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**D-329 2:80: Transcription of Letter from Elizabeth Lewis to John B. Lewis, February 18, 1858**

*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

Farmington Feb 18 1858

My Dear Husband

Another steamer is in, the Pacific came day before yesterday but as yet I have received no dear letter from you. I am very much disappointed. I hope there may be no other reason than that you were upon the ranch and did not write this time. I hope your worry with changing homes has not mad you sick. I sent the deed by last steamer and hope you have received it all right. I did feel badly to have it go, yet I think it is better to do so than to be in debt and now it will give you a chance to do as you wish on the farm. I wrote you that I thought you had better fix up the present house, but I have been thinking about it a great deal, and do not know but it would take half as much to fix it, as it would to put on a good front. If you keep cows we should be obliged to have a milk room also. I do not know what a new front would cost, but it would not be all finished off at once, unless you had means to do it, as near as I can reckon by your letters you will have about \$1500 after you have paid up everything – besides little debts which are owing to you. I have thought of a plan which I will try to draw out. Of course I cannot tell whether I have proportioned it well, to look as it should on the outside or not, and as I do not know the height of the present building, I cannot make out so correctly. I do not imagine you will do much towards it until after I come. I suppose we could live in Dan's house just as it is for a short time. I do not want you to build unless you can do it without running into debt. I am not staying at Fathers, came up here last Saturday. Mother Roberts came up a day or two before and helped Father put up a stove and bed-stead in the south front room. Her carpet is on the floor, her bed and clothing are in use ec – They let her fuss as much as she pleases. She was here day before yesterday and will come up often. She and Father have great times talking about the Methodist meetings. She has really been very kind and done a great deal for me this winter. Father is as well as usual – bears his loss very well. I am trying to prevail upon him to see some of his land and pay off what he owes, and try to live more comfortably. He nor his wife dress decently. He has so much land and is making improvements upon it, so it takes all the money he gets to pay his men their wages. I hope I shall be able to do something before I return. I think Mothers property might as well be divided, as Wood has the benefit of nearly all of it, or rather the Hull's do – as things are now he is draining on Father the whole time. I want Father to give him what he is going to and let him know that he must look out for himself. Ask Charlie how he thinks Mother's ought to be divided and tell him to write to me – If there is any such thing, I mean to get something done before I leave. Father does not get any good from the Old Field, but Woods cuts as much and where he pleases, raises plenty of stock, gathers potatoes enough for their own use, but before spring, comes to Father's cellar and gets his – Anson's wife told me Father had a meat bill of \$60

to pay for them & so other things go – I shall stay here about three weeks longer and then go over to Georges to spend the rest of my time. I shall have to be pretty busy while there, and the time begins to look short – It seems long, long enough to you dearest and so it does to me when I think of the months we have been separated. Lenny will not give it up that you will come on yet. I wish it was so you could. Mother wishes to see you so much. She has said nothing about returning with me yet. I think that she must have imagined that we lived in larger quarters and that you was rich. Everybody seems to think that whoever goes to California must roll in gold. Little Charlie is as happy as can be with Grandpa Bodwell and is pleasant with Grandma B also. He tags after Grandpa every step he takes. It is strange he will hardly treat Aunt Clara decently. There is a little girl about 12 years old here – she goes to school – is an orphan. Charlie likes her very much. We are both very well except I have had another cold which did not do my right eye any good. I have to be careful about exposing my eyes to the cold. Sitting by the hot stove and then going out doors is not very beneficial. As we have had no cold weather and not snow enough to have a good Sleigh ride. I think it is too bad, but perhaps there will plenty come yet. It has been very favorable for the poor people thus far. I am still in hopes to get a letter to-night. James is very kind he says he wishes me to feel perfectly at home there, to come and stay just as long as I choose. I am afraid I shall not get to Providence to see Humphreys. A quilt on the bed remind me to tell you that Mother has finished the one the Terhune girls pieced for you. It looks very well indeed and will be quite an addition to my bedding. I have not a bit of news to write you. I thought I should write to Mrs Taylor or Mrs Bacon but I cannot write too much on account of my eyes. Dinner is ready so I must leave off for the present. After dinner. Jim as just been here and sit awhile. All are well at Lennies. They are having the dinning and bedroom painted ec. Jim says he will write to you before long. Fred has not been home yet. I hope he will come before I leave. Give my love to Mrs Bacon and all the family, also to Mrs Taylor and Gusher and all other friends. The bell is ringing for Sunday meeting. There seems to be some interest in the church. Did I tell you Mr Llawson was settled in Unionville? Have you seen Dan lately? Give my love to him when you see him. I hope you and Charlie will get your crops in in good order & have good luck with ever ything. Give my love to brother C and be good boys, both of you till I come – Wont you be glad to have you old wife back again. Seems to me I would not live here if someone would give me the whole town. I hope we shall soon be together again dearest, and I am sure I shall try to make you as happy as I can. Give my love to all friends. Charlie sends a kiss to Papa and Uncle C. He often says why did not Papa come too. Father and all send love to you and Charlie. I have been trying to draw out my plan. I dreamed it the other night and with some little improvements I think it will be a very nice one if it is not too expensive. That part I cannot tell anything about. I will finish it and send it in the next letter if I can, and will get a real good one drawn so a carpenter can understand it. I thought I could do it this afternoon but there are some difficulties in the way. I woke in the midst of my dream. Lennie has just been here a few monents, she send lots of love and says you may answer her lettr when you get time. I hope you are well dearest and may God protect and keep us safely to meet again is the prayer of your affectionate wife. Lissie

Here I have been all day writing just this short letter, sometimes I would have written it in a very short time, but I have had many interruptions. Again Good bye dearest from your own dear Lissie

E.B.Lewis