

## UC Davis Special Collections

### D-329 2:60: Transcription of Letter from M. H. Humphreys to Elizabeth Lewis, February 17, 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.*

M H Humphries to Elizabeth Lewis Barrington NY to San Fransico Feb 17 1856

My Dear Mrs. Lewis

Your kind letter of Nov 17th came to hand while I was on a visit to Pawtucket. I was pleased to hear of the improvement of your health and that you had made a tour to Marysville you had been confined so long in your domicile. I can hardly imagine you so smart But that helpmeet of yours is a rare specimen, to put everything in such apple-pie order for your reception. I should think you carried on quite a ranch, Horses, mules, cows, pigs, Sheep, Dogs, Ducks, chickens canarys and cats., and such pretty flowers too. If I were in your place I would never leave it for N.England. You can form no idea of the severity of the present winter. Here am I sitting with the Thermo at zero sitting in front of a roaring fire shivering. Oh! dear it is awful!! We have already had two months of good sleighing and a fair prospect of two more. I know I will never complain of heat again. I have so far escaped "chills and fever" believe Dr White drove them entirely out of my blood with "quinine". My health is good or I might say that, if I was comfortably warm. May has got on nicely, so far with the exception of "croup", she has had that twice. She is very fleshy and walks quite strong now, a great "girl" J feels the cold even more than myself had frozen his toes, ones this winter, I can assure you it comes pretty tough on us who had almost forgotten what this word winter meant. I got me a set of furs in the fall but a whole bullalo is not too much, can you remember when your hands would cling to the door latch as around our dwelling, the blinds clatter, the leafless jesasamine rakes and scratches the window panes. The chimney roars like distant thunder. Such is our condition. To be sure here is the fruit bowl piled with Apples and here is fresh pop corn and that ginger tea, but what of it. Oh! that I were in Ca. or any where beyond this whistling wind and frezzing cold. Mrs Bacon may thank her "lucky stars" if she has left for warmer parts. J Says tell Mrs L that he thinks Beauty very prolific probably owing to the climate, well I dont know as I shall every place my affections upon the canine family again, since my experience with Plato, Pinches & Nino. I suppose my trails were sent for good but I hope I may never again be called upon to rehearse them---- I enjoyed my visit to P. very much I was gone six weeks spent three days with Mrs Ryder very pleasantly she wished to be remembered to you. We talked a great deal about Cal. and our friends there. I think she would prefer living there, as well as myself if she could. Her time is mostly devoted to Fanny and Charley, who is much the same boy as there although he is older and is really handsome. I have never received any answer to my letters to Mrs Simmons. Do you ever see her and how is she? I wish I could step into your room just as I used to and have a quiet little chat with you and see little Charlie. I imagine him now with a top and waggon to play with instead of the rattle. I shall never forget the morning I stepped in to bid him "good bye" as he sat on the floor playing with flowers his father had dropped, in making our bouquets. The dear little fellow how I want to see his chubby face. How are your eyes now, and why do you

need a physician once a week. Tell me just how you are and how you are doing. I had a letter from Dr White two weeks since. They are housekeeping again. Remember me to all my old friends when you see them. Who did Fanny Farish marry and where does she live? J. joins me in love to your husband. Do write me soon.

Believe me every yours truly,

M. A. Humphrys