1849 09 19B Gray to Wetmore

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San Francisco 19 Sept 1849

Dear Brother
I arrived here last night, just after sunset, and have taken up a tolerably comfortable abode at the house of Mrs Meacham, where there are about a dozen boarders, generally agreeable.

I find here the Barks Hebe and Edwd. Fletcher, and the ships Samoset Xylon and Charlotte, besides the schooner Ferdinand, on which Mr Chas Bikman told me were some India R Tents, consigned to us. A vessel also arrived to day, which reports that the Andalusia sailed from Valparaiso the same day with her, and she is accordingly expected daily. This makes out the complement of vessels having goods for us, saving the Arcatus and Jos Halls Jr from Boston, which have small lots that can be easily managed by order.

There will be difficulty in getting the Hebe to come up, and I would advise all the parties, witnesses to Mr Hanson's agreement, to come down and insist upon the right. Say to Bayles and Manlslin that the John Mayo has arrived, and one of them should be here to attend to the receipt of their goods. *(end of page 1)*

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If I mistake not Geo Hall was witness to the Hanson agreement. As he cannot come down, perhaps he had better put in writing his understanding in regard to that bargain particularly as far as the Hebe is concerned and send it down by Mr Manlslin, should he come, who was also a witness. Should Mr Manlslin not come, he also should send in writing his understanding of the bargain.

Capt Stetson is willing to take the Bark up, but wants his pay for so doing. If all hands can manage to put what goods are now in the harbor for them, on board of his at a fair freight, we may be able to compromise the matter satisfactorily to all parties.

Thirty five vessels have arrived here since Sunday* The steamer Oregon came in yesterday morning, bringing 400 passengers but no mail. The California is expected about the 1st Oct. with the mail and about 400 more passengers. The excitement in the states was increasing.

Yesterday evening coming down, I met two large ships, bound probably to "New York of the Pacific, " and to day I saw the propeller Massachusetts making a start for Benicia

[* 67 within the last 6 days]
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I was told also to day that the frigate Savannah, and whatever other government vessels were here were about going up to Benicia. Mr. King is convalescent and rode out to day.

The Stove which Mr Meacham has, is one of the no 5, and has 4 small pots and a tin kettle, which do not fit, being too small. We can attend to sending him the tin ware whenever we can get it fairly in store if you can send him two large pots at once if you think it expedient, or wait until we can get all open so as to determine exactly upon the proper distribution. I saw Mr Nurse this afternoon and went aboard the Samoset with him, but could not get the goods. They will be laid aside for us as they come to light and when Nurse returns from Napa

say by next Monday, he will bring these up, if he can get them. I shall have to be pretty busy to morrow in getting a vessel to take the things off the Fletcher, Charlotte etc.
Phelps has not yet returned from Monterey. Gilman has the NY House in blast. Others have been started in good shape. The city is full of people to overflowing, but business is dull, on account of so large a quantity of goods…*(end of page 3)*

(start of page 4)
…having come upon the XXXX at once, and buyers being scarce. Parties _____ to buy.
Rents are getting higher and higher. Finley & Co have fixed up the room between them and you XXXX stand XXX are about to get 1000 pr month.

The oysters by the XXXX are all XXXX a large proportion of them were bad. The wind —---------- the amount of the original invoice which was 808 as you can see by the Inv Book. Capt Stetson informs me that he was compelled to throw overboard the contents of one barrel (XXXX Hebe lot) except some 16 cans, which were taken for the use of the table, and will be paid for accordingly. The barrel —---------- to it. I expect difficulty in getting rid of the other three barrels and am almost afraid to see them. The man who put them up evidently does not understand his business. He salts the oysters, which is one cause of the XXXX decomposition. Wrights are just up fresh and therefore wholly turn out good. The cargo of the Hebe comes out XXXX & in good order, but our bread. I am sorry to find is wormy. I fear we shall lose money on it.

Roofing metal costs here 35¢ lb. Enough for one house would cost 700$ here. Yrs Truly S. C. Gray
(end of page 4)

(margin note on edge of page 2:)
The vessel I came down in is half owned Capt Roberts who is quite sick.

(margin note on edge of page 3:)
Tell the Dr there are lots of mattresses on the Hebe, consigned to Capt Stetson.

(margin note on edge of page 4:)
S C Gray
19 Sept 49