

West Cambridge April 29 1847

Friend Stephen

I am seated by the side of the old round table and in the same room where we have sat & held many a pleasant conference – where I have sat with pleasure and heard you “spin long yarns” till late at night & not feel sleepy; and I wish you were here at the present time for I feel just right for a talk with you; much pleasanter would it be to me than in trying to write you a letter; But as you are necessarily far away I must content myself with sending you a few lines by way of remembrance and as an manifestation of my regard for you. You must not suppose that I neglect to think of you though the distance be great which you are from me, or the time long since you left “poverty plains” And I will not hesitate to write that your minds eye often reverts back to the same place. And, Stephen it is in my opinion a privelege, & a pleasurable thing that we can, when far away from home & friends think of those who are dear to us – those whom ~~are~~ we love & respect. Still, doubtless there are times when one is far off as you are, and have not heard from thier native place, and perhaps worrying concerning things at home, almost wish they could not think of the things that are behind? but probably this is not often the case for it appears to me that those who follow the seas must be miserable beings if they can’t think of their homes & friends. You must excuse me Stephen if I write rather ignorantly on this subject, for you know I nevr was in your situation, I mean so far from home, therefore I cannot know by experience, But although I may not know things by being brought to feel them sttill I feel as though I can in some degree judge how I should feel & others do feel under such & such circumstances. I think, Stephen, that the study of ourselvs, that is, to learn what we are, and how we are constituted is great & good one “Although it is but little thought of by a good many, yet it is a subject, I think, which ought to be attended to, I have heard it said, and I believe it to be true that he who knows himself is a wise man. He who has learned most of self, knows how to, and generally will govern his conduct best, will be the least puffed up, will have the least vanity, pride and every thing that is kin to it; will be the most humble, will make the least show, outside show, because the more he sees of himself (if he looks at it in the light he should,) the more he will be convinced of his limited knowledge, of his littleness of the wrchedness of his heart, and if he believes there a Supreme Being, His purity of character His greatness and all the attributs of God will be higher in his estimation Now nobody can dispute but all these qualities are good, and does it not appear that he who learns himself tends to make himself a wiser and better man, and if so is not the study of ourselvs a good one. that it is I will not hesitate to affirm is my candid opinion. But I fear I have wearied your patience already therefore I will try it ~~any~~ no more by writing upon the subject. West Cambridge has not I believe materialy change since you left. Abner is farming pretty smart but the weather has been very cold so much so that all the farmers are rather backward in thier line of business. It is expected that John Hopking will be married soon I wish sucseess to all the newly married folks of whatever grade or character they may be. Abner thinks I am writing a preety long epistle and I don’t know but I am writing full as long one as you will want to read of the kind. However if y[unclear] get sick of it excuse it as it well as you can. I suppose you will hear from home by letters from the same. However lest you might recieve mine and not thiers I will just write that they are all well, and that Sophia has gone to Woburn to work at her trade. Have patience Stephen for I am soon going to draw to a close. Write if you find it convenient for I always recieve your lettrs with pleasure. Keep your spirits up S and buffet the trials and disappoints of the world with a cheerful heart, and remember, that, that you ~~may~~ prosper in all your undertakings that peace & joy may attend your pathway through life – that you

may be joined ~~to~~ with the girl you love, and enjoy her companionship long, and when on earth no more
find a better place above. is the desire of your friend

William T. Wood

Address on envelope:

Mr Stephen S Blake

Liverpool

England –

On board brig Tusker, Capt Lovell.