



8-30-1853

Letter from John W. H. Baker to Julia Ann Baker, 1853 Aug. 30

John W. H. Baker

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Letter 3 enclosed with 2

At Sea near Aspinwall

Tuesday, August 30th 1853

10 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock A. M.

Dear Wife

We are now expecting to arrive at the Isthmus this evening and what kind crossing at that place we can hardly anticipate but we are hoping for a favorable time. We are having quite a favorable day today and are feeling better than we have any day before. It is quite warm and in the middle of the day I have no doubt but it will be oppressive. Perhaps we may encounter a storm this P. M. but I hope not as such times create a very disagreeable sensation not only to myself but to many others on board -- I have this morning been talking of Meridan & the people there with Mary. I should like to look in upon you at home and see what is your condition. Whether you are all well or not, but 2000 miles separates us at this time and I can only think of you with the hope and expectation that you are in the enjoyment of health and more comforts than we are, confined on board a steamship in a tropical climate with appetites that have been very poor and uncomfortable during our whole voyage.

I wish you to write me as soon as you can after you receive my communications and give me every particular concerning your affairs and the health and comfort of the children. I wish you to have Mr. Dyer bring me a copy of Woods botany when he comes on, if it will not be too much trouble to him as I have entirely forgotten that book.

Mary says tell Oliver to write to William at Providence as she thinks she does not feel able to write there from

Letter 3

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the Isthmus -- We have about 300 passengers on board and about 200 of them are to cross the Isthmus, 75 to stop at that place and the remainder will probably return to N. York to this steamer and are on their way to New York from the Island of Jamaica. They were obliged to go to the Isthmus as the steamer does not stop there on its return. You must write a line to Father and let him know that you have heard from me as I presume he will feel anxious to know how I am getting on. Tell him I am doing as well as could be expected and hope to get along from this time without suffering more from seasickness -- I am on deck and have been here since morning. It is now about 11 o'clock and the passengers say that we can see land but I am so engaged in writing this line I have not stopped to look out. Mary has gone to her room to repack her trunk for crossing this Isthmus. And I must soon do up my packing for the same purpose. I do not know as I shall write again before I arrive at San Francisco but if possible I will endeavor to do so. If you do not have a line from me after I arrive in Panama you may expect one by the first Mail after our arrival at San Francisco -- I would try my pencil a little longer but I think I must go and attend to my trunk & carpetbag -- We are now drawing near to the land and I have only to say that we are only to look to the prosperity we may enjoy hereafter for a fortunate ending of this effort of mine which has caused our separation for the mean time. Hoping that we may meet again soon I subscribe myself your Husband

John W. H. Baker