

November 10th/1850

Dear Mother

Notwithstanding I have just sent you a letter I am going to begin another for I am all alone. Milton has gone to meeting this evening and I am seated all alone in our "sanctum sanctorium" so I will converse awhile with my old home-but let me tell you the reason of our being here this evening. Well it is no less than this Milton has supplied the church here in Auburn¹ today as they have no minister. Had a full house-some say larger than Eld. Bachus used to have. Word was given out last sabbath that he would preach today though nothing had been said to him about it-but if I don't hurry he will get home before I hardly begin. I am enjoying life very much-indeed how could it be otherwise with such a kind, affectionate husband as I have. How much grace I need to keep me in the right way but I hope I shall be enabled to perform my duties faithfully to my husband and my Lord. To Him alone I look for strength. He has promised and when did his promises ever fail. Surely "who is a God like our God." I think I feel more and more the importance of living near my saviour and I trust I have the prayers of my dear friends at home that I may prove a blessing instead of a curse to my dear husband and to the world. O' how much humility we need to keep us at the best of him who was meek and lowly in heart.

¹ Auburn, the county seat of Cayuga County, New York

November 10th

I often think of you dear Mother. Lonely I know you are, yet you have a friend. A tried friend who is able to assist you in all your pilgrimage through life. When I think of my own present happiness and prosperity I often ask myself, shall I ever pass through the trials which have fallen to the lot of my dear Mother. It seems now impossible for me to think I ever could endure it. In all probability I shall be called away first, yet no one knows what may be. I hope I shall ever trust in God that I may be prepared for all that he has prepared for me in this life. If I have the love of my dearest earthly friend I can buffet the storm of life and be happy in a hut. O' how sweet to have a friend to lean upon-one who can speak words of comfort to the weary and discouraged. How I delight to hear his loved voice from the desk proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation and explaining the word of God. I can understand better-and while he preached I pray. How I wish you could be here and attend meeting with us some sabbath. I listened for you all last Sabbath-text-"Give an account of thy stewardship"-I never saw before so clearly the justice and foreknowledge of God in connection with the accountability and free agency of man. I want to preach it to you at home but I suppose I need not turn preacher-but I will preach it to you yet in some form. I hear M. feet coming so I will stop preaching.

December 4th, 1850
(A continuation of the Nov. 10th letter)

My dear loved friends. After so long a time I again take my pen to finish my letter. I received C's letter last week, had been anxiously waiting a long time. I told M. I knew you were sick there or you would write. Never was a letter more anxiously awaited. I was very sorry to hear that Mother was so unwell, yet I might have expected it. What can I do for her. I wish I could be there to help you. I have thought of you constantly since I heard you were sick. Do you stand in need of anything I can help you too. Tell me what I can do for you and I will do it. O' how I wish I could run in and see you. I wish you were here that we might be together, but I have left my friends at home. I do not regret leaving home, but I am sorry you are sick and I can't be with you. But you must write me often for you know my anxiety. I think of my poor sick lonely mother constantly. May her mind be stayed on God. We can't always be together but I hope when this short life is ended we may meet in a better land. Perhaps I ought to have stayed at home longer that I might have been with you in sickness but I have left. May God be with and bless you all. I am very well, but sometimes my head troubles me-that _____ has gone away. That weak place in my side has troubled me. But is better now. I have not heard from Darwin, _____ written to him, but must tonight. I wrote to _____ in it to _____. We think of going out there _____ We expect some company from Hamilton¹ between Christmas _____ Years.

Love to
Mum too

¹ Hamilton _____

December 4th, 1850

(continuation)

found here
I have been through the prison, between 7 and 8 hundred convicts. Eld. Aaron Angus preaches at Cato out here in Cayuga Co. I think your dresses very cheap. I have got none yet, shall get a winter dress soon. Potatoes selling in market at 75¢ a bushel. We get them at Fleming(?) for 50 cts. All of you write.

Can't think what to write. I want to write so much. Write me all you know about _____. Who and what is he writing particularly. Mother keep up good spirits and get well as fast as you can. I want you to come and see me if we stay here. Write me a good long letter. I am pleasantly and happily situated, but feel bad because of friends at home are not so well as I am. I have had company from Fleming today. How I wish you lived out here away from old enemies.

3 young men are being tried for murder. I attended court yesterday to hear the lawyers plea for the prisoners-expect hear the other side tomorrow or part of it. The prisoner names are Bayham, suspected of murdering a peddler. It will go hard with them. The oldest is about 22, young in years, old in crime. I will write more about it when they get through with one of them this week. Wish mother had some of our honey. Milton says he wished she had it all. Will write the rest next time.

(L2) 3
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¹ Hamilton, town in Madison County, New York

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December 4th, 1850

(continuation)

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December 4th, 1850
(Continuation of Nov.
10th, 1850 letter)

Milton is to be ordained at Fleming(?) the 26th of Dec. How I wish you could be here. I do want to see you so much. Write me often about Mother. What can I do for her.

(At this point Harriet Bidwell Shaw's husband, John Milton Shaw, wrote a few lines, at his wife's insistence.)

Harriett says I must write something, but what it will be I hardly know for I see she has written a general synopsis of the world's history from the deluge to the present time--and I have been writing lectures till I am very tired. I have more on my hands that I want to do. It pulls to my but to have to attend a great many funerals.

Sabbath afternoon I attended the funeral of a young man, whose only hope was a death ^{bed} ~~and~~ repentence--these are among the unpleasant duties of a minister's life and must be performed--of what infinite value is the Christian's hope. In life and death the joy and delight of the Lord---in affliction its stay and consolation, in death bright^{er} ~~ness~~ and glows, with immortality and glory. Kings and princes may gather glittering dust and bid their servile subjects bow low

Bracket materials to be used

June 2nd/51

[Dear Sister

In great haste I sit down to write you a few lines. I received your last a few days ago and was much disappointed that such events had transpired as prevented your coming and no cause that I can see-but do not grieve about it-all will be for the best though we may not see it now. Perhaps it is best you should not be here amidst the bustle and confusion of our leaving. I had anticipated much pleasure in your visit but as circumstances are now we do not expect to be here long. [Milton has just today received his appointment as Missionary to New Mexico and we shall leave ~~here~~ as soon as we can. I wrote you in my last that we expected to stay till the middle of July but we may not.] I may come home before. We want to start as soon as we (can) on our journey-it is hard to part with friends but if tis Gods will we must go-everything indicates that tis duty-and I are not say nay. [You know we cannot always be together. We are not our own and must labor and should feel it a privilege to labor where God calls.]

[do not mourn-tis not an Eastern clime⁽¹⁾ but within our own territories that I go-and should life and health be spared I might return again. wish you could see the letters from New York. The field is now open for our denominations.⁽²⁾ They are waiting for our missionaries and very anxious for schools. How can I refuse I feel that it is duty. We are both drawn towards that field-the journey overland would be about 40 days. Go with wagons and mules, sleep in our wagon. Now I do not ~~mourn~~ grieve and mourn but rather rejoice if ~~may~~ I may do some good in that field. I dare not say nay though it separate me from home and ~~friends~~ friends. I feel impelled to go. I have one of the best of husbands who will provide every thing possible for my comfort on the way and be a great source of comfort when there-for this I feel thankful. I feel much more for those I leave behind than for myself. I shall do well enough-If I can keep my nerves and head quiet-but the excitement of leaving is most I dread. If I can endure that and keep up I shall all the rest. I should have been very glad to have had you with me awhile before I left but then things are not under our control, be assured my sister it will all be for the best, though trying to us now. I

*Professors to Orient - missionaries to
 Japan - Japan
 (2) - Report
 1/1/1857*

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presume you feel much disappointed and will more so when you hear I am so soon to leave but do not feel bad, be calm, be quiet trust in God and all will be well. I shall visit you before I leave though it will not be a very long visit. We are going to sell our cow immediately and dispose of the rest of our things as soon as we can and it is necessary I should be here at present. I do not know yet how soon we go-or how ~~xxxxxx~~ soon we break up house-keeping. I should prefer staying here till were ~~xxxxx~~ about ready, if my friends were here. But if they cannot be here I must be there awhile but you see I have great preparations to make. [People are coming in to help me _____ and we have yet got to find out what we need for outfit. We must have clothing for at least a year and we can carry but very little with us.] I shall bring home all I took away and more. [Freight over the plains is about 10 cts a ~~xxx~~ pound so we can carry but little, but I have not time to particularize-wish you were here but do not feel ~~xxx~~ bad about it.] I can give it up, so must you if necessary and still trust in a higher power. If God send us, bid us God speed. I realize more than ever that this world is not our home-that we must not set our affections on earthly objects. [Can you give us up to be a blessing to that ignorant portion of our race. I

feel a peace in going where my dear husband will
feel he is doing good, and the reaction on my own
mind will be beneficial, for he will never be con-
tented here. I can see the hand of God in all his
dealings with me. I feel most for those I leave.
What will _____ my dear mother do, but I
shall leave something for her support, and trust
God to take care of her. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~
~~xx~~
~~xx~~
I feel for you all
and I feel bad that you cannot come and see me
before I leave and assist me a little. You know
the strength of my affection, but I must ~~xxxx~~ try to
overcome all feelings ~~ix~~ that will tend to injure
my health which is not very good at present. I
thought much of having your company and assistance
for a few weeks but as you could not come I give ~~xx~~
it up. We shall I hope meet above where partings
never come. Favor yourself in school all you can.
This hope my dear friends cheers me amid all my
disappointments, do not let these things trouble
~~xxxxxxxx~~ you, remember we are in the hands of an
all _____ providence who hears all our petitions.
We never kneel in prayer without remembering ~~xx~~
especially our absent friends. I should as soon
forget to pray as forget to pray for them. Though

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we meet with trials and disappointments in this ~~xxx~~
~~xxx~~ life, it will soon end and then how sweet
our rest, but I must be Brief, so much to do. We
must soon go to Jordan to see Eld Welles wife, sister
to Mrs Smith lately sent to N. Mex. She knows what
they carried, should go today if able, but I washed
yesterday and went to rest today. I ripped apart the
blue coverlet Mother gave me yesterday and ~~Mix~~ M.
and I washed it. I shall carry that with me and all
I can, but therethings I can tell you when I see you.
Mother we are pinched for money now or I would send you
some, try to get along till I come home. I ~~xx~~ shall
leave some for you. Is there anything in particular
you want, I should bring, if so write me word. We
shall go to Ha _____ before long I expect. We
shall sell our things , what few we have, for what
we can get. I am glad I have no more. I have a nice
carpet and curtains which I shall carry and shall
bring home the bed I took as we shall carry but one.
I shall come home soon as I can leave, but it seems
as though I was needed here all the time, so much to
do and so much to see to. I wish you were all here
then I would only make a short visit to Vt. , give
my love to all the good friends. I expect we shall
have to hire a girl to help us as M is unwilling I
should have so much to do. A lady here has ~~visited~~
waited

x with a ...

~~all the spring~~ all the spring for me to make her
a silk dress, dont know as I can do it possibly.
But I don't mean to fret.. All will come round right.
I must keep as quiet as possible . Love to all.
This is intended for all of you. I meant to have
written separately, but have no time, read it and
send it to Cornelie. I am afradi the school will
be to hard for her and ~~xxxx~~ she feels so bad not
to come and see me. [We expect now to go the latter
part of summer.

You can mention to the people that we are going
to New Mexico.

[
Harriet
]

Mother

When we sell our things I shall have more money.
M says I must leave some to help support you. I
told him I must. ~~xx~~ He will get it soon as he can.
What arrangements can you make.

Letter
Bracket omission: from
the letter.

(24)

St. Louis Sept 2nd/51

[Dear Friends

You are probably anxiously awaiting news from your absent friends and I with pleasure sit down to give you an account of our journey.

Aug 25th. We parted with our friends in Auburn and started on our long and tedious journey. I had walked about Auburn till I was very tired and then sat 4 times for Daguerreotypes for a friend. Br. Stone of Auburn, He took 4 and he gave me one. I intended to have sent it to you from Aub but was so tired and had so much to do I thought I would wait till I got to Buffalo. Arrived there $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 and put up at Bennetts Temperance house, where amid bugs and dirt we managed to stay till morning.

Tuesday, Aug 26 went to the far famed Niagara Falls and spent a delightful time till 2 oclock. I cannot find language to describe the beauty which surrounded us on every side but can only say that in grandeur and magnificence it surpassed everything I had before conceived. It is indeed well worth a voyage across the Atlantic to see them. There I stood, mute with wonder and awe at the magnificence before me while the thundering Niagara came rolling down in grandeur all its own. I cant describe them

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as they should be described. It would take a pen far more gifted than mine. The view from the Canada side is by far the most grand. We went in the cars to the Falls on the American side, went down the inclined plane to the river side in cars let down by pulleys, crossed over in a small ferry boat below the falls to the Canada shore, took a carriage and went up the other side to Table Rock, from there to Suspension bridge and back on the Canada side to Chippewa where we went on board the steamer, Emerald for Buffalo. On our route through Canada visited the Burning Springs. A boy applied ~~to the~~ a torch to the water and immediately it was in a blaze. Natural gas, twas worth seeing. Several carriages, cattle, etc. crossed the Suspension bridge while we were there. Although in Queen Vic's dominions we felt a little Yankeeified and had the audacity to go out on the bridge and pick a sprig, but a man came **after** us to tell us it was against the rules. The gate was open and no one there at that time so we dodged him and stood on Suspension bridge, toll 25 cts for crossing each way. We had a pleasant ride on the Niagara to Buffalo. Went on board the splendid steamer "May Flower" for Chicago.

Now for what I wrote on the way.

Lake Erie Aug 27. I cannot resist the impulse

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of writing you a few lines while sailing across the deep green waters of Lake Erie, the lake I so much dreaded, but the weather is beautiful and we are having a fine time. [You may expect some crooked marks for the constant jar of the boat almost prevents me from thinking.] We came on board yesterday afternoon, about 5 and expected to leave at 8 but the express train from the East did not arrive till eleven so we had to wait till about 12 before we left. The boat was crowded with passengers, I should think 6 hundred. [I slept but little as our room was so near the machinery I felt some fear.] When I awoke in the morning we were far out in Erie. I felt that I was but a speck on the ocean of existence yet still felt secure in the watchful care of a kind Providence who has thus far sustained and protected us from all harm. [We feel that we are the special objects of his care and this fills our minds with peace. It is surprising how I have endured so much fatigue day after day, it is the Lord that has sustained me, to his name be all the glory. Whether I shall endure the journey or not I ca not tell, but if the Lord has a work for me to do he will carry me through . I need rest and quiet very much.] Maria^x is some seasick but I am not, so you can see I dont intend to

x Maria - assistant - teacher

15
vomit up my shoes today.

Detroit Depot, 5 o'clock

Well Mother here we are at Detroit. We have just reached here and while the baggage is being loaded, I will improve the time in writing to you. We crossed the lake in 17 hours without landings. I am well pleased with the journey so far. We had a delightful time to cross the lake, not a breeze to ruffle its placid bosom. [I was not sick at all and enjoyed it much.] It was beautiful sailing up Detroit river, scenery delightful. We are somewhat tired but in good spirits, thus you see Providence protects us. Our journey has been prosperous thus far and we feel confident that the Lord will go with us all the way, perhaps in answer to the prayers of our friends at home. Do not worry in the least about us. We feel that we are watched over and cared for every day, but my time is limited and I must also see if there is any sleep in these cars. We mean to find some for we have to ride all night.

•Lake Michigan, Wednesday Noon. We rode all night, took our supper about 11 and this morn reached New Buffalo on the shores of Lake Michigan about 10, where we took breakfast. That part of Michigan which we saw was the poorest country I ever beheld, low swampy ground, with damp foggy air. [I should have

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liked to have visited Uncle Jonah but we passed Kalamazoo just before day. I saw a little of it, not a large place. I sent a visit and an abundance of love by Joel Bingham, one of my old scholars from Hannibal whom we found on the "May Flower" going to Michigan. He is living 12 miles from them and said he expected soon to visit them.

~~XXXXX~~
1 o'clock. We are having a fine time crossing Lake Michigan. Went on board the steamer, "Sam Ward" for Chicago about 10, very pleasant ride and ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXX~~ now we can see Chicago in the distance and are nearing it very fast. O how I wish you were here to enjoy it with us. It is so delightful. Perhaps you would like to know where we are. Well Milton and I are on deck enjoying the prospect and I penciling a few lines to you. Maria is in the cabin enjoying the delights of sea sickness ^{FROM} which we are entirely free. She is not very sick. We have had delightful weather all the way. Chicago heaves in sight more and more. We shall soon be there. You could not have wished us a more delightful time to cross the Lakes than we have had. We have on this Lake accidentally found Mrs. Ransom the lady from Woodstock that Mrs. Wim Green told me was in the next car when we left Rutland. She spoke of being from Woodstock and going to G _____ and I soon found her out. She appears like a fine woman. She came with us all the way from Buffalo but we did not know her or she us.

Packet "Prairie State" 6 oclock

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Arrived in Chicago about 3 and came on board this Packet to go down the Canal to La Saelle where we expect to take steamboat to St. Louis. As usual crowded with passengers. Where under the canopy (to use one of Milton's phrases) is every body going. Such a perfect jam of human beings in every place. I have just been on deck to see the prairies we have so often heard of. They are indeed a curiosity to a Vermonter. Such an extent of land, level- without a tree or hill.

10 oclock Friday morn.

We are still on the Canal. Somewhat long this morning but now coming off very pleasant. What a fine time we have. You see Providence smiles upon us. What are our dear friends doing at home. O I wish you were here enjoying the delights of travelling over these western states, but their prairies are not half ~~so~~ beautiful as our dear mountain home, but dearly we love it. I do not regret coming. We have had a fine time on this canal, beautiful country on Fox river, really delightful. Passed "Starved Rock" so named from a band of Indians being starved to death on it by another tribe with whom they were at war. It stands out alone 200 ft high with only one place to get on it. I think _____ describes it.

X

16
in
Illinois River
Saturday Morn

We reached La Saelle about 4 yesterday afternoon and went on board the steamer Connecticut for St. Louis, passed a miserable night on account of the noise and ~~in~~ the tormenting musquitoes, have a good room. We are now sailing down the Illinois, a romantic river, scenery ~~xxxxxxx~~ varies but little, mostly forest on both sides with water as far as you can see. The river is very high, has overflowed its banks. Is it possible we are on the Illinois river, even so.

Mississippi River Sunday Morn. We expected to have reached St. Louis from Buffalo in $3\frac{1}{2}$ days but they delay so much to take on freight that they seldom fulfill. We have just passed the place where the Illinois empties into the Mississippi and we are now sailing down that great and noble stream, high ~~xxxxx~~ rocks and romantic on the eastern side.

St. Louis, September 2nd.

People here talk of Boston and Virginia as familiarly as we would of Rutland and speak of Santa Fe as a near neighbor, mere pastime to cross the plains.

Those long eared animals ~~what~~ what they call mules are passing our windows constantly. The wharf is lined with steamboats as far as the eye can reach.

The beds are all protected by musquitoe bars,

a coarse lace for curtains all around the bed, get in and you bid defiance to the musquitoes, though they sing all around you. I have found 2 bugs and something bites us, but we don't know what. It leaves a red spot, red as blood. We are all bit up, bad luck to the varmints of Missouri.

}

I should have a delightful time if we were alone but to be obliged constantly to have somebody round you dont want spoils all I cant enjoy anything as I could if we ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ were alone. Sometimes I feel so bad, I think I cant go on this way then I try to reconcile my mind to it, but tis hard to have all my ~~enjoyment~~ enjoyment spoiled to accomodate another. I am afraid it will fret me so much that I shall never be a _____ and do more hurt than good.

doesn't want him

Guess I shan't send the daguerreotypes for fear it will be lost.

Shall we find a letter at Indep. write immediately to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

St. Louis

Thursday Sept. 4th

[My Dear friends, I know you feel anxious to hear all the particulars of our journey and I will write daily and send as I have opportunity.] We feel very anxious to get out of this _____ filthy place. Today have been out to get some things which I had neglected to get in Auburn, found the streets very warm but not more uncomfortable than our room. Our time here is mostly spent in fanning ourselves and trying to get fresh air which is not easily found. A monotonous life.

Sept 5th [After dinner went out and walked some but found the heat so oppressive that we soon returned to our rooms. We sought in vain to find cool air.] Towards evening went on board the steamer "Highland Mary" expecting to leave but she did not leave as we expected and we spent the night on board very uncomfortably. Musquitoes quite ravenous, and our room so small that we found but little refreshing rest. Our beds and berths are all protected by a very coarse lace called musquitoe bars [but you know I always did abominate musquitoes and they always partial to me and they seem to enjoy tormenting me very much. Some nights they are so numerous that their noise resembles a swarm

of bees. How I am to live with them I know not. Sometimes I get so worn out with them that I jump upon the bed under the musquitoe bar and then bid ~~them~~ defiance to all their tribe.

Sept. 6th Found the boat would not leave till evening. After dinner went out and called on Dr. Coons (where we first called), Dr. Peter (pastor of the Baptist church) (Mr. Samuel C. Davis (to whom Magood directed his letter) and Oscar W. Jerome, whose wife is a neice of Dear ^{Shaw} Munroe of Elbridge, all very pleasant people, had two tumblers of pure clear water, the first we have found. It reminded us of home. We often wish for a glass of good eastern water from home. People here all use the river water which we dislike very much. They put ice in it to make it palatable, but our Eastern stomachs almost roll over at sight of it, but I am digressing. We returned to the boat almost melted with heat, having walked I should think a mile and a half. Left St. Louis about 8 in the evening, regretted that we were obliged to leave so near the sabbath, but our baggage was all on board and we waiting to leave and no other boats leaving in several days, so we thought best to go on as we had no time to lose. Sat up till midnight to see the boat enter the mouth of the Missouri, 22 miles from

from St. Louis. People say the waters of the Missouri are plainly to be distinguished from those of the Mississippi where they meet. Missouri very muddy water. Being night I could not distinguish it very plainly.

Sunday Sept 7th This morn find ourselves on the river while our friends at home no doubt are preparing to attend church. When shall we again find rest and quiet on this holy day. We have had no sabbath since we left Auburn. [Perhaps long years may lapse ere we again hear the chime of those sabbath bells we love, but we hope to be useful where we go.] Find Missouri river full of snags and sand bars. Sometimes such high rocky romantic scenery that one imagines them the remains of dilapidated towers and castles, again scenery varies but little. For a long way low level land called "bottoms". Banks of the river lined ~~it~~ with cottonwoods which I mistook for poplar. Occasionally a small settlement, St. Charles quite a little place, very hot day. Death in the boat. In loading wood which was taken from a very steep bank, one of the men fell down exhausted, rallied and fell again, was brought on board insensible and lived about 3 hours, vomited and purged constantly, no doubt twas Cholera. Though but little was said about it publicly. They called it a sun stroke. [Milton was down with him till he died. He was bled and

composition administered which seemed to revive him for a while and brought on perspiration freely, but he soon sank away and died. Milton, the clerk, and one boatman staid with him. M. fanned him and did all he could till he died. Surely in the midst of life we are in ~~in~~ death. [We realized it, then we felt the kindness of our Heavenly Father in protecting us and sparing our lives and health during our long journey. How ungrateful have I been for all the mercies I have received. ~~XXXXX~~ While looking at that poor man I could not help reflecting on my own ingratitude. I have been well ever since I left home. Why am I spared while others are taken.]

Sept 8th The body of the man that died was left last night at Herman, a small settlement of Germans, the man was a German, to be buried. Leaves a wife (near confinement) at St. Louis. He was a sail maker at St. Louis and as business was rather dull, hired out on the boat, little thinking ere he had gone a hundred miles his soul would be in ~~in~~ eternity. [His death caused some sensation among the boatman, but soon appeared to be forgotten. Not so the poor wife he leaves. The hands went to the Captain and asked him not to have them load wood in the heat of the day. The Capt. said he should not work his hands any more in the heat of the day if he had to be still.] Find ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ sand bars and snags as usual. Captain sick. Intense heat, so hot that even the Missourians complain. [Milton is quite un-

well. He took so much stench into his stomach while ~~xi~~ with the sick man that he could eat no supper and his ~~x~~ stomach is not settled yet. So warm we can't see, no cool place.] Passed Jefferson City, a small place, ~~xxx~~ nothing attracting but the capitol which is a fine building, place not much larger than North Flat, situated on high hilly ground, rocky romantic scenery. Sand bars are large islands of sands in the river, sometimes more or less covered with water, today passed over one place where the Capt. said he was 3 days getting over last year, and nine boats were aground there at once, but we came safely in a short time. The channel of the river is not always in the same place, continually washing sand from one place to another. The river is ~~xxx~~ very low now, so the snags (which are trees and stumps of trees imbedded in sand) are above water. I should think it a dangerous river to navigate in high water, but we fear nothing for if anything should happen we could run on a sand bar and no danger of drowning.

Sept 9th. When will this hot weather end. While taking on wood today we went on shore and found a cool ~~xxx~~ breeze, really a luxury, also found _____ Towards night considerably cooler. Making slow progress on account of snags and sand bars. Scenery much the same, banks more level, evening cool, spent some

time on deck. Snags peering their heads up to see what boats they can catch, but they haven't got ours yet. When we come to a shallow place a man sounds the depth. Tis really amusing to hear him, he seems to have a ~~time~~ tune, expressly adapted to it. He sings out, (Mark above water twain), (quarter less twain) ("No bottom") ("Mark twain) (nine and a half) (8 feet) (nine feet scant), (nine ft large) (5 ft) (4 and a 1/2) and so on with his sailor phrases, which we of course do not understand, which is amusing. A man on deck repeats it to the pilot.

Sept 10th Warm again but some breeze, some ~~trouble~~ trouble in steering over a shallow place where wind ~~blew~~ blew against the boat and going up stream, wind drove us the river bank but after awhile we got along. Lexington quite a place, M went on shore and found a train just leaving for Kansas, to load and go to Santa Fe, good news for us but Milton is not well. Scarcely a day passes that "Dr. Shaw" is not sent for to prescribe for some of the lower deck passengers. I should think they would all be sick they are so filthy, just now a little boy came to me and asked me if I knew a man by the name of Chaw or Shaw that was a Dr. I told I my husband name was Shaw but he was not a Dr., said he, "he keeps medicine, don't he" I told him he had a little that he took for his own use, he said a man wanted him so I told Milton (who was asleep) and he went and found

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a sick child in the lower deck, administered a little cordial, ordered a thorough washing in _____ and water (which by the way was very much needed) preached quite a lecture on the good effects it had on the system staid and had it done, and the child was soon well. Dr. Shaw is in great demand, all are his friends.

Sept 11th This morning within 17 miles of our landing, some cooler, 12 oclock, very warm. Stopped at Independence landing to leave passengers, found another train for Santa Fe. A small rocky place, town 3 miles from the landing, road from the landing winds up a rocky hill as steep as our mountains. We think best to land at Kansas which is 12 miles farther. 2 oclock Kansas ~~ix~~ in sight, a very pretty looking place in the distance. About 8 oclock bade adieu to the steamboat and Missouri River and went on shore. K is a small place as are all the landings, but much cleaner than most of them. Found the place very sickly with intermittent fever, hotels closed and no boarding places to be found. So as soon as we could got our freight stored hired a _____ of horses for 2 dollars to be gone till next day noon, hitched to our carriage and started for Baptist Shawnee Mission, 7 miles distant, where Dr. Barker and wife are stationed, road winding through groves and woodlands across small streams, up and down hill and past through Westport (?), quite a little village on the ~~xxxxxxx~~ borders of Missouri, bade farewell to the states and entered the Indian Territory, drove along the woody

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lands and soon came out upon the great plains. [We were
delighted with our ride, but soon changed our tune for
it grew dark and we were in a strange country. We had
been directed to follow the main traveled road, straight
ahead and we tried to but it was dusk and could not always
tell it, there were so many roads branching off the moon
gave us all the light she could and on we went drove over
one stump which gave me quite a jolt. M got out twice
to see where to go, and what was before us. Once Maria
and I got out and jumped over a ditch which was harder
for me than to have rode through. I was afraid M would
break his carriage but he went safely through.] On and
on we went finding no habitation. I thought we should
never find the mission, now and then a clump of bushes,
there we were on the plains with no signs of human beings
or habitations as far as we could strain our eyes to see.

[We thought we had gone far enough and more than far
enough to find the Mission. We began to feel a little
_____ fearing we had lost our way and began to think
we should have to camp out alone. We know we must be
somewhere within the vicinity of the mission but feared
we had taken a wrong road and were going farther and
farther from it. We were very tired having had not
supper at last we halted not knowing what to do. [Could
see no buildings ahead and we all began to fear we were
indeed on our journey to New Mexico and alone, but at

that moment the distant sound of the mission bell struck upon our ears.] You may judge of our feelings of joy and gratitude. It seemed as if it was expressly to direct us and I could not help exclaiming "the Lord is directing us", I shall never forget that bell it seemed as if we could not have been better assured of the protecting care of our Heavenly Father had arranged (?) from heaven appeared. [On we went with cheerful hearts in the direction of the sounds and soon came to Dr. Barkers church, where a little company of Christian Indians had assembled at their annual Association. We entered and mingled our hearts with theirs, overjoyed that we had found this little christian band. [I actual cried for joy, and my feelings were such during the exercises that I was almost beside myself.] The feeling that we were at that baptist Shawnee Mission among christian friends after our weary journey among strangers was overpowering. [I never felt so perfectly beside myself with joy.] O it was delightful to look around upon that little band sitting at the feet of Jesus clothed and in their right minds, once savages now humble christians. They sang and prayed in their own language, so sweetly. Milton addressed a few words to them through an interpreter. After meeting an old Indian came up to shake hands with us and I never shook hands more heartily with

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found

anyone he seemed so glad to see us. We went home with Dr. Barker and were received with every possible kindness, had tea and went to bed rejoicing that we had found a home in the hearts of these kind people.

Sept 12th Some rested this morning and happy to find ourselves here. Br and Sr (?) Barker are doing a great ^w work for the Shawnees and wearing themselves out, tis very _____ here and Brother Barkers labors as physician and missionary are very wearying. Sister B has the care of the mission school (now having a vacation) and her own family consisting of 3 children besides one little Indian adopted boy, which is no small task. She has 17 scholars for the next term. She has to provide for them all, they stay here during the school and she has to provide and have the care of all their clothing, do the sewing etc. They receive \$25 a year for 10 scholars the rest they provide for themselves and receive no compensation. She ~~xxxx~~ says she has been obliged to turn away nearly 40 during the past year and now she looks as though she was worn out. She needs an assistant very much. I wish Sally Curtis was here. She would be a good one, "Will you come Sally." Milton gone to Kansas to see about his freight and staid over night.

Burns

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Sept 13th This morning Br Barker was ~~xxxxxx~~ called away to visit his patients and worship was conducted by an Indian in their own language, it seemed solemn and interesting. Indians are calling constantly, very friendly. We love to look

away across the great plains and soon hope to cross
them. Very thankful we have found so good a home.
We are trying to rest before commencing our journey,
have not been to meeting today as the mission house
is too far away from the church for me to walk, it
is a log house with several rooms, today thought I
realized something what missionaries have to give up.
Also some of their trials, realized in some degree
what I had left. ~~Wondered~~ Wondered how I could have
done it with so little feeling but I have feelings
if I do not always show them. O could I now step
into my own dear home and look upon your loved faces,
how it would rejoice my heart, but I must not, hence-
forth my life is not my own, ~~mine~~ but missionaries
do make sacrifices. I realize it fully, but we have
reason to rejoice that we are well, not been sick
since I left. How often did we wish while on the
rivers and in St. Louis that we could step in our own
home and get a drink of pure water but all in vain
and some chicken broth made by mother would be so good,
home victuals of any kind would be good. People here
do not cook as we do but it was good in St. Louis.
I nearly ate up the city I was so hungry and now I
could almost eat a raw ~~frog~~ frog, let me tell you I
ate some frogs in St. Louis. They were better than
chicken, next day I called for more and surely they
must have brought me the great grandfather of the race

at
frog

or else the oldest son of those that went into the ark for he was so tough I was afraid to swallow him lest he would hop off with me. One of the ladies ate some and said he kicked all day, so I ate no more frogs. I did not intend to tell the frog story here but forgot myself. M has returned from Kansas and is going to preach this evening I shall not go for I need rest.

^{14th Nov^r 61}
(Sept 17th) Another Sabbath has come and we are still at the mission. Attended meeting today, the annual meeting of the different tribes (same as our association) Quaker missionary preached, first in English then Milton preached to the Indians through an interpreter, a few sentences at a time then wait til it was interpreted in the Indian language, singing between in the Indian, then a chief addressed them and made an excellent prayer in Indian. I know it was good though I could not understand it, then M dismissed the meeting. It was really interesting, Shawnees, Delawares, Wyandots, Ottawas, all met in christian unity. O it was delightful. Brother Barker often speaks of our coming at this time, it was so providential he says, I sometimes think I should love to stay here and teach the Indians. I made the remark today before some of the little boys that I should like to stay and teach them and their bright eyes glistened. Br and Sr Barker says we have got the affections of the Indians

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and they wish we could stay here with them. Some of the Indians talk of going to Santa Fe next spring and say they shall surely come and see us, so you see we have found favor with these people. They think everything of Milton, he preaches so plain to them. I begin to feel quite rested again, Maria was taken with _____, the night we got here and will probably stay here this winter. Dr Barker thinks it an attack of billous fever, not dangerous, able to be up part of the time, hope she will not be sick long. I think she will not be able to go on with us, ^{and} perhaps it is providential for Mrs Barker needs as assistant very much, and it ~~will~~ would be very hard for me if she went along as unwell as she is. She is better but weak and I am afraid she could not endure the journey and ³ ~~three~~ of us to sleep in our wagon would be very unpleasant especially if one was sick. M thinks she had better stay until spring as we know not what we shall do when we get there. I think it a nicer arrangement, it will take a load of care off ~~of~~ my mind for if she was sick what could I do and Milton has care enough. We have great reason to be thankful that our lives and health have been spared surrounded as we have been with sickness and danger. Cholera has not prevailed very extensively in St. Louis but has

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~~been~~ in country places and along the Missouri River.
Prevailing some around us here but God has mercifully
still
preserved us in all our journey, and we can/trust him.
We have a long tedious journey before us, but the same
God will go with us. You can do nothing but commend us
to his care. He will go with us and direct us, we can
have no fear if God be with us.] We expect now to start
tomorrow or next day, tis rather late to start but we
go with a train of some ^{fifteen} ~~is~~ wagons from here and other
trains on the road with which we may fall in company,
each wagon has ~~five~~ 5 or 6 yoke of oxen to draw it.
Pray for us.] I know you do and do not worry at all.
God is able to keep us and preserve us from all harm.
If you consider how he has preserved and directed us
here I am sure you will feel a confidence in committing
us to his care. Good night.]

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Shawnee Mission Indian Territory

Tuesday Sept 16th/51

My dear friends at home

I have already written two sheets but as we are still waiting I must write as long as we stay. We are both well and in good spirits and think we feel grateful for the blessings with which we are surrounded. We have been preserved while sickness and death have been around us on every side. We feel that we have great reason to be thankful. We often speak of the goodness of God in directing our footsteps here and at this time when the tribes meet at their annual Association. Br Barker says there is a providence in it, he was almost work out, and so much sickness around that he was called on constantly. We were glad to be able to render him some assistance and they are so kind to us. We shall regret to leave them but I suppose we must, tomorrow morning. María is not able to go on with us, she is not dangerous, but has an attack of billious fever, the Dr thinks he has succeeded in breaking it up but it will take some time for her to gain strength sufficient for such a journey and we are obliged to go on now or lose the chance of going this fall. We feel bad to leave her on the road, but can do no better. We leave her at the Mission station where she will probably stay

and teach through the winter if she gets able, if not, she will return home . She feels bad and I don't wonder at it. I should too, but perhaps there is a work for her to do here. We must be submissive. I feel sorry for her, but can do no more. We must go now if we go at all. Mrs B needs an assistant very much and perhaps it is providential. M. has returned from the train (where he has been to carry some ~~in~~ baggage) and they were just starting off, we shall follow in the morning and overtake them which ~~can~~ we can easily do as they go very slow. I am so tired this evening I can't write much more ~~when~~ when I ~~began~~ began I thought I should write a long letter, but I have had so much to see to since M. got back, ~~preparing~~ preparing to start that I shall have to write a few more lines and close for it now time I was in bed. We got our boxes from Kansas last night and M could not stay to open it (containing our clothes, bed, etc. to use on the way) and opened it since he came back, the currant jelly had ^{broken} worked and run into nearly all my clothes, sheets, pillow cases and the cheese had done its share in greasing all its neighbors . One bed quilt is well greased nearly a ~~two~~ third of it. Thus you see we are in a fine fix, the cheese and jell must have worked hard I think to accomplish so much, however I have been very busy in washing them in milk (which is not very plentiful here) spread some out on the grass and some I shall let go for want of time and means. I have a large pan full of clothes in

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Milk, about as many on the grass, and a goodly pile that are not so bad which I shall leave . A fine predicament to start in. [I shall have to take them wet and dry them(?) as I can on the road. This is the beginning of sorrows, only the beginning of a plain life, but ~~we~~ weve no time to ~~lament~~ cry over it, may as well laugh and I guess you would if you were here, but I shall be far away on the plains ere you read this. I ~~can't~~ can't help laughing as I write, as I know you will when you read it. C and S will stretch their mouths but enough. I can hear them laugh, tell C to keep on her feet, not _____ . Milton, Maria and myself all sleep in one room, ~~It~~ rather unpleasant to me at night, but I don't mind it so much now.] M bought a spring carriage in St. Louis, paid \$225,00, the only one he could find that would answer, it rides very easy, it is a covered carriage, very nice with seats to let down and makes a nice bed. No wet can touch us. Harness, \$20,00, Indian rubber overdress and cap \$8,00, gun and revolver \$22.00, tent \$6.00, ~~our~~ provisions, cooking apparatus, insurance, etc., \$108.00, got more than we should on Maria's accout, but it will come right for ham is 75 cts apound in Santa Fe , ~~also~~ also a chafing dish and keg of alcohol to burn instead of wood in wet weather, yesterday got his mules, paid \$80,00 for one and \$60.00 for other, drove them to the camp today, they went off nicely,]

(?)
-call and see us. I have so much to write, but must
go to bed. your aff daughter and sister
Harriet

Part of this letter ~~was~~ written in Mrs Br
school room with little Indian boy and girls
around me. I love them. 3 of the Indians of
this place were going to Santa Fe in another
train. They liked M's preaching so much, said
he preached so plain, they will be our friends,
the Indians are very much attached to us, glad
they are going, hope we may do them some good
and they will be useful to us. They go as
~~teamsters~~ teamsters to help take care of oxen.
They are our friends, you know Indians are good
friends where they like.

~~xxxxxxx~~ Here is a bit of vine that Mrs.
Barker has been growing in her yard. It is
called "Lads in puff(Huff)" looks very pretty
I have pushed it down, but they are so puffed
out on the vines, this is a very small one.

Write immediately direct to Rev J M Shaw
Santa Fe New Mexico care of Rev H.W. Read
don't fail, I want to hear

M is so hurried he cant write, he ~~has~~ has a
letter begun for S. soon after we left there but
he has had no time to finish it his mind has been
so constantly occupied, sends love, he has a hard

(Barker)

time, so much care.

(remember us in your prayer meetings)

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Lost Spring,
Oct. 1st 1851

Why called so I know not. I think
it ought to be lost, it is so full
of lime.

Dear Mother, sister and brother

Again I have a few moments to write and I
will improve them that I may have a letter ready
by the time we meet the mail of Oct, tis a pleasure
to write you and yet a task for I have to write
under such unfavorable circumstances. I am now
seated in the carriage having done up all my house-
work such as washing dishes, etc. We left Council
Grove monday morn about 10 oclock and went only 8
miles and stopped over night. The train had to
mend a wheel. ~~yesterday-morn~~ Yesterday morn we
started before 7 and I thought of course we should
make a good days drive, went 7 miles and halted
for dinner at Diamond Spring, the best water we have
found for a long time except at Council Grove, twas
really refreshing ~~***~~ to find good clear water again.
Staid there till after 3 and went about 6 miles
farther and camped. This morn found one of the men
had taken leave of absence during the night. One
had to be carried back yesterday to Council Grove,
had been quite unwell for some time and was unable
to proceed farther. Our company ~~consists~~ now consists

410.

of only about 120 persons. The Mexican also got mad yesterday and left which we regretted as he was very friendly to us and assisted M occasionally in watering mules, getting water, etc. He spoke only a few words English. I am the only female but do not feel at all afraid they are very kind to us, offer us anything they have in the train. We ~~are-very-ee~~ go very comfortably and enjoy it much, more than we did. We have delightful weather but one rainy day since we started, roads more ~~level~~ level now and the best of roads. [I feel quite well, thinking health improves. I thought for a week I should not endure the journey, but I am getting tough, really think I could eat a ~~raw~~ raw buffalo. My stomach splened for a long time but is getting over it.] To be ~~oblig~~ obliged to use water from a mud hole where ~~exd~~ oxen, wolves, etc. went was a collection of filth I could not relish quite so well, but we are getting used to these things. [M eats all before him, says he never relished e food ~~se-much~~ as well. I relish it much better than I did.] We had quite a hearty laugh over our dinner today. M killed 3 prairie hens yesterday.

I dressed and cooked them by moonlight and lantern, were not dressed quite well- so nice as they would have been at home, but I had only a ~~quiet~~ quart of water to wash them in, but we made a good breakfast and dinner of them. What was ~~not~~ batter(?) we threw away. Altogether we are having a very good time (for the Plains).

~~Oct-3rd~~ Oct 3rd I had have to write as I can and while M is watering mules ~~I will try it. -- Ag--~~ I will try it again. Went 18 miles. Oct 1st ~~traveled~~ travelled 8 miles after I wrote, travelled sometime by moonlight, ~~ahead-of-train-and-were-alone-~~ to reach Mud Creek to find water (we camp if possible where there is water) we were ahead of train and were alone for ~~some time~~ some time but nothing harmed us. We have seen no Indians this side Council Grove. We camped at Mud Creek, saw prairie on fire by ~~mean-~~ moonlight, away in the distance as usual. Slept well. Yesterday morn started out about 7 went 6 miles to Cottonwood Creek one of the forks of Little Arkansas, a delightful place, small creek, cottonwood trees scattered along its banks, something like poplar. Good spring, took water along with us in water cask and jug as we expected to find no more except in holes for 40 miles. Went 6 miles, and camped at 6 mile creek

We have come 12 miles today, dine at Turkey Creek, and for first time saw buffaloes, but they were so far off could not see them distinctly and before we could get telescope ready were off over the plains. We see no trees except sometimes a few on creeks, looks like pasture land, grass short ~~and~~ ~~he~~ and here a crisp so burnt up by sun, it must be dreadful ~~eers~~ - crossing these plains on a hot summer day. Tis uncomfortably warm to-day. We go a little faster but not much, shall probably go from 15 to 20 miles a day. Some of the men have set the grass on fire getting their dinner and some of them have been at work trying to put it out but have not succeeded. It is spreading rapidly, the wind takes it ~~from~~ away from us, but I must stop and see to dinner-

Well dinner is over consisting of cold ham, short cake, seabread, butter(I hardly dare disgrace the butterhood by giving it this name)mustard and molasses.

I have eaten so much I can hardly write and could now sit down to another hearty meal, but let me tell you about our food. Our butter is almost a rancid oil, it is put up in tin cans each holding a pound, put up fresh and hermetically sealed. We salt it as we eat. I eat very little of it. Seabread is very good, it

is in about 6 inch cakes and looks like soda
crackers but very hard. I relish it well. We
bought half gallon of molasses at Council Grove
for which we paid \$100. a gallon, looks as black (?
as though a young nigger had been boiled in it,
but we devour and say good, anything is good when
we are hungry as 2 bears. Our sausage has certainly
a peculiar flavor but I have got accustomed to it
and call it good. [I would like to step in and give
you a history of these things. I can see you all
laughing and S. Curtis too. She says "I guess
Harriett dont find as good fare as she did at Fleming."
Well she don't, but laugh if you will . I say tis
good and if you don't believe it just travel on these
plains a couple of weeks and you could eat a raw dog.
Sometimes I drive mules while M sleeps (you know he
is great for sleeping) sometimes he sleeps and drives
too. The mules are very gentle, getting to be very
lazy travelling with oxen, just imagine 15 or 16 snails
moving along and you will get a good idea of our
movements. We are going- a little darker colored than
when we left home but no matter we are going to a
dark place. We are now about 65 miles from big
Arkansas (pronounced Arkansaw) 5 men on horseback came
up this noon from Santa Fe, you see they cross almost

alone. The mail was shot at last month but a train was behind them and they ran back 2 bullet holes through their carriage coming from Santa Fe. Our carriage is about 6 feet long and 4 wide, 3 seats with fall backs nicely cushioned on which we lay our bed and sleep like pigs in clover. I have undressed every night (Milton does not) Each takes their turn two hours every night as guard. M has not been on guard at all yet. Sometimes I watch mules a little. No danger is apprehended only from Indians stealing, or their getting loose and straying away but they are getting ready to start again so I must close till another time. Already several acres of grass have burnt and we leave it still spreading. Grass so short we can't see much flame, it runs along on the ground smoke rises high. M is hitching on mules so goodbye. ___ but I must tell you we were awakened this morn by one of the men coming near our carriage and calling "Mr. Shaw" and wondering how any one could sleep in such a noise (they were yoking cattle, about 60 yoke very near us. Still we slept so much for ___ but we got up and got ready soon as we could not however till the train had gone but we soon overtook them only about a mile ahead. I can now take a cold bite in the morning and at night and feel wee-

well get warm drink for dinner and cook prairie hen if we have any. For 2 mornings we have taken a cold bite because we laid in bed so late. The train starts at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 or 7 when they don't stop for breakfast. Most of the time they take only a cold bite in the morning and stop about 3 hours at noon.

Oct 5 Another sabbath on the plains. My thoughts wander homewards to where my friends are gathering for worship. We are deprived this privilege yet we can commit ourselves to the care of one Heavenly Father ever here though alone. We are now camped on banks of little Arkansas. It is about noon and they are getting ready to start. Severe thunder storm, last evening, rainy this morning morn but now pleasant. No wet reaches us we are(?) safely housed in our carriage. I last wrote Oct 3, that day went 20 miles camped at _____ Creek, another train going to States also camped there. I watched mules ~~some danger~~ some danger of the other train stealing them. One man came to us for bread, had not tasted bread for 10 days, had no flour, they lived entirely on buffalo meat. Yesterday came 16 miles to this place saw thousands of buffalos, train killed one large as 2 oxen, great shaggy head slope off towards tail like lion. There were 9 of them in the road before us and they walked along as leisurely as we drove. M said we were driving our oxen, soon one of the men came up and shot one, he ran a few rods and settled

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on his hind legs, he loaded again and shot, the poor animal tried to get out of his way but ~~he~~ rolled over on his side and died. I really pitied him, such a great animal-head as large as 3 ox heads. You would laugh to see them scamper over the plains, great clumsy awkward looking creatures, but it takes a swift horse to overtake them when they once get started. This morning we had a grand sight, thousand of them came bounding over the plain towards us, but turned before they reached our camp. A perfect jam of them and such a tramping effect. We stood and looked at them and enjoyed it much, they go on a gallop and look clumsy enough, they turned in the direction of the cattle and the men ran and were just in time to frighten them or they would no doubt have dashed through them, away they went and were soon out of sight. We supposed there were Indians chasing them, though we saw none. The buffalos passed us on a small ridge about 1/4 of a mile from us. It was a grand sight. I wish you could have seen them. One of our men ~~kill~~ killed one as they passed but we must be off, but I forgot. We feasted on buffalo this morn, tis excellent eating, good as yearling beef when you get a young one, if you happen to get an old one it takes a good set of teeth to chew it.

Oct 8th We camped last night on the great bend of Big Arkansas, but big as it is there is no water in it or only a little on one side. It is a bed of sand like

walking in a snowdrift. Have just been out to try it,
it is now between 5 and 6 oclock the train has gone
about 1/2 of a mile distant and M is taking his coffee.

My head aches some so I _____ till a little
later. M felt very much like hunting last eve so he
took his gun and went out a little way from camp to
see if he could find a wolf came back on the bank of
the river found nothing soon one of the men came and
chatted awhile with us, told us how he ~~fares~~ ^{fares} going
into Santa Fe on the southern route got out of provisions.
Supposed they were soon coming to Mexican settlements
and their mules being heavily loaded and very little
grass. They threw away considerable (?). By and by
_____ got out and had ~~none~~ none for ~~th~~ 3 days, found
a bag of dried grasshoppers in a deserted Indian camp,
ate them and killed another blind mule and had a mule
head soup without salt, don't you think twas delicious?
We have plenty and _____ berries and cheese and jell,
and are nice. 10 oclock we are now ~~stopping~~ stopping
for breakfast on the banks of a beautiful little stream
of running water Walnut Creek lined with timber, just
got here when a thunder storm visited us. Now raining
considerable, heavy thunder and very sharp lightening,
we had a thunderstrom this morning before day, but we
are secure and should be if it should rain all day, a
very large white wolf came near our camp last evening
and M shot at him but did not hit away he bounded saying
"I guess I'll let that camp alone" We saw no more of

him. Sunday we went ^{miles} 2 or 3 miles and stopped where we found good grass. Monday started between 6 and 7, met a large mule train, said they saw no Indians on the route, said our train ought to go faster if we expected to get there this fall. Went 6 miles and dined on Jarvis(?) Creek, so called because a wealthy old Mexican was murdered there for his money, he was a merchant going to the states for goods. We went 8 miles farther and camped at Big Cow Creek where we found water. I took a pail, soap etc and went to the creek and washed my blue dress which was so dirty I could not wear it, and some stockings, got them nearly washed before train came up as we were about 3 miles ahead (mule team was with us, we never go so far alone only when the mule team or wagon-train (?) goes) Another train belonging to the same _____ returning camped a short distance from us. They had no provisions, but depended on buffalo meat which they had strung around their teams drying between 8 and 9 the mule train passed us and camped on the other side (3 trains within a mile) our train went so slow that we thought we should leave and go with this when it overtook us, but we like our train so well, that is they are so friendly and kind to us. (The mule team is not loaded and offered to anything for us, M put his trunk and 3 and 1/2 bushels of corn aboard) (and they have plenty of provisions and corn aboard if we shouldn't find grass all the way, that we thought not best to leave. The mule train has only 12 wagons and 15 men about 130 mules, 5 _____ to a

wagon. Indians like mules and if we should meet them that train would be much more likely to be cut off than ours we shall probably be in a little later than they but we go comfortable, they go any time of day or night. They reached the great bend about an hour before us and were eating when we came. They went on about 6 miles farther to the place where we now are. Walnut Creek a very _____ stream. ² ~~Two~~ graves here disinterred

by wolves. Saw one grave on little Arkansas, shot himself there last spring supposed trouble was the cause, but I must tell you we have feasted today on fresh oysters and they relished well. We have 3 cans a quart each, 3 of fresh salmon, 3 of fresh tomatoes, 1 of peach, 3 of sausage, 2 of pickles, etc so you ~~can~~ see we don't mean to starve. These things are prepared and put up into cans and sealed so no air can

get in called Hermetically sealed. Tis very pleasant here. We enjoy our journey very much. We reached Big Arkansas about 3 yesterday having drove 18 or 20 miles, ~~we~~ we go faster now, roads are better and teams getting used to it. We have to go up the Arkansas some 80 miles before crossing. Where we cross is called half-way but I have no more time.

Coon Creek, Oct 11th We are now taking dinner or rather have just got through. You may call it breakfast if you please but if it is _____ on supper for we get only one meal a day. Milton thinks tis cheap living but we have plenty to eat and have

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got accustomed to a cold bite in the morning and at night. I do not want a warm breakfast before we start. I rather take some crackers and cold drink and go on 8 miles before having warm meal. Our warm meal for 4 days has consisted of oyster soup and it goes well. One quart can make us 4 meals, but I must go back to where I left writing which was Walnut Creek. We went on 6 miles and camped. Oct 9th started soon after 5 and expected a good days drive, passed Pawnee Rock (so called) or rather a LEdge of rocks, and went on to the mouth of Pawnee Fork and camped ~~and~~ only 12 miles, so much for a good drive. I need patience to go so slow when I know tis coming cold weather and indeed tis cold now. We have a great deal of wind, cold north wind Oct 10th started about 6, very cold morning I wrapped in both shawls and then shivered with cold. We went 8 miles to Coon Creek and near there a wagon wheel of the train broke about noon, so of course we must camp again. So after dinner I went to work and made me a wrapper. I got the flannel at Council Grove for 2 as it was likely to be cold weather before we got through our journey. I also put some lining in my sleeves. They put on another wheel (hind wheel) and brought the wagon up to camp and put the loading and team to the other wagon. Oct 11th today have come 8 miles and stopped on this same creek for dinner, tis very cold. [I have thought of my muff all

day wish I had it. If I had known it would have been such cold weahter on the plains I would have taken my blue dress and sack green flannel skirt and leather bootees and muff, but I shall get along. I got some flannel at Council Grove for wrappers (which are very warm), tried to buy a pair of wollen stockings but found none, mine are all packed. I wear ~~three~~³ pair cotten ones, then can't keep my feet warm. Am going to put on a pair of Miltons. For several days have had a cold north wind, very cold nights and mornings, put on a warm wrapper this morn so I don't feel the cold so much today. We did not prepare for such cold weather and we are not yet half way across, but we shall get along, our carriage is covered all over with our tent so it is warm, and I don't go out much, so sleep very warm. Wind shakes our house some. We expect snow before we get there. Today our road has been along the Arkansas which is a bed of sand, but the train are yoking so I must close and we expect to meet the mail soon. About 8 or 10 wolves around waiting for us to leave so they can have the second table. Some of the train have been unwell constantly since we left with chill fever or as we should say fever and auge but we have been well all the time. We are now in the Pawnee country. The Pawnees stay

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mostly on the California roads.

Oct 12th Another sabbath for our friends but not for us. Today have come about 15 miles, yesterday afternoon about 8, but we don't know much about distances as they don't tell us twice alike. Today met a train and 2 carriages from Santa Fe. May (?) Waitmans family. Ladies and children, only 11 wagons in all. Buffalos are very much around us now. We have used their chips for wood a long time, make a hot fire.

Oct 13th We are now on banks of Arkansas within about 12 miles of Fort Arkansas. 30 miles from the Fort is a crossing which is called half-way. Dined today on fresh salmon and fresh tomatoes, delicious eating. We are both well and keen appetites. Much warmer today, but I must close. We expect every day to meet the mail, perhaps we shall meet the mail of November before we get there as we expect to be about 4 weeks longer on our journey. If we do I will try to send again. We go slow as do all merchant trains. Good bye, Harriett.

Excuse the blots, met a train today (Oct 13th) with gentleman and lady in carriage. Wolves kept a constant _____ and _____ last night. Buffalos thick.

Seems but a little way from home to Santa Fe.
Guess I shall come home on a visit when I get there.

Santa Fe New Mexico
November 28/51

My dear dear Mother, Sister, and Brother,

Those only who are placed in circumstances similar to ours, know with what anxiety we in this distant land await the arrival of the mail, or what joy filled our hearts when a friend called on Tuesday evening and informed us that it had arrived. I could hardly wait for I felt sure it had brought news from those loved ones we had left, and I was not disappointed although friends here tried to discourage and said it would be 2 or 3 months before we should receive any. We bought the first letter ^r Sr. Smith received from her relations but I confidently assured them that my friends would certainly write by this mail as we found no letters for us when we arrived. I should have been very much disappointed had we not received any this month. O how our hearts bounded with joy when about ^{nine} ~~2~~ o'clock on Tuesday evening ~~3~~ ^{own} three letters, one from my loved home, one from the home of my dear husband and one from Dr. Barker of the Shawnee Mission were brought us. We anticipated a feast. But just as we had opened them, a tap, tap, on the door disturbed us and in came an officer of the army (a very fine man) and staid nearly an hour. Of course out of politeness we were obliged to wait at least all but me

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for I soon took advantage of the conversation and glanced over my letters but tears would roll which he noticed but said he always loved to see the tears of affection. As soon as he left we all read our letters and fancied ourselves once more in a Christian land surrounded by those we loved. On it is indeed a and treat to receive in this dark/heathen land a letter of sympathy and affection and as I sit down this morning to converse on paper with the dear "loved ones at home" many conflicting emotions pass through my mind. I seem to be carried back to other days and fancy that instead of writing I am present with you, but ~~xx~~ when I look around I am forcibly reminded that I am not in a christian land. Everything here is so different, but let me tell you something of our adventures and prospects.] We arrived here Nov 14th after a long and somewhat tedious journey of 8 weeks and 2 days and glad were we I assure ~~you~~ you to once more to find a resting place for a short time before proceeding further. [We feel that we have great reason of gratitude ~~for~~ to our Heavenly Father for this kind and preserving care over us during our long and perilous journey. We felt that dear christian friends were praying for us and we felt a confidence in God that he would bring us safely to our destined home. We saw the hand of God in all our journey and

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felt that we were under His special protection.] We had delightful weather nearly all our journey, not a rainy day and but few showers. Snow held off remarkably, as it usually falls on the plains by the middle of Oct. This has been a remarkable season for this country. We had some cold nights and mornings but very good weather till we reached the mountains where a slight snowstorm overtook us and made travelling difficult and unpleasant. We met with ~~K~~ the Kiawas Indians twice and I had an opportunity of seeing them in their wild state, without their being permitted to molest us. I had a great mind to visit their camp but did not dare to go alone. and it was not safe for both of us to leave the carriage for Indians will steal if they can possibly get a chance. When we had arrived at the more dangerous part of the route a company of soldiers overtook us which we felt to be a special protection sent from Heaven as it came so opportunily, but the dangers of the plains are past for this trip and we feel that we can still trust God for protection. I suppose you wish me to give you a description of Santa Fe but I hardly know how to describe it, unless I give you the same that was given me before reaching it, that is, it looks like a great brick yard, but I think it looks better.

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The houses are all about alike built of adobes or sun-dried bricks. laid up in walls about two feet thick, one story high and plastered over with mud. The roof is flat formed of logs, boards, sticks, etc and covered also with mud and as it seldom rains here answers a very good purpose. One small window in a room made of ising glass. Americans have glass windows but not very large. No floors but earth, and generally built in form of a square with a large yard of 20 feet square in the center called a . When we came here we had to go through this carell to the rooms occupied by Br. Smith, and it is much safer living in a carell as there is not so much danger of house-breaking which is very common. They also have a ^{smaller} carell at the back their wood is kept, out houses etc. A large dog is kept in one of these carells for the safety of the family. This with shooters in the house and locked doors renders us comparatively safe. In the center of the city there is a large square or Pilazza 20 rods square in the center of which is the liberty pole and American flag raised by our troops. On one side of this pilazza are the government rooms on the others stores, jewellers shops dwelling houses etc., Where Br. Smith is located we can see nothing but sky and adobe walls and indeed it is about all one can see

in this dismal looking city of about 6000 inhabitants. This valley would be fertile if well watered but rain seldom falls here and the people have to irrigate their land so that ^{but} little is done in agriculture. It is surrounded on all sides by mountains except south. Indians are sometimes troublesome as they inhabit these ~~their~~ mountains and can come down and plunder and run off stock as they please. The Mexican ladies are very graceful in manners and polite, some of them far surpass the Americans in this respect. Instead of bonnets ~~that~~ they wear what we call a long shawl, thrown over the head partly covering the face. They call it a robose. It looks very graceful on a pretty woman. Indeed some of our Americans are becoming quite disgusted with bonnets and I think M is somewhat inclined to favor the robose.and perhaps will Mexicanize me in this respect when my bonnets are gone. You will no doubt be surprised to learn that we both took cold the first night we slept in a house after having slept 8 weeks on the plains but it was even so. After having the whole wide world to sleep in, it seemed too much confinement to be shut up in a house. But I have not given you a description of the inside of these houses. It seemed like going into a cellar when we first came here, but now am getting used to it. The walls are whitewashed on the inside with a kind of stone which they get in the mountains, overhead (which is high) is nothing but thin logs,

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and 1/2

covered with mud which often falls (as it once did on the table while we were eating) and makes some litter and dirt for you to clean up. Sometimes as in one room here cotten cloth is sewed together and nailed up overhead for a covering. Sometimes the walls about 3 feet high are covered with calico to prevent the whitewash from rubbing off and sometimes a whole room is lined with calico as paper will not stick to these walls, when a room is carpeted straw is put under to preserve them. Bedbugs infest these houses and beds are protected by putting a covering over the top with curtains around like our high post bedsteads to prevent bugs from falling from overhead on you while sleeping. But I have said nothing of fires. They have only a small fireplace in one corner. We feel the cold very sensibly. This was a bitter cold morning, cold as in Vt, some few have stoves but a stove about half as large as yours costs \$40, iron 25 cts a pound. I very much regret that I did not bring my flatirons. Had we known we might have brought many things for our comfort which we thought me must not bring. We are very sorry we did not bring more as everything is so enormously expensive here. Flour 13 to 15 dollars a hundred, molasses 4 to 6 dollars a gallon, butter (or rather soap grease) 50 cts, onions from 3 to 6 cts ~~axf~~ apiece.

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Corn 6 dollars, A "Fenagre" (x 2 and 1/2 bushels) 37 and 1/2
cts for a cabbage. [Oh, horrible, but this sheet is
full.]

I shall write Darwin next mail. I shall send that
letter to D just as I had it prepared he will no doubt
send it after reading to you. I have not time to write
him now.] I wrote a letter to send by the Nov mail,
but it passed us on another road. [I mailed it to
Darwin with directions to sent to you after reading.]

(L9)

Santa Fe Jan 26/52

My dear Mother

I intended to have written a long letter to you all this mail but I have had to write so much to get my journal ready that it is impossible for me to write more without injuring my health which is not very good. Indeed I do so dislike this country and climate that I can't feel well and I don't think it agrees with me. It is so cold and chills _____ through and through. My catarrh is more troublesome than ever before and we live by little fireplaces. [O this miserable godforsaken country. What _____ Read meant _____ and I suppose as _____ will be great he has deluded and fooled enough here to do nothing they are opposed protestants and protestant school and some have burned the bible. O why did we come here for we find nothing as Read represented. He is all vision. We could all see him horsewhipped but we will try to do all we can but we do not expect to remain in this country long. I think in 2 years you will see us home again, for we see no prospect of doing anything here. and thus to squander the money of the benevolent in the states is too outrageous and it costs a fortune to live here.] Potatoes \$6 a bushel and none hardly to be had. Flour 12 to 18 doll a hundred. [We have done nothing scarcely as yet though we have tried could not get a school at Albuquerque. So much for Read's promises.

!!
!!

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These people are so treacherous and deceitful you can't trust them at all. We are now going to Per Alto about 90 miles south of Santa Fe and 20 south of Albuquerque. It is the only opening in the whole territory and if we don't succeed there nothing can be done and we shall return. O how cheerfully did we leave all, only to be subject to bitter disappointment. Had we found half the encouragement of which Read wrote we could put up with it. People here openly call him a horse jockey and say he means to give wrong impressions of this country. O the people there knew what we know, he would not be permitted to deceive longer and impose upon our Board. You may tell members of our church that we don't find things here as he represents, don't you believe the accounts you hear of his great success here for he has done nothing but spread himself. He has deceived us all and we feel it deeply. There is not a place in the whole Territory where a school would support itself, and but very few care at all for education and those few are afraid of protestantism. So you see our hands are _____

now teach we must keep away from religion, or lose our scholars and to be obliged to educate Catholics and passively let them remain so is not our calling and this is all we can do unless a revolution takes place which is the general opinion and if it does we ladies

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shall leave abruptly, for there is no safety here hardly now. I don't think we shall stay here long and do nothing. It is a waste of time and money where there are other fields where much can be done. My health is not very good, don't think the climate agrees with me. Our dear sister Nicholson (the Methodist ministers wife) is fast verging to the grave. Came here in perfect health 2 years ago but the climate and want of care after confinement has brought her to the verge of the grave, dear lovely woman. I feel my heart attached to her. She like the rest of us feels a dread of being buried in this horribly country and fondly hopes to be able to get to the states in the spring, but in all probability a few weeks will terminate her existance. O that we could shield her from the destroyer, but Gods ways are not as our ways. I love her as a sister and the tears fall fast when I think of her. We leave today, to go to Per Alto. We came up from A to get things for house-keeping and meet the mail but no letter from my dear home. Cheer up my dear friends. Mother don't get sick. I hope to see you again before long if God spares my life. Pray for us, and may God be with and bless you. My dear brother and sister I will write you next mail. Good bye your aff Harriett

Rev. J. H. ...
Methodist ...
...
...

[Los Pinios Feb 22/52]
(Peenyose)

My dearest Mother

In this far distant land I take my pen once more to address those I love, but as I write my thoughts wander homeward and I seem to be with you and can hardly realize that I am so far distant, yet when I look around and see no loved faces (save one) I realize all and feel that we are indeed alone in a strange land. [When I last wrote I was at Albuquerque where I made a effort to establish a school, ~~But~~ Let me give you an account of my success. I went around and with assistance of others who felt an interest, engaged about a dozen scholars. The parents and expressed much pleasure/to appearance seemed pleased that a school was to be started. I set the day to commence and sent them word. When the day arrived not one came. Thinking they might have misunderstood I set another day and again sent word. When one little girl came, the rest "no cares"(?). This with another little girl where I boarded comprised Albuquerque Female Seminary of which your daughter Harriett was the honored Preceptress. I took them through a regular course of Abeology and at the expiration of 4 days graduated them with all the honors of the Institution, and prepared to "vamosé" to this place where we are now located. While at Albuquerque we received a communication from

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Dr Connelly, (who lives here with a rich Mexican wife), with an invitation to come and establish a school here, pledged us 8 little girls from the best families to commence with. About the time I commenced school at Albuquerque M came from Santa Fe and immediately came down here to see what the prospects were and found them so favorable that we decided at once to come and we are now fairly settled in our new home. Have been here about 3 weeks and like quite well. It is the pleasantest place I have seen in NM and what is very uncommon is surrounded by cottonwood trees which form a very pretty grove. The new Bishop and Vicario from the states are very intolerant and are exerting their influence against us and we have succeeded in getting only three of the girls yet as they are so afraid of our Protestantism, but the Bishop and Vicario have many enemies and the parents of those we have will not submit to their authority and also many others will rebel and we may possibly work in a little truth by watching an opportunity. This is the greatest opening ever made in New Mexico and we are among a more independent class of people who will not be slaves to the Bishop but will rebel if crowded and we may possibly do some good by gaining their confidence. It is said by all to be the best place in the Territory and if any good could be done anywhere this was the place. The little girls are very much pleased to live

with us and their parents seem well pleased.] Have given 65
me me two large platters and about 16 doz of eggs besides
cakes, candy, etc. Dr Con's wife sent me the eggs. She's
immensely rich and has always been very much prejudiced !!
against the Americans but she is certainly very kind to
us, has called once. I presume she never called on an
American family before, but we take pains to be friendly
and try to gain their confidence. [I am alone here there
being no American female nearer than Albuquerque 20 miles
distant and yet I feel more contented than I have before
since I came to this country for now we have a home of
our own and I have something to do and my time is fully
occupied with the care of my housework, teaching and
taking care of the girls.] We have a thick-tongued Irish- !!
man for a cook and it takes me a part of the time to
oversee him, make my bread _____ however Pat
does very well. He is very slow but clean and
industrious which cannot be said of Mexicans. [We have
one American boy _____ then 4 scholars board
with us.] So you see I have something to do but I am
glad to be able to do it. My health is better than
when I last wrote though I have had a severe cold on my
lungs but a bottle of Jaynes _____ soon relieved
me. Indeed I have not been free from a cold and catarrh
since I reached New Mexico. Influenzas has prevailed all

over the country. I have seen but very little snow but the weather is chilly. I wear a flannel sack and then almost freeze but then houses are cold with large rooms and fire-places. We hope to get a cook stove soon for which we shall have to pay 75 or 100 dollars and have so few things to use that you can't cook but one thing at a time but we are not so dainty and spleeny as we were when we left. If we were we could not eat the food cooked here. O I wish you could visit us and see how we live. Just call and see We pay Pat 10 doll for this month but shall pay 20 rather than let him go, for Mex help is almost worse than none for they will steal everything they can lay their hands on and are so abominable _____ lazy and lousy, 10 times worse than a _____ Kathleen from Ireland (almost impossible to get help), and as much as I can do/oversee the work _____ teaching and taking care of the girls.

Feb 24th well Mother my little family have all retired and I will try and finish this letter although it is almost 9 oclock. We have 3 very pretty little girls of 10 and 12 years old but rather small of their age at least 2 of them are. The youngest is such a fun-making laughter-loving girl that I have my hands full and she understands no English. One of the girls understands some English and is my interpreter to the

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others when I can't make them understand my Spanish which I try to use as much as I can. Their names are Josephine Chavis, (in Spanish Hosapheta) Altagrascia, and Anna Maria Otero (these 2 are sisters). Anna Maria is the fun loving girl. This evening I was obliged to send her from the room for laughing and chattering so much but instead of going to her room she went around to the window of my room and while I was absent a few minutes called in a loud whisper "Muchachas" "Muchachas" meaning "girls" "girls", but she dodged in seeing me enter the room I have seen nothing ugly about her but she is so full of fun. All of them are very much attached to us Anna Maria especially. She is a very active intelligent girl and would be an ornament to society if brought up in the states and well educated, but I am so tired I can't finish tonight but must tell you we have got a cook stove No 2 not as large as yours for which we paid 75 dollars and glad to see it at that.

Feb 26th yesterday I had a severe headache and could not write today feel much better and must finish as M is going to start for Santa Fe tomorrow to meet the mail which we hear has arrived and which I hope has brought news from my loved home. When I feel unwell I think of home and Mother and sometimes feel as though as I must see you. I have a great deal to say but you must write me all I want to know. I know

nothing of what is going on in the world more than the
man in the moon. The most we hear is of Indian depredations
which occur constantly If we are lucky enough to get
hold _____ from the states we can once a month
hear a little of what takes place there, but if we do not
we know but very little of what is going on outside of
our ^{and} domicile. The Indians are murdering and driving off
stock constantly. A short time ago 2 Mexicans went into
an American store a few miles below here in the evening
and wished to purchase some goods and while the man was
getting over the counter they knocked him down and
killed him took his money and left but were soon de-
tected and taken into custody. Soon as the news
reached the Americans below, several of them came up
took the men from jail carried them out of town and hung
them without judge or jury. This seems horrible to us
but a Mexican can kill an American and for a few dollars
get any amount of witnesses to clear him, and this was
their last resort for redress as they knew the murderer
would get clear as in the case of others if they had a
trial. Such a state of things you cannot imagine as we
have here and if something more efficient than has here-
tofor been employed is not found for redress, Americans
will be picked off one by one till none will be left.
The country is nearly ripe for revolution and it is the

opinion of many that a revolution will occur before long. You in a land of safety may think it strange that we have a double barreled shotgun and a ~~six barreled~~ six barreled revolver within reaching distance of our bed every night. A stout lock on our door and a large dog in the yard, but these are absolutely necessary here and while M is gone to Santa Fe I shall stay alone with the Irishman and children but I can shoot a revolver if necessary and I trust in the protection of Heaven I do not like to have him gone much but we get accustomed to these things, and when it is necessary I can stay alone although I suffer some from fear as one can dig through these walls with very little noise, but we came here to do good and must expect some trials. When I feel well I can endure almost anything but when I feel unwell I feel discouraged and lonely as I am the only American female in the place and none nearer than 20 miles. We feel the sacrifices we have made especially on the Sabbath, as we can't have any meetings here. M preaches occasionally at Albuquerque 20 miles distant, but I can't go as some one must stay at home. Here we cannot all leave a house if we do everything would be stolen we have to keep everything under locks and watch constantly. Since I wrote you last and just before we came here I went to Santa Fe with M but I am mistaken it was at the last mail

and I finished writing you while there. I did not know
but my scalp would be taken by Indians or Mexicans be-
fore I got back but we were lucky in finding company
although we started alone, but I must close as writing
makes my head ache and my sheet is full. Do not fail
to write me every month. Last month I got none. Your
letters probably did not reach Independence in time
I sent you my journal last mail also one to Darwin.
How I do want to see you. Your aff daughter Harriett

We have had 2 invitations to Fandangos or ^lballs.
I have not time to write to Darwin ~~this~~ _____
mail will you for me

My catarrh is some better. I am taking _____
as _____. We pay 75 cts a pd for _____ \$1.50
~~xxxx~~ pd for _____ 1.00 for slippey elm 1.50 for
soda.

Eat one good potato for me.

M writes for the New York Record and New York
Baptist Register has written a long piece by this
mail.

(L 11)
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May 29th, "52"

My dear dear sister I intended to have written
some to you and mother but I have not time as we must
be in season for the mail but the letter to _____
is for you all. I am well as usual but not over-
stocked with strength, neither can I expect it in my
situation. I think in July I shall make you an Aunt !!
if you have no objections. ladies here tell me I may
expect then rather than the Middle of Aug as I
thought, being the first you know they say I may expect
sooner. My health has been very good since Feb and my
cheeks are quite fat. never felt more cheerful and
happy. Was very glad to get your long letter but sorry
to hear of your trouble but think you could not have
done differently or any better under the circumstances.
hope you will see no more trouble but I must own I have
doubts and feel some anxiety, but I think you have done
right. O I wish you could be with us, but we are in a
most _____ country, doing nothing but raising babies.
A fine little fellow we hope he will be, and as good as
his ~~Pa~~- "Pa" We shall move to Al soon, it is now head-
quarters and we shall be more protected there should an
outbreak occur which is the talk. However we think it will
not occur though there is an inveterate hatred towards
Americans. last Tuesday a Mex was hung for murdering an
~~Amerie-~~ Am and yesterday another was found murdered. O what

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a country, but do not worry about us. God will take care of us and I should not wonder if we came back in a year or two. (This is a whisper.)

M returned last Monday ~~night~~ night about 1 oclock having rode on horseback 75 miles that day and the Saturday before he rode 100 miles, the 75 that he rode to get home he was alone but God protected him. how I should have worried had I known it. as it is so dangerous travelling alone. he was about used up. He married a couple in Spanish while gone. fee \$20. in gold, green peas, beets, onions, parsnips etc. in season at El Paso but not here. Will ~~wish-you-about~~ write you about the place next month as I have no time now. Do write me everthing.

your sister

Harriett

We have an _____ for _____ to Santa Fe so I can't write more---

I expect every letter to bring news of Mother's death, how I wish I could be with her in sickness but God will be with her.

do write all of you-----now do every ~~metn~~ month
M says raising babies is all the missionary work to be done in N Mex

Mr Read it seems is making a great splutter in the States but wind will burst in time.

June 29th/52

This morning I will try to write a few lines more as we do not expect to leave Santa Fe till tomorrow morning. although I feel very anxious to leave as I do not feel well, feel very faint at times, especially after a little exertion.

O I wish I could be with you but I cannot, but I am cheerful most of the time. [Our missionary prospects are no more prosperous than they have been. Br Smith has commenced preaching in Spanish the first and second time he had quite a full house since then none Mr Read and wife were in Independence when the mail left so I suppose they will be here before long, but I doubt their doing any good Judge Baird(?) (with whom we boarded last winter) said to me yesterday that he was afraid Mr Reads return would do our mission more harm than good. we all think so, but I suppose he will make a great splutter and _____ the people in the states into the belief that he is doing 666- _____.

He has forwarded _____

OH chaplaincy again but I very much doubt his getting one. he is so much disliked. a chaplaincy is a post of ease and profit which is all Read wants. there are no chaplain posts where one can do much labor among the Mexicans and if he should be so lucky as to get one and leaves the work which he has made such a great

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sp|utter about. he will just show himself out. Br
A. and Milton could both have a chaplaincy if they
wanted and we may possibly go into it but not now,
as I cannot take any more long rides. Mr Reads
salary for chaplain was 64 dollars a month besides
~~homse~~ rent, wood etc and every thing at states
prices. in addition to this he received about
three hundred from his school as there were a good
many American~~x~~ children here then and the last
year he received 4 hund~~red~~ from the board. ~~000-~~
besides this the money he made in trading horses
and other speculations amounted to considerable.
One man here in Santa Fe says he made 100 dollars
clear gain in one horse trade. his reputation here
in this respect is anything but enviable. he must
have had at the least ~~eeieua~~ calculation 1000 dollars
to take to the states, and this the man who is held
up as the pioneer missionary in N.M. O I wish
I could see you and tell you all the aggravating
~~sixxxxx~~ circumstances connected with this mission.
Mr. Read ~~accureg-us-ah-ef~~ accuses us all of
"homesickness," "discontent" "want of devotion" etc.
and after raising ~~such~~ high expectation in the states,
if they are not realized upon us throws the whole
weight of responsibility and himself seeks a chaplaincy
remote from Mexican population and ~~brga~~ brags in the
states about his great success, but he has got to

bone into it himself or he will get a bast.

M says he will not stand it, if he and Br Smith have written very plain letters to the Board.

Br S has been here 11 months and received only 25.00 doll from the Board and at the end of the year if he received no more money he will be in debt 12 hundred dollars 4 hundred of this debt was incurred by Mr R humbugging Br S into the belief that he would soon have a large boarding school this was when he first arrived and they have bitterly repented since Br S in _____ @ollars here in Santa Fe _____ necessary exp _____ and his anxiety for his own _____ that of the Board who have unaccountably neglected his wants, has materially affected his health, but I think it is a misunderstanding in some way. We are not so bad off as we saw through some of this humbugging when we arrived and have been very cautious in our expenses although they have already ~~mean-~~ amounted to 7 or 8 hundred dollars, this is an expensive and unprofitable mission. I got nearly worn out with the charge of these wild girls and M says I shall not go into this school business any more. he talks some of commencing a free school and see if he can do anything that way, but I am not going to fret any more. we have done all we could and all has failed, the Board have got us out here and they have got us to

support cost what it will I hope you will give nothing for this Mission for it, is money thrown away, it is doubtful if we remain another year, but we don't know. we may-ye get a chaplaincy and watch an opening, but everything is uncertain, the country is quiet at present.

Some trouble is apprehended from the Indians on the plains some 50 or 60 of the Apaches are here now to make peace which they will probably regard till they get an opportunity for plunder. I have been in to see them they are a horrid looking set of humanity. some of this company were pointed out to me as the murderers of Mrs. White. The Indian Agent took us in the room to see them and introduced us to the chiefs who shook hands with M and kissed his hand but I must close

Albuquerque July 23rd/52

My dear friends

Once more I sit down to converse with you on paper and yet do not feel much like writing, but I know your anxiety to hear from us especially at this time. We are both well as usual that is we are neither of us sick or feeling very keen. I am sure I do not but I can not let the mail leave without writing a few lines as I may not be able to write again for some time if ever. Sometimes I feel so low spirited that I think that I can never endure what is before me but most of the time I have been quite cheerful, but I do dread what I must pass through. I hope my friends remember me, but I have a dear kind husband who will do all for me that he can and perhaps I may pass through the trial safely. We have a good physician here, indeed one who belongs to the army must be or/could not get the situation. he is a young man and this is the only objection I have. there is another physician in Santa Fe just arrived from the states with his wife and three children. has been 16 yrs in the service and is destined to this place as head quarters but he will not come here till Col Sumner does which may be about the 1st Aug. I do not feel very comfortable about these days, but hope I shall get through in a week or two. I can't write more it tires me so much. H

Sunday July 25th

18

I think Harriett writes most to plain English; though it may be true yet I think it is not best to let others know it at present the importance of this field, has been perhaps, over estimated. As a missionary field-but Harriett has ~~never~~ no very elevated ideas of Mr Reads qualifications; for a pioneer missionary and perhaps his imagination has been cultivated more than a mature ~~jud~~ judgement and allowances are to be made for the frailties of Human nature. I think something can be done yet for this people it may be long in the future; God only knows what is before them or us his providences are often dark and mysterious; and ~~they-we~~ the way before us unknown. We had but ten or twelve to attend preaching to day. I expect to commence preaching in Spanish next Sabbath. Chance(?) the effort will succeed we shall see after a while--if it were not for Harrietts situation I should take an exploring tour two or three hundred miles into the Indian Country, but must defer it for the present today is a ~~great~~ ~~Sun~~ a great Saint day and horse racing and everything of the kind is going on in abundance; As ever J M Shaw

Sunday July 25th^{ox}
'52

My dear friends

I will try to write you a few
 & lines to day ~~and~~ tell you a little about ourselves
 & prospects we are ~~now~~ very comfortably settled
 in ~~the~~ Albu— where we shall remain ~~here~~ awhile
 but how long I know not- We find but little-indeed
 I might say nothing to do in this country Since
 coming here M has opened a free school to see how
 such an experiment would succeed. ~~He~~ He posted
 notices in Spanish all about town and told the
 people , but this succeeds the same as all other
 efforts. he has the same 2 girls that I had last
 winter & no more. So much for their anxiety for
 schools. if N _____ has ever stretched forth
 her hands with the Macedonian ery she has again
 _____ . we constantly
 hear, "Well Mr Reed has humbugged the people in
 the states & especially your board the worst
 way"--how he will dispose of himself we know not
 & care as little he has got us all into a bad fix.
 he will be here soon & then I suppose the board
 think N. M. will be converted, but time will
 determine. If we live we may go away the Indians
 & try to do them some good for no ~~are~~ door seems
 likely to be opened for doing anything for the

Mexicans We shall await the direction of Providence for we know not what is before us. M will probably commence preaching in Spanish next Sabbath. Br Smith has been preaching in Span; some time. the first 2 or 3 ~~s~~ sundays he had a goodly number but lately since the novelty has passed away no Mexicans have attended, do you wonder we feel embarrassed & know not what to do; especially when all the churches expect such great success in N. M. O! could they only know the truth & see how we have all been deceived, but time will open their eyes. if you can get hold of the N.Y. Recorder one of the April numbers you will find a letter published by Mr. Reed, & M's reply to it which he sends by this mail. O deception & humbuggery. If I could see you I could tell you more than I can write. Does any one about there take the Recorder? let me know, but enough of this. M will probably write you next time. I do not feel as though I could write now but thought I must a little. I am very tired & cannot fix my mind close enough to write a very connected letter will you write to Darwin. I dont feel able to & I know he wants to hear from us. I have taken an Amer girl 12 yrs old, which the best help we can get here she ~~xxx~~ does very well, as well as any such young girl could be expected to but is rather slow. I consider

myself fortunate in getting such help, at this time for
I know not what could have done alone for I cant get
about to do much myself. write every month. I want
to hear from you as often as possible. We have have
had a little handful of Am. in here to day ~~■~~ for a
meeting, felt that our number was small but craved
the blessing-commenced the meeting with 2 Am- ladies,
thought of home & the ~~■~~ crowds gathering for
worship. We feel that we are alone in a heathen or
worse than a heathen land. hope our friends will
not cease to remember us in their prayers-but I
must close. as ever your Harriett

I write to you freely about our ~~■■■■~~ prospects,
but I dont want every one to know every thing

We have green peas, beans onions ~~■~~ & by
paying prices which Mex are pleased to ask

I had a present of a can of potatoes a few
days ago, boiled & put up in a quart ~~■~~ tin can
& sealed air tight, tasted very well, not as good
as fresh one ~~■~~ of course. Came from Boston-

(L15)

Albuquerque Aug 13th/52

My dear friends

Once more I will try to write you a few line for the time may, soon come when I cannot. I did not expect to be able to write you at this time and am feeling quite poorly to day & wishing I was among friends who could assist & advise me at this time when I need it most, but the Lord will provide & I do not intend to worry beyond measure & yet I should like the cheering presence of some of my dear friends to give me a word of encouragement & render me the assistance I need, but this is in vain. No dear mother or sister can be with me, yet I trust I am not entirely without friends. I feel ~~xx~~^{so}/unwell to day that I cannot write much but I know you are feeling anxious about me & should I not be able to write again will be glad of these few lines. I will not write a ~~giky~~ gloomy letter but for your amusement give you a description of a nice little rain we had about a week or little more ago. the rain came pouring down in torrents & soon we began to think we were going to be drowned out for the rain pouring into our rooms in streams. Our store room where we keep our flour boxes baggage etc was afloat & M had to work very busy



there to raise the things from the ground while Fanny, (the girl I have ~~xxxxxx~~ taken) & I endeavored to prevent the parlor & my room from sharing the same fate. She & I worked about an hour constantly, she standing in a chair & catching the water while I carried it out as fast as I could go, without time to see what damage was being done in the next room, but after awhile I ran to the next room where we sleep & to my dismay found that notwithstanding our pails, pans, etc the water had run under the carpet halfway across the floor, but the water pouring down in the parlor where I ~~ifex~~ left ~~Fanny~~ Fany & she calling for help I was obliged to run back, at this moment M came from his share of ~~the~~ the work & assisted us in removing the carpet & carrying out water & about 11 ~~xxxxxx~~ o'clock we went to bed somewhat tired I assure you. Our bed stood in a corner that the water did not reach and M's books were packed on the floor & barely escaped the deluge. You may be assured we had a hearty laugh over mud houses when we got through. Now for another theme & that is in the eating line, which sometimes draws so low that we hardly know what to eat. we have no variety here. sometimes we are fortunate enough to get hold of a few onions, peas etc but they are not plenty. were it not for our cow

we should fare rather hard though cows here do not
give much milk as there is but little nourishment
in the grass they get. we give ours some bran
& get 5 or 6 ~~qt~~ qts a day. You will laugh when
I tell you that I make butter. the first time
I churned I got half a tea cup full the last
time two thirds of a small bowl full, & thought
we were rich in the butter line. but let me
tell you we have had 3 small muskmelons, 6 or
8 cucumbers ~~and~~ & what do you think Mrs ~~Winds~~
Winslow sent me the other day. You cannot guess.
Well it was a dish of ripe raspberries which they
purchased in Santa Fe, nearly ~~an~~ an hundred
miles distant. they were somewhat juicy by the
time they reached ~~a~~ Albuquerque but oh! so delicious.
in return I sent her about two spoonsful of new butter
which I presume she had not tasted this season. We
had a ~~raspberry~~ raspberry cake for supper which was
the most ~~delicious~~ delicious of any thing I have see
in this country I thought of home where all these
good things grow, which I shall not taste more, for
no ~~any~~ berries of any kind are to be had here.
Raspberries grow in the mountains somewhere about
Santa Fe & are brought then to sell but here we
get nothing & must be content with nothing. We went

without wood about a week before we could get any. There is a Mexican in the place who keeps it to sell but he asks $12\frac{1}{2}$ cts a stick ~~xxxx~~ & it would take half a dozen of them for ⁴one good fire but everything costs money here. We pay 12 doll a month for this mud shell to live in. Wish you could see the gulleys washed out in the walls in our rooms, but we need not complain for others fared as bad as me, & some worse for their walls fell in. Oh delightful country this. M's free school consists of 2 scholars only ~~xxxxx~~ 1 comes steady, & that the daughter of a prositute living with an American. last sabbath we had a meeting appointed here & 5 Amer came in as hearers. Is not this an encouraging missionary field? Our expenses ^{to} this ~~xxx~~ quarter will amount/nearly 300. dollars & we have not the comforts of life that you have. We bought a small cheese(came from the states) for which we paid $62\frac{1}{2}$ cts per pound, rice we can get for 25 cts, & rice & milk goes very well. We have got some eggs for 25 cts a dozen, & some chickens for $37\frac{1}{2}$ cts apiece--do you wonder that we sometimes long for the flesh pots of Egypt. ham we can get for 31 cts a pd & our meals often consist of ham & bread & a dish of milk but a person here, on account of scurvy has to be cautious in eating salt ~~xxxxxxxx~~ provision sometimes crackers we can get for 50 cts

you know I am very fond of, but I have ~~xxxxxx~~ already
written more than I thought I could when I began & must
stop for today. but I must tell you one more story that
is, some 6 or 8 Am ladies are soon to leave the country
& a large number of Am gents, in a government train
which leaves in about a week. One lady from this
place is going & starts tomorrow only 4 ~~xxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~ will be left in this places besides myself
& one of those expects to leave the places this fall
so you see Am ladies are scarce here & they ought to
be in such a country as this for tis no place for them
here.

Albuquerque, NM Aug 23/1852

Harriett has left a page for me to fill out and before proceeding to more important matters I would say we went to take a ride the other day and purchased some water-melons and musk melons and we had a good feast. and that night Harriett made a bee and asked in the neighbors to held eat them. and all they could raise by eleven oclock the next day was a little boy. a very little fellow weighing nine and a half pounds, a so strong that he held a rag in his fist the next day to _____.

now what do you think of New Mexico. Harriett is very smart, will be about house as soon as the doctor will let her both are doing well. she was confined on Friday Aug 20th. labor commenced about _____ ~~EEEE~~ oclock a.m. not very severe till day light at ll she was relieved.

her labor was very severe but she bore it with good courage and did not sink at all but continued in full strength. but her after labor was not effected by nature, ~~xxxbearing~~ adhering to the inner membranes the dr was compelled to effect the separation; which made it still more painful than the first labor. and had we not have had a careful and skillful physician she

would not have carried her through it; should we go the world over we could not find a better or a more kind and careful physician or better acquainted with his business. We had two excellent female assistants and

she could not have had better care in the states as
Sundown the dr relieved her from all pain and she
rested well during the night and is doing firstrate
has no fever or anything of the kind good appetite
and in fine spirits. thinks her boy is a little
better looking and smarter than anybody else. she
has good strong lungs and plenty of spunk, though is
very quiet. We have secured a woman, the wife a
soldier to stay with us nights to take care of
Harriett & the babe. one of the ladies are with us
all day so that we get along firstrate. we shall
probably send him to the states in the spring to
attend school. but Harriett will be able to write
you next mail and no doubt she will give you a great
yarn about her Dear boy. you better believe we are
mighty well pleased with our new baby as ever J. M. Shaw

Albuquerque Sept 24th/52

My dear mother

The mail is again about leaving & I must write you a few lines although I am very weak. M informed you by last mail of the birth of a little son, which in our estimations is the sweetest little fellow that ever breathed the air of N. Mexico. he is 5 weeks old to day & is a healthy child & very little trouble, grows, eats & sleeps all night. sometimes I am obliged to bind his little mouth to nurse after sleeping till midnight. O I wish you could see him. he is a dear little one & our hearts are bound up in him. a precious little gift which I hope we may be enabled to train up aright. I cannot realize that such a sweet one is ours. a comfort & blessing to cheer our hearts in our exile from home & friends-but the tears fall fast & I must not think of home & friends till I regain my strength. I want to write you a long letter but cannot now. I am getting along very well but am still very weak. can just walk across my room by taking hold of things.

I can sit up all day when I feel well but usually lie down once. the Dr would not let me get off my bed till my babe was 4 weeks old. one week ago today I sat up for the first time in a chair. I gain but my limbs are so weak I cannot walk without help. We could get no nurse to take care of me & the babe, although we hired several & that was the last of them. so much for Mexican promises Mrs Baird the lady I boarded with last winter came every morning for nearly 4 weeks to wash & dress my babe. Now I do it myself & take care of him with what help Milton can give me. he has been my chief nurse. M & Fanny have been nurse ~~and~~ [&] house keeper. I thought of home as I lay on my bed alone in a strange land but the Lord has been good to us & we have great reason for gratitude. I have had no fever or any pull backs(?) except the care & worry with my babe but M makes a very good nurse & renders me much assistance. sometimes the babe sleeps with him on the floor & some times with me for we are so poor we have but one bedstead & that so narrow that it will not accommodate us all, but the little one sleeps all night only waking to get his dinner. M told you he weighed nine & a half pds. wasnt he a monster. he was as white when he

was born as children are a month old. never a particle(?)
of red about him, but I am getting very tired & must not
write . We talk of calling him George Milton. This is
M's choice as George was his Fathers name though I do not
fancy the name of George very much but the name is of no
consequence. Cant you send us a good one. Next Mail
I will write more about myself. good bye
Harriett

you no doubt wish very much to see my little boy
& wish to know how he looks. well he is very white
has the deepest blue eyes and no wool on his head
or at least is very short but is growing fast. M says he
is a perfect resemblance of his own little self
& that is about the best description I can give for
we think he looks very much like himself. but he
is a sweet little treasure, & is a perfect little gormandiser.
I can truly say with another that---

"Though many other blessings
Around my footsteps fall
My baby and its father
Are chief among them all."

but I must not write for it tires me very much
love to all, how are you all--do write every mail

How is Sally Curtis--

O I want to write you more but cant now.

your aff. daughter Harriett

I think I do know something of a Mothers love now

Wish you could see my sweet little one

M. is perfectly delighted with it. but goodbye
H

Dear Friends

I will add a post

script to let you know that

your letters are received by this

mail Cornelias containing a

line from mother am glad to

to hear from you often. We also

have one from Darwin & Margaret

write often but I am in haste

to great to write much at present

I arrived here last evening and have

all my matters to arrange ~~immediately~~ to

to start back in the morning

Harrlett and the Baby are doing

well He is fine _____ fellow

but I suppose she has told you

all about it. I will write

Stillman by next mail in

reference to going to _____

if you can make arrangements

for mothers comfort. He had better

go this fall or winter. We will try

and help him in reference to books (?)

& C I will give him advice & c next

mail

no more at present as ever

Admission for Mrs Medlow - Mrs

Santa Fe Sept 28

(L 17)
87
Sunday Oct 10th/52

My dear Mother You no doubt wish to know the particulars of my confinement & I will gratify you. although it may cause you sad feelings to think I suffered so much away from home & friends. as M informed you we took a ride Aug 19 of several miles to get melons. I had felt very uncomfortable for several days as the child was so high up, but enjoyed the ride very well, & felt no worse after it. we had a feast of melons & that night about eleven oclock awoke with a backache which continued to increase I got up and used the vessel, had a passage freely from my bowels & went out in the yard & emptied it soon after I got up again & such a flooding of water took place that I knew my time had come & that I should have severe labor on account of the waters breaking first. I laid down again but my pains continued to increase & by ~~two~~² oclock I told M to go for Mrs Winslow. He went & told her how I was & she sent him immediately for the physician who was only a short distance. They came & M went for Mrs Baird about 3 oclock they called in the dr as my pains were quite hard, but they continued to increase until it was almost beyond endurance. every breath was a scream & this agony continued until about eleven in the forenoon when my ~~labor~~ babe was born. it presented

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aright but all my distress was in my back not a pain in front. I was conscious all the time & saw by the anxious looks of the dr & those around me that I was in a critical situation. Yet I felt assured that the Lord would cary me through.. My babe weighed 9 1/2 pds with only a shirt & skirt on & was a fine babe. commenced sucking his fist before they could get him drened(?) but we came very near losing him for his naval got to bleeding & bled through his clothes before being discovered. soon as my babe was born the blood poured from me & the dr was quite alarmed. I saw from his looks, but he said nothing. he afterwards told me that I lost a great deal of blood. I was torn some although the dr did all he could to prevent it. I now thought ~~my sufferings~~ ~~ended~~ sufferings nearly ended, but the worst was yet in store. the womb did not contract, although every effort was made to produce it. I took _____ ? but nothing availed to produce pain for a long time. the Dr went out & was gone about half an hour & when he came back & found me in the same condition he said he must take away the afterbirth(?) (I had now more pain in my back) I begged him to let me die with out more suffering but he said it was his duty to do all he could for me-& he did but oh such agony as I endured is beyond description. he had to introduce his hand into the womb & separate the afterbirth from the womb to which it adhered all around during this the blood settled around my mouth & eyes & I thought I was dying-the Dr called for wine

which revived me-he told the ladies afterwards that that would keep me up awhile longer & about 4 oclock I was relieved.

of an or and was perfectly conscious of all that passed. M stood over me in such agony that ~~if~~ I forgot my own & begged him not to feel so bad but let me do all the grunting. his groans ~~and~~ [&] tears affected me more than my own sufferings but ~~through~~ ^{through} the blessings of God on the efforts of a most skillful physician I was saved and & blessed with a sweet little companion for my lonely hours.. do not let the detail of my sufferings affect you for I had all that could be done the Dr would not allow me to leave my bed for 4 weeks & was as kind & attentive as he could have been to an own sister, he is a young man only 3 yrs in practice, but I love him as a brother he is a gentleman & yet so easy & social that he takes away all fear soon as I could eat them he killed birds for me every day & was attentive till he was ordered to another post when my babe 4 weeks old--& for all his trouble he would take nothing. his name is Magruder, from Maryland, is free from the vices of this country & has the esteem of all who know him-- is constantly speaking of his good mother & sisters. he is an only son.-----

I have filled this full. how I wish my sister was with me a chaplains salary will be as good as 12 hundred a year

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(L18)

Oct 10th 1852

My dear friends- Perhaps a few lines from time to time as I feel able to write will be as acceptable as I letter at the end of the month. Milton was my chief nurse & Fanny my housekeeper. Mrs. Baird came every day to dress my babe & we got along as we would for several weeks. I thought of home & friends as I lay on my bed alone & wished I could have a good nurse but tried to be reconciled to my lot. Sr Smith of Santa Fe happened to come down a few days after my confinement but she had so much visiting to do that she was of little service to me & I felt glad when she left (she loves admiration) I had no trouble with my heart?) or any thing but was obliged to lie still without raising my head I sweat constantly & was very weak, the Dr allowed no noise in my hearing and no one to come in for some time.-----
I sweat now on the least exertion although my babe is 7 weeks old I can just walk about the house a little & have rode out several times. have to take care of my babe alone with scarcely any help. M is gone to the Navajoe ~~sea-~~ country over 2 hundred miles away, but I tremble so I cannot write & I will begin back ~~and~~ tell you my daily history. We could get no nurse although we hired several.

sept 25th M left for Santa Fe to meet the Mail & get provisions. I to stay alone with a negro we had just hired & Fanny. I felt afraid of him & felt lonely to stay, but in a few hours M returned with another Negro who had come across the plains with Mr Read & whom M had hired. a very clever looking man. M left him, took the one I disliked & went on to Santa Fe-was gone 5 days. in this time my babe had a severe billious attack and had the Dr 5 times I felt lonely enough & was overjoyed when M returned on the 30th. he went partly to meet the other Missionaries just arrived & to consult together-what fields to occupy----

Oct 1st Just as we were going to bed-Br Gorman & family & Mr Read drove up making an addition of 7 more to our family of 4- then supper was got for them & I slept very little-Oct 3d Br Gorman preached in the morning & Mr Read in afternoon & M in Spanish-quite a number of hearers in the morning. Only 2 americans came to hear Mr Read besides what was in our family. 7 or 8 Mexican ladies came in to whom M preached in Spanish.-Oct 4th all left & M with them- M left for Ft Defiance 300 miles out among the Navajoe Indians it being though best for him to apply for a chaplaincy at the fort & try to establish a mission among these Indians. I never felt so unwilling for him to leave home-could not feel reconciled to be left alone 3 weeks with a little babe in my

weak state as I could not walk without assistance--

Oct 6th Our Negro man last night got out of the window & went off over the top of the house & left Fany & I alone till 1 oclock. I slept little-& was quite nervous-oh the trials of such a country as this. Mr Winslow & wife called for me to take a ride

Oct 7th-8th-& 9th So lonely that all is gloom around-cow gone servant cannot speak Spanish & I cannot get out.

Oct 10th M has been gone a week & my heart is gone with him. I enjoy nothing-babe worrisom & I almost worn out

2 long weeks I must wait for his return. Oh how lonely I feel as I sit here alone in my mud room with my little babe in my arms thinking of my absent husband, how can I endure it 2 weeks longer. I had anticipated so much happiness in having my husband with me till I regained my strenth that his leaving has cast a gloom on all around. Americans are very kind, & call often but my spirits are sunk & nothing can cheer me-0 when will my husband return

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how I wish some of my dear friends could call & see me-
but no-thousands of miles separate us-should my health
be poor I think it quite likely I may come home next
summer-as I could be of no use here-how I could leave my
husband I know not but trials await us, on
every side-~~a~~ I must be home if possible----

I feel as if nothing but the return of my dear husband, &
his kindness & sympathy can cheer my sunken ~~heart~~ ^{spirits.}

Oct 11 Felt more cheerful in spirits & a little more ~~strength~~-walked
out-babe very good & playful-Oct 12th Another lonely day
walked to far yesterday & do not feel as well-Mr Winslow & wife
called for me to ride, & I rode too far over rough ground-weak back.

Oct 12th more lonely, but dragged the hours away----

Oct 13th Up ~~and~~ ^{& down} with babe through the night-feel miserable
consoling myself that half the time of his absence has passed away.

Oct 14th-15th-& 16th passed away with the same monotony-lonely

Oct 17th Spent the day at Judge Bairds who sent for me with a
carriage, could not come another day, so I went although it was
Sunday, have experienced much kindness from ~~xxx~~ them as well
as others. In the morning Mr Winslow called for me to take a ride
& spend the day with them, but I had promised Mrs Baird. Mr

Winslow & wife, Dr Abadie (army physician) & wife Lieut. Robinson
Tuley (~~Tuley~~)

Mrs Clark, Mrs ~~Rix~~ & Mrs Baird, have all tried to render mere
pleasant the time of my husbands absence by calling frequently.

Mrs Abadie has called nearly every day, & today sent my babe a
little white sash(?), very pretty which she had made for him -

Americans here are very kind & offer to do any thing to serve me.

Oct 18th passed with the same routine of duties cares, etc.

Oct 19th day after day passes away & brings nearer the time of Ms return towards night Dr & Mrs Abadie called & we were calculating the time of of Ms return thought he would get home, in 4 ~~more~~ days more when a carriage drove up, they all said "Mr Shaw has come" but I doubted, however I ran to see & perhaps I was caught in his arms before I had reached the front door, never was I more glad to see him. he had come on ahead of the rest to reach home sooner.

I sold my watch for 15 dollars & will give Stillman that to help him Milton says he will help ~~also~~ him also-

If Stillman goes to Hamilton I will help him all I can, glad he is going S must be careful of his health & not begin to rapidly Hamilton is a cold damp place in winter

Hereafter direct your letters to "Ft Defiance, New Mexico"

Albuquerque Oct 27th/52

My dear friends

I have just got my little one to sleep & snatch my pen to drop you a few lines more ere this mail leaves & first you will want to know how we are getting along in this wild country well we are all alive ~~and~~ [&] well & I am quite smart so that I walk out to make calls, feel well although not quite as strong as before our little idol is well & a fine boy, so we think, & also others. all speak of him as a very fine boy & think he is too ^{rw} forward for such a young babe We are not the only ones that think him a lovely babe, others have spoken of him as an uncommon child(so I hear) & do not like to see him so forward. / ^{When} Dr Abadie called to see him when 5 weeks old he said it was not common to see so young a babe looking about & noticing things as he did. when 8 weeks old he laughed aloud several times & now does it frequently when we play with him. Indeed he is a very sweet babe-- & is very forward. Why Mother, he can say "Aggoo & a great many other words that you cant understand"-- He is very good also ~~and~~ [&] must needs laugh ~~and~~ [&] play about an hour every morning before he gets up. Gee ~~and~~ [&] Gigoo are his favorite words. O would do you good to see the little sweet one. It seems as though we could not live without him although we know he is only lent us, but now to ourselves. Our connection with the Mex. Mission is ended & we leave in a few days for our new & distant home among the Navajoe Indians, a powerful wandering tribe that have lately made a treaty of peace. We think now is the time to introduce the gospel among them and the Missionaries here though M had better go. Ft Defiance our new home is a strong post of 3 hundred soldiers. M is elected Chaplain

in the army and this Ft which is in the Navajoe country about 2 hundred miles distant is our location so you can see we shall be safe under the protection of the army & free from ~~KKK~~ _____ I shall be some lonely as there are no ladies there at present except a few soldiers wives. On some accounts I regret leaving Albuquerque & on some I am glad. Our field will be Mexican no longer & we hope to do something for those wild savages. We shall leave here in a week or two with a ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

government train & escort of soldiers. I feel very anxious to hear from you although I have heard from you every mail since Feb. so write long letters Has Stillman gone to Hamilton. Where are you all & what are you doing & how is health w th you, but I must close as baby wants to go to bed. I have written a little at a time as I could get a chance Call & see how Motherly I look-- good bye

We are well and Happy, Love to all xHarriett

In our journey we cross the crest of the Rocky Mountains where water runs one way to the Pacific & the other to the Gulf of Mexico but more of this in my next

One of Miltons classmates Rev Orlando B. Stone of Kenia Ohio will probably come out here in the spring.

(L19)

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Fort Defiance N. M. Feb 15th
'53

Dear brother

You are doubtless anxiously awaiting a letter from me & I would write if I could but I will just tell you the reason & you will excuse me this time. We have just arrived at Ft Defiance & trying to get settled but our house is so crowded with Navajoes that it is a slow job & this evening is the only time I have as the express leaves early in the morning. & there are four soldiers in here singing & playing on my melodeon(?), they are a part of the choir M has picked up. The one that plays on the Melodean is a German. M & I are both trying to write. I like our new home very much but it is a long dreary road to get here. We left Santa Fe about the 1st of Feb. & were about 10 days on the road, camped out five nights had a warm tent with a stove in it, made of a kind of kettle for the occasion so I came very comfortable & found my health improved by the trip. We had very pleasant weather and

a warm carriage. no snow, some cold weather. We broke down in crossing the Rio Grande as we went in a little below the ford & the bottom is quicksand like the Arkansaw. We had a very heavy load & the mules got in deep water & broke the whipple-tree & I with Georgie had to set there in the river till assistance could be obtained from Albuquerque about 3 miles distant, but very soon one of the officers came with a wagon & took us out & carried us across where we sat on the ground till they could get the carriage across. it was then after noon so we put up at a Mexican house till the next morning & then drove to Laguna 45 miles & stopped over Sunday with Br Gorman who is stationed there among the Pueblo Indians. they have allowed him to preach in their chapel & some two or three hundred were present that Sabbath. they do not like the priests & I think Br G will gain their confidence Monday noon we left & went about 27 miles. That night our cow got away & went back & M rode back about 15 miles before he overtook her although they ran their mules all the way. he got back just before day tired & cold. In a few days we reached

another town of Pueblos, & staid over night. our room was the government corn room, & M thought it was living on government most too much when he pulled the corn out from under our bed so we could sleep. The greatest curiosity here is four white Indians. White as we are with coarse straight Indian hair which as well as their eyebrows & lashes are as white as wool. Their parents are Indians these children do not seem to be as intelligent as the rest, how they came to be white is a mystrey, but to complete our journey the last morning we were out when within 20 miles of the Ft the mules thought they would not wait to be harnessed but z started for the Ft. When we were ready to harness behold they were gone, so we waited till they could be overtaken, had 3 men left to protect us in case of Indians appearing while the rest of the company moved on. It was a lonely place & I did not feel very comfortable to sit there with baby but in a short our mules were brought back & made to know that we must go too, & we arrived in safety with our scalps snug on our heads, but as I said we have not got settled as we have been here only 3 days. Our quarters are very comfortable & the

officers very kind. I feel quite contented here alone
with no ladies society. little Georgie is a great comfort
he is well & full of play, hardly ever cries, O I wish
you could see him. You would love him so much.

M has got about two hundred words of the Navajoe language .
They are a wild race & it will
take a long time to civilize them. how are you
getting along. write us often & tell us all about
Hamilton & how you get along. write every thing.
I must close for I am very tired. am glad
to hear that you like H. & felt that you are in the
path of duty. put all your trust in God. He will
provide. Wish you & all of ~~our~~ dear friends could
step in & see us, but good bye till another time.

Take good care of your health.

Send this letter to mother as I have no time to write more
by this mail- in haste your aff. sister Harriett

Dear Mother & sister

I have no time
 to write you separately as the mail
 leaves early in the morning & it is now
 nearly nine oclock. We are so far
 from civilization that we improve
 every opportunity of seⁿing a line to
 Santa Fe for the States, but love
 is all I can send you in this
 Our sweet little Georgie is well &
 the happiest little fellow you ever saw,
 but good bye for the bugle & drum~~s~~
 sounds bed time & we shall lose the chance
 of seinding

in haste

Harriet

do write all of you
 every month--
 My health is much better
 though my lungs are weak

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(L20)
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Ft Defiance June 11th/53

My dear friends

Yours of March 27th arrived a few days ago & I hasten to answer it as I have a good opportunity of sending to the valley. I rejoice to hear that Mother has lived through Feb. [&] hope ~~her~~ ^{her} life may be spared till I can see her again for I know you all want to see us & our dear little Georgie We are as well as usual, though my health not first rate & yet am not sick. but this constant living on flour does not agree with me. I think if could get some of your Indian bread & potatoes & other vegetables I should be well. We have enough, such as it ~~is~~ but no vegetables. however we have found an abundance of water cress lately which is quite a luxury. wish I could send you a pan full for your dinner. We like it quite as well as lettuce, & use it as a substitute. Our garden ~~is-full~~ will, if prosperous, yield us some vegetables after a while, but we have had such cold ~~weather~~ weather & frosts till within a few nights that things are backward, but there is some Mustard up & growing finely in the Gov. garden & I allow myself the privilege to cabbage, a few sprigs of it every time I go through the garden.

How I envy you(almost) your garden vegetables & artichokes, but no I dont envy them to you, but I wish I could help eat them or had some here, & there is Mrs Brown with her boiled dinner every day. I almost wish I could steal one away from her,

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for I have seen none such since I came to this country. but I must stop or I shall have no appetite for our own dry dinner, but do put a good boiled dinner in a letter & send it to me with a piece of brown bread. I would give a dollar for such a meal. but enough, be thankful that you have these things. For a few days past we have weather warm enough to have our doors open without a fire & I put on a thin dress but this weather caught a severe cold & we are today housed up with a good fire while the cold wind without is blowing a perfect hurriane & sand & dust so thick that at times we can see only a short distance from our window, while you, no doubt, are enjoying all the loveliness of Spring. Nothing here reminds me of its approach but the green grass in the valley. The sweet warbling notes of the robin to which ~~it~~ I so often used to listen is not heard among these rocky wilds & crown frogs, & rattlesnakes. are all we have to cheer us by way of variety except the continual visits of a half clad filthy set of creatures called human beings but they have souls as well as we. Stillman is probably with you now. I am glad to hear such good news of him. May he long be a blessing to a lost world, but S you must take care of your health & not expose ~~yourself~~ your lungs to the damp fogs of Hamilton Wish I could step into Rutland & see your Sabbath School. I rejoice to hear of its ~~prepperity~~ prosperity. Give my love to Eld Howard & family & all who take an interest in us, & our Indian Mission. We

are doing all we can & have succeeded in gaining the confidence & friendship of quite a number of chiefs & they have promised us a number of children to live with us for a school, but our prospects for the present are likely to be blasted. The Indians on this side of the mountains seem well disposed & friendly & ~~at~~ treated Mr Shaw with the greatest kindness when travelling among them, but some evil disposed ones on the other side have broken the treaty, run off several thousand sheep & quite a number of horses & killed one man. The Indians about here have been active in looking up the stolen property & returning it but say they have no power to give up the men but will show the Am where they are & they may take them. A company of dragoons arrived here a few days ago from the valley & are now, with Maj Kendrick (Commander of the Post) & Capt Dodge (Indian Agent) out to see how matters can be adjusted. they are expected back in a day or two. Yesterday we heard again from the valley. Col Sumner, chief commander in this Territory left a short time ago for the States but on arriving at Santa Fe learned that the Navajoes had refused to deliver up the murderers to the Gov. & sent word that they were ready for war. Upon learning this he returned to Albuquerque, reassumed the command & yesterday an express arrived here bringing the intelligence that war was declared & if the men were not delivered up before the first of July, the combined forces of the Department were to be concentrated & a large force to leave Al--- on the 6th or 8th of July for seat of war.

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We hope matters may be settled without bloodshed but are afraid the Nav-- will consider it a mere threat & delay to act till all the horrors of war burst upon them. I shall feel sorry for those who wish to live in peace but if they unite with the guilty ones & do not contrive some way to deliver up the men, they will all fare alike. Col Sumner is expected here in July with 6 companies which with the 3 companies here will amount to about a thousand men & then wo to the poor Navajoes. destruction & death will ensue, but do not worry about us. This place will be well protected & they will not dare attack this post with 6 cannon speaking in voices of thunder th them. Sentinels are all around the garrison & we hear their responds during the night every fifteen minutes, "12 oclock & all's well", "Quarter past twelve & all's well" & and so on all night, which with the howling & barking of wolves very forcibly reminds us that we are not in our quiet little home in a civilized land, but we hope whatever may be the result that all will work for the glory of God & the advancement of his cause.

Our letters are all sent to & from Santa Fe by Gov. express, & the postage is only 3 cents (which I always pay) unless it is a double letter & you ought to pay nothing when they reach you. Some scamps at Santa Fe probably put on 5 cts on that letter, perhaps the post master did if he thought it weighed more than the rate of single postage if ~~th~~ a letter weighs more than single rate postage & 3 cts is paid they have a right to put on 5 more but I dont think my Jan letter was over 3 cts postage dont think it would weigh more than any common letter the post office is not very well attended to in Santa Fe. M sent one letter to his folks & paid the postage. 5 cts more was charged at Santa Fe. I do not know whether they paid it or not but they wrote to us about it. ~~from here~~ This shows the rascality or heedlessness of postmasters. the postage from here to New York City & Connecticut is only 3 cts. We have no letters over 3 cts postage from any place. I have written about this before. We tie a string to our hens leg we tie the hen to something & let the chickens run about the hen has also more liberty than in a coop. you try it

DID did you get the piece of silk I sent in my Feb letter & have you got the seeds & red stones I sent in my Apr letter (this letter is missing) I want you to specify particularly when I send anything.

I have written S Curtis but have so much to send that I must defer it till next time

Don't forget the artichokes & horseradish

Write me if the picture _____ coming