

UC Davis Special Collections

D-329 2:56: Transcription of Letter from John B. Lewis to Elizabeth Lewis, May 30, 1851

This transcription contains language contemporaneous of the time and is being presented as part of a historical record. Please note that the transcription has not been reviewed for final editing.

J B Lewis to Libby Lewis SF to Farmington Ct

San Francisco May 30, 1851

My Dear Wife

I have not this time much news to write you. Ere this I presume you have determined whether you can leave or not and come and see your husband. It will be sometime before I receive an answer. I shall write patiently and not set my mind upon seeing you until I hear from you in answer to my letter of the 1st. If you have concluded to come I have spoken to Mr Cutter who is going home in the Lenesee and return again in August. He says he will take charge of you with the greatest pleasure so that you will have someone to come with you, that is acquainted with the route and will take good care of you. I did not know that he intended to go until to-day, in fact he did not know himself. He is one of Wm's acquaintance. It is the best opportunity that I know of. I shall now leave this subject and write about my own affairs. We were afraid our business would fall off, but on the contrary it grows better every day and we have about all we can do. To day we have had an offer of the exclusive privilege of using Horses on one of Wharfs for hoisting out the Cargo, of vessels offered us. If we take it we shall add stevedoring to our other business, The present price is 10/ to 12/ per ton delivered on the dock, We would have one advantage, we keep our horses earning something when we were not discharging by using them before the drays, George will be pretty busy to-morrow. Writing letters and making out our bills for this month. It takes us about an hour every night to finish up our writing and it is generally 10 or eleven o'clock when we get to bed. I must wind up for the night and finish in the morning.

31st I find this morning that I am about as barren of ideas as I was last night. George will write a letter of introduction to send by Mr Cutter to Wm so that you can make any arrangements that will be best. Ere this Wm & Kate are snugly settled in their old home and I hope they will not be obliged to move again. I am afraid they will never lay up much money, or they are a good deal like myself, spend as fast as they earn it and I am not determined to get a little before hand and have something to live on in my old age. I am sometimes most discourage when I think how much I owe and no money to pay. If I had a less expensive partner or one that would only buy what we really needed, I could get along a good deal better or that would give me a civil answer when I ask about our business. I think he will go home next Fall, if so I shall not have another soon but do all my own business and then I can do as I please without being a fool. Enough of him. How is Jame's health this spring. While we have clear pleasant weather I suppose it rains like great guns with you. I have got so now that I like this climate first rate, it is so warm all the time, we have very few cold days and can go the year round with out Fire, and it is no warmer than at Home in the summer. I shall wait patiently as I can for answer from you and not make any more definite arrangements about my business or fixing the house, and it would be a wonder

in any other country but this with what rapidity they build up after being burnt down. I have a fine view of the whole city from my window and can see all steamers as they arrive. Last week I went out for a ride with a Friend and picked a large bunch of Wild Flowers and a quart of Straw-Berries, so you see we have some of the Luxeries here as well as you. If Wm was strong enough I should not be surprised to see him starting out this way after George return, love to Cate and all the children. I hope Ed has a good time driving those Ponies I was to Fetch him. What is Aunt Clara's views about you leaving? She will feel lonesome enough and will have no one to Fret about. How are all our Hartford friends getting along? A few years makes a great difference with us all. Give my love to all friends and thousand for

My own dear Wife.

From your aff Husband

J B Lewis