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MC194:Folder 19 Mudd, George to Sister [Mudd, Margaret?], 1882 February 26

This transcription from the original letter contains language contemporaneous of the time and is being presented as part of a historical record.

Germantown, Colusa Co, Cal
Feb. 26th 1882

Dear Sister,

I received your letter of Nov. 24th / 81 some time ago, and will now answer it. I am sorry to hear of such hard times in England, and for you all. I have written to the Town Authorities of West Burton in regard to you, and send in a letter to Alex by the same mail as this. I have consulted with Brother William, and we decided to write to the Town officers. I have offered on our part, if they will pay your way out here, to be responsible that the children shall never be-come a charge on them again, and to see that you had a living, — in other words, — we would put you in a way to make a living for yourself and children, or failing that, would support you. For yourself, we could not promise, but you can promise for yourself. We do not expect you to like the country, but as you say, for the sake of the children it would be best.

We can raise them up, if nessesary, and they will have an equal chance here with the best. In England, there is nothing but hard knocks and poverty for your children; here is also hard work and hard knocks, but also a chance to amount to something; to be the equal, in wealth and character, of any one, if only a man has the ability and energy to do it.

We only hear occasionally from Brother James. He appears to be doing pretty well. William lives near me, and is getting along very well. His oldest girl is nearly sixteen, and has been housekeeper and Mother since the Mother died. They are remarkably good children.

We did not have very good crops last year, and the prospect for this year has been the poorest I ever saw, up till now. We have just had a fine rain, which has improved prospects a good deal. We are all in good health, my health is better than it has been for years.

At present I am unable to send you any assistance, but will do so before long. If the Town Officers agree to what I propose, we will send you sufficient money for any expenses you may incur on the way. You would probably be better were [sic] you are for a while, if you could make a living, but if the others come, it would be the best time for you to come also.

I do not praise this country, only for the better prospect for the children. We have endured a great many hardships since we left England, — far more than any of you in England — but would do it over again, sooner than stay in England. And if we live a few years more, I think we shall be in independent circumstances. We have always enough to eat and wear.

Your affectionate Brother Geo. Mudd

Write me again as soon as you learn what the Town Authorities will do.