you to understand that I could mortgage that ~~two~~ two or three have said they would let me have money on that but personal property they would not do any thing with.

I will ^{write} more soon and I will now thank you for the confidence you placed in me in sending that last letter it gave me an insight into your affairs and I would not have written thus had not Elbridge spoken of it yet he found out nothing of your affairs through me.

Affec^t Your Son Ed

San Diego July 6/82

My Dear Son

I received your letter, and I hardly know how to answer it - it has pained me very much to learn the trouble you are in - I wish I could help you out of it, but I don't see how I can do so, and I do not know what to advise you. If two or even three hundred dollars would help you out of the difficulty, I suppose I could manage some way to send it, but would it do so? I have no money to throw away, and it is probably harder to get hold of money here now than it is in your

part of the country. I have never heard that you were extravagant, but I can't understand from your letters, how you happen to be so deeply in debt, and it is not much consolation to be told that if you can get over the difficulty some way, it will be a good lesson - will learn you to be more economical keep a stricter, more exact, account of your income and expenditures. It seems to me this latter is the principal cause of your trouble, is it not? I wish I was on there to talk with you, and see exactly how things are, I might help you in some way. I am glad you consulted with Elbridge, he will give you good advice, probably better than I could if I was there. I trust he will help you to find some way out of the difficulty.

Trusting that both of us will soon see better times I remain your affectionate father E.W. Horn

I am anxious to hear from you again in a few days.

3

invested everything I had in
 real estate, and if it had
 not been for the "panic" of
 1873-4, I have no doubt
 that to day I should have
 been worth several hundred
thousand dollars. But instead
 of living in luxury we do not
 even live comfortably as you
 would call comfort in New
 England. Our house is a one
 story, cloth and paper lined - no
 plastering, and of which I am
 continually ashamed when we
 meet Eastern people. (Californians
 don't think of what people live in
 or how they dress as much as
 Eastern people do, but how they act)
 We live and dress exceedingly sparingly
 my wife makes her bonnets last
 three or four times as long as any
 of her neighbors, and in fact we

not only deny ourselves a great many
 pleasures but conveniences and
 necessaries as well.

It is humiliating to
 write this, but I have done
 so, that you might understand
 fully why I cannot help you
 in a. God knows it is hard
 to deny your request, but I
 cannot help it. Had it been
 possible I would have sent
 you the money and said nothing
 and I hope you will see the
 importance of keeping what I have
 written an absolute secret, for if
 stories to my discredit should
 be circulated here they might
 ruin me. Having so much
 real estate I am supposed to be
 wealthy and my credit is still
 good. but it would be dangerous
 to strain it.

If you to do so, the time will
come when I can assist you
and when that time comes
you shall have no reason to
think me unkind or ungenerous
you may rest assured of that.

I have longed to come over and
see you, and talk with you
out of your future prospects,
and what I proposed to do
for you so you now know
the reason ^{revealed out} and if you have
ever thought hard of me
I hope now you will think
better of it, for God knows
my heart has asked when I
have thought of what I wanted
to do for you and could not.

It is both keep up our courage
I am growing old, but I have
not got lost my energy, courage
hope, and surely there is no
occasion for you to falter - a
young man of health, energy,
industrious and economical.

We shall both succeed and
see pleasant times yet, and
not very far in the future ~~yet~~,
so let us hold our grip and
stick the closer to our business
for awhile longer, and the
pleasant times when they come
will be all the pleasanter because
of the hard times now.

When the pleasant times come I
shall tell you of our old luggage
plans for travel in Europe, there is
out other places, which we had
anticipate, you to be with us,
but that terrible "Darius" like a
stroke of lightning from a clear
sky suddenly blotted them from
existence, or rather let us hope
and as I vainly believe postponed
them for 20 or 25 years.

We may be mistaken but my
faith is strong that it will
come out all right for us
yet. I sincerely wish I
could help you now - I
wish I could come over and
see you and talk with
you about your business
and so forth but it is
impossible now.

689
7
As to the Old House - do what you think is best about it. I presume it has outlived its usefulness.

I have always thought, when I became able I would renovate, repair and rebuild where necessary so as to fully restore the old house so that it might remain if possible another 200 years in the Morse family as the old Homestead, but this was when I expected to be rich, but now when that time comes we shall probably think the money required to restore the old house could be expended to better advantage. I shall be sorry to see it pulled

9
you are, of course, full manager of the Farm and everything connected with it, you can rent the house to whoever you please and for what rent you please. But I have always expected you would use good judgment and would give Mr Sawyer the preference. The Engine and Shop is his and I suppose he would prefer to remain as long as he can rent his place at the river for they have lived there so long it must seem like home to them. Then it is convenient to have his engine to make cider; the cider mill would be useless without it would it not? I think they are good tenants and take an interest.

in the place - it would not
be so with strangers. I have
always thought Mrs Sawyer
looked upon you as one of the
family and would do everything
she could for you.

Do you keep an
exact account of your business
so that you know just exactly
what everything costs you, and
how much you are making a
month? How much money did
you pay out last year for the grain
blacksmith bills, hired help, board
and how much did you take in?

I hope you keep an exact account
of everything - I shall want to see
them when I come on - your
account books I mean -

and now good bye - I have
written you a long letter and
a confidential one and ~~that~~
you will keep it so and if
necessary burn it. I wish
you would burn part of it for
fear of accidents.

Write and let me know what you
think of it. If you help you I will do so.
Your affectionate father
S. W. Morse

down but don't see how it can
be helped.

I wish you would find out
what the insurance will be on
the house here and let me
know and I will manage
to send it to you.

The property ought to be
insured - I have how got
the impression that you
would use some of the
money from that "Wheel
Dartory" stock to pay for
insurance and so the
matter passed out of my
mind, but it certainly
should be attended to at
once - accidents are always
liable to happen, no matter
how careful people may be.

Edmund

Aug 6/82

Merrimac Aug 6th 82

Dear Father:

A day or two after I sent my last letter I received one from you, in which you spoke of receiving word from Elden. I am of the belief that that warming pan belongs to the Bowell family or rather Ruth, but I am not ~~sure~~ sure. There is a stove in the old house I believe it is called the Franklin that I would like, I heard Mrs

Sawyer tell some one that she was going to ask for it and I told her I had been thinking of doing the same, she said probably I'd get it then, as if she was going to ask just the same. As regards the old house, I will say if I am ever to be the owner of this farm I should most decidedly oppose any one owning a part of the front door yard. If E. Bridge and Allen were to live always it would be better, but ^{sorry} their heirs are unprincipled men and I should be very loth to have them own a part of my farm that I could not control in the last. If they should fix up the house

they would rent it and it would not be very nice to have a family on your farm that you could not control at all. I have found out how that is. There is another thing I would like to do if I had the farm and that is make a curve in the lane and arrange the grounds and have a lawn reach to the road although it would come to a point near the road and have a hedge along side the carriage path. all that will take money (but I could do a great share of it myself) and I expect I can get it on this place after a little more is laid out I would not be asking for money if I had not lost two

hundred dollars on stock ~~to~~ in the last two
years I have it in my mind how
I should lay out these grounds and
it would interfere ~~with~~ with the drive
way to the old house. To prove
to you they would rent it if fixed up
they are not going to put out money
just for a relic without getting the
interest when they can just as well
as not. if they should fix it up
the boys would break out the
windows. ^{unless there was an occupant there} Two years ago the
windows in the old house were
all good now there is hardly
a whole sash or pane; Bert
Lawyer did his share and it
was no use to say any thing
to him for his Grandma took
his part so much that he wou
ld tell me his Grandfather hire
ed this place and he would
do what he was a mind to and
it was none of my business.

I am very grateful for your offer but I don't see how I can get along with less than five hundred I want to settle with Uncle Leonard before I asked him to vacate and I want two hundred to buy grain with. The rest of the ~~of~~ creditors I think would not distress me until I could settle with them from the milk receipts. My Aunts help me as much as possible but there means are very limited.

In June I paid a note of seventy five dollars in. last ~~of~~ week I paid another of fifty and yet have not got much to show for it for the first horse proved to be worth just nothing.

6)

at all. That ^{amount} if I had had
to pay for grain last month
when Elbridge buys his would have
got enough to last me about a
year instead of paying almost
that per month as I did last
Winter buying it in small lots
You see by what I have just writ-
ten that I have been unfortunate
and not extravagant

Respect your son

E W Morse

Merrimac Sep^r 24/92

Dear Father:

I have been looking anxiously for a letter from you for some time. I expected I should receive an answer before this to my last. Perhaps you did not get the ~~same~~ idea I meant to convey.

When I mentioned the sum \$500. I wished you to understand that I could use that to advantage but if it was impossible to get that amount for you to send

got and \$38.00 for a cow that
got killed soon after I got her.
I have not done as bad as ap-
pears at first sight. Uncle
John wishes to settle Uncle Otis'
estate immediately and if I could
pay that the others might wait
a little. If I only had \$1000.00
that I might pay my indebtedness
and so when a good trade offered
have money that I might improve
it. I would soon be where
I would ask help of no one.

Please write as soon as conven-
ient

Your Resp.

E W Morse

Edward
Sept. 24/82

debits

Merrimac Dec 10th 1882

Dear Father:

Last Sunday I wrote you a letter but for some reason I did not get it to the Office so I thought I would take this time and try and write you a better one. I thought to have written before but I have been very busy and so I thought I would wait until I had rec^d the whole amount. I received both drafts all right the last one arriving here about two week ago. The first amt. I used to pay a note I had given Uncle

Otis some three years ago. The other ought to have been used the same way but the fellow that worked with me this summer wanted some money and as there was nearly fifty dollars due him I paid them some and paid part of a grain bill that had been standing some time. I pay for my grain as I get it, now.

Quite likely you have heard the sad news I am about to tell you. Two weeks ago Wednesday Uncle Leonard died very suddenly. He complained after dinner that his food distressed him. Mrs Sawyer put on cloths wrung of hot water. after a while he got easier and told her she had better go to Merrimacport as she intended. He ~~felt~~ ^{felt} so much better that he went into the shop and went to work

as he had been all the forenoon. He worked until about half past four and then as he stood working his hands the sitting on the stool without a moment's warning he fell back dead. The old gentleman that worked with him raised him in a sitting posture and he says Uncle Leonard did not breathe twice. Thanks. On the day there was a light fall of snow and I used my sleigh a few days it would have been good sleighing if so many had not used wheels and worked the gravel in with the snow. I just asked Mrs Sawyer what word I should send you she says she wished you could have been here she seems to ~~that~~ take his death rather hard I think It came

so suddenly we can hardly realize it. It seem to me he must be here some where and I often look up expecting to see him Mrs Sawyer says he had spoken of writing you a number of times but was so busy that he kept putting it off.

Dec 13th When I began this letter Sunday I expected to finish it and send it the next day I did not get time then and have had no time until now and should not now if it did not storm. After using my sleigh a few days I had to take my wagon again. Two days ago we another light snow and this afternoon quite a heavy fall but it rains now and I think will spoil it all. You asked me what I raised this year I suppose before this you have heard it was not a very good year with us

for raising crops except Hay
and that to a great extent had to
be fed out in Aug. and Sep. by
us that had to make a certain
amount of milk per day. Milk
with us sells at six cents per
quart this Winter and five in
the Summer. I have a pair
of steers two years old and three
heifers the same age, twelve cows
and four colts. I don't raise quite
fodder enough for my stock but
if I had not had to feed out so
much in the Summer I should have
had almost enough. I shall have
more dressing to use another year
and if it should be a good year
for crops I think I could raise

enough fodder to keep the amount
of stock I have now. I do hope
you will come on this summer
for I want you to see just
what difficulties I have to contend
with. I want you to bear in
mind that all the tools and
stock I have put here myself.
When I came over here to live Uncle
Leonard told me he would give
me work in the shop enough
to pay my board. I did not
expect work enough to pay my
full board but I thought if I
could work enough to come to
eighty dollars and the rent one
hundred I should get along nicely
for it would be so much easier
to do my work while living
here. He only gave me about
thirty dollars worth of work to do

the first winter and none since
and that is one reason I am
so much in debt if they make
me pay it which they ought
not to for I came understanding
that I should not have to make
out any money.

Hoping to hear from you
soon I am ever

Your Affection

Edward.

Edward

Dec 10/82