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D-329 2:82: Transcription of Letter from Elizabeth Lewis to John B. Lewis, March 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 Mch 18th 1858

My Own Dear Husband

I received another dear letter from you day before yesterday, and was very glad to hear you were getting along comfortably- By last steamer I sent some plans, perhaps you will like them & perhaps not, you must do just as you think best about using them – I made a mistake in the large plan. The hall should be wider by one or two feet, which would make the rooms over the hall much better proportion. you can think of the hall in San F--that was only about 5½ ft. and that was pretty narrow. I want good stairways so things can be carried up and down with ease. It seems as if there was something else about them I wished to say but cannot now think what it is. I am going to Collinsville to-day, to stay a few days, then I shall go immediately to Hartford – I expect Abbey is fretting about me at a great rate – Cousin Fanny Humphrey was in here yesterday from Collinsville. It was pleasant to hear her speak of the happy death of her husband. His disease was lingering but he was very patient and happy through it all. Aunt Dolly is well. I went up to cousin Mary Phelps yesterday afternoon, took tea, saw Lenny a few minutes yesterday. Since I wrote Aunt Julia and Reed have been up from N. Y.. They came on a Saturday night, Reed left Monday and Aunt Julia stayed until Thursday. I went down and stayed too, so had a nice visit together. Tuesday we went to Unionville in a Sleigh, but such Sleigh riding. There has been none this winter, yesterday was a real summer day. It was really uncomfortable to sit with a fire, still it was necessary to have a little take off the dampness. To-day we have a real march wind but not cold. I shall not see Aunt Julia again as she is going up to Troy. She wants to see Dave so much – sent love to you. I had a letter from Dave – I believe I told you in my last. Did I tell you that Kate was pregnant again – Aunt Julia and I were talking about her, and she was telling me about that cold she (Cate) had, and thought there was a gathering in her head. Reed heard us – “I should think there was a gathering somewhere else” said he, meaning because she was so cross. Aunt Julia and I laughed so, that I think he began to mistrust what the matter was. I cannot write you a very long letter this time as I have only half an hour to write. I thought if I did not do it before I left, I should be too tired to-night, you would not get much of a letter. I hardly know what to say to Charlie – I have talked to Father about in interest in Mothers property, but to tell the truth I wish I had said nothing about it. He has proposed several plans, that of selling it to Woodbridge and also of his own taking it and raising the money by mortgage, but if you have not made any arrangements for my passage. Do not give yourself any trouble about it. I can manage it, I think in some way. Father is trying to put up another barn, has bought Miss Therise Seymours barn – and with a few new timber’s can make a very good barn. He is obliged to take it down to move it. John Thompson has brought William Cowles place for \$2500 cheap as dirt – There is little news to write. Mother is busy trying to get my things ready for me,

making Charlie a pair of pants, and fixing a dress for me.ec, I shall have to work like a good fellow over at Hartford and dont know whether I shall be able to start before the 20th, I shall not put off any later and shall come by the 5th if I can. Charlie outgrows his clothes so fast, I very much doubt whether he can wear the thin ones he had to come on with – For the last two or three weeks I have not accomplished much, If I want anything, have to send or go to Hartford for it. The stores here do not keep the assortment of good they used to. Charlie cut off one of his curls the other day. I intended to have it sent to Mary Gusher. Give my love to all San Francisco friends. I know Mrs B & T-- will think strange I do not write but I cannot this time possibly – Give my love to Charlie, Oh no my “peculiar regards” I forgot – tell him to behave himself till I come. Father sends love. Little Charlie send a kiss to Papa & Uncle C – with love – I must not write anymore, although I wish to – It does not make any difference to me where you place the house, just where you think best. Father insists upon it that I am in need of funds, and he intends to get some in some way. Lennie has your letter so I cannot refer to it, and do not know whether I have answered all your questions. A kiss and good-bye from your ever affectionate wife! Lissie B Lewis – If I know of friends going by the 5th I shall try to be ready, but I shall have to hurry considerably. I suppose you think I have been here long enough to do up all my work, but a good deal of it could not be done until now. I want to see you so much dearest. Thank you for your dear kind letter. I know you love me dearest and try very hard to make everything comfortable for me. Lissie