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**D-329 2:69: Transcription of Letter from Charles W. Lewis to John B. Lewis, September 20, 1857**

*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.*

Libby to John Lewis in San Francisco

Staten Island Sept 20th 1857

My own Dear Husband

I received your dear good long letter while at Northumberland, and you do not know how much I enjoyed it. I love to have you write me so particularly, then I know how you are getting along. I know you are very lonely dearest without us, and I am very very lonely without you. You will of course get the news, of the terrible disaster, the wreck of the George Lawor as it was called the Central America, The same steamer in which I came. You will see full accounts in the papers. Oh it is so fearful I cannot bear to think of it. It is almost a miracle that a life was saved. When I came I admired the conduct of the Captain. I have not yet seen a list of passengers, I presume they will not be able to get a full list until it comes from San F---. I supposed I have lost a letter from you. How many hearts will be broken by this sad catastrophe – It will be five weeks to-morrow since I left Farmington. Lennie and myself & Charlie left last Wednesday morning. James took us over to Gassuorts very early in the morning. We spent the night in Westport at Mrs Waldeon's. They all inquired about you, also saw Mary Hogan. She wished to be kindly remembered to you. Next morning we went to Troy. spent the day at Mr Van Tyles. They sent love to you, went to the Troy House in the afternoon Sal Vanderwerker (now Mrs Jones) with her husband keep the Troy house. I did not see her, as she was ill, expecting to be confined. Dr Goodrich of Waterford & Bradley Verman of Mechanicsville accompanied us down the river. Mr V—was a suitor of Lennie in her young days. We arrived safely in N.Y. on Friday morn. and I came directly over to the Island. Jane remained in the city until night. When we left Troy the rain poured in torrents, and I never had such feelings – I felt as if something would happen to us, and I could not remove the feeling of fear which oppressed me. but we arrived all safe, and the first news on shore was of the ill fated steamer. How many souls and bodies are lost by this dreadful event. I cannot be thankful enough that we were brought through safely – I enjoyed my visit at Sarahs very much – They are all very well, were busy getting in their crops which are unusually good. James looks like Fred. Sal grows handsome as she grows old. She will send her daguerreotype. John drinks occasionally I am sorry to say – saw Mrs Collins Metcalf, Burke and a few of your old friends. they inquired all about you and sent love. I spent one afternoon at the Cramers. Sarah Jane gave me one kiss for you and one for Dave! They are a lovely family. I saw Dr Preston, did not call on anyone, thought if they wished to come and see me they could do so. We were invited to Mrs Pearsalls, Mrs Washburn's and Mrs Rouse's, saw Amanda Howland once. She is teaching in New Bedford, Mass. talks as fast as ever. Louise is living at the West. Jane and I went down to see Osborne last Monday afternoon. I asked him if he could not give me some statement of affairs, but could get no satisfaction. Lennie talked up to him and made him

mad. when the mill near him was burnt, he said he removed his desk and paper and many of them were lost. Lennie told him if he had made out the statement when he promised James, there would have been no trouble. He said that about \$25 had been paid to Conrad Cramer and \$20 or 25 toward Mr Pearsalls note. Mother paid the balance, about \$50. Mother told me how well off you was ec. John and Sarah told her she had better keep quiet, or it would make you a great deal of trouble, Osburne seems to think the affair has been a great trouble to him, and that he has not been fully paid for it. I do not think it is of the least use to try to do anything with him. Did you have any note against Owen Roberts – and how much. I suppose it is outlawed. He died sometime since. I believe the old man lived with him. Walter and Ed are dentists in New York. Osburn says he has never received any letter from you – has written long since. Did you owe the Victory Company or Mr Bond anything? It is nine or ten years since the assignment and I do not believe you can ever realise anything from it without more cost than it is worth. I really wanted to see the Mayhew's but it was not convenient for me to go there. They live at Victory. Aunt Julia is now visiting Sandy Hill, also Schuylerville, then I believe he comes here. Did you receive Will and the childrens pictures since I left. Will sent them by Express. I do not think Will intended to be hard on you. I know he writes in a sarcastic way sometimes, but that is natural to the family I think. I know he needs the money very much. I told him the other night that we were in the barn when I left. I have plenty of money, My dear Husband and do not want for anything. I wish I could say the same of you – I hope you will send something to him as soon as you can. I am glad you lost nothing by B & R's failure. There are a great many crashes here – Mr Howe of Howe Mather & Co is not in business with Mr Ketchum. He and his family are coming to board with Cate. Please tell George that his Uncle Richard Holmes died about a week since – he was ill only about one week. He and his wife spent a few days at Jane's and he seemed in perfect health. I suppose he has been someone addicted to drinking. His death was so unexpected to us. Hattie is now in Poughkeepsie spending a few weeks. I presume she will be Mrs Cumming before many months, probably not before next spring or Summer. You need not say anything about it, as they perhaps would thank me to mind my own business. He was Jane Cowles husband. She left a little girl. Hattie will make an excellent step-mother. Cornelia married the one who was engaged to Sarah. She has recently been confined, lost her babe and was very dangerously ill herself. I believe she is recovering gradually – All the Farmington folks are about as usual. Mother has had the south front room at Father's papered and whitewashed. I hope she feels better. She has gone up there since we left. I do believe she is partially deranged. I presume she thinks I will be coming up there bye & bye, and then she will have nice times. I think you must have had a house full and great times by your description. Tell Mrs B she must write me about that baby. I shall make a visit in New Haven when I go from here. Sarah and Helen spent a night at Farmington since we left. I was sorry that it so happened that I must be absent, but I hope to see them ere long – Give my love – and lots of it and a kiss to Charlie and Dave – also remember me to Dan and Mr Taylor, and all the neighbors. The paper which Dan sent is either in Farmington or on the way to Northumberland. You know they are careless sometimes about forwarding them. I shall be very glad to get the Pacific. Dear little Charlie is just asleep. He wished me to give you a kiss and tell you he could say "Suffer Little children&c". Sarah thinks he is an uncommonly good child and all our friends

love him. Reed is not very well, had a doctor to-night, but I do not think it will prove anything serious – They all send a great deal of love to you. Charlie talks about going to San F. and seems to feel constantly that he is not at home. While on the steamer over from New York he thought we were going to San F. and when I told him we were not, but were going to see Aunty, he was quite vexed and raised his hand to strike me, as I looked at him pretty sharp he thought best to drop his hand. He remembers a great many things that I should not think he would, whenever he sees a dray he asks if that is Papa's. Talks about Uncle C and Dan and you a great deal – I presume I shall see Mrs Taylor soon and visit her – then I shall make her go up to F.---with me. Now Hubby I cannot write such long letters as you do, nor half as good ones, but you must remember that mine would stretch if they were written in large hand. Give a great deal of love to all friends. I hope I shall continue to hear good news of you – Thank you dearest for taking such good care of my things. Write me everything about yourself and business, and about Charlie. With a heart full of love for you my dear one. I bid you good night May God bless you and keep you safely dearest in the prayer of

your own affectionate wife,

Lissie

E B Lewis

The children all send love to you.