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**D-329 2:59: Transcription of Letter from Augustus Bodwell to Elizabeth Lewis, January 12, 1856**

*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.*

Augustus Bodwell to Elizabeth Lewis Farmington to San Francisco

Farmington Jan 12 1856

Dear Daughter

I recd your kind letter last week. It reminds me of my neglect in not writing to you. But when you see what blundering words I make, you will excuse me, nevertheless I will try to get along with a few lines as well as I can, at the age of 72 years, having labored hard from 12 years at up to present time, for the most part. But suffice to say I can look back on many of the riches of life, under a kind Providence with emotions of joy and Thankfulness, some on the other hand I could wish otherwise, so goes life, with us here in this sin stricken world. I made a very pleasant visit down at Jame Cowles on Friday evening and they all are well, and in good spirits with a pretty little family of children around them. James calls them his little Jewels and well he might for they are well trained and appear inviting, and in the evening in came Abby with her little sone George B., a fine little boy indeed and to accompany them her Brother Samuel Dow,. Alice while on a visit to N.York at her Aunts, sprained her ankle and is quite lame, otherwise the family are all well. You asked did I see Mrs Bacon, I did not. Jane was unwell and the day was stormy and it not convenient for them to let me know, she made but a short stay, only one day, all is well. James and Family are kind to me and always treat me kindly. I think much of Johns mother, she is a excellant old lady to be the of getting up the of . The best that I could do was to hand over to James fifty dollars that belonged to you for wood sold from the Prathing land lot. Helen is at James Cowles, at present she thinks of going home, before long. I think she is a excellant girl and I wish she would stay with Aunt C. I mustwrite some more although I have gone beyondmy expectation and will inform you a little about our kindred Woodbridge and Family, all will, I do all I can to help them along, Aunt Dolly is well for one her age, the rest of their family as well. Robin Jr married well into a good family and has a good wife. Anson Bodwell with hi wife, their 2 children live in our neighborhood, he bought the Nanker Cottage house. His oldest son Lewis a Congregational Minister, residing at present in Westover, N.York. James his 2nd son was living south 2 years ago, had Fit and Fell in the Fire and in consequence had his arm taken off and also on the other hand lost thumb and 2 fingers but he has the use of 2 fingers and makes out to hold pen and pencil, so as to write a good hand. The Southernns were very liberal with him and raised him \$600 and he came and the people here lent him \$300 there abouts, and he has returnedback to the south and is keeping a store and is doing well. Erastus Phelps & Family remain at the place where they were gone when you left with exception fo Edwin he has married Susan Whittlebury and gone west to be bought into a store by himself. I last fall attended the Funeral of a Mr Capin you will recall the husband of you cousin she that was badly that your Mother up & was killed with lightening. My cousin Anson Y Phelps has

departed this life since you left, having given away about six hundred thousand dollars, in his different bequests. Ralph Cowles died about five weeks since with consumption. I understand he has left his property to John. but I dont know as I only heard, so hope poor unfortunate man, and the father of John has been taken to the insane at N. Buffalo, truly they tried and to be pitied.

And now a few words about your little family. There is seldom a say passes without having you and yours on my mind. Included is my dear son Charles, I wonder he does not write to me. If I could write as handy as he can I should write to you all often, But I trust you will not think that I do not love my Motherless children if I have not wrote often, as I should like to hold that little Charley on my knee and give him a kiss and hear him say his prayers under the direction of a kind Father & Mother, commending him to God and the Word of his grace. this is proffitable for the Life that is now and that which is to come I found it so by blessed experience For the Life that now is and I have for the remainder God help us to that Faith which swallows up the world and speeds us on to God. I think Charles in Dageuratipe A good one all-though its some older then. I should expect he looks like George very much. Tell him I thank him for it, and will send him mine as soon as I can. We have cold weather for a few days I hear it will have a plenty of dry wood and keep the old kitchen Warm, Shell my corn, having raised 100 Bushels of field corn on my Nanker lot, 70 bushels potatoes hay,grain,oats put 70 Bushels apples in cellar, wish you had them, 3 yoke of cattle to take care of, 3 milk cows, 2 hogs killed 700 lbs& so plenty to eat and plenty of work for any body that knows how to do it, Samuel Root wished me to send his respects to Charles, his old friends frequently enquire about him, they want to know when he is coming home & so do I & whether any of you are thinking to come. Remember me affectionately to son John & son Charles. I shall say for my Relations they all send you their best wishes. I have tried to get Woodbridge to write and I think he will before long.

your affectionately

Augustus Bodwell