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D-329 2:84: Transcription of Letter from Elizabeth Lewis to John B. Lewis, April 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

Hartford April 18th 1858

My Dear Husband

I hardly know what I am going to fill up this sheet of paper with, for I am sure there are not ideas enough in me this morning to write much, but this will probably be the last letter I shall write you ere I leave for California shores again – Oh dear husband how I wish the journey was over – I dread it more & more every day – I know dearest you will be sadly dissapointed that I do not come with Mrs Brooks but it was impossible for me to get ready – and even if I had made my arrangements to go with her I could not have done so, as Charlie has not been very well. Last week he and the baby, both came very near having croup – but they are both doing nicely now. Charlie is pleased with the idea of returning to see dear Papa – I do not now know of anyone going out on the 5th although there is a young man of Henry's acquaintance who is going ere long – whether he goes by this steamer or not. I shall know in a day or two. Lennie went down to New York last week to attend Walter Roberts wedding, which was quite a fashionable one. Reed went with her. Cate and Will did not go. Lennie returned Saturday morning by boat via Hartford with Lewis & Ella. They expected to go on the stage, but Rishey disappointed them. I suppose he had a heavy load previously engaged – Lewis found an opportunity to ride out, and yesterday (Sunday) Jim Fake came after them. We all went to church in the morning and Jane left in the afternoon bag and baggage, so we are all quiet again this morning, except the usual bustle of washing day – I dated my letter last eve, but I did not feel at all like writing and so put off until this morning – I received your dear letter with one enclosed for Lennie. we were all glad to hear from you and also from Dave – I wrote to Will immediatly to relieve Aunt Julia's anxiety – It will be joyful tidings to her – his recovery. The best steamer on this side is the Moses Taylor which leaves the 5th of May. I do want ver much to go and see Mrs Humphry's it is only about four hours ride in the cars. and I may go this week – and stay over one or two nights. I cannot spend as much time as I wish. Only think it is only two weeks before I mean to get you a good suit, and I think I can, a very good one for \$35, you will not think that extravagant I am sure. I have bought check for shirting, shall get some undershirts and drawers for you, and some common pants and vest, I am going to cut out the check to-day. Mother, and Lennie & Helen will make some of them. Aunt C. is hemming 2 pair of unbleached sheets and 2 doz. Crash towels and ½ doz huckaback for me. Henry will get the suit for you – I hope they will all go out safely. I shall take a list of everything in my trunks and box, then if they are lost or stolen, the contents – and value will be known. I have had all of Charlie;s thin clothes to alter as he has grown so much. I shall be very busy this week. Lennie is coming over to stay a day or two. Sister Sarah has got some black walnuts for you, and I shall get what seeds and other little things which I can bring with me. I had hoped Golden would have sold to someone else, and you would not

have him to bother and plague you. I shall not bring W--s girl with me, for I am not able to have the care and responsibility of taking charge of her – For her sake I should like to take her away from her home, but I have thought of it a great deal, and decided not to take her. Lennie was very glad to receive a letter from you. They are all well at F--. Aunt C. was in last week. She is pretty well, has a very good woman to stay with her – and I presume she has made some kind of an offer for her to remain with her, I do not know. She has knit you two pair of woolen socks and brother C, some cotton ones, so all around I think we shall be pretty well fixed up – I have a dreadful headache to-day, something rather unusual – it seems like a regular sick headache – but I must write to Mrs Bacon a few lines, as soon as this mail leaves – I shall write to William to see about my ticket ec. I do hope the fare may be reduced but am very much afraid I shall have to pay as much as when I came on. It will be too bad – I wish I knew what Steamer goes up on the pacific side. I see by the papers Vanderbilt has brought one of the best ones. I presume the fare will be reduced bye & bye. I hope Mrs Brooks and little one get there safely. I see Mrs Chauncy Taylor & child came on by last steamer. I think I shall try to write a few lines to Mrs T.. I want to write to her friends at Westport so as to give them an opportunity to sent to Mrs T. but I cannot remember the directions necessary to send her a letter. I have all Mrs Taylors others but the one I really want. Everything must look beautifully with you now. and I hope Sucess may crown your labors this season. It is too bad you had so much extra fencing to do, but it will be better in the end to have it done. I never saw such a winter. we have had very mild weather – the trees are leaving out and very soon everything will look beautifully here. George says tell Charlie that J. W. Stewart inquired after him often. George and Abby are well, also the children and all send love to you both. Father has the frame to his barn up. He is pretty well and bears his loss much better than I expected he would. Give my love to Jim and tell him when I come he can give up cooking. I know you will both be very glad to be relieved of your cares. I wish I know how you are going to have the house then I would know whether to get a carpet or not, perhaps your next letter will tell me something more about it. I shall be glad to see all my San Francisco friends once more. and you too, dearest of all others. All hate to have me go away again, but think if I must go I had better take the next steamer as it is better than the other – I do not know as it makes much difference. I hope to find some good companion for the voyage. Give my love to all friends. May God keep us safely to meet again dear husband. Charlie send a kiss to Papa and Uncle Charlie. I cannot write more, hoping very soon to see my own dear one. so good bye dearest.

from your own affectionate wife

Lissie

E.B.Lewis

It seems as if there was something special I wanted to say but cannot think what it is.