

West-Amesbury Sept, 6th 1850.

My Dear Brother,

I received a letter from you July 11th, and I intended to answer it before now, but have not had much leisure time, so you must excuse me. I was very glad to hear your health was so good, and I hope it will continue so. You said the Climate at the Mines and at San Francisco did not suit you, I thought you was not well when you was at the Mines because you did not say anything about your health at all. You said you sent a letter the first of April, and the first of May, one to Father and one to me, he has received his but I have not, for I have received but 2 since you have been in California, and Father 4; this is the 5th, I have sent to you, 3 of them were done up with Father's. There has been a great many letters sent to you, Alden and Edbridge have sent quite a number, and some papers, Col. Bayley has sent one, and Hannah with I suppose quite a number of others: I suppose a number of these have gone to Sacramento City, so Mr. Brigham you can see plainly that you are not forgotten in Old Amesbury; I hope you will get all the letters and papers that are sent to you now. Father sent you a letter in June, and Daniel sent one in July. I sent you a paper in August. Daniel is going to send you a Book that has the trial of Prof. Webster in it, he was hung last Friday, (the 30th of August) Uncle Samuel was well acquainted with Dr. Parkman the one he murdered. Uncle Tubesbury is

dead, he is missed very much; there has been quite a number of deaths since you left, among whom are, Charles Hoyt, Mr William Colby, Jerome Hoyt and Rhoda Ann Thompson. Mr Hoyt has moved up to the old place, where her Mother lived; True is as bright as ever. Quite a number have got married since you went away, I will name some of them, E. M. Huntington, Sophia C. Sawyer, Thomas Sawyer, Aaron Bancroft, Henry Sargent, Mr Cyrus Sargent and some others. George and Mary live at home the same as ever. I was over to Mary Starkey's week before last, she was well and I expect her over to make me a visit soon; she said she wished to remind you of that Dipper full of Gold, for perhaps she might it. She wished me to send you these Pinks, she thought you might like one out there, you liked them them so well here, and she did not think you would be able to get any there. Father has had 2 Horses since you left, the one he has now is a pretty one, and he is called a smart Horse, he is very kind and gentle. Amos writes home considerable often, the last they heard from him, he was at Benicia, and was well; I wish you and Amos had kept together. I suppose you will hear of President Taylor's death, before you get this letter. You wished me to tell you about the Flowers. I have 65 Dahlias in the front garden, and they look and bloom pretty well. The Grape Vine hung full, but the Rose Bugs destroyed nearly all of them. The Running Rose Bush grows fast, it is a very pretty Rose, it ought to have a frame to run on. The White Rose Bush also grows very fast. One of the Pear Trees in the front garden last year bore 10 Pears, but this year it has none on it; it is a late Pear but I do not know the name. The Peach Trees bloomed full, but most all of them dropped off; we had about a dozen last year, and I think we shall not have many more this year. Apples I believe are called

rather scarce, but I think we shall have more than we did last year, if they do not all drop off; quite a number of your Grafts bear this year, there is one by the Barn yard, they are early Apples and are red, I do not know what name. Mother wishes you to write to her and tell her how you spend your Sabbath's, if you attend Meeting, she hopes you have not forgotten it, she sends her love to you and would like to have you come home; we all should like to see you very much indeed, I hope you will come home soon. Elbridge received a letter from you the 9th of August. Hannah's health has not been good this summer, you must not forget to write to her, she has been expecting a letter from you for some time. Abby Wells has been up, her health has been very poor, but is better now. I have been Berrying a number of times this year, they have been very plenty. I think we shall have some Oil ~~at~~ last year we did not have any. Mother says she should like to send you some Cake and Pies, do you have any there? I expect you will be very handy when you get home. I think of going down East the last of this month, to Berwick, Portland and Augusta. Daniel and Phoebe, Patience and all hands send their best respects to you. There is going to be an Ordination at the Rocks Village next Wednesday. But I must draw my letter to a close, as it is getting to be rather late, and I must send it to-morrow. Write me as often as you can, I hope you will not stay out there much longer, but come home. Goodby from (I went to the Beach Thursday; there was quite your affectionate sister Ephraim W. Morse. a large party that went) S. Maria Neal.
San Diego. West-Amesbury
California. Mass.
Father, Mother, Philip, and myself included send their love to you.

Wt. Amesbury, Mass. Sept 25 } L.D
1850

Mr. Ephraim W. Morse.

San Diego.

California.



West Amesbury Sept 5th 1850

Friend Ephraim

I intended to write to you a dozen times before now, but have kept putting it off, times without number until I am almost ashamed to write, but if you will forgive me this time, I will try to do better for the future. I have been expecting another from you ever since the one you sent me when you first arrived at San Francisco, but have been sadly disappointed so far, and I hope you have not forgotten me yet; I must confess I am in fault for not writing sooner; there has been but very little news to write since you left, things seem to go along in the same old track. I have wished myself with you a great many times, and trust I shall never forget your generous offers to me before you left; after leaving you on board the Leonore, I returned home and bought Leonard's old Shop, and carried on business until December, then I sold my Shop to John Lewis and let my tools, and then took a job for a year, to iron carriages by the peice for Mr. Ephraim Goodwin, at the river, and I like it much better than to carry on business myself. The marriage and California fevers raged here last winter tremendously, and almost all that did not go to California got married, myself not excepted, and I think very likely if you had been at home,

you would have followed suit: you had better come home and try it as soon as you can make it convenient, for I find it much pleasanter to have a wife, than to be without one. I board with your Father and Mother since I got married, and keep a horse to ride up and down with, and to let. I am very sorry I did not write sooner and let you know that my Brother James was at San Francisco when you came down from the mines, but I did not think of your leaving there so soon, I should almost thought you would have found him, but I suppose you did not think of his being there; he went out in the Grey Eagle from New York, and has been keeping store at San Francisco ever since he arrived there, he came home very unexpectedly about the middle of August, he came on business and did not stop but about a week, he went down home first and called here when he came back, so I did not see him but about a half a day, but from what I could learn of him he has been doing very well, his partners and he have got two stores and a wharf at San Francisco, a Saw Mill at Oregon, &c; they had one of their stores burned by which they lost \$20,000, but he said they did not mind much about that, they had their store rebuilt in less than a week; he does not advise (any) to go out to California that can get a good living at home, he said he should rather dig on the railroad here, than to go out there to dig gold. therefore I fear you had rather a hard time while at the diggings; he said ^{he} was going to start for California the first of this month, by way of the Isthmus, and said he should call and see you, I think you will be glad to see him although

you are not acquainted with him, please write and tell whether he called on you or not. I was very much surprised to hear that you left the mines when you did, but as it is I am very glad that you did leave them, for I should think from your description of San Diego that it is a first rate place. I wish I was with you, I think I should like them very much. Elbridge and I often have a chat about you, wish we were with you, wonder what you are about &c, he is the same old sixpence. Old Dan appears to enjoy himself with his wife and family Flora & Weed. I saw Lydia last Sunday she looks as fair and rosy as ever, I expected to have seen her Thursday at the beach but from ^{some} cause or other she did not go, there was quite a large party of us, and we had a grand time. George and ^{Harry} went together the same as ever, they look the same as they ~~used~~ always did. The old Sail Boat is alive yet and that is about the best I can say of it, there was no dividend last year, and this year we had a meeting about the middle of July, and concluded to take it out of the Pond and put it on the river, we hired Elbridge to haul it down for \$350 and then I laid out \$20,00 in repairing it, and I am afraid I shall have to take the boat for pay, for it does not set much better on the river than it did on the Pond. Ezra Wood wants to know how the screw driver works, and everybody is inquiring about you, so write and tell me everything for, I must draw ^{my letter} to as close as Maria ^{is} to do my letter up with hers, and if we wait any longer I afraid we shall not be in season for the mail. I will write the rest next time for I have not writ in hardly anything that I wanted to. I remain your friend
P. J. Peal

W. Amherbury, Mass. May 24 } 40
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Mr. Ephraim W. Morse, Esq.

San Diego.

California.

Recd June



West-Amesbury May 23<sup>d</sup> 1851.

Dear Brother,

It is nearly two months since we last heard from you, and we feel very anxious to hear; I hope we shall have a letter this Mail, if we do not I hope Lydia Ann will or some one else so that we can hear from you; Philip had the last letter, it was dated Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, and in it was one for Lydia Ann, no one has had a letter since. I hope you is as good now as it was when you wrote. They have not heard from Amos for a long time, not since he wrote that he was going to the Sandwich Islands, you also wrote about it in your letter to Philip. I have been working in the Flower garden to-day, but it is not finished yet: Philip helps me some, but he does not have much time, he goes away early in the morning, and does not return untill night, he lets his horse considerable and sometimes he is rather late. The last day of March was very warm, and I thought I should get my garden fixed early, but it has been a very cold and wet Spring, it rains almost every day; there has been one very severe storm this Spring, there has not been such a storm before for a great many years: it done considerable damage in Newburyport, Boston and a great many <sup>other</sup> places. It blew down nearly 30 of Father's Pines; I never knew the wind to blow so hard in my life



There was a fire at the River in the storm, the House where Mr Peaslee used to live next to Mr John Sawyer's, Shed and Shop were burnt to the ground; it was thought if it had been fair weather Mr John Sawyer's and Mr Clement's would have gone; one of the Painters was making Varnish, (or Japan as they call it) and it caught fire, it was the first time he had ever made it in the Shop; Hannah was very much frightened, she was sick at the time, she has been very sick, is rather better, but her health is very poor now, she talks of coming up next week and we shall keep her as long as we can. Ella Maria was up and staid a week, she would have staid longer but the School commenced, Sarah Gray is Teacher; Abiah was up and staid 2 or 3 days to drop Corn for Father. The Peach Trees are not going to blossom much, and a number of them are dead, you must come home and take care of them; some of the Pear, Plum and Cherry trees blossomed full. There ought to be an arbor for the Grape Vine, and a frame for the running Rose. The Tulips are in bloom. We took the common Peony up last fall and separated it, and put it in the front garden; early this Spring we took the Rose Peony up and separated it and put that in the front garden, they are both budded. Mr Hodgdon has a Singing School at the Corner, but I believe it has but one night more to keep, Ruth Sally Ann, Marcia Hoyt and myself go from this road. Uncle Amos Aunt Weed and Aunt Thomas Weed were up yesterday and spent the day. They are going to put up quite a number of Houses at the River this summer, Mr Tappan Sargent is building one just above where he lives, on the hill farther; Mr Ephraim Goodwin, Mr Phineas Chase Mr William Chase, &c are going to build. Mr William Chase's shop was blown down <sup>in</sup> the storm. It was quite warm this forenoon, but it grows cooler, the

wind has blown very hard all day. The Early Apple by the cow yard has bloomed full, you must be at home in time to get some of them; we all wish to see you very much indeed, some say we shall not know you when you return, you will be altered so much, but I do not believe it. I have seen Mr. Bradbury since he has returned, but not to speak with him, he lectured in our meeting House one evening on California, and about 3 weeks ago he preached for us; he looks the same as ever only his complexion is a little darker, but I should have known him anywhere. Osgood is married I suppose you know, he was married last winter: he has not been here for a long time, Father and Mother were over the first of the Spring, he talked some of going to College. Jacob Morse was here this Spring, and he said Osgood had received 3 letters from you, but that he had not written, I do not know the reason. Mr Coffin down to the Corner died last Sabbath was buried Tuesday. I have not seen Sarah, Henrietta or even any of them since last summer, Sarah said she was coming up last summer, but she did not come, Henrietta said she should not come until I had been down to stay; Souchoy I suppose is in St Louis, he has been there some time with his brother. Charles Titcomb is keeping store at Newburyport, he set up for himself last fall; Abraham is with his father, he likes to work on the farm, better than he does anything else. Mary is not going to N. Port this summer I shall expect her over this summer to make me a visit. May 24<sup>th</sup>, I think some of going over there to-day but have not quite concluded. Mother says you must come home soon for she wants to see you very much, and she is afraid you will get sick. But I must draw my letter to a close



as it must be carried over this morning, the Mail goes Monday  
Father, Mother, Philip Hannah and her family send their love to  
you, and I presume all the rest of your friends would if they knew  
I was writing. Philip will write you soon. I hope you will come  
home soon. Goodby from your affectionate sister,  
I intended to finish this page but have not time. S. Maria Neal.



West. Amesbury Ms. Jan. 18 / Paia. 11

Mrs. Lydia A. Morse.

San Diego.

Care of Ephraim W. Morse, Esq.

California.



Newburyport, June 20<sup>th</sup> 1852.

My Dear Friends,

I don't know what you have thought of me for not answering your letter long before. This but I have been pretty much engaged since I received your letter and therefore have neglected writing before. you will excuse me I hope this time if I try to do better in future. You may be surprised to find me writing from Newburyport. I came down last Saturday to spend a few days. I have been talking of coming for a long time, but the right time has not come till now, and now I am somewhat disappointed, as I have been expecting to stay weeks here at Mrs. Stone's while I am here, and we have anticipated having your times



going around together, but she could not  
leave some work she has on hand, and  
do we have missed of it. I suppose you  
are expecting to go home Saturday. Lucy  
wishes me to let you be being home. Two or three  
papers of evidence of Beffer, and to tell you  
to come home before tea. The folks were  
all pretty well when I left home, excepting Ann,  
who had taken cold, and seemed to be quite sick.  
But I hope she is better now. I suppose  
you have had most of the news to busy  
do I will not confine myself to writing  
them.

I was sorry you were feeling  
so sad when you wrote. I hope long before  
this you are feeling very happy again, I am  
very glad to know that it is your fixed deter-  
mination never to give up desert prayer.  
It seems to me we might as well cease  
living, or cease praying, since it is "Prayer  
is the Christian's vital breath" we  
need to pray, and to pray often, for there  
are you will know, so many temptations  
surrounding us on every side, we need

Strength continually to resist these temptations,  
and to whom can we go for strength, but  
to Christ, let us then our friends strive  
to live near to the Throne of Grace, let not  
the fear of the world keep us from performing  
a single duty. I need not tell you  
I have felt a great deal happier, and I  
have seemed to me, I am sure, I have  
been praying more earnestly for me, at the  
time I needed you, I was very low spirited  
it seemed to me that nothing seemed  
pleasant as formerly, but it is not so  
now, and I hope I am thankful for the change.  
You ask who superintends the Sabbath school.  
When your Uncle is absent, he has given up entirely  
and Mrs. Sargent is the Superintendent.  
Our Saturday evening meeting have not  
been so well attended as in the winter,  
but we have a pretty good number. I  
don't know of any very particular interest  
in Religious things now, excepting Mary  
Spiller and I do hope she is as much  
interested as she has been by the last,  
but I do not know the exact state of



her mind at present as I have not had  
an opportunity to say much to her lately.  
I expect to go home Saturday if not before.  
Next Sabbath you know is communion and  
it is my intention to be present with  
the Church. When I have a moment I will  
think of the great work which is going on  
the cause of Christ and how compared with  
what it should be. I am sure God grant  
if I am permitted to live another year  
that I may not come so far short of  
doing my duty. I hope you continue  
to remain here at the House of Grace,  
and I shall remember you, and may we  
at least meet in Heaven where trials and  
sorrow never comes in the prayer of your friends  
Abigail. I will not stop to write any more  
as I expect to see you so soon, Providence  
Peru. And may Heaven's richest blessing  
ever rest upon you. Adieu. Please excuse  
all mistakes and write when convenient.

Your affectionate Friend, Mary.



W. Amelbury Man Jan 18 Paid, 6

1852

Mr. Ephraim W. Morse, Esq.

San Diego.

California.

Recd Feb 17<sup>th</sup>  
No 3



M. Amersbury Man April 18 / Paid. 6  
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Ephraim W. Morse Esq

San Diego.

California

Recd May 30

Amesbury April 17th 1853

Friend Eph

It being a rainy Sunday I know of no way that I can improve the time any better than by writing a few lines to you. I meant to have wrote long before now but as I have never been accotomed to writing letters it is just the worst job that I can undertake to perform even in this coarse and illegible stile therefore you will please make all due allowance. In your last letter to me you wished to if I ever heard of a quakers going to California I dont know as I ever heard of but one and he is not quaker enough to hurt him any unless he has altered a great deal since he has got married I have reference to my brother James he came home last fall and got married to a quoker lady of Philadelphia and has now returned with his wife to San Francisco they started the twentieth of Feb he thought when he was here that he should be gone about three years and then return for good and all but I have come to the conclusion that this staying the time to get home from California dont amount to much

I hope you will make it in your way
to come home as soon as you can for you
say that you are home sick and if you
cannot get a living you can get a post
of one and stay the rest of the time the
same as the rest of us do as for your having
a big family I think it will be time
enough to worry about that when you
come to have it and in regard to three or four
hundred Dollars I think three or four thousand
would be better but then that will be better
than nothing I dont think it would be much
use to plant it for the season is not long enough
for it to come to maturity there will be no trouble
but what you can find acres enough for it
for you can go into another Kimballs Pond boat
speculation and as many more of the summer
as you have a mind to that is speculate about
one half out of pocket. I sold the old boat you
will recollect to Wm Sawyer for twenty five
Dollars and took his note. I have the good fortune
to get fifty cents on a dollar thus you see the profit
on the Old boat to me has been some twenty out
of pocket rather a bad speculation that for a
small one but experiance is a good school. Proves
though dearly bought for we shall know what
to do next time. My Brother Luke has been
very sick with the lung fever we did not
expect him to live for several days but he is

better now. I work for Ephraim Goodwin by the
job the same as I have worked for three years
before I have got tired of living so far
from my work it is very inconvenient
in stormy and cold weather and I have come
home every night so far this year I do hope
that I shall be able to make some arrangement
for the better before another year comes round.
Carriage business is very good at present as
well as almost all other kinds of business
we have ^{had} a very mild winter and the prospects
now are that we shall have an early Spring.
Farmers have commenced ploughing and sowing
and some have begun to plant but it is rather
early to plant musk yet. Our West Amherst
Cross Band is as flat as a panrake that is
it is all gone to down south and so has Wm
Sawyer and his livery stable he has agreed
to pay his creditors twenty five cents on a
Dollar I lost forty one Dollars fifty cents by
him. Jas. Largent has also gone into the
chancery he will pay ten cents on a Dollar it is
thought that is very well for him considering
that he has not failed for four or five years
before he built a large shop last fall
and there has been a dancing school in
it this last winter there has also been one at
the corner the one one at Abbeys Hall
(Tub) closes with a ball next Wednesday eve

Lydia was over here Fast day, and we
went down to P. Post to a concert in the
evening and had a first ^{rate} time I wish
you could have been there I think you would
have enjoyed it much for it was a grand
concert the hall was crowded so that we
had to stand up all the evening that
part of the performance was not quite so pleasant

Please write and tell how we watch
speculation proshers you said that you
had sold the Gold faced one did you mean
the hunter or the other Gold faced one.

I wish to get to write soon and come home
between now and fall at any rate
Mother Maria and all ~~hands~~ send
their love to you Please excuse all
mistakes and oblige
Your friend

Philip J. Reed

Maria

Sept 16th 55

West-Amesbury, Sunday, Sept. 16th 1855.

Brother Ephraim,

As it is rainy to-day, and I did not go to Church, I thought I would improve the time by writing to you. I received your letter August 27th, and was very much pleased to think you had not forgotten to write to me. We have not had any rain here for some time, and the ground is very dry, I hope we shall have some now, but I do not know as we shall, as it looks light again now. It was very warm the first of last week, the last of it cold, we had but very little warm weather in August. We went to the Beach last Wednesday, Daniel, Phony and Flora, Patience and Aunt Takesbury, David his wife and children, Richard, Nancy and Abrah and a Lady with her two sons, that went with them, Leonard, Hannah, and the children Edward Hunter and Ann Lirrie, Father and Mother Philip and my-self were all that composed the party, there were not a great many people at the beach that day, they commenced going very early this year; Ruth said the day she was down, she never saw so many people, there were 50 horses in the stable and that was not one quarter part of what there were there

Salisbury Beach is coming up, I suppose a great many more people go there, that would not, if there was no Hotel, I did not go ~~inside~~ of it but it is not very handsome on the outside I believe it is built rather cheap, he thought if he had much custom this year, he should put up a better one next year I presume you are acquainted with the man, he has to California twice, built the Town House &c, Mr Alfred Titcomb I cannot find a pen that is good for any-thing, I guess my writing will look pretty, but you must excuse it. --

The Universalist Society had a Picnic over in Moses Gargents oaks, I believe they had a chowder.

The Cattle Show and Fair are going to be at Haverhill next week, two days I think I do not know but that we may go if nothing prevents. The ^{N.H.} State Fair was at Manchester last week. The Steam-Boat (Silver Star) has run on the river for a few weeks past to carry parties to the Shoals, Rockport &c, it went to the Shoals last Friday had a band of music on-board, I should like to go there very much but do not believe I shall this year. There were three Bartlett Pear Trees that bore this year we had 34 Pears, they are nice, two other trees that bear the Geckle Pear and the other one in the front garden has a few on it, those are later, the tree grows fast.

I brought in two Peaches to-day, I wish we had a bushel, but I shall have to wish I am thinking, quite a number of times before I get them, they are very scarce in these parts. --

Apples are plenty, but they drop very fast.

Father and Mother, Uncle Amos and his Wife think of going to Portland this week, I hope they will have pleasant weather

Monday eve, Father, Mother and myself have been to Newburyport this afternoon, it has been a very warm day, it did not rain that much yesterday, and it was rather dusty riding, but not so much so, as it was last week. I saw Mrs Chase and Lizzie and that is about all I can say of them, we were passing by the house and saw them at ~~the~~ window (or rather Mrs Chase) and Father stopped just below the house, but not long for we were in a hurry, I had not seen Lizzie before for a long time, Father was down not long since, and he said Joseph told him she was going to be married soon, to a farmer, I think he lives in West Newbury, I have never seen him to know him, Anna lives in Cambridge, I have not seen her since she was married. Mr Bovel and his family are as well as usual. --

I have not been to Hensington this summer, I have been looking for Mary over, she promised me she would come, she thought she could not come until her boy could run alone, if she does not come soon I shall know the reason.

They are going to Portland Thursday and think of returning Saturday, I tell them it will be a short visit.

Philip and I think some of going to Berwick this fall.

Maria Challis was married last Thursday in the quaker meeting house, we received to-night her card and some cake, it looks nice but I have not tasted of it, it came in a box, I think that is the best way of sending cake. --

Moses has finished the Old Red School House into a dwelling house, and a family moved into it the other day, so you may say to Lydia Ann I am afraid she has lost it.

We talk of having a road around Bear Hill I believe the

Commissioners have been on 9 times and last Friday they laid it out it goes below George Largent's house takes off a corner of his garden, so the road will be the back side of his house, and the new house where his father lives, it will take the passing away from that, they oppose it very much; they petitioned for one to the River also, but I suppose they will not get that this year, the corner people oppose them; the Commissioners were here to dinner twice, we cooked a third dinner for them, but they did not stop long, last Friday they went to David's. --

Mother says she shall expect you home soon if you do not come she shall be disappointed, I should think you would be tired of staying there, I do not wonder that Lydia teases you to come home, I should think she would, I have not rode horseback this summer, I should be rather tired I am thinking to ride far now, I have not rode for so long a time. --

You said I must write news or no news sense or no sense and I presume you will not be disappointed.

I have been scolding Philip because he does not write to you, I think he will before long, but you must not wait for him, write often. Give my love to Lydia Ann and tell her to behave herself. Father and Mother send their love to you both. Daniel and Phanny, Patience and Aunt Turkesbury send their best respects to you, but I must close, for I have nothing else to write and I am tired. Excuse all mistakes and bad writing. Philip sends his best respects, and says he should like to come out and see you. Good-bye yours Truly
(Give my respects to Mrs Poole and Mrs Wakely) Maria.

West-Amesbury August 16th 1854.

Sister Lydia,

Excuse me for not answering your letter before, as it has been a busy time; Father did not finish haying untill yesterday, we have had considerable dull weather this summer, and that made them so long about it.

I received your letter July 13th.

17th, Father received a paper from Ephraim the other day but no letter. Philip came home before dark last evening so I thought I would ride up to Ploomy's and make a short call and, for that reason I did not have time to write any more than; Ploomy sends her love to you, and says, she told you she would write first, but it is only because of her negligence that she has not written, not because she does not think of you, and wishes you not to wait but write to her: Daniel sends his best respects to you and Ephraim, he says "he cannot send his love for his wife and child wants all the love he has", he is as full of his fun as ever, I think you would say that if you could see him, he will not build his house untill next spring, he thinks some of digging the cellar this fall; Flora grows tall and slim, she runs so much with the other children that she is not so fleshy as she used to be, she is as pretty as ever

Hannah was up Sunday after meeting, she is better than she was
Frances has not been very well this summer, she looks rather
slender, she goes to school with Ella, I believe the rest of them are well
Andrew boards at home, he was not very well awhile ago, but I
think he is pretty well now, I think he works so hard he is
pretty smart, he gets his 20 cents an hour, or he has had that, I do
not know whether he will work for that another year or not, I think
his year is most out, his Father gave him his time when he was
20 he was 21 in July. Annette is keeping house, she lives in
Aaron's, I suppose you know he lived in Lowell; Caroline and the
children are down on a visit, she came down a week ago last Monday
she was over here last Monday afternoon, her little girl has
grown some since you saw her, she is quite a pretty little girl
she could not go alone when they moved to Lowell, but she can
now, she talks so cunning I like to hear her very much. --

I have not been to the Beach yet I expected to have rode
down and stopped a little while before now, I must go soon, I
would like to see how the Hotel looks on Salisbury Beach;
Caroline said she would like to go while she was here, I hope
she will have a chance to go; but it seems by your letter that
you go to the Beach quite often, well, I am very glad you have one
there, but I do not believe it is equal to ours after all, I should
think you and Ephraim had better come home if you knew
what was good for yourselves, Mother says that Ephraim must
come home, he told he would "come sooner" if you came out there
I should think he had better mind.

Dolly Largent is dead she was buried last Saturday, she was sick
some time, this made 6 that have died there now lately, one other

grown person, and that was a young man by the name of Farmer, he
had been working there, (I did not know him) the others were children.
I suppose you heard that Mr England's wife and mother were not
living, they died in the spring or first of the summer, I do not
recollect which, the reason I came to think of ^{them} was, because this
young man was carried over there to his house, and the funeral
was there; Mrs. Offut's health is not good at all.

I have just been eating one of the Williams Apple, they are
most ripe, they have been dropping some time, should 'nt you like
one, I imagine Ephraim would, we shall not have as many as
we had last year, we did not have many of the Summer Rose,
they were very scarce. Peaches I think will be very scarce, I did
not see a blossom but Father said Mr. Ravel show him a few,
we may possibly have a Dozen, but I do not think we shall have
any more than that, some think the winter hurt them, we had
such cold weather, they have grown very fast this summer,
Daniel says, "they are getting ready to bear another year. --

We shall have a few Purple Plums and a few Green ones, if they
do not rot, and a few Bartlett Pears, and 2 or 3 of the other
small Pear Trees bear. It has been real dog days weather, but
now it looks as if it was coming over clear, I hope it will.

Father and Mother have gone down to Hannah's this afternoon
and I am keeping "old maid's hall". I think I will not write
any more now, I will wait until Mother comes home, and hear
what she has to offer, I do not think I shall write much more
any way. Evening, Mother said Hannah was not at home, she
had gone over to Mrs. Offut's, she went in to see Annette, and
she looks as nice as you please in her new home.

Annette and Ann Lorie send their respects to you and Ephraim
and Annette says you must come home.

Patience and Aunt Tukesbury send their respects to you and
Ephraim.

You said you said you would like to know where I was, and
what I was doing, well, I have been at home most of the time
that is when, I have not been any where else, and part of the
time I have been very busy, I believe I cannot inform you
any more on that subject, if you wish to know any more
you must come home, you said I must not take my Brother
for an example, I think I shall in writing to him, that is
I am going to give him time to answer my letter.

I have not rode horseback this summer, I could not ride as
many miles as you say you can.

Philip sends his ^{best} respects to you and Ephraim, and says
he should like to come on and see you, I would like to very
much if it ~~was~~ not so far or if it did not take so long to go.

I guess my writing will look pretty the lamp does not burn
well at all, but I must draw my letter to a close.

Father and Mother send their love to you both, give my
love to Ephraim and tell him to write, and you must write
as often as you can, Goodbye yours affectionately,

Maria.

P. S. Please give my respects to Mrs. Poole and Mrs. Whaley.

Mrs. Henry Gargent is quite out of health.

I wish you a happy New Year.

West-Amesbury Jan. 16th 1853.

My Dear Brother,

I received your letter dated Oct 2^d, on the 3^d of Nov, and I suppose you think this is a pretty time to answer it, I think so too; the day I received your letter we carried Anna Chase home, she was here nearly 5 weeks, she had not been up before since she came up with her Mother. Philip had a letter the same day from his brother James, who had returned from California and was at Berwick; he wished us to come down, and we started the next day, we went to Portsmouth with the Horse and Chaise and then took the Cars to Berwick: he looked well, much better than he did when I saw him before, he was married in December to a Quakeress Lady in Philadelphia, they were married in Quaker style, she was married in a drab silk Dress and Scarf and a white Hat, in the evening she ~~was dressed in~~ wore a white silk Dress trimmed with silver Buttons, a Filagree Silver Breast Pin, and a bouquet of Flowers in her hand, she is going to Cal. with him. I went over to Mr Cary's Singing School Friday evening, it was the last evening of the term, but he is going to keep 12 nights more, I think some of going but have not quite concluded, I have not been in to Mr Hodgdon's yet, but I intend to, Ruth Sally Ann and a number of others on the hill go to his. It has been cold today and we have not any of us been to meeting it is very windy; we ~~have~~ had a very pleasant winter so far, not much snow for sleighing, but I understood it was good sleighing in Boston and Washington. Mrs John P. Sargent

is dead she had the typhoid fever, and I suppose ^{you} have heard of Mary Nichols death. A week from last Saturday Hannah was up she has not been up before since Thanksgiving, Caroline came up in the afternoon, and Aaron and Leonard at tea, Hannah's health is not very good, she has been lame since Thanksgiving so she could not walk a step for some time, but is rather better now. Mothers health is not very good. My humor has not left me yet, I wish it would it is on my ears and neck now but not very bad, I believe it has left my face, I am trying the Oil of Sassafras, but I do not know whether it does any good or not, sometimes I think it does not. Uncle Samuel fell down and broke his hip (it was very slippery) he was very sick and not expected to live, but was better the last we heard from him. Abby Wells health is not very good. I believe she is considerable lame now. I expect Mary Starkey is married, Anna and I went over when she was up, and she thought she should be married before a great while I was down to Newburyport some time after that and Charles said she was not married, but was going to be at Christmas, and I have not heard anything from her since. Lydia Ann is here she came over yesterday. We called at Capt Jacksons when we were down (Philip Mother and myself,) Mary was at home, Touchay was at St Louis Sarah had gone to sea with her husband, and Henrietta is giving lessons on the Pianoforte, Mrs Jackson had been sick, she looked miserably she said that Touchay came home in the summer, it did not suit him there. I do not know whether Osgood is at home or at College when he is there he has his wife with ^{him} and they keep house, Aunt Morse was over in the fall, and she expected them home by Thanksgiving, and said we must come over, but I have not been over I could not go very well. I did not ride Horse back not once all last year the year before I rode once, I do not think my riding Dress

and Cape will do me much good if I do not ride more, I do not think I should like to take such long rides as you do, I think I should be rather tired. When are you coming home, I should think you had better come home as soon as you can, not stay there. Have you heard from Amos lately? has he gone to the mines? ^{Jan. 17th} I do not know whether they have heard from him lately or not, I believe he does not write very often, I should think it was time for him to come home. The new School House is finished, and there is a School in it, it sets on Uncle Benjamin's land, just below the brook, it is a very pretty neat looking house, and it is a very pretty place for it, it looks much better there than I expected it would; the seats are very pretty, and I should think easy to sit in, they look like Chairs, and those for the smaller ones look cunning; they had them from Boston; they also had a new stove, the children are much pleased with the new house &c, the people at the lower corner do not like it very well because it is up here so far, Mr Lunt or (Uncle Lunt as they call him) says it shall be moved in the spring, he sends his children to the Pond Hills School. Our new Minister Mr Tilton I believe is liked very well, he is very different from Mr Pinkham. Mr Pinkham lives here in the place yet, they were over here Saturday afternoon. Lydia Ann, Sally Ann and myself are going down to Hannah's to-morrow afternoon. Miss Easterbrooks from the Rocks keeps the school at the landing and a Miss Eaton keeps at the Pond Hills, it is getting to be very fashionable to have female Teachers in the winter. Daniel and Ploomy are well, they sent you a letter not ~~a great~~ long since. The Band gave a concert at the Mills in the fall Mr Smith their teacher, and Mr Thompson Vocalist were with them, the Hall was pretty well filled, and it was a good

concert, after it was over they had a Dance. The Band also gave
a levee at the Mills on Christmas eve, we had a very good time
we did not get home untill most 3 o'clock, some did not untill
5 o'clock, you ought to have been at home to share ~~your~~ with
us. Jan 10th, it looks like a storm. Mother says you must come
home and get some Apples, we had plenty of them last
year. I must draw my letter to a close as it is time to
send it, excuse me for not finishing this page, for I do not
think of any more to write, and what I have written may
not be news to you. Philip thinks he shall write soon,
you must scold him for not writing more. Father, Mother
and Philip send their love to you. Come home as soon as
you can. Goodbye from your sister Maria.

West-Amesbury June 3^d 1853.

My Dear Brother,

I thought I would write you another letter, if you had not answered my last. Abby Wells is dead. She died last Friday night, she was buried from her Father's Monday afternoon, she died in Portland, her Mother and Mrs. Joseph Sargent were there, Aunt Weed went down (Tuesday I think it was) to bring up the Babe, Abby has been sick a long time. I was in hopes she would get well, it will be sad news to Amos, they had a letter from him not long since, I believe he was well, I should think he would come home.

There were two young Men drowned in the Pond two weeks ago to-day between 5 and 6 o'clock P.M. John A. Porter and Charles O. Mosely both of Newburyport, I suppose you were acquainted with them, they came up to Mr Howards and hired his boat, I think they said it was about half past 4 o'clock and went to sail, Mrs Howard said they had been up once a week when it was pleasant since it became warm enough, to sail on the Pond, but they had always before this, had two Boats, a Boat apiece, but this time there was considerable water in the other one, and they concluded to go both in one Boat, Mr Howard said if they had gone with both they would probably have been saved, because the other one being flat Bottom would not upset

the wind blew very hard that day, and they had both sails fastened down, and having a very heavy ballast the boat immediately sank it was nearly opposite the Pines on our shore: Mr Porter succeeded in getting both of his coats off, but Mr Moseley had his on and his overcoat buttoned close around him, he even had his gloves on; we did not hear of it until Saturday afternoon, Philip came home and went over to the Pond, they were searching for the Bodies, there were a great many up from Newburyport and the Ferry, they found them about 6 o'clock P.M. they had been searching all day, they found them about five hundred yards from the Boat, (they found that first) within 10 feet of each other, they swam farther than they would have had to to have reached the shore ~~and~~ this side, but they swam towards Howard's shore, Mr Howard was down to the Pond at 5 o'clock and saw the Boat up towards Back River, but he could not have been gone long before they upset, and some think they must have seen him there, and so warn that way and called for Howard thinking he would hear them and come for them in a boat, the wind was North West and carried the sounds down that way. a man that lives at Mr Orlando Sargent's was up on the hill at work and heard them call for Howard, he said he should think he heard them half of an hour, and saw them too, but he thought it was some that were out swimming, and there are so many that go down to the Pond, he did not think much of it, but I should have thought he would, by their calling for Howard so many times, they probably could have been saved if he had, the wind was the wrong way for any one to hear this way; some think Mr Porter would have reached the shore, as he had his

boats off, if he had not helped Mr Moseley. Mr Howard thinking it was time for them to be up became alarmed for their safety and went down again, he could not see them, and he took a Boat and rowed around and over the Pond and sounded his Trumpet but he could not hear or see anything, he then went home and took his Horse and Carriage and rode up this way and down by Back River he did not know but they might be up there, but he could not find them, he then went home and down the Pond again, he then found Mr Porter's Cap and an Ear, and he thought then there was no doubt but that they were drowned he started and went down to Newburyport to tell their friends, I believe it was eleven or half past at night when he went; when ~~he~~ told them it seemed as if they would have torn him all to pieces. It was Friday they were drowned, and Mr Moseley was to have been married Sunday Evening. They were both well acquainted with a boat, and excellent swimmers, but reasons which we never shall know prevented their reaching the shore. They found both of Mr Porter's coats, his frock coat was torn considerable as if it was in suddenly hauling it off and his overcoat the sleeves were turned. I understand they were very steady respectable young men, one had been through ^{College}, if not both; they had been trading to the East Indies, had been as supercargo, and were going again in a short time, I understood that Newburyport the next day was all confusion, it seemed to spread a gloom over the whole City, and indeed it did here. It seems dreadful to think they should be on the water so much, and then come up here and get drowned in this Pond, and it does seem as if they might have been saved. Mr Porter was 26 years old and Mr Moseley 25, it was a sad accident and it will be a long time before it will be forgotten. I understood Mr

Howard was most crazy, he sold his Boat the one they were drowned in. Did they not go ^{to} the same school with you? Aunt Morse was over Wednesday she said Osgood was well acquainted with them. Osgood is at College he will graduate this summer, but then he does not think of coming back to stop any, but is going back again to study Law, his wife is up there with him and they keep House, they like very much.

Hammer's health has been pretty good for her, untill this week she had a lame arm, we were down Tuesday, and she was better, the rest of the family are well. I have been sick this Spring, I had a sore under my right arm, I expect ^{it} was an Abscess, I could not use my arm any for over 3 weeks; it pained me very much and I was quite sick, I am pretty well now. Mother's health is much better than it has been, she walked over to Aunt Thomas Morse's yesterday afternoon, she has not walked before so far since she was sick.

Mother says you must come home before Peaches and Apples are ripe I should think you had better. I called in to Eliza's last night and she says you must come and name her Boy, she has not been well for some time she has had a very bad cough, but is better now. Aunt Weed (Daniel's Mother) is sick, she is rather better ~~better~~ than she was but is pretty sick now: she has some one with her all the time, she has the Doctor, he calls it the Dropsy. Daniel and Phomy are well and Flora, Phomy was quite unwell the first of the Spring but is pretty well now.

Father, Mother, and Philip send their love to you. Come home as soon as you can, but I must draw my letter to a close as Father is going down to the Mills and must send this down by him. Excuse bad writing and all mistakes as I have been in a hurry. Goodbye from your affectionate Sister

Maria.

Write as often as you can



10

Mr. Ephraim W. Morse, Esq.

San Diego.

California.

53

Rec'd
July 3^d

West Amherbury Jan. 17th 1854.

Dear Sister,

I received your letter, dated Dec. 16th Jan. 11th. Father received two papers from Ephraim the day before. I was very happy to hear that you arrived safe at San Diego, and that you are so pleasantly situated there. I presume you know now what it is to be sea-sick.

I do not envy you your ride across the Isthmus, methinks I shall wait awhile before I come to California. I should like to take a peep at you, in your new home, sometime when you did not know it, to see how you was getting along in your domestic duties. You said you arrived there our Thanksgiving day, Hannah and her family were here, there was a Love at the River in the evening, Andrew, Annette and Ann Lizzie went, they teased me to go, but I concluded I would not. Giles Hooley has a Singing School at the River, near at the corner; Henry Cary talked of having one, met two nights, and I thought he was going to have one, but Ruth told me he had gone away, and did not play the Organ at Mr Paine's, I do not know who plays there.

In the fall they tried to get up a School for Mr Thompson, but did not succeed, I believe he asked rather to high, but I suppose he did not care much about coming, as he has enough to do in N. York, by the way, I went down to one of his concerts the week after Thanksgiving and it was one worth hearing, it was his ^{juvenile} class of two hundred and twelve scholars, his Opera class of twelve Ladies and Gentlemen, Gent's Club of five Gentlemen assisted by Miss J. G. Page: his

juvenile class were all dressed in white, with a wreath of flowers on their heads, there were some there not much older than Francis or Flora, there was one that sang alone not much older than they are; by the way, Flora is quite a singer, Daniel plays on his Bugle, and she sings, she keeps right up with the Instrument let him play slow or fast, she sings very prettily indeed, she can tell nearly all the tunes that he plays, he tries to cheat her sometimes; and will ask if it is not such a one, but she will tell him what one it is; if you stay as long as Eldridge said you would, perhaps she will be out there giving concerts in California, what say ye to that Miss? - -

We have no meeting at the River, Mr Tilton went to Lynn in the fall, then Mr Upton (one who used to preach at Newton) preached for us awhile, I did not like him, the last sabbath we had a meeting Mr Chick preached, (he used to preach in Plaistow, but I think I heard he had done preaching there now) since then we ^{have} had no meeting, some think they will not have any this winter, I wish they would have one for I do not like straying round here one sabbath and there the next, I like to know where I am going, I suppose you know where you are going, who plays your Organ, and who is your head singer &c. &c. I would like to know very much. I went over to the Universalist a week ago last sabbath, and heard Mr Davenport, I never heard him before, they did not have any singing, the Meeting House looks much better since they had it papered, some parts of it looks like Fresco Painting, and is very pretty, other parts of it I do not like quite as well. Perhaps I shall not tell you any news, but I will write all I can think of, and if it is old please excuse.

Ann Mary Osgood, Marcia Hoyt, John Morse and Joseph Noyes were married Thanksgiving day, John Chase and his wife are over to his Father's, I am not acquainted with her. I have not seen Sally Ann so speak with her for some time. The last time I saw Mary Elisabeth, was down to Phoenyx's, I was down there that day, and George and Mary

called in the evening, she said she was going over to the corner the next week, but I do not think she went that week, for it was stormy nearly all of the week, we have not had such a drifting snow for a long time, it drifted so bad that Philip could not get down to the River for two days, but it has been warmer since and rained, so it is not very good sleighing now, considerable bare ground, it has not been very good any of the time. I have not seen Hannah since I received your letter, she was up week before last, and staid all the week, Frances was with her, they were all well then, I expect they are now.

Mother sends love to you and Ephraim, and says she hopes she will have some Pies now, perhaps she means some like those she had when she was at home, and held the office of Head Cook, I don't believe she will ever have another office like that, just think of that Oven full of Pies, ha ha. I suppose you have heard of Aunt Daniel Weed's death, I mentioned it in ^{my} letter to Ephraim, she was buried the sabbath before you left New York; Daniel lives there yet, and works Shoe making Stephen Griffin and a Chase from Leabrook, were arrested for stealing cloth out of Palmer's shop at the corner, they are now in jail awaiting their trial, which is some time this month. One morning about two weeks ago, two Girls were found dead at the Merimac House Newbury-port it is not known what caused their death, rather singular I should think. Phoenyx sends her love to you. I must draw my letter to a close, and you must excuse me for not writing the sheet all over, as I cannot think of much more to write. Philip and Daniel send their best respects to you and Ephraim. Give my best respects to Mr and Mrs Whaley and Mrs Poole, I hope you will all enjoy yourselves in your new home. I wish you all a "Happy New Year". Write as often as you can, and tell Ephraim to write, for it is a long time since I have had a letter from him. Excuse all mistakes. Goodbye, yours truly S. Maria Neal. Father sends his respects to Ephraim and also to you. Give my love to Ephraim.

Trumbull Nov. 20. 1846 / Paid 1/2

Mrs. Lydia A. Morse.

San Diego.

California.

Care of E. W. Morse, Esq.

West Amesbury Sept. 1st 1854.

Sister Lydia,

I intended to write to Ephraim this mail, but as I received a letter from you Monday Aug. 20th, (dated July 20th), so I thought I would answer it. It is raining to-day it looks good to see it, I should think it was six weeks since it rained, almost every thing is dried up, Corn, Beans and all garden vegetables, and Potatoes will be very scarce; the grass is all dried up, I never saw it look so before, I should think the Cattle would have hard work to find enough to eat, and they do, for Father feeds them, and he has kept the Horse in the barn a fortnight I should think.

It has been smoky too most of the time, the woods caught fire on an Island in Country Pond, and burnt up considerable wood, it run on to the main land I believe but they put it out, some thought it caught by some persons having a chowder there, and did not put the fire out; Mr Robert Bagley discovered a fire in Pine Hill, and it was a long time before he could get any one else there, he did not dare leave it, I believe some of them staid untill 1 o'clock at night, people think that was caught by some one smoking or by a gunner, Father says if he had not seen it, probably it would have burnt it all over, I believe the woods have been burning for some time down east. Nancy says up to Newton, they have to watch by the side

of the Railroad track for when the Engine goes along sparks fly off and catch the grass on fire, but I hope we shall have rain enough now. Thomas Colby is dead, he was buried last Saturday. Mr Thickland has lost his youngest child. I suppose you have heard of the death of Alden's little girl, she died in the spring. Mrs Benjamin Hoyt at the River is dead, I do not know whether you have heard of the accident we had in June or not, however I will tell you, if you have heard you may pass it over. Mrs Hoyt has not been well since her Husband died, and last winter she was quite unwell, a great many thought she never would be any better, but in the spring she was considerable better, and Housnah said she must come up and see her, and being home she could not walk up very well Housnah said we must come round that way and bring her up so she married the day, (she said if she did not we never should come) it was the 2¹st day of June (Wednesday) well, we started and arrived at Mrs Hoyt's, she was not quite ready and we waited in the carriage for her when she came out she was some time getting in, (she said afterwards she slept on her dress) and the horse started twice I spoke to him, he then turned to go the other way, and as I pulled the other rein to bring him back again he backed right down the bank, I had no idea of the road being so narrow, or of its being so dangerous, there was no railing if there had been it would have saved us, (there is one now, I should think it was time) Mrs Hoyt went out first, I went next and Mother went down on to the shore, and she was hurt the least, and Mrs Hoyt I am sorry to say was hurt the most, her being so unwell before and then the fall made her worse and she died about 4 weeks ago; they thought at the River that she would not have lived the summer out if it had not been for this, and the Doctor thought this hastened her death, she thought at the time she was not hurt much; there were no bones

broken, I sprained my ankle and Mother was unwell for some time at most every one thought it was a wonder we did not all get killed, if we had been in a Chaise we probably should have been, I should not like the idea of going down again; we had no time to be frightened before we went down, it was all done so quick, Mrs Hoyt spoke and said we were going down the bank, and she had but just time to say it before we went some enough; Mrs Hoyt said she had often thought when carriages were turning round there, that they would go down the bank, but she little thought she should be the one to go; it broke the carriage some but not so much as I should have thought it would, or you either if you should see the place, and the Horse it never hurt him a bit, and he was not frightened in the least, he went to eating grass as soon as he was up, and some said before they got him up, but I do not know how true that is. The Town paid Mrs Hoyt 1200. dollars for damages, they have not paid us yet, but I will not weary you any longer with this. — — Tell Ephraim the purple Plum Trees being full and some of the green ones, he ought to be at home to have some of them, after he took so much pains to set them out, and I should think he had better come if he knew what was good for himself, we gathered ^{all} the purple trees but one this morning, it rained so fast we could not gather the other one, we were afraid it has been so dry if there came a rain they would crack open as they did two years ago, I expect the rest of them will, we gathered one green tree the others are not ripe enough; we were annoyed very much by the school children going into the garden, I should say some of them were "old heads on young shoulders". The Grape Vines do not hang very full this year, and we have no Flowers it has been so dry they are all dried up. Mr Thatcher the minister we have given a call what accepted and is to be ordained some time this month he has

no family except one little boy about eight years of age. - - -
A Mr Thompson is to be installed over to the Congregational Church
some time this month I believe. They have no minister yet at the
Universalist Church yet, they do not have a meeting there all of the time.
Annette has been up here and staid three weeks and we talked of
writing to you, but we took it all out in talking. Hannah had a
letter from you not long since, I believe they are all well down there
they were the last I saw them. I was down to Phoenyx's last night
Daniel is quite unwell, he was a short time ago was threatened with a
fever got better went to work and was taken again, he ought to be
very carefull he is so weak that any little thing beats him all out,
I hope he will get better soon, Phoenyx has thinking of writing to you
but I believe has not yet, Daniel has sold out to Mr Merrill and will
not stay there only long enough to do his harvesting he has not concluded
where to go. I have not been to the Beach yet with any party, Philip and
I rode down one afternoon some time ago but the flies were so thick we
could not stay long, I think I shall go down before long, it will not be
so dusty as it has been after this rain, you and Ephraim ought to be
at home to go with us, I should think you would be ashamed to stay on
to California mumped up spending all your best days, you had better start
your boots home, both of your trunks. You said you had moved into another
house, I hope you will like it much, are you going to live separate? I
thought by your having so many rooms you were but I may be mistaken,
take care of your chickens and I hope you have found out where your
head is. you said you should keep a pig, be carefull of him he may bite
you. Mother sends her best respects to Mr and Mrs Whaley and Mrs Poole
please give mine too, by the way, where is Mrs Poole you did not say anything
of her. Mother sends her love to you and Ephraim, give mine to Ephraim
and tell him my next letter will be to him, but if he does not write
soon, I do not know as I shall write many more to him, Philip sends
his respects to you both, he has been thinking of writing, but he has been
very busy this summer, I believe E has not answered his last letter
but I must close,
yours truly, Maria

Whitcomb

Oct 17. 54

Amesbury Oct 17th 1854

Friend Ept

I received your letter
Sept^r 28th with five dollars enclosed
for which you wished me to subscribe
for two papers the Salem Observer and
the Boston Journal. I have attended to
that business according to order and
forwarded you the receipts with this letter.
You wished me to tell you about the
cost of common Hay scales, the cost
of the iron work is \$40.00 and it
costs about \$10.00 sigg them making
\$50.00 all rigged fit for use.

In regard to sending Carriages to California
I think it would be rather uncertain business
unless they were ordered for freight and
time that it takes to send them and the
risk of getting a good price are no small
obstacles to be got over. Your highest prices
would pay a large proffit but the lowest
would be rather a hard load to
get out with a whole skin.

As for what little you owe me you may invest it in City Lots or any thing else just as you think best do the best you can and I will find no fault even if you lose it. Blacksmithing has been pretty good this year so far. First rate workmen get from seventeen to twenty cents an hour. I work for Mr Goodwin by the job the same as last year. Carriages have sold pretty quick but have not brought very high prices considering that it costs about one third more to build them now than it used to. They have been having a great revival at the Parks some forty or fifty have experienced Religion or an excitement or something else.

The Millerites have been trying to burn the world up and the Know Nothings are trying to get rid of the Paddies and I don't which will succeed first I think one is about as likely to as the other. Speaking about babies I have not got any, don't want any, should not know what to do with them if I had any and therefore I ^{do not} expect to have any for the present.

Dave is doing about the same as he used to do that is he is always in a hurry and always behind hand I don't know how he gets along with Politics lately but presume he is a Democrat yet. Dan is finishing his harvesting so as to be ready to move soon he settled with Dan Morrell and sold him his part of the house and he is going to move away I don't know where but believe he talks of moving up to his Mother Dubesbury's this winter he is going to sell all of his stock except his colt which is now four years old he would almost as soon part with ^{his} wife as with his colt she is quite a pretty colt he has been offered \$200.00 for her. his wife and boy were well the last time I saw them. Alden works at the corner the same as he used to I don't see as he has altered much except that he grows a little older as well as all rest of us. Elbridge is full of business he is one of the Select Men of the Town and has had considerable town business to do he is also in the wood and lumber business which with farming

keeps him stringing around pretty lively
I believe he is bound to be such
and also to have heirs to have heirs
to leave his property to.

As good lives at Kempsey Post he is
studying law with a Mr Stone I have
not seen him to speak to him for some
time I saw him at the Cattle Show at
Lawrence a short time since but did not
get a chance to speak to him he was
looking on to see them trot horses I believe
he has not got any babies yet.

Mr Powell can tell stories as well as ever
and is about as smart as ever his girls have not
got married yet and that is not the worst of it
they are not like to that I know of but as long
as there is life there is hope. George and Myra
will be married this fall I expect his father
built a house on the other side of the road nearly
opposite and George is going to have the old house.
I hope he will have a good time in his old age
Morry and Sally Ann are in the market yet and
are just as good as ever, should not wonder if they
traded themselves off before a great while. All the rest
that I can think of are well and doing well as far
as I know. How do Mr and Mrs Whaley get along
have they got any babies yet. Please write and tell me all
about them and also about Mrs Pool Give them
my best respects. All hands send their love
to Lydia and you and want you to write
as often as you can. I will write the rest next time
And I remain your old friend
Wm K

West Amesbury Jan. 15th 1855.

My Dear Brother,

I have been thinking of writing to you for a long time, but I do not owe you any, I think the last letter I received from you was dated Oct. 24 1852, what do you think of that? you said then you took the first opportunity to reply, for you was determined the correspondence should not fail on your part, but I think it has now, as this is either the 5th or 6th letter I have sent to you, but have received no answer from any of them; I thought I would write to you once in awhile if you will not write to me, I have received 2 letters from Lydia and sent 2 to her, (Jan. 17th, Ruth came in and interrupted me so I could not write any more that afternoon but I will try and finish it this evening,) I do not expect Lydia will write to us very often, because she has her friends to write too, and I think they ought to be first, I do not blame her, but I do you I do think you ought to write home to your friends quite often, even if you do not write but a few lines. I believe Father has not answered your last letter, but he has had no time, he has had so much writing and riding to do about the Meeting House case besides 2 or 3 Estates to settle that he had not had time for any thing else, but I think he will write soon; you said you would write to us as often as we would write to you, but you have not kept your promise, not to me, I suppose have some excuse if so, I am willing to hear it. By the way, the Meeting House case came out rather

bad, they did not pay Kimbal near as much as what they offered him before to settle, but then they had the costs at court to pay and that made it rather hard, but it cannot be helped now, and they must make the best of it. Hannah and her family were all up here Thanksgiving, except Andrew and Annette, Andrew went to Lowell to see his Lady and Annette was married the day before in the morning and started immediately for York, N.H. where his Parents reside, it seemed odd not to have her here, she is going to board at home this winter, and going to housekeeping in the spring; we are all going to make her a present, and you must, do not forget it, to make a present to Mrs Grant, I sent you a paper last mail with her marriage in it, I saw her married. --- Mr Horn from Salem teaches a Singing School at the Corner, I do not attend, Sally Ann does. We have a writing school twice a week in our school house taught by the one that teaches the day school, the Currier of Kingston. Philip and I attend the Lyceum, that is once a week, Ruth goes with us. Daniel and Phoeny are staying at her Mother's now, he intended to go to shoe making this winter but shoe business is dull, he says he will come out to California if we will, and I think he would, but I do not think they would be willing to have Phoeny go, Aunt Weed says he must come back there and build a house, but I do not know whether he will or not. Ella, Frances and Flora will be grown up, if you do not come home soon, Mother says you must come home, you told her you would come home sooner if Lydia Ann came out and she says you had better come. Mr Stevens had his house altered last summer you would hardly know it it is quite large now. Moses Gargent is going to make a house of the old red school house, but I do not know when he will have it finished, I think not very soon the way he goes

on, I am afraid Lydia Ann will lose the school house. I suppose you have heard that George Gargent was married, Sunday after Thanksgiving I think it was they were married, Daniel and Phoeny, Philip and I went up to see them one evening, they live in the old house as we call it, and Mr Gargent in the new one, the new one is a small house a story and a half a very pretty house George has had the other one fixed up quite nice, blinds on both. Jan 10th morning, I did not finish ~~it~~ last night, the reason why I could not find any news to write, I do not think I shall be able to write much more as the mail goes Saturday and it must be sent to-day, and Philip is waiting. It snows and rains to-day, we had a snow storm yesterday and day before, we have had but very little snow this winter, but I hope we shall have some sleighing now if nothing prevents. I have not been over to Kensington this winter, but must go soon, I was over in the fall, and they were all well then, Abraham was at home he has been out to Kentucky over a year, I think he is not going again. I suppose Anne Chase is married, she was to be last fall; I have not been to Newburyport this winter Osgood is at St. Port yet, Aunt Morse is staying with them this winter, I have not seen them lately, Aunt Morse was over in the fall and staid some time. I have not seen any of Capt Jackson's family for some time, Henrietta does not like it very well, because I have not been down to make her a visit. Philip wrote to you last, and I believe is expecting one from you, he sends his best respects, and says you must write to him and tell him all the news. Father, Mother, Hannah and her family and Daniel and Phoeny also Patience and Aunt Tubestory send their love to you and Lydia, Give my love to Lydia and tell her to be a good girl, and come home soon

Eliza had a letter from Lydia not long since, I have not seen her since she had it. Give my respects to all friends. Write soon,

Goodbye from your affectionate Sister,

Maria,

excuse all mistakes, &c.

Maria
Jan 15. 1811

West-Amesbury July 2^d 1855.

Sister Lydia,

I hope you will excuse me for not answering your letter before, I received it May 14th, I commenced one to you two weeks ago yesterday in the forenoon, went to Church in the afternoon, and had company after meeting, and Monday night my Cousin Susan Morse from Kingstone came down and staid the rest of week dress making so I did not have any time to write. I do not expect to tell you any news, but I will try and write something if it is old, if I can find a pen that is good for anything, but it is too warm to sit still and do nothing; we have had very warm weather for a week past, I think yesterday was the warmest the Thermometre stood at one hundred in the shade, today it is not quite as warm, a little more air. Independant Day is coming, and you and Ephraim ought to be at home, I should think Ephraim had lived there about long enough to come home if you have not, but I do not think you would be unwilling to come; I hope it will not be as warm on the 4th as it was last year but we are in a fair way of having so, I staid at home last year all day, I do not know whether I shall this year or not. I believe they are going to have a small celebration at N Port but I guess not much, they are going to have a celebration at West Newbury they came over after the band the play, (or those that that did belong the band for there is none now)

I think there are 6 or 7 of them that are going to play for them, 4 from Georgetown, (there used to be a band there but it is broken up, and the Haverhill and N Port bands have broken up quite a smash, making 12 or 13 in the whole, Joseph Sargent is down east they have sent for him if he comes I believe it will make 13 with Daniel for leader, they are to have 5 dollars apiece, Philip is not going to play he has sold his instrument and he thought he would not get any, I do not know whether we shall go or not. --

By the way, there were two baptized at the River yesterday, they were Charles Emery and a Bayley boy, this makes 10 that have been baptized this spring and summer; last night there was a fire over by your house the Hullington's old house, it looked quite light, it burnt down I do not know the occasion of it.

Mother was down to Hannah's last week and she said she had a letter from you, she has been quite lame this summer, and is now Father and Philip received letters from Ephraim, the last of April I think it was, and Mother received one from you, Father has sent one to Ephraim this mail, I expected he would write before, but he has been very busy and has not been very well. Mother sends her love to you and Ephraim, and says you must come home, not stay there where there is no meeting to attend, I thought they were going to have a meeting there why did they not ~~even~~ succeed? I should think you would be homesick to stay at home ~~and~~ on the sabbath all the time, but I suppose I could get used to it. Moses Sargent is making a house of the old Red School House, I am afraid you will lose it, I do not think it will be a very handsome one, the Pressy does not like it very well he told Eben Wiggens when he was at work on the cellar he would give him 50 dollars to bury it, I do not much blame

him, for he might have a handsome house, but there we must make some apology for Moses he is so poor.

I suppose you have heard of your Uncle Floyd's horse running away with Mrs Nichols in (one of the Tucker girls) and threw her out, but I believe she was not hurt much: week before last that Jones fellow over the corner was thrown out of a carriage and had his collar bone broken, I believe he was going pretty fast and the reins broke and he ran against a tree and upset, the last I heard from him he could not move. I have not been over to Alden's since they lived at the corner, we miss them very much. I was over to Eldridge's not long since, they were well, they think of having their Parlor finished this summer I should think they would like them. Mr Rowel has a cow this summer, and Sarah milks they are all as well as usual. Daniel and Ploony are up to her Mother's yet, he carries on his farm and works shoe making he thinks of building another year on his farm, Flora and Frances grew tall, Frances has not been well this summer she looks rather slender, Ella looks as healthy as ever. I have not called over to your house since you went away, I have been thinking of it, and that is all it has amounted too. I do not know whether Aunt Weed has had a letter from Amos lately or not, but the last I heard, ~~he~~ said he said he had sent one or two letters to Ephraim but received no answer, he did not know but that he had moved, and wished them to ~~ascertain~~ whether he had or not. July 3^d, It is a little cooler this morning, but I must draw my epistle to a close, I did not finish it last evening I was so warm and tired, and Philip is waiting for me; excuse me for not filling up the sheet, I will try

and do better next time. Please inform me how many letters
you receive from me, this I think is my 3^d one to you, you
wrote a few lines to me in Father's letter, much obliged, write
as often as you can make it convenient and tell Ephraim to
write it is a long time since I had one from him, give my
love to him, Philip sends his best respects to you and Ephraim
Daniel and Ploomy send their best respects to you both.

Good-bye from your affectionate Sister
Excuse bad writing and all mistakes. Maria.

Maria

West-Amesbury Dec 17th 1855.

Sister Lydia,

I received your letter (dated Aug. 20th) Oct. 4th, and I intended to have answered it immediately, but being busy then I have neglected it until now.

Father received one from Ephraim Dec 3^d, it was dated Oct. 19th; he said you was on a visit to the Morrisons, I hope you had a pleasant one.

Thanksgiving is over, and Christmas is coming, Hannah was up Thanksgiving with her family (with the exception of Andrew) Annette was up with her baby, she has quite a pretty Boy, tell Ephraim he is great uncle and you a great Mum, I can't help laughing when I think of it, and only think, Hannah a grandmother I should think she was a young one.

We have not had much cold weather yet, it has been very pleasant for the time of year, we have had considerable rain this fall, it has rained most every Sunday for a long time. Mrs. Myron is dead, she was buried the day before Thanksgiving, Mrs. Offutt was buried last week. Mrs. Arnold is very sick, Mrs. Moses Clement is also sick, some think she will not re^ocover, there has been a great many sick this fall.

Mrs. Elbridge M. Chase has another little girl and Myra or rather Mrs. George W. Gargent has a boy, I have not seen either of them, but intend to call on them soon. —

I do not expect to tell you much news, and I am afraid my letter will be a short one, however it will be better none.

Our Union will meet at Mrs. Clarkson's at the River, to-morrow evening, I do not expect to go, not long since, they met at David's and Aunt Tukebury's, we have not had them yet.

Daniel has finished his cellar, and intends building early in the spring, he is now at work shoemaking, I was up there last Friday, he says he is not going to shave this winter.

Tell Ephraim Father and Mother went to Portland at the time they talked of going, they found Uncle Weed as well as could be expected, he goes with two crutches, he was very glad to see them, Father is going to send him a barrel of Baldwin Apples, they are very nice. Mother says she would like send Ephraim a barrel if she could, but I think she would like some of those large sweet Russets we had this year, Philip calls them very nice; my pen is so bad I can hardly write, I must try another one.

Philip has just arrived, he works part of the evening, he speaks quite often of coming out to California, or else going west, that seems to be the fever now, but I think he would wish himself back again, I do not believe I shall go.

Ploomy and I went over to Alden's and spent the day, we had a very pleasant visit, she likes very much over there her part is very pleasant, much more so than the other, Willie is quite a boy now, his tongue goes pretty fast.

Philip says the Lyceum commenced to-night, it was about the same time last year, I cannot imagine why they do not commence as early as they do in other places, we shall not buy a ticket this year, I do not think they will have a great many lectures, they did not last year.

Mother sends her love to you and Ephraim, and says you must come home, now why don't you mind!

The day that Father and Mother went to Portland, Daniel and Ploomy and Philip and I went up to New Salem, Daniel went up to see about his under pinning, and wanted us to go with him, we had a very pleasant ride.

Philip sends his best respects to you and especially to Ephraim, and says he is going to write one of these days, and that he must write to him. Franklin Chase of Augusta has failed and gone to South America, he is agent for a Stage route, he was in the Stage business when he failed, he has been rather unfortunate he had 15 horses poisoned, he says he is bound to make something or nothing, he did not come there, he came as far as Boston and sent for Alden to come there and see him, I hope he will do well. Tell Ephraim that Edward Weed has failed (or rather the whole firm) it was thought he was worth considerable before this. To-morrow we expect Aunt Tukebury, Patience, Ploomy Aunt Chase and Gally Ann and Ruth to pass the afternoon with us, if pleasant, and if you did not live so far off I would give you an invitation to come, but that will be of no use now. but I must draw my letter to a close as I cannot think of anything else to write. Father sends his best respects to you and Ephraim, give my love to him and tell him to come home, tell him to write.

write as often as you can, I will try and write a longer one
next time. Philip is writing at the same table and I
guess my letters will look a little crooked, please excuse all
mistakes &c, yours truly,
Maria.

Mrs. Lydia A. Morse..

San Diego.
California

S. Maria Kal.

West-Amesby
Mass

L. Morse

West-Amesbury March 17th 1856.

Sister Lydia,

It is a long time since I have written to you therefore, I will try now, if I can think of anything to write. It has been rather pleasant for a few days past, a week ago to-day (the 10th) the Thermometer stood at 2° below zero, what do you think of that in March? I would have you think we have had some cold weather this winter, and some snow, I never saw such drifts around our house before, down the lane the path goes the lower side of the tree and very near the railing, it was all over the pick fence, but we can see some of it now, as the snow has settled some, the back garden is full, I am afraid it will break down some of the small trees, the front garden is also full we can just see the top of the grape vine; I guess we shall have some beautiful traveling this spring. - We have had sleighing ever since Christmas, and we have had no rain of any consequence since december, our cistern has been out two months, I should think, we use well water, it washes very well indeed, it is much softer than it used to be, we have never been out of cistern water before in the winter. Elbridge has to go to the pond after their water I should think he would get tired of it, he had a cistern

built last fall out back of the house, I do not believe he will like it, I should rather have it in the cellar. By the way, I have not seen Eliza since her baby was 4 or 5 weeks old, I have been thinking of going in for some time, I am as neighborly as ever.

The Union met at your Father's Jan 10th, the night before I received letter, I was there, I had not been there before since you went away it seemed strange not to see you there, it was just after a drifting snow storm, and there were but a few there.

Our society had a Love the 20th of Feb at the River, in Allion Hall, I was there, I did not think of going as I had a very bad cold but I felt a little better in the afternoon and I thought I must go, I think there were two hundred ~~there~~, some think there would have been a greater number, if it had been good traveling, for that was just after another snow storm, they invited quite a number of ministers, but they did not come, only two were present, our minister and the Congregationalist minister at the corner. The Baptist Society at the Rocks are going to hold a Love at the tavern to-morrow evening, for the purpose of repairing their Church, tickets 25 cents the same as ours, and the families of the society carry in provisions, I do not know whether I shall go or not. I was down to Hannah's Saturday, they were all well; Eugene (Annette's boy) grows finely, he is most 7 months old, he will get grown up if you do not come home soon, he is quite a pretty child. I suppose you have heard that Andrew was married, they board with Annette, her name was Adaline Locke, her parents live in Gratzook, but she has been living in Newburyport, she has a sister married there. ^(March 10th) I suppose Aaron Lizzy will go next, but I hope not very soon, she says she shall not.

Annette says she should like to see you, she should think you had better come home. Tell Ephraim that I received a paper from him week before last and that I will endeavor to write to him soon, tell him to write often we have not had a letter from him for a long time, Mother wishes him to write, ask him if he knows what he is staying there for, Mother says he must come home. Do you hear anything from Amos, they had a letter not long since, I think he did not say much about coming home, I should think it was time for him to come. Philip and I rode up to see Daniel Saturday evening, he has been quite sick, but is better now, he raised considerable blood, they think it was caused by shoe making, he ~~has~~ worked at it rather to steady, he had the Doctor, he raised some in the fall, but they thought that was caused by lifting, when he was stoning his cellar, I guess he will let the shoes alone for the present, it never did suit him, I think he ought to be very careful of himself. Flora was quite sick not long since they had the Doctor to her, but she is pretty well now. Mr James Bayley is dead he was buried Feb 27th. The story is, that Mr George Patten is going to be married, I do not know how true it is, but I understand he brought his Lady down to the corner, I cannot imagine who it is that would have him, for I believe he grows worse instead of better. I heard some time ago that Old Mr Billy Hoyt was going to be married again, but I think it was only a story, for I do not know who would have him. I was very glad to hear that you had so pleasant a journey, I hope you will journey towards home before long, but I must close, as I think some of going to Newburyport this afternoon, if I do I shall put this letter and

some papers in the Office there. Mother sends her love to you and
Ephraim, Heather joins with her, give my love to Ephraim and
tell him to come home. I thought it was going to be very
pleasant this morning, but I believe it grows colder. Write as often
as you can, yours affectionately, Maria.
Philip sends his best respects to you
and Ephraim.

M. Maria

A. Davis 1856

West-Amherst Sept 15th 1856

Sister Lydia,

It is a long time since I have written to you, and I suppose you think it strange that I have not before, but I had not forgotten you, I commenced two letters before this, but did not finish them in season for the mail, but was prevented by company and not being very well, but I was determined to send one this mail if I was well; we have not had any letters from you or Ephraim this long time, and your Mother told me yesterday, they had not received anything from you, I think she said it was some time before Phoeny had hers, and dated in April, she felt rather worried about you. By the way, how is that Boy? I suppose he will take up some of your time now, who does he look like? and what is his name? I should like to see him very much, and I think I am not the only one; you must bring him home soon, the California Wagon. Oh! Lydia Anne anything but that, I read Phoeny's letter, and of course your advice, but I may not mind. Andrew's wife has a little girl. Annette's boy grows finely, he is a very pretty child, he is a year old, he went alone when he was eleven months, she is down east now at his friends, they went last Thursday. Ann Lirie is not married yet, I do not think she will be very soon; Ella and Francis have grown some since you saw them, Leonard Thannah and Francis rode up yesterday after meeting. I do not know as I shall find much news to write, but I will try and write something if it is

nonsense. I was up to see Mary Elisabeth not long since Patience and Ploomy went with me, Chyca's Boy is a fat one, I tell you, he looks like her. Eliza's little girl looks like Eldridge, it is quite a pretty child, you will see a lot of little strangers when you get back to Old Amesbury again. Daniel's House is most ready to plaster, he does not intend to have it all finished, it is quite a pretty house framed very much like Father's. Caroline and her children have been to Amesbury on a visit, she went home last Saturday; we went to the Beach while she was here, and we went in a hurry, I should call it, we did not know anything about it until the night before, and then they did not conclude to go the next day, but rather thought they should not go until the day after, they sent over to us the next morning after breakfast, that they were going that day, we did not have time to cook, but had to carry what we had, I never went to the Beach so before, (not in a party) I will tell you how it happened, Mr Andrews and his Wife were down from Sutton, (Aunt Thomas Choise's Sister and a cousin to Father) they came on Wednesday went to the Beach Thursday, and went away Saturday. Mr and Mrs Andrews, Aunt Choise, Folly Ann, Eliza, Abbie, Caroline and her children, Aunt Tubshury, Patience, Ploomy and Flora, (Daniel did not go) Father and Mother, Philip and myself, this was our company to the Beach, we think of going again next week. -- About a fortnight ago, Jacob Sargent fell from a freight of hay and was decured. Father has been making cider today the first that he has made this year, the Apples drop off very much, and they are not very plenty, and we did not have scarcely any ^{that were} early. -- We have a few Peaches but I do not think they are so good as usual, Ask Ephraim if he should not like one. The Cattle Show and Fair will be at Newburyport this year. The Mechanic's Fair is in Boston now.

Sept 16th. It is very pleasant today, and has been so most of the time since this month came in, but last month we had considerable rain, and we had Thunder Showers most every day, some of them were not very heavy here; the rain washed the roads very much, and I never saw our Lane so rocky before since we lived here, Mr Powell says "it will take 40 loads of dirt to make it good", it is miserable now; I should think we had more rain last summer, than you have in the rainy season. -- They are repairing the Meeting House at the Rocks, (I should think it was time); I understood they had taken out all the inside work, and were going to put in new, also new windows on the side, I should like to go up when it is dedicated, and perhaps I may. I have a few Flowers this year, and some of them are rather pretty, I have no Dahlias, I lost mine two or three years ago, and I have had none since. Philip has bought the House Mr Haskell used to own, I do not know when we shall move, but do not think we shall this fall, I rather think he will occupy it until spring, he can if he pleases; he has bought the place Mr Albert Sargent used to own. Mrs Henry Sargent is very sick, she was better last winter, and in the spring, but she is worse now. David has repaired the old Plumover House, and has a family in it, (Mr George from Newton) Bear Hill is getting to be quite a place. -- Alden lives near to the bome yet, I have not seen them very lately, I see them occasionally at Church, her baby is fleshy, and looks some like Willie, I do not know what she has named her. By the way, George Sargent has named his boy, Walter Freeman. -- Mr Tilton was here not long since, and preached for us one sabbath, Mrs Tilton looked better than she did, when she lived here, but she looked much older, I think she is a very nice woman.

Sept 17th Evening, Hannah, Alvah and Ella have been up here to-day

Alvah and Ella have been gathering Oil Nuts, we shall have a few, we have not had any before for a number of years, I do not know where there are any walnuts or nut.

Hannah sends her love, and says, "I have a Grandson and a Grand-daughter, and I should like to see your Boy".

Father and Mother send their love to ^{you} and Ephraim, and Mother says, "tell Ephraim he must write home more, if he does not intend to come home very soon, I was disappointed because he did not come home this year", and I should think he had better write, he does not write so often as Amos does now, he must not wait for Philip or any of the rest of us, but write as often as he can, I guess Philip will write sometime between now and next year.

Hannah was saying to-day, that Andrew was going to Lynn to work had hired a house so I suppose Adaline will have to go, she is down to her Father's now, I shall have a chance to go there if they move,

I must draw my letter to a close, as I cannot think of much more to write. Philip sends his love to all.

Give my love to Ephraim and a kiss to the Boy, and give him a pretty name. Tell Ephraim I shall write to him before long, but he must not wait for me, but write often.

We think of some of going down east this fall, if we do we shall go before long. I hope I shall see you all in Amherst before long, you had better come home if you know what is good for yourself before your Boy is grown up, I would like to see him when he is little. Good-bye from your affectionate Sister

Please excuse all mistakes &c.

Maria.

J. Maria Neal.

Amesbury 16th 1857

Dear Brother

We received your letter night before last containing the sad tidings of Lydia's death, it seems as though it cannot be so can it be that we are never to see her on earth again it is hard to believe it although we know that it is so little did I think when I took your letter from the Post office that it contained such sad news I was expecting something good but oh how I was disappointed. What can I say that will comfort you in your affliction if I knew I would do it with all my heart but I know not how to express my sympathy for you oh that you were here then we could seem to sympathize with you better it must be very lonely to be so far from home under such trying circumstances and I do hope that you will take the first opportunity you have to return home I wish that I could write one half that I want to but I cannot seem to any thing You must excuse me for not ^{writing} more this time and I will try and ^{write} a longer letter soon

I hope that you ^{will} write to us the next mail and
let us know how you ^{are} getting along. I have not
written scarcely any thing. I hope you and your
dear boy will be with us before long.

Now Good Bye

Your Brother

Philip

Phil

West Amherbury Jan 17th 1857.

My Dear Brother,

As Philip was writing, I thought I must write a few lines, or else you would think hard of me, but oh! what can I write to you, oh! Epkearn is it true that we shall never see Lydia again, that she has gone never to return, I cannot help thinking that I shall see her again that she will come home, I do not want to think she is dead, oh I wish she could have lived to come home, but God willed it otherwise, but it is hard to think so. I pity you Epkearn but how can I tell you not to mourn, when I mourn myself, and what must be your feelings to lose one you loved so dearly, oh I pity you I think of you of your little boy and dear Lydia must all of the. Try not to mourn so much as to make yourself sick, but come home as soon as you can and bring that sweet boy that she loved so well. but how different will be the meeting from what we had anticipated, but I suppose it is not right to murmur, but I can hardly help it. Father and Mother send their love to you they fell for you very much Mother says you must come home. I have not seen Hannah since we received the sad tidings, but Philip and Father have both called there, we expect her up to-day, I will tell her to write. Daniel and Phony called here yesterday, I forgot to tell them we were going, but I will tell them to write. Lydia's Father has been over here twice, he came over the second time

after the paper that told her death in, they did not have
any. It is hard to write and think she is not there to send
my love, but I trust she has gone to a happier home, but it
is hard to think that I shall never see her again in this world.
Little did I think I should write thus a few days ago, but I
must not write so I shall make you feel worse, but how can
I help it, it was so sudden. But I cannot write any more now
I will try and write again before long. Do try and come home
as soon as you can, as soon as the weather is warm enough here.
Write as often as you can be careful of that darling boy
Good bye from your affectionate sister

Charia.

Edmund Appleby

Philip & Charis
Jan 19th 1844

West-Amesbury Feb 28th 1857.

My Dear Brethre,

Mr and Mrs Gray were over here last week on Sunday, they had just received a letter from you and one from Mrs. Stevens. Father and Mother started to go over there (it was so pleasant I told them they had better go, as they had been thinking of calling over for some time,) but they met them, and so came back.

I was very glad to hear that you was well, and that you have one that is so kind and good, to take charge of your little Boy. I read Mrs. Stevens letter, and I should think she was a very fine woman, I do not doubt but what Lydia had good care taken of her, but I often wish I had been there, to have seen her once more, oh! it is hard to think I never shall see her again on earth, I wish she could have lived and I keep wishing so, I cannot help it, but it will do no good, we cannot call her back, she has gone to that happy home, where the inhabitants never say I am sick and where Death never invades, we must prepare to follow her, we know not how soon we may be called to go.

Church 1st (Sunday Evening) Spring has come, but it did not commence with a pleasant day, it has been rather cold, it commenced snowing this afternoon, but I do not think there will be much, it has been cold for two or

Three days past, we had some warm weather in February.
Our Thatcher (our minister) preached a discourse on Death this
afternoon, there has been so many deaths lately; he spoke of
thee you lived so well, who died far away in her Pacific Home.
Although he knew her not, most of the congregation did, he read
that beautiful piece about her in the San Diego Herald, I wept
most of the time, I could not help it.

I will name some of those that have lately died, Mr. Huskell has
lost two children, William George one, also two Irish women; later
Mr. Bayley, Mr. George Little, Mrs. Styles and Elders little girl
about a year old, the two last were buried two weeks ago to day,
two funerals in one day is an unusual occurrence for this place,
and I think I never knew so many deaths in so short a time,
in this place before. I can hardly collect my thoughts to write.
I am thinking so much of dear Lydia, who has been taken from
us, why, as you say "was she taken from you", we do not know,
but God who is wiser and better than we, knows.

March 2^d. It has been a cold blustering day, much colder than it
was yesterday, the wind has blown very hard and the snow flew well,
making it a very bad day to be out, Father has been to Town Chalking.
Ann Lizzie is married, she lives in Lynn, Hannah said (yesterday)
she expected her in this week.

Father, Mother and myself were down to Daniel's, last Thursday,
they were well, they have a very pretty house.
Aunt Thomas Wood, Aunt Amos Wood and Judith were there;
Uncle Amos had a bad cold. I believe they had a letter from
Amos not long since.

When are you coming home? I hope you will come soon, write
and tell us how you are getting along, and when you are
coming, Oh! that Lydia Ann was there to come with you, I
cannot feel resigned, I know it is wrong to feel so, but
how can I help it, and if my feelings are such, what
must be yours, far away from all your friends, (near friend
I mean) for you say you have kind friends there; and I
do not doubt it, but you must come home, you must
not stay there much longer.

Jan 14th Father went to Exeter, and I went over as far as
Hensington with him, to see Mary, it was a beautiful
day, we started before sunrise, and that night we received
your dreadful letter, while there, we were speaking of you
all, and little did I dream I should hear such sad, sad
tidings from those I loved; but so it is, we may be the
gayest of the gay, and our friends that are far away may
be sick or in their graves, and we know it not, and our
Thanksgiving would have been a sad and gloomy one, if we
had known that she was no more. Please forgive me
for writing thus, I am afraid I shall make you feel worse,
but I cannot seem to write any different.

Give my best respects to Mrs. Stevens, although I have never
seen her, it seems as if I knew her.
March 3^d. (morning) It is cold and windy; last night the wind
blew very hard. Mother sends her love to you and says you
must come home. Philip sends his love to you and says he
will try and write next mail. I believe Father is writing.
Excuse me if I do not write any more this time, I do not know

as I can. Philips must carry it this morning, when he goes to
the River. Write as often as you can. Give little Edward a kiss
for me. Do come home soon. Good-bye from your affectionate sister,
Maria.

Maria
Dec 28th 1889

Amesbury March 16th 1857

Friend Ephraim,

 Maria wrote to you
the last mail, and I promised that I
would write to you the next, and so
I will try to write a little at any rate.
I received your letter to me (dated Jan 25th)
March 5th. I do not wonder that you
hardly know what to do for it seems
as though you must be very lonely,
and sad since you have lost your dear
wife, for I feel that in losing her, I have
lost a near and dear friend; but what
must be your feeling to lose one so near,
and so beloved. I doubt not that you
feel your happiness changed to misery.
I hope that you will not take your loss
to much at heart, but remember that we
shall all meet death sooner or later, and
it will not be long before we shall join
her who has ^{gone} before us.

 I am glad to hear that
your health is good, and also that little
Edward is doing well. I was in hopes that
you would say something about something

home, for I want to hear that you are coming; it seems as though you have been gone long enough. I was expecting you and Lydia would be home next summer, but I am sadly disappointed it was to be so, it is hard to have it so, but it cannot be helped.

I expect to move down to the river before long. Mr. Haskell is to move the last of April and I shall probably move some time in May. I have lived on Bear Hill so long without keeping house, that I hardly know how we shall get along, but hope that we shall live and learn.

I hope that you will come home this summer, it seems as though you ought to be here when we have moved away, and I hope that you will be here before then, but I am afraid you will not.

I should have wrote to you about those papers, but I put it off so long that I was at last ashamed to. I sent by express to Boston supposing that there would be no difficulty in subscribing for them there, but Mr. Rodgers (the express man) could not find any agent there, and he advised me to write to the publishers and, so I wrote them

I received an answer from the Union Publisher but none from the other, I then remitted the subscription for the Union, requesting them to send me a receipt, but they have never sent any. I am sorry that I disappointed you. I waited for an answer so long that I did not know as you would want it, and so I did not write again to the Publisher. The Baptist Society held a social Love at the river last Thursday evening in the room over Mr. Green's Steam Mill, they made eighty five dollars by the operation clear of all expences, the exercises consisted of music, speeches, Post Office &c there were about two hundred and fifty there, and the most of them appeared to enjoy themselves very much. Wednesday noon Nov. 19th I meant to have finished this letter to you last night but Maria went down to Hannab yesterday and we did not get home until pretty late and so I did not have time. Mother sends her love to you and says that you must come home she wants to see that little boy. Father has gone over to Exeter. Maria sends her love to you.

From Your Friend Phil

Philipps Markt 16^{te}

Subscribing to Papers &c

PAID



Mr. Ephraim W. Morse, Esq.

San Diego.

California.



Incidentally mentioned
copper mines had made
arrangements to work them in U.S.
they may prove very profitable but
there is considerable risks.

even now it
Terrible blow, seems strange that I
lived through such affliction
others have suffered similar but none
deeper, very dear when we married
but I learned to love her more & more
every day & she was never so dear
as when she was taken.

Maria

Anniversary of the
May 18th 1857

West-Amesbury May 18th 1857.

My Dear Brother,

We received your letter, mailed April 9th, last Friday, (May 15th.) We were very glad to hear that you were well, and that your little Boy was better; I hope he will be healthy.

I should like to see you and little Edward very much, and I often wish that dear Lydia had loved to come home with you, but as you say, "it was not to be". little did I think when she called to bid us good-bye, that it was the last time we should see her on earth, but so it was, she, who was the picture of health, has gone first, it is hard for me to give her up, but what must it be for you, I feel for you very much, you must be very lonely without her. Where is Mrs. Poole? I should think she would feel it very much, when she hears of it.

Are you keeping house? or are you boarding out? please write and let us know. We have had cold weather this spring, yesterday it rained all day

1857

and to-day it is not very pleasant, I hope it will be warmer soon. I have not done anything to the Flower garden yet, there will be no one to take care of it, when I go away, unless you come home, I hope you will.

Philip intends to have some painting done to his house, before he moves into it, he thinks he shall move some time this summer, it will seem very odd to me, and it will be very lonely for Mother, Father is gone so much. Annette and her little Boy came up last Tuesday and staid untill Friday morning; we went up to Aunt Tuckersbury's and down to Plumy's, but let me go where I will, I keep thinking of you, your little motherless Boy, and dear Lydia who is in her narrow home. We wish she had lived to come home, but if she had, and then left us, should we have been any more willing to have given her up, I think I should have felt more resigned, but we cannot tell, we keep wishing, and thinking what might have been, but it is all useless now; I often wish I had gone to California with her, but if I had, perhaps I should have wished I had not; it does no good to wish now, but I cannot help it, it is very, very hard for you.

They have petitioned for a road, from Johnsons corner to the River Village, the Commissioners were coming on to-day

I suppose they have been, for Father went down in the forenoon. I hope they will get it, it will be so much nearer to the River. The road around Bear Hill is a very good road, no hill at all.

There is to be an Ordination at the Rocks next ^{week on} Thursday; I have never been in the Meeting House since it was altered, when it was dedicated, I was down East.

I have not been very well for two or three days past, I have a bad cold, but I hope it will be better soon, Mother has had some, but not so bad as mine, it has been bad weather to take cold. Mother sends her love to you, and says you must come home.

Philip's Sister has lost 2 Children lately, little Eddie died first, he was taken with the croup and lived but 24 hours he was about 2 years old, and in 3 weeks little Lydia was taken sick with disease of the brain, she was taken Saturday night and died Sunday night, she was 4 years old, they were the two youngest when we were there, it was very sudden to them. When you come home, can you not have the Remains of dear Lydia brought home? it seems to me as if we all should feel better, that you would, I cannot bear to have her buried so far away, I wish she could be brought here, but you will know best.

Hannah and her family are well. I have not seen them since we received your letter. I should if Amos comes home, he had better stay at home, and not go back again, I hope he will stay at home. Judith is in Harshill, Hannah spent the winter at Portland, she is at home now, I have not seen her to speak with her, since she returned so I have not heard how Uncle Samuel's health was. Aunt Weeds little Boy (Abby's child) met with an accident not long since, he had his shoulder blade put out, but he has had it put in place, and I believe he is better; so Plossy said, I have not seen him, I should think it would be bad for one so young. I have not seen any of the Grays family for a week past, I generally see them ^{on the} sabbath, but it was so stormy yesterday that we did not go, they were well the last time I saw them. Father and Philip send their love to ^{you}. Ella Frances and Flora have grown so much, you would hardly know them. We have some new neighbors, Mr Tilton and family from Hallowell, he bought Col. Colby's place, where Judith Colby lived, and his brother from Newburyport, has bought Thomas Hoytes place at the Pond Hills. I do not know whether this will go this mail or not, I hope it will, I intended to have written it before, the mail goes the 20th, please remember when you receive this. Philip will write before long. Do come home soon, we all want you to very much. Good-bye from your affectionate sister, Maria.

West-Amesbury Sept, 2^d 1857.

Dear Brother,

Mrs. Stevens and Eddie arrived in West-Amesbury two weeks ago yesterday; she remained in New York some time on account of her health, she says she was quite unwell on the voyage. Eddie was not sea sick any, but he was quite unwell, but he is much better now, he has gained a pound since he has been here, he was weighed Monday, he weighed 19 pounds and a quarter; he has a humor on his face and head, but it looked better yesterday. Philip received your letter of July 3^d nearly a week before he received one from Mrs Stevens, she did not write very encouraging about his coming to New York, she said it was the hot season, there was nothing to be seen, and all that could get away were gone.

Thursday (noon) she also wrote that her Nephew
would see her here, Philip wrote to her immediately
(I also wrote a few lines) that he would come there or
not just as it suited her best, he would do as she
said; (She wrote that she was quite unwell then)
and wished her to write and when she was able to come
that he would come for her; in a short time we had
another letter from her, she said she should take the
Boat Monday night, and arrive in Boston Tuesday morn
she would wait for us there as long as she could
if her Father did not meet her there and take her
home with him, if he did we should we should
find her at the Gray's East Cambridge; we
intended to go for her, it commenced raining Monday
afternoon and rained hard all night, it rained Tuesday
morning (we intended to start quite early) and the wind
was north east, we thought we would not start in
the rain, as it would be bad coming down from
Haverhill for her and Eddie, and we thought she would
go to her Father's, but it looked lighter in the
forenoon Philip came home and we started and arrived
in Haverhill just ten minutes too late for the cars
our time was 15 minutes slower than theirs.

She did not go to her Father's, but came directly
to H. Amesbury, she did not have any trouble in
getting here, she told the Conductor where she wished
to go and he found Mr Rogers (our express man)
who brought them here safe, he carried them to the
shop where Philip works, and he took them ~~and~~
~~carried~~ to Mr Gray's she wished to go there first.
We were very sorry indeed that we did not go on for
her, we thought she would go to her father's, or else
Philip would have started in the morning if it
had rained, I thought I would write and tell you
just as it was, I do not know but you will blame
us, but we intended to do as you said, Philip would
have written to you this mail but he has had no
time, his horse goes to the Beach most every day.
I should have written to you before, but I have been
very busy, Mrs Stevens and Eddie came over last week
on Tuesday and remained with us until this week
on Tuesday, she is much better than she was, when
she came here, she wished to be remembered to
you, and says she is getting better. You must
excuse me for not writing more, for we are going
to the Beach to-day, so that Mrs Stevens can go

with us, as she leaves for East Cambridge
next Wednesday, and this letter must go to-day.
We love little Eddie very much, I will write
more next time. Come home soon. Philip will
write next time, excuse all mistakes, as I am
in a hurry and my pen is bad, Mrs Stevens
is going to ride with us. Philip, Father and
Mother send their love to you, good-bye from
your affectionate Sister,
Marria.

Marria,

Sept 26

Adm'd Oct 21 1841

Philip

Oct 16th

and Nov 30th

West Amesbury
Oct 16th 1857

Friend E. A.

I received your letter to me dated Aug^r 21st the 5th of Oct but the one you sent to your Father has not arrived yet. I hope that the Overland Mail will go to San Diego but some how or other San Diego seems to me to be a very uncertain sort of a place one day Gold is discovered the next perhaps the great Pacific rail road is going to terminate there then Coal is discovered then copper near the mail route is going that way what will come next I don't know but it seems as though some of these great events must build up, the place before long I hope that you will hold on to those horse lots for they will some round right one of these days perhaps if they don't it won't be any great loss. You could not have invested what little you owed me where it would suit me better for I wish to get something worth having or nothing. I have great faith that San Diego will be quite a place before many years at least I hope so. I am glad to hear that your health is good. Maria wrote to you the Mail before the last and told you all about

Eddie and Mrs Stevens, and I meant to have written the last mail but some how or other I did not, but we will try to write as often as we can, it is awkward business for me to write letters and I am afraid it always will be.

I dont know as Elbridge is doing any thing except farming and town business he is chairman of the selectmen of the town. I believe that he and Alden are sending some few carriages out to Sulperaise but I dont know how many they have sent out a number and Franklin sells for them. Alden talks of going out there to work a company there have sent on that they will pay three Dollars a day and passage out from New York, for first rate workmen to work four years, and Alden has been authorized to put up notices offering that pay, Franklin is to have the management of the concern. They will not get into operation less than a year or year and a half for they will have to import all their stock from this way. I told Alden that I would go for four Dollars a day and he seemed to think that they would have to pay about that for first rate hands. As for David I dont much about what he is doing I believe that he has been on to Washington after an office but I have not heard of his getting one yet. I seldom see Esgood he is practicing law at Newbury Port

in company with a Mr Johnson that used to keep a toy shop at Newbury Port.

Daniel is getting along finely in his new house, he has got a very pretty place. As for Hannah's folks they are still on the increase, Annett has got another boy, and Ann Lizzy has got one, Andrew has not but one yet I believe he lives down to Lynn. I have not seen any of Mr Gray's folks very lately to speak to them. I saw Mrs Leary down to the river the other day unloading wood at his son Henry's, but I did not get a chance to speak to him. Maria Leary and Eddie were over here the other day, but I did not see them. Eddie is a darling boy and I do not wonder that you want to hear from him as often as you can for we all love him Mr Gray's folks wanted him over there and so they keep him but we see him pretty often he has got acquainted with us all he is getting along first rate and will soon get so that he will run alone and talk. I hope that you will be at home to see him before long. I have been very busy this last summer repairing my house, it needed a good deal done to it and I have laid out between two and three hundred dollars on it, and was expecting to move into it soon but I had a chance to sell it to Patten Largent he wanted it for his son in law Mr Goodwin who is coming up from Bangor to go into the carriage business and I concluded to let him have it. I did not make much but it was

a larger and higher cost piece than I want
at present it cost 2250 and I sold it for 2550,
so I shall not ^{lose} anything by the operation but
I shall now miss getting moved this fall.
I have got almost tired of travelling up and
down so much and I want to get to housekeeping
as soon as I can. The times are very dull and
the carriage business is like all other kinds of
business that is flat a great many hands are
out of employment, cold winter is coming on
and everything looks decidedly blue, but we hope
for the best now that the Banks have all suspended.
I never saw money so scarce as it is now.

Sam Stevens failed a short ago he pay about ten ^{cents} on
a dollar that is doing pretty ^{well} considering the times.

Write as often as you can and tell us all
the copper mines and everything else.

Mother sends her love to you and says
you will come home. Maria sends
her love to you. Father is doing his
harvesting and is very busy. Please excuse
this bad writing and I will try to do
better next time.

And I remain yours &c

Philip J. Reed

Marion, Aug 22

and D Phil
Feb 9 1858

West-Amesbury Dec, 27th 1857.

Dear Brother,

I received your letter of the 21st of Oct, on the 3^d of this month. You say I ought to write ten letters to you one, I do not know as to that, but I will own that I am very negligent in writing to you; I intended to have written to you before now, but have been pretty busy, so you must excuse me. You wished me to tell you all about Eddie, well, he was over here Friday (Christmas) and spent the day, Maria came with him, (she is all the girl there is at home now, Yvach is married and Laura is teaching School at Brentwood, N.H.) I think he knew us and knew where he was, although he would not go to Father for a long time, it was strange, for when he was here in the summer with Mrs Stevens, he used to cry after him, and when we went to the Beach, he had him most of the day, but he will soon be old enough not to forget us; he cannot go alone yet, but I think he will soon, for he will go around the room by chairs, and by the partition, and he can get up by ~~the~~ chair very quick, but he seems to be afraid to go alone; he can not talk much, he can say a few words, I think he will soon, and talk plain. He is a healthy looking boy now, he looks so much better than he did when he first came, he was not well

then, he is quite fleshy now. I think he is a very pretty Boy, he is so bright looking, this is not the first time I have said it, if I have not said it to you. We love little Eddie very much all of us, for his, for yours and for his dear Mother's sake, I can hardly realise that it is her boy, Oh! if she had only lived, how proud she would be of him, I wish she could have lived, but I suppose it is wrong to wish her back again, and my wishing will not bring her back, but it seems hard to have her taken away. Philip's brother John, lost his wife in the fall; he took her death very hard, I pity him, he has lost a good wife, I liked her very much.

Daniel and Ploomy are getting along nicely, they have a very pretty house; they were up here last Tuesday, Flora is quite a girl, she will be eight years old next month.

Jan 1st 1858, I wish you a "happy New Year", but I suppose you will feel sad and gloomy, thinking of Lydia; if she had lived you would probably have been at home now with us, sometimes I cannot make myself believe that she is dead, but think she is coming home when you come, I hope you will come in the Spring.

Father received a letter from you, dated Nov day before yesterday, and Philip a paper. You say you think of coming home to spend the summer with us, Mother says you must not think of going back again, and I certainly hope you will not; you have been there long enough, and now you had better come home and stay.

Mother says you must not go down into Lower California, (to the Copper Mines), so much, she is afraid you will meet with some accident, and we are all very anxious about you; I suppose there are some there, that do not care much for the life of another, I think you had better be on your guard.

Daniel and Ploomy called here to-day, they were going up to Nancy's, Aunt Fakesbury and Patience, also David's family were going, they were all down to Ploomy's Christmas. David gets along nearly the same as usual. Elbridge is well, he is one of the Selectmen, I suppose his time is out in March. Eliza's health is not very good, their children all go to school but one, they have four. Uncle Benjamin and Aunt Morse are well; when Maria and Eddie were over in the fall, we carried him over there, they had not seen him before, they did not come over, when he was here with Mrs. Stevens, Elbridge said they talked of coming, but when they were ready, he was gone; they thought he was a pretty good looking boy, most all say he looks like you, but Elbridge said, he could not see that he did. Eddie does not mind any more about the cold than other children, he has been well with the exception of a cold, (and that most every one has had, we have all had it here,) he had a humor on his face when he came here, but that is well now, his cheeks were red that day that he was here, he is a darling little boy, you must come home and see him.

Asgood is a Lawyer at N Port, he is with Harrison Johnson. It has been a beautifull day, we have had a very pleasant fall and winter so far, some think we shall not have much cold weather or much snow.

We have not had any sleighing yet, it has snowed a few times, but always rains after it, it snowed the other day, then rained and froze a little, and this morning I saw a few Sleighs out, but I guess wheels went best. Alden lives at the corner, I believe they are well.

Jan 2^d morning, I must finish my letter, for it must go to-day. Father went down to the river yesterday to get his horse shod, and Hannah came up with him, she is here now, she sends her love to you, and says she has not received any letter from you this long time, that she is waiting to receive one from you, I think she said she had written several times to you, you must write to her. Andrew lives in Lynn, he has one child, I have not seen him for a long time. Annette and her two children are at Hannah's, her husband was out of work, and could not get a living, so she was obliged to go there, so much for getting married so young, and with nothing to begin with.

Ann Lizzy, with her husband and child are also there they have been living at Lynn, and I believe they are going again this month, they call her husband very smart to work, I like the appearance of him very much, but they were too young to get married so soon. Ella is not married yet, she is twelve years old a great girl. Uncle Samuel Weed of Portland is dead, he died the 24th of Nov, he has not been well since he broke his hip. Father saw Mr Gray yesterday, and he said Eddie could walk across the floor alone. Mother sends her love to you. yours truly, Maria

West Amesbury

March 17th 1858

Friend Eph

Your letter
of the 9th of Feb I received last
night and also your Father
received some papers.

Those you sent from San Francisco
have never been received.

I am glad to hear from Brother James
You say that he complains that I
never write to him I do not blame
him but I am sure I cannot tell why
it is unless it is because he never
writes to me. I wish you had wrote
more about him I should like hear
what he is doing and how he
is getting along.

I suppose he thinks that I am doing
better than first rate at home or else he
would advise me to come out there for you say
he thought I could do first rate out there.

I suppose it will be news
for you to hear that Maria
has got a babe but it is affast
that unto us a Daughter was born
a week ago last Monday morning
and both Mother and Daughter are
getting along first rate. We have
not named her yet.

I went over to Mr Grey's this morning
to see Eddie and Mrs Stevens she is on
paying a visit and thinks of
returning to morrow. She has been
here ~~about~~ a little over a week
she lives in Cambridge with her Brother.

Eddie is a sweet pretty boy the very
picture of health he is getting a little
larkful but soon gets acquainted I have
not seen him very often lately he would
not let me take him in my laps but would
kiss his hand and bow to me.

We have had a very mild winter with
very little snow or sleighing the most sleighing
we have had was the first two weeks in the

P. M. Bent
March 19th

Month and that was very poor
most of the time. Business is
very dull and the times are
what we call hard I never
worked so cheap before as I do
this year. I have not got moved
down to the river yet but shall
probably move as soon as Maria
can get ready.

Mother and Maria
send their love to you and
say that you must come
home and stay at home
after you get here.

Please write as often as you can
and tell us all about those copper
mines and everything else and

I remain your truly

Philip Neal

Amesbury Aug. 1st / 85.8

Friend Eph

I have received the
papers you sent to me by Mr. ^Wetzel. He
called and left them and that was
about all he only stopped about
fifteen minutes. ^I ^{was} ^{real} sorry that
he could not stop longer. He was
afraid that he should miss the car
and did not go around to see Eddie.
I should have taken my horse and
carried him around that way if
my horse had not been lame.
I have heard nothing from George
Litch. I should have wrote to
you before but I have been waiting
for an opportunity to sign that power
of attorney you sent me but I have not
got it done yet. I will attend to

it as soon as possible Maria could
not leave home very well is the
reason I have not attended to it before
Monday Eve Aug^{22nd} Maria and I went
to meeting yesterday in the afternoon
it is the first time Maria has been to
meeting since she was confined
there were six baptized yesterday your
sister Hannah being one of them
making eighteen I believe that have
been baptized here this year
There has been quite a number of
deaths lately Captⁿ Patten Thomas
Sargent jun^r (the merchant) Nicholas
Sargent are among the number
Business is rather dull especially
the Carriage business Farmers
have had a wet and bad season
to get their hay
Our little girl grows finely we have
not named her yet ~~the~~ talk of

^{naming her}
Florence Maria Eddie has got to be
quite a boy he is a little bashfull
at first but soon gets acquainted
he is a little beauty and we
think our little girl looks
some like him that is she is
rather pretty she is about five
months old and ^{weighs} about thirty pounds
Mara and all the rest send their
love to you and say that you
must come home
I am sorry to ^{say} that your Mother
is quite unwell she has not been
^{able} to do much for some time past
She kept her bed about all day
yesterday and this Tuesday morning
she is no better I am going down after
Hannah to come up she has considerable
pain in her side the Doctor say the
lungs are out of order I hope she will
be better soon but I must say

I am afraid
that she never will be any
better. We were expecting you
home this summer but I am afraid
you will not the way you write
I was really in hopes you would.
Maria and I were expecting to
move down to the river soon
but I am afraid we shall not
it would be a great deal more
inconvenient for me I have got about
tired of traveling so far.
We will try to write oftener for the
future you must write as often
as you can until you start
for home.

Yours Truly
Philip Seal

Philip Seal
August 15

West Amherst Aug. 1845

My Dear Brother,

Oh! Ephraim how can I write it, our Dear Mother has gone and left us, she never will greet us again with her kind smile and pleasant words, oh she was so good and kind so patient in her long sickness, I never can expect to be so good as she was Oh! that she could have lived, I kept hoping she would get well, I seemed to think she would, although sometimes I had my doubts, for a great many thought she would not, but I could not bear to think she would not, oh it is hard to lose so good a Mother, they tell me she is better off, but I cannot help wishing her back, I know she must be happy, but we are miserable.

it is so lonely without her, I hardly know what to do with my self, although my little girl is so much company for me, and so much for her grand-father I hardly know what he would do now if it was not for her, such little ones are so much company, it is very very hard for Father it is harder for him than it is for us, but very hard for all of us. Little Frances misses her Grand Mother as well as the rest of us if she is small, she hardly knew what to do with herself, she knew there was something gone, Mother made so much of her, she used to go and sit on the cruet beside her and she would lay her head down in her lap for Mother could not walk or get up out of her chair without help for a long time before she died, for two or three days she had not been so well, but before that for a number of weeks she was better and her

countenance looked much better, and I seemed to think the world and I was not the only one Oh how I hoped she would get well, but it was not to be, Oh I wish you could have been at home, do come home as soon as you can, it will be hard for you away from home you have had so much trouble before but do come home we all want you too very much, ~~and~~ Eddy has not been out to stop much lately, I believe he is well, he grows Hannah and her family I believe are well, but I cannot write any more I suppose father has told you more I do not know as you can read it do come home from

Charie

Philip sends his love he will write soon, write as soon as you receive this;

Maria

Aug. 18 1859

And July 29th

Esquire W. Morse,

San Diego

California.

Amesbury Nov^r 3rd 1858

Friend Eph

I received yours of August 23rd
Oct 7th and also one of Sept^r 8th the 22nd of Oct
and as for the papers I think that we have received
all that you have sent quite a number by
the Overland route

I have been expecting that Maria would write
to you this mail but she has been so busy
that she could not get time Mother has been
very sick since I wrote to you last but she
has got quite smart again now she has been
troubled with the heart complaint

I have not time to write much this morning
but will write again soon.

We had our Town meeting yesterday for State
and County Officers I have not heard how
the vote stood but without a doubt Ellbridge
McHorse is elected representative he has got to be
a regular Black Republican David got the Democratic
Nomination for Senitor but probably that is all the good
it will do him Mother and Maria and hands
send their love to you and say that you must
come home And I remain

Yours truly
F J Seal

Phil. Nov 3^d

Ans 2

Mrs. Henry Sargent is quite out of health the doctor says that he cannot do anything for her only to make her a little more comfortable and Dolly Sargent is also sick and they think that she will have the consumption, likewise Mrs. John P. Sargent's daughter Laura's health has been failing for nearly a year, and they think that she will go the way of all the earth, Mr. Thomas Sargent's daughter is also very low, and we soon expect to hear that she has gone to be with those who have gone before her. I never heard of so many cases of consumption in my life. I think you spoke in your letter that some one must write some thing about the fourth of July. I will take upon myself as I am troubled to find items to write. John went to Lawrence, Joseph to Lynn found all the folks well but Wassle and Aunt and they were able to about the house. Laura and I staid at home all day enjoyed ourselves finely. There was a party went down to the Laurel grounds, Tommy Fred Colby waited on Sarah Hall since then they rode out and I should think by appearances that it would be a match. The party did not intend to go there in the first place but Laura broke it all up by

refusing to keep Edward Bassett's computer
or John Seavell as your usual to call him.
I have been blubbering this afternoon get
about two quarts, there are not so many
this year as common

Thurs ^{morning} Laura has not return from your side
I dont know but what she has sloped
eve Laura has return had a tiptop time she
went to Hampton and from there to
Boys beach, Saturday eve Ebelis called
on Laura spent ^{the} evening, and ^{it} reminded me
of past times when a certain girl used to
trip up stairs late at night or rather early
in the morning I will draw this subject
to a close as you may think that I am too
young to be commenting on these topics.
In regard to the illnesses we have not had
them taken Sarah only came home to stay
one day, and she is not coming again until
her school closes which is five weeks and then
we shall attend to them Oathey, and Mother
called over to Mrs. Morse, and they manifested
great anxiety ^{about} you and Ephse in wish that you
would come home. I now must close
for John is waiting to ^{take} this to the office,

Prunier

Merimacport Dec, 18th. 1876.

My Dear Brother,

I send these
Coupons to you, because Philife
sent them up to the Coener last
week, and they would not take
them. Florence and Alice are
going to write to you some time,
I will try and write to you soon,
We are all well, give my love to
Mary, and my best respects to
Amaes, all send their love to
you and Mary. Addie says you
must come home next summer.

Monday morning.

Florence graduates the 3^d of July:
there are only three in her
class now. But I must close as
I am afraid I shall not have
time to send it by Alice.

Philip and all of us send our
love to you and Mary. Florence
and Alice are going to write
some time, they have been very
busy. Addie sends her love to you
and wishes you would come here
Irvie says he should like to see
you. Edward called last week.

Ploomy and Flora were over to Chuck
yesterday. Goodbye from your affection^{ate}
sister,
G. Maria Neal.

Maria

June 24/77

Write soon and let us know
how you are. yet I cannot write
any more as Philip is writing
for me. goodbye from your
affectionate sister,

J. Maria Neal.

J. Maria Neal
Dec 18/26

Merimacport June 24th 1877.

My Dear Brother,

I suppose I am rather late in sending the coupons: I was intending to send them last wednesday, but wishing to write a few lines I could not find time, I either had some work to do, or I was tired; my health has not been very good, but is rather better now. We have moved into the house where Mr Richardson used to live, Mr Patten Gargent owns it now: I like better than I did in Mr Sanborns, I have a house

to myself and a yard for Addie and Gevie to play in. I suppose it will be rather bad in the winter, as the out buildings are old or (you might say) good for nothing, and Mr Gargent will not put up new ones, and they are not worth repairing; he had a very little painting and repairing done in the house, but not half enough. Philip is surveyor, he only gets 15^{cts} an hour the same as the hands have that he hires; he does not like it very well, when he was surveyor too the other time he had 30^{cts} an hour; he thinks he

cannot get along in this way. I do not know what he will do, there is but very little business done here; he worked in the shop last winter, but has not had anything for it yet. he is all discouraged, owes his store bill, house rent and meat bill, and nothing to pay; he is not with Mr Stevens this year, when he was with him they had to trust out so much there is considerable he has not received yet. I never knew such times before.

I wish you would give me what you said you would, (you said you would give me enough, so I should be satisfied). I wish Father had ^{done} differently. I feel it more and more every day, because I need it. I would like a house of my own, and I think it would be a good time to build or buy; I hope you will not think hard of me for asking I do not think you will, you certainly would if I could see you, I wish you was here this summer Mr Rowell (Philip's brother in law) has built him a house at the hills, they moved into it a few weeks ago. Mr Warren Gargent and Mr Elbridge Sawyer have moved away from here. I suppose you have heard of Ephraim Huntingtons death and Maria Curriers. (David's daughter)

Merrimacport Jan^y 5th 1799
Friend Ephraim

I received your
letter to me Dec^m 15th with
order for honey enclosed
I sent it to Boston the
next day by Express
The order was returned with
word that the honey was
all sold. I did not see
the Expressman he left word
at the Store.

I thought there was something
wrong about it
I had an opportunity to send
in a few days by a friend
who called at J^ohⁿ Tyler & Co
Store he ^{saw} lots of honey there
and inquired if they had
northern honey to sell
they had Nothing but

California honey and were
selling it at 14^{cts} per pound
I have since seen the express-
man he states they told him
Mr Foxes honey was all
sold and they had made
their return to him that day
or day before I forget which
so I presume it is all right.
I am very much obliged to
you for the order but
should felt rather better if
I had got the honey
I do not know what to say
about trying to sell some
on commission. I do not think
it would pay for me to peddle
it perhaps I could sell some
at the stores probably should
have ^{10^{cts}} about Boston prices.
Therefore I do not feel like sending
an order for any at present

but if you should send some
to me I will do the best I can
with it They are retailing it
at the corner for 25^{cts} per pound
and I understand at N. B. for 20^{cts} per lb.
I hope your railroad bill will
pass soon I fully believe that
it would one of the best things
that could happen to the
country Preserve the Union
often and I assure you it
is very welcome as I am
much interested in all the
San Diego news.

I do not know that I have any
news to tell you We have all
had severe colds within a fortnight
but are better now I saw Edward
a few days ago he was well
all send love to you and
Marry
Yours Truly Philip

Philip & Maria
Jay 6/79

Merrimacport Jan 6th 1879.

Dear Brother,

As Philip was writing I thought I would write you a few lines. We were very happy to have a letter from you. I wish you would write often; I own that I have been negligent.

I suppose you knew that Irvie had been lame; he fell from a carriage and hurt his hip; it was over ten months before he walked; I hope it will not trouble him any more, he is well now with the exception of a cold, (by the way) we have all been sick with it, I think it is different from any cold I ever had before; there is a severe head-ache goes with it, nearly all have it, I suppose you do not have

any in San Diego. Last Friday we had a
snow storm and now it is sleighing, we
have had cold weather this winter. I do not
know as I can write you any news, as I have
not been any-where this winter; Alden's
wife called to see me, and she said that
Alden had written to you several times
but had received no answer. I have not
seen Mrs Garoyer since last Spring when
Alice was sick, ^{7th} she was very sick with
the Erysipelas. Edward was down last
Friday, he says Laura is not any better
I am very sorry. Mary Starkey and her son
were over in the fall, he lives in Exeter.
I have not seen Daniel or Phoeby this long
time. Mr William Garrison was buried
yesterday, also Caleb Bushing of Newburyport.
We were very sorry, ^{not} to receive any of the honey.
But I must close as Alice is going to take
it up when she goes to school. All send
their love to you and Mary mine included.
Come home next summer, goodbye from Maria.

Maria 211^m
Sept 7, 1843

Merimacport Sept, 7th 1843.

My Dear Brother,

It is three years ago last spring that I received a business letter from you, and I have had none since; what is the reason that you have not written? It seems so strange that you do not let me know anything about the bonds: I should like to know very much, I am taxed just the same as if the interest came; I have three tax bills that remain unpaid, and I do not know how I am going to pay them, unless I have some money. Mr Poore wrote last winter, and asked them what they would do, but he has received no

answer; he said he would telephone down
as soon as he had one, I wanted my
money very much, and do now, I
would like to have it nearer home.

I send you a copy of the note that
you gave me, I thought you might
have forgotten it, as you have not
said anything about it; will you
please send me the money, (interest
included) as I need it very much, if
you will I shall feel very grateful.

I suppose you have heard of the
Patten Sargents death; I suppose the
house we live in will be sold.

Florence and Alice were away last
winter, and I expect they will go
again some time this fall, I miss
them very much, it seems so
lonesome when Addie is at school
and I suppose I feel more so,
because Ernie dear little Ernie
has gone, I cannot tell you how
much I miss him, he was a

darling boy, he was so good, I try
to feel reconciled and say, "God doeth
all things well" I hope and trust
that I shall meet all the loved
ones who have gone before, when
life is over; I never shall forget
the words of Mother before she died
"prepare to meet me in Heaven".

¹¹⁴⁴
The "City of Haverhill" has just gone
down; I do not know what it would
be here if it we did not have the
river, as it is very dull here.

I saw Tommy and Flora at church
last sabbath, they are all well.

We went over to Ferrisington one day
in August, (Mary was over in
June) they are well. Abe has had
trouble, one year ago last May he
buried his wife, and last May
his youngest daughter; Clara stays
with them. I have not been up
to see Aunt Ned yet, I intend to

go up this fall if nothing prevents;
I do not go much, as we have no
horse, and it costs so much to hire.
I have not been very well, but am
better now. Addie's school commens-
ed Sept 3^d, she is in the grammar
school this is her third year, I do
not think you would know her, she
has grown so much. I do not know
as I can ~~write~~ think of any more to
write. Florence Alice and Addie
send their love to you and Mary
Philip sends his love to you all,
my love to you and Mary, and I
wish to be remembered to Amos.
When are you coming home? (I always
call it home) I wish you would, I would
like to see you very much. I have not
seen Edward lately, I think he has
been away. Please excuse all mistakes
and bad writing. Good-bye from your
affectionate sister S. Maria Neal.
Please write as soon as you can.

West Amherst Mass

Nov 14th 1874

\$100

On demand for
value received, I promise
to pay to S. Maria Neal
or order one hundred
dollars with interest at
the rate of twelve per
cent per annum

E. W. Morse

S. Maria

Feb 4/84

With note enclosed

Northampton Feb 4th/84

My Dear Brother,

Your letter came all right, and I was very glad to get the money, I should have sent the note immediately, but I thought I would write a letter, and so you see how long I have been, but I hope you will forgive me; I do not know as I ought to make any excuse, but I will say this, I commenced a letter to you Oct 25th, but I was hindered two or three times, and so it did not get finished, "better late than never". Mrs Poore was very much surprised when Philip

told him, if the coupons had been sent the interest would have been paid; as it has been paid up to Jan', that has not come yet, but I am expecting it every day.

You said perhaps you could sell my Bonds and get a higher price, I wish you would, as I would rather have my money here; if I had plenty of money I would as soon let you have some of it as not, but as I have not, I think it would be better for me to have it here, and I do not think you will blame me.

I suppose you have heard of the disaster at Gay Head, and to think one from our town was among the lost, Fred Sargent Emeline's youngest son, it was very sad.

Edward was in the other day, he said he had not heard from

you lately. Philip has bought the place where we live; I think I told you in my last letter, that it was going to be sold; he gave eight hundred dollars for it, I suppose it was cheap enough, but I did not want him to buy it, for I do not care to live here; the cars do not come here, we do not keep any horse, and it makes it very difficult for us to get away. Addie was sick, and had to stay out of school a week, but she is well now. Florence and Alice were out coasting one evening with a party of young ladies and on the double runner, and coming down hill they struck a place of bare ground, and all but two were thrown on the hard ice; there were but two hurt, and one was Alice, she was hurt so much that they had to bring her in, we were

very much frightened, but I am
happy to say she was not hurt so
badly as we thought she was, but she
was bruised very much, and could not
walk, she had to stay in nearly two
weeks, but she is out now, and I
think we ought to be thankful she
did not have any bones broken;
the other lady hurt her wrist, it
was a miserable looking company
after the accident, I do not think
they will try it again on the hard
ice; we have had but little sleighing
this winter, it snows and then it
rains, and that makes it very
icy, I have been in a sleigh just
once. Remember me to Mr and Mrs
Whaley and Anos. You must come
home next summer. All join with
me in sending our love to you and
Mary, write as often as you can.

Good-bye from your affectionate sister
I send the note S. Maria Neal.

West Amesbury, Mass
Nov 14th 1874

\$100.

On demand for
value received, I promise
to pay to ¹⁸⁸⁴ S. Maria Neal
or order one hundred
dollars with interest at
the rate of twelve per
cent per annum

E. V. Brown

debt of 1884

and paid

Florence

1866.

Mar 23/66 So. A. Masbury March 22nd,

Dear Uncle,

I am going to write and let you know that we have not forgotten you. Father and Alice have gone to the Temperance to night. I was going and then I thought I would stay at home and write to you. I am having a vacation now. School was out the seventh of March, and we had our Sociable the eight (my birthday). Last week Friday evening I went up to Mr.

(2)

Higgins's Torrible. I was
intending to go up to the
Examination in the afternoon
but it snowed, I did
not care much as long
as I had a sleigh ride
up in the evening. We
have not had a pleasant
day this since Monday
and last week it stormed
most every day. School
commenced two weeks from
to day. I am going over to
Bloomy's Monday and
help Daniel build his
barn. They are all well
over there. Flowers have
run a tank into his finger

(3)

it has been real bad so
that he could not work.
I suppose you have heard
that they are going to have
the town divided. Going
to name it Merrimac.
Father has joined the
"Odd Fellows" at West
Amesbury. Alice and I
have signed the Temper-
ance pledge and can't
even drink sweet cider.
Mother went up to see
Sarah a few weeks ago.
She is a little better. Clara
Keeve is dead, the only
daughter of Mrs. Keeve.

(4)

Mother had a paper with
her death in it. She is
going over to Moscow if
it is pleasant. I have
been studying Astronomy
have turned out nearly
all the constellations
that can be seen in
January & February. The
last time I went out
I got a bad cold have had
one ever since. I am going
to study Botany next
term and this summer
I am going to get collections
of plants. I know I shall
like it. Last summer

I got some insects, I think
I shall get more this
summer if I have the
time. I suppose your
flower garden looks
splendidly. Do you eat
your supper out under
the trees now? We have
not had much snow
here this winter. I have
not had but two slight
rises. Will Samuel
Reed say he is going
to California to live,
but I think he will
change his mind.
Are you coming home

(2)
This summer? Mother
says you must come,
Lottie says she will
shake you if you don't
The truth is we all
want ^{you} to come and shall
feel real bad if you don't.
Ovine can go alone and
has grown ever so much;
so has Lottie. Patience
lives all alone still, they
want her to move away
but she thinks it is best
to stay where she is. Edward
was down last Saturday
he said I would not see
him again very soon if

I did not come up there
 this vacation. I guess
 he will forget it and
 be down in two or three
 weeks to see why I didn't
 come up. He said he did
 not believe you were
 coming home this summer
 because you didn't say
 anything about it in his
 last letter. I told him
 I was going to write and
 ask you. Mother told me
 to tell you that she was
 ever so much obliged
 to you for those apples
 that you gave her.

Alice says she will write
 next time. Will you
 please bring me on some
 of that moss to make a
 wreath (like Aunt Susan's)
 if it will not be too much
 trouble? Father, Mother,
 Alice, Sallie & Fannie all
 send their love to you and
 Aunt May. Give my love to
 Aunt Mary and tell her to
 write, write soon.

Goodbye from
 your ever obedient niece
 Florence M. Neal

S. Maria Seal
Sept 22/87

Merrimacport,
Sep 22nd 1887.

My Dear Brother,

I received your letter Aug 29th. we thank you very much for your invitation to visit you this winter, it was very unexpected: I suppose you think I have been a long time answering it, but we have been waiting for Daniel and Phoomy to decide: Daniel wanted to come, but thought he could not leave as he had horses to board, but Philip said he did not see any reason why he could not come, he

has a boy lives with him, and Frank and Flora board with them I think they could leave as well as we can. Florence Alice and Addie want me to go, they say they can get along, they will have to stay alone nights, but I do not think there will be any trouble, we have good neighbors, Philip said he was coming if he came alone, but at last they have decided to come, but do not think we can get ready to start before the first of Nov, as we have not made any preparation.

Please write and let me know if that will do, and what route to take. As you do not have such cold winters as we have, what kind of clothing do we need, I thought perhaps your winters

might be some like our autumn. We went over to West Newburg yesterday to the Fair it was very good, the fruit was very nice. Last Saturday we went over to Kensington, they were all well. Mary said we must go to Cal.

We all send our love to you and Mary.

Good-bye from your affectionate sister,

Maria.

S. Maria Neal

Nov 5/87

Merimaesport Nov 8th/87

Dear Mary,

I received your letter three weeks ago, and ought to have answered it before, but I hope you will excuse me, as I have been very busy and had so much company my intended visit to you has started them out, and I expect we shall ^{have} more. You say it will much pleasanter for us to come after the rains, I am very glad we are not to start so soon, for we are not ready and we shall not have any too much time, and we thank you ever so much for your kind invitation. I should think the dust

would be fearfull, and I had much rather wait. It has been very cold this fall much colder than it was last year, but for a few days it has been very pleasant and warm. Thanks for your information in regard to the clothing &c.

I am very glad Ephraim's health is better; and your trip must have been delightfull.

We expect to go to Haverhill this week to get our trunks and some other things that we shall need; we shall certainly come (if nothing prevents) and expect to have a pleasant time. I hope the fleas will disappear before we come, but I must close as I must write a few lines to B

Yours truly,

J. Maria Neal.

A. Maria Neal

Nov 8/87

My Dear Brother,

Philip received a letter ~~from~~ from you Oct 31st you say it will be much pleasanter to come after the rains, I had rather wait, as it will be better for us and you too, I suppose everything will look lovely when we do come; you say keep cool, there is no danger but we shall with such weather as we have had this fall. Hannah Weed and Emeline called on me they said they were glad we were going; Aunt Weed is well I intend to go up and see her before I come to Cal.

Judith is going to live with them this winter, her husband died

in Sep. Ruth has been down to see me, I was very glad to see her. I have not called on Edward since he was married, but intend to call as soon as I can.

We are going to have a horse railroad here, I am glad we are going to have one.

I am not going to answer Philip's letter, I told him he must do that himself. You said in your letter to me, you thought the best time to come would be about the first of January, but we will leave that to you as you will know best what time you want us to come. I am very glad your health is better, remember me to Amos.

from your affectionate sister,
Maria.

Nerrumasset Dec^r 1st / 1887

Friend Ephraim

I received a letter from you
the sixth day of August dated
July 28th The news of the
land you bought and
kept so long for me
was a very great and
agreeable surprise to me
and nothing less than
a gift from you to me
for if you owed me any
thing at the time that
you bought it I think
it must have been a
very small amount.
When you were at home
you told me of this land
and said you thought it

Might be worth something ^{some time} for it was good land.

When I heard the water works were coming near this land I expected it would increase its value but I had no idea that it would ever be worth more than one tenth as much as it now is notwithstanding all this good news I did not get so excited over it as to loose any sleep over it for I have been excited so many times that I supposed I had got over being excited over good or bad luck enough to loose much sleep.

But when Maria ^{received} your letter to her from Santa Barbara inviting us to make you a visit and you would pay all expenses I must say it came so unexpected

that I lost one nights sleep over such good news and now to have the opportunity to visit you in California through your generosity is a favor which I cannot prize too highly.

I received your letter to of Oct 23rd stating that my land was worth from \$20,000 to 25,000 Also your advice ~~and~~ ^{and} patient to keep cool and be patient It seems that the boom in real estate must stop sometime but as long as so many are going to San Diego I think there will be no rest of its stopping. Whatever you do with the land you call mine will be perfectly satisfactory to me. I consider a gift from you to me or nearly so it being a mere trifle if any thing that you owed me

P. J. Neal
Dec 1/87

^{to Dart}
We would like for California
about the first of January if
for you convenient for you
if not please send when it
will. I saw Elbridge yesterday
he told me of the sale of his lot
and said he was sorry that he
let it go but wished he had bought
Alden's ~~half~~ and kept it
I receive the Golden Era to day
and also papers we are all
well and hope to be
with ^{you} before long and then
have a good time together
this is the first letter I have
written for years so please excuse
me for not writing a more interesting
letter
Yours very truly
Philip J. Neal

Merinaeport Jan 10th 59

Dear Brother,

Florence received a telegram from you yesterday, and Philip sent one to you. I have sad news to write, Daniel had a paralytic shock Saturday night, he went to the Mills in the afternoon and seemed as well as ever untill he tried to get up out of his chair to go to bed and Ploony said he could not get up straight and she asked him what was the matter with him he said he did'nt know. she helped him walk into the bed room and he sat down on the bed and when he got up to take off his clothes he

fell against the closet door he
tried to get up but could not she
called Frank and he took him up
and laid him on the bed, it is his
left side, his arm and leg he could
not move; we went over Sunday
but did not see him, the doctor said
he must be kept very quiet; we
went over again yesterday and we
went in to see him, (he wanted
us to come in) he looked ever so much
better than I expected to see him,
he is better he can move his leg,
but cannot move his arm I think
he can move his hand and shoulder
a little he can talk and his mind
is clear and has been all ever since
he was taken, the doctor thinks he
will get over it all right and I hope
he will, but it is a great disappoint-
ment to him, he has been thinking
so much of the trip to Cal we

were to start a week from to-day
at three o'clock P.M. but of course we
cannot come on this excursion and I
do not know when; ^{11th} we are disappoint-
-ed and of course you are, but it is
something we cannot help and we
must think it is all right, and
if Daniel gets over it well we
ought to be thankful, I think he
has worked hard in trying to
get all his wood hauled before he
started, I am sorry but we do not
know why it was to be so, but
God knows and we must submit
Philip called to see Daniel yester-
day he is getting better.
You must be careful and not get
sick take care of yourself I shall
worry about you. All send their
love to you and Mary. From your
affectionate sister, Maria.
write

Maria

Jan 10/84

S. Maria Vent

July 31/88

Merrimacport Jan 31st/89

Dear Mary,

I received your letter yesterday, but could not answer it until we had seen Daniel he is ever so much better he walks from one room to the other with a cane he can walk some without one, but he is not very strong yet; he said he had written to Ephraim and he has probably told him how he is getting along, and whether he would be able to come this winter or not, he told us he could tell better in two weeks, I think he would like to come if he is well enough I hope he will.

'Phillips excursions' start on the

first and third Tuesdays of every
month.

We have had some very cold weather
some say that it has not been so
cold (that is to last so long) for
20 years, yesterday and to-day has
been a little milder, I shall be glad
when it is warmer.

Aunt Weed was 90 years old last
Saturday, she is well.

I hope Ephraim is well give my
love to him and tell him to write.

Yours truly
J. Maria Neal.

We will telegraph before we start.

Merrima: part Feb. 21st / 1884

Mr E W Morse Dear Brother

Maria says I have not answered
your last letter to me. I have had so
to take my up my attention. and
not being acustomed to writing ~~but~~
much it is very easy for me to
neglect doing as I should do in
this respect. I have had quite a
time in trying to get started for
California. In the first place
it was quite a task to get Daniel
and Floomy to consent to go.
Then Daniel thought he must go
as soon as possible so as to get
home by the first Jan.
Thought he could not get any one
to take care of his horses in the
winter. Consequently I gave up
my job in the shop the middle

Of November expecting to start soon
as we could get ready. Then Daniel
concluded not to go until the 1st
of Jan. But before that time arrived
said he could not possibly go until
the 17th of Jan. Then I thought we
should be sure to start. But when
Daniel was taken so suddenly sick
just ten days before we were
expecting to start it seemed
fate was against us. When we
called over to see him he seemed
very much discouraged and
advised to go without them.
Of course we could not do that but
would wait until the next excursion
of the 7th of Feb. But as Daniel was
getting ^{along} quite well we did not
start then hoping he might
be able to the 21st of Jan. I expected
he would go then he was so
much better. being able to

move his leg and arm quite well
I felt quite sure we should start
then we called over to talk it
over with him. I asked him what
the Doctor said about his going to
California. Said he asked if it
would do for him to go the 28th of Jan.
The ^{doctor} said why not and advised
him to go. thought it would do
him good. But as the next
Phillips excursion goes on the 21st
instead of the 28th as Daniel expected
we shall have to put it off until
the 6th of March. Now for one I feel
very anxious to start then having
waited so long. I have been wanting
to go to California so long that now
having the opportunity I feel very
anxious to improve it.
Whatever you may think best
to do with my land will be
satisfactory to me

David and Massey came
over this afternoon. David
is getting better quite fast
I think we shall go the 6th of
March. Will telegraph to you
the day before we start.

Please remember me to Mrs. Mary
and I remain

Your Parents
P. J. Deal

Feb 21/24
P. J. Deal

San Francisco Cal.

May 4th 1888.

Dear Brother,

I received your letter yesterday. You wish to know what kind of a trip we had, I will tell you I comenced to be sick as soon as we were on the ocean, I went down to supper Sunday evening but could not eat anything, I did not go down again I had to lie down most of the time and I did not see but very little, and the nights seemed so long, for I could not sleep I was so sick; the lady on the boat brought us up some tea but we could not drink it. Tuesday I did manage to eat a small cracker, that was my living until we reached

S.F. I never want to go on the ocean again, it makes me feel sick now to think of it. Bloomy was sick, and I think she would tell you she would prefer to go by land; Philip was sick but not so sick as we were, and Daniel was not sick.

We had a lady in our room, and she was very pleasant, but we came very near having a man, and they found a lady in their room (she had gone to bed) there was a mistake, but they arranged it all right.

Tell George he may laugh as much as he pleases now, but I do not think he would have laughed much if he had seen us when we were so sick.

We did not have any trouble in finding James' house, he expected

to be at the wharf when the steamer came in, he did not think it would be in so early, and when he got there we had all gone, and he found us at his house, they were very glad to see us.

Daniel & Bloomy were very fortunate in finding a room only a few steps from us and it is a very nice place.

I think Daniel has written to you, and he will tell you how he likes here. We have been to the Mint, the State Museum and have rode in the cable cars, we shall go more next week if we are well, and shall probably start for home the last of the week. Give my regards to George also give my love to Miss Villa, love to you and Mrs. Morse. I remain your affec^t sister,
write often. S. Maria Neal.

S. Maria Neal
May 4/88

Merimaesport Jan 4th/85

Dear Brother,

I received your letter Monday; your letter with draft came all right, and we thank you very much; we start the 17th not so soon as we expected, Dr Bolton started last Wednesday, but we could not get ready to go with him but if nothing happens we shall soon be on our way.

Philip went to Boston yesterday to see his Brother and he saw one excursion start on the same route that we are going on.

Last month was very unpleasant we did not have one fair Sunday and the first day of Jan' it rained

Maria
Jan 4/88

hard all day, and was very slippery
I did not venture out.

I thank you for the Souvenir you
sent me last spring I forgot to
do so in my other letter.

I have not been up to see Aunt
Wed get but intend to go if slotting
presents, we may go up to see
Edward this evening if it does
not storm it looks like snow I
hope if it does there will be
sleighing. I wish you and Mary
a "Happy New Year".

If you are not at the Depot we
shall come direct to your house.
All send their love to you and
Mary.

From your affectionate
sister, Maria.

Nerrimasset Feb 3rd 1889

E W Morse.

Dear Brother

We are all in the land of
the living yet and blessed
with good health and hard
times. I have ^{had} but little
work in the Shop since
I got home from California
consequently have earned but
little money and find that
I am five or six hundred dollars
in debt. I have a note in
the bank of five hundred
dollars that becomes due the
the first day of March.
I dont know how I can
pay it.

Now if there is any way that
you can help me without too
much trouble I should like to
have you. I was in hopes
that my land would sell
before now but if it will
not sell at present perhaps
you could mortgage it for a
thousand dollars if it can
~~done~~ it will be a great favor
to me you could send me
five or six hundred and keep
the balance I am sorry that
I am under the necessity of writing
for this favor of you after
receiving so many favours from
you I hope you will not
blame me under the circumstances
as there is nothing binding.
I wish I could be out to California
again this winter I never shall
forget the good times we had

There I should like to see all the
places we saw while there again
I have not seen Daniel for a
number of weeks he is about
the same as he has been since
he came home from California
not able to do very hard work
but so as to be about all the time.
We have had a very pleasant
winter so far the river has
not been frozen over hard
enough cross on yet
I am much pleased to receive
so many San Diego papers and
books from you for I want to
hear all the news about
San Diego.

My Best Regards to your
wife I remain very
Affectionately Yours
Brother J. P. Deal

P. J. Neal
Feb 3/89

Merrimacport March 4th / 89

E W Morse

Dear Brother

I received your letter to me
with check enclosed last

Friday March first. My acct.
in the bank came due Feb 28th

Thursday I went up to the
bank to get it renewed if

possible but Mr Poor and
Mr Haskell were both away
and I could do nothing about

it then. The next day I
received your check and
if ever I felt thankful for a
favor it was then.

We had our Town meeting
to day. Elbridge Alden and
own

P. J. Neale

March 4/89

Edward were there all
looking well and hearty.
I saw Daniel a short time
ago he is getting along
first rate. I am glad to
hear business is improving
so much in San Diego.

It is dull enough here.
I hope you will continue
to send us San Diego papers
we want to hear all the
news from there.

I did not expect the rail-
road company would pay
so much for the right way
over ^{our} land. think they are
quite liberal.

Maria the girls all of us
send love to you and
Mrs. Horne

Very Truly Yours P. J. Neale

Phillip

Merriamport

about Edward
June 28/89

Friend Ephraim

In answer to you about Edward will say as far as I know he does not drink is not lazy or immoral. Perhaps he does not farm as well as some others but I think considering the ^{circumstances} under which he has been placed that he has done as well as could be expected.

I have ^{heard} but little talk about him. I have heard Elbridge speak about him and from ^{what} he says I think he considers him rather a poor farmer and not willing to be advised much.

I have heard Edward talk about Elbridge and from what he says about him I should think that he and Elbridge were not on the best of terms and have but little to do with each other. I have not seen David for quite a while but have heard him speak about Edward a number of times and he always speaks well of him but thinks he has a hard time getting along. I was talking with Daniel about ~~him~~ Edward and from what he says I should think he considers Edwards farming not first rate.

But as good as could be
expected ^{under} the circumstances in
which he is placed

I dont think I have heard
Alden say anything about
him and have heard but
very little from others
I do not know what there
can be that is bad about him
Perhaps if you could come
home and look after things
it would be better for him
but I think there is ~~nothing~~
very urgent on that account
I should think the milk sent
was all right I know nothing
wrong about it And now
to sum up the matter I
think there is no cause to
worry on account of his bad
habits or mismanagement

I do not know how much
money you have furnished
him since he has taken the
farm but unless it has been
considerable he has done as well
as the majority of New England
farmers do The farm does
not look as well as it
used to when Father Morse
had the care of it and I
~~dont~~ think it can be expected
to I have tried to write
plainly and hope it will
be satisfactory to you

We are all well
Maria sends love to you

Affectionately
Yours

Philip G. Peabody