

To David M. Campbell

San Jose, California

From David L. Campbell his son

N v. 28th, A.D. 1851

Dear Father

Brother and I are well , my throat appear to be mending. I have not received any letters from home for over a month but I hope that you are all well.

I have nothing new to write. I wrote to you in my last letter that I was keeping store in San Jose. I have been doing tolerable well and my business is increasing. We have all our crop gathered in. We have not sold out our potatoes as the price is very low at present and it is generally thought that they will be up before spring.

A great many have been compelled to sell off to raise money, which has caused a great decline in prices.

Potatoes are now worth from 2 to 4 cents a pound, onions 8 to 10; barley 6 to 6 1-2, rising; wheat 4 to 8; eggs per dozen \$2.50 in San Francisco; fresh butter per pound \$1.50 in San Francisco.

So you can see that everything is high enough when compared with the States. We have a little Barley left yet which we will keep until towards spring. Brother James calculated to go to the mines this winter but there has been but one shower of rain yet and appears likely for another dry winter and as he would not have long to stay he finally concluded not to go but stay here and do whatever turned up.

He is now laying brick on a church at 6 dollars a day. After he is done there he will do whatever he can that is sure pay. The weather here is most inviting. At present we have had but two or three frosts, the nights are cool but the days very pleasant.

People are coming to this country by thousands though a great many are going home, there is more coming than is going away. Every person is healthy and things are getting along finely but if the coming winter

it will have a tendency to check the California fever, but it appears that though people have great disappointments in California but few of them can reconcile it to there feelings to stay where they can get but 75 cents per day and I am satisfied now that if people were saving they could soon realize here what would be called a fortune in the states, but so many come here and think they must do something new because they are in a new country that ~~there~~ fourths of them find themselves newly layed on their backs before they know what they are about, so it is rather diffuult for a man to know who to trust, but hope it may ~~be~~ not be unfortunate as to fall into the hands of that kind of Aristocracy.

I do not know when we will start back but we will be certain to start by the first of April if nothing prevents and perhaps sooner, but we want to make all we can and though we are very anxious to see you all we now we can make more clear money here in two months than we could at home in one year, but that the above is as long as we feel willing to stay under almost any circumstances.

I hope you will do the best you can and we will take no more such long traps withough you are along. If we get back and after you hear all that we have to say and then you would wish to move to some other place then we can do it, but I would like to see Illinois again to see how I would like it.

I have written to Mr. Morey. Cheer up Martha and Elizabeth and all try and live in that way that it may go with with our consciences here and our sould hereafter.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

To D.M. Campbell
Clayton, Ill
From D.L. Campbell

No. 11
San Jose, Calif.
Dec. 12, A.D. 1851

Dear Father:

Brother and I are well. There has nothing of interest transpired since my last worth writing. We have had a little rain and some cloudy weather but at present it is clear and looks beautiful. The grass is beginning to grow a little and we soon expect to see the valley covered with oats, etc. We have light frosts at night.

James a~~00~~ is still working on the Methodist church laying brick etc. but he will finish there tomorrow and then he calculates to go and work on a farm untill we get ready to start home whihh will be towards spring.

Harley is now worth from 6 to 7 cents in the valley. We have 100 bushels on hand and will keep it untill near spring as we will wait for the best price. We are getting weary of staying from home and will embrace the first opportunity of returning but potatoes are so low at present that we think we had better wait till spring and then I think we will get a paying price.

The health is good here, I am doing a tolerable business and you must try and do the best you can and I hope we will soon be able to return.

my love to all

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

to D.omas Campbell
From James Campbell

San Jose, Calif.
December 25, 1851

Dear Brother:

I am well at presant and hope these lines may find you all well. I have nothing of importance to write but as I have been so busy and have never wrote to you as often as I might I will now write you a few words as I have towrite my dear wife anyhow.

We got a letter from Uncles James since he got to Oregon. He got through safe. Uncle Thomas has got back to California again, he got here last week. I have seen him several times but I have never seen Aunt Marthy yet. David has seen her, but I am wrk out on the edge of town so I have never got a squint yet.

I believe I can't think of antying now to write, I want to have something to tell William and Leander and Jimmy when I get home, so

Farewell

James Campbell

P.S. I killed two wild gees day bef re yesterday at one shoot. Mr. Parker killed three crains at one shot, so you may know what we have something to eat on Christmas. There isthousands of wild gees here on the plains. It has been raining here for three or four days. We have not plenty of r rain to make crops good. This will bee a better year to ras stuff than it was la year but prices wont be so good quite. We have only had rain enough to plough till now, it is two wet to plough old ground and the grass is up green and nice in the valley and on the mountains it is delightful or as old Hiram might say it lookv most melodius .

Farewell

James Campbell

A clipping danclosed with this letter marked "save this" reads as follows:

At San Jose , California last year John Horner raised on 150 acres

potatoes, onions, cabbages and pumpkins which he sold for \$211,800. His onions brought 40 cents a pound, cabbages 40 cents a head. He intends to cultivate 800 acres this year. He has imported ten miles of iron fence which cost delivered \$10,600.

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

No. 18
San Jose, California
December 28th, A.D. 1851.

Dear Father:

We received yo r letter August 20th a few days since. That is one of the pleasantest things that happens to us here to hear of the health of our friends at home.

I have nothing of interest to write. We are both well. It has been very fi weather here until within a week past it commenced raining and at present every thing is flooded with water. The grass has grown several inches and thought the sky looks gloomy the valley and surrounding mountains appear lovely as spring.

I think from present appearances that there will be an abundance of water this season so that by spring I can tell what California is in a wet season.

Brother James is some two miles from town working on a farm. He has a very pleasant place to live. I expected him to come in today and send a letter but there is a creek between it and town that is very high so I know he cannot get over, but everything is going very well.

From your letter and one I received from Martha I know you expected us to be off by this time but from our situation here it is impossible unless we were able to lose the greater portion of what little we have made, as you are aware that our farming business done but poorly. We unluckily were persuaded to force most of our little crop of barley off last fall in order to be ready to start the middle of November but our potatoes did not ripen early so we were compelled to wait on then and when we finally got them dug there had been so many forced on the market that they would bring but little, so we were almost compelled to wait for an easier market and I don't expect to be able to sell much before the latter part of February at which time from present appearances there will be likely a tolerable paying price.

We have nearly a hundred bushels of barley and it has run up to between 8

8 and 10 cents a pound which will be some four or five dollars a bushel and we thought it would be rong for us to sacrifice so much when by staying a few months longer we would gain considerable. We will be apt to get a better price for our produc and can still be making a little during the winter extra.

There is one thing certain you all can not want to see us much worse than we want to see you. I hope you will be as contented as possible and try and encourage Martha and Elizabeth. We will not wait longer than spring let money matters be as they may, but I will tell you just how I think it will be. We will make our arrangements to start the first of March and collect our money and be ready, but it may happen that we cannot be exactly as calculations are often frustrated.

"e may be a week or two loner but that we will say nothing about here but between ourselves we don't wish to start until the 25th of March when it is said to be the most pleasant time on the Pacific and Isthmus and will also be pl on the Atlantic so between you and I we think we will be certain to get home about the middle of May. That is said to be the most healthy time for persons returning from this valley to the States.

Uncle Thomas and Aunt Martha have arrived safely back to California and expect to remain here.

Give my respects to enquiring friends and hoping that we may all be spared to meet again to be a blessing to each other, I commend you and us to the care of our Father in "eaven.

Farewell

D.D. Campbell

To: D.M. Campbell

90

Clayton, Ill.

No. 19

From D.L. Campbell

San Jose, Jan 13, A.D. 1852

Dear Father:

I received your letter of November 20th last evening. Brother James and I are well. He was in town last night. We are doing very well at present, not making fortunes fast but still we are making a little.

You state in your letter that there will be a considerable emigration to California this spring if the news continues favorable concerning the mines. My impression is that the mines are no better than they have been, people need not come here expecting to make a fortune in a year or two.

If they come calculating to live here for life and then live saving as people do in the States they may make money but when they calculate on trading or digging out a fortune in a few days they will come out at the little end of the horn sure.

The weather for the past week has been very fine, clear and warm, the grass is growing fast and everything looks like spring. We will get home some time in May I think. We will begin to put our business in shape in the course of a month.

You speak of our wishing to stay here until fall, but as we cannot stay here allways we think we had better go for we are very anxious to see all at home.

You need not say to any person when we are coming. You must try and put in all the crop you can and we will try and help you work it. The folks here are very anxious for one of us to stay and the other to go home and all to move out but we will not do as they wish in this thing. But when we get back then we can see how things stand, but I believe I am through.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

TO: D.L. Campbell

Clayton, Ill

From D.L. Campbell

San Jose (no. 21

Febr. 12, 1852.

Dear Father:

This will inform you that we are well. We received your letter of Dec. 8th. We have nothing of interest to write. Things are going on about as usual, my business is quite dull at present in the way of selling goods.

We had a light rain a few days since and farming is going on at a rapid rate. There will be a very large amount of barley raised here this season and as a consequence prices will be likely to be low after harvest but still it may be high before another harvest.

We sold barley at about 4 cents a pound and some sold for 3 cents after harvest but it has recently been sold for ten cents a pound or five dollars a bushel, but I don't think it will ever be so high, yet 4 or 5 cents will pay where people do their own work.

We had a little barley left, for one two horse load we got \$150, as much as a farmer can make in a year, and that can be raised on one acre. Of good ground. Potatoes are selling at from 4 to 6 cents. We have not been able to sell ours yet as we could get no sacks. We have sent to San Francisco and expect them in a few days and then we will ship immediately.

I expect to begin to wind up in a week or two and then we can tell better what we will have. We think of starting about the first of April.

You have perhaps heard that the capital has been moved from San Jose. That has made times dull at this place. They are now settling in Sacramento. Judge Ralston is Senator from Sacramento.

Uncle Thomas is here doing nothing, living on the interest of his money. He occasionally buys potatoes or something of the kind when he sees a chance to make money. He laid out about \$800 last week in potatoes, sent them to San Francisco and made \$325 clear and has his money back again. He will be apt to do well as he is very cautious.

The weather is fine, no feeding or freezing, every thing is delightful. I can hardly realize that in the States the cattle are shivering, perhaps covered with ice, the hogs squealing, and sheep bleating and then to think of the mittens and boots that have to be called into service and the suffering etc. for the stock that has cost so many hard days work in the hot sun and all for a scant living.

When I think of these it appears very strange that people in this country are not the happiest people on earth.

But I must close. Do the best you can and don't be uneasy about us. Give my respects to Mr. and Mrs. Morey and all inquiring friends.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

to D.M. Campbell, Clayton I L

The mail has just arrived which brings James and I a letter dated December 12, Also one to James dated Dec . 16. James has not seen his yet. He will be in a a day or two.

D.L.C.

To David M. Campbell

San Jose

Clayton, Adams county

February 28, 1852

Illinois

From David L. Campbell

Dear Father:

We are well and have but little more to say. I have invoiced the goods and Cousins and David and William have taken possession of the store. I am now closing up my business, but potatoes have fallen and we have only just got ours shipped and I think we will perhaps have to wait a little longer in order to sell at advantage. We will not be off before the first of April and it may be a little longer, but all will depend on our crop of potatoes.

James is still working and will continue to work till we start. You need say nothing definite as to when we will be at home. I rather think we will come by New York but not sure.

I have nothing more that I think of.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

P.S. 7 o'clock: We have just received your letter of January 2nd

DLC.

To Elizabeth Campbell

San Jose, California

From James Campbell, her husband

February 27th 1852 (no.20)

Dear Wife:

I take another opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well, and to tell you that I had not give out the idea of comeing home this spring, the time is comeing close when we will starte.

We will start the first of April as I told you before . I got a letter from you a few days ago dated December 10, 1851. In m ^{last} ~~last~~ letter I told you that I would write in two weeks. I write so often that I have nothing new, my dear, love to write. But I suppose you want to here that I am well if nothing more.

You stated in your letter that you could stand it till spring but you did not wantme to stay till fall. I had not thought of staying till you mentioned it. I would have thought you wanted me to stay if you had not of wrote in the last of your letter, some of the sweetest poetry that could be:

My dear Sweet Elizabeth, these words you wrote to me

Come home Dear husband to thy heart

That loveth thee so well

Dear Wife, I will go th00 to the heart

That loveth me so well.

While I am writing these lines My Dear Elizabeth, my mind is on you. I can see you in my mind, apparently this moment just how you looked the morning I left you at Fathers, sittinb before the fire with your blew sun bonnet on and our sweet little boy in your arms.

The letter I got from you today I carry in my hat and read it every time I set down to rest. I love to read it, because I love the one that wrote it. When I read these lines that my dear wife wdbte, intreating her husband to come home, she says in the most feeling manner

Come home, come home, Dear Husband to thy heart,
That loveth thee so well.

When I read these two lines my dear, it makes the cold chills run over me to think that I have spent so much of my time away from a kind and affectionate wife.

Feb. 27, 1852

My Dear Love, we have sold out our store a day or two ago. We have some potatoes to sell yet, and some money to collect, then we will be ready to start. My love you told me in your letter to make all I could and to be saving of it. I will acknowledge that I have worked hard but I have not been as good as I might have been. My account in the store is enormous, but you know my Dear I had to have some clothes. I have gone away from home so long and my work has been pretty hard on my clothes, so I had to buy me a pair of pants for every day wear, they cost me \$7 dollars seventy five cents and other articles that I needed cost 25 cents, and the whole amount of my expenses is \$8 dollars and no more my dear.

I started from home with seven pairs of socks and I sold three pairs the other day for \$4.25 four dollars twenty five cents, and I have sold my cloth pants that I brought from home and my blue casinet ones too, so I think my Sugar love I am not behind on that score, and I don't think I will have to buy anything more while I stay, if my warmers don't fail, I don't think it will, for it never has yet. I have it on now and it is as good as ever.

But I will be as saving as I can and not spend my money like some do here that I know of. They have been away from their families three years and they have not got money enough to go home with. They spend their money as fast as they make it, they say that they want to go home to their Dear Families, but they can't get money enough they say. No more they never will when they spend from one to five dollars of a night every night through the week.

My dear love what would you think if you had such a husband as that.

There is one young man here from Kentucky. He says he can't go back to his wife for he is not able he says, so he has gone to courting all the girles in San Jose and will marry as soon as he finds one that he can get, and there is other circumstances of the same kind I know of myself. Some say there wives don't love them and won't live with them any more anyhow.

There is more men like Silvester Stuart than you have any idea of and some women of the same sort.

My dear love I have spunt this out fore times as long as I intended so I will say no more about such cagabohes. I cannot think of anything more Dear, so I will come to a close. If there is anything new you want me to here before I get home write a letter amediately when you get this, and direct it to New York. I will enquire there for letters. When you get this Sweet love you may expect if I have good luck that I will be on the Pacific ocean when you get this.

Excuse my bungling letter for I have to write after night and my hands is not in a very good fix for writing after working all day hard nor my mind neither.

Dear wife, let us live right and I hope we shall see each other in three months, so Farewell to the one I love so dearly.

James Campbell

To Elizabeth Ann Campbell

To David M. Campbell, Elayton, Ills.

From David L. Campbell

San Jose

March 12th, 1852

(No. 23)

Dear Father:

I am in good health, it has been raining here for a week past and James is still working across. The Coyote creek (pronounced Ki-o-te) is being very high he has been unable to come over.

The country is flooded with water and as a consequence business has almost stopped. But I have heard that Sacramento City has overflowed, but I don't know how true it is.

There being so much rain in the mines has caused the wagoners to stop and potatoes are not doing much. Mine has not been sold and I fear we will be stopped longer than we expected but still we may get off the first of April but it may possibly be that we will have to stay longer but I hope not.

We have not made a final settlement yet and cannot until the waters fall so that we can get about. We rather think we will come by New York.

I wish you to write a letter and direct to me at New York also one to New Orleans so that we can get it either place. Although there has been so much rain that the ground is not as muddy as it often is in the States. There will be wonderful crops here this year.

My love to all, Farewell

D.L. Campbell

P.S. 4 o'clock P.M.

James will not be able to write this mail so you had better send word to Elizabeth. It has been a clear fine day and I think the rain is over for the present and if so I think we will get on with our business faster. If we from any mishap should not go next steamer we will write.

I will here say that the city of San Jose is pronounced

San-ho-za', or San-o-za' , a very light stress on the H in pronouncing. I calculate it is generally pronounced at home San Jo'se, but the J is sounded like H and E like A and the accent on the last syllable.

I believe I have nothing more to write, so goodbye.

D.L.C.

San Francisco

April 17, 1852

To D.M. Campbell

From D.L and J Campbell

Dear Father:

We are just on the eve of starting. We have ~~ben~~ very unfortunate in getting our money, in fact the whole business has been managed here so as to make us dependant on our connections for everything.

Uncle William is perhaps honest but has the bighead and lacks sence and firmness to keep Cousin David and A.W. Finley, ~~00000~~ his son-in-law from robing him out of all he has.

Uncle Charles thinks he and family are the only ones of all the kin that are blooded stock and have all the wisdom. They are not ashamed to do anything but work. Uncle Thomas has treated us very well, we have paid him off.

He has several notes and accounts to clect for us but he can be trusted. lives on his own moneyo the other don't. Their great desire to do ~~All~~ our business for us while they kept the profits has injured us very much. Consequently we could not let them know all our business for fear of the assisting.

We have traded through other perons and saved untill we have now earned a very fare lot of cash, yet not a human here knows how much or they would not pay what they owed. They only wanted us to have about what would take us ho and then said they w00 would turn the other for us and send it.

We have engaged passage onthe Steam ShipNortherner for \$150 each to NewYork. We will if nothing happens get home before this gets to you but in case of a accident or shipwreck we send this on another steamer to follow us.

Our cash in hand after everything is paid is 85 ctimes as much as Brother Thomas gave Norfleet for Jack, besides what we have left for collection with uUncle Thomas, though never say to any here nor elsewhere how muchwe had. I have some money for E.P. Fruit for J.M.H. but we hope to be at home in

in about 40 days or perhaps a little longer.

We are in good health and fine spirits. We go aboard the steamer this evening. We hope to be prospered and soon be with you all once more.

Untill then,

Farewell

D.L. and J. Campbell

From James Campbell
To David L. Campbell

Salem, Marion County,
Oregon Territory

Sept. 24, 1852

David:

I reveived your letter of inquiry yesterday. I was glad to hear thatthat you and James got home safe and found all of the friendes well.

You wanted me to write to you the prospect of getting a claim of land in this vally next year. The emagrations is not all in yet, tho I think all the vace land will be taken this year in this valley, Umpquaw and Rogue River vallys.

I think claimes may be bought reasonable in this valley as to the prise it depends on the improvement and how anxious he is to sel. The donation law runs out December '53. That gives emagrants one year more.

North of the Columby River they are a large country to settle. The Clickatat Indions have a fine country to settle on that side of the Columby. They are frendly to the whites and wants them to settel their.

The Pudit Sounds is still North, that lies on the cost. The Sound is the best ship harbour on this continent. The bay is large a nough for all the ships in America to ly safe at one time.

The timber lyes on the bay or groes on the bank a fiew miles wide, then it is a prairie country thou timber in places a nough to supporte it. The timber is fur and yellow seder. The seder and fur grows three hundred feete high. The soil in generel is gravelly tho rich. It is a good stock country but verry little cooler than this valley.

The Hudson Bay Company miasas all of their stock at the Sounds. Their a man can get austers, srimps, fish clames and all kinds of wormes that belongs to the Pacifick Cost to eate.

I have described the North side of the Columby, from information. That is a large country and will settle, for that reason I think claimes can be bought reasonable in this valley. They all wais have been and I expect will

be aslong time lasts a people that likes to change their plase of residence two or three years is as much as they can bair or stay at a plase. We have them in this as well as other cuntrys. If you come hearnext year start with a lite strong wagon, a plenty of oxons and provision to eate. Bring such clothes as you will nead on the road, they are cheepe here.

Every pound you hall across the plaines is worth 5 dollars. Bring cowes to give milk on the rode. By all the one and two yeare old heifers you can and bring them. They will stand it better than a grone cow. Starte with plenty of bulles that can whip the oxons.

There are but fiew cows that croses the plaines in a drove that ~~has~~ a calf the next year. For that reason I would rather have one yeare olds as grone cows. Starte with them in good order, cattle is the best property that a man can have in this country.

A cow and calf will avridg hear 75 dollars, beef on foot per hundred 8, butter fifty centes a pound. All the beef that can be raised will bare a good prise on the account of the gold mines.

All the stears in this vally from three yeare olds up was drove last spring and summer to California. As for me to insist on you or enny of my relat relations to come I hate to do it for fear the mite reflect on me.

If the would be satisfide I would like the washear. All that I can say I am pleased with this cuntry and to bind me to live their no wan or two countys of lands in Illinois or Mo. would be aenny indusement to keepe me theate.

I have not furgot hww cold it gets and how sickly it is in Mo. We are well and doing well. Give my respects t0 all of the relations. I am yours untel death

James Campbell

Sunday, June 9th, 1861

From D.L. Campbell

to D.M. Campbell

Dear Father

We are all tolerable well though it has rained on us nine days since we started. So much high water has caused us to go out of our way, we traveled over 100 miles in Iowa. We are now within four miles of St Joseph. We expect to cross the Missouri at Atchison, 22 miles below St Jo. We will perhaps be through in about ten days.

Our cattle are all doing tolerable well. We have had good feed, some of the calves are a little wearied. We had to swap old Kit for a two year old filley. Sorry to do it but it could not be helped.

We have had no trouble in going through. We will come by Lawrence . There are full two thirds Union men. We have seen but one secession flag. Get ready to play by the time I come. I want to fix that land with Bob Ewing while out. Nothing more.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell