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**D-329 2:74: Transcription of Letter from Elizabeth Lewis to John B. Lewis, November 19, 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

New Haven Nov 19th 1857

My Dear Husband

You see I change my residence often, now in one place, now in another. When I last wrote to you I was at Bergan Point with Mary Williamson I enjoyed my visit there very much. I was sorry to be obliged to send you such a hurried letter I did not feel at all satisfied with it – but when I am going about from place to place, it is not always convenient for me to do just as I like to do. I returned to Staten Island on Saturday morning and found that William was going up to New Haven on Monday – I wished very much to finish one of my dresses before I left but I did not like the idea of going up alone – Sunday Charlie was not very well, had taken cold and seemed a bit feverish but Monday morning he was pretty well, so I hurried and packed my things and went over to the city at one o'clock and started for new Haven about seven in the evening. I went to Aunt Brown's, they were not expecting me. I found cousin Mary Williams there, also Mary Jane, with her two children. They are beautiful, look very much like Jenny, her black eyes and hair. Fanny Buck (Mrs Marsh, a widow) is also there with her babe, a poor sickly little thing. They all appeared very glad to see me and I remained there a full week arrived there Monday night and I left the next week Tuesday morn. I have spent the one afternoon at Cousin Henry Buck's also – Cousin Mary and Jenny asked to be remembered to you. Charlie and Willie played to-gether very well and C. says he would like me to take the baby (a little girl) to California with me. Caty, a girl who used to live with Abbey, has been with Mary Jane for several years. I presume Brother C will remember her. She has just been here with the children – They are very pretty. I have received both of your letters since I come here. The last one was dated Oct 15th. When your letter came for Mother, William thought he could be able to raise \$500 for you at 7 percent, but he has been disappointed about some of his own, and I expect has lost some. He told me he was sorry that it was so, for he would be glad to get it for you if he could. I am very sorry that you are so unwell and so blue too. I know money comes very hard – Dear Hub I am sorry that I left you so when you most need me. I try to be economical but somehow the money goes. I have had nothing to pay from New York so Wm always gives me a free pass, so that saved something. I keep an account of all I spend. I am sorry that you are so blue, I know it worries you to be so much in debt. I cannot bear to think of your selling our dear home in San F-- but you know best, but I think it would be foolish to sell it for \$3500. It certainly is worth much more than that. I hate to have you sell the ranch for I should think you had done very well for the short time you have had it. Could you not sell the 80 ac lot, and would not that help you out of your troubles – I wish I was with you dearest. I cannot talk to James as I would like to, for I know he would think it was just as he expected – So I shall put the best side out. If you could sell the 80

ac lot for \$14 per acre \$1120 would be the result and if you sold it with the house it would be more, but I suppose you would want the house. Do you owe much beside Dan. I shall give Mother your letter as soon as I get to F--- and then she can do as she thinks best. I know James had it so arranged in Ogdensburgh that she has the interest, and I am confident that it is loaned for a certain number of years – I do feel very sorry for you, and wish I was there to comfort you. I think you have received considerable from the ranch, hay, grain etc and now that you are started it seems a pity to give it up, but you can judge best. I was quite surprised to hear Josiah B had gone there to live, I think she would be rather lonely – The second day or rather the night after I arrived I was at Aunt bacon's – Mrs Bacon and sister Sarah called to see me – They had had a letter from Henry informing them of my arrival here. Helen had written to me at F--- but they did not send the letter down to N.Y. until about the time I left, they insisted upon my naming a day, when I would visit them (bringing my baggage) so I said I would come the next Monday – then expecting to go to Mrs Taylor's on Thursday – but I received a letter from her and found she was in Brooklyn but was coming to Westport soon so I wrote her if she would leave New York on Friday(that is to-morrow) that I would meet her at Westport. Helen and Katy all called to see me. I did not come here until Thursday noon. They sent their carriage for me and were very kind in various ways. Tell Mrs Bacon she has one of best mothers I know of and she is real good mother to me too. I have quite a hard cold, and she doctors me every night, even washes my feet for me. I am taking some of Helens cough mixture. I feel better to-day. Charlie has a cold also, yesterday we went to ride about the south green and then over in the west part of the city, I saw Charlotte Andrews at the door of her Mother's house, I presume Mrs B mother and sisters will write her all and then times more than I can think of. I have seen the baby's picture. I think it is capital. I am enjoying my visit very much, they are all so pleasant and try to make everything so comfortable for me. I attended church with them last Sabbath morn, but Mr Duttan did not preach. He was in the pulpit however – I have been interrupted several times since I commenced this letter and it really seems as if I should never get it finished. The girls have a beautiful piano, and they all play finely.. Sarah sings. Last eve they had company and this eve they expect Mrs Duttan and also a gentleman to play the flute. I have such a cold that my eyes feel badly. I hope you are perfectly well on this, and that you will like your new tenants. I am glad you sold the parlor carpet, who was such a fool as to give you \$20 for it. It only cost \$21.25cts when new, including the piece which we used to have in the hall. I wish you could sell the chamber carpet as well. What have you done with the extension table? You spoke of cherry table, we have none, they were mahogany. Who does your washing and mending? Charlie is not quite so good as I would like him to be, still he does very well – Helen takes drawing lessons, and has some very pretty specimens. She is going on so I presume she will be able to take portraits bye & bye. All the family wished to be remembered and you must tell Mrs B. how much I enjoy being with them. give my love to them and kiss the baby. We have long talks about it – I cannot write you half what I was going to this morning because of interruptions half of my thoughts have gone wandering. Charlie often says he wants to go home to California and I never pack my trunk but he wants to know if I am going home to California. I expect to have a quiet winter. Next week is Thanksgiving, I wish you were here to enjoy it. You ask if I am regular – I am not yet, although I am stronger and feel very well not except my cold -I was surprised at Dr Whites departure what

was the cause. You did not write me particularly. They were all well at Kates when I left – Mother is now with Henry again, and more herself. I hope I may have a pleasant winter, but I really wish I was back with you dearest – Give my love to all the neighbors and all who inquire There is no use making any more excuses about writing to Charlie and Dave. I cannot until I am more settled. Give a great deal of love to Charlie and I hope he is not discouraged with farming. I have no wiritten half enough. Charlie sends a kiss to Papa. Remember me to Dan, Mr Taylor & all others interested. Be very careful of yourself for the sake of your own