

Answered

Master E. W. Morse

West Amherstbury

Mass

San Diego July 16<sup>th</sup> 1869

My Dear Edward

I received your letter and was very much pleased indeed to find that you could write so well.

It is not only well written but well composed also, I was proud of it.

I hope you will continue to write, and tell me all about your school and your farming, and about your Uncles and Aunts and Grandpa More and Grandpa Gray & Grand~~pa~~ma (you see I made a mistake and was going to write Grandpa again) and all the folks.

Who live neighbors to you?  
how many houses between  
your Grandpa's house and  
the corner, how many houses  
on Bear Hill.

You say Grandfather  
more wanted you to write  
for me to come home,

I expect we will have  
a rail road built from  
San Diego to the Mississippi  
River soon, we expect  
they will commence it  
this year, and if they do  
I shall go home next  
year.

A good many houses  
have been built in San  
Diego within a few months  
at a place called New San  
Diego about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from  
Old San Diego.

I moved to New San Diego

from the former place about  
one month ago.

There are about 250 houses  
here now, while last year  
at this time there were  
not over ten.

It is a beautiful place for  
a city. The land slopes  
gradually from a mile back  
to the shores of a beautiful  
bay. But there is one great  
want, there are no shade  
trees like New England  
towns. Trees however will  
grow here finely, and large  
quantities are being set  
out this year, so that in  
a few years I think this  
will be one of the most  
delightful places in the  
world. It has a  
charming climate, more  
like your September weather

than any other month, never hot & never cold. Tomatoes grow the whole year here and I am wearing to day the same woolen clothing that I wore last February, it is warmer of course but not so much warmer as one would expect.

Our warmest months are August and September.

You would be amused to see our Indians here, they wear only a long woolen shirt with a cloth tied around their loins, and legs bare, they would make people stare if they should walk up and down your streets.

The Indians used to set the grass on fire, in the summer and would burn over thousands of acres of land and in that way prevented trees from growing.

It gets very dry here during the summer, as no rain falls from April to November, so that

1850  
a careless spark may start a fire that will extend over miles of country. Last year we had a fire that burnt over a tract thirty miles in length, and in some places 30 miles in width and in others only 3 or 4 miles.

The roaring could be heard several miles distant where it was burning the brush.

A large portion of the country back of us is covered with "Chemisab" a mexican word for brush, and though it looks green yet will burn easily.

Thousands of cords of wood were burnt up and wood is worth here

fourteen dollars a cord.

There are no Pine trees very near here, they are about 40 miles distant I like to go out there and ride through them, it reminds me of home.

Did you ever see a Rattlesnake? I killed one here a short time ago. They are not very plenty nor very dangerous. They always give warning by rattling their tail, and are a very slow and sluggish snake, but when they do bite it is very poisonous. I have known several Indians who were bitten to die from the effects of the poison. White men very seldom die from the bite unless they are where they can not

receive the proper attention.

I want you to write me again soon and I promise you I will not be so long in answering, but I have been very busy from moving to a new place and the Express business has increased so much that I really had no time. I kept putting it off from day to day till I could get a little leisure and the first I knew it was the 16<sup>th</sup> of July.

Give my love to all your friends.

I have written you a long letter so I shall expect one from you soon.

Good bye

from your affectionate father  
your mother sends her }  
love to you & hopes to see } E. W. Morse  
you next year }

I send a draft for \$50<sup>00</sup>  
to your aunt Laura.

San Diego Sept 23/69

My Dear Son

Your very pleasant little letter of Aug 10<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand - I hope you will continue to write often. I suppose you find it pretty slow work to write now, but the more you write the easier it will be, and it will soon become just about as easy as talking.

I have subscribed for you to the San Diego Bulletin and it will be sent to you regularly



so you can see what  
is doing out here, in  
this far away corner of  
"Uncle Sam's dominions"

I sent to Aunt Laura  
a draft for \$50<sup>-</sup> in my  
last letter - I suppose she  
received it.

I enclose one in this  
letter for \$100<sup>-</sup> please  
acknowledge it when you  
write.

Mr Ephraim  
Huntington was a very  
good friend of mine and  
I should like to hear from  
him very much.

So you often see  
Mr Daniel Weed here a  
cousin to me and an old  
friend, when you see  
him tell him that I

send him my best regards  
and wish he would  
write to me.

Your mother here was  
much pleased that you  
ask her to write you  
a letter and she says  
she will do so soon.

You must tell me if  
the newspapers come to  
you regularly, they will  
tell you all about our  
prospects for a Rail Road  
to San Diego.

Gov. W. H. Seward "the  
greatest living statesman"  
was here a few days ago  
as you will see in the  
papers, also a very good  
friend of mine, Gen<sup>l</sup> Rosecrans.  
Mr Seward came here to see the  
Country but, Gen<sup>l</sup> Rosecrans,

Gen<sup>l</sup> Sedgewick & Gen<sup>l</sup> Hunter came here on business of the Rail Road.

The contract between the San Diego Co. and the Memphis & El Paso Co I suppose will be closed to night and then work will commence in earnest. I am Vice President of the San Diego Co.

We think the road will be finished in less than 3 years and perhaps in two, if Government grants assistance as we expect it will this winter.

If I don't get away sooner I shall certainly go home then - on the first train -

I want you to write to me often. Give my regards to all the folks. your mother sends her love to you.

"Adios" as the Californians say  
that is "good bye"  
From your affectionate father  
E. V. Morse

San Diego Dec 19<sup>th</sup>

Edward

My Dear Son

This is a business letter and therefore I make it short.

I enclose for your aunt Laura a draft for one hundred dollars to pay for your board clothes &c.

Please write and let me know when you receive it, and also if the draft I sent Sept. 23<sup>d</sup> arrived all right.

You will receive this about New Year's day and I wish you a Happy

New Year" and please  
give all the folks a  
Happy New Year from  
me.

I suppose you have  
snow and sleighing there,  
while here, the green grass  
& flowers are springing  
up all about us.

On last Monday several  
of us went out to a  
Pic Nic some ten miles  
from town and the sun  
was so warm we had  
to get under the shade  
of some large rocks to  
eat our lunch.

Do you get the San  
Diego Bulletin regularly?

Did you get your  
mothers letter the other  
day? I hope you will  
answer it.

I shall expect a letter  
from you in a few days  
and will write you a  
longer one then.

Good bye from  
Your Affectionate father  
E. W. Morse

W. Amesbury Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>/70

Dear Father.

I have not received a letter from you since Jan. I am detained from church with a lame foot so I am spending part of the time in writing to you.

Within six months we have had three fires, two of them have been at <sup>the</sup> corner, and one of them was Charles Sawyer's shop at the landing, there was considerable property destroyed.

There have been only four fires for twenty years before.

The fires awakened the people and they organized a large engine company of 75 members.

We are having a

severe drought. Two or three  
reservoirs have been made for  
use in time of fires.

Uncle Charles  
has got a little colt, I think he  
is the most cunning little thing  
that I ever saw.

All the folks  
think he is the prettest colt they  
ever saw for one only five  
weeks old.

All the boys here my age, and  
some younger, go gunning; I should  
like to go very much, Grandpa  
is not willing untill you give  
your consent. Please tell me in your  
next letter.

Please excuse all mistakes  
From your affectionate son  
E. W. Morse.

~~Answer~~ 1

E W Morse

West Amesbury

Mass

Answered

San Diego Cal<sup>a</sup> May 23/71

My Dear Son

I have been a long time answering your letter, and for the reason that I was expecting almost every week to start for home, but that time apparently is as far off as ever. I have several Estates in the Probate Court, as well as several other cases in the Courts that I wish settled before I leave here, or else I could make but a very short stop at home. However I am determined to start at all events this summer or fall, if it is any way possible. I did not answer your question about the Gun because I expected to see you and if on talking over the matter we should both think it was best, then I would get you a good one. I think you had better wait till I come on, though I am willing to leave



it to Grandpa Gray, and if he thinks it is best, before I come on, you can write to me and tell me so, and I will send you the money.

When I come on, we will look over my old chest of things and see what there is for I have forgotten most of them.

Your letters show that you are improving in writing and in composition, which proves that you do not go to school for nothing as do some children. That is, some children seem to go to school to play, rather than to learn knowledge from books.

I was very much pleased with your last letter, the spelling was good and the writing was good, half the letters I receive (and I do not receive less than half a dozen a week) are not so well written, but still there is room for improvement and you should not be contented to rest till you are nearer perfection. Now is your time to study and improve yourself in knowledge, for after you go into business, such opportunities as you now enjoy will be

gone forever, you will then have no time to spare to learn to write well, to spell well, to calculate well &c, at least very few learn these things after they grow up and go into business. I know that I could write very much better if I would try and write slowly and carefully, but I do not feel that I have the time to spare, for I often have to write three or four letters a day.

We had very little rain here during the last winter, and by this time the country looks very dry and dusty, and no more rain expected till next November.

I have the finest flower garden in San Diego even if it is a dry country. We have in bloom the whole year round, Roses, Petunias, Heliotrope, Geraniums, Honeysuckle,

Stock or July flower, Passion flower,  
Calla Lillies, Snap Dragon, Candy Tuft,  
Sweet Alyssum, Acacia &c, and now  
we have just coming on Dahlias,  
Gladiolus & Lillies. We have also Grape  
vines and Fig trees that will bear this  
year, also ornamental trees, the  
Eucalyptus that has grown to a height of  
18 feet from seed that was planted  
only two years ago next July.  
We have also orange, Lemon and Lime trees  
Mulberry, Pomegranate, and Castus, and  
the Umbrella tree of Japan. So you see  
we have quite a variety although our  
garden is only about 100 feet square.

We have a Windmill which pumps the  
water from a well 53 feet deep, into a tank  
24 feet high, that affords all the water  
we need, so that we can make things  
grow even if it don't rain.

Did you get the letter  
mother wrote you about a month  
ago - in march I believe it was,?

I think you may confidently

look for us sometime this summer  
or in the autumn. You may tell  
grandfather Morse so, too if you  
please.

I enclose one hundred dollars  
in Post Office orders to your Aunt  
Laura to pay for your board, clothes  
&c and \$5.00 for you to spend in  
any way you wish.

And now, good night, do not  
forget to answer this, give my love  
to all the folks, and hoping to  
see you before many months  
I bid you good bye

Your father  
E. W. Morse

P.S.

There is one Post Office Order on the Haverhill  
Post Office for \$50<sup>00</sup> and a certificate of Deposite  
on New York which Laura can get cashed at any Bank.

West Amesbury June 10<sup>th</sup> 1871

My Dear Father.

I received your letter on Wednesday June 7<sup>th</sup> containing two Post Office orders of fifty dollars each and five dollars for myself. <sup>for which I thank you very much</sup> I was very glad to receive a letter from you stating that you were coming home this summer, I hope that you will come in season to go to the beach with us. I have decided not to go gunning until you come home, it would be much pleasanter to go gunning in the Autumn when the trees are in their prettiest foliage than in this warm weather. We are having a very dry time and unless we have ~~rain~~ <sup>rain</sup> soon there will be very little grass cut. Some friend has sent me a magazine since last June, name Our Young Folks whoever it is I <sup>am</sup> very thankful for it, there is one story that I like very much the title is Jack Hazard and his fort.

unes it is continued from Jan. <sup>to</sup> Dec.

Sunday: To day we are having very beautiful showers and if they continue I think that the crops would be very good.

I received my mother's letter, but neglected to answer it but will do <sup>so</sup> soon

We all send love,  
Hoping to see you before long I remain  
Your affectionate son,  
E. W. Morse.

E. W. Morse  
Jan 1871

San Diego June 27<sup>th</sup> 1891

My Dear Son

Your letter of 10<sup>th</sup> inst reached here in due time and I was very much pleased to receive such an interesting one, and I want you to write often.

It will be a good exercise for you and help you very much towards writing compositions in school.

Anything that you write about will be interesting to me, no matter how trivial it may appear to you. I would like to have you give me the "history of a day" take some day and commence by stating what time you got up in the morning, your different occupations during the day, the different people you met with, and who were at meals with you,

what were the topics of conversation,  
and what you thought of matters  
generally.

I am glad you like "Our  
Young Folks" I had seen it here  
and wrote to the Publishers to send  
it to you - I will write to day and  
have them continue it for another  
year.

I had hoped to have seen  
you all by this time, but it was  
impossible for me to leave my  
business here yet, however I hope  
to be able to start within a month  
or six weeks, though you had better  
not look for me before September.

I want you to write often, don't  
wait till you have a long letter  
to write me, but write often even  
if they are short ones, though the  
longer the better.

I remain

your aff<sup>d</sup> Father  
E. W. Morse



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

*Ans*

*E. W. Morse  
Care of William Gray Esq  
West Amherst  
Mass.*



Bank of San Diego

San Diego, Cal., Jan'y 10<sup>th</sup> 1872

My Dear Edward.

I send you this letter by Wells Fargo & Co's Express, as it is much safer than the mail at this season of the year, in California. Several mails have been lost in crossing the streams between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The quicksand in the rivers makes it very dangerous to cross them, when they are three feet or more deep, and there are some very singular features connected with them. The quicksand seems to lie in patches, or rather perhaps will be solid and firm in one place and soft and treacherous at the next step, and your horse may be travelling along finely with the water only up to his

bees perhaps, when suddenly without warning down he goes all over and finding no bottom whatever, and in a current running like a mill race; - for all these streams have a rapid current; - and you are fortunate if the place is narrow so that the horse can swim or flounder to a harder patch, and so on till you get across, from one hundred to five hundred yards.

The stage drivers call these soft places, spots where the "bottom has dropped out." You can imagine that is not very pleasant for either driver or passenger over such a route.

The stage is sometimes capsized and the passengers drowned - such an accident happened last week in crossing the Salinas river in Monterey County, when one passenger was drowned and all the mails lost. At other times when the

water is not so deep, the horse will flounder through, but the stage sinking in the hole where the bottom had dropped out is so firmly held there by the quicksand that the horses are unable to pull it out. I have been caught in this way some five or six times but I always managed to get ashore without getting wet, sometimes on the back of a man and at other times on the back of a horse. A band of horses or cattle driven across once or twice will usually settle the sand so that a carriage can be driven across safely, and after a storm or sudden rise in the river this precaution is usually taken on some of the worst rivers.

We have had considerable more rain than we had all last year and the grass is growing finely over the whole country. We have lettuce and Peas & cabbage &c just coming up

and yesterday we ate some ripe strawberries  
picked in our own garden. Our patch of  
Beets that we told you of, has kept right  
on growing and raising themselves out  
of the ground till a great many of them  
stand two feet high above the ground  
before reaching <sup>the leaves</sup>  
and some of largest measure twenty four inches  
in circumference.

Have you had plenty of snow and  
ice this year and plenty of skating?  
Although I saw but little cold weather  
when we were east, yet I saw enough  
to make me like this climate better than  
ever. When we arrived at Omaha, the  
thermometer was eight degrees below zero,  
and as we walked two or three hundred  
yards to the ferry boat, coats and boots  
seemed no protection at all to the cold  
which struck through them as though they  
were thin paper.

We have petitioned to have our mail  
sent by steamer from San Francisco every six  
days and I think it will be done hereafter.  
Your Mother sends her love to you and  
remember us to all.

Yours affectionately

P.S. Do you get your paper? E. W. Morse

PAID  
Wells, Fargo & Co.  
OVER OUR CALIFORNIA AND COAST ROUTES.

Edward W. Morse

West Amesbury  
Mass.

*Ans.*



The Leading American Fire Insurance Companies.

COMBINED CASH ASSETS, \$6,316,930.00.

INCOME, 1870, \$3,818,455.82.

Agency at San Diego June 16<sup>th</sup> 1872

Dear Edward

I hoped it would have been convenient for us to go home again this summer, but I fear it is now almost certain that we cannot. Our future movements depend almost wholly on the Railroad, and there have been so many delays and disappointments in the commencement of works here that I hardly dare express an opinion on the matter. All indications however

point to an early beginning of works. Mr Howard Cashier of our Bank received a letter yesterday from the President of the Road Thomas A. Scott who stated that he would be here in July with his Chief Engineer to make arrangements for works. I am anxiously looking forward to that time for all my available funds are locked up in Real Estate, and I can't come East till I get some of them loose. The first shovel full of dirt thrown by the workmen will unlock the door, but I fear it will be too late to go on this summer.

Ever since I have been back from my trip last year, it has been very dull here, very

little business, no sales of real Estate, and people who owed me were unable to pay me and I felt that at such a time if I sued them, it would ruin them, while by waiting till work commenced on the road, "I would be doing as I would be done by" and make friends instead of enemies.

I wished to have sent you and your Grandfather Gray some money long before this but I have found it inconvenient to do so, but you may expect some shortly. I enclose for you a ten dollar bill.

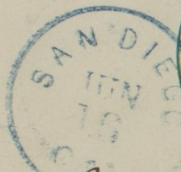
I have written you quite a business letter, because I think you are getting old enough now to understand business.

I want you to write oftener, so that you may become a first rate writer. Write slow and careful, and after you have formed the habit of writing well, then you will soon learn to write fast. A business man must write fast, and unless he first learned to write well, he will always be a poor writer.

Your Mother sends love to all. We intend going out next week to the mines - it is very pleasant in the mountains now, though very much warmer than here. Do you get the Bulletin regularly? If you want your magazine again you must send some of this money for it. Say to your Aunt Laura that if she wants any money urgently, I will send it.

Your affectionate Mother  
E. W. Morse

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



Edward W. Morse  
Care W<sup>m</sup> Gray Esq  
West Amherstbury  
Mass

*Ans.*



**BANK OF SAN DIEGO**

San Diego, July 28<sup>th</sup> 1872

Dear Edward

I received your letter two days ago and I take the first leisure moment to answer it, though as the mail closes in about ten minutes, my letter must be a short one.

I should like very much to have gone with [redacted] "blueberrying". We have no berries of any kind near San Diego, and but very few even in the mountains. When we were out there this summer we found a few strawberries.

You will see an account of

our trip to the mountains  
in the "Bulletin" of July 20<sup>th</sup>  
written by your mother.  
Philip Neal takes the Bulletin  
and I wish you would tell the  
girls that their Aunt Mary  
wrote the article - it will make  
the description seem more  
interesting to them if they  
know it is describing our  
trip.

You did not say whether  
you were seasick or not on  
your trip down river in the  
Barge.

Mr Scott the great  
= good man has not yet  
here and times are still quite  
dull, but we expect it will be  
busy enough next month or  
in September.

The weather here is cool & pleasant  
I wear thick clothes all the time, but  
I suppose you are dressed as thin as  
possible.

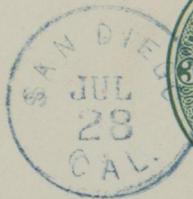
Good bye  
from your father E. W. Morse

*E. W. Morse*

Return to BANK OF SAN DIEGO,

SAN DIEGO, Cal.,

if not delivered within 10 days.



*Edward W. Morse*  
*Care William Gray Esq*  
*West Amesbury*  
*Essex County*  
*Mass.*

*adm.*

1  
I send \$20<sup>00</sup> instead of \$10<sup>00</sup>

San Diego Dec 16/72  
Dear Edward

It has been a long time since I have heard from you by letter and I am afraid you have been waiting for me, but if you knew how busy I have been you would think I had a good excuse.

The settlement of our Railroad matter with Col. Scott and also with the City Trustees has occupied most of my time for the last four months.

As a Director and Vice President of the San Diego & Gila R.R. Co

a great deal of work devolved on me. Our interests clashed with the City Trustees and during the controversy the excitement ran very high even to threatening violence by the roughs among the citizens, against our company.

However the whole matter has now been settled and the people generally are satisfied we were in the right and give us praise for protecting the interests of the City as well as our own.

I now expect to be quite busy for a few months in looking after my own business, neglected

for so long a time.

I enclose a draft for \$150<sup>00</sup> for Laura and a ten dollar bill for you, to buy a new year's present, as I suppose this will reach you about New Year's time.

I felt very sorry that I could not have gone on this year again before father died. If it had not been for the great fight we have had over Railroad matters I could have gone, but I dared not leave as my whole fortune depended upon the decision of these matters. When I was East I thought everything would be settled in a few months, but it is

4

scarcely settled yet, that is  
work with the Pick & shovel  
has not begun on the Texas  
& Pacific road yet, but we  
expect it will commence  
in about 6 or 8 weeks.

We shall I think come on  
this summer - I should  
say we positively shall, but  
I have been disappointed so  
many times that I feel  
like speaking very cautiously.  
It will seem so sad when I  
come not to see father there.

Mother joins with me  
in love to you and all.

Do not forget to write.

Your aff<sup>t</sup> father

E. W. Morse

Bank of San Diego,

San Diego, Cal., Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 1872

Dear Edwards

"Wish you a merry Christmas"  
I have this morning received a Christmas gift from you in the shape of a letter dated December 10<sup>th</sup> and a very pleasant and welcome gift it is. Hope I shall have another on New Years day.

You speak of cold weather in your letter and I can imagine you shivering to day over the stove, and the ground outside covered with snow and frozen hard, while here am I writing in my office with windows up and doors open, comfortable and pleasant. A couple days ago about half an inch of rain fell, wetting the ground down about 3 inches (all below that is now and has been for 6 or 8 months as dry as the driest ashes) and in 3 or 4 days I presume the ground will be covered with green. The rains here all come from the south and are therefore quite warm causing vegetation to grow rapidly. It must however rain again very soon or the new vegetation will dry up and die. This is a very dry country (I mean the whole southern part of California on or near the Coast)

and will never be a profitable agricultural country without artificial means for obtaining a supply of water by means of Artesian wells, Aqueducts to bring water from the mountains, Wind Mills &c.

The Whalers are at work again catching whales. Their season is from December to March - the first two months they <sup>whale</sup> pass down the coast and have their young ones (calves, the sailors call them) where the water and weather is always warm, and during the last two months they are passing up towards the north where they remain during the balance of the year, in the neighborhood of the Arctic ocean.

The horse distemper has not yet reached California, and we don't think it will, though I have heard it had reached Colorado Territory.

I am glad you propose to be vaccinated, and hope you have gone to a reliable Physician, that the vaccine Lymph may be good & pure.

On the sixteenth I enclosed in a letter to you for Laura a check for \$150<sup>00</sup> - also a twenty dollar green - back for you as a Christmas or New years present.

I will send you soon some stereoscopic views of the Big Trees, Go Semite (pronounced go-sem-i-ty, accented on sem.) and mining scenes.

You may tell Mrs. Ploury Weed our Cousin, that I have not forgotten my promise to send or bring her some California views.

Mother joins me in love to all.

Your aff<sup>ly</sup> father

E. W. Morse

P.S. I enclose second of exchange for \$150<sup>00</sup> - forwarded on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>

E. W. Morse



Return to W. Morse  
Cal<sup>a</sup> if not delivered in 10 days.



Edward W. Morse  
West Amesbury  
Mass.

Am.

BANK OF SAN DIEGO.

Exchange for

\$150<sup>00</sup> / 100 by



SAN DIEGO, CAL.

December 18 1875

At sight of this Second of Exchange (first of same tenor and date unpaid) pay to the order of

~~E. N. Morse Esq~~

~~One Hundred & Fifty Dollars currency~~

Value received which charge to account \_\_\_\_\_ as advised

To Henry Brewster

No 32 Wall St

No 196 New York



Ryan Howard  
Cashier

Pay to the order of  
Laura J. Gray  
E. W. Morse

# Bank of San Diego,

San Diego, Cal., May 9<sup>th</sup> 1873

Dear Edward

I had hoped to have been at home by this time but it seems almost impossible to get away from here the most unexpected obstacles turn up to prevent my leaving. I have been expecting to receive from the City of San Diego and the Gila Railroad Co nearly twenty thousand dollars in bonds of the city, which I wish to bring on with me to negotiate in New York. I am likely also to ~~lose~~ about \$1000 of it unless I am here to claim it in person. I am also summoned as a witness in a very important case in the District Court. I hope however I shall be able to start in the course of ten days or so.

We have nearly concluded to go via Panama, but business may yet compel us to go overland & by way of Washington.

I send Laura a draft for \$1500 for your board clothing &c

Of course you see by the papers all that is going on here I suppose - that work on our railroad has actually commenced, though not very brisk yet, but all the people feel more hopeful than

they did awhile ago.

Considerable building is going on and other permanent improvements have been started, which makes it look quite busy about town.

Our garden looks well, the trees and plants make quite a show in town, about a month ago we had a kind of a Picnic dinner under the trees in the garden, warm and pleasant, while the snow was over two feet deep with you.

Tell Mrs Sawyer I received those grape cuttings in good order, have set them out and I think they will all grow. If they had sense how astonished they must have been to see their brethren here in full leaf and blossom when they arrived.

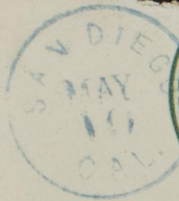
I have been in court for the past three or four days & when it will end I don't know but we have our trunks partly packed and shall start as soon as business and the courts will let me.

Earnestly wishing it may not be long

I remain

your affectionate son  
E. W. Morse

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



Edward W. Morse  
West Amesbury  
Mass.

*Ans. Mrs.  
Ans.  
Ans.  
Ans.*

San Diego Feby 3<sup>d</sup> 1874

My Dear Son

I received in due season your letter of Dec 27<sup>th</sup> but have been so very busy since my return here that I really have found no time to answer it.

It seems strange when I think of it, that with you the ground is hard frozen and covered with its white coating of snow, while I look out of my window on green fields of grass, in some places a foot high, and in the gardens ripe tomatoes an occasional strawberry, with geraniums, heliotropes, verbenas, roses, honeysuckles, gladiolus, lillies and hundreds of other flowers in full bloom. There is one little apple tree in our garden not taller than my head, which has a little apple just ripe still hanging

on the tree.

I was sorry to hear that Mr J. B. Sargent had become more insane, instead of recovering, it must be quite a loss to the business community, to lose him from its ranks.

I was also very much surprised and grieved to learn of the death of my cousin Jacob E. Morse of East Kingston who when I left there was apparently in fine health. He will be missed by the community very much as he was very much liked and was engaged quite extensively in business.

How does your school get along this winter? I want you to try to do as much studying and get along as rapidly as you can for this of course will be your last winter at that school and the better you improve your opportunities here, the easier it will be for you at college; for I suppose you have concluded to go to college havint you?



How is the old horse getting on?  
Do you take any sleigh rides?  
Did you get a sleigh?  
Your mother is now I suppose at  
our old home and I expect she  
would be pleased to take a ride  
occasionally with the old horse, having  
you for a driver. And some day  
I want you to go to Haverhill and  
have some photographs taken. I want  
your mother also to have some taken  
and I think it would be a good  
plan for you both to go up at the  
same time.

How do the oil nuts hold  
out. I forgot to eat those the  
girls at Mrs Sawyers picked out for  
me, till I reached San Diego but I  
find them very nice here.

How soon in the spring will it be  
good weather enough for me to get there.

I remain

Yours affly  
E. W. Morse

United States  
POSTAL CARD

WRITE THE ADDRESS ONLY ON THIS SIDE-THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

To Edw & W. Morse

West Amesbury

Mass.



Chicago Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 1874

On the Cars.

We are getting along nicely. Have had a pleasant trip so far.

In some places sleighs were out, the snow being deep enough for pretty good sleighing, but in other places no snow was to be seen. We left Providence Tuesday night and New York Wednesday night, stopping only one day in New York City.

We have not changed cars since leaving New York.

E. W. M.

United States  
POSTAL CARD



WRITE THE ADDRESS ONLY ON THIS SIDE-THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

To Edw<sup>d</sup> W. Morse  
West Amesbury  
Mass

Grand Island, Neb.

Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 1874

Here we are away  
out on the "plains"

We crossed the  
Missouri River this  
morning about  
eleven o'clock  
and are now  
going up the Platte  
river. Our trip  
has been a pleasant  
one so far. There is  
no snow this side  
the Missouri river.

E. W. M.

United States  
POSTAL CARD



WRITE THE ADDRESS ONLY ON THIS SIDE-THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

To Edw<sup>d</sup> W. Morse  
West Amisbury  
Mass.

San Francisco Cal  
Dec 2<sup>d</sup> 1874

We arrived here  
this evening having  
had a very pleasant  
trip. We were just  
seven days and  
one hour from New  
York, met with  
no delays and no  
change of cars out-  
-side of the depots.  
Our first car took  
us through to Chicago  
without change via  
Niagara Falls & Detroit.  
We leave for S. D. on the  
4<sup>th</sup>. Yours E. W. M.

United States  
POSTAL CARD



WRITE THE ADDRESS ONLY ON THIS SIDE - THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

To Edward W. Morse

West Amesbury

Mass.



San Diego Cal Dec 8/74

We arrived here yesterday morning. Had a pleasant trip on land & sea.

Two days after we passed Chicago they had two feet of snow. The weather is delightful here, butterflies & hummingbirds in the air and roses, pinks, heliotropes & geraniums in blossom in our garden, while the doors & windows of our house are wide open.

You perhaps are enjoying a sleigh ride today, but I prefer a walk under our sunny skies even if the roads are a little dusty.

Yours truly  
E. W. M.

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



Edward W. Morse  
West Amesbury  
Mass.

West Amesbury Jan. 27/73

Dear Father:

I had hoped  
er this, to have received a letter  
from you, but I have looked  
on vain. I have not heard  
from you since you reached  
home, with the exception of  
the Postal card, that was  
written, the day that you got  
there, and I sometimes wonder,  
if I have got a father, in  
San Diego, I suppose it is  
a fact, if it is so, I should  
like to hear from him.

Did you not receive a letter  
from me? I sent one, that I  
thought would reach you near

Christmas. We had no sleighing until the first of January.

The month of Dec. was very pleasant weather, we had a few snow-storms, but it generally rained before it was clear, and left it bare in some places, and icy in others, so that I had the horse shod twice in two weeks. About the first of the month there was a small snow-storm, just enough to make good sleighing, and in a few days we had another, and now we have got 13 inches of snow, and the prospect is we shall have some more in a day or two without it should moderate. I should think the mercury would stand at about Zero to day, one morning last week it was twenty below at the corner.

Grandma has been sick this Winter, with very much the same troubles she had last year, but she is more comfortable now, and sits up some more than half the day.

Did you remember Samuel Thomson that used to live on the place, where John S. Whittier was born, he has recently died, and it is said he was worth about one hundred thousand. There is a woman living at Birch-Meadow that he used to go with, and I believe he died at her house, to her he gave \$40,000, to one of his sons \$20,000, and to the rest five dollars apiece (quite a fortune). The son that received the most, knew which side his bread was buttered on, for I believe he sided with

Colerain

Jan 29/75

the old man, in giving a part of his property to this woman, and this, I suppose is the reason why he got so much more than the others. Christmas day I spent at the farm, Carrie, Fred and Crin, were down, we had a splendid turkey dinner, as you know Aunt Sawyer is capable of doing, in the afternoon we played games, and I had a very pleasant time. Mr Moses Sawyer, Uncle Leonard's brother, was arrested last week for murder. I suppose he has his trial today, it seems there was only two men on the place, at the time, Sawyer and the man that owned the farm; it was a lady that was murdered, and her husband says he was at

the barn, and hearing the sound of a gun, he went to the house, and found his wife, sitting before the fire, sewing, where he had left her a few moments before, the paper stated that when he found her, she ~~was~~ had her hand raised, as if about to take a stick, but her head had been shot off, when the neighbors got there Sawyer was out cutting wood, and I think that her husband knew as much of the incident as Sawyer did.

Mr Fortin has got a wagon he would like to sell me, it is one he made for a friend of his, that since has been taken sick, and does not need it, it is a very good wagon it has two seats, I should think it would be very good for a farmer. The price which he was to receive was one hundred and fifty, but by

calling his work cheaper, it can be  
got for some less. Some, think  
that the old horse will have a colt  
if she does you will have to get another  
horse to use. If I should not go to  
school in the Spring I could take  
care of another till you come on.

Hoping soon to hear from  
you I remain as ever  
Your loving son,  
Edward.

Return to E. W. MORSE,  
SAN DIEGO, California,  
If not delivered within 5 days.



Edward W. Morse  
Merrissac  
Mass.



MASS  
1853  
JAN 10  
MASS

Alfime, San Diego Co, Cal<sup>a</sup>  
Feb 18, 1875

Dear Edward

Your letter of Dec  
came duly to hand. I have been  
sick since then and havrit felt  
like writing. I am getting pretty  
well again now. The weather  
with only occasionally an exception  
is delightful - the thermometer  
about 75° during the day, but about  
an hour before sunrise it usually  
falls to 40 or 45. Sometimes we  
see a little frost, especially in low  
places, when the thermometer falls lower.

We have Tomatoes vines still looking  
fresh and green, but of course not making  
any new tomatoes. One in our hill  
we have, what we call a "norther" or  
Desert wind, it blows directly from the East  
it is fierce and cold and makes things  
rattle generally, it is almost a hurricane.  
We have had only one day and one night  
with full force for 6 or 8 months.

We had about a weeks steady rain in January, which flooded all the little creeks and streams and made some of those that were dry in summer, impassable for several days. A little dry creek between our house and barn, raised so that for 3 or 4 days, it was 10 to 20 feet wide and 2 to 6 feet deep. One night it washed away our plank crossing, and I could find no place for a quarter mile either way, narrow enough to bridge, till late in the afternoon, so that the horses and cow did not see me till pretty late that day. Old settlers say it was the heaviest storm they ever saw. Nearly half the bridges in the county were carried away.

For 10 or 15 days after the storm, although the rivers had fallen, so that they were only two to three feet deep, it was dangerous crossing them on account of the quick sand - as they say here, "the bottom falls out" and horses can get no footing, many a carriage & horses have been stalled in the middle of the river, when they had to unharness and led out, or floundered out.

Sometimes the horse back riders get a ducking. A few days ago our next neighbor, was crossing the Sweetwater river, the water apparently only about 2 feet deep, when a short distance from shore, down went his horse, and he rolled off and in the melee his horse rolled over him and he just escaped drowning. He managed to get ashore and his horse followed him, but he had to wade about 3 miles in his wet clothes before reaching home - the water was very cold but the weather warm, and he has suffered no inconvenience since from his bath. The current in all these streams is very rapid, which partly accounts for the quicksand.

We have our same two horses, that we used to go carrying with so much, a gentle cow and about 20 hens, so that I can keep quite busy doing the chores. We fed the cow and hens several hundred pounds of Raisins which I bought at one cent a pound - they were cheaper than grain and are more nutritious. They were the second crop and rather

small, though many of them were large and good looking. I have put in about 6 acres of Oats and Barley, mostly Oats, for hay, this year, which is up some 3 inches and looking well. Oats, cut early makes most excellent hay. It is now selling here at \$18<sup>00</sup> and \$20<sup>00</sup> per ton.

No Timothy, Red Top, clover or any thing of that kind is ever raised here.

Alfalfa, however is raised in considerable quantities and makes excellent hay, and where it can be irrigated or on moist land, it can be cut 5 or 6 times a season.

I was very glad to hear that your wifes health had improved so much, hope it will continue to improve right along. but was sorry to hear about the felon on your trunk - they are terrible things.

Yes, sell that surveying instrument for what you can get. We used to think it was an excellent one. I dont remember what it cost, and dont know what it is worth. I think it cost \$50. or \$75. but you had better sell it for half, than leave it stowed away when it was doing no good to any one. I think the patent was by a Mr Varnum of West Newbury

and if the family are living, by writing to them you could learn its value. Get Sargent to make an offer - I suppose he will want to get it for nothing, but I wouldn't throw it away.

Future prospects have not improved any yet. I expect to see some change in my affairs during the next six months, but whether the change will be for my benefit or not is very uncertain, we can only hope and faintly. If we can only be allowed to remain here quietly the remainder of our lives we will be content, but we are dreading we know not what - it is terrible when we stop and think, but we try not to think, and except when we are compelled to go into town, we partially succeed.

Your affl. to father  
E. W. Morse

Enclose you \$5<sup>00</sup>

San Diego April 12<sup>th</sup> 1875

Dear Edward

I received your letters all right and I know ought to have answered them long ago, but somehow I don't seem to have found time. I have a great pile of letters on my desk unansw'd some of them as old as the first of January I could get through with them in time if I didn't keep receiving new ones that required answering first, but I intend to stick to them till they are all closed out.

I think you have had some use for your sleigh this winter, if it wasn't too cold to go out. The papers speak of this winter as being the coldest known for years. I suppose by this time the wagon has come into use again.

The arrest of Moses Sawyer for murder is a very singular affair. From what I saw in the papers at the time I should think that probably the husband shot her by accident and was so frightened that he accused Sawyer. I wish you would write me what people think about it there & how the trial comes off.

How are your eyes now? will you be able to go to school in the Spring or summer and study? Now is the time for you to go to school if you can do so without injuring your health - it is as well and perhaps

better to remain ignorant than to lose  
ones health in acquiring an education.  
I met a sick man a few days ago who  
injured his eyes by study when he was 18  
years old - he is now 66, and for years has  
not been able to tell a person, even if an  
intimate friend, when he meets him on the  
street, and he says he would give all  
he is worth, to have his eyesight restored.

Your mothers eyes were strong and good  
and so are mine, and I dont see why  
you should have weak eyes, unless you  
have injured them some way, it is  
certainly not hereditary, and such being  
the case, if you are careful you will  
soon outgrow the disease.

I have sent Orin Pillsbury  
a list of trees which he is to get for me  
and I arranged with Elbridge to see to  
their setting out.

I enclose a copy of  
the list to you and as the time is very short  
you might ride up to Kingston & see if  
Orin has received my letter & if not hand  
him this list.

I enclosed him a  
check for \$22<sup>00</sup> which I think will more  
than cover the cost. If there is a balance  
you can take it out in trees and set  
out at your Grandfathers.

We are all well and send love to all the  
folks.

Your Affectionate Father

E. W. Morse

I send you a paper & description of our Spelling School



List of trees for E. W. Morse

Apples

- 2 D. S. King
- 1 Mearns Crab
- 2 Early Harvest
- 2 Tallman Sweet

Pears

- 1 Blood good
- 2 Baited
- 2 Clapps Favorite
- 6 Beurre Bosc
- 1 Lawrence

Peaches

- 4 Foster
  - 2 Atomp. the World
  - 2 Honest John
- Quince
- 2 Near Warrumth

San Diego May 14/75

Dear Edward

I wrote you a letter April 12<sup>th</sup> but we haven't heard from you for a long time now.

I have decided not to go East this summer. I find that I have several matters of importance some of them in the courts, that must be attended to, and no one can attend to them so well as myself. Some of them are complicated land cases and one of them I should be pretty likely to

lose unless I was here  
for no one understands  
the matter so well as  
myself, having lived  
here so long. I am pretty  
well posted in land matters.  
And then we shall want  
to come on next year  
sure, to visit the "Centen-  
ial". It is very costly  
travelling and we are  
not rich, the railroad  
is not built yet and we  
shall feel poor until  
that is built, so that on  
the whole we think it is  
advisable to remain here  
this summer.

I suppose Mr  
Bradbury has returned

before now. If you meet  
him tell him to write to  
me and let me know how  
he reached home. He had  
a hard time in Arizona &  
could probably tell you of  
some very interesting  
adventures.

How is the old mare  
getting along.

How about the trees  
did the letter reach in  
season? I am afraid  
it was detained on the  
railroad, which was  
blockaded for 18 days  
in April.

What are you doing  
this spring - not loafing  
I hope -  
I suppose the farmers

will be all through  
planting before this  
reaches you.

They have been cutting  
hay here for some time  
and some will begin  
to cut their grain in  
the course of a couple  
of weeks.

We shall have a good  
many grapes, figs, peaches  
& apricots & some Guavas.  
Strawberries have been selling  
for 2 months in the market  
most of the time at 20¢ per  
box. We have tomatoes in  
blossom but no ripe ones yet  
they had run out & we had to  
start new. I sent \$5.00 in my  
last letter. I send \$2.00 in this.

Give my love to all the folks.  
Your affectionate father  
E. W. Moore

Return to E. W. MORSE,

SAN DIEGO, Cal.

If not delivered within 10 days



Edward W. Morse  
West Amesbury  
Mass.

Edward

May 23/75-

W. Amherst, Sunday, May 23

Dear Father:

I received a letter from you some time since, which contained a list of trees for Orrin, and \$5.00 for me, for which I am very thankful. Orrin could not find two of the trees you mentioned, and he substituted for them, a kind that will ripen about the same time.

The Spring with us is quite backward, it has been very cold with the wind east a good part of the time, but for the past two days, it has been very warm and you can almost see the grass grow. I should not

be surprised if hay sells for more next Winter than it did last, and if Elbridge does not sell enough so that the barn will hold what is cut this year. I think perhaps Grandpa will let a part of his barn, and then I should not have to fuss with small loads through the Winter. As there is not much work to do, I thought I would go to school. I commenced the Spring term, I found that they had changed a number of the books since I left, and I had to get new ones in order to enter the classes.

In your letter you did not say a word about coming home this Summer, but in the one Aunt Sawyer received from Mother, I heard that you were not coming. but if you do not I shall want

to hear from you very much oftener than I did through the winter.

I suppose that I should have had to be absent from school, during planting, but Mr. Wiggin was taking sick, with the Scarlet Fever, and there was no school for two weeks. The High, and Grammar, commenced last week, and the Intermediate will commence tomorrow, the Primary, in which was the greatest number of cases, will not commence for until some time in the future,

There is a boy at the corner, near my age that has a great desire to go to sea, he is going sometime this week, I think he will get enough of it, this time, it is his first trip, he goes first to Nova Scotia, from there to China which will take 100 days if they

have good weather. I heard a fellow re-  
mark last night that they are not  
very likely to have a three months  
trip without a storm. A few weeks  
ago I went to Haverhill, and had my  
teeth filled, the Dr. said I had very  
good teeth, and he said I ought to take  
very good care of them. I suppose  
the mare will have to be turned out  
pretty soon for I think she will have  
a colt by July can I have some hay  
to keep a horse on if I can get one  
for the keeping.

Give my love to Mother and  
tell her I will write her soon  
Wishing to hear from <sup>you</sup> again soon  
I remain

Your Dutiful Son

E. W. Morse



I send you papers occasionally  
do you get them?  
yours affly E.W. Morse

San Diego Cal  
June 26<sup>th</sup> 1898

Dear Edward

As Mother says there is room  
in her letter to you for me to say a word or  
two I will answer your last dated May 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
I have not heard from Orin yet, if you  
see him please ask him to write, and  
to name the trees he substituted for the two  
in the list I sent him, and also whether  
I sent him sufficient or too much money or.  
How are the trees doing now? Mrs Sawyer  
wrote some time ago that they were starting  
finely. I saw it stated by what I thought  
was good authority that ashes leached or spread  
thickly in a pear orchard would prevent  
the cracking of the fruit. I would like to try  
it under these old trees back of the house.  
And sometimes when you are at leisure, before  
next spring I would like to have you buy a  
lot of ashes and haul them out there and  
spread quite thickly under the old pear trees.  
I will pay for the ashes and your bill for hauling  
whenever you send it to me. The pear tree  
in the corner next northwest of the peach tree  
ought to have been grafted last spring, he said  
and have it done - you can do it yourself as well  
as any one - next spring.  
What you ask if you can have some help to feed  
another hand in if you can get one for the helping  
as "it" the old man will have to be turned out.  
And I would like a part of your

I enclose \$2.00

Grandfather's barn to put all the hay <sup>that you</sup> may want, at once hauling it right from the field as it will be less work. Very probably unless

Elbridge should get sufficient of the old hay, we may want all the spare room your grandfather had in his barn. I will pay him all he asks for it & then consider it a favor of course.

I am very glad you have been going to school. You can learn from books easier now and have more time, than at any time hereafter, if your eyes do not trouble you, and I hope they do not.

During vacation if you want to work at haying on the farm, I presume Mr. Sawyer would like to have you, and you can keep an account and send me your bill & I will pay it.

Your young sailor acquaintance will be likely to see a good many storms on his voyage, yet a good many like such a life, hard as it is, and it is well that it is so for commerce could not be carried on if there were no sailors. Did you ever think how many necessary articles of every day are you could see right in your house, that are brought across the Ocean by sailors?

Are there plenty small fruits, berries &c this year. Strawberries are 15¢ a quart here, they have been plenty for several months & will be for several months longer, Raspberries & Apples are beginning to come in freely now. Green corn is also plenty. I wish you could have some of our nice honey. I have about made arrangements to send on some this fall to Amesbury, and you shall then have a taste of it.

Edward

Oct 11/85

West Amesbury, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> 1875.

Dear Father:

It has been a long time since I heard from you, and I fear it is the same, in regard to my writing. I wish you would write oftener, in the future, than in the past, and I will try to answer them, as soon as I receive them. That boy I told you of, that was going to China, on his first voyage, did not go very far, for the night before the vessel sailed, having made a bargain with some of the sailors to put his property ashore, absconded, and about two weeks after the vessel started, came home, and

part of the time since, has been at work with his father in the shop. It is very hard times about here, and I do not know, but what it is, throughout all the States. There are a lot of "Tramps," going around through the country, cutting up all sorts of capers. The villager, last week, gave an account of a man being robbed between Haverhill, and West Haverhill. It seems a tramp stepped up to him, and demanded his money or life, he had no shooting iron with him, so he took out his wallet, containing one hundred dollars, and gave it to him, and went on his way, but not rejoicing, for I think the robber rejoiced the most. Houses have been broken into around here. Mr Pressey's house was broken into

a few weeks since. Mr P. hearing a noise in the kitchen, got up and found a man there, he caught up a club, and told the man to leave, the house instantly, or he would smash his poll, there were three or four heard to run from the premises. In your last letter you spoke of having that Pear tree in the corner grafted, but you did not tell me the kind, and I think you never spoke to me about it.

I am attending school now, and I find my eyes are a great deal stronger than formerly, for the rest I gave them, last fall, and Winter, but when I use them to write evenings I find they are a little weak yet.

The month of August was intensely warm, and regular dog day weather, then with the first of September came a very great

change, as you know our climate is liable to, and most of the time through the month, persons, when riding, would need an overcoat and gloves. As I have no chance to earn money, if you could make it convenient to send me some, it would be very acceptable, as I am in need of clothes.

Please write soon

Hoping soon to see you I remain as ever

Your Dutiful Son

E. W. Morse.

P. S. Please remember me to Mother, and tell her I have not forgotten my promise, and will write her soon.

Ed.

West Amesbury Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> / 75.

Dear Father:

I wrote you some time ago, and have received no answer, fearing it might have been miscarried, I thought I would write you again. You asked me to keep you posted on the trial of Moses Sawyer. I have not heard much about him for a long time, but I believe his case is put over until Spring, when I hear anything about it, I will let you know. In the early part of the Fall Grandpa had a bad cold, and since then, his mind has been very feeble, more so than ever before. A great part of the time he thinks he is visiting, and

sometimes he starts up, and says he is going home, and then we have to keep watch of him. I suppose if he should start, he would get lost in a very short time.

Grandma has been until within a week, pretty comfortable, but about a week ago, she was taken with a violent pain in her side. The next day I went for the Dr., and since then, Grandma has been free of most of the pain, but is still very weak, and does not sit up much longer than to have her bed made.

In my last letter to you, I asked you for some money, for some clothes, if it is convenient I wish you would send me some, for my clothes wear out, as well as other people's, although I can make them last, as long as any body.

you asked me some time ago about my eyes. I think they are stronger than formerly, but studying twelve weeks, and than preparing for an Exhibition, which was given at the end of the term, gave them a pretty good try.

All send their regards,  
Hoping to see you before the Centennial, I am as ever,  
Your affect. Son,

E. W. Morse.

Edward

Dec 9/76



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

If not delivered within 10 days.



Edward W. Morse

West Amesbury

Mass.

300  
- 511  
-----  
511

610  
- 511  
-----  
155

San Diego Dec 21/75  
My Dear Son

Your letter of  
Dec 9<sup>th</sup> has just reached  
me.

Enclosed please find  
check favor of Laura for  
\$50<sup>00</sup> and also one favor  
of yourself for \$25<sup>00</sup> on  
the West Chester bank.

We are all well.

I was sorry to learn that  
Grandmother & Grand-  
father were not so well.

How is Maria - you did  
not state how she has  
been this summer & fall.  
Laura I suppose is well  
as usual.

How is Uncle Phillip

and Maria & the girls -  
I haven't heard from them  
for some time.

How did your  
exhibition come off?  
What fruit did you take?

Can you tell me the  
names of the trees that  
failed to grow in the  
new Orchard.

Did the Tetoptsky and  
Marengo Crab apples  
grow?

How many more <sup>trees</sup>  
should be set out this  
spring?

Please answer  
soon, that I may write  
you a longer letter.

Wish you all a happy  
New year. You aff. father  
E. W. Ware