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**Letter from Jeanne C. Carr to [Louisiana E.] Strentzel, [1880 May].**

Jeanne C. Carr

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[May, 1880]

C17

Pasadena, Friday evening.

Dear Mrs Strentzel.

I ought not to write you on a Friday, or in a Fridayish mood, but tomorrow is one of our mail days, and I cannot allow it to pass without carrying to you all, and especially to John Min the congratulations of Dr Longus family, and his many friends in this region, as well as our own.

We read the news in Mondays Record, Union - just a week after the wedding; as I read it aloud to the family some one reminded us of a friend whose husband was a sea faring man; when the news of his death reached her nearly three years after the event. She said she had been a widow so long it was not proper to wear mourning. So having lost the pleasure of anticipation in Louie's case, we seem to think of John & herself as having always been married, and the event as long past. I have been accustomed

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to think of John as one specially beloved & cared for by the higher powers; now I know that he is. Since he may call you mother.

He will never know how sweet a privilege that it while you remain with us; but when the "well done" shall be spoken to you he will feel it the one great blessing that has come after many lonely years. A man quickly comes to think of his wife as another self, and this is many men's excuse for negligence and inattention; but men hold the mother thought, the mother relation in great reverence. I am grateful to you all that you have included into your love one so precious to me. It seems a suitable mating - and rarely do two spirits so finely tuned strike the perfect chord.

I shall be interested in every particular which any of you may care to repeat to me. I felt like writing Dr. Stentz that he should have telegraphed the advent of a son in the family, and that Mother was doing as well as could be expected.

I hope you will be on your feet this

summer, and make your brain draw you about a great deal. Let the young people take the laboring oar, & you & the dear doctor rest and travel.

We have had almost continual cold weather and an excess of rain. But the succession of fruit-flowers has made it delightful, nevertheless. Tell Minnie that *Calypso borealis* is blooming exquisitely, and the *Linnaea* growing under an Oregon Cedar in the grounds. My sweet beech tree is full of tender leaves, maple & scarlet oak showing their colors. I have more than a hundred species of eastern forest trees, most of them quite small, but growing well.

Tell Louie that if I could bring her here to be bridal kissed and congratulated there should be no lack of favor in the performance. I commission John to do it for me; he does not need to be told that I rejoice in his happiness. Show James, and far stronger than any man to see his genius acknowledged by his peers. I have desired for him the

Completeness which can only come in living for others, in perfected human relations.

My sons have been out for twenty four hours after some grizzly bears; I can look up the mountain side scarcely more than three miles in an air line, where the canons are so nearly inaccessible that the bears have half a county to themselves. They have visited the bee ranches nightly for two or three weeks, and yesterday a regular hunt was organized.

The deer come down every few days, but no one shoots them. Our trees are full of birds. Dr Carr is healthier & stronger than he was in Sacramento, but a good deal depressed at times from the great change - he misses the spur of daily duty.

I am too busy to get the blues, and perhaps lack sympathy with nature's less hopeful. It is easy to rejoice with those that rejoice, and thus I do most heartily to night, with the house of Miss - Stewart. Love to John, Senior, its honored head.

Your affectionate  
James C. Carr.