



8-29-1854

Letter from John W. H. Baker to Julia Ann Baker, 1854 Aug. 29

John W. H. Baker

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Letter 33

Mokelumne Hill, August 28th

My Dear Wife

I thought I would just drop you a line today since I have concluded upon a little different course than the one which I spoke in my letter of day before yesterday. Dr. H. proposed this morning for me to stay with him, and says he will put up the building at his own expense and furnish one half the supply of medicines &c and give me one half the proceeds of the whole business provided I will furnish one half the medicines and go on as before for 3 or 6 months as I may choose. And whenever I wish to leave he will purchase my half of the stock on hand and pay me the cost. I do not know that I could do better at present, and I think I shall try it for 3 months if no longer. You can judge whether I am of any consequence, (by such a proposition) or not. In fact I have done most of the business, and more than that I do not know how he would get along without me, in the situation he is now placed in. He is almost constantly engaged with his family, and has spent very little time at the office since his return. If he did not make a pretty fair proposition I would not remain with him.

I am going to San Francisco tomorrow. Shall go by way of Sacramento and intend stopping there a day or two. I am going to purchase Medicines and furniture for our office and in the mean time Dr. H. will attend to business and collections. My share of the expense for establishing ourselves again comfortably will not be likely to exceed \$500. So I think I shall be able to remit a draft to you within about one month more. In that time I hope to be well located without being an owner of real estate, and so located that I can leave at any time without losing on the amount of my investment. I am to pay no rent for the use of the building--

I have been perfectly aware of the service I have done Dr. H. and I think he begins to appreciate it. if he does not now I

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know he would were I to leave him.

I barely write this that you may have the latest news possible from me--With my love for yourself and the children, I remain

Your Affectionate Husband
John W. H. Baker

Letter 34

Mokelumne Hill, Sept. 13th, 1854

My Dear Wife

In the confusion of work and business I have neglected my usual semi-monthly letter to this late date. But remembering my disappointment some months since upon not receiving ~~a~~ my regular letter, and my promise to you that I would let no opportunity escape of sending my letter to you every mail, I make a short matter of it by writing this evening. Since I last wrote, I have been to San Francisco and purchased a supply of Drugs & Medicines. Saw there several of my friends and old acquaintances, among them Dustin Shattuck & Wife. Dustin was somewhat unwell, but they were pleasantly located and I judge doing pretty well. ^{Daniel} ~~David~~ Bryant was doing very well, was located in the city. Daniel is in most excellent health and good spirits. Called on George & Francis Brooks who are located in S. Francisco in trade. they are doing a pretty large business and I think making money. Saw Addison Gilmore there. he was just starting on his voyage to Paname. he is employed on board the Opposition Line fo Steamers from San Francisco to Panama and makes a trip once a month. I went by the way of Sacramento and stopped there one day in going down and two days on my return. Found the friends there all well and enjoying themselves finely. Tully had sold his team and is now engaged in the Boot & Shoe business. I guess doing pretty well. at any rate they seem to enjoy life pretty well since he is now able to be at or near home all the time. They seem to be the leading family in their church matters. He is deacon, and just at that time was getting subscriptions