

Northfield Nov 15 th 1840

My Dear Brother I received a letter from you the day before you was to sail from Boston. The day you sailed my letter to you reached West Cambridge but unfortunately it did not reach you. I was happy to hear that you was to sail with Hopkins; though I should like to know the capacity in which you sailed, and what satisfaction you get in the shape of Hard Dollars. I was very sorry you did not ~~????~~ get my letter; I wanted to show you the advantages you would derive by being early promoted; probably you are aware of the advantages yourself. In that letter I ~~offered~~ advised, if you did not sail with Hopkins ~~to~~ you to remain in Port and study Navigation, and if you wanted assistance in the way of money I would furnish you with it; then you would be qualified to sail in the capacity of Afterguard, and be promoted as fast as age would permit. When you write tell me your prospects. Your letter to me was very acceptable. I wrote Home at that time and inquired into the state of affairs – The day after you sailed Father started on a collecting or dunning [?]work. He was absent more than three weeks and made \$31.50 cts. Pretty well! If he will only keep at it. Mother works hard, and earns about \$2 a week. which clothes them; and Father can earn [?]Heat & Groceries I sent Mother a Tub of Butter weighing 50 lbs. I think they will live through the winter comfortably; and in the Spring I shall return and make some kind of a Home in the shape of a House. I am not going to College, but shall study some longer and then go into business. I am enjoying myself very much now, except thoughts of Home continually haunt me and I can't do now what I wish. We had a Ball this week and had a capital time. Mary Ann was invited and went. I ~~????~~ invited somebody and went; now these are pleasures from which you are debarred; and you must not envy me. Write me as soon as possible, tell me how you like the Capt & crew & what kind of a sailor Sam is. Mary Ann is doing very well improving some. When you write Home tell them you heard from me. Give my love to Samuel. I remain as ever Your affectionate Brother

Oliver W. Blake

Dear Brother.

Oliver has been writing to you and I thought I would do no less than to put in a few words. I shall first ask you a few questions. Do you enjoy yourself? Do you like Capt Hopkins as much as you expected? Do you have any better bread? I hope you do, I am very well situated here and like very much Miss Whiting is not ~~??????~~ to stay this winter but there is a lady from ~~the~~ Cambridge [?]Port. Coming here I long to see her Oliver has told you about our dance, Miss W. is a beautifull dancer, and Mr Derby wanted to learn so Miss W. learnt him the steps and seeing them dance I learnt some, so we had a dance here twice and I danced. only think of it, but Stephen all my happiness vanishes when I think of home. How does Samuel give my best love to him I came away from home before he arrived I should ~~have~~ liked to have seen him dresed in his sailor ~~??????~~ ? clothes. Northfield is a beautifull place the Connecticut is about quarter of a mile from here. It looks entirely different from what I thought it would, youd would like to live here I know you would, ~~now~~ did Miss Mary C. Brooks get home, so as the ~~??? ?????~~ how did you leave all the folks at W. Cambridg. I don't know but as far as I am from home I guess I can tell you some news Miss Louise Crosby is no longer Louise Crosby but Mrs Daniel Keeting. she was married a week or two ago entirely without the knowledge of her parents they went to meeting and saw the (unreadable) first they knew of it, And Louise Leach is not alive, that I knew off the last ~~th~~ letter I had from home they said she was at the point of death. I don't know but what poor John is almost love-cracked about Louise, Crosby, I think she has done very wrong. I cant stop to write any more. Tell

Samuel, I hope he will keep up his correspondence with Mary. E. J. the folks were all well the last I heard of them, good bye Stephen, & good bye Samuel. From your aff sister. & cousin M. A. Blake

It rains and snows both here, it is Sunday and I cant go to meeting, Thanksgiving is the 26th of this month. Turkey

(On envelope)

Northfield Mr. Nare 18 25

(Addressed to)

Mr Stephen P. Blake On board the Ship Prentice Hopkins} New Orleans Louisiana