

will soon be scarce there.

Uncle William lives four miles west of San Jose and it is nine miles west of him to the mountains where his mill is and where we get our timber for fencing. We have to go out in the mountains and camp and cut and haul down to the edge of the valley and then we can make one load a day from there home, but it is redwood and is easy split, light to haul and lasts an age. People make posts and rail and ditch fences so it does not take much timber to do.

The land here is pretty much all taken up. There is several old Spanish Grants where the owners claim some times six or eight miles square but it is likely that when their claims are investigated a great deal of it will fall to Government. Under the California laws every man may claim 160 acres of land but the holder must do \$100 worth of work and cultivate every three months. In that way nearly the whole valley has been taken up by some families and men from the mines for the purpose of speculation, but ^I will keep watch and when I see a place vacant I will lay claim if I can find you are coming.

I will also go to Santa Cruz valley which is west of this 25 miles on the Seacoast and see what the chance is for making claims for all hands. I have been told that it is excellent farming land and more timber than on this side. People here are generally very indolent, a great portion of them being Mexicans and Mission Indians.

If you are coming we will try and have plenty for you to eat and arrangements made for settling. I would have been glad to have looked at Oregon and then if I could have come across the plains with you I have no doubt that I could come again with half the trouble and danger that I did before.

If you have not sold yet don't sell untill I know more about it.

To Edward Campbell
Clayton Adams County
Illinois

San Jose , Calif.
Jan. 28th, A.D. 1851

From D.L. Campbell

Dear Brother

Brother James and I are well. I heard from a letter received by Uncle Charles the other day that Father was on the eve of selling out to come to California. I have not thought about it before so I am not prepared to say what would be best. I wrote 11 pages to father in regard to his outfit and journey in case he should come and sent it by a man going home, but I thought for fear of its not getting along safe I would write this and put it in the mail, but you will be most likely to get it. I will run over it hastily again.

I am in a hurry and have not time to say much. Have four yoke of good well made oxen, it don't make much difference about the size, tolerable sized oxen are best from 5 to 8 or 9 years old, well broke are the best, this to each wagon. If Thomas and Father come, as I expect both, if will have to have two wagons, one as large as our old wagon and one a little smaller with good sized axels. Then it would be better to have a spring wagon for the women. You will have to have one or two more hands to come through with you. Bring two mules to the spring carriage. If you can it would be well to have one extra yoke of oxen and two yoke of cows. You can not have too much team, two horses assisted by a yoke of oxen could bring the carriage. Bring some horses along to hunt oxen and ford streams. Mares are very valuable here. Don't ruin your horse after game, take good care of them and they will come through very well.

Don't leave your wagons to hunt as there is great danger of getting lost from your wagon. This was a source of great trouble. Last year many were gone several days. Stay with the wagon. You might drive some

extra milk cows but don't use the milk when you come to alkali swamps.

Bring what will be equal to 200 pounds of bread stuff and one hundred pounds of meat to each person, 8 lbs of coffee¹, 1 lb tea, 20 to 25 pounds sugar. If you are likely to have plenty of milk you may bring 15 or 20 pounds of rice as it is easy cooked and good to eat. Bring some dried fruit, then some few pickels, vinegar, 2 lbs of peper to 4 men, a little spice, salartus etc. You can think of several little conveniences. Bring medicine, No. 6 castor oil, cooke pill, peppermint, cholera remedy etc., ginger, chayane peper, etc. stop a diarea at the beginnring. Eat moderate~~x~~ as many kill themselves eating. Mother knows how though.

Bring two sheet iron camp kättles, frying pan, tea kettle, skillet, etc. such as you need on the road and nothing else, no pots or smoothing irons. Bring some little parched meal, one water proof coat to 2 or 3 persons. It don't rain after you leave Platte river.

If Martha and Elizzbeth are coming and there is many along you betterhave made two tents well made to fasten down with ropes and pets, ask McMurray how to fix tents etc. I expect he has some knowledge about things and matters. Come as light as possible so as to have plenty of provisions,. Bring 2 canteens holding from 3 pints to 3 quarts, they are necessary to carry water at a distance to drink. Have 1 ket to each wagen containing three to four gallons each to haul water, always keep some along. Prepare to carry 30 to 50 gallons of water across deserts by filling everyth full. Have one spade and one mat ock for fixing the road, one ax, 1 hatchet, 1 brace, 2 or 3 bits, one chisel, 1 colechisel and a file is all the toöls necessary; one monkey rench, 1 bell for the oxen. Get 1-2 inch rope 12 feet long and hickory pickett pins to fasten your cattle when it looks likely for a storm. Learn them to stand fastened to a pin before you start if you can. When you leave the settlements at first if grass is scarce you will have to tie them up to keep

from running off, horses particularly. If you can get ~~them~~ into a company of civil people it would be well to guard at first to keep the stock from leaving, but after you get out some distance you may quit it if grass is plenty.

Stuart with something like 5 months provision from the line of Missouri and take it slow, take care of the teams. It is the most trying trip in the world and people soon become very ill natured, everyone thinks he knows best so when any person don't please you let them alone so here I will give you a receipt to make it easy.

Don't get angry at any person or thing, all ways be in a good humor, play no tricks, speak mild, try to make every one happy, do your part, keep your oxen and horses in a good humor and if any persons pester you the road is long and wide, go to yourselves, many have come through alone by doing this you have only half the trouble and some amusement along. Have two guns to the four men and some pistols, There was no need of these things last year but the Indians were a little saucy on Humbolt or Marys river towards the last of the migration so you may be prepared. When you get to Ft. Hall you will fall in with some other families. Don't get very heavy guns, have one large ball and 1 small powder is plenty, 8 or 10 lbs. Lead 2,000 caps, every useless pound is so much loss.

Bring no earthen ware, plenty here and now I charge you to keep away from the water. There are a great many drowned from carelessness but the streams are the most dangerous in the world so that but few can swim in them. Even in dipping water from them two should go along as I have seen the banks crumble in and persons fall in over the heads. Caution is the Mother of safety.

I wrote to father to come to Council Bluffs as it is the best grass and good road. You will then miss crossing the three bad streams, viz South Platte, Laramie Fork and the North Platte, which

is miserable. Some people cross North Platte at Ft. Laramie but you keep on the North side all the way up and don't cross it at all. You leave it 800 miles from Missouri River or 128 miles above Ft Laramie and strike across the Sweet water at Independence Rock near Devils Gate which is 50 miles. Here you will find poisonous water and but very little grass. For this distance you must be careful about alkali all along. If your cattle should get poisoned give them vinegar and fat meat. Get 1 pound of tartaric acid and you can make vinegar that will answer.

You must get a Mormon Guide from Council Bluffs to Salt Lake, it will tell you about the road, don't fail, it is valuable. It crosses at Ft Laramie and then back again. You must not cross at all, you might also get Stemans Journal but don't get Wares, it don't tell you a single truth. From Sweet Water it is about a hundred miles to South Pass, then 16 miles to the forks of the Salt Lake road and Subletts cut off, take Subletts it is the right hand.

On this road you have a desert of 53 miles without water but plenty of grass. Then come to Ft. Hall which is the right hand road when you leave Bear River. Ft Hall is a little over 200 miles from South Pass, then it is about 800 miles to California settlements.

Uncle William and James or I (I think I shall) will go out to meet you and the friends from Missouri if I can find out in time that you are certainly coming so you must have some provisions for me when I come. We expect to meet you some where about Ft Hall. Of course a person cannot tell exactly where we could calculate to get there about the 14th of July. For that reason you should have your names on the wagon cover plain to be seen the county and state and after you get on Sweet Water put a red flag up at the hind end of your wagon so that you will be noticed more particularly and don't camp so far from the road but your wagons can be seen. Put your names on a plank with blacking and drive it into the ground at South Pass and at forks of the road

if you have no plant, then use paper and in that way I could be sure to find you. When you leave home write two or three letters three or four days apart so that they will get into different mail bags so I will be sure to get some of them.

But I expect father will receive the large bundle that I wrote a day or so ago so that you will have it more at length. If father has not sold, hold on until I hear from you again and you hear from me. If you ever come I should like to be along, and I would be able to manage just right I think.

We have been sowing wheat this week and if it is seasonable we will be apt to have a fine lot of nearly everything to live on. Times are rather hard here, day labors get from 2 to 4 dollars a day so it takes nearly all people make to live on, but Uncle William has to furnish us so we get all we can and keep all we get, so now Edward if you have sold and are ready to come I am greatly in hopes you will come safe. If you stay there try and manage well, keep things going ahead, and we will all get along well yet, I am in hopes. I would like to see you all very much but time is rolling on fast and if we live it will be round to us to meet again soon so I must bid you all

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

P .S. Leave your names at Ft Hall as you pass with some person and by notices stuck up. Get a pair of little spring balances drawing 24 pounds to weigh little articles along the road.

To Mr. A. Fruit
Quincy, Illinois

San Jose, Calif.

Feb. 26th A.D. 1851.

From D.L. Campbell
(Son-In-Law)

Dear Father:

I again take my seat to inform you that I am well and hope that you and all the friends are enjoying the same blessing. I heard from father and Martha by a letter written Dec. 6th from which I learned ths fathe was talking of moveing to this country. I got a letter from you and Martha dated October; is the last I have received from your or her. If Father moves to California a@@ I am glad Martha is coming. If I heard that they are coming I shall go to meet them on the plains.

I have been ditching for the last few days to enclose a field in which I have planted some grain. I have averaged 70 feet a day, while 45 is a common days work, but my hands are so sore and stiff that it is very difficult to write so I must be short this time. I have been waiting for the last steamer hoping to hear from home bu it has not come.

If father comes I expect he will be gone before you get this, if not send them word that we are doing well as usual. Excuse this thing, I will try to do better next time. O my hands. Give my respects to Mother Fruit and all the friends

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

P.S. Dear Sir: I have come in to the city and received a letter from Martha and you dated December 23rd which gave me great pleasure to hear that you were all well, it has helped my hands very much, but the mail will close in a few moments so I must be quick. If my people come nothing would give me more pleasure than to have you and Mother Fruit over here. You ask several questions abou the country, you will find some of the answers in a letter that I wrote to Father, but I will

soon write to you more fully. Write ofte, it does me so much good to get a letter. Send word to Father as I shall not write to him now, and believe me your most obedient son,

D.L. Campbell

I have received but three letters from Martha. Tell Martha that her and the Mothers will please search the vocabulary of names and appropriate the most beautiful to the young lady.

D.L.C.

No 6

San Jose, Calif.

March 27, 1851

To: D.M. Campbell
Clayton, Illinois
From D.L. Campbell

Dear Father:

I am again able to inform you that Brother and myself are well. The last letters received from you were dated one New Years Day, the other Jan. 23rd. I was glad to hear you were all well and doing well.

I have not written to you for some time not knowing but you would be off to California before they could reach you. My last letter I believe was No. 5, containing eleven pages and one to the boys I suppose that you will not come to California now.

I do not know what land could be got here easily but still I might get a chance during the summer to get a claim.

I have been a good deal discouraged this winter about rain here as it has been scarcely any rain all winter but with what we had we broke our ground and done our fencing. It was so dry that most people stoped work. We have in near 70 acres of wheat and barley and a considerable quantity of garden stuff. About a week ago it rained a showe and yesterday it rained all day so I ferl several hundred dollars better off this morning, and think we will be likely to do well.

Uncle William, Cousin David and James M. Hickerson with several others started to the mines about a week ago. The miners are generally doing rather better than usual, so says report. I am in hopes they will do something sworth while. Barney, James and myself stay to plant potatoes e c and take care of the things.

Uncle Charles family got here last February. He has built a fine house and I have been painting on it for the last two weeks and will finish

in two days. It is finely done. Whenever any person wants any thing done I say yes though I have got no sash jobs yet though there is not much work to be done here this summer.

The Capital has been removed from here and it has stoped the improvements for the present. If our crop turns out well and prices are good we can find work enough at it to keep us busy most of the time. If the mines turn out well and our crop does not prove profitable we will try the mines this fall.

Give my compliments to Mr. and Mrs. C. Morey and all the friends, and more than compliments to all at home.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

P.S. We have lettuce, mustard etc. plenty

D.L.C.

To D.M. Campbell
From D.L. Campbell

San Jose, Calif.
April 11, A.D. 1851

Dear Father

I received a letter from you dated February 6th and a few lines from Thomas. We were glad to hear you were all well and doing well. James and I have been well. Barney S and James H. are well. James H. went to the mines about three weeks ago with Uncle William and cousins David, Benjamin and William and one of the Hancocks from Ky. but it rained most of the time while they were there. Uncle William and Cousin David came back and left the others there. They say they could make \$5 a day anyhow.

We have had some fine rains lately, it makes our crop look fine. There is a very good prospect now. We are about through our farming excepting planting potatoes. We have our ground all ready and are now planting some garden vegetables.

Money is very scarce here now but every person nearly has gone to the mines and are all doing tolerable well, that is from \$4 to \$10 a day so I think money will be plenty here after a month or two.

Give my respects to all the friends. I will write to Mr. Morey soon. Do the best you can and be contented.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

No. 8

to D.M. Campbell

Clayton, Illinois

From D.L. Campbell

San Jose, Calif.

April 28, 1851

Dear Father:

Brother James and myself are well as usual. My throat has been sore a little for some time past but I think it is nothing but a cold and nothing serious. Our last letter from you was dated Febr. 25 and came to hand April 25th. We were glad to hear that all are well.

Barney Springers & James Hickerson are now working for Uncle William at his mill. It has been rented out for a long time and they just got it back. I wrote to you some time since that Uncle Wm. Cousin David, James H & others had gone to the mines, but like a set of greenhorns they all came back about two weeks ago because they could not make a fortune in a month. People in this country have very extravagant views and unless they can make a fortune right off, they do nothing so nineteen out of twenty have nothing.

We have everything planted but our potatoes and people do not plant them until in May. We will begin week after next. Our ground is ready, we will plant 16 acres. We have had considerable rain lately so that everything looks finely. We have 17 acres of barley headed out and will cut it in four weeks.. All our wheat and barley looks well. Our prospect is flattering and I think in two months will have some of the dimes. Uncle Wm. has sent for a thrashing machine and he is going to set up a pair of stones in his mill & we will grind our wheat.

I sold my cow last winter to a man. He was to pay for her in March but that time could not or would not do it so we took her back and have her yet. I sold the oxen the other day for \$300 to cousin Benjamin and am to get \$200 in three or four weeks, and the other \$100 Benjamin left in New Orleans, giving Cousin George, Uncle Charles' son, an order to collect it.

He done it and sent a check on Uncle Charles and Cousin Benjamin was to get Uhele Charles to write to George to send the money to St Louis and send you a check to draw it, but Uncle Charles refuses to have George send it because he owes George and wants Ben to wait until he gets the money and he will pay it. But the money is very scarce here now as everybody nearly has gone to the mines and nothing here to sell to bring it in. After harvest I have no doubt money will be plenty, so you see I have to wait for mine while G eorge is paid, but I have marked him so I think he will not ma of me in the end.

I can see no reasonable chance for us to fail in making between 3 a dollars (thousand) but still I am never exactly easy until I have it in my hands. We will make every edge cut to make all we can and you must do the same, in your last letter you still wish to know what I think about coming. Believing that my former letter will satisfy you on that point I will only say that I feel lonesome out here and things do not appear as well as though you were all here.

This is a good country in some respects but it is hard to get all here and James and I have had a hard time this far and from Elizbeth's letters I guess James trouble would not stop soon enough if you but if I knew everything what all your reasons were I could judge beyter, but I hope every mail to hear something that will settle me. You understand that if I had a place there from all I now know I would probably stay there.

The way of life is every various and there is very few that have any considerable degree of happiness in this life. I hope that you may all get along agreeable and contented people can accomplish a great many things if they have health, if back with good intentions and that perserverance that will take no denial. Keep everything to yourself and attend to the note and write particularly about it. And now as I have nothing more to write I will again commend us all to the care of Him

who is able to preserve us from all harm.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

I forget wheathe this is my 8th or 9th letter directed to you,
I say 8th

To D.M. Campbell

58

From D.L. Campbell

No. 9

San Jose, Calif.

May 26, 1851

Dear Father:

I received your letter from you dated March 19th, came to hand May 23rd. Was glad to hear you are all well. Brother James and myself have been well except my throat is not as well as it has been. It has been a little painful for the last month but I hope it will get better soon.

We have got our crop delivered in San Jose but I think we will get some more as hay is very scarce this year. We would ~~would~~ have about 15 acres of barley which we expect to begin to cut tomorrow. It is the earliest in the valley, it will turn off some 50 bushels per acre. Uncle William has bought a threshing machine and we will thrash it immediately and sell before the rest of our wheat and barley is cut. Barley is 6 cents a pound at present. Last year at this time it was only 5 cents. It will bring about \$2.70 a bushel. When I begin to get some money I think it will help me.

The squirrels are destroying our crop considerable. The squirrels here are about as large as the common gray squirrels of the States and look very much like them but by close inspection we find them a little spotted. As there are no trees in the valley they live in holes in the ground and I think they would average 50 squirrels to the acre. They are very shy and hard to kill. That has been my principal business for the last few weeks, killing and minding them off the barley.

Tell Charles that the old gun puts it to them nearly every fire, she is perhaps the greatest gun going. I am fearful that our wheat will not be first rate on account of the drouth this last winter though I hope we will make a tolerable crop. Uncle William intends to move a little Patten mill he has out of his saw mill and let

us grind out wheat. We can then make 100 pounds out of 2 1-2 bushels of wheat. Flour now sells at \$7.00 a hundred but it is not good like flour made here so I think we can get \$9 a hundred for our flour.

I am getting very anxious to get home but I will stay until later as we can make more here than at home. The money is very scarce here at present, there being nothing in the valley to bring in money until after harvest, then I think it will be more than plenty.

It is very healthy here. I have not heard of a sick person in the valley this spring. We have had two warm days since winter. The climate they have is the most pleasant I have ever seen. During the night the wind blows from the mountains in a Southerly direction and about 10 o'clock it turns to the North and blows off the Bay until night, so we always have a pleasant breeze and nothing troubles me now but the squirrels. I would like to have a good shower of rain but it is still we must take things as we find them.

I believe I have nothing more to write but my love to all--

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

From D.L. Campbell
to D.M. Campbell

San Jose Calif.
June 28th A.D. 1851

Dear Father:

Brother James and I are well. We received your letter dated April 29th on the 20th of this month and were quite glad to hear that all were well. You inquired how we got along with the scrofulous. James has had no difficulty with his throat since we left the Missouri River. I got quite harty last winter and scarcely ever felt it in my throat but some weeks ago I took a bad cold which rather inflamed my throat but it is some better now and I think it will perhaps get well again.

Our wheat will perhaps turn out some better than I expected when I wrote last to you but still it will be very light. It is a very dry and the squirrels are the greatest pest I have ever seen. We have some 3 or 4 bushels of barley thrashed. The balance of our barley is now ready to cut.

Brother James and Barney have been thrashing the past week. We have 60 one fourth of the machine, Uncle William the ballance. The machine gets one fourth of that is made, Uncle William one fourth for the horses expences and we get the balance for running it which is one half to our part. Besides a fourth of the machine we charge the ninth or 22 cents a bushel. We think we can thrash 200 to 250 bushels of barley as it is easy to thrash. James thinks he can clear 20 to 25 dollars a day to our part. It is the only good thrashing machine in California.

I believe every thing is doing tolerable well. I have nothing more to write that I know of.

There was a camp meeting here 100t this Sunday. It appeared like home. There was excellent preaching, some 20 made a profession of religion. May the providence of God protect us from harm and guide us in way of all truth. Farewell D.L. Campbell

to D.M. Campbell

From D.L. Campbell

"Private"

In your letter you said that, "the man who bought your old place was going to marry Miss Bond." The latter part of the sentence I am willing to, but the first part conveys an intimation that the old place is gone. This is a matter about which I have felt a good deal of anxiety but the worst is often better than a state of uncertainty. I feel now satisfied.

I am particularly glad that you got the SW Qr of 21 and if we manage it right we can do very well. People contented can live comfortably on very little if they act right, while people filled with their own importance are poor.

Let them possess ever so much, as nearly every body in California could testify, if they could see themselves as I see them.

I wrote that I had sold my oxen for \$300 and expected to have sent it along long before this but one mishap or another kept me out of money until a few days ago. Now I have it all in my box and would send \$200 by this mail but I have no chance to send to San Francisco for a check, but will have it by the next mail (two weeks) so you may calculate on it if you should need it. I could send more but I lose \$12 by paying coin, besides commission on each hundred.

If you have any chance of getting the qr. east of you you may need it, and if you should want more I think we might raise it, as we will now soon begin to handle some money, but be very saving of it as it is hard to make money here as any place.

I am sorry to tell you that our wheat is nearly a failure and our barley is light and the squirrels are very bad on our potatoes. Wheat and barley fails for want of moisture so I am fearful we will make but little but we waste nothing after we get it.

We have spent more for postage than every thing else since

we came here. Still we have several hundred dollars, but I want to live on it and not use it for show like people do here.

I have seen so much puffing and blowing since I came here that I want to get out of it, and never wish to see a person that follows a practice so disgusting.

When the money comes if you need use it of course, but if not lay it by for a pinch. If you should need it for nothing else buy a cooking stove, give Martha some, as she possibly needs a little extra money, give Elizabeth some also, say nothing about where it comes from, keep everything to yourselves. Write how the Californians generally do as you know more than I do.

If you do not use all this money for anything else I would like to have you buy me some 10 or 15 calves this fall, but if you need for something else write and I will try and send a \$100 more to buy calves etc. I believe I am through.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

San Jose, Calif.

July 13, 1851

To: D.M. Campbell
From James Campbell

Dear Father:

I take this opportunity to wright a few lines to let you know that David and myself are well and hope you are all enjoying the same blessing.

We are getting discouraged about our crop. The squirrels have disstroyed \$2,000 worth of corn, barley, wheat , potatoes, cabages etc. They come up and they keep working away till they are dug, the squirrels has pockets in there jaws that they can carry off a half a dozen potatoes as large as your finger at one time. They have distroyed hole crops bf wheat, barley and potatoes here in the valley that I know of myself. We have watched them off, it takes one and two hands all

the time to keep them off the potatoes. They have taken about 4 acros of out of 16. We have our wheat and barley out all but one days work. We will finish tomorrow. We intend to thrash it as soon as posable, then we wont be so hurried, then we can take more time to watch our potatoes.

I have been thrashing barley for a week or ten days. We get 16 cents a bushel. I can thrash from 2 hundred to 3 hundred bushels an a day . Day before yesterday I had the bad luck to brake the master wheel. David started yesterday morning after another. I hope we shall have it the first of this week, for we have about one hundred achors of barley now engaged that will yeald fifty bushel per acor. Myself and Barney Springer runs the machire, I feed all the time, throw up half the grain and oil the mashine and hurry the hands all I can to get as much done in a day as possible. I have worked so hard this summer that my hands and rists are sweled and as stiff as a mall and when I walk I go on a run. We would be done very well if it had not pf been for the feched squirrels. How much we shall make I don't know. We will do the best can, the boys must not depend too much on our hard work.

Get Mother a stove if you can this fall. I have writen in a hurry for the male startes to the States from San Francisco on the 15. It goes twist a month, the first and 15th, and comes twic a month. Uncle Wm. and family is well. Uncle Charles and family is well. Postage is only 10 cts now and if prepay~~ed~~ is 6 cts.

There was a Spaniard hung in town on the 11th. I had intended to go and see him hung but I was so bisy I could not go. There is to be another hung on the 18, next Friday. I want to go then if I can, and ~~x~~ee him hung.

I have nothing new to write of importance. I want Edward and Charles to have lots of corn, cattle and hogs when we get home. We will start about the first of January and get home the last of February. We will let you know nier the time hereafter. I want to see all very much. Tell sister Margaret that she must have a cake baked for me, so

Farewell to all,
James Campbell