

As the friends have gone out to spend the evening with the girls I will write as fast as I can to add a little to what I have written. I have put Eddlie to bed and he is now hopping around the room to have an idea that I was going to write and he much prefers to have me lay on the bed with him until he is asleep. So as soon as I put him into bed he began to say I don't want to have you write Mama. Why said I. Poor Papas alone in Cal. and likes to have Mama write to him about her and little Eddlie. I said he write that Eddlie is a good boy but said I Eddlie is not always a good boy. Shall I tell Papa that he is sometimes naughty? No said he. Why not? Because I don't want to have you tell Papa Eddlie is a good boy but said I he is sometimes naughty. Is he? he replied I wont be around mama and finish up the Apple cares and then he said I don't want to finish up the Apple cares and then followed a relation of the whole story ending with I don't want to be shut up. He is nearly three years old now and he has grown some as I can tell by his clothes since I left Cal. He is not very fleshy but he is very solid I do assure you. His digestive organs do not seem to be in working order. His food is not well digested at all, and yet he seems well, and healthy with the exception of a cold just now. To night he coughs quite hoarse a little croupy I fear but I have medicines in case of an attack already prepared, and we have a Physician in the house to night Dr. Camp. However I do not apprehend any danger. I wish he did not take cold quite so easily. He has a cough so hoarsely when he does. I have made him a little Highland suit of bright plaids and you ought to see how cunning he looks in it. He looks so little in jacket and pants and feel so proud of his pocket. He wears dresses

yet generally, but I thought I would make him one boys suit to wear when I take him out. I do not know but I told you of it in my last letter I have nearly forgotten. The weather is quite mild yet. I have not had a fire in my room but I shall get a stove soon and have it ready when I wish to use it as I cannot think of staying in a room when it is stinging cold. It is going to be quite an expense to you for me to go to Balt. and buy these things. I presume the expense each way will not be less than 40 or 50 dollars. Unless I can find some one to go as far as Wilmington with, I should not like to go to Savannah until you come on. It will hardly be safe for me to write you more than one more letter if you leave the 1st Jan or if I do, Mr Crocker must promise to destroy it if you have left. Eddies cough is so hoarse and he coughs so often that I asked Dr Camp to come up and look at him he has ordered an Emetic and drafts put to his feet. He says it is spasmodic croup not real croup. I have been giving Homoeopathic medicines and think I will keep on an hour longer before giving him the emetic and see what virtue there is in it. Can hope that I shall not be wedded to this system of treatment so but what I shall be willing to try other remedies. I am not so confident in the success of either mode of treatment but what I can give up either in any case where I thought the other would do better. I think the homoeopathic medicines are much more agreeable to take, and where a disease assumes a mild form in many cases they are quite as effective as the other in assisting to overcome the disease but I do not know as I should dare trust to it in a violent attack of any disease. Where one is not well and it seems necessary to be taking medicine constantly it seems to be better than to be taking great doses of repulsive medicines. I wish I could feel as much

confidence in the Homoeopathic mode of treatment as I do in the other it is so much easier to take the medicine than to be dosed with emetics and Castor oil. I do hope that I shall continue to hear good news from you. It would be dreadful for you to be sick away from me. We heard by the last mail but one that

Henry had been sick. I presume he is as careless as ever. Some one wrote that he sometimes stayed in town till quite late and then rode out. I think it unsafe for him to do so. It is dangerous to health and he might stumble upon some robbers. I do hope he will not ride out after dark any more. I am not surprised at the news you communicated relative to Mary xxx, Chauncy's wife had given me a hint of it. They have been in a great hurry I think. I am sorry for Mary - poor young thing! to be tied down to the care of a baby! I know it will annoy her. I hope Henry is doing well this year on his farm and I do hope that he lets strong drink alone. I did not find time to write to him by last mail as I expected, as company came and prevented. It is the same now. Dr Camp and his wife leave to morrow but as soon as they leave I must go in again to try on the dress I am having fitted to me the one I got in Boston. Give my love to him and tell him that I shall write just as soon as I can find time tell him too that I have been expecting to hear from him for a month past. I am very glad to hear that Robert is getting better. He is something of a singer reads music well - perhaps you would find him an assistance in the choir. I am glad to hear that Mr. Woodbridge appears to be recovering. I hope soon to hear that he is well. Give my kind regards to him and his family. It is nearly twelve and Eddlie seems to be sleeping more quietly and I am quite sleepy I will go to bed tho I feel so anxious about him that I shall not be able to sleep much until I feel confident he is better.

Thursday Morning 4th

Eddlie is running about this morning but he coughs quite frequently tho not so hoarse as he did. I have given him no medicine but Homoeopathic yet. Dr Camp says I must be careful of him (which I shall be sure to do) or he may some time have a severe attack of croup. He and his wife have just left for Bristol and I am going in town in a few minutes, the clouds look dark this morning I think it will rain soon. I presume you may have had some snow by this time. You may expect a hard winter. I am glad to hear that they are going to have so handsome a building as the State House promises to be in Benicia but if the Legislature should not meet there it would not be a very profitable one. You will hear by this mail enough of the Election to know that Pierce is elected President. I do not believe that the Whigs will ever be able to effect anything again as a party there are too many Irish amongst us. It is really alarming to see how fast they are filling up our towns and Cities. It is said that Boston will be an Irish City before many years. So many of them are crowding in there and the citizens moving out into the country to get away from them. I have not yet written to Edward since I returned. I hope he has written to you I tried to have him do so while he was in Boston with nothing to do but I believe he is inclined to be lazy. I am sorry he has no more energy. I like him very much but he is too bigoted and gets altogether too much excited when talking about the Church. Uncle attacks him on all occasions and Edward does not seem to think that he is an old man but comes on him just as furiously as he would upon one of his own age.

But it is time to close my letter to send to mail. I wish much to see you but I expect that the time that is left will soon pass away especially that part of it which I spend at home. When I have Eddlie and go away from home I feel lonely and miss you more than when I am here. I have only time to add that that you are daily in my thoughts and dear to me as you could wish to be. Accept must live from your aff. Lucy