

West Cambridge May 14<sup>th</sup> 1841

Dear Cosin I now take this Opportunity to wright you a few lines the fockls are all ??ll to home but grandmother and she is better than she was when you was to home I have felt very lonesome since you ??? ben from home and have almost wishd my self with you but I think it is the lest thing that I can do is to learn a black smith trade (dont you) not but what I likat the sea well enough but I don't like to ben a dog I don't think but what I should have gone but mother sayd so much that I thought was best to stay to home I says all the folcks ?? to mee how dull and low spirited ??????? ???????? ben and they say to that they don't belive that you ever will go again and I hope you never will for it is a real unnatural life deprived of every thing that is Comfortable Stinking beef and rotten bread to eat it doze verey well to go to sea before the mast but come to ben mait or master then comes the troble and cares of a seafaring life then come the (unreadable) the day that (unreadable) was born I (unreadable) you will think of (unreadable) things and make up your mind this voyage that never to go again Mary Brooks did not say any...lookind sad I cant find much to wright you not beaing from home long I have work for (?)Allen a week and got \$4,00 and shal work next week I wish that I ha let you have some monny to get mee somethings If I though that I could send some to you and have it safe I would I will sea about ~~send~~ sending it in my next Lette I don't know as I can find much to wright about the girls Mary – has as much brass as ever ~~the~~ there was a young lady com down from Lexington last wedns-day to sea Mary Ann (unreadable) was Sarah Lord she came from Northfield She gose to the normal school in Lexington you say y (unreadable) to girls you ought to have bnn (unreadable) ~~the~~ there would have bne a good chance for you to have goene home with here Oliver carried her home I cant find much to wright about the W C girls they are all alive and kicking you know what they ar as well as I do you haf have to ease them with sugar plums as fiskermen do mackeral to cook theme your mother and Oliver ? are agoing to wright to you to day I expect to day is fast and I don't know what to do but if you was to home I fine somthing to do & I expect you are to sea at this time uncle John has bought him a Pianofort but has gotten it down to Cambridge your mouther (unreadable) going to move nex week they are agoing to hav (unreadable) Baptist meating house (unreadable) k have pilliars in front and a new pulpit and many (unreadable) done to cost a bout \$500, they have \$400, subscribed and I guis they will go it if they don't It will bea real weast Cambridge f?uck (hay) I want to know if you hant had two or three pretty heavy gails of wind the first 3 or 4 days out of Boston for we have had here (you ?? the has ben pretty) from you Chillren Si??? Your hommock s???? put and the little ship to ground moth says that you must wright a piece for her in some of your letters as soon as you receives this letter I want you should anser it to mee if you pleas I shal wright to you again tell mee where you expect to go to I hop to Liverpool for I am (unreadable) something particular (unreadable) Shud let you in know in my nex Let to you I cannot find much more to wright as there is others that want to wright a little the folks all join in and sending thee best love to you your mothe especially and say you must wright I must bid you a good by for this time from your cosin Samuel Hopkins written in west Cambridge May 14<sup>th</sup> in the year of our lord 1841 once more giv my love to bray and ask him if he feels frail and all th(unreadable)

West Cambridge 14 1841 Dear Cosin I am wel an hope youar I have not much news to write I wish you was to home I think you enjoy more to home than you to sea If I was sailing th mighty ocun I tou should have (unreadable) but I hope you wil have a good (unreadable) you wont forget my thing vice soupe his ?ee? got turned down yet your affectionate cousin John F. Hopkins I want you shuld let me know what kind of a Sailor Teel is and how Rolend gets along from Samuel Enquire after me ask ?Rogers if he wants mee to row him up Salt river again and ??? cheat us out of it yl

Dear Brother. I shall write you a few words as I thought you would like to have me. I hope you are well and all on board. Samuel feels rather lonesome now you are gone. Uncle John has got a Piano that cost 200 dollars and he likes it very much. You must write to us and tell us all of the news. Uncle Abner likes his boy very much. cannot write much news but perhaps I shall have more to tell you the next time. So Good by from your sister Sophia M. Blake

Envelope addressed to: Mr Stephen P. Blake, Charleston S. C., To the Care of Capt Hopkins On board the Ship Prentice