

St. Louis, Mo., June 11
Mrs. Lydia A. Morse
Paid 6

Mrs. Lydia A. Morse,

San Diego
California



Thursday June 1st / 34

Dear sister Lydia,

I was thinking to day, that you had been gone nine months, and I hadn't written you but one letter, and I felt almost ashamed of my myself, but then I know you will forgive me, when you think, how my time, was occupied, fourteen hours during the day, I will try, and do better now I am at home, and can have more time, to devote to writing. While I was in Beaverhill, I hadn't time to write, or scarcely think of absent friends. I left Mr Macg's, three weeks ago. Saturday morning, I went to the store, as well as usual, with the exception of a slight swelling round my nose, we were out of coal, and didn't have any fire, it was a very cold day, and we had to wear our shawls, in the store, and thought we should freeze at that, I felt sick, and went home, ^{Mr Palmer,} at one, and didn't go back to the store, at tea time I couldn't see out of my eyes, my face was so swollen. The next morning, the Doctor said I had better go home,

for he thought I was going to be quite sick, and should
feel better with my friends; he called it the *Corymbifera*
Joseph hired a horse, a two-seated carriage, (by the way)
he is tending store in H., and took me home.

Mrs Palmer weaped me in blankets, and spreads, put
a pillow under my head, and I arrived home, at last
after having rather a tiresome ride. Mary Stockney
came home with us, I don't know what I should
have done without her, she is an excellent girl.

I hardly think I shall go back to Mr May's this summer.
I was there nine months, and didn't lose half a day,
don't you think, that was being pretty steady for me.

Mr May came down to see me last sabbath, he says
any time I feel able to come back, give him a call,
Mary Jane Jewett, has taken my place, and likes very
much. I have had the offer of two schools, don't think
I shall take any, the one I had last year, the other at
the Creek. Sarah has taken the one in (Carter town)
and likes very well indeed, she says she was very much
disappointed in the school, I told her ~~to~~ it is on account
of the good training, they received last summer, that they
behave so well. (Self praise you see.)

I think I shall spend the summer in visiting, Father and
I are going to Rochester, after he gets done planting, he
is going to stay four or five days, and leave me to stay
two or three weeks, to rusticate I suppose. I anticipate
a very pleasant visit. You can't think how lonely, it
seems here, I have been used to seeing so many people,

that I feel almost homesick, it is so still.

I never was at home before, when one of the older girls,
were ^{not} at home, and now Anna Maria goes to school, I am
left alone. The report is, that Annette, and Ann Eley, have
got a beau, but I don't know how true it is, isn't it funny?
I haven't seen Annette for a long time, for I haven't been to
meeting, at the river, since I went to H. ~~and~~ ten months ago,
Mr May could not spare me Saturdays, and I ~~did not go~~
haven't been home, but three times, since you went away.
Lydia, who do you think Laura Atkinson, is going to marry,
it is John Whittier, the widower, he is thirty eight, and she
eighteen, how foolish she is, when she is thirty eight in the
prime of life, he will be an old man at fifty.
Charles Nichols has sent for Abba, to keep his house, he says,
he thinks, he shall marry her, Mrs Williams tried to make
a match, Charles and Harriet, Charles said he should
like. the six hundred dollars, but don't know about taking
her. I will close in the words, of a French lady, to
her husband, "I write because I have nothing to do, I close
because I have nothing to say". Love to all.

From your sister
Laura

P.S. If you can't read this, please send it back,
with out opening it, as the Irishman said.

Laura

Apr 14th

Arrived May 23^d

ackd in ltr
to Wm Gray May 23^d

encl. enclosed

W. Amisburg April 14th / 57.

Brother Epraim:

It is with sadness, and with sincere and heartfelt sympathy; that I address you, feeling, that it may impart some consolation to our deeply afflicted brother, to hear from those friends, who loved the dear departed so fondly, and who are now mourners with you in this our great affliction. It hath pleased God, to call our Loved One thus early in life, away from earth, when her little boy most ~~much~~ needed a mother's watchful care; and her friends were looking forward in anticipation to the pleasure of meeting her once more, in an unbroken circle, around the old familiar hearthstone, where we have spent many happy hours, where many sweet recollections cluster, and where my thoughts delight to linger; but it hath pleased our heavenly Father to remove her from this cold, and selfish world of sorrow, and suffering, to a far happier clime;

then let us not murmur, or repine, at the wise dispensations of Providence, for it was so ordered by one who cannot err, but, let us think of her as removed from disappointments, and trials, to a ~~new~~ realm of fadeless bloom, freed from sin, and every corroding influence; and transplanted to blossom eternally in the Paradise of God.

How little did I think when we bade her farewell, it would be our last farewell, O no! I could not think it could be, but He who doth not afflict his children willingly, or grieve them, but that they may be benefitted by it, ^{see Job that so it should be} let us then bow submissively to the divine will, and feel to say from the heart; "the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, and blessed be his holy name."

What sweeter consolation can we find for the heart, bleeding, and torn with anguish; than in communion with Jesus, who has told us to cast our grief, and troubles upon him, and he will give us peace & joy. He who wounds can also heal.

I loved Dear Lydia dearly, she was always so good and kind, so ready to sympathize with us

in our sorrows; ever ready to share our joys, and to aid us by her sweet counsel, that she endeared herself to us, and a large circle of friends who deeply mourn her loss; but what is our loss is her gain, for we trust she has joined the redeemed, and is now chanting hymns of praise with all the angelic host.

Yes! Lydia has gone, her spirit now

To heaven has upward flown,

Her voice there learns a melody

To mortal ears unknown.

She treads those shining courts above,

Amid the cherub band,

Which chant their heavenly Father's praise,

In that pure, happy land.

It is hard to consign our loved ones, to the cold, and silent tomb, and sad is it, to reflect that we shall never look on Dear Lydia's loved friend, or listen to her gentle voice in accents sweet again on earth, it is sad indeed, I cannot realize that it can be so.

We deeply sympathize with you in this sad bereavement, and regret that you are so far away from your friends,

who would cheer you in your loneliness, and sorrow,
Oh! will you not soon return to your friends,
who are fondly waiting to welcome you once more
to their hearts, and homes? we long to see dear
little Eddy, we would love him dearly.

Since writing the above, we have received
your kind letter, and are very sorry that you
have decided not to return, at present,

We all send our kindest regards to you,
particularly Father & Mother.

I have been gone from the year past with the
exception of 4 weeks in the Fall and a vacation
of 4 weeks this Spring, ~~and now~~ teaching at South
Hampton, and now have commenced school
at the Highlands, have a very pleasant school,
and the privilege of boarding at home, which
I prize very highly. Please excuse all errors,
and believe as ever, your sincere Friend & Sister

Laura

W. Amherst Aug 26/57

Dear Brother:

Thinking you will be very anxious to hear from Mrs Stevens and your little darling boy, I hasten to inform you of their safe arrival, at our house on the 19th, much wearied, but as well as could be expected after such a long and tedious voyage.

Mrs Stevens appears to be a fine woman; she seems so good, so motherly and kind, and has done so much for Eddy I cannot help loving her.

She is looking very poor and thin, has a bad cough, but I hope that rest, and the benefit of the pure country air

will soon restore her to health, and happiness.

Dashing Eddie is a nice little fellow; we all love him dearly, his grandparents are delighted with him, they seem to have renewed their age ~~and~~ since he has been with us.

Eddie has an excellent appetite and appears to be very well; he was a little timid when he arrived among all strangers, has become acquainted now, so that he will sit with any of us; we call him very pretty; not only pretty but good. I really think Father thinks there never was such a fine fine boy. We have a little carriage and take him out to ride nearly every day.

How thankful ought we to be to the Giver of all mercies, that their lives were spared, shall so many within in a few months have found a watery grave.

We have been waiting with great anxiety to hear from Mrs Stevens,

fearful of the worst, but at last our hearts were filled up with thankfulness and joy at the prospect of soon meeting dear Eddy, poor little motherless boy, receiving him to our home, and caring for him as near as we possibly can, as his dear Mother would have done, it shall be our delight to watch over and do all we can for him, that he may not have cause to feel the great loss he has met with.

The Congregationalist Society have completed their new vestry, situated between the Church, and the house formerly owned by Mr Shock, and this evening are to have a Service; the proceeds to be spent in furnishing the house.

I suppose Sarah expects soon to change her name to that of Mrs Henry Sargent, will probably leave for her new home at the River, next week. Mrs Stevens and Eddy left to day to make a visit at your father's, think

of returning on Saturday.

As it is nearly time to go to the
Festival, I will draw this hastily
written scroll to a close begging you
to excuse so inelegant, both in Penma-
nship and composition and believe
me as ever

Your sincere Friend

J. C.

Received of J. C. 2/9/45
Amount £10 0 0
J. C. 2/9/45

Your letter to me was very kind
and reminded me very much
of the time when I received kind
letters from dear Lydia and I can
give no greater praise than to say
that I always thought you resembled
dear Lydia very much in disposition
as well as in feature.

This was sent June 9th
Noth July 5th from San Francisco

Laura

Dec 6th
4

Ans'd Feb 9th
11

Brentwood Dec 6th 1837

Respected Brother;

I did not intend that your kind letter, so welcome as it was to me should remain so long unanswered, but so it is; but you must excuse me for my mind has been so engrossed with the cares of life, that I can scarcely find time to correspond with my friends.

I am at present engaged in the pleasant duties of the school-room in the town of Brentwood N. H. What a responsibility rests upon me! from the toils I shrink not; but the question often arises am I fitted for the life of a

schoolteacher? to attempt to guide those infants minds whose destiny is to a great extent entrusted to the teacher by many parents? God alone can give me strength and wisdom.

I have just returned from school wearied with the perverseness and apparent stupidity of some of my pupils; and feel in a mood for anything rather than letter writing, but fearful I shall not find any other time this mail I improve the present opportunity. all without and within seems gloomy, and sad to me, for I am ever prone to paint surrounding scenes in those those hues, which best correspond with my own feelings, ^{and thoughts,} and truly, they are of a melancholy cast to night.

I received a letter from home last week, stating that they were all well, and Eddie was growing finely can walk a few steps alone, but cannot talk yet, I am almost impatient for him to walk and talk he will be so much company for Marie,

he is a dashing little boy I never realized how much I loved & him until now; or how much I should miss him until separated from him.

I did not spend Thanksgiving day at home, expected to until Wednesday night but no one came for me and after watching in vain until dark, I tried to content myself with the idea of spending it in the Old Granite State; although it was a great disappointment I spent the day very pleasantly with my new friends.

We are enjoying a glorious revival in this place, nearly forty have united with the church and others are intending to follow the Saviour in the ordinance of baptism. What a blessed hope has the christian that when released from the trials of this life, he shall have an abundant entrance into that blissful realm, prepared for the redeemed of all nations, if we choose Christ for our friend in health He will

not forsake us in the hour of death
He will go with us through the
valley of death, and conduct us to
the shores of the New Jerusalem, and
usher us into the mansions of the blest.
I think you must miss Dear little Eddy
greatly, and feel very sad and lonely in
your home so different from what it once
was, but we know it was so ordered by
one who is infinite in wisdom and who
knoweth our best good, therefore, we should
not murmur or complain but bow
submissively to the divine will.

I am anticipating great pleasure
in going home and meeting my friends
next week, I intend to write to day
for them to come for me and if they
have not lost all affection for me
I think they will grant my request.
I do love my home, dearly, think I never
prized it as highly as at the present time,
owing perhaps, to a touch of that much
dreaded disease - homesickness, and the
idea that sometimes presses itself upon

my mind - that they forgot to come
for me, to be with them on the day of
their annual gathering.

It is snowing quite fast today the
first snowstorm of the season and
really it begins to look like Winter
I almost dread it, and sometimes am
wicked enough, to wish the time away
that we may welcome another smiling
Spring.

I am happy to inform you that
the Baptist Society in W. Amherst,
have engaged the labors of a graduate
from Newton, whom I think the
people will be united in. He appears
to be a very talented, and eloquent speaker,
and I fear the trouble in this case
will be; that they can not raise a salary
sufficient for him, - has a wife and
boards at Mr Sanborn's.

Mr Thacker our former Pastor still
resides at Amherst, and supplies the
desk in the Baptist church in Georgetown.
Father has not sold his place yet, but

has as great a desire to live on a farm
as ever; has looked at several this year,
but cannot get suited, Sarah's home
being so near, seems to be one more
tie to bind them to Amesbury, and I
think it doubtful if he ever leaves.

You cannot think how much we miss
Sarah; to go home and find but one
sister and a little boy scaly seems un-
natural,

The clock tells the hour for retiring,
and lest I weary the patience of my
friend, I will close.

May guardian angels hover around your
pillow this night; and inspire you with
sweet dreams now and evermore,

Laura,

Laura Feb 3^d 58

Ann Mch 28th

Brentwood Jan 20/58

Dear Brother Ephraim:

As I dismissed school today, one of my pupils came to me with the pleasing intelligence that a letter had just arrived for me; I seized it with eagerness for it was a very plump letter, and I expected quite a feast, and I assure you I was not disappointed, for on opening it I found one from home, with two enclosed from you; if there is any thing that gives me pleasure it is to receive letters from my friends, especially when absent from home; but I am sorry to say that I am very negligent in replying being naturally prone to procrastinate I neglect to do in the present what I ought; thinking I may have a more convenient
seasons

My school closes in a few days and I shall rejoice to go home with joy unspeakable, I am gone so much I esteem it quite a privilege to be permitted to go home, I find myself almost counting the days, and looking forward with impatience to the time when I shall leave for home.

You mention in your letter that you are desirous that Joseph should go to California I cannot endure the thought of his going so far from home, but I am confident he will be willing to go because he is now out of employ, and I ^{have} often heard him express a desire to go there.

Feb 1st At home once more, I have been gone these months and Eddie has really forgotten me, he does not appear to have any recollection that he ever had an Aunt Laura, he is growing very pretty indeed, I think he is as pretty as any little boy in my circle of acquaintance, and quite active can run round anywhere, speak a few words but does not seem to advance very rapidly in talking. We are having a very

mild Winter have had only three days of sleighing this year, since my remembrance there has not been such a pleasant Winter, we poor school-maams have been highly favored as regards weather, I have found it quite as pleasant teaching this season as it usually is in the Fall.

We are having a ^{very} interesting circle in the Baptist Society styled the Social Union, we meet once a fortnight and pay our three cents in preference to sewing, it met on Wed^{nes} eve at Mr John Bancrofts - our Annual meeting so we gave a supper and had a nice time, there were eighty four present.

Our new minister is liked very much, the meetings are well attended, I think if you could step in some Sabbath you would hardly realized where you were, nearly every pew is occupied, and that is something rather unusual for our church, if it will but last I shall think it an excellent thing to exchange Pastors I have just returned from a visit to Sarah's

she appears to be very happy in her new relations
and I hope she may ever continue so.

Now ask if Maria thinks of becoming
Mrs Somebody soon, I think not I don't see
any signs of it at present and we couldn't think
of losing "our baby" for several years, our home
would seem dull and lonely without her presence,
and as for myself I am as free as the air we breathe
if I had any idea of changing my name I should
be one of the most unhappy creatures in existence.
I love my home too well to think of leaving it
for a long time, and I love my freedom too
well to change it for the confined life of a
housekeeper,

Your Father has
just left here, says he shall not write this mail,
that his folks are all well. &c &c

The Amherst people are becoming interested
in the cause of Temperance have formed a
society, meet once a week in the Hall, have
very interesting discussional exercises, Coz
Gilman is President, John P. Francis Sargent
Hunt chief speakers, Fred Nichols has died
recently leaving a wife and six poor little children

Mrs Rufus Nichols has ^{taken} one
of the little girls as her own. Rufus has
a house on the plain, you would
scarcely recognize the street; it has
changed greatly since you were here.

George Hoyt and Mr Wegmuth
have houses nearly opposite just
below Mr Gullingtons; the distance
seems only about half as far to the
village as formerly, and not half as
lonely.

You would be amused
to hear Eddy tell what the hiddey, and
the dog say he is so cunning about
it. Maria has been trying to learn
him to say "Papa" but he has not
succeeded in saying it as yet, but
as soon as we speak of his papa, he
points to a picture hanging on the

ceiling - a gentleman and lady reading
the scriptures, and ~~my~~ Kris had
to say it. he is a little darling, has
beautiful hair ~~and~~ four little girl
curls about two inches in length in
his neck. Look sweetly.

Father has been to Cambridge
to attend Court within a few weeks,
called on Mrs Stevens, found her
well and in fine spirits; thinks she
shall visit us in the Spring. she had
become very much attached to little
Eddy and it was hard to give him up.
it must have been very hard for you
to part with him, I often think of
it, for if it ~~it~~ would be so hard for us
to give him up, it must have been
doubly hard for you, to part with you
last and only one.

I should be happy to send Eddy's

Miniature this mail but he
has not been very well since
my return, and Mother thought
it best not to take him out, until
he recovered. do not think he
is very sick, anything serious, only a
little indisposed, but you shall ^{have it}
soon as convenient to take him out.

We are having a severe rain-storm
no prospect of slighing.

Joseph is waiting to take this to the
Office therefore I must close.

Wishing you much prosperity and happiness

I remain your Sister

David,

Father wishes me to say that he
has just your letter dated Dec 16th
informing him that you had directed
your agent to forward a draft.
Joseph is quite pleased with your

proposal and will endeavor
to be ready any time after he receives
the draft,

Yours and best
Laurie

March 21
Laurie

Laurie
Feb 3 58

in your letter
You say "Father has just received your letter dated
Dec 16th &c and that "Joseph" will endeavor to be ready any
time after he receives the draft."

I recollect that after writing that letter
I ^{became possessed of} received information which induced me to open
it and add a postscript advising Joseph ~~not to~~
come out till my return home or till I wrote again or
something to that effect - ² I wrote in a hurry in the
Post Office just as the mail was closing and might not
have ^{written} been very plain. ^{But I judge from your letter that} it seems Joseph is still expecting
to come, ³ but I intended to advise him not to come till
I go home, and I think I said something about Geo
Litch coming out and that he would call and see you
before he started. ^{I hope that it has not been any disappointment to you.} I regret that it would be any
~~disappointment~~ for I should regret it very much.

In the same letter I think I mentioned that Mr
Geo. Litch was coming to Cal^o and that he would call and see
you all before leaving. He expects to start I think in May

March 2nd 1858

and now one more

Good-bye

Ephraim

Sister Laura

Thank you for your pleasant letter of Feb 1st and your praises of Dear
little Edsie. &c

Mild winter Grip below getting a ducking &c &c

Laura

March 21st

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly a ledger or account book, with a large dark stain at the bottom left.]

On board steamer Santa

Dear Laura

off San Pedro

Aug 20th 1858

Thank you for ^{sending} ~~writing~~ me so pleasant a letter. It was very welcome. I had received no letter from any one for weeks.

I was in S.F. when the steamer from the States arrived and felt so anxious that I went to Mr. Weller P.M. of S.F. and requested him to open the San Diego mail and take out my letters, there were two one from Washington containing a L.M. for a kind of mine - I didn't open it then home - and the other was your kind letter giving me news of the dear ones at home.

Dear little Eddie I long to see him and hear him talk

Mr. Weller

Please remember me to all kind friends tell them to write, and above all do not forget that three thousand miles away from ~~the~~ ^{most} he holds dear

is yours affectionately
E.W.M.

Are we troubled with Mosquitos, no but we have what is almost as bad fleas.

I regret to hear that Mrs. Homan is so unwell. She is a good woman & has seen so much trouble & hardship in this world that she feels ready to go to dwell in that "Home and mark with Paul's "Eternal in the heavens".

Sacramento

San Francisco

but Climate of San Diego ^{is the best} best in the world
everyone says so

If the beautiful evenings of New
England made you fretful what
would you be here when they
are all beautiful and the air
& temperature so delicious
so delightful to feel that we
can walk out and drink in
such sweetness without hearing
some kind friend say, come
in here you will catch cold
for in this salubrious climate
we sleep out ^{in the open air} night after
night and sometimes (in the
rainy season) are favored with
a shower bath and receive not
the slightest inconvenience therefrom.

Love

May 20 1858

Laura



Mr E. W. Morse
San Diego
Cal.

Laura

Oct 31st, 58

Eddie says he loves you four or five pounds!

W. Amosburg Oct. 31st '58

Ephraim;

Do not think by our neglect in writing; that we have forgotten or that "absence is the grave of friendship" for we often think of you in your far distant, and lonely home, bereft of loved ones; and know that you must have had many sad and lonely hours in retirement when the cares of busy life are laid aside, and the full tide of ones thoughts come rushing back upon the mind — but why should I call up the recollections of the past, better look at the present and strive to derive both

pleasure and profit from every passing moment.

You are doubtless waiting with anxious solicitude to hear from Eddie, and I think we can give a very cheering account of him, although, I hardly know where to commence, or where to close.

He grows very fast, and his mind also expands as rapidly as his body - his little chatter can be heard almost incessantly from six in the morning, till six in the evening making the house echo with his little shouts of merriment; - he is very lively, full of life, and animation, only when in company with strangers is reserved and silent.

I have just espied a bruise on Eddie's forehead, inquired what caused it, said he "bump head on floor" said I when? he answered "to morrow," - he always calls yesterday to morrow.

A few weeks since Mother and I were left alone, he asked for a cane, Mother got him one, and thought no more

about it, for some minutes when she missed him, and on looking out the window, she saw him just passing Mrs Nichols' walking as fast as his little feet could carry him; she ran after him, and asked him where he was going, said he "down to Aunt Sarah's, and it was with great reluctance that she could induce him to return"; he is very fond of Sarah, I think he would be contented to go and stay with her - only imagine a little fellow like him sudging off alone with a cane shouldn't you like to have seen him?

I told him I was writing to his 'papa and asked him what he would send out to you? said he 'five or six kisses; so these they are very sweet ones too I suppose, for his are all remarkable for their sweetness. Here comes Eddie again, tripping along with a little basket in his hand, I

should think it would ^{hold} a gill, more or less, and says he "will give Papa a basket full of kisses" and emptied them upon the paper on which I am writing. I suppose he thinks he ^{is} little selfish in sending so few at first, and now wishes to atone for it.

The next session of Teachers Institute is to be held in Easter, and Chester one week each — commences at Ex — to morrow morning, I anticipate attending; we usually have very interesting lectures and discussions, and on the whole the time passes very pleasantly if not profitably.

Waria is practising her music lesson on the scraphine, and is so noisy about it I can hardly think, and should not be at all surprised if I found considerable repetition upon examination.

You will be sorry to hear again that we

have ^{been} thus far unsuccessful in getting
E. miniature — we have taken him
six times to the saloon, and don't suc-
ceed at all, it was impossible to keep
him still; but we are not discourag-
ed — are going to try it once more this
month, before it gets to be very cold.

We are having a very mild and pleas-
ant season, last year at this time we
were obliged to wrap up in furs when
we went out to keep comfortable.

I had almost forgotten to tell
you; that Sally Ann has changed her
name to that of Sally Ann Bussel,
another name is taken from our list
of despised ^{and} forsaken ones, and is num-
bered with —

Judging from present appearances I
shall not have the pleasure of announcing

Patience's marriage until Spring.

You wished to know if E had grown fat I will give you his dimensions and ~~you~~ leave you to judge, height $2-8\frac{1}{2}$ ^{ft.} in circumference 27 ^{inches}, weight 27 pounds.

I think if those bills enclosed in your letter, are a fair sample of Califer people there is great need of founding more schools, for really, I never saw spelling so badly represented no. never. I found them quite a puzzle when I first looked at them I couldn't read a word, thought it must be some foreign language, but after some time spent in study I succeeded in reading them. I think if it should take a business man as long to decipher them as it did myself he would find it rather unprofitable business. It is getting rather late and I must close by wishing you 'good night.'

Yours with respect
Laura J. G.

West Amesbury March 13th 1839

Mon cher frere;

I seize a few moments
this afternoon, on which, there, ^{seems} not to be the usual number
of claims, and devote them to an employment ever dear
to me, that of epistolary intercourse.

Pardon my silence; absence from home must be
my apology. I have been absent from Amesbury
all winter, and now, I am at home again I will
improve the first opportunity in writing.

We are having a very dull and dreary rain-
storm, and as I am alone, the pattering of the rain
against the window-pane is anything but music
to my heart; I fear it will have a bad influence
upon my writing, for my mind is ever prone to
assume a like resemblance to the raging elements
without.

I suppose you are very anxious to hear from little Eddie, so without any more preliminaries I will give an account — he is enjoying perfect health has not had but one sick day since all Winter, has grown so fast I do not think that any one that had not seen him since October, would recognize him, and as roguish as you can well imagine, we can easily tell when he is going to play off his tricks upon us, for it is impossible for him to conceal the sly, and merry twinkle of his beautiful blue eyes.

Eddie with Father and Mother called at your Father's on Wednesday last, found your Mother very feeble, you have probably heard of her sickness, and that she has ^{been} gradually failing during the Fall and Winter — we fear she never will regain her health. How sad and solemn is the thought that fond friends are fast passing away that soon these pleasant faces, and loved voices will be seen and heard on earth no ^{more} earth, but with this sad and sorrowful thought comes the sweet and cheering one, that those who have loved, and served God faithfully here, will be reunited in the world of bliss,

There, in the society of the redeemed will be no sin to mar their happiness, but perfect and unalloyed peace and joy.

Do you remember remember Frank Cogswell? he has met with a great affliction, in the loss of his wife.

Moth, who is sitting near me, says, 'Give my love such, doubtless, would be the language of all the family did they know me to be writing.

Respectfully subscribe
David J. Gray

Laura

March 15th 59

Laura Aug 21st 59

Ans'd Aug 29th 60

West Amherst Aug 21st 69

Brother Ephraim:

Before you receive
of the death
this, the sad tidings of a much loved
Mother has probably reached you and plung-
ed you again in grief and sadness.

Would that I could write words of
consolation and peace, which as you read
would solace and comfort you under
this severe affliction, but although I
deeply sympathize with all in affliction
I feel that what I might say instead of
consoling might add to their grief.

There is a Friend who can
speak peace to the Mourners heart; who

saw bind up the broken heart and
cause our deep afflictions to prove
blessings in disguise.

Thou hast one less friend on earth,
one more among the "glorified throng"
above. Her sails are set, her suf-
ferings are ended, her emancipated
spirit is basking in the sunlight of
God's love — then weep not, but rejoice
thy Mother lives in Heaven.

The Funeral took place a week
ago to day on a beautiful Sabbath afternoon
when all Nature seemed in unison
with the solemn occasion — many
people were present to testify their
respect and esteem.

The remarks were touchingly beautiful
and appropriate, and as he feelingly
alluded to the absent son and prayed
that he might have strength to bear with
Christian resignation this dispensation
of Providence, and when he returned

as he approached the home of his
earlier years and found no fond Mother
to bid him welcome, he might not
murmur but his attention might
be directed by the "star of Hope" to a
reunion in the spirit world where
those long separated on earth may
meet no more to part, many eyes were
filled with tears and the response arose
from many hearts that even so might it
be.

Your Mother felt perfectly
resigned to the will of God, and con-
versed as freely and calmly ^{about Death} as persons
would about their business affairs.

Brother Otis is sick with
shon Typhoid fever, has been confined
nearly a fortnight. We do not consider
him dangerous although he is pretty sick.
He is attended by Dr. Patten as young
Physician who moved into the place
six months since — he is called quite
skillful Quite a melancholy

accident occurred in our vicinity yesterday, as a young man from West Newburg was at work on the new congregational church, about twenty feet from the ground, he fell and was injured so badly as to cause death in a few hours. The church is erected on the ~~new~~ old site and is expected to be superior to any country church near us — the cost to be ten or twelve thousand.

Eddie says, "Tell Papa that I have been to church once and am going 'gin. He behaved like a little gentleman until the services were nearly through when becoming tired he stood upon the seat and looking behind him he espied me said he; "how did you come down here?" I remained silent — he was not to be put off in that way and repeated it with double emphasis "How did you come down here Laura?" By the way

I took tea with Sarah and Eddie
sate with Father and Maria. It was
quite a puzzle to him how I got there.

In regard to the remuneration
which you mentioned respecting Eddie,
we have received nothing, do not
give yourself any uneasiness in regard
to Eddie — he is well provided for.

This gentleman whom you mentioned is
the selfsame "Tom" who lived with you
a long time, is it not?

A drip to the Beach
seems to be the order of the day.

A few days since a company of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~men~~ ^{men} ~~in~~
including myself started for the B
intending to remain one day when
within a short distance of our stop
place some one cried out "we are
beaching down," all was confusion
for a few minutes, soon however we
found ourselves safely landed on

Terra ^{Prima} none the worse for
our fright. The forward wheels
were broken, and our coach ~~was~~ a
perfect wreck — we were obliged to
take farewell leave of it, finish our
journey on foot and school ourselves
to the idea of "camping out" for the
night, by the way, it has become
quite fashionable to camp out at
the B — we thought we might
as well make a virtue of necessity
and follow the fashion

In the evening four of us took a walk
to Black Rocks to see the moon
rise it was a splendid scene —

I enjoyed it finely but when we
returned we found our tent filled
our ^{friends} having retired and left no
room for us — in true Yankee
spirit we set our wits in operation
and soon contrived a tent that
would do credit even to the Gypsies

Mr Downing went home for a
new set of wheels, and we arrived
safely at home at the close of 2nd
day — it is so dark I can not
see a line,

Olis is getting along finely — has left
his room several times. Charles seems
to be failing in the same way that Adie
I fear he will have a fever. — His very
sickly here. Maria's health is rather
poor, ^{owing} I suppose to close confinement
she left yesterday for Lynn in the hope
rest and change of air might prove
beneficial.

I expect to commence the Winter
term of school at the Highlands next
Monday Sept 5th if my "patients" recover
soon. Mr Ephraim Goodwin
has been sick a long time, six months
I should think, last evening it was thought
he could not live an hour, soon after he

should send letters are so numerous,

revised, and remains nearly the same to day. He will be greatly missed in the business community, but more especially in his family - having lost their Mother quite young they have placed their whole affection upon their Father

It is very cool weather for the season, nearly as cold as Oct^r usually is.

I received a letter from Mrs Stevens a short time since, saying she feared her health would not admit of her visiting us at present as she intended when we last saw her. I am very sorry - we enjoy her visits very much.

My eyes are gently drawing to a close, which warns me that this humble missive ought, so wishing you health and prosperity, I remain your sister

Saura J.

P.S. All wish to be remembered to you - Eddie sends a kiss, and says he wishes you would come home, and bring him a riding horse - he is passionately fond of a horse.

Please excuse mistakes, I dare not look it over, if I did I never should

West Amesbury Nov 15th 39

Dear Friend:

Since I last wrote you, we have passed through trying scenes, scenes which I trust may not soon return.

For the last three months we have been afflicted with sickness. In Aug^r Otis and Charles were taken sick with fever - had scarcely recovered when Eddie caught a severe cold which terminated in fever - he was quite sick for a few days but now he is a fat, rosy-checked sprightly little fellow in the full enjoyment of health - one would hardly believe to see him that he could have been ill.

~~Upon~~ Upon Eddie's recovery Joseph and I were taken down with fever within three days of each other.

Joseph was very sick indeed — was considered dangerously ill for some time; but by skillful nursing and the help of a good constitution — he is so much improved as to walk a mile with but little fatigue.

I have again taken charge of my school and by riding to and from school every day I manage to get along finely.

The people in this place have become greatly interested in the cause of Temperance — a division was instituted in June consisting of seventeen members, which has increased to 130 and additions are being made weekly. I think it is destined to do a great amount of good among the "lovers of strong drink" — those who have long drunk deeply from the intoxicating cup, are seeking refuge in the society of the Brothers and Sisters of Temperance. The ladies edit a paper, which adds much interest to our

exercises. The new Congregational church is progressing finely — will probably be ready for dedication in January. The old church is being fitted up for a Hall, which is very much needed, the Union Hall having been sold and converted into a Trimmer's shop.

This season it has been quite sickly especially among the aged, several of whom have died, among the number Mr Jonathan Sargent, William Hoyt, and John Little. Mr Hoyt left a Will bequeathing the income of the farm to William's wife and disposing of the remainder in such a manner as to leave nothing for W unless he reforms.

It is Joseph's intention to leave for Springfield the first of next week — as Clerk in a Hotel. — he was to have gone in Sept had he not been sick. Please excuse all errors — it is scribbled in and I must run,
Yourself & Laura

Laura

Nov 15, 59

and Jan 29, 60

Laura

Nov 11. 60

West Amesbury Nov 11. 60

Dear Brother E—:

This season thus far has been unusually mild and pleasant especially during the Indian Summer. Has the weather been so fine the breezes so mild and balmy as to tempt those who love to muse upon the 'works of Nature' to roam over the fields and amid the forests made perfectly charming by the varied hues of which Autumn brings

Which of the seasons do you admire most? I know that the season of the "scar and yellow leaf" is emblematic of our life — that in the decay of Nature we are reminded of the shortness of life, yet, it has nothing of sadness to me, and is in my opinion the pleasantest season.

The farmers have been amply repaid for their labors by an abundant harvest. The fruit, particularly apples, has been so plenty as to satisfy their most sanguine expectations, consequently there will be any quantity of cider made. Have you had any sweet cider this year? — Father and Charles have made ten barrels — altho' I am very fond of it I have to deny myself, not being allowed to drink even sweet cider while a member of the 'Order of Temperance'.

Our Temperance meetings still continue interesting, and altho' our 'Band of Brothers' is somewhat smaller than it was last Spring yet I trust it is as strong as then.

Some who have been accustomed to drink deeply from the intoxicating cup have fallen, while others have

proved faithful — among the faithful and true, are Fred Goodwin — Nevell Sargent — Samuel Stevens — Albert Edwards once enemies to the cause. Alden Morse's wife, and Mary Lizzie Sargent are members of the Order — Mary still lives at Geo Goodwin's.

George says he made Mary an excellent offer, it was that she might live in his family as long as she wished, and pay for her board in work, she didn't see fit to accept his proposal, and not agreeing very well with her mother, she left.

I occasionally see George as he passes with his team, and think he hasn't altered much since you were at home. He is as straight as ever steps as short and quick, accumulates property it is thought rapidly, and I dare say prospers finely.

I called at your Father's not long since, found all well, little Florence as lively and fat as ever, she is two years younger than Eddie and weighs two pounds more than he - one weighs 37 the other 39 pounds.

Eddie grows tall very fast - I do not believe you realize what a smart noble-looking ^{boy} you have, or you couldn't stay away from him so long - only think he has been with us three years.

Since I have ^{been} writing, Eddie says "why don't ~~Pappa~~ papa come home? Grandpa Wasse says, he wish he would come."

Eddie is a smart little fellow, but very fond of having his own way - his will is strong, it seems very hard ^{for him} to yield ~~to any~~ when tempted to do wrong.

You will find that he has been considerably indulged since he has been with us, but not spoilt I hope.

I attended a Service given by the Ladies of the Universalist Society a week ago, everything passed off very pleasantly. We were favored by with speeches, declamations by the Sabbath-school children, and music by the W. Amusbury cornet band.

The Antique supper was a pleasing feature and gave general satisfaction.

I also attended a Service at the Rock Church. Letters were read from former Pastors, History of the church, singing by select club from Beaverhill.

Past Office, Fancy Table, Prize Tree, Grab Bag, together with refreshments, and the usual attractions on such occasions.

The proceeds amounted to upwards of 200 dollars, which will be devoted to clearing the society from debt.

The Baptist Society, ^{Pat. River,} have purchased a bell for their church, weighing 1000 lbs.

which would have been hung yesterday
had the weather been fair.

Our little neighborhood has met with
a great change this Fall, three of Mr
Bullington's children have married, Mary
Lydia, and Electa. Martha Nichols
is teaching in Beaverhill and so this
Winter there will be but two girls left
in the place, viz Ruth Nichols and Maria.

I commence my school, the Winter
term, Monday after Thanksgiving at
Bear Hill,

Dec 13 - Father is waiting to take this to
the Office, so please excuse the length
and I remain your affectionate sister
Sara J. Lee

P.S. We are all well, and send regards,
S.

arrived
July 7th 1868



Ephraim W. Morse Esq.,
San Diego,
California.

West-Amesbury June 14/68

Brother Ephraim:

I embrace the present opportunity, to acknowledge the receipt of yours of Apr. 23rd containing a draft of fifty dollars. Please accept our thanks, for your kindness, and be assured, it is fully appreciated by us.

It came just the right time to procure Eddie a suit of summer clothing, which he will soon need.

The weather during the whole Spring has been very unpleasant, we have had scarcely two days of sunshine in succession during the season, chilly uncomfortable rain-storms have prevailed to a great extent, consequently vegetation is very backward. Fruit trees of

nearly all kinds blossomed full, the
prospect now is, an abundance of fruit.
not sure, however, Capt'n Querin of
Shire-tem says, "It would as soon
the trees wouldn't blow as to blow,
we can't tell whether there will be a
crop or not"

Master Edward is engaged, tho' not very
extensively in the farming business.
his farm has planted $\frac{1}{2}$ acre with
pop-corn, ^{Sweet-corn & sorghos} thinks he shall have
a hustling in the Ball, I dare ^{say} he
would like you to make one of the
party. In a few hills of corn, he placed
a spine pumpkin seeds, so that he might
have a jack-o-lantern of his own raising.
Yesterday, being a holiday he set himself
bravely to work to hoe his corn - he
worked four or five hours as steadily
as any farmer would have done.
In the afternoon I walked out into the
field to see how he was prospering &

give him an encouraging word, found
him very happy - he had given him-
self a stent, and had nearly completed
it. - said, the remainder of the piece
he should finish Monday morn before
school. His hand is adjoining a
piece of Charles's - Eddie is determined
his shall look as well as his Uncle's,
and really I think it will, for not a
solitary weed was left on the part
he had finished.

Marie is still prostrated by sickness,
has been confined to her room since
last Sept. - it is sad, very sad to
see her wasting away, and not be able
to give more than temporary relief.

Our Blather's family is well,
Would you believe it, we have not
received a letter from you since
a year ago last May, only think of
it - do you wonder we thought you
had forgotten us. Well, it is nearly

teaching and I must draw this short
& uninteresting scrawl to a close.

There are so many claims upon my
time & attention that I find but
little time to devote to writing.

Please present my regards to Mrs.
E. W. M. Hoping soon to receive
a long letter from you I remain

Ever Your Friend
Laura J. Gray.

E. W. Morse Esq.

Received by
Mrs. E. W. M.
July 7th 1868

Laura J. Gray
June 14/68