



8-18-1853

Letter from John W. H. Baker to Julia Ann Baker, 1853 Aug. 18

John W. H. Baker

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New York, Aug. 18th 1853

My dear wife

I thought I would try and write you a few lines tonight ere I retire. It is now near 10 o'clock and I have had quite a working day of it. I have been to the Crystal Palace and looked it over as well as I could in the short space of four hours. I may say that it is quite a wonderfull exhibition. Still the arrangement is no where near complete and will not be for a long time to come. I was most pleased with the representation of our own Country at the palace although the French and ^{German} Roman are very splendid. I met Carlos Dyer in the street very unexpectedly this morn and he has accompanied me in my ramblings during the day. I am exceedingly blest with friends and acquaintances so far since I left Home. I saw ~~the~~ Mr. Chellis and wife, Mr. Breck and wife and Samuel Bean the younger in the city today and was very much pleased to see them. I tried to get them to stop untill to-morrow and go down to the wharf and look at my quarters on the Illinois (the vessel in which I have engaged my passage). I shall cross at Panama and think from all that I can learn that the Isthmus Route is the best one. They have certainly a very nice boat and I shall feel quite safe in her--I shall try and get my miniature to-morrow and will send it to you by Mr. Dyer, wwho will be in the city untill Monday next. -- But good-bye for to-night. I will finish this hereafter -- I am going to retire.

Friday night, 9 o'clock

I have just finished repacking my trunk and carpet bag and find

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that I am pretty well filled with my necessary articles -- I have been over to Brooklyn and took tea with James H. Parmelee & wife instead of going Wednesday last as I expected. I postponed by visit to tea untill this day -- I expect to meet Mary at the Boat tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock -- I have engaged our passage on the Illinois and pay \$250 each. This line is the Panama Route. Mr. Dyer is still in the city and says he will be down to the Ship when we sail. We are to start to-morrow at 2 o'clock. I shall send you my miniature with this line which I obtained today. It was taken by Mr. Root who is considered a first rate artist, perhaps as good as any in the city. I was obliged to sit a little to one side on account of the sore on my lip so that you do not get a front view, but Dyer and Parmelee think it is a good picture and I think you will like it as well in this way as any other. I forgot to pay Mr. Spaulging for bringing me over to Windsor and I want you to make it right with him for me -- I am feeling quite resigned to my prospect and think I must make the best of the hardships of our separation, hoping that by the mercy and goodness of God we may be permitted to meet again on some day not far distant. Give my kind regards to Oliver & Jane and to all the family and friends who may inquire for me. I wish you to write me so that I shall get it by the next mail after I go out. Direct to Mokelumne Hill, California. I shall feel as anxious to hear from you and the children as you can be to hear from me. So write and write everything. With this I must bid you goodnight.

From your Husband

John W. H. Baker