



1-13-1854

Letter from John W. H. Baker to Julia Ann Baker, 1854 Jan. 13

John W. H. Baker

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Letter 13 (Pictorial "Aprospecting party")

Sacramento, Jany. 13th 1854

At Little Tully Strobridge's House

My Dear Son Frederick

Tully has just kissed me and gone to bed. I thought that as you had been a good boy and had written me so many letters I would write you one that you must call your own. I have been having a very good visit with little Tully. He has grown to be quite a large boy almost as large as you were when I left you in Meriden. Tully has got a dog, a very young one and his name is Major. he has likewise some hens and chickens, and a calf, and a good many other things. He has some little girls and boys who live near his father's house and sometimes he plays with them. Tully had a very nice picture book, which his mother gave him for a Christmas present. he can read in it very well. He would like to see you and sis and gave a good time with you. I am going back to Mokelumne Hill to-morrow and shall not see him again for a long time. I go back in the Stage and when there I cannot see but a few little boys or girls who are white but little Indian or Spanish boys are plenty. I think you would not like such boys to play with. I want you should be a very good boy and learn your lessons well so that when you write letters to me they may be written well and all the words spelled right. I wish you to always remember me and write me another letter soon.

From Your Father
John W. H. Baker

Friday eve, Jan 13th, 1854

My Dear Wife

As I spoke in my letter to you of writing a few lines in this sheet which I send to Fred I endeavor to fullfill such promises. I have finished or nearly finished my visit. I shall return to-morrow morning to Mok. Hill. I shall not see Cousin Tully

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as he will not be in in season. I am quite disappointed in not meeting him. I have seen Carlos Dyer. he left this city today with a load of Provisions, Poultry and other materials for settling upon a Ranch which he has taken up about 15 miles from this place he is well and from what he said of his arrangements is going to live a farmer's life in California for a while. I called upon Frances Wardner and Frank Wardner today. They are engaged in the Butchering business, how well they are doing I cannot say. I understand that the business is very dull now and in fact all other kinds of trade are very poor at the present time from the want of rain in the mines. I rained quite smartly last night and this morning and I think bids fair for more to-morrow. If we have rain soon it will give a start to business all over the country and where nothing of consequence is doing now it will be quite lively. I intend to write more of my visit in Sacramento hereafter. The family all send their respects to Oliver. eat a half-dozen apples for each of us if he is not too crowded with such business of his own. We should enjoy a feast of Apples very much ourselves but a eating by proxy is we think better than none. The old maxim is "what can't be cured must be endured", so we let the apples pass. While I subscribe myself

Mrs. Julia Ann Baker
Meriden, N. H.

Your Dear Husband
John W. H. Baker