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Letter from Jeanne C. Carr to [John and Louisiana] Strentzel, 1883 Feb 1.

Jeanne C. Carr

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we knew intimately in Wisconsin. I saw him off with his regiment in '62; his wife was probably one of the most beautiful women in the land. When he married, she was reputed the most beautiful. Her mother, Mrs. Norton had been the most famous beauty of Ohio. The Col, afterwards Judge Larabee was a man of versatile talents. his wife's sudden death had quite broken his heart & hopes, but he found some comfort in gardening. I was resolved to get us out to Crafton where he had his home of old age. And there was no way to identify his poor dust but by the filling of a tooth!

When we got the news, Dr. Carr sat down aghast, and the tears rolled down his cheeks as I never saw them before. "Poor Larabee 'poor old boy'; was all he could say. And he was, with many weaknesses

Pasadena Feb 1st 83

Dear Doctor & Mrs. Stentzel,

We are shivering with cold and after having our tender things frozen have put them into blankets - it seems too cold to snow. For two months it was hot and dry, now it is cold and driv. & not a bud or bloom upon the oranges yet. Plenty of frost which registers the drought of last year to some extent, and is acid. A person tells me that he is paying as high as five dollars a box for the choicest Wash. brand of Riverside.

I have been waiting for a soaking rain to send up some

a man who had kept a child's heart. Mrs. Downey was as much like Mrs. Stentzel in temperament (and not unlike in repression) a Spanish lady, loving everything beautiful. She had complemented her early disadvantages, by letting all lovely things and thoughts into her soul. On many accounts it was a black day, long to be remembered.

It was kind of you to ask me to choose some cuttings, if it ever rains I may have courage to do so.

I have orders for more than half of mine conditioned upon the rain. Gary asks \$30 per cbb for Saltana cuttings from Fresno; and \$12 for Muscats. I hope yours are profitable.

With no end of love to

Cherokee roses, or cuttings. I thought they would be more likely to live after a rain.

And so you have not moved yet. Arthur has me, our castle looks up beautifully but has neither doors nor windows. And Dr. Can having set his heart on a dear old fashioned garnet, so we have one nearly as large as yours, but not as high, will flood with space enough to dry some tons of fruit.

And of Verandah - almost as much as of floors. Windows many, not expensive in quality of glass or finish, and no paint except on the exterior.

We have not laid our real floors yet, put down rough floors, and when all the plastering & other work is completed, the real floors, of nice selected pine will be the last

work. And I want you all to come & make it dear to us, as soon as the beds are made and the moss cleared away.

"That Wanda" - yes I see her "bonny mow" & violet eyes. I can fancy how the little busy feet will patter about in the coming summer days. I think there is light enough in that little star to brighten two homes.

And how does John Smith like it as far as he has got?

And is the anti-Granger getting restless with the motion of spring in his trunk and limbs?

We were horrified when the Schachipa disaster swallowed up our two first California friends - Mrs Downey & Col Larrabee. The Downeys have been especially kind to my husband since his first winter here in '68; and Larrabee

Sonie & John, and that wee sprite Wanda -

Yours ever gratefully,
Jeannel Carr.