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Butler Family Letters

4-1-1854

Letter to Eliza (Smith) Butler and Matilda Smith from Elizabeth Hutchinson ("Lissie") (unfinished and unsigned)

Elizabeth ("Lissie") Hutchinson

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now in my nest, (if you do not chastize me for this) I will tell you about the silks and nice things I have omitted to give a specimen of their knowledge & well state one case which came immediately under myown eye. One evening while sitting in the presence of our of the afore mentioned personages it came about that I asked her how ald the was she said the did not know though the thought the was about Sitteen her husband spake and told what year she was horn, the was near, twenty I think brogen will sometime be avery pleasant place to though an account of the wealth and heavy ty of the halley it appears we are destined for years to mangle more common herd with the safe heads of every country and chine different to what I expected. it has been very cald this summer me have been obliged to keep a good fin all the time and steep under three or four conces thereby thinger to Con gardens an backmand he have hat trad any begetables got except letteres times, are very hard, there is very little money in eventation. This makes it very hard for new comes to take a start. I must tell you about our camp meeting which commenced two week ago last thand day and lasted until the next tuesday marning we heard Some good Sermons though there was but very fendericersions. They merer entor herlandes Prestigterians. there is more of that denomination than any other in this viewity, though I speak with Some uncertainty, for I have never heard the numbers of any And they seem to be in the lead if you ever get this lette I nish you would answer it and tell us all the news tell me all about which at you are forge what improvements the children have made tell Saving to write to me tell me what has become of march & your apprehenal fister Elizabell. M.B. Matchinson

Quar Elisa; Superior States in March ... It is a little more than a year, since me left our hours, and you, and all the rest of our dear friends, and Started on that almost endless journey to . this great land of Mideskins, and wild cat. Bit luckily we all reached in safety, as you have long since heard; no doubt this great jaurney and its numerous inconvenincies, and dangers; take many and beast, through a material change yea and even woman it seems to arouse and set to work all the seffish and bear by passions, a natural congresser, when all restrictions are taken from over them the reached Olijah's on the 10 nday of day with our two little ones. Robert was just a week ald, he was born on the Caseadi thats on the 3% of doing the stayed with Elijah 3 weeks, and then started sense the feet for a was & killing a market to any hand whe country about two days chine from Ers while on and made the feer give alien a little too much int the road, obr Westerlinson took the agen and a few days after we shopped I look it also. Their we were both sick with our little bake four weeks ald and living in a house wathout door floor or chinney and eracks in the wall large enough for a day to creep through well I had several hard shakes and then got well but dor Untehinson had it finionthe

Suckamente dels 1854

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June 27 1254. . Dear Oliza you see by the previous page that I have in days of your commenced a letter to you. Rut I have almost forgotten what I had manded to write, dit no difference, all has probably been written presions to the date of that, and this. even the enging of the bals of troubles Exense in for taking the same what powerty lold me you wonder what the reason is that we do not wrete more position and tell you all about the country and hew each one is sitisfied se whell on reason is his dare not write the but and emscriner wont let is write ties. Is we write holling. Perhaps Pan mistake may be we don't know the whole truth and un aprovid to write a part, lett we be mistaken and thrown in the lie. But Cliga what I am naw yoing to say to you, pray take for the truthe to the test of my Judge lie are all well und all of the Kin falks the for Berry I with he has had something like a white swelling on one of his legs his doctor suggest is worse if such a thing can be. I have not beard from tim since a week ugo last monday. Cliza mother and I went see him we think it doubtful whether he ever get well mother told me that he said if be died he did not want to be beried here and if he ever gets well he intends to go hack to Allinoise. Mother is grieving herself to death about leaving home The has fuiled so much that the hurdry looks like the some person you want write to his harticularly. the

the feel bad because there is nothing written to her. She thinks if the could write she would not treat you all so you know it makes one feel more like they were remembered if their name is mentioned. I am show this letter will do you mare good than if your name had not been mentioned. The day before gesterday come to See us for the fist lime. An taked so much about Monnahith and the folks there that I could almost think myself there. She is the worst whipped nema you ever some the says the wenders that the could be so blinded to her own interest. She soups if they do not go back to month it will be Prass fourt. -Puruline has grown more since she left home than The had for several years before. The looks condictionably like a moman und every hur on her head is full of undition shestigins to talk of Silks, Spanish Jaddle Joung Lawyers. Me. But dill's as the red men says an Ad Swamphin non comat un about is min of the first standing I must tell you something, Man? of Oregon they are from eleven to twenty years old from eight to twelve hands high, and some a tilly white others a light chesnut sorrely dark brown hair dressed in all sarts of pretty prints from yese and dist. made in leight, to come about half way between the wire bender and their deligate malkers. just below each min bender is tied the leg of their dadigs breaches or something semilar how when all this nigging gets an as hert weathy to hat

" Somehow I don't feel in a spirit for writing but I must say and look at all the flowers and shrubbery which heather I and I have planted there with own hands, and tell us about them go to the graves and look at them for us I know this will be a pleasure to you for the remains of that good I sold mather of yours lie there Oh how after do I Think of scherand you all the rest them but Alas it is to me as though my Soul had fled to anothe world and was looking backto So thingh of time regretting my evil thoughts and deeds. there is this difference I am still on earth I was alliged to hanse and think how near I was to itsudge before I could " Spreed) and can ask my fellow cratures to forgen all then " surrough this I cheerfully do Will you grant it! idend last of all will you go in the east room below stairs and the west room above and think of me for within these walls many a cheorful and hearty laugh has bursted forth from a So shappy and earles heart which is now far far away " thrabbing with care and great ansiety for the welfar of these is subject are a thousand times more innocent Attens " go in that old kitches and the west swoon helven Stairs is book in the corner next the diving room and what immage I do you see there! At I need not ask it is one which will mener fade from your mindreye until death shall have " I transplanted you wind her in the garden of paradise " Thever to be torn a way by the rude land of time but there to dwell in haffiners firster with its author So since writing the above Donglass Butter came here direct I from Isaac Smithes he says Berry is better he is able to walk about the house the rest of the family are all welles

Juice my love to all your family and particularly to John. tile him Brill write some to him in Mr Mutchinsens. letter I have no more to time to write though I quit reluctantly. your loving Sister Lissie, Dear Analitata; I have said all to Eliza that I know about the kin falks. But I must say to you that I have not forgatten you I looked at that little lock of hair untile ago but would not See whose temples at once adorned to it was only the replected

timmage with to me and till me all about what you are , doing, whether you have priced any quilts, what you have done with the tenas trunks what do gon keep in it. how many new dresses have you got, take does Emma Matman have for beaug, when is Margaret. going to get married, das Muldah have any Beaufe

Hednesday Thorning; II B. Ground has just received a letter from one of the Twiner boys Stating the death of hincle William the Sad accident of Granvill getting his are broken This is very distributing news to us, pour all uncle I Suppose his Soul has taken its flight to anothereste you must write and tell us all about what he said life he did, where he is Angied and what the family are doing. And he suffer much, did he bok national when he is as deads there does Aunt take his death of Main is waiting for this letter to take it to the office of I was write more I have been to hurned I been you can't read at if we have been to hurned I been you can't read at write more I have been to hurned I been you can't read at is have been to hurned I been you can't read at Main is waiting for this letter to the first of fice of I was write more I have been to hurned I been you can't read at if he had at the family of Just

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Title: Letter to Elisa, unsigned from Luckamute

Date: April 1854

Transcription:

Luckamute Apr 1854

Dear Elisa;

It is a little more than a year since we left our homes and you, and all the rest of our dear friends, and started on that almost endless journey to this great land of Redskins, and wildcat.

But luckily we all reached in safety as you have long since heard; no doubt. This great journey with its numerous inconveniencies, and dangers; take man, and beast, through a material change yea and even woman it seems to arouse and set to work all the selfish and beastly passions, a natural consequence, when all restrictions are taken from over them

We reached Elijah's on the 10th day of Aug with our two little ones. Robert was just a week old, he was born on the Cascade Mts on the 3d of Aug

We stayed with Elijah 3 weeks, and then started (excuse this blot for I was killing a musketo on my hand and made the pen give down a little too much ink) up country about two days drive from E's while on the road Mr Hutchinson took the ague and a few days after we stopped & took it also. there we were both sick with our little babe four weeks old and living in a house without door floor or chimney and cracks in the wall large enough for a dog to creep through. well I had several hard shakes and then got well but Mr Hutchinson had it five months

June 24 1854

Dear eliza

you see by the previous page that I have in days of yore commenced a letter to you. But I have almost forgotten what I had intended to write, no difference, all has probably been written previous to the date of that and this even the crying of the babes of trouble

Excuse me for taking the same sheet poverty told to me you wonder what the reason is that we do not write more positive and tell you all about the country and how each one is satisfied. Well in reason one reason is we dare not write the truth and conscience wont let us write lies. So we write nothing. Perhaps I am mistaken maybe we dont know the whole truth and are afraid to write a part, lest we be mistaken and thrown in the lie. But Eliza what I am now going to say to you, pray take for the truth to the best of my judgement

We are all well and all if the kin folks except Berry Smith he has had something like a white swelling on one of his legs his doctor says it is worse if such a thing can be. I have not heard from him since a week ago last monday. Eliza Mother and I went to see him we think to doubtful whether he even get well Mother told me that he said if he died he did not want to be buried here and if he ever gets well he intends to go back to Illinoise.

Mother is grieving herself to death about leaving home she has failed so much that she hardly looks like the same person. you must write to her particularly, she feels bad because there is nothing written to her. She thinks if she could write she would not treat you all so. you know it makes one feel more like they were remembered if their name is mentioned. I am shure this letter will do you more good, than if your name had not been mentioned. The day before yesterday Mary Ann came to see us for the first time. She taked so much about Monmouth and the folks there that I could almost think myself there. She is the worst whipped woman you ever saw she says she wanders that she could be so blended to her own interest. She says if they do not go back to Monmouth it will be Ira'a fault.

Pauline has grown more since she left home than she had for several years before. she looks considerably like a woman and every hair on her head is full of ambition. she begins to talk of Silks, Spanish, Saddle young lawyers etc. But Giee's as the red man says are ad Swampum non comatum that is men of the first standing. I must tell you something about the Mrs. of Oregon they are from eleven to twenty years old from eight to twelve hands high and some a lilly white other as a light chesnut sorrel and dark brown hair dressed in all sorts of pretty prints from Geise and dirt. made in bright to come about half way between the wire bender and their delicate walkers. just before each wire bender is tied the leg of their dady's breeches or something similar now when all this rigging gets under good headway of a moderate walk it presents an aspects worthy of not

Now in my next, (if you do not chastize me for this) I will tell you about the Silks and nicer things I have omitted to give a specimen of their knowledge I will state one ease which came immediately under my own eye

One evening while sitting in the presence of one of the afore mentioned personages it came about that I asked her how old she was. she said she did not know though she thought she was about sixteen her husband spoke and told what year she was born. She was near twenty I think Oregon will sometime be a very pleasant place to live. the folks will very soon become aristocratic though an account of the wealth and beauty of the valley there are a great many rich men here

it appears we are destined for years to mingle in one common herd with the sap heads of every country and clime schools and society are in the lowest degree. The climate is very different to what I expected. it has been very cold this summer we have been obliged to keep a good fire all the time and sleep under three or four covers every night.

Our gardens are backward. we have not had any vegetables yet except lettuce. times are very hard, there is very little money in circulation this makes it very hard for new comers to take a start. I must tell you about our camp meeting which commenced two weeks ago last thursday and lasted until the next tuesday morning we heard some good sermons though there was but very few conversions. they ?? Presbyterians there is more of that denomination than any other in this vicinity. though I speak with some uncertanity? for I have never heard the numbers of any but they seem to be in the lead if you ever get this letter I wish you would answer it and tell us all the news tell me all about that you are doing what improvements the childen have made tell Laura? to write to me tell me what has become of ??

your affectionate sister

Elizabeth M.B. Hutchinson

5th [no other date listed]

Somehow I dont feel in a spirit for writing but I must say a little more to you. I wish you would go to [?] place and look at all the flowers and shrubbery which mother and I have planted there with our own hands, and tell us about them. go to the graves and look at hem for us. I know this will be a pleasure to you for the remains of that good old mother of yours lie there Oh, how often do I think of her and you and all the rest there but alas it is to me as though my Soul had fled to another world and was looking back to through time regretting my evil thoughts and deeds. there is this difference I am still on earth (I was obliged to pause and think how near I was to its edge before I could proceed) and can ask my fellow creatures and my God to forgive all these wrongs. this I cheerfully do. Will you grant it!

And last of all will you go in the east room below stairs and the west room above and think of me for within these walls many a cheerful and hearty laugh has busted forth from a happy and careless heart which is now far far away throbbing with care and great anxiety for the welfare of others which are a thousand times more innocent

Go in that old kitchen and the west room and below stairs look in the corner next the dining room and what immages do you see there! Ah! I need not ask it is one which will never fade from your mindseye until death shall have transplanted you and her in the garden of paradise never to be torn away by the rude hand of time but there to dwell in happiness forever with its author.

Since writing the above Douglass Butler cam here direct from Isaac Smith's he says Berry is better he is able to walk about the house the rest of the family are all well.

Mother is spending this week with Elijah, Ira, Eliza and me. We expect her here this morning if the maid would wait I would wait until she comes so that she might put something in my letter She sends her love so I put it in.

give my love to all your family and particularly to John tell him I will write some to him in Mr. Hutchinsens letter I have no more to time to write though I quit reluctantly.

Your loving Sister

Lissie

Addition to letter

Dear Matilda,

I have said all to Eliza that I know about the kin folks. But I must say to you that I have not forgotten you. I looked at that little lock of hair a while ago but could not see her whose temples it once adorned no it was only the reflected immage. write to me and tell me all about what you are doing, whether you have pieced any quilts, what you have done with the tenas trunk, what do you keep in it, how many new dresses have you got, who does Emma Whitman have for beau,

Wednesday morning;

W.B. Ground has just received a letter from one of the Turner boys stating the death of Uncle William the sad accident of Granvill getting his arm broke this is very distressing news to us. poor old uncle I suppose his soul has take its flight to another world you must write and tell us all about what he said before he died, where he is buried and what the family are doing. Did he suffer much, did he look natural when he was dead, how does Aunt take his death [M or M] is waiting for this letter to take it to the office or I would write more I have been so hurried I fear you cant read it if not send it back and will write you another. Reluctantly bid you good-bye

Your friend

Lissie