



6-26-1854

Letter from John W. H. Baker to Julia Ann Baker, 1854 Jun. 26 and Jun 27

John W. H. Baker

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Mokelumne Hill, June 26th, 1854

My Dear Wife

I again address you my semi-monthly letter, but while I write I am feeling very anxious for your next letter to come to hand as your last gave me sad news of Oliver's sickness. I am fearfull from the fact that the nature of the disease with which returning Californians are affected is so different from that of the diseases usually prevalent in the N. E. States. I am convinced that they are usually of a Billious Remittent type with a strong tendency to Intermittent, and that a treatment should be based upon the treatment proper for those diseases. I am of the belief that he will get along well and hope ^{ere} ~~in~~ this he has entirely recovered. I rejoice to think he is in a good place to be cared for and that he had arrived home ere he was taken sick. John Storrs was here this morning and is quite anxious to hear again from him. I wish I could have been with him.

John Storrs is now mining on the North fork of the Calaveras at what is called Esperanze--he hired Edward Fifiield this morning and took him out with him. gives him \$70 per month and boards him. I think he will do better with Storrs than he has done about town.

I have seen no amount of difference as yet in the enjoyment of myself from the improved State of Society since the arrival of the N. Hampshire accession of population in this town. in fact I think for my own part I was situated much more pleasantly before Dr. H brought his family here, than I have been since, for the reason that I have thus far been almost as much confined as though I had no partner, and were my business laborious as well as confining I think I should have reason to complain. But as the business is quite light for one even I will make no distrubance and leave things to work their way out themselves. The Dr. is nearly through with his building and I think when he has completed it he will be a little more inclined to do business.

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the cost of building his house will amount to about \$950 and with that they will have a very good and convenient house, where they can live as comfortable as a family need to. I still continue to think you are much better situated where you are than I should be able to make you in California. I do not think \$2500 will pay the expense of Holbrook's journey ~~in~~ out and back and the cost of locating himself and family. and you know that that sum would take me back to N. E. and purchase me a good location in almost any village, and I shall prefer thus to do in preference to locating in such a place as Mok. Hill.

There was a most daring attempt at robbery in town night before last. A man by the name of Sinclair who kept a tin and hardware store near our office had sold out his establishment and had been making his arrangements to leave for the States, when on the night spoken of some burglars broke into the window of his bedroom between 9 & 10 o'clock while he and his clerk had gone out for a short time and removed therefrom Mr. Sinclair's iron safe weighing some 7 or 8 hundred pounds and containing some ten thousand dollars in coin beside papers to the amount of some 15 or 20 thousand dollars. but as good luck would have it he returned to his shop before they had time to arrange a large pole upon the safe in order to carry it away, and seeing the back door open, went out of it and made the discovery of his safe, removed nearly one rod from the door, and the probability is that in five minutes more they would have succeeded and Sinclair would have lost his property. This was done right in the light from two houses one on each side and while many people were about the town. Showing how desperate such men will get in Cal--the burglars escaped and will not be likely to be discovered.

Such bold attempts cause me to feel that I ought not to keep money by me--and for fear I may lose or expend it I have now deter-

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mined to send my money on to you as fast as I can get a few hundred in advance of my business wants. You can use what is necessary to make you comfortable. and I am inclined to think you had better deposit the surplus in the Bank at Windsor. I shall send you a Draft of \$300 by this mail--the Draft will go by express & will be drawn on Adams & Co. if you deposite the whole of it you could keep the Draft untill you go to Windsor or else send it as you have an opportunity. This letter I send by the regular mail and the other letter containing the draft may be in first or on the other hand it may be late, according to which Steamer carries the Express matter of Adams & Co.

June 27th. I have just made the purchase of my draft and shall send it out tomorrow or next day--this letter leaves to-morrow morning. I have just finished a little job of Dentistry for today and feel a little weary. I put in two front teeth upon pivot and extracted two old fangs for the man for which I recieved \$22 in cash as the Yankee would say in N. H. for the same work I should recieve \$3.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ in Meriden and "very high Doctor" at that. I will omit anything further for the letter which conveys my draft--Give my kind regards to Jane & Oliver--tell Hannah to keep up good courage and be on the lookout for she may find her husband in a time when she least expects him. I will send her one from Cal--if I happen to find one suitable. Anxious to recieve your next I subscribe myself,

Your Affectionate Husband

Mrs. Julia A. Baker
Meriden N. H.

John W. H. Baker