



11-22-1849

## Letter from John E. Fletcher to Wife 1849 November 22

John E. Fletcher

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Ship Rheindeer, November 22, 1849

Dear Wife,

It is now four o'clock Thursday morning and we expect to sail in an hour. We are about a mile below long wharf anchored in the stream. I have been up all night and am almost dead with fatigue and nervousness, but if we ever get started, I will have a good nap and no mistake. We hauled out of the dock yesterday afternoon at two o'clock and stove one of our quarter boats about in two. There is another California ship close to us and they have been cheering all night first one ship and then the other. We have got the best ship that has gone out yet, and I like it better every day. I should have wrote last night but I could not find my paper and I was going ashore to get some as soon as it was light enough, but I got a chance to send off by the mate and he got me two quires, so if you put any in I have got a double share. I suppose it is in my chest, but I could not take my things out for I never should have got them in again and I did not like to go without being certain of having paper enough. I am writing on my checker board up on the top of a pile of window sashes with three or four men drunk and eight or ten bleary, raising the devil. They have called to breakfast, and I shan't have time to write after it. I eat more at supper last night than I ever eat at once before although we had nothing but fried beef and sea bread. I have got everything than I wish for. My chest is full after taking out my bedding. Keep up good courage and enjoy yourself and the time will seem shorter. I have found some old friends on board, first rate fellows. Underwood births next to me. He is in first rate spirits. Don't go to counting the time when you will get another letter and it will come the quicker.

John