

West Cambridge March 28<sup>th</sup> 1852

Dear Friend

Sophia has recd.. your letter with the enclosed note, but on account of sickness is prevented from answering it herself. Consequently you must be content with a few lines from me Sophia has had a very severe time of it I assure you. Soon after her confinement which occurred on the 27<sup>th</sup> of Jan'y there appeared symptoms of a mammary abscess, or broken breast, & in spite of every precaution, or effort to prevent it, it still progressed giving her extreme pain most of the time for about 4 or 5 weeks when Dr Underwood lanced it with no success, It then remained a few days during which time we discharged him, & called in Dr Wellington He ordered another kind of poultice (yeast) which put her in agony for 2 days. he then lanced it with no better success attending it. than there was before. You must remember that all this time she had been growing weaker, so that she was reduced to almost the last degree. There she lay, day after day on her back, without the ability scarcely to move without help. The Dr understood this & knowing her to be in a very critical state & having lanced to no purpose, he felt alarmed, and just telling her to cheer up, & saying he would see her again in a short time he started off in haste. In about an hour he returned with Dr Bemis from Medford, who after examination pronounced it one of those unfortunate cases where the matter formed under the gland and, that it must be discharged or it would be likely to prove fatal in a short time. It was therefore according to his order lanced again in a different place, when to the great joy of all, matter was found and of course afforded her some relief but on account of the depth of the matter, it was more difficult to discharge it, than if it been near the surface. In addition to this she has had other gatherings and breakings and is suffering from one at the present time. And, in addition these the poulticing caused the humour come out so that it ~~would~~ looked like one complete sore covered with matter which was very disagreeable & caused much pain. She has for the last week or two been gaining a little. ~~better~~ & it is hoped she will recover. & be better than she has been for a long time, Still if she does, it will take a long time to do it. The boy (for such it is) has the appearance of healthiness and for beauty of features, intelligence of expression. & symmetry of form, gives credit to his parents, whoever or whatever they may be. Perhaps you think I am rather extravagant in my encomiums upon so little a thing, but I should not write thus were it not the opinion expressed by all who have seen him. It is said he acts very much as you did when you were at that age You will perceive by what I have written respecting Sophia, that it was not possible for her to comply with your request, in relation to E J's notes ~~for~~ She was too weak & sick to be fit for any interview of that kind. Consequently I delivered the note to her. All I can say is., I have noticed nothing unusual in her appearance, She made a friendly call a day or two afterward, and has worked here one day since for one of my sisters. Stephen I am just thinking how pleased I should be to have a chat with you face to face, We have had some very pleasant seasons, (& I believe no unpleasant ones) together, & although it is a long time since we have seen each other, I hope, if consistent with your prosperity, the time is not far distant when my desire, in this respect, will be gratified, I presume if you were to happen along now you would not lose your place, for W C has undergone very few changes since you left, these parts. But you know, in the natural course, of things, time makes changes in almost every thing, so, according to appearances now, it will do so here. There is to be a Splendid Town house erected this year at a cost of 15 00 \$20,000, also a Baptist meeting house in the regular Gothic style at a cost about \$12,000. The money is all pledged. & we have but one Sabbath more to hear preaching in the old house, before the contractor is going on to pull down & build greater. These are changes which will in all probability take place, But may not other changes of a different character, though perhaps not so

probable, accrue? yes, has it not been the case already? I feel that there has, & [unclear] to us a sad one too, one that is immediately connected with you. which, perhaps, when remembered in your lonely hours may cause a tear to start. But although the change may seem a ?all one to you & to all of us, there is every reason to believe it was a joyful one to her, May you & I be as well prepared for the same change, as was she. There may be more of like changes before you ever return to your native place, But I hope if it is the will of Him who rules all things, that you one day will meet all your friends here below. if we do not meet here we shall hereafter, Let us keep these things in view so that if we are called sooner or later we may be prepared to meet in heaven. I am afraid I am tiring your patience. But if you will bear with me I will relieve you soon. We are all expecting Sophia of course, well & stumbling along as usual, I keep at work in the same old shop not getting rich very fast but perhaps as well contented as though I were traversing the wide world or in search of the precious metal. If we can only make ourselves contented with our lot we may pass through world very smoothly Sophia send her love, & best wishes, & hopes she may see you sometime to greet you in a new condition in life with much pleasure. And now Stephen with my best wishes for your good success in this life, & your joyful entrance into the next I will bid you good night, hoping to hear from you again soon

From your friend

Wm T Wood

Address on envelope:

Mr Stephen P Blake

Nicolaus

California

If S. P. B. has left those parts P. M. will please forward to Chico, Butte County