

Elide Island Feb 13<sup>th</sup> 1858

Dear Sister

Yours of Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> came to hand the 12<sup>th</sup> of Feb which was verry short for this out of the way place and when this will reach you it is hard to say for it is going on 5 months and we have not had any opportunity of sending any letters to our agents in San Francisco or to any other part I have not heard for seen Capten Isham for the last 8 months he has been to Mexico most of his time he arrived in san Francisco a few weeks ago when he will be down it is hard to say there is 4 ships here a looking one saild the first of this month for New York with 2200 tons of Guano you would suppose that I had written by her but I thought that it would be so long agoind that it would be old to you before it got around cape Horn, and I have been expecting a schooner from the sandwitch Islands to go back to san Francisco for some time but it dur not come I have been put back in the work on the Island on account of bad weather and heavy seas heaving in which waster down some of the howies where the men lived and the Rain has put us back that we

have not been able to do much on the Island  
~~except~~; I hope that you will continue  
to get my wages and be shure to tell Brother  
Lonswick to write back to them that he  
has received it and then they may be more  
punctual in sending it, as it is verry uncertain  
whether Capt. Stone will all ways hold the  
Island as I see by the papers that they are  
like to have a new president in Mexico which  
may put some one else in posession of the  
Island and I shall have to go with out my pay  
and if you get some of it it will be some  
satisfaction to me that I have not lost all  
of it, so you must keep me posted as to  
whether you receive it or not and then that  
you have received it, it will be my luck to  
be dun out of some of it; and I think some  
times that I will send a few hundred  
tons to new York to secure me and then  
it may be shipped to London and not Discharged  
in New York, so you see that I have some  
risk to run vis well as others, but it is hard  
to be dun out of wages earned on a barren  
Island but so it is and I shall do the best  
I can for my employes I have latterly got  
communication with the inhabtance on shore  
and shall be able to send up letters if I can  
git one to go to San Diego which is the  
nearest port to communicate wit San Francisco

it is going on 5 months and I have not had an  
opportunity to send a letter to any one and some  
time will transpire before I shall git a chance to  
by the looks of things they send me down ships  
to load and water and provisions by them but  
not any chance to send any word back to them  
which makes it verry bad for me as I am in  
want of money things that they do not send  
me and send things that I do not want which  
puts them to more expence than is any need  
of so they labour under money disad vantages  
in not having a small Schooner to run  
to the Island all the time that I could  
send up to San Diego and then they could  
be sent by the steamer, I have got most  
tired of this kind of life all though I enjoy  
my health verry well but it is a hard place  
no water and no inhabtance short of 72 miles  
and the most of them Indians all though verry  
kind in bringing us down reason verry now  
and then the part of this lower California  
is but verry little known about and I believe  
it abounds in Mineral wealth but water  
is verry rare to be found and from the  
sea coast a few miles in land it seldom  
ever rains all though they have abundance  
of figs dates and Grapes, and alow some  
cattel and horses, I have not been inland  
verry far but when we get the ships

off and a little spare time I shall take  
a trip to some of the old moshons which  
have been abandoned since 1824 by the  
pests and they occupy by a few Indians  
at the present time, but I think that  
they are not much account or they would  
have been occupied before now; March 21<sup>st</sup>

I have been expecting a schooner down from  
San Francisco this some time and she  
has at last come so I must dis pack her  
back as soon as I can with the Bill of  
Lading of the ships that has left for  
New York if they do not have orders to  
go to some other port with the bad weather  
here this winter I have been unable to  
do much have got off only \$800 Gov  
and 3 ships now loading when I shall get  
my pay it is hard to say but I have  
made arrangements with Fordham  
Finimoye & Co. to draw my 1/2 half pay  
and send it to you Captain Osborn has  
gone on to New York I hope he will come  
down to Sag Harbor, if he does you must  
see him if he does but he will be full  
of business when he is in the East he  
is towards getting married as I under-  
stand, ~~he~~ when he left was to send  
to Brother L. 50% of worth of my  
wages on half to you and the other to  
Sister Francis, and that is the last

I have heard a boat that is now going  
on 12 months or will be the 11<sup>th</sup> of May  
and that will a point to some thing more  
than what I have ever been able to do for  
you since I have been from home if you  
have not got it it is not my fault but I will  
write to Fordham & Jennings & Co and see to  
it for me and have them draw it and send  
it to you as I do not know of any one else  
that will be more like to do the thing  
that is writ by me so you must  
if you should ever get any from them pursue  
it and they will endeavor to get it of the  
agents of the Island at San Francisco  
Send your letter for me to them and  
I shall get them as they show when and  
where to go to have them sent down to me  
Bruce Fordham has been home and got married  
and I suppose that Edwards is on the same  
as I see by the papers he has with crown  
from the farm, I do not hear from any  
one in France only by the paper it is now  
5 months since I have had an opportunity to  
send a letter from the Island to San Francisco  
or any where else excepting to New York by  
the way of Cape Horn and then they may  
be ordered to some part of Europe and then

you would never get them I shall send  
for some things at soon Francisco for  
I have been hard up for clothing this winter  
but by patching I have been very coin fort  
Most of the time, You must write to Bruce  
Fordham every time that you receive any  
money and how often and how much you  
have received before, and he will keep me  
in how much they are in my debt and  
then I shall not lose much by them but  
I am not much in a hurry to get as their  
is plenty of Quano left on the Island and  
will take some time to get it off at the  
rate they work it we have had a very bad  
winter here I am very glad that it has not  
been so hard with you as winters past  
You must say to Francis to write me and  
hanner to do the same if Brother Podowik  
is in want of any money let me know  
and I will send him some My love to  
Sister Charlott & Evan and all the children  
which I call the Young Ladies & Young Men  
by this time but I am in hopes to see  
Some of the before many years,

I must say good night

god bless you Dear Sisters

Your affectionat Brother  
Richard Dering