

1849 07 11 Wetmore to Gray

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Benicia July 11 1849

Dear Brother

Mr. Savage (I remember his name aright) called on me this morning in reference to a house which he said you thought I might like to buy. I am inclined to think it a matter of doubtful expediency for our firm to involve us in matters of this kind to any great extent and as for myself although I should like very much to own the house alluded to yet under present circumstances I feel reluctant to do anything about it unless it could be had on remarkably good terms much better than he seems inclined to offer. There is on board the Edward Everett which came up here Tuesday afternoon a fine two story building 20 by 40 ft which very likely can be had on better terms than the one alluded to if it were any object for us to risk it. I should be inclined to do something of the kind if the terms were such as to preclude risk – but others are coming and quite likely we may do better after a while when we have the dust to shake at them. I am afraid the building we are putting up will cost over seven thousand. I have had men digging for the...*(end of page 1)*

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...foundations. They commenced Tuesday – knocked off Wednesday and began again to day and I hope we will have the foundations nearly completed to day. They worked so slow that I was provoked to take hold of pick axe and shovel myself. I have had some very large stone drawn for the foundations – some of them three ft square and one and a half thick. The timbers are so light that it is of great importance to have a solid basis and the sills well propped up. They have not lumber enough to complete it at present and you must urge Mr. Phelps to send us some as soon as possible. What little they have is much split and cracked and not fit for weather boarding. I am afraid we shall get taken in if we don't look out sharp. The Ship - I forget her name from Boston with about one hundred men forming a company came up on Monday night. They are landing the materials for building a steamer 70 ft long to run up the river and will not go below here if we can supply them with business enough from here – which I hope may be the case. The Edward Everett has two Engines one of eight and the other of four horse power. They talk of putting the larger one in to a boat but I question if it will answer. They have a company of 150 men about 60 of which have gone to the mines burning with a thirst for gold. If they don't burn worse from the suns rays when.... *(end of page 2)*

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...they get there, I'm no prophet. The Southampton has dropped down off Semple Slip. The Brig Col. Fremont came here yesterday and a very pretty Barque passed up the river. We all continue in our usual health. Weather pretty warm. Have you heard of my goods in care of Capt. Walsh? The window sash & putty beds, box of sugar & hams. Have you rented the building? Why didn't you write. No vessel in I suppose. Let us have our letters by Steamer the first opportunity.

Your aff. Brother

C. E. Wetmore

Several carpenters have left the Edward Everett and are working at 12 dollars per day. One blacksmith has also left and is about to set up shop here. The people of other ship have erected a forge on shore near Ricker & Evans. No more news of importance that I have time to write at present. *(end of page 3)*