

City of West Cambridge April 21<sup>st</sup> 39.(?)

Beloved Brother

I received your Letter pr Mobile Bay Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> I embrace the present opportunity to answer it; and commence with an apology for not writing before. When I received your letter, it was a conjecture in my mind how long you would remain at the above named place; soon it was reported in the Papers that Brig Mars had cleared Mobile; then I waited impatiently for your arrival Home. Thus you will excuse my not – writing; but to inform you how I learned you had not cleared, - is – I had it from Mrs Bowers. And now I improve the first Opportunity to rejoice with you, - you was not on Our Coast the last storm which ~~has~~ prevailed nearly one week. commencing 10 days ago, blowing from the N. E. and raining powerfully, - the cause of one ship wreck – and other damage done to the shipping. I cannot perceive anything in your writing but what you enjoy good spirits, peace of mind like Salt pork(?) – and to catch Porpoises; I expect your – are amazing fond of Salt pork.(?) Or else it is amazing fond of you; for the Captain writes, you are as large as Father and I put together. I am not much afraid of your seeing over my head at present, for I have grown tall as well as you have large, - there fore I shall have the preeminence over you I was glad to see your firmness developed in your answer to Mothers query – whether you had concluded to follow the Seas or not; - if that be your desire by all means pursue it; - if not relinquish it. Persevere unto the end that seemest best to thee and success will be thy reward; - exercise an inquiring mind in all that is instructive and usefull; - apply thy self diligently to all commands, and peace of conscience will be thy Own; cherish all advice given thee and thine will be the benefit;- take good care of thy self, and all that belongeth to thee. I was pleased to see you noticed more particularly your health and voyage &c. We are all well at home, but Father, who is some ill. I believe they are all well ^ at Lexington especially at Mr Bowers;- Helen has not fell much short of growing ~~at~~ large as well You for she is as large as her Mother, and still a growing. Most too much Pork for a shilling., Adeline grows very fast and handsome full of good humour and wit; they all grow very fast. If you receive this letter in time to write me again before you leave the Bay and let me know your destiny I shall be much pleased. (You will excuse this imperfect scrawl and I will draw it to a close

And believe me I

Remain Your Affectionate Brother

Oliver Blake

My particular regards to Mr Bowers

O. W.(?) Blake

(Envelope addressed to Mr. Stephen P. Blake, Mobile, Ala. On board the Brig, Mars, J. F. Bowers, Master.)