11-27-1854

Letter from John W. H. Baker to Julia Ann Baker, 1854 Nov. 27

John W. H. Baker

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/grcc

Recommended Citation

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Western Americana at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Gold Rush Life by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact mgibney@pacific.edu.
My Dear Wife

I have been a little negligent in writing this time and now find this after noon that the mail closes here this evening. It is now three o'clock and for that reason you will excuse a short letter from me. The principle consideration in all the letters from me to you I suppose is that of hearing of my continuing in good health. Of that fact I can say that my health is very good and so far as I can be in this country and away from my family I am very comfortably located. I receive your letters regularly and always feel better reconciled to remain here after hearing that you and the children are getting along so well. But I sometimes become so impatient for the arrival of the mail that I think it a great trial to wait. I begin to think California is not to keep me much longer. not that I have obtained money enough but I do not like to live so long away from my little family. I sometimes think you will all change so that I can hardly accommodate my ideas to reality should I be allowed to return in safety to my family. I cannot now think that I have a little boy running about who is two years or nearly that of age. When I left you he was a small babe and I can remember him only as such. Fred & Maria have without doubt grown almost out of my comprehension. In fact I suppose almost every one in Meriden of my old acquaintances bear the marks of change in some respects since I left them somewhat more than one year since. In your last letter you speak of several of the inhabitants. I am glad to hear that they are quite well. Mr. Richard's regards for me and my welfare are duly received and in consideration thereof I wish you to give him my best respects. As to his wish for me to settle in Meriden when I return, I can only say that the prospect of my settling in Meriden may be as much so as any in that region of country. and in fact more so, for I cherish some very good feelings for the place and people at which and among whom I have spent so large a portion of my life thus far. I have spent many
Letter 41

-2-
hours, days and years there, and were all things to appear favorable for my locating there on my return I would not be surprised to find myself located among my old friends and patrons again within a year or two. If I could raise $2000 more than the amount I have sent home I should feel a strong disposition to return this winter, but I could not now dispose of any property and arrive home with more than $700 or $800, and I can hardly feel satisfied with that much. We are doing a moderate business yet and I think the prospect is that we shall have a dull winter for business here.

We are about establishing another drug-store at Jackson, a camp some 6 miles from this place and I expect to go there in a few weeks. I may not but still the thing is pretty certain. My income now amounts to about $250 to $300 per month clear of expense--and with very little labor at that, so little that one man can do almost all the business as well as two. Now I have the opinion that I can locate at Jackson and almost double the business, and in that case I should receive some $400 or $500 for my share, and with that prospect I am going to make the trial. If I succeed in the undertaking I shall return another fall. If not I can not be much worse than I should be to remain here. Even if I can increase my income only in the amount of $100 per month I had better do so than to remain here enough longer to make up the loss of that sum monthly from my present income. I am fully determined to make this year count as large as possible. So as to decrease the length I have proposed to remain in California, as you know I have usually said the time might be to a year from the coming Spring.

As regards your teeth I want you should do as you think best with them, have them repaired or not just as you think best. I want you should have all the bad ones out as fast as they decay so that the gums may heal and become solid, and if you do not have some in on
Letter 41
-3-
plate before I return I shall want you to have them in afterward. Perhaps you could have some set on pivot where they are out in front, which may do you some good for a year to come. You can show them to Dr. Bidder and if he thinks he can make them of service to you have him do so—I suppose ere this you have received all the drafts I have sent, and deposited the one for $500 in the bank. If so all is right and I hope to be able to send another draft in the course of 3 or 4 months from this time. It is my wish that the children be kept at school all the time that is possible. I hope Fred will endeavor to be as good a boy as there is in Meriden and try to learn well. I am glad to hear that Laura Maria is so good a girl and if she continues so I shall hear about her again when her mother writes me, and when I come home I shall bring her something pretty for a present. I hope to hear that Fredy will deserve a present too for his good behavior in the future. With these few lines I must close tendering you all a husband's and father's Blessings.

From Your Affectionate Husband

Mrs. Julia Ann Baker
Meriden, N. H.

John W. H. Baker