



10-26-1854

## Letter from John W. H. Baker to Julia Ann Baker, 1854 Oct. 26

John W. H. Baker

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Mokelumne Hill, Oct. 28th, 1854

My Dear Wife

Well! here I am again at my task, and the time of another half month flown past like a river, and myself in good health, with the belief that I am two weeks nearer the time when I shall be permitted again to meet my dearly beloved family--

I recieved your letter bearing last date up to Sept. 18th some few days since and shall expect another sometime next week. The good news of your continued good health is gladly recieved, and I can but hope and pray that it may be still preserved to you so long as I am absent, for I know of nothing which would discourage me more than to hear of severe sickness in my little family.

We have been having a few days of wet weather, and many predicted we were to have a wet season commence this early, but yesterday morning it cleared up and came out with a beautifull clear sky-- and continues fair and pleasant today, and judging from present appearances I should think we might have some weeks of the best kind of weather before our rainy season sets in--This weather and that of the Spring time with its flowers are the redeeming portions fo the California season. for the extreme heat of summer and the very disagreeable wet and mud of winter are much worse to the outward senses than the snow and bracing air of N. E. But for me I can but believe that the climate as a whole is far better than than of my native state. If I was well located to remain here in the country where Society was of a good caste I should think of having you come and try a life in California. But as it is you need never fear that I shall do it. For I shall much prefer subjecting my own health to all the influences of an Eastern climate to that of placing my children under the immoral influence of a California life. for children in California with very ~~a~~ few exceptions become in the course of a year's residence very expert in swearing and tal k

and act as I hope I may venter hear of my children talking and acting.

I went to Jackson a few days since to see if I could rent a room for a DrugStore, but could not do so as every place of consequence which would be desirable was occupied. If we could have rented a proper place I should have gone there while Holbrook would have attended to the business here. the copartnership continuing at both places. We may think best to open a store there in the Spring.

I was somewhat surprised to hear that Eben Clough had sold and bought the place where the Spauldings lived, and likewise to hear that Mr. Ellis had bought the farm where Abel Spaulding lived. That being the case I suppose that will become one of the principle Streets in Meriden, and most likely deserves a name if it has not already recieved one. Perhaps I may locate on that Street myself being fond of quiet. I suppose Justice Stone still resides on that St.

I enclose a draft in this letter for you on Adams & Co. for \$200. I want you to keep it for your use this winter. You can probably get it cashed at Meriden or if not there you can at Lebanon. I shall not send any more at present I think. But when I do you will of course know it by the receipt of draft. I like to have forgotten my arrangement for shoeing Fred's sled. I think he must recieve the amount necessary for such purpose out of your money which you recieve on the draft. tell Fred that he must have it well done or no pay. for I do not like to see things done unless they are done right well. Ask Sis if she has finished my bed quilt yet. By the way I should like a good nice bed quilt to put on my bed this winter. I sent to San Francisco a few days since to have Daniel Bryant purchase me a curled hair matrass and 2 feather pillows, and yesterday recieved the bill of them. The matrass is single and weighs 17½ pounds and with the pillows cost \$17.87 which with freight will make up about \$22 or \$23--these with my 2 pair blankets and straw Matrass and Bedstead will have cost me over \$50.

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But there is one consideration in the case, that is when they are in place I can enjoy the luxury of as good a bed as a man needs--and much better than most men have in California. If possible I mean to live comfortable while I remain in California, and I want you to live so during my absence and thus far have tried to furnish you abundance of means for that purpose---

Give my best respect to Oliver, Jane, Hannah and the crowd-- Where is Sarah? if she was at Mok. Hill I could insure her \$100 per month for one year to come, in a school. Doct. Holbrook is one of the School Commissioners and would engage her if she would come on-- I have not the least doubt but that Sarah would do well here in California. If she wished to come I wish her to come of her own accord and not from my persuasion. California is a country where such persons if well can exert a very beneficial influence. If she is very desirous of coming and lacks the means only, you may let her have enough to pay her passage from my money--With these few lines and my assurance to you of my faithfulness, regard, and love to my wife and children, I bid you all goodbye.

From your Affectionate Husband  
John W. H. Baker

Mrs. Julia Ann Baker  
Meriden, N. H.