

7/69
South San Diego Oct. 16th

Dear Edward.

Your father received a letter from you some weeks since, in which you requested me to write to you. I do so with pleasure, I am glad that you did not get discouraged at your father's long delay in answering your first, but had sufficient perseverance to try again. We are both very much pleased with your letters, and think they are well written for a boy of your age. It is not because your father does not appreciate them that he does not answer them sooner, but because he is so busy. I suppose you have already learned that we have moved to South San Diego or New Town as it is called which is a larger place now than the other. There are but few large buildings

as yet, but they will be built as they are demanded. Every thing looks new and rough. Our streets are all laid out eighty feet wide and are to have sidewalks 16 feet wide. Our streets are very dusty at present for we have had no rain since May. This would be dreadful in Mass. but we do not seem to miss it here. The grass dries up and makes hay for the cattle and having no rain during the summer it does not get musty. Spoiled cattle get their living the whole year without feeding. The trees, shrubs, &c remain green through the dry season and also many plants blossom, which relieves the barren appearance somewhat. The winter here is much pleasanter than the summer. Every thing is then green & beautiful. Perhaps you think because it is called the rainy season that it rains nearly all the time. By no means. It rains as it does with you in the summer

Umbrellas & rubber shoes are of very little use. If we go to ride or walk from May to November we never look at the clouds & say "I wonder if it is going to rain." But in winter we may expect it at any time if the wind is South. Wild geese & ducks have already arrived showing that it is getting cold up North. The ocean beach is oftentimes white with them. We saw at one time what your father estimated at one thousand. I have seen no snow since I left N.H. except what is seen on the distant mountains. I should really like to see a good snow storm. In exposed situations we have frosts, but we have had none in our garden since I have lived here (7 years). There is a great lack of trees of natural growth within 7 or 8 miles of this place but in time this will be remedied by trees being set out. It would look very strange to you to see the hills entirely

bare of trees when you have them so thickly
wooded at home. Along the streams we have
willows & cotton woods, but not on the hills
or plains. Another thing that - that - would appear
strange to you would be to see people hatching
out little chickens at this time of year. I
I have two broods just hatched. We have
two large cats that I must tell you about.
One of them weighs $16\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. the other 11 lbs.
They are great pets with us. Your father
had them in the store before I married
him. They are thought to be the most
wonderful cats in the county. We have
just got a new horse which we have
named for you. Your father has built
him a stable on our lot which
adjoins Mr Horton's. We have not built
our house yet, but shall soon I think.
We shall stop at Mr Horton's until
we build. I have commenced sowing
seed in boxes so as to get my plants
started before the rains come. Then I
shall set them out in my garden.
People sow grain & garden seeds in Dec.
That is the time you are beginning to
have your snow & ice to skate upon.

Snow & ice are something that many boys & girls here have never seen. Would it not be strange to them to pass a winter with you? I have faith to believe that your father & I shall go East and visit you. I cannot say how soon. I wish it could be next Spring. Now that we can go by rail it would not take long. Your grandfather Morse is getting very old (and I think your father ought to go on his account if no other. I think that we shall have a railroad directly here from the Southern States in three years, but I do not want to wait so long. I think we had better try the Northern road first, & when that other is built take another trip. I expect you know what States these two routes pass through. If you do not get your aunt to show you. According to your letters I think you are making good progress in school. This

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is well, for you do not know as yet what an advantage a good education will be to you in the world. It better fits a person for every position in life.

Mr. A. J. Chase from San Francisco has moved here with his family. I do not know what business he is going into. He has two very well behaved boys, the eldest about your age I think. I think it must be very pleasant in Amherst. Your father often describes to me his father's farm & its surroundings. The pond where he used to go sailing &c. I hope to see it myself sometime. I am fond of going berrying but we have no wild berries in California therefore I hope you will find all the good places where berries grow and when I come on to visit you, we will take our dinner with us some day & go & pick them. Sometime when I write I must tell you how we camp out here in travelling. In going out among the

mountains there are no hotels, & the ranches are thirty or forty miles apart, so sometimes, from necessity but generally from choice we take along everything that is required in camping. We do not need any tent as the air is mild & often dense. The robe from our carriage is our mattress. The cushions are pillows, a few blankets, and for the fastidious a pair of sheets is all that is required in the sleeping department. In the eating arrangements more variety is necessary. Tin plates, tin cups for coffee, knives & forks, spoons, coffee pot, sugar, salt, butter, cheese, bread, meat, &c. We are always blessed with excellent appetites consequently we must be amply provided with eatables.

When I commenced I did not intend giving this description, but as I have done so, I will in my next, describe a journey of 70 miles that your father & myself took two years ago. Please write soon. Your father sends his love. With many kind wishes for your welfare & happiness, I remain Your Mother M. C. Morse

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to

Ans

C

J



Mr Edward W. Morse
West Amesbury
Mass.

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to

Mary C. Morse

Ans South San Diego
Cal.

Robert Campbell
Dec 21/69

Edward W. Morse

West Amesbury

Mass.

769
South San Diego Dec. 20th

Dear Edward.

Your father intended to send you five gold dollars when he sent his letter yesterday but forgot it. He now requests me to send them. I hope they ^{will} reach you for a "New Years" present.

I wish you a "Merry Christmas" and Happy "New Year."

Your Mother

J

South San Diego June 1870

Dear Eddie

I did not think when I received your letter last Jan. that I should delay so long in answering it, but I have been waiting to see if I could not write that your father & I were coming home this summer. We have been talking strongly of it for some months past, but he has come to the conclusion that he will build a house now, & defer his visit East to some future time. Nothing would please me better than to spend Sept. & Oct. with you. They are such pleasant months. I want some of those nice apples that your father tells me about, that grow on your grand father Morse's place. (ranch we say here.) We are

having a severe drought here. Only $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain has fallen in a year. The cattle many of them have been driven into the mountains for feed. The farmers cannot mature their crops & all kinds of business is suffering in consequence. If work is commenced on the railroad soon, then business will be good again. We expect no more rain until Nov. When you are having your copious showers, think of us with no rain from May to Nov. Your summers are pleasanter than ours I will admit, but our winters are infinitely superior. We cannot skate, or slide down hill on a sled, but we can pick roses in January. Our garden is looking finely this summer. It is said to be the best garden in town. Your father is very fond of flowers, & he spares no pains to have them growing around him. He works an hour or two every morning

We have a fig tree that is bearing this year. We have orange, lemon & lime trees, also walnut & pepper trees. We have grape vines bearing. We water the garden by a hose, having hydrants in several places in the garden. The water is raised by a windmill. I had never seen a dandelion in Cal. so I sent home to my mother to send me some seeds, as I thought they would look familiar. One came up, a veritable dandelion sure enough. I have roses & jinks, holly hocks & nasturtians. Marigolds &c. just as you do three thousand miles away. Our geraniums here grow ten feet high sometimes. I have seen the leaves of the prickly pear 2 ft. long, & the tree 20 ft high. They bear fruit here, which is quite palatable. The elder which is only a shrub with you, grows here into a tree, twenty or thirty feet high, with a trunk a

foot-or more in diameter. Mustard
also grows almost into a tree. A horseman
on riding through it; is completely hid.
I suppose you are in school yet, studying
hard & preparing for the examination.
Then comes the long vacation when you
have such fine times going to the beach
as you spoke of in your letter. I should
certainly be very happy to go with you
sometimes. I am going to have my picture
taken soon to send to you. Also my
Tommy cat. You ask if such a large
cat can catch mice, Yes, & rabbits
also. We have been very well since I
wrote you & hope to hear the same
of you & your friends. We have made
the acquaintance of Capt. Knapp
& wife from Newburyport. They seem
very good people. Your father can
talk over old times with them.

Your father says he will write soon
over

Do not get discouraged about writing
because I waited so long. I thought
every week would decide whether we
went East or not. & when it was
decided I determined to write immedi-
ately. We did not wish to raise your
expectations until we knew that we
were certainly going. We shall go sometime
I have no doubt; and until then I wish
you health & much happiness
Yours Affectionately
Mary C. Morse

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to

Ans.



Mr Edward R. Morse
West Amesbury
Mass.

Julian City Sept. 26th 1870

Here we are 4000 ft. above San Diego & the sea. We started from home after much packing of provisions, blankets, shawls, & overcoats, at 7 o'clock Thursday Sept. 21st. The weather was mild but cloudy for the first twenty miles, which made it all the more pleasant. As this was designed as a pleasure trip, we made no haste, but proceeded leisurely on our way, intending to stop when hunger or night should overtake us. We passed Old Town sleeping under its brown hills, & crept on six miles where trees begin to skirt the very small streams of running water. Made a call on the lady at the Fisher Ranch. At this place & beyond we saw large quantities of the jimson plant in full bloom. The blossom is trumpet shaped, of a delicate lilac color, & much resembles the "Flora Mundi," or the "apple of Peru." You in the East can scarcely understand how flowers can bloom from a soil upon which so little rain has fallen for the past fifteen months. Neither can your humble servant. As long as we continued on the Stage road, we were constantly meeting small parties of Spanish & Mexicans going to the Lower Cal. mines. Several were taking their families with them, consisting of wife, children & chickens. We called at the Colodad Ranch & got some pomegranates, which served as a dessert at lunch. Penasquitas is a long narrow valley

with at this season, a very small stream of water running ^{through it}. This stream supports a growth of willows & large spreading oaks & sycamores. It was under the friendly shade of these, that we dismounted from our vehicle, unharnessed our faithful Ned, & proceeded to make coffee & prepare lunch. An able pen than mine must describe the appetite given to persons on a camping expedition. It is beyond my capacity, I suffice it to say that we lunched. The Penasquitas valley is owned by Capt. Johnson, who occupies the only house upon it. We called to pay our respects to his wife, who is a Spanish lady, but speaks English quite fluently. Here we were treated to some delicious grapes fresh from the vines. We said "muchas gracias" and "adios" & passed on. Near sunset we saw "Woolly hill" a sharp rocky Mt. rising out of the valley, where during the Mexican war, the Americans were surrounded and were obliged to kill their mules for food. There is a fine prospect in this vicinity of the distant Mt. ranges rising one above another as far as the eye can reach. Arriving at Deep Canon at sunset, we concluded to camp for the night. We left the road a short distance and selecting a large tree, whose branches would afford shelter for our bed, we built a fire & took supper by the light thereof. Leaving Ned, who was tied to the same tree to munch his barley in peace. We spread

our bed early & retired, but not to sleep. The reason is obvious when I tell you it is not well to tie your horse to the same tree, under which you are sleeping especially if your bed is made of hay. Wising early we delivered up what was left of our bed to Ned who soon devoured it, & after taking breakfast we proceeded on our journey somewhat wiser for the night's experience. 2^d day took lunch on the edge of Santa Maria ranch. This ranch contains eighteen thousand acres, & could be sold for \$50,000 but belonging as it does to Spanish it is used only for pasturing cattle & horses. The 2^d night brought us to ^{the house of} Mr S's an old customer of Mr Morris when he was in a store. Of course we were invited to light and spend the night. They live on a cattle range and have given very little attention to the comforts of life generally. Their accommodations for entertaining company are limited, as they have an adobe house with but two rooms (kitchen & sleeping room) and are blessed with eight small children. The dirt floors are kept hard by sprinkling & sweeping every morning. As windows are scarce, the doors must necessarily be kept open for light, consequently a litter of motherless pigs ran races through the house at regular intervals and several domesticated hens, made themselves generally useful by picking up any stray crumb that might fall from the children's bread. A novel form of bedstead was offered for our use at night namely: the kitchen table. The offer so kindly made was cordially accepted, and a night's experience

proved it to be (with a few exceptions) quite comfortable. Parties occupying such a bedstead however, should approximate somewhat in weight, otherwise disastrous consequences might ensue from the upsetting of the table. We left our friendly entertainers before noon of the third day, & passed towards the mines. Took lunch at Witch creek, soon after passing which, we saw a wild cat, resembling our domestic cats the only difference being that it was larger, had longer legs & a short tail. We descended to San Gabel a level plain containing 18000 acres. On the farther side we could see an old Indian rancharia. At this point we left the old road, and turning abruptly to the right, crossed the plain & commenced the ascent of the Mts. The road is a grade cut along their sides, & exceedingly steep the most of the way for 3 miles. As we ascend the air becomes rare, and it is with difficulty that a person can breathe in walking up these heights. Our horse was also affected by the rarity of the air, & we were obliged to stop at every available point for him to take breath. For the first mile or two, the surrounding country lay spread out beneath us like a nap, but as we ascended the road wound through a forest of oaks which obstructed the view, but gave us a grateful shade. In the midst of this forest is the toll house, where we paid 25 cts. for passing over a very dusty & crooked. When we had gained the highest point of the

road & emerged from the forest, there was nothing to remind us that we were 4000 ft. above the ocean, a lovely landscape appeared before us, diversified with plain & hill, spreading trees & running streams, A sign of human habitation as yet appeared, Solitude reigned supreme. The mines pick had not here disfigured the fair face of nature by tearing out her rocky deposits in search of gold. But where was Julian City? Could we have missed the road? No we had followed the only one there was. On we went for several miles momentarily expecting to come upon the town. After passing a ravine, & ascending a sharp & rocky hill, the city of Julian in all its glory burst upon us. The sun was just setting, & shone upon the white roofs of the little town, with that yellow light so peculiar to Col. No picture could be half as beautiful, I could have shouted with very joy at the sight. The pines & oaks scattered over the hills immediately about the town, wore a magic green & every cabin & shanty resting among them, had a strangely enchanted look. A mining town was associated in my mind with huge excavations, ditches, tunnels, and a turning up generally of mother earth. But here we saw nothing to mar the quiet beauty of the scene. What prospecting has been done, & tunnels dug, are not in sight - as you enter the town. As we passed up the one street to our friends cabin we seemed to attract considerable attention several old acquaintances rushing to their doors & hailing us. Arriving

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at our place of destination, we met a cordial reception
& proceeded to unpack our traps in true California style
A description at this point of a miners cabin, may not
be uninteresting to you. A rough board shanty of one
room, with cracks sufficiently wide for thorough
ventilation, constitute the house. The furniture consists
of a stove, a large table of home manufacture, a bench
to sit in front of it, & two bedsteads also home made.
These last act a double purpose. The upper part is design-
ed for repose, while underneath are the picks, drills &
miners tools in general. A stray saddle, & a few
pieces of rope are not out of place here. Tin cups
& plates grace the table, & the walls of the room
are ornamented with frying pans, baking tins, coffee
pots & all the peaceful implements of household service.
Four days we have spent in this cabin (when we were not
out looking at mines) most pleasantly. Our tour of inspection
commenced next morning after our arrival. We visited
the ten stamp mill owned by Messrs Cotton & Parsons
which runs night & day crushing rock from
which the gold is washed, when the rock is
sufficiently fine. The gold is found in quartz rock
which can be easily pulverized in an iron mortar
by hand. Every miner has his mortar, & can at any
time try his rock & find out the amount of gold
in it. We afterwards visited the Washington, the first
mine discovered. Here are three tunnels running into
the hill each about 150 ft. in length, which we
examined following a guide with a lighted candle

It seemed to me a gloomy place to work, but it is said that most miners prefer underground to surface digging. A small portion of these tunnels is supported by posts, but the greater portion supports itself. No accidents have as yet occurred from caving. We walked over the hills finding ample evidence of persistent & persevering search for hidden treasure, in the heaps of unearthened rock, & the numberless holes from which it had been taken. We came upon several shafts & tunnels, abandoned probably for lack of funds to carry on the work. From one of these hills, we could see in the distant East, Yuma desert one hundred miles in width, looking to us at this point like a far off sea. The McMechan mill situated in Bransonville, one mile from Julian, makes its share of noise, and I believe gives quite as good satisfaction in crushing rock, as the other, although a mill of but two stamps. Its gentlemanly proprietor talks long & well. He invited us to his very comfortable house, where he expatiated upon the mines, the prospects of the place, his own prospects, and gently hinted that a wife would soon come to grace his now desolate home. I cannot write you more of what we saw of the mines, for want of time. Suffice it that the day for our departure has nearly arrived, & I shall be obliged to give you a description of our homeward journey after arriving in San Diego.

Oct. 6th 1870

After packing our specimens, provisions, blankets, and such curiosities as we had collected, into our buggy we bade farewell to our friends at Julian City on the morning of Sept. 30th. In returning we left the old road after travelling 15 miles, & took a new one constructed since the mines were discovered. This gave us variety and gratified my better half in his propensity for seeing something new. We lunched on boiled venison, hot coffee & other substantial food at our old place Witch Creek & camped at night in a beautiful valley (name unknown) filled with large spreading sycamores. Our supply of venison laid in at Julian still held out, & boiled on a bed of bright coals, what could be nice. Thus we supped. We retired early & slept the sleep of the just. The early morning saw us homeward bound. No finer view can be had, than in descending the Cajon Mts. The valley dotted here & there with farm houses lay spread out before us, while the windings of the river are shown by the willows skirting its banks. We arrived in San Diego about noon, and found that everything had been moving on in the even tenor usual to our little town. We had returned to the routine of daily life once more, after living a gipsy life for ten days. Thus endeth my description of a visit to the mines W. C. Morse

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



Ans

Mr Edward W. Morse
West Amesbury
Mass.

Care of
William Gray Esq

1871

South San Diego March 6th

Dear Edward

We received a letter from you a few days since, reminding ^{us} very forcibly that we had neither of us answered your last letter. I have been waiting to tell you if we should visit the East the coming summer. We were not able to decide that question, until we learned ^{that} the Southern Pacific railroad bill had pass^{ed} Congress. That Bill passed last Friday. Now your father says we shall surely go. I don't think we shall disappoint you as we did last summer. The passage of this Bill has placed your father in easier circumstances than formerly, so that he feels that he can afford to pay you all a visit

You wonder I suppose how the
passage of this railroad bill can
affect your father's pocket. I will tell
you. The terminus of this road is
to be at San Diego, which in time
will make it a large city. This
expectation will raise the value of land
and houses, consequently your father's
land is of more value, and there will
be a ^{greater} demand for land than before.
If this bill had passed last June as
we expected, we should have visited
you last summer. We took a trip
last Sept. to the mines, of which I
wrote a description, I thought perhaps
it might interest you to read it
therefore I will send you a copy. We
thought of sending you for a Christmas
present a locket that was your mother's
containing the pictures of your grand-
father & grand mother & your father's.
We concluded that it would be better
to wait & see if we went on, than

we could take it with us. We were
afraid it might be lost if we sent it.
You can consider it your Christmas
present however. Your father says
he will write soon & answer
your questions about going
mining, and the things at your
grandfather's. The Panama Steamers
are to come in here now once
a month. We could now go East
without going to San Francisco
I do not know which way we
shall go, by rail or steamer.
Hoping to see you soon I remain
Yours Affectionately
Mary C. Morse

San Diego July 21st 1856

Dear Edward

I received a letter from you dated May 12th for which we are much obliged. Since then I have been to the mountains and had a very pleasant time an account of which you will see in the Bulletin of yesterday. I found on my return that very good care had been taken of the garden, cats, hens, &c. We left a man in charge, to let the water on to the garden (for you must remember that we have no rain here in the summer) and look after things generally. We had our first water melon of the season last week. We shall have quite a quantity of grapes, our arbor being covered with vines, hanging full of large clusters. We shall also have figs on one tree, the others not being large enough to bear. That will be all the fruit that our garden will give us this year.

Your father says you were born April 28th 1856

but we hope in future years to have a variety. Since we came from the East we had several fruit-trees set out - such as pears, apples, peaches apricots &c also more grape vines. We have plenty of water from our wind mill to water them. Your father gets up every morning at 5 o'clock and goes to work in the garden while I get breakfast. Getting breakfast is a nuisance isn't it? If it was not for that, I could also go into the garden and work in the cool of the morning. The sun is usually clouded ^{in for a while} in the morning, but by the time we get our breakfast eaten, it is too warm for me to be out long. I continue however to tie up a vine here, and rake a little there which helps the appearance of things some what. I suppose you have all settled down to the conclusion by this time, that you will not see us East this summer. So the fates have decreed. As our prosperity depends on railroads entirely, and no railroad is yet commenced, we are compelled to dispense

with travelling this year. The prospects are very good however that work will commence very soon. Col. Scott will start from N.Y. on the 13th of Aug. for this place then we all expect something will be done. San Diego is very dull at present, but people are feeling very hopeful for the future. Your father has not been able to sell any land since our return from the East, but he thinks there will soon be an opportunity. We are hoping for a good rainy season next winter which will affect business very greatly. My sister Martha's husband died with Cholera the first of June. He has been sick several months. S. J. Chase & family are well, their oldest son is clerk in a grocery store here. They would prefer having him in school, but there is no school for large scholars & they thought it better for him to have some employment for his time. The first month's pay \$25; he disposed of in this way, \$10. for the bank, \$4. for his mother, \$2. for charity. \$1. to his young brother for

If you do not get the Bulletin with my piece in it - please inform me and I will send you one

waiting his garden, & the rest for himself. The boys of his age are drilling in a company preparing themselves to receive Col. Scott when he comes. Soon after we come home I bought 9 Bram^h hens eggs at 50cts. apiece. I got only four chickens from them. They are all alive and doing well. One met with an accident - by which one of its ^{wings} had to be amputated. Ned ran over it - breaking the bone of the wing near the body. I could not think of killing so valuable a fowl, so I prevailed on your father to amputate the wing. He performed the operation very skillfully. The chicken is as good as the others with two wings. We expect soon to have the Panama Steamers stop in here that will make our town some more lively. We have got a beak - that is a little more than a year old, that measures 41 inches around, and stands out of the ground more than 3 ft. Give my regards to your Grandparents & aunts and to the other friends when you see them. Write soon.

With much love your mother
Mary C. Morse

Return to E. W. Morse
San Diego Cal^a if not deliv^d
in ten days.

Ans

Mr Edward W. Morse

West Amherst

Mass.



On the Union Pacific R.R.
Among the Wahsatch Mountains
Near Wahsatch town.

Nov 24th 1891

Dear Edward

Having nothing
else to do, thought I would
write you a word, that we
were getting along comfortably
having passed the worst part
of the snowy region yesterday
& last night. It had been
snowing hard all day yesterday
and on reaching Laramie
we found ourselves in a very
severe snow-storm, and the
passengers and officers of the train
felt considerable apprehension that
we might not be able to get
through, Two Engines with

their snow plows were
attached, and after waiting
an hour or so, they concluded
to go on, and although we found
some deep drifts of snow, we
came through without difficulty
and we expect no trouble
from snow from here on to
California.

However the passengers have
been so badly scared that
they all say they never will
pass over this road so late
again.

The Pullman cars are very
warm and comfortable, but
the passengers in the other cars
must have suffered from cold
and want of sleep.

At Council Bluffs, Iowa
where we stopped an hour or so
the thermometer was eight degrees

below zero.

In the Government weather
report it was stated that the
weather at San Diego was
77 degrees above zero, at San
Francisco 57 and at Omaha
5 degrees or quite a difference
we thought.

2 O'clock P.M. Evanston, Utah,
we have just met the Eastern
bound train and they report
leaving a heavy snow storm
just behind them. It was
bright and sunshiny with us
an hour ago, but it is now
cloudy & I think we shall
soon reach the storm, but
as we are so much lower down
we do not anticipate much of a
storm & it is only 66 miles to Ogden
down in the Salt Lake valley

I'll stop writing now,
as I think it is doubtful
if you can read it. It is
hard to write in the cars,
but I fear it will be harder
to read it.

Your mother sends love
to you and all.

Your affectionate father
E. W. Morse

BANK OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego, Feb. 19th 1873

Dear Edward

Your father received a letter from you a few days since saying that you would like to get a letter from me. I also received one dated Dec. 12th telling how you spent Thanksgiving &c. We were invited to spend the day at Mr. A. J. Chasis. In the evening we all attended an entertainment given by the Presbyterian church. Christmas day, we had Mr. Chasis family here to dinner, which I intended to have had under our pepper trees in the garden, but a slight rain fell the night before so that the ground was too wet. We have four pepper trees that form a perfect shade. They are just far enough apart to set a table under them, with sufficient room for chairs. We had

but - very little rain this winter until Feb. Since then we have had several good rains, which is thought will insure good crops. Before the rains, people were getting quite discouraged thinking we were going to have another dry year. We are having a row of paper trees set out on the sidewalk, 20 ft. apart. They are beautiful evergreen trees, as graceful as a weeping willow & with a darker richer foliage. I will send you a leaf. We had some very warm weather in Jan. - uncomfortably so I think. The thermometer stood at 80°. This month it has been quite cold. We were afraid of a frost one night & went out & covered up some of our choicest plants, but there was none in our garden. It seems as if they would never commence work on our railroad. Everything is at a stand still waiting for it. The routes are all surveyed and they are waiting now to decide on the best. There is a

BANK OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego, 187.....

great deal of anxiety felt by San Diego people about this decision. If it goes directly east it will benefit San Diego much more than by the northern route by way of San Geronimo pass. It will take much longer to build up a town here, if it goes north, and a town is what we want, I wish this matter could be settled. The people of San Diego have had so much anxiety on this railroad question for the past four years that I wonder they are not worn out. The prosperity of the place seems to depend entirely upon it, & for the past two years we have thought were just on the eve of having every thing settled & work commenced. But large bodies move slowly so we must not be too impatient.

We are expecting now to go East by one
of the Panama Steamers as they stop in
here. We shall go as soon as your
father can get his business arranged
so to leave it, which will probably
be in April or first of May. I am
going to try to endure the sea sickness
for the sake of going that way.

Several of our acquaintances go at
the same time. At one time there were
twenty who thought of going. But I
think now some of them have
concluded they could not go so
soon. I expect you have got to be
such a quiet boy, we shall scarcely
know you. Your father sends love
Gives my regards to your grand-
father & grand mother also your
aunts.

Yours Affectionately
Mary C. Morse

Write soon

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



Edward W. Morse
West Amesbury
Mass.

done.



4/13
San Diego May 16th

Dear Edward

I write to inform you that we expect to start for the east next Monday (19th of May) We shall probably reach N. York in twenty five days if nothing unforeseen happens, where we will write you again. We sail by the steamer Arizona, one of the best of the Panama Steamers. We shall bring some pictures of California scenery, so that you can see things as they are. We go out this afternoon to have Tommie's picture taken, so that you can also see him. I hope to get to Anusbury before the May flowers are all gone. we do not

have them here. Please excuse me
from writing a long letter as I am
in a great hurry getting every
thing ready for our voyage.

We received a letter from you
not long since. Love to all the
friends

Yours Affectionately
Mary C. Morse

May 19th

A telegram informs us
that - the Steamer will be here
on the 21st of May, instead of
the 19th

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



Mr Edward W. Morse
West Amherst
Mass.

You don't say what you are doing this winter, Improving yourself some way I hope

San Diego Feb. 14th / 54

Dear Edward

Since receiving your first letter I have been waiting to have your father get time to write you, & then I would put in a few lines. But I find it is making you wait too long to hear from us, & I therefore will write on my own account. We have both of us been very busy since our return, I in getting to house-keeping again & trying to do a little in the garden every day, & your father in straightening out his business &c. He has sold but three of his carriages yet, so I conclude the carriage business will not pay as yet, and probably not at all, unless we get our railroad started again. Scott is at Washington now asking aid from congress

or rather asking congress to guarantee
the interest on the bonds, so that he
can build the road, Stanford, Crocker
& Co., of the Central Pacific (the road
we came over) are determined to get
control of the part of Scott, ^{road,} in Cal.
that is from Fort Yuma to the
Pacific ocean. If they get this control
they will take the road directly to
San Francisco, & leave San Diego

entirely out. This would be a terrible
blow to San Diego, when we have
depended so much on having the
terminus here. Many people have come
here & bought lands with the
expectation of their rising in value
which will not be the case if the
town is to be no larger than now.
This matter is to be decided before the
4th of March, so we shall know our
fate soon. It was too bad that the
panic should come & upset everything

just as we were quite sure of a
railroad. Well there is nothing certain
in this world. If we are disappointed
in this we shall try & bear it the
best we can. The San Francisco people
can not take away our fine
climate if they do our railroad.
I am sorry to hear that your grand-
mother is so unwell this winter.

You are having a colder winter than
last I hear. I suppose you will get
sleighing enough this winter to suit
you. I can't say I would like to
take a sleigh ride just now, but
I should like some of that cider &
some of those apples that we had
last fall. Your father paid 50 cts for
a little paper bag full (17 apples). Our
potatoes are much inferior to yours
also, but never mind I have got
tomatoes, cabbage, cauliflowers &c
growing in my garden. We have

been setting out more grape cuttings
I mean to raise my own raisins next
year. Very nice raisins are made from
the Muscat grape, by simply drying in
the sun. They have very small seeds & a
thick pulp. We had some of that
kind last year but intend to have
more this. If I make any nice raisins
I will send you some by mail.
We have had three rains since we
came home, the last a very good one, the
others only slight. We drink rain water
now if exclusively I hope we shall have
more rain this winter but we may
not. The farmers got very much
frightened the rain held off so long,
but it came at last & the crops are
looking very well now. It is only about
two weeks since the grass got green. We
have both been very well since our
return but I have lost considerable
of my surplus flesh. I have not been
weighed, but my dresses are getting very
loose. Hard work don't seem to agree
with me, but I feel quite as well so no
matter. You are a very good boy to write
two letters to our one. I hope you will
continue doing so. Give my regards to your
grand father & grand mother & aunts and the
other friends. Yours Affectionately M. C. Morse

I think your father will write soon.

Feb 15th We have heard bad news this morning. We hear that Scott has abandoned the fight in congress & left Washington, finding it of no use to try to get the aid he asks, consequently all San Diegans wear long faces today, or at least those who own land here. Of course if the town is to grow no larger, no land can be sold for house lots, & the land is not worth much for cultivation in town consequently the more land a man has to pay taxes on, the poorer he is, Many I expect will leave the place, & go into business some where else, but I suppose we shall stay here, as the climate still remains the same & we can afford to put up with a great many inconveniences

& privations for the sake of living in
such a climate. You write about a
wagon for sale &c in your letter
I don't suppose your father will feel
like buying wagons, horses or anything
of the kind under the present
circumstances. You speak of our
coming East next summer. "Dien
Sabe," We are having some very pleasant
weather now. I am sitting with my
doors & windows open. The first part
of the winter was quite cold, so that
a fire evenings was quite comfortable.
I wish we had a fire place as some
of our neighbors have. What is still
worse, we have no place in our house
where one can be built. We have had
no frost in our garden, but those
living a short distance from the bay
had ice form in exposed places.
Write again soon

Yours with much love M. E. M.

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



AM

Mr Edward W. Morse
West Amesbury
Mass

San Diego June 24 / 95

Dear Edward,

I received a letter from you some weeks since, & thought at the time I should answer immediately, but your father has written he said, so I delayed. We have just been out to the San Diego falls. Perhaps you never heard of them. Well they are not so celebrated as the falls of Niagara, but yet when there is plenty of water in the San Diego river they must be beautiful. They fall a distance of over one hundred ft. perpendicular & strike the rocks & reach the basin in cascades. The water is very low now, being only a few inches that go over the falls. They are 37 miles from town & the last part of the way the road is quite bad. We

went out with a party of eight, intending to stop there two nights & be gone from home three days. But Ned got lame going out, & we were obliged to ^{be} gone from home six days. Ned got much better before we started, & is nearly well now. Four of our party came home at the time appointed & two staid with us. Another party of 10 arrived the day before we left. We should have run short of provisions had not we borrowed from those of our party who went home before we did. We slept under the trees & suffered no inconvenience from it. A company who bored for artesian water, are abandoning their old well as the water is failing, & are going to take it from the San Diego river about four miles from town. We are all very glad as the artesian water was miserable stuff. It is so hard that you cannot use soap in it without first softening it with

ashes. & then it tastes of tar so strongly that no one can drink it. It does for irrigating & that is nearly all. We pay \$4.00 pr. month for it & shall probably have to pay more when we get the river water, which is soft & nice. Our well water is hard & a little salt; but not as bad as the artesian water. By changing we can have either our well water in the tank on the top of the wind mill, or the artesian water, the reservoir being higher than the top of our wind mill. Our wind mill does not give sufficient water for irrigating in summer that is why we take the artesian water. We drink rain water yet. Our grapes are nearly half grown. I am watching them to see if they are not large enough to make pies of. The Muscats make very good pies as they have no seeds & are well. We have one tree hanging full of apricots & one of peaches. Our pears do not bear this year. We have two

I have written this on great-haste, determined to have it go tomorrow.
apple, one of which has two apples on it. We have one musk melon as large as a pint bowl, & plenty of small ones. He keeps your father & I very busy in looking after all these things together with the flowers. We work two or three hours every morning. We are being troubled very much with ants. I am obliged to set every thing in water to prevent them from getting into it. We have had scarcely a flea since we came home, until very recently, when they begin to make themselves felt. But I think they will never be as numerous as formerly. Strawberries have been in market for two or three months. They are now 20cts per lb. New potatoes are good when first taken out of the ground, but are strong & bad after being kept a few days. They are not equal to your Eastern potatoes. Figs are in market, but ours are not ripe yet. I hope you will continue to write to us often if we do delay answering so long. We are always glad to hear from you. Love to all the friends.

Yours Affectionately

Mary C. Morse

Edward

Jan. 29/76

ALASKA

Riverton, Jan. 29th, 1876

Dear Mother:

It is a long time since I heard from you. I wrote father a letter the second of Jan., but have not received an answer yet. I wish you to remind him of his promise, he stated a desire in his last letter, for me to answer it immediately, so that he could write me a long letter. I received it the 31st of Dec., and answered it the 2nd of Jan., if father had done as well, I should have received that long letter before this.

You will probably think, I have changed my place of abode, when

you notice the heading of this letter, but I can assure you I have not.

Sometime ago Wm. P. Sargent of Boston, formerly a resident of So. Amesbury, offered to build a Town House and City Hall at W. Amesbury, if they would have the town divided. Some were for it, and others signed a remonstrance, headed by the School Committee, and Selectmen. All but two or three at So. Amesbury signed the remonstrance. Dr. James B. Nichols of Haverhill, offered to give a Public Library, if the town was set off, and a number that signed the remonstrance, thought better of it, and the people at W. Amesbury met the people at So. Amesbury, last ~~Wednesday~~ Wednesday, to talk over the prospect of a new town; the result was

satisfactory, for the next day a committee of 24 men, met to draw up resolutions &c. Some thought that the town ought to be named Sargentville, but I believe that was not the wish of Wm. P. I believe the ^{name} now chosen is Peiverton.

This Winter with us could well be called the rainy season, for we have had no snow, to speak of. I have had two slight rides this Winter, but neither of them were longer, than to the corner. The night before Christmas, it snowed through the night, and hailed in the morning, and froze so that it was quite good sleighing on Church St., although there was not much snow. Day before yesterday it snowed about three hours in the morning, so that quite a number got their sleighs

out, but it was quite warm so that
the snow melted, and by night
it was very poor sleighing, yesterday
it rained, and this morning the
fog is so thick that you can not
discern an object, at a distance, of
twenty rods. I think you could
live here very well this Winter, we
have cold snaps sometimes, but they
do not last long, one day the mer-
cury stood at 4° below Zero and in
a week the farmers were ploughing.
One day in Dec., at seven o'clock
in the morning, the mercury stood
twenty degrees below Zero, and the
next morning, at the same time
it was thirty above. Aunt
Lawyer wished me to say to you,
that you, are not doing as you
agreed, about writing. Grandma
is still gaining, and has been out
into the sitting-room once but we

think it is most to hard for her.

Grandpa's mind, is not as well as when I wrote father, he talks more about going home, and has started off three or four times, but is readily coaxed back.

All the other friends are as well as usual.

Hoping you will answer this, as soon as received, I remain as ever,

Your Son,
O. W. Morse

Edward

March 10/76

West Amesbury Mar 10th 1876

Dear Mother:

I was very much pleased to received your letter, dated Feb 10th, and I hope you will answer this, quicker than Father, is apt to do, for I do like to hear what you are doing, although I do not know much about the place. You thought that we had got a pretty name for the New town, but some of the Committee, did not think so, therefore they chose Merrimac, which most of the people think a very homely name, on account

of it being so common,
about here, for there are Merrimac
Banks, Halls, Associations, En-
gines Co. &c. I suppose if the
town is divided, the name will
have to be Merrimac, for that
is the name passed into the Legis-
lature. You did not say much
about Father, does he still reside
in San Diego? if he does, I wish
you would ask him to write, as
soon as possible. You spoke
of having snow at Julian, 40
miles from you a foot deep, that
is about as much as we have had
put it all together. We have
had quite good sleighing, several
times, but have not had more
than three inches of snow at
one time. Last Saturday
it was very good sleighing,

and had been all that week,
and today (Wednesday) the ground
is bare, and the frost is coming
out, so that the wheels sink
nearly to the hub. You did
not say anything about com-
ing on this Summer, I hope
you will come, and come as
soon as June, for it seem a very long
time since you were here, and
I do hope, you will come if you
can possibly do so. Grandma
is pretty comfortable, at present.
Grandpa is about the same as when
I wrote you last. The rest are
to be found in their usual health.

Hoping this letter will find
you well,

I remain as ever,
Your Affectionate Son

C. W. Morse

P.S. I forgot to mention about my school, and I will do so now.

This term closes next Friday ^{Mar. 17th} we shall have a public examination through the day, and a sociable in the evening, to which the parents and Friends will be invited.

I think it has been a profitable term, to most of the scholars,

We had a thousand words to spell. One boy spelt them all right, Mr Bailey Sargent's grandson, another John Poyen's son, had missed one and twenty, before the lessons were quite finished.

He thinks he can not learn more here, and so he is going to attend school in Boston.

I think he could learn in W. Amesbury, if he was willing to study.

Elizabeth Spriggs
San Diego Co. Aug. 10th 1876.

Dear Edward

I have been a long time answering your letter, but apologies are useless, therefore I will make none. I suppose you heard from us last by Amos Reed, since he left; your father has had a severe time with his back. He was taken with what is called a "rick in the back" very suddenly from no apparent cause, & was confined to the house nearly three weeks & two weeks to his bed. His physician says it is inflammation of the muscles of the back caused by a cold. He felt very well when he kept still, but he could not move without great pain. He is gradually getting over it - but is not well yet. I think he was taken about

The middle of June, was only able to go to the door & see the procession pass on the 4th of July. As you see by the heading of my letter we are not at home, but are "camping" at Elizabeth Springs near Julian (3 miles) & about 60 miles from San Diego. Mr Shepard (an invalid) & his wife who live near us, proposed taking a trip to the hot Springs at Warner's Ranch. We thought it might be a good thing for your father to bathe in the hot sulphur water, so we concluded to go with them. We started a week ago, & having heard of a new cold sulphur Spring which was recently discovered near Julian we concluded to stop here a few days. The country is very green & lovely here the mts. covered with pines & oaks, which we do not see in S. D. but oh! such a hill to come down to get to the Spring. ^{The road} It was terribly steep, besides being

full of stumps & roots of trees I think
ours were the first carriages that have
ever passed over the road to one
livea at the Springs, but the proprietor
boards at the next house $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles
distant & escorted us down on horse
back. Of course Mrs Shepard & myself
walked down the hill. We found a
most lovely place when we got
down, with plenty of grass for the
horses, wood for cooking & a run-
ning stream of fine water besides
three sulphur ^{springs}. The water bubbling
up pure & cold from the bottom.
I cannot say that the water is very
palatable, but nevertheless we
drink & bathe in it. We camped
under the trees, erected a table by
placing four crooked sticks in
the ground & poles on these, we
then placed our table cloth over the
whole & we had a nice table. Mr S.
& wife each brought a hammock, but
we sleep on the ground. You wonder
I suppose how we could bring all
we want for eating & sleeping in one

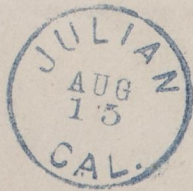
Small buggy, but so we did. Our cooking outfit consists of 1 Kettle, 1 frying pan, coffee pot, which answers also for tea, toasting iron for bread, & various tin cans. For bedding we have three blankets, two pillows, two sheets, one small comforter to put on the ground. We leave our cushions at home & put these on the carriage seat. We brought provisions enough with us to last us two weeks for at the hot springs where we expect to go the last of this week there is not often much that you can buy. The springs there are owned by the Indians. They furnish adobe houses, an old table, & bedsteads & sometimes mattress & sheets, besides the baths, for \$2.00 per week apiece. Here we pay nothing. The hot springs are quite celebrated for rheumatism &c & a great many people visit them in spite of the poor accommodations. They are about 18 miles on the other side of Julian. If we get out of any thing we can replenish at Julian as we pass through on our way to the hot springs.

Your father is trying under a tree reading. He says he will come down with to see you. I tell her I shall write to her soon. This
up to 102°. We were very much
disappointed that we could not
come on to the Centennial this
summer, but we are obliged to
submit to circumstances. We are
hoping that something will happen
the coming winter to liven up
this place, but we cannot tell.
We have had our expectations
raised so many times & then been
disappointed that we hardly dare
hope. Mrs Howard who visited
me at Amesbury, died at Los
Angeles, a few weeks since, & left
a little babe which has since
died. On our way here we
called at the house of a Mr
Luzcoffer whose wife took care
of you a while, when a baby. She
was anxious to see your picture
so I took one with me, but
could not give her one. If
you have a spare picture she
would like it. At the time you
wrote me I thought I should
answer immediately but your
father said he was about writing
so I concluded to wait awhile
& have waited all this time.
We hope to hear from you
soon. Give my regards to your
grandparents & aunts. Please use
this paper as I have no other.
Yours Affectionately Mary C. Morse

This morning we had a nice loaf of
brown bread, that we baked in the
ground last night. & in the same way
we baked beans a few days ago.
We dug a hole & put in flat stones
in the bottom & sides & kept a fire
in this about 3 hours, We then took
our kettle of beans with a cover on
top, first placed a newspaper on it,
& then ferns over that, taking out the
coals, we placed the kettle in, & cover-
ed it with coals & ashes & let
it stand over night, The bread was
just a nice brown & the beans
delicious, As we have but one
kettle we can only bake one
thing at a time. We have quail or
rabbit almost every day, We brought
a whole ham & plenty of eggs, cod
fish &c, We are in the mountains
4000 ft. above the ocean, It is
warmer here in summer &
colder in winter than on the
coast, They often have snow in
winter but it does not last long,
The man who owns this spring
intends putting up a house for the
accommodations of visitors, something
now, it is in a perfect state of
nature, I hear you are having very
hot weather East this summer
We have had some weather ~~for~~
that we called quite warm, but I
think the thermometer has not
gone higher than 87°. at San Diego
but 15 or 20 miles inland, it has
been

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to

Anna,



*Mr Edward W. Morse
Merriam & Essop Co.
Boston*

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



Mr Edward W. Morse
Merrimac
Mass

1877.
San Diego Feb. 27th

Dear Edward

I received your letter of Jan. 19th a few weeks ago. In it you announced the death of your grandfather. Without doubt you miss him very much, but he is much better off, now that he is freed from his worn out body. Through which his mind could not act naturally. Your father also received a letter from you a few days ago. He said you must be mistaken in his not having written since Sept. He thought he had written several times. But you must excuse him for he has so much care & anxiety about several things here that you know nothing about. that I wonder sometimes that

remembers anything. Our railroad bill that we have been so anxious about all winter, we heard last night could not pass Congress. This is a great blow to poor San Diego. You cannot realize where you are, what an effect this will have on property & business here. Land is of scarcely any value & cannot be sold, at any price, but yet the taxes must be paid on it, so that those who have the most land are the worst off. Mr Horton who considered himself a millionaire 4 or 5 years ago, is now expecting to be broken up by his creditors. But he runs in debt to build a fine building which cost \$60,000 just before property went down & there was no sale of land, and this has caused his trouble. I don't know what new hope will be held out to us to grasp

at; but I suppose something. We have had a very dry year, having had less than two inches of rain since last March, 'til yesterday. I think we had $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or more. The farmers & almost every body else were looking very blue, but the rain yesterday cheered them up a little. The young grain was just on the point of suffering, but this rain will keep it along till we can have some more I hope. We usually have some showers in April, but last year we did not have any after the first of March, and no more till Jan. We are not dependant on the rain to water our garden, for we take the City water which comes from the river, but we have to pay \$6.00 per month for it; & are expecting every day they will charge us more. We have a cistern for rain water which we use for drinking. While you have been having such a severe

winter, we have been having an ^{ally} unusual
warm one, The the mercury on the 22^d
Feb. stood at 72° our usual July
weather, A week or two before that
it was up to 80° or more, It was
uncomfortably warm. Our fig trees
are just-leaving out, Our apricot-
tree is in blossom. They are earlier
this year than usual on account
of the hot weather. The fleas even
thought we were not going to have
any more rain, & they began to come
back before yesterday. There have
been more or less (generally less)
strawberries in market all winter
In Dec. & Jan. they were 60 cts. pr
box, now they are 35 cts. We have
a few in our garden, I have since
been able to pick more than 1/2 a
cup full at a time, but - I mean
to enlarge our bed. They were set
out last fall, I have quite a vegetable
garden, I have down beets, carrots, Tomatoes
peas, lettuce, cabbages &c. Eggs are so plenty
now, they are only 25 cts pr. doz. Last fall
they were 50 cts

My old cat Tommie died of old age on the 14th of Feb.
being about 16 years old. I miss him very much. He has
been failing ever since we came from the East. He had
lost all his teeth and his hearing, but he was able
to be around till the day before he died. This is the
month for oranges. There are several trees bearing in
the vicinity of town. It is a beautiful sight to see
them. We have several trees in our yard which have
been set out 6 years but they have never seemed
to grow much, are not much larger than when
set out. I don't think they like the coast winds.
Your father writes all his letters at the office
so that I do not know when he writes you, but
supposed he was answering your letter. He has a
great many business letters that he is obliged to
write. He looks very care worn & grey. His beard
is nearly white. He don't color at all now. You
would be as much surprised to see him now

Your father says you can have the pasture

I have written with a very poor pen
please excuse

as you were when you saw him getting out of
the cars, with his hair so black. I don't know
when we shall ever have money enough to
go East again, not I am sure till we have good
assurance of a railroad to San Diego, so that
land will have some value. I have been wanting
a long time for a new house, but have given
it up entirely now. We might have had one
by selling land, when it had value, but we
thought it was constantly rising, & we were East
a good deal of the time, so we waited. Well I can
get along very well with my old one, as long
as we have so fine a climate, but you would
all freeze to death in it in the East. Nothing
but cloth & paper, no plastering, but you would
not know the difference to look at it. I think
your father will write soon. Give my regards
to your grand mother & aunts
Yours Affectionately
Mary E. Morse

Write soon

Return to E. W. MORSE,

SAN DIEGO, Cal.

If not delivered within 10 days.



Mr Edward W. Morse

Merrimac

Essex Co.

Mass.

1878

San Diego March 27th

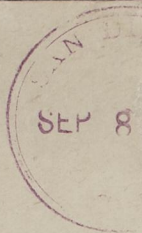
Dear Edward.

I have been threatening to write you for four weeks, or ever since my uncle & aunt left. While they were here (8 weeks) I was so busy taking them to all the places of interest the beaches, the old Mission, the monument on the Mexican line, &c. am doing all my own work that I had no time for writing. They started for their home (Northham Mass.) from San Francisco the 12th of March just after a snow blockade of five days. It is very risky travelling by rail over the Sierra & Rocky mts. in March. We have been having plenty of rain this winter. The San Diego river has been running for six weeks.

Every body & his wife had to go up
& see it: I don't think it has been
running since the winter I was
East. So of course it is quite a
curiosity. The hills are covered
with wild flowers & the grass is
plentiful for the poor starved
cattle & sheep. Our horse Ned is
turned out to grass for a month
10 miles away at Spring Valley.
so that we have no opportunity to
ride out & see how beautifully
green the country is looking. We
had concluded that our rains
were nearly over, but we have had
a very hard shower to day which
will keep everything green for
a month longer at least. I
always feel sorry to see vegetation
dry up & the hills grow brown
again as they do generally by the
1st of May, & oftentimes before
It began to be green this year about the
middle of Dec. We have not had
to irrigate our garden since then
although we have to pay for water
(\$6.00 pr month) just the same. We have
just had some bananas ripen on
our trees. The tree blossomed & the
bananas came out last July, & they
have been all this time ripening.
Our peach trees are in blossom also
the quince. The little figs are just
starting, even before the leaves. I hear
you have had a very mild winter, on
the contrary we have had a very cold
winter for this climate. We had no
frost in our garden, but outside
of town a little, it froze water.
We are waiting anxiously for that
railroad bill to pass so that we
can come East & see you next
summer, but we cannot tell how
it will be decided. Every thing looks
very favorable for its passage, but
we have been disappointed so many
times that we scarcely dare hope.
It may not come up before June
which will be a long time to
be kept in suspense.

I had a long letter from Mrs
Lawyer a day or two since telling
me all the news. She was not-
well at the time, I hope we shall
be able to go East this summer
Your father needs the rest very
much. He has interested himself
in this railroad so deeply & written
so many letters all over the country
where ~~the~~ ^{the} thoughts - persons would
have any influence, that I think
he is nearly worn out. We have
a few mairies here now. Every body
is gathering ferns & making them
into crosses & various devices. I do
not-remember whether I sent you
a specimen of them in a letter or
not. - Tell Florence that I have gather-
ed her some sea moss, & if we do
not- come on this summer, will
send it by mail. Your father had a
letter from you not- long since I
think. Write soon. Kind regards to
your grandmother & aunts.

Yours with much love
Mary C. Morse



Mr Edward W. Morse
Merrimac Ess

San Diego, Sept 7th / 78

Dear Edward

I received a letter from you about three weeks ago, which I intended to answer before this, I was flattering myself that you owed me a letter & I still think so, although it is possible you are right. Your father has one from you which he says he has not answered. But you must excuse him, he has so much on his mind, & so many cares & anxieties that he that he can hardly get through with such letters as he is obliged to write on business. He is not very well this summer, & I have been trying to have him take a trip out camping, to take his mind off into a new channel, which would do him more good than any thing else I think. The Teachers Institute was held

here last week, continuing five days
I attended all the time except one
half day. Twelve years ago there was
only one school in the county (which
is larger than the State of Mass) now
there are 34. We had abundant rain
last winter which continued away
into the Spring. It rained some in May
& then we had foggy mornings still
later, till it caused the grain to rust,
so that in many parts of the State there
was only about half a crop. This was
a great disappointment to farmers
who were expecting such an abundance.
The honey crop is quite good this year.
although for a time it was feared that
the foggy weather would affect the
flowers. Our hottest weather I think has
been about 88° & H but back a little
from the coast it has been up to
108° & at Fort Yuma 115°

We fell greatly

disappointed that our railroad bill
did not pass last session of Congress.
We should have gone East if it had,
but that is out of the question now
till it does pass. We still have hopes
for next winter. I suppose you wonder
how we can have the courage, after
being disappointed so many times.
A good many families have been
obliged to leave the place there being
so little business, but they would
come back again if business should
revive. The season is soon coming
when winter visitors will begin to
arrive, which helps the place. I believe
there are only six boarders at our
principal ^{hotel}, where in the winter the
house used to be full. We have had
bushels of figs this summer. Sometimes
I pick off at one time a water pail
full. We have 7 trees of the white Smyrna
variety, & 3 of the dark fig. They are as

large as a good sized pear & of the
same shape. The white ones ripen gradually
lasting about six weeks or two months
then the dark ones come on. The grapes
are not doing well this year. Many of them
having been struck with rust. We have one
large bunch of ^{an} basinas out, which
blossomed last-winter. It takes them
a year to mature after they blossom
consequently these will not be ripe till
next Feb. I am sorry to hear that your
aunt Laura is not well. I hope she is
not going to be sick long. I think I am
owing Mrs Sawyer a letter. I must
answer it soon. I suppose by the time this
reaches you, you will have had frosts.
By going out-40 miles from here we
could enjoy a frosty night-I suppose, I think
we need the change once in a while.
That is why we go out-into the Mts.
camping, to get into a different climate.
We went out-last-year when our dish
cloth froze in June. I hope to hear from
you again soon.

Very Truly Yours
Mary E. Morse

Regards to inquiring friends

Near Pine Valley San Diego, Co. June 25th 1879

Dear Edward.

As you see, we are not at home, but stopping (camping) at a Soda Spring 50 miles from town. We have two families with us. We started from S.D. one week ago today & expect to be home next Saturday. We are not particularly sick, but think it best to go out into the mts. occasionally & have a little change. Our climate is so nearly the same the whole year, that people find it necessary to make a change in locality instead. We were three days in getting here coming over some of the worst road the last part of way that you New Englanders ever saw. The last night before arriving here we camped at Pine Valley where it was so cold our dish cloth froze. We are now 500 ft. lower down where it is very warm & pleasant. I never heard of this Spring until recently, but several families have visited it this year. A Mr Buckman & wife are living in a rough board house of three rooms near the Spring & we are camping under the trees. Your father & I have a tent made of three breaths of unbleached cloth, with our bed underneath, which is quite sufficient protection, as we expect no rain. The others also have the same. Our camp fire, & table are between the tents. We brought provisions enough to last two weeks

The spring water is very pleasant to the taste foaming up like
Soda water. It is also tinged with iron. They have all gone
off hunting this afternoon, all but myself & two children.
I saw an Indian pass a few moments ago. I was glad there
was a house near. They will probably bring home plenty of
quail & rabbit. We go two miles after our milk, buy it
of a Japan family, & etc. per quart. We have come to the
conclusion that it is nothing but skimmed milk after
all. Would like to change milkmen but should have
to go 4 miles if we do. We have a saddle horse along
& send a boy sometimes, at others go with our buggy
fortunately the road is very good. We have a Dutch
oven in which we bake beehive bread, potatoes, meat & c
griddle cakes are a fashionable dish with us. Also ham
& eggs. I brought seven dogs. We have plenty of employ ment
cooking, washing dishes & c but no carpets to sweep or dusting
to do. We have plenty of reading. I brought my knitting &
also am braiding a mat. The first winter that I spent
in Amesbury. We had some very hot weather about the
tenth of this month in San Diego. One day the thermometer
indicated 93°. Out in the country it was much higher
108° in some places. It lasted five days. It killed some
of our tomatoes on one side & did a great deal of damage
to bee feed. There will be but little honey made this year
some are obliged to feed their bees to keep them from
starving. We shall have a good crop of grapes this year

I also plenty of figs of San Diego, the 2^d. crop 1877
 The first crop which would have been ripe this month
 was killed by a hot wind that came just as they
 were setting. The peaches also on grafted trees were
 all blighted, but the seedlings are bearing. We don't know
 whether it is a good year for apples or not, there are so
 few of them here. This has been one of our driest years
 Many cattle, horses, & sheep have starved to death all
 over the state. The winter I spent East was the only
 really wet winter we have had for seven years, & at
 half a crop of grain will be raised through the state
 Back here in the mountains it is much greener than
 near the coast, & it is such a luxury to see a little
 stream of running water as we do occasionally.
 It was only at Pine valley that we saw pine trees on this
 trip. They disappeared before we got here, & in their place
 we find live oaks. We shall take a different route
 home & go through Camps, which is near the Mexican
 line I have never been in this part of the county before
 Remember our county is as large as the whole of Mass.
 Your father enjoys these ^{trips} very much. It takes his mind
 from the wearing cares of business, & the weary waiting
 for better times. We try to forget for the time every thing
 pertaining thereto.

July 1st - We arrived home day before yesterday, having had a very pleasant trip. We found every thing as usual here, but the place I thought - looked a little dryer than I had ever seen it, in contrast - to the green we had seen out in the mountains. There is to be no 4th of July celebration here this year every body feels too poor. They think it - better to save the money to send some one to Washington to look after our railroad interests next winter. We received a letter from Mrs Sawyer on our return. I gathered a few ferns while out in the Mts. They are so different - from the Eastern ferns that - I will send your aunts one of each variety. I suppose you will not - care much about them. If I had gone out - earlier in the season I could have got - plenty of them. They are very pretty made into crosses & wreaths. Your father says "Tell Edward to write me how they are getting along with the barn." Hoping to hear from you soon

I remain as ever Yours Affectionately

Mary C. Morse

Please excuse crooked lines

THE "BIG TREE" OF CALIFORNIA.

THE KING OF THE FOREST.

Taking its enormous size, length and properties into consideration, it is the most remarkable, wonderful and interesting growth in the world.

It was discovered in the Spring of 1852 by Mr. A. T. Dowd, a hunter, in the celebrated Calaveras Grove, Calaveras county, California. As soon as the fact was known, it was published throughout the world. Since then nine (9) distinct groves of the same kind have been found, scattered along the Sierra Nevada mountains, ranging in altitude from 4000 feet to 7000 feet above the sea level, in latitude from 36° to $38^{\circ} 30'$.

This "Big Tree" [the Daniel Webster] was found in Fresno county, near Tulare county, California, 6500 feet elevation, between King's and Hawiah rivers, in the largest grove containing these Trees yet discovered, which is about 20 miles long, by 4 miles in width, interspersed with pines, cedars, firs and other trees. It was cut in March, 1875; its measurements were: height 276 feet, base diameter 26 feet 9 inches, or 81 feet around; ~~circumference~~ at 100 feet height, 14 feet; ~~circumference~~ at 200 feet height, 9 feet. The first limb was 5 feet 11 inches in diameter; the bark 37 inches thick.

The weight of the trunk of the tree was over 1200 tons, that of the section exhibited, over 200 tons. The body of the tree would have made 372,000 feet of inch lumber, or it would have fenced 10,000 acres of land. It was perfectly solid from the ground to its top, and is over 3,000 years old.

This section, 16 feet long, is 67 feet circumference outside and 16 feet 6 inches diameter inside, or having 227 square feet floor-room.

The shell is in 8 sections lengthwise, has about 8 inches of wood, and the bark outwardly appears as natural as when standing in its native forest.

The Botanical name of the growth is "Sequvia Gigantea."

1st limb 100 ft from
ground

San Diego Feb. 15th

Dear Edward

I have been looking for a letter from you for a long time & yesterday it came. As you said, I at first thought you had changed your place of residence but instead found that you had changed the name of your town. Will you have selected quite a pretty name, but I think it will be some time before you will be able to give up the old one. You say you have had quite a mild winter East, on the contrary we have had colder weather than usual all through Cal. Snow even has fallen in places where it was

never known to fall since settled by
the Americans or at least since 1779
At Julian 40 miles from here in an
air line the snow was a ft. deep at
one time, but did not last long.
There has been frost here in town
but we did not see any in our
garden. We covered up a little banna
na tree a few nights, for fear it
might get nipped. We have had
two very fine rains this winter.
The last one closed this morning
This will insure the crops we think.
The farmers were getting frightened
before New Year's because we had
so little rain, but now they are
happy, in prospect of an abundant
harvest. Our cistern which holds
100 bbls. is nearly full of rain
water. We drank rain water all
last summer, but now we have
river water brought into town
in iron pipes. I expect we shall
have to pay dearly for it, but it
is so much better for the garden
than our hard water from the wind

mill, that we want to take it. We have
not asked the water company yet how
much they will ask for it, but one of our
friends talks it. & they ask \$3.00 pr. month
for the horse \$2.00 for the garden &
\$1.00 for the horse. They have only one
lot in their garden & we have 4.
There are a great many visitors here
from the East this winter. Some are
invalids & others are pleasure seek-
ers They are like birds of passage
& will soon leave us. The wild
geese commenced going back
North the last of Jan. I think
they are foolish for they will
surely get into the snow some-
where on their route. The mail
stage between here & Los Angeles
got carried down by a stream into
the ocean. Two of the horses & the
stage with the mails were lost,
while the driver & the two pass-
engers escaped. A letter to Mr
Howard from your father went out
to sea. We are waiting very anxiously
to see what Congress is going

Write again soon. Tommie is quite deaf & has lost all his teeth
his appetite & excretion - remain good.

to do about our Texas & Pacific Rail
road bill. They are discussing it now
& the result will soon be known.
We have fears that the bill will not
pass, but yet we hope for the best. We
are thus anxious, as our fate
peculiarly depends on the passage
of this bill. Poor San Diego has met
with many disappointments & if
she meets this, it will be the sourest
of all. Amos Wed is intending to
go home next Spring or Summer
I see by the papers that the fare ^{on railroads & steamers} is
not to be reduced next year. I
think this is not right. I am sorry
your grand mother is so unwell
this winter. We have had more
sickness here this winter than
usual. Several have had fevers.
Our P. S. is lying now very sick with
fever & probably will not recover.
Mrs Sawyer has probably received
a letter before this as I sent one two
weeks ago, unless it is stopped in
a snow drift on the railroad. Give
my regards to your aunts & grandparents
Yours Affectionately Mary C. Morse

Return to E. W. MORSE,

SAN DIEGO, Cal.

If not delivered within 10 days.



Ans.

Mr Edward W. Morse
West Amesbury
Mass.

Return to E. W. MORSE,

SAN DIEGO, Cal.

If not delivered within 10 days.



Mr Edward W. Morse

Merrimac Essex Co.

Mass.

Ans.



Ed^d W. Morse
West Amesbury
Mass.

Amos

Return to BANK OF SAN DIEGO,
SAN DIEGO, Cal.,
if not delivered within 10 days.



Edward W. Morse
West Amesbury
Mass.

Ans.

$$\begin{array}{r} 110 \\ 96 \\ \hline 4 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 110 \\ 108 \\ \hline 2 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 22 \\ 90 \\ \hline 55 \end{array}$$
$$2304$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 6600 \\ \hline 55080 \\ 55188 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 12760 \\ \hline 55 \end{array}$$
$$2250$$
$$121100$$
$$91 - \frac{8}{12} = \frac{43}{6}$$

1880

San Diego Feb 12th

Dear Edward

We received your letter about a week ago. I don't know whether your father has answered it or not; I have not asked him but am afraid he has not, for he is just at this time exceedingly busy, & under a good deal of excitement - about railroad matters. Nothing is decided yet - whether we get a railroad or not; but the people here are doing every thing in their power, to make inducements sufficient to make them decide favorably. They have subscribed lands & right of way, &c, and now are just finishing up getting the titles perfected. Your father works day & night for this purpose, knowing that every

I will send some ferns for Carrie I will send more when I send the picture

thing
depends (peculiarly) on our getting
a railroad very soon. We have given
up getting the Texas & Pacific to build
from this end, & have been interviewing
the Atchison & Topico. They sent two
men here to look at the different
routes & they went back to Boston
to present the matter before this Co.
some weeks ago. We are waiting in
the greatest anxiety for their decision.
We do not expect to get the direct
route as we expected from Scott,
but by the way of San Bernardino
if we get any. We think any
railroad is better than none. It
will not build up as large
a place, and consequently not raise
the value of land as much, as the
direct line, but we think it will
help us amazingly. Your father's
mind has been engrossed with
this since last Aug. when an

agent - was sent - on from here to see
this company. I thought last summer
that he would work himself out; before
things could be brought about; ready
for these men to come & look at the
situation of things here. They demanded
5,000 acres of land from the citizens
& many other things, which had to
be raised by subscription. This your
father with a few others had to do.
He wrote hundreds of letters to non
residents who owned property here,
asking them to give land or money.
When they had given, a deed
had to be made out, for all these
lands & sent. - I cannot begin to
tell you all the hard work & annoy-
ance he has had to go through
on this account, besides attending
to all his own duties. He had
two spells of sickness in the fall
from over work, but now he is better
but if the strain on his mind
continues much longer I fear
he will break down. If we could
only get this railroad business

I'm glad to hear you are well & I hope you will be
himself again, and will write you
as of old. We have been having the
coldest weather this winter that I
have ever known here. We had ice
near 1/2 inch thick in our garden. It
killed our tomato vines & our barman
trees. They will spring up from the roots
I think. Our oranges & lemons were not
injured, but away from the coast. The
injury was considerable. We could see
plenty of snow on the mts. I am very
glad to hear that you & Carrie Pillsbury are
such good friends. I always thought
the world make you an excellent wife.
Your father is quite pleased about it too.
He has had excellent training from her youth
up, is industrious, economical, well educated
& good dispositioned. I think, & in fact a very
pretty young lady. You may think yourself
very fortunate if she favors ^{you} suit. I think
I must send her a few pictures. I know
she has a nice taste & will appreciate any
thing of that kind. You did not say whether
you were living at Mr Sawyrs or at your
grandmother. Tell Mrs Sawyre that I think
I wrote last, but I am not certain. I will
write her soon. We had a postal card & photograph
from mother at Christmas. I sent Helen a few
pictures, have not heard from them since.
Last year not a lb of honey was sent from
this county & more than half of all the
bees died of starvation. The bee business
has proved to be a very unprofitable business
for your father. He has had to keep a man
there to see to the bees all the year, & bees all
the expense without having a lb. of honey
to sell. This year promises to be a good
honey year. Having had plenty of rain so
far & we shall expect some more yet.
Year before last was the only really good year
we have had since he went into the bee business
5 years ago. Please write as often as you can &
I will answer them if your father does not.
Yours with many kind wishes for your welfare. M.C.M.

Regards to all inquiring friends Mrs Darwyn in particular

Jan 15, 1878.

14.00 Paid on note
10 of # 14.00
1.40

12.60

Edward W. Muel
Merimac, Mich.

Merriam Apr 26th 80.

Dear Mother:

As it is somewhat stormy to day I will do what I should have done long ago and that is acknowledge the receipt of that fern picture if that is what it is styled. I should have done so before but I did not find time as all my was occupied in carrying my milk and taking care of the stock. After the cows go to pasture it won't take so much of my time. I suppose you are about getting a letter from Aunt Susan telling all the

news so I do not know
what to write. I do not ~~know~~
know whether she told you about
my Aunt or not. Aunt Leu-
ra has been sick two years and
is unable to do anything. Aunt
Maria is ^{very} smart and does
a great deal of the work, Grandma
for a year and half up to the
first of Jan. has been ^{very} comfortable
indeed since then she has been
very sick but is we think some-
what better I do hope you will
get that P.R. so you can
come on this year.

May 2nd I thought when I com-
menced this letter I should fin-
ish it before I left it but it
cleared off so I went to the
village in the afternoon and
since have had no time.
Aunt Susan has gone to

Cambridge where Grandma
Morse is visiting. Uncle
Leonard had a letter yesterday
saying she was coming home
Monday and Grandma would
come with her.

I will try
and write more the next
time for I am thinking
this will be all you will
wish to read of this kind
of writing Aunt Susan bor-
rowed my ink and I think
returned a different bottle for
I can't make it mark half
the time I should think
it had been watered.

With love Your Affec. Son
Ed.

Edward

April 26/80