

West Cambridge Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 18??

Dear Friend It was my intention to write you a letter as soon as I heard of your arrival which I learned by the letter you wrote your Mother for I think it must be pleasing when far away from home, & your native land, to even look up the writing of some homestead acquaintance I know nothing of being a great way from home by experienced still I can imagine how a a person feels who cannot look at home or see any of the friends of his native land, I think if there is a class of people who ought to have the sympathy of Christians as well as all others it is sailors, considering there exposure to death, although life is uncertain everywhere; and their deprivations of so many temporal, as well as generally, most all spiritual privileges. And viewing thier generosity of heart, with many other good qualities belonging to that class generally, I feel a kind of respect. & sympathy for them that do for no other. But perfhaps I am writing what will not interest in the least. In most respects we are getting along through this world of trials. The same as when you left us, My near neighbors have finally succeded in getting thier steam engine agoing, which I think taking every thing ~~at~~ which attended it into consideration, a great accomplishment Abner has been in terrible hurry to gather his salary, for although we have had remarkable weather this fall till now, we begin to think that winter is near approaching; weather which I dread The folks make such a noise chopping meat for Thanksgiving which to is a week from tomorrow that I hardly know what I am writing about, therefore you must make some allowance fore ar poor letter. They have finaly excluded Mr Jenkins from the church by only 5 or 6 majority as great a curse as they could bring upon ??? What a poor example is the Baptist Church in this town, still for all the corruption there is in the Church, the Truth is the same, O, how incapable of judging hearts is frail human nature Stephen, I suppose you think this a pretty hard world get along in; Well, so do I, When we try to do the best we can, we still find trouble, disappointment, care and anxiety, &c, perhaps more common to you than me. If we should not have our minds so much engrossed here blow, but be a great deal far happier The thing of this world are so uncertain, so little confidence to be put places in that we find we must look beyond this world for enjoyment If we should atatch just importance ~~to~~ to spiritual things, how little comparatively speaking should we think of even the dearest objects of earth, The best way to get along I think is, to think as little as possible of the trials and disappointmens of life, let these not trouble us, but ~~fee~~ seek – that above which can make us happy. Let us imagine ourselves for a moment looking at the saints in heaven, viewing it such a place as the bible describes it, I imagine we should look at things below as mere trifles. Perhaps you have been disappointed in the dearest object which earth could afford you. Suppose you or I have, let not this discourage. This ought not to trouble for we know that we with every ?????? must soon pass away, Taking these things into thought I think there is need of seeking rest beyond this gloomy vale, that we my be cheered witht the thought that this earth of trials and disappointments is not our abiding place, But I will close, perhaps I've wearied your patience already There is one thing, however, I like to have forgotten, Samuel wished me if I wrote to you to tell you if you went to Liverpool, and write home, to give information what company to direct letters. I thought myself that you would send that information without being ask, however be that as it may I have complied with his request Here I will leave you, so whether you are on deck or below, recieve this kindly from your friend William

Envelope addressed to:

Mr Stephen P Blake New Orleans. La. On board Ship Granada. Capt. Spooner.