

# Charles Rossiter Hoppin

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*Some of His  
Letters Home*  
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1849 - 1863

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As written to his family in Niles, Michigan,  
following his immigration to California in 1849

PRIVATELY PRINTED BY JAMES HAMILTON MOFFETT  
(SON-IN-LAW) IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA • 1948

CHARLES ROSSITER HOPPIN was born in Georgetown, New York, March 29, 1828. His parents were Thaddeus Hoppin ( -1856) and Tamar Lincoln (Daniels) Hoppin (1790-1881). Children of Thaddeus and Tamar: Nathan (1814-1877), Clarissa (1815-1907), Maria (1819-1881), John (1821-1892), Thaddeus (1823-1880), Charles (1828-1903), Matilda ( - ), George ( - ), and Henry (1833-1890). In 1849, at the age of 21 years, Charles Rossiter crossed the plains to California. In 1874 he married Emily Anna Bacon in Niles, Michigan, returning to the West where the following children were born: Charles Frederic Hoppin (Sunday, November 21, 1875; Fort McDermit, Nevada), Harriet (Thursday, August 23, 1877, Yolo, California), Edward John (Saturday, January 4, 1879; Yolo), Edith Caroline (Tuesday, October 4, 1881; Yolo), Charles Rossiter (Saturday, October 4, 1884; Yolo), Dorothea Helen Maria (Sunday, September 22, 1895; Yolo).

Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation of the original letters, now in the possession of Harriet Hoppin Kergel, Woodland, California, have been followed. In a few instances where the letters were illegible or damaged, ellipses have been used. Set in eleven-point Linotype Baskerville. Two hundred copies printed, of which this is copy No. **90**

Sacramento Valley Nov 25th 1849

Dear Father

After a long and tiresome journey I take the first opportunity of addressing you a few lines and informing you of my situation my health &c. We arrived at Lassens Ranch on the 19th and was glad I can assure you to see the signs of civilization after being on the plains six month enduring fatigue hardship and privations known only to the weary emigrant who passes over this disolute dreary and almost worthles portion of this western world. Although my health has been generally better that when at home yet no money or inducement could be held out to try this trackless desert again. The dull monotony of the wild sage the vacant stares of the wily Indian the sharp crack of the rifle in pursuit of the timid and phantom like game the noise and voiciforations of the oxdriver urging his half famished and faithful animals along, the midnight howl of the wolf the constant care and anxiety by day and night, are sights and scenes which I hope will never be recalled save by the midnight dream or numbered among the unpleasant thoughts of the past. We have generally got along very well considering the amount of emigration and scarcity of feed &c &c. We were inducēd to take a new route from the Humbolt river about 80 miles above the sink of the same, taking a northwestern course until we reached the summit of Sierra Nevada mountains and thence taking a south course down the upper Sacramento 75 miles leaving it to the right striking through mountains whose peaks were covered with perpetual snow striking the Sacramento at the mouth of deer Creek. The last 60 miles without grass over the most precipitous and rocky road that I ever saw. It was actually leaping from one rock to another with scarcely a place level enough to pich a tent. There has been a large amount of suffering especially on the last part of the trip. From a want of provision. Many while on the Platt threw over board a larg share of their provision in order to lighten their load the distance being longer than they supposed they were reduced almost to a state of starvation some subsisting on diseased and poor oxen left by emigrants to die and their carcasses to be devoured by the raven the well fed wolf and the starving Emigrant. But this is now remydieed by the goverment relief party, which we met about 150 miles from the valley. There has been a

considerable of scurvy on the last part of the route. It is a disease occasioned by immoderate use of salt provisions without vegetables a want of cleanliness the use of alkali waters &c. It commences with sharp and acute pains in the limbs sometimes accompanied by dysentery in its first stages its later symptoms are the teeth become loose the gums turn black the chords of the legs become contracted, the skin turns purple and the countenance wears a pale sickly appearance and a person becomes debilitated and emaciated. It is a disease to be cured by the use of acids and a vegetable diet. Russel and J. N. Chipman both have this disease, but think there is no danger now, but if we had been three weeks later, or more, into this valley it might have terminated fatally. For the last month I have been the only well one of the four. Judge Chipmans man (William Hix) has been sick all of the way since leaving the Frontier (and by the way a sickly youth in any shape you put him). And the Judge a cross, crabid, notional, selfish, pevish, pettish, outlandish old wreck of a Cassopolis Judge. Perhaps you may think me harsh but if you knew what I know and had seen what I have seen you would call me mild at least for a boy who has had his ideas and sensibilities blunted by a six monts trip across the plains with a disagreeable and perplexing man. I have had no difficulty with him however I speak of him as a man on the plains. Russel wished me to have you say his Brother at Niles that he is not now in a condition to write but will as soon as his health will admit of it which he thinks will be in a few days. The trip has been a hard one for me in point of labor but perhaps none the worse for it now coming into the mines. One thing is certain that I should Thankful to the ever watchful eye of Him that has guided me through the barren desert without acciden and in the enjoyment of good health. I want that you should write often and let me know all about your health and the health of Matilda and all. I cannot give you any discription of this valley or of the mines in this letter. We are now on our way to the mines and I hope to write often home. I of course have not heard from John yet as I have not been here long enough to get any clues to him yet. Yours in haste

C. R. Hoppin

N B please direct all communications to Sacramento City instead of San Francisco.

Yours C R H

Goodyears Bar May 19th

Dear Father

Some time Having elapsed since I wrote my last and Having an immediate opportunity of sending Home by Mr. Howard Holland and Meyer I address you a few lines. Although without having . . . one solitary letter from home since I left John . . . received two letters. All news I get from Niles I get through the other Niles boys. Henry Compton received a paper from Niles (the Niles Republican) in which I saw a few lines upon the death of Matilda Hoppin. Though this is not unexpected to me yet to hear of her death without having any account from Home of the time or the manner in which she died renders the unhappy news more painful To a Brother who has never before shed a tear over a near kindred or felt the pangs of sorrow over a loved and Cherished sister. Be the circumstances of Her death what they may He that gave her hath taken her away and He that doeth all things well Hath taken her home to Himself I hope and trust. Although separated from her at the time of her death yet I hope and pray that I may so live that I may meet Her in that land of bliss where separation sickness and sorrow never comes.

Since my last letter we left our old Camp and moved on to the North Yuba about the 20th of Feb. In coming here we travelled over snow from 15 to 20 feet deep. The trail is only accessable by pack mules it being a mountaineous trail from the summit of the mountain to the bar it is estimated at three miles being very steep and precipitous most of the way. Provision when we first Came here sold readily at high . . . flour \$2.00 per lbs pork at \$2.25 sugar and co . . . he same, but the prices are greatly reduced the snow having gone off and a good many engaged in the business. John myself Mr. Woodruff and M Duncan are engaed in hauling provision here. We run two teems in the valley and pack in the mountains. We use about 30 animals mules and oxen. Mr. Duncan runs the teems with a hired man, John packs aso with a hired man. Wages by the month are from \$100 to \$200 by the month, about \$150 about general price for good hands. Mr. Woodruff tends to the store. I am engaged in mining. I will give you our bill of prices so that you may know what it costs miners to live in this golden land. Flour by the sack 60 cts lb

pork 80 cts suga \$1.00 Coffee \$1.00 butter cheese \$2.00 lb Hams \$1.25 per lb salt \$1.00 Saleratus \$3.00 pickles in quart jars \$4.00 crackers or hard bread 90 cts liquors \$4.00 a quart boots \$30.00 Shoes \$8.00 flannel shirts \$8.00 good coyduy pants \$15.00 Socks by the pair \$2.00 Hickory shirts \$2.00 all other thing in the same proportion. We think that we can make fifty cents on a pound from Sacramento City Here. We intend running in 2,000 lbs a week. The cost of animals is high, good mules ranging from \$175 to \$200. Cattle by the yoke \$150 to \$200. We occasionally loose an animal by straying the pastures being very extensive in this country, we are at great deal of expense which none but a californian knows such as ferragers Herdsmen bill &c But I think that we shall do well at this business with ordinary luck in fact there is no business in this country if . . . ried on rightly but what a man can realize handsome profits and real dust for pay. I will now give you some account of my branch of business. I have two partners in mining, we have two claims near our store one I have partially worked out but cannot work now on account of the high water and I do not expect to work any for six weeks yet to come the stream being so high that it is impossible to do anything. I have made a day from one of my claims from 1 to 3 oz per day and I think the two claims will average an ounce an ahalf to two ounces. There being about 2 months work for three men. In one we are turning the bed of the stream and I think that our chance is good there. For the next two months I intend spending most of my time a prospecting for gold I am satisfied that there is rich and extensive dry diggins in this vicinity. The great difficulty now is snow there being large quantities of is that does not melt till late in July. I have allready travelled over these banks of snow with my pick shovel and pan with provision enough to last me 10 days cooking utensil which consist of a frying pan and tin cup blankets &c in fact all things that are the comforts of a miner and this he packs with him wherever he goes, over mountains which you at home would think almost impossible for man to ascend without carrying his whole subsistence with him yet many is the time I laid down with snow all around me after traveling all day long with my coat for a pillow and the clear blue arched Heaven for my shelter fatigued and Hungry. The gold Hunter partake of breat and meat and lays down to

rest sleeping sounder wrapped up in his blanket than the man at Home with his feather bed and pillow and with all of the comforts of a Home. Tomorrow morning I again start a prospecting. Although I have found nothing yet I think However I shall meet with some success the snow having gone off so that I can prospect to a certainty. I am in pursuit of dry diggings that were worked in last fall by four men if I find them in time I expect to make enough to start me home this fall. As to what I have made all ready Johns also is invested goods animals &c I think that we and John have made about 3,000 since we have come to the Yuba. I regret that I cannot send you some dust but our business requires all the money that we can get. M Holland, Howard, and Meyer will go to Niles and if you see them they can tell you all of the news as they have been with us all winter and the spring. P. S. John has just arrived from the city and brings no news from home. I have concluded to borrow \$100 and send the same by Holland Co. All I have to say that I wish that I could send more, but it is now late and I must Close  
C. R. Hoppin

P. S. I want you to write and write often. You cannot imagine the eagerness that I look for letters from home. I am in good health and spirits, think that I may do well this Summer. C. R. H.

May 20. John has not time to write but sends Home by Holland and Co. \$100 sends his love to you all. C. R. H.

Goodyears Bar. June 16th 1850

Dear Father.

it is sabbath today and I think that I cannot improve it hours better than in writing a few lines Home. Since my last to you by Holland, Howard & Co nothing has transpired of any consequence Here. John and Myself are well. (And also all other Berrien Co men excepting Mr. T. B. Willard who has been unwell for a few days.) I am now 15 months from home and not one letter yet. You cannot imagine how anxious I am to hear from you I think most certainly you must have written but there is some delay somewhere. John is now on his way to the Vernon and Sacramento City for the purpose of getting letters, and I hope he may



succeed as a letter softens the absence of home especially to a Miner in this homeless region. Sabbath days here are spent by miners mostly a hunting prospecting for gold and gambling. As to morals very little attention is paid to it here. There is a Gentleman whose camp is near ours who is quite an intelligent man rather steady in his habits for California, gambles some also drinks occasionally pretty freely. This Gentleman I was informed the other day has assumed the title in one of the western states of the Rev Clergy. This is no new thing in California. I am told from good authority that there are several methodist ministers at the City and Sanfrancisco whose business is now dealing Montana and playing at these different games for the purpose of gain. Such is the human heart such is the picture that exhibits itself on hundreds that come to this Country. Take men away from beneath the sound of the gospel and their influence in many cases among the Heathen portion of the population of this county is ten times worse than all their superstitious notions of a deity. Here is a great field for missionary labour. Men come here for gold this is their only object their stay is short, but few of them leave here without becoming a Gambler a profane swearer and all its trains of attending evils immediately following. I have not yet heard one sermon since I left the states I having been in the mines constantly while here. There is preaching at the City and Sanfrancisco regularly and I believe now at Marysville. There is no great amount of crime committed here. Generally speaking good order and harmony exist in the mines with the exception of occasional a fight over a Montana table. We have on the bar an Alcalda or Justice of the peace a sheriff and constable. Our Alcalda or he who deals out justice keeps a gambling house, whether he is a gambler by profession or not I cannot say. Of the other two officers I know nothing of as I never saw them. You may be anxious to know something of my agreement with the firm of A. B. and R. M. Chipman. I now consider that the contract between that firm and myself is null and void. They not having fulfilled their part of the contract with me. I spent one month's time taking care of him before his sending me to the city. He gave me twenty five dollars to travel 150 miles at a time when it was impossible for a team to get along without miring down the rains having set in and no tents I was obliged to sleep

out constantly, packing my blankets and clothes on my back. Meals were two dollars except in the City. Without recalling any more of my first initiatory exercises in packing I will simply say that I arrived at Johns camp with one boot on and the other in hand I then having the scurvy so that it was almost impossible for me to get along. I have no disposition on my part but dealing with them fairly and honorably but had they have paid my expenses last winter when it was impossible of me to earn my board and all expenses during the summer. They could not make one cent unless I have success beyond my expectation. A mans expense in the mines is what consumes his purse. I now think of paying him for my fitout across the plains and this is all that I shall do. Judge Chipman nor his brother never would have got through without great suffering and even death if it had not been for me. I know not How Mr. A. B. Chipman considers the bargain between myself and the firm, or what Judge Chipman may write to him about it, but one thing is certain that they shall not reap the benefits of my labor here without any compensation for it. John saw Judge Chipman some four weeks since, he considers that I am holden to his brother still, but this is the least of my trouble in Calafornia. June 23d John has returned from the City and brings you letter of March 29th in which we learn that you have written several letters and also sending Niles papers to us regularly. Of all news in Calafornia this is welcomed as the Happiest by us. Although it is fraught with painful intelligence. News from the states is sought after with the same interest by miners as it here as intelligence from them at home. I notice an extract in your letter from a sacramento paper speaking of a company of six men who are working quartz and making \$230 per day. Now all such reports as this you cannot place any confidence in, that there are some reports of this character that may be true I do not deny. I have placed some confidence in the reports and have been on several wild goose chases while on the Yuba. I will give you some of the reports in circulation among miners here. (All of this information I have got as supposed from correct sources.) One report is with regard to a certain gold lake in this vicinity. One man has been to these diggings says that he could take 3 oz to the pan and average it in nine out of ten. This man guides out a company of 100 men \$50 each but his

searches for such diggings has proved a failure like all other reports of this kind. Hundreds of miners have been running over the mountains in the pursuit of these golden tales. As to your notice of the reports of \$250 per day from the manner in which it was taken I think that it is entitled to little credit but it is now late and I must close.

C R Hoppin

I shall endeavor to write to some of you twice a month and Hope to hear from you oftener. Please excuse all mistakes as I have written in a Hurry with a dozen men talking smoking &c.

John Bryan, Henry Dana, Mrs Duttonson are well. Henry Dana is at work at \$150 per month on the river. He asked John advice about coming to the mines. John told him to stay where he was at present and whenever there was a chance for him here he would let him know. He can come up with our train of mules any time he chooses. C. H.

I will give you some explanation how William Hix was left by Judge Chipman in my next. He is here and was with Chipman during the winter.

Aug 11th 1850

Dear Mother

An opportunity now presents itself of sending immediately home by Henry Compton and I hasten to write a few lines. As Henry is going to mines and as you will see him he can tell you more than I can write. John and myself are well. John left the store this morning with 20 pack mules on his trip down, John has not time to write, says that he will write soon. The mail has just come again and no letter as usual. John told me to say to our folks that they are very negligent in writing or are not particular in sending them for the monthly mails. As to our business prospects they are not as favorable as they were, prices have fallen and trade is dull. There is a great deal of uncertainty about any kind of business here. Think that I can make \$2500 perhaps \$3000 if we have no uncommon bad luck. Our dam has proved a failure, like most others owing to the failure of the beds of the streams. Many miners will make little or nothing, of course will effect all

kinds of business. The Emigrants are suffering to an alarming extent this season, the cause is a general scarcity of provition. There is a relief party gone out from the city. The citizens raised \$30000 [?] for their relief but this will relieve but a comparative few. Many private trading parties have gone out four [flour?] worth \$3.00 per pound, those that have no means give a horse for 10 lbs of four [flour?] sometimes five. Many subsist upon mule meat. Many when they arrive are sadly disappointed here as to their golden prospects. Many wish themselves back to their homes. When I shall come home is more than I can say I think that I shall remain here the coming winter. Our business is such that we cannot close without a sacrafice. As to a Calafornia life I am heartily sick of it, this laying upon the ground cooking your own meals mending your own clothes washing &c is what I dont like especially when I work hard all day. Think that I shall know how to appreciate the luxuries and comforts of home, but as I have to go into the mountains to-day in pursuit of a lost man I must hasten to a close. Excuse my scribbling as I have written in a hurry with a half a dozen men standing about me. Give my respects to Everts and Wife from you affectionate Son

Charles R Hoppin

Sacramento City, March 9th, 1851

Dear Father

Your letter of Nov 24th and Dec 4th came to hand by the last mail and was gladly received by us. Was glad to hear that you were all well. Since my last letter written some two weeks after the departure of Charles Duncombe nothing has transpired of interest. Brother John has gone to Scotts river distance Northe from the City about four hundred miles expect him back in a few days. Went up with a train of mules loaded with provisions. We still keep up our store at the North-Yuba. But shall not make as much as we anticipated last fall owing to general depression in prices since last fall, and its being a very dry winter. We have had scarcely any rain as yet, and not much prospect of any at present. Unfortunatly for us it is one of the dry season of this Country. Last winter it was impossible to

travel in the sacramento valley on account of mud and water. But this season it is perfectly dry. All streams as low as they were last fall, which is something very uncommon in this country. Feed or grass is very good as present, being about six or eight inches high. But will dry up this season very early. Flowers are in full bloom and every-thing assumes the appearance of spring. You ask me to give you some description of our managing a Ranch. It is simply herding stock, but in a different way from anything in the states. As Calafornia pastures are much larger than those of the states and not bounded by fences or ditches, it is necessary to have a good horse to ride. We get all of the stock together evry day and water and count them, and if any are missing hunt them up. If we want to catch an animal we have to drive him into a corral, a small yard with a high fence around and he is then caught by lassoing him. Out of 66 head of horses and mules we have only three or four that we can catch in the open plain, even old american horses that have crossed the plains and run two or three months are as bad as Calafornia horses to catch. Had rather run in to the corral a band of Calafornia horses than American horses that are fat, and feel well. Sometimes times have all of the fast riding that I want to do. Generally in driving horses or mules we have to drive very fast generally upon a gallop and sometimes upon run. We ride horses much faster here than at home, in fact we are obliged to do it. We change horses every day and sometimes twice a day owing to how hard we ride. Calafornia saddles are much ahead of all yankee invention, in fact riding an american saddle a herding stock is dangerous. If a horse stumbles and falls with a Cal- saddle you go clear of the saddle and if your horse jumps or attempts to throw you it is a hard matter to do so if you are once firmly seated in the saddle. Cal- Bridle Bits are much ahead of common bits although they look clumsy and the joints made to work loose yet you can guide a horse with the slightest movement of the reins. Cal- horses guide by simply moving the rein against the side of their neck, will stop from a run almost in an instant, in fact a well trained Cal- horse knows his business and will do his part even without touching the rein. The only lassoing a horse on the plain I ever done or attempted to do was in trying to drive into the corral a Cal horse which had run until fat. For some time he had been

a dodging us and leading of other horses until we thought it best to catch in some ways. Accordingly we drove a band of horses to the Coral and he as usual broke from us, he being too much for our tired horses. We drove in the remainder and caught three of the best horses we had and started after him. We could easily head him off but in spite of all we could do he would dodge us. Finding it useless to try to drive him into the corral, John said let him go, but being so much trouble in leading the other animals off I told I would catch him then or run him off the ranch. Having changed horses, I took after him with (reata) or lasso rope. After chasing about half an hour longer I succeeded in throwing the rope over his neck. When caught he was perfectly gentle. Covered with foam and sweat I changed the saddle to him and he soon was perfectly docile. Spaniards are the greatest horse man I ever saw. They will take a wild horse that never has been rode and ride him without a bridle and go out and catch a wild bull and tie throw him and tie him so that he is perfectly helpless, but enough of this. We have received two letters from Chas. Duncombe since he left. He had the misfortune to loose his carpet bag which contained all of the letters he had. We sent several letters by him, and a few specimens which I presume he has with him. The \$500 that we sent by him you will have received ere this. At the time he left we thought it best for Thaddeus to come here. He probably will not come perhaps all for the best, times having changed a great deal since last fall. In hopes to make enough to help you all, so that at least you may be out of debt and not have to work and slave and dig as we have done. One hundred dollars of the money that we sent we wrote in the letters that was lost was to have been for the purpose of clothing You and Mother and Maria, and if Thaddeus wished to come to this country to enable him to do so. Should he not come use the money for whatever you want. Am in hopes to send money enough home soon to enable you and mother to go East and visit your relatives this summer, should the boys have no urgent use with all of the money, and we should not send any home in time I want that you should go East with Mother. I have been having the chills occasionally this winter but have been a herding the stock most of the time. The warm weather coming on, I have hired a man in my place for short time and am

doctering, am in hopes to get over this entirely. Henry Dana I saw day before yesterday, is well, and said that he was then agoing to work at \$75 per month. I want you to write me often if convenient, always glad to hear from home. From your affectionate son,

C R Hoppin

Cache Creek. April 15th 1851

Dear Father

Your letter of the 2nd of Feb came to hand by the first of the month steamer and was gladly received by us. Was glad also to learn of the safe arrival of Duncombe at Niles. John and Myself are well. John returned from Salmon River some ten days since, has now gone up to the store on Yuba with a train of mules. As it is quite late in the evening and haveing been riding all day I am compelled to write a hurried letter as I am obliged to send it in the morning as I may not be favoured with an other opportunity before the mail steamer leaves. Nothing has transpired of interes since my last letter, have plenty of riding to do, am constantly on the go. I had just returned from Yuba with a train of mules when John arrived from Trinidad Bay. He sold all of his mules and saddles and load at liveing profits, got no mamoth prices. Had he have been two weeks sooner he would have brought back double of the money that he did. Things or Business at the store (on Yuba) is at present assuming a more favourable form than most time during the winter. The statement of Mr Duncan with regard to the amount of goods or worth of goods at the store is all true, or was true at the time that he left as we thought but has since proven far otherwise not from any mismangement or error in business, but has been an uncommon winter for packing. Instead of the trail being closed up by snow in the mountains, it has been open all winter (snow two feet deep, usually from 10 to 20 feet deep). With the great reduction in prices since the time we bought our goods, and men working for small profits, in trading we have had a hard matter to make our selves whole on the stock that we had on hand.

Yet still consider ourselves lucky. Business transactions show generally that where there is one man (or trader in the mines) that has made a dollar there is two that have lost their all. But business generally is assuming a settled form at present. Sac- City is full of goods. Merchants all anxious to trade, some that are not making a liveing business I think. At the time that Duncan left we had about 300 head of american cattle, we intended to buy about 100 head more but owing to the want of funds we did not buy them. So that you get a pretty high picture from what Dunan has told you about our business. I sometimes feel rich and sometimes poor (if may so speak). All business operations are very uncertain in this country. It is hard to give you any correct idea of business in this country unless one is here and sees and tries it himself. Our cattle are fattening very fast, they all look fine. We have had some rain since my last letter and grass is abundant, have no fears with regard to scarcity of feed now. Have some fine saddle Horses. Tell the boys that we have one that is a *fast nag*. We not being betting characters one of our neighbor ranch men has her and is open for bets from \$100 to \$500, has a race on her saturday purse \$200 besides large amount of side bets. Horse racing is quite frequent here among Southern men here. With regard to Thaddeus coming to this country I am not prepared to advise him to come now. If he does not come with Duncan I think that he had better stay at home at present. At the time that we wrote by D- there were chances that he might have done well. But all kinds of Business have changed much since that time. He perhaps might come here and make more in one year than in two or three years at home. But the cost of comeing and returning (if he returned when we do) and the risk of health &c. I cannot advise him to come at present. Should there be any investment that we may see during our stay here that we may think our object we will send for him. Thing are approaching the hard old way of making money in the states very fast. Yet There is plenty of gold diggings that will pay from Three to four dollars per day. Yet counting a mans expenses, and loss of time he makes but little, still there some that make ounces from day to day. To say when we shall close up our business I am unable to set any certain time. But calculate to return home some time next winter or spring if possible. Should I live and have good success



in Business I should like to have Henry go to school as much as he can be spared from home. Was glad to learn that he is attending school hope he will try and get an education. Money is no object compared with a studious and well dicipined mind. Tell Nathan that his expedition with the steers and wheelbarrow would be a good one if has got them . . . broke to the *vehicle*. Think that it would be *Some* in the mountains especially if the steers should happen to *vamouse* the *Ranch*. Also please to say to George and Thaddeus if they are in the vicinity of home That if there is any paper and ink in Niles or that they could get hold of I should be *pleased to hear from them*. Very happy to receive *one or more communications* from *brothers* while in this country. I think the advice with regard to the *honesty* of our *partners* and a word about *Hammond* all good. But did I think them (or my partners) dishonest men I should sell out chap my interest in the concern. As I will have nothing to do *knavery* and *dishonesty*. Mr. Duncan had told me all about his smuggling goods to Canada and being chased by the police officer &&cc perhaps could have made a better selection of a partner had I been in the states but from choice would take him rather than any of the *crowd* that come from *Niles*. Probably there is some of those that have returned that think that *they* might be to much for the *Hoppin* boys. As yet Niles men have not helped me any in business far otherwise out. I must close this. So good night.

From your affct Son

C. R. Hoppin

Sac- City Sept 29th 1851

Dear Brother

George your letter of July 5th has been duly received, and I now find an opportunity to reply. We are all well. Thaddeus is with the stock in Pattalona valley about a hundred miles distant from the City. I left John in the mountains day before yesterday. I am with Duncombe running two teams in connexion with the mules. Trade is very fair, pays small profits. Was glad to hear from you and that everything about *Home* was all right. I

have had a talk with John about purchasing Mr. Grubs farm. We should like much to buy the place for you but it is impossible for us to send the money home before January next. We have only about \$7000 on hand at present and we are continually buying goods and we shall buy some stock this fall. We still keep our cattle on hand. We think of stopping packing in about three weeks when we shall look up a place to butcher our cattle so soon as we do this we shall Have some surplus funds on hand and then we can send you home the amount required. We might rent the money here but interest is so exhorbitant that it would be no object. If Mr. Grubs will not wait per-haps you could hire the money at the bank by giving good security. If you can we can forward you the money sometime in January I think without fail. Do whateve you may think best under these circumstance. David and Sac Grey are in the city and are well. I saw Mr. Willard a few days ago a short time, was in a hurry, have since learned that he is on his way home. I also saw Ezekiel Denniston he was on his way home but saw him only a moment. I think that we shall close up our business so that we can come home some time next summer or fall. If I was in possession of Mr. Owles \$15000 I should start soon and take the *new route* home but as it is I think that I shall stay awhile longer hoping that I may cover that amount but consider it extremely doubtful. At all events should like to have the Grubs farm so that if I should get *broke* (as saying is) I could have a *home* to go to. If I do get broke think Twomblys way of settling up with his Creditors is a *short* way to say nothing more about it. I dont know anything of interest, we still have about 300 head of american cattle 50 mules 30 horses comprise our stock. Have been trying to make some-thing this summer, but dont know how we shall succeed depend some upon the winters trade. About the money you want sent home to settle with some of your Dr I will see John and have it sent home if he has not allready done it. Please let us know what you do about Grubs farm &c. John would have written home but could not get an opportunity will soon yours in haste.

From your Brother

C R Hoppin

I wrote to Chipman told him that I would give him \$250 to settle up with him told him that I would forward the money to you but have not done so as yet but shall as soon as possible.

C R H

Santa Rosa Valley Jan 25th 1852

Dear Father

Your letter of the 24th of Oct has long since come to hand, but missing opportunities to send without delay I have postponed writing from time to time, and I improve the present opportunity of writing a few lines. Br John, Thaddeus and myself are well. John and Mr. Woodruff are on Cache Creek at our old Ranch a selling Cattle. Duncombe and myself are in this valley herding a portion of the stock. Thaddeus is a ploughing and sowing Barley. Young grass is fine vegetation is much more forward than last season, all kinds of stock are doing well at this season of the year. American cattle sell readily at present at \$100 per head having advanced in price recently. We have just driven one hundred head of cattle to cache Creek and are now offering them for sale. Think that we shall be able to sell out by the first of April. Begin to think about home once more, hope to see you all once more, and partake of the pleasure of social intercourse under the *paternal* roof. John told me when I last saw him that he had purchased a draft of \$2000 and sent to George for purchasing the Grubs Farm.

We received a letter from the Everts in which he discusses at length on the business of Tailoring Ready made Clothing, houses, shops, their original value and present worth, The Chicken Business &c&c. He also speaks of getting his life insured and starting to Cal- He wants to buy the Twombly place among other things and go into the poultry business. As to his coming to Cal- I know not what to say. I think however that he had better remain at home untill we return home and then we will give him all the information we can. If he wishes to buy the Twombly place and settle down I for my own part am willing to buy it and give it to Him. I am sorry to see him in such difficulty with regard to money matters. For my own part I dont go

much on town property in Niles or in any kind of business in that vicinity or country excepting I take a partner and that I want of the Bloomer or Feminine Gender and if we can get into any kind of business that will *pay in that country* I may remain there, but if otherwise I think I shall *return to Cal- to remain*. You may think strange but I have been thinking of living in this country for some time I think it one of the most delightful and healthy climates in the world. All that is wanting is good society to make it a desirable place to live. I saw Sam Grey, Doc and John Gephart, Henry Dana a few days since all Niles people are well. There has been a large emmigration from that vicinity lately. Mr. John F. Porter has been keeping a hotel in Stockton. He has made \$1600, sunk it *over the left* for Mr. Henry Smith of St Joseph. Mr. Porter is now in sanfrancisco. Mr. H. Smith who was reputed to be rich is worth about \$2000. Generally speaking majority of men in this country are *poor* although it is a land of gold. There are quite a number of persons that think of returning when we do mostly old Bachelors all talk about getting married when they get home. Think *Female stock* will advance in *market*. If I return to this country I think of returning across the plains and bring stock Chiefly of cows and make a business of raising stock. I want if possible to have you ascertain the amount of stock the number of horses cows &c that cross the plains this season as I wish to know. I am sorry to see the *boys* so *uneasy* and *anxious* to *come* to this *Country*. Cal is making a *few* rich while it impoverishes the *many*. I received a letter from — Perkins the one that is in the Post Office in which he stated that he was a coming to the land of Gold and ask if he could get employment from me, should he come. Please say to him that I think of leaving for the states in a short time, but should I remain I would give him employment if possible. I have received several letters from Henry Jaminson, he has offered me partnership in business in Chicago. Henry thinks that there are some fine girls in Chicago and as a proof of his sincerity he has sent me a paper containing the news of his marriage to one of them. But enough of this. Please give my respects to all enquiring Friends.

From your affct Son

C. R. Hoppin

Santa Rosa Valley Cal Aug 1st

Dear Mother

I improve a few moments to write you a few lines. Brother John Thaddeus and myself are well and are together for a few days. Thaddeus health has improved very fast since I come down here. He says that his health is as good now as it was six years ago. John leaves for the City in the morning. Messrs Duncombe and Woodruff are also well. I am now herding Cattle in Santa Rosa valley. Our cattle are doing well, there are thousands of acres of wild oats that grow very stout here. We are Surrounded by spanyards but get along well with them. In this valley are numbers of bands of wild horses Deer Elk Antilope and all kinds of game. Thaddeus like the climate of this country very much. Thinks of remaining here some time but thinks that he will come home when we do. We are living in a tent now. Thaddeus is living with me, he is splitting out rails in the red woods as it is called here, a kind of timber that is similar to our cedar at home. Thaddeus has become a very Good Cook already. There are a great many settling in the county now, and making permanent home here. The climate is most delightful here, being in about 20 miles of the sea coast. We have a fine sea breeze during the day and cool nights. Henry Dana is in town and is well, is not doing much. He had better be at home. Cal- is no place for such a boy. We received a paper from Lebano giving an account of Aunts death, and also the loss of Franklins hous &c by fire. It seems that Franks is in the legislature. John says that the paper is from Maria. Please say to Mrs. Gray that we sent word to her Son that David and Ed- Bacon was a coming to this country. We have not seen him but hear that he is doing well. Good Milks bring about \$150 to \$200 in Sac City, fresh butter 75 cts per lbs. We are beginning to hear from the emigration. The emigration is very slight to this country this season. As it is getting quite late and I am some what fatigued I must close this letter. Tell George that I have received a letter from Chipman in which he wishes me to remit his portion of the money made by me during the first year. I told him that there was nothing due him at the end of the year after paying my expenses but I would give him \$200 to have no trouble about it and told him that I should remit enough

home to George to pay him and shall do so as soon as I can. Please give my respects to all enquiring Friends, from your affct Son

C. R. Hoppin

Sanfrancisco Jan 14th 1853

Dear Brother

Owing to bad weather high water and impassable roads I have been negligent about writing. Henry arrived some time since from Oregon. Did not like Oregon, came by land, had his horse shot by the Indians in the Klamath County. Henry and Nathan both say that they are well suited with Cal-. There has been more rain than there was in '49. Sacramento City has been overflowed for a long time and the surrounding Country. A great amount of stock has been drowned and mired this season. Have not seen Wood for a long time. Quite a number of mules have been lost at the Negro tent, and the trail has been closed for sometime. Owing to the high prices of provisions very few traders laid in a winters supply. Teams have stopped running and freights high, consequently a general scarcity of provisions in the mines. Flour is on the decline worth \$18 p cwt. American Beef cattle worth on foot from 20 cts to 25 ct per cwt. You ask me whether I am coming home this winter or not. I think that I shall start in about a month for the states. My intention is to return to salt lake with stock, think of Bringing cows and sheep. What think you of this, do you think it will be best. I am anxious to return and stay 3 or 4 months, but I dont see as I can if I Bring stock to this country. Am getting tired of Cal- life. I came to Sanfrancisco last night, and return this evening. I came down to see about the claim. I have seen Capt Halleck this morning and he says that all that is lacking to have our claim submitted before the Commissioners is the evidence of Mr Lease, an Alcalde at the time the grant was given. Halleck says that he is unable to say whether the majority of claims will be appealed or not it is with the United States district attorney at Washington whether they are appealed or not. I think that a strong effort will be made to appeal them, the only thing that I fear now is delay in the matter. Commissioner Wilson has been recalled by the Senate. Also the

law agent has left for the states, a new agent has been appointed in his stead. There has been any amount of suffering in the mines this season on account of scarcity of provisions, families subsisting on barley in many instances.

Thaddeus and myself are a Butchering at Yankee Jims, think of selling out if I return home. Henry and Nathan are a going to farming at Cache Creek, but owing to such an unusual amount of rain they have not done much. Ned . . . the darkey has just arrived and is at our camp at present. Mark Chipman is also there and is sick, has been unwell for a long time. Thaddeus thinks some of going to packing if we sell out. I think that I shall start in about a month for home without fail if nothing turns up more than I know of at present. So good Bye for the Present.  
Yours &c

Chas R Hoppin

Weber River Nov 27 1854

Sister Maria

Your letter I received about two weeks since and read it once, but being on a tramp and troubled with those sort of Pockets that have no bottom I never have been able to reach it again. But was glad to learn that you were all well, and to hear from home once more. Br John and Henry you have probably learned ere this have gone on to Cal- We thought it best to remain in this valley with a portion of our stock this winter. Cousin John is with me and two other men. One man and his wife who does the cooking and keeps house &c. I am situated about fifty miles North from the Great City of Mormonism on Weber River, also about 10 miles from Ogden City and ogden Hole. The mormons settlements are in compact form. Houses build of adobes or in burnt brick and usually join one another and enclosed in with a wall in *fort style*. They say for Protection from the Indians. But think that it is for another purpose also. Althoug to hear the Govenor Prophet priest and King talk he fear nothing notwithstanding he sleeps with a couple of Colts long sixes under his pillow constantly. These people set themselves as the church of the latter day *Saints* the *only true church* now on the *Earth*. They claim

to have the same power that the Apostles Bishops deacons had in Christ time namely the miraculous power of "casting out devils healing the sick open the eyes of the blind, unstop the ears of the deaf, the poison of the serpent shall not hurt them, &c. These *signs shall follow those that believe.*" Consequently all those that dont repent believe and be babtized *shall be damned.* You may think it strange that I have seen any number of old women that tell me that they have *certainly* have been *healed* by the *bishops* and also many *wonderful things about the Prophet.* If mormonism is right I pity we poor Gentiles. *Pollocks Hell* is to good a place for Gentils. The Missionaries have gone to the states for the last time to preach the gospel. If they dont hear the Woly Unided States is to be eternally damned, gates of mercy closed forever! So Maria you must look out that you hear and receive the word! This one of greatest Countries in the world for a wom-an to get a husband particularly so if they understand the rule in Fraction of *dividing a whole number into equal part.* One man is equal to from one to a dozen wives or as many as will support themselves or be supported. This thing is suffered by the Prophet so that in the *next world* a man may be able to choose a companion out of the number just fitted for him in *celestial Glory.* They say a woman can never attain to any degree of happiness in another world unless she have a *head*, a man without a wife can have no kingdom in the next World, his family being a Kingdom. Maria you must recollect that time flies and *you no head!* (excepting your own) to believe Mormonism. Now I tell them Im not much of a believer but have been unfortunate in this respect, but excuses avail nothing. Some fearful denunciations by the Prophet was revealed to him against the States, wars pestilence and Famine &c. Famine They think has already commenced. Their account of the drouth in the states this season is alarming. How is this! I have not seen yet a paper from the states but suppose that it is unusually dry. Dont think *Brigham* has much to do with at all events. They say that in ten years they are to or thereabouts they are to return to the states that country to be subdued to the Saints of the Most High. On an average These people are the hardest specimens of Humanity I ever saw. No use of talking with them. Every man woman and child can quote more scripture and tell more marvellous miracles than I have got



ears to listen to. Shall be glad to leave this hole in the spring. I have about three hundred head of stock and are at present doing well. Jackso Buck is here and is working among the mormons, also Binns son. I shall probably leave here about 1st of March. Give my respects to all enquiring Friends and excuse this hasty letter. Your affc Br

C. R. Hoppin

Camp on Weber River Feb 25th 1855

Sister Maria

Your letter of Nov 14th has come to hand by the last Mail from the States. This was an unexpected pleasure as reports here was that all communication had been stopped by Indian depredation. The mail from this point had started for the states and had returned on account of hostilities of the indians. All in Camp are well. Couis John is with me, no others in Camp that you know. Buck is in the valley working among the mormons. Binns is with another Emigrant train. Both well when last heard from. Received a letter from John last mail, all well. The ground now is covered with about six inches of snow cold frosty night very hard wether on stock for the last four or five days. Think that it will go off in a few days. Lieu Col Septoe of U S is wintering in the valley with a Company of troops. They have taken The Pauvan Indians that murdered Lieu Gunnison and party. Their trial will come off in a few days. Some excitements at present exists in the valley with regard to who shall be the next Gov for this territory. Gov Young has said in the pulpit that he had no fears of the President, he intended to be Gov—until the Lord God Almighty says Brigham you need be Gov—no longer! The Mormons say that if there in any other Gov— appointed that he will be only nomily so that Brigham Young will still Govern the People. I think it is time that our Government had done something with this people. These people number some 40 000 and with the same ratio of increase for five years to come they will become a hard people to contend with in a mountainous country like this where to all are Fighting men. From schoolboys up to grey headed men as well as Bishops deacons

Elders Apostles or the Holy Twelve all are ready at any moment to fight for their religion, the only one extant upon the face of the earth, but what is based upon tradition Priest Craft and that old *Cloven footed Gent Called Devil* For its head. So say the Mormons. So says Brigham Young, the Apostles one and all. Brigham Young word is law and gospel here, He being the direct mouth piece of God and all his sayings must be listened to and obeyed. It is a system of one man power both in church and state. The principles of Mormonism can be sifted down to about three, 1st Obey the Governors, 2nd Get just as many wives as you can, 3rd Pay the tenth of all you raise to the church. With these principles for their guide they are a working as well as singing and dancing towards the mormons Heaven. I think that is where Pollock classes the unbeliever hypocite or the false priest "whose prophecies he swore were from the Lord and yet taught lies for gain. He was a wolf in the clothing of the lamb that stole into the fold of God and on the blood of souls which he sold to death Grew fat, and yet when any would have turned him out he cried touch not the priest of God." If any set of men are ripened and matured for the blue schorcing flames of an old fashion hell The heads of this church are certainly ready for it. For a large portion of this people are ignorant members that cannot even read and write, just the class of people to Priest ridden and imposed upon by their leaders who are gifted with intelligence duplicity and cursing enough to drape them under the garb of christianity. As I wrote you before Polygam is practised and preached the Gov is said to have about forty wives and all that are able follow his example. I understand the Gov is decidedly down on old *Bachelors* and old *Maids*. If he will just let me alone I'll not trouble him or any of his people if I once can get out of here. Think it one of the places that the evils spirits have charge of. They are down on all gentiles. Have had no trouble with them only been annoyed at their continual preaching and abusive language of all other churches excepting their own. I think that I shall leave this place about the 1st of May en route for Cal. You had better direct all letters to Cal upon receipt of this. Give my respects to all enquiring friends from

your affct Br

C R Hoppin

San Francisco March 19th 1860

Dear Sister

I find this morning that Sam- Chester is in town this morning on his way home, and I improve the present opportunity of writing you a few lines, also I send you my likeness. I have had it hurriedly taken, the features are correct but quite thin. This will not appear strange to you when I inform you that I am quite an invalid. My health has been very poor for the last seven months, totally unfit for any kind of Business, most of the time confined to the house. My disease is of Billious origin and has become a Chronic disease of the Bowels amounting almost to an ulceration of the inner coating of the Bowels. You will see by this that I am at present in San Francisco. I am under a Physician care, have been here about five weeks, I think that I am improving slowly. The Dr tells me that I will get well but will recover very slow.

My ambition is to be a well man once more and I think by a rigid course of Diet I will recover my health in a few month. I wrote home once since Fathers Death but have received no answer as yet. I have been to negligent in writing you and will try and be more punctual in future. Br are all well. Thaddeus health is rather poor, Nathan is at the Ranch on Cache Creek, is quite an old man, grows more Childish as age wears upon him.

Mr Sylvester Moore is living near us. Mrs. Moore is the only Niles lady that I have found in this Country yet, they have three Boys who are attending school at Cache ville. We are to have a College under the supervision of the Methodist Church South this season at Cach ville so you will see that we are not entirely in a wilderness. Our place is about two miles from the town. Should I not improve in health I may take a trip home this summer but can say nothing certain about it. Shall be governed somewhat by what the Physician says. Should like much to see you all once moore. I suppose Clara Children have grown out of my remembrance allmost. Mary and Ellen must be quite large. Give my love to them all. I hope they may have a good Education. Were I able I would send them means for this purpose. I received a letter from James Perkin in which he says that George is to be married, is this so! I hope that it may be so, I think it is time at least that one of the Br married. Who is the Lady. Please

write me and let me know if this is rumor or not. How dare any woman venture into matrimonial bonds with a family so noted for Celebicy as ours. I thing George ought to have married long ago, there is no excuse for him, but so long as the Ballance of us remain in this Country you may expect us all to remain old Bach. I think that Henry may some day marry, the Ballance of us are Confirmed Bachelors.

Samuel Chester tells me that Samuel Gray is a going home on this steamer. I have not seen him yet. You Can get more news from Chester and Gray than I can give you. Newel Rood is also in town but have not seen him. He is located at Sacramento City. Has some agency for Col- Wilson. Chester and Gray have not succeeded in doing much pecuniarly I think. Chester has worked for us upon the Ranch, has been with the perkins boys some of the time. Gray has been mining, has sold out to His Brother David Gray. I understand they have a very Good Claim.

It is now quite late in the afternoon and I must find Chester as I suppose he will go aboard this evning. Rememer me to Mother and Clara and the Family. Please write me a long letter on receipt of this and I will surely write in Return. Tell Mary & Ellen also to write me as I should be glad to hear from them. So good Bye From you affct Br

C R Hoppin

P S

I have been writing in a reading room of our Hotel and all is bustle and Confusion, all politicks. Delegates to the Democrattick Convention are stopping here and leave to morrow on the steamer. Our delegates are instructed to vote for Dickenson. Suppose you are all Republicans and vote for Seward. Well I think Seward will make us a better President than any of the Candidate. Yours truly

C. R. H-

Sacramento City Cal Dec 30th 1860

Dear Sister Maria

I have just read your letter of Apr 27th given by Br John to me which I think I have not seen since you wrote until the present time. It being the only news from home that I have seen this

summer although John told me that George had written. Being away from the other Brothers most of the time I have missed seeing them. Brothers are all well. My health is better now than it has been for the last three years. Am free from all billious Symptoms which I have been liable to since leaving Michigan. I think my disease was the turning point towards better general health. When Chester left me I was under the care of one of the best Physicians in San Francisco and to him I think I owe my present state of health in a great measure. I was anxious to go home at that time but on consultation with him he told me that a voyage at sea would terminate my disease one way or the other immediately but if I remained my chances for improvement were much more *certain* and *safe*. I now think that he was right. A short time after Chester left I was in a very critical situation, was much discouraged but a change took place for the better, and am now knowing the *real value* of *good health*.

I have been stopping in Sac- City a few days, am rooming with James Perkins, his health is good, also his Br Ed. is well. James Perkins is one of the first young men in Sac- City, has been Suprentendent of one of the largest Sabbath Schools in the City and is a warm and effectual advocate of every benevolent and Charitable object for the relief of want and Suffering "that flesh is heir to." He is now living most of his time on a sheep Farm or ranch near us on Cache Creek. Has been an accountant in the City until very recently, his health has improved much while in the Country.

Tommy Westvelt is in good health, also all of our Niles acquaintences that I have seen lately. The Brookfield Family that used to live near Niles are in the City, I have not seen them. I think that they crossed the plains this summer. I received two Niles papers from Young Jewett giving an account of J N Chipmans trip across The plains with that man Hicks. There is truth in it and more that I could tell but I think he has received his punishment long ere this. He used me well at times on the plains and I feel disposed to let him alone. Hicks was a worthless fellow on the plains at the best. The worst account that J N Chipman has to render while on the plains and upon his arrival here is his treatment to his Br that died here. If he has a concience it will follow and haunt him to *Lifes Journeys end*. No one knows it

but me and him and I never shall trouble him with it as it is "human to err" and he has many good qualities as well as erring ones. Should much like to see you all once again in the old home but it is not possible for me to set any time to come home. I shall have more labor to perform next spring than ever. I think John will come home next spring at least I shall urge it upon him to go home. John health is none of the best though he is freer from any cough than he has been for two or three years. Should John come home in the Spring I want you to present him with a temperance pledge to sign and use your influence to make him wholly temperate. I dont you to think that he is a drunkard by any means. Some one advised him two years ago to drink brandy for his cough and he is a getting a small habit of taking little by little. Calafornia associations are bad for him and that is one reason why I want him to go home. We can get along without him here. I sometimes think John is better adapted to be one of our Modern Politicians than for any thing else. The last Pony news begins to look like a Dissolution of the states. I *fear* the *result*. I hope you are not an ultra republican! I cannot conscientiously be a Republican, although I believe in free institutions. There are laws upon the statuts of Mich- that is a disgrace to the bond that binds one state to another. So with most of those Northern states. Personal liberty bills and state laws annulling the Fugitive Slave law are the ones that I allude to.

The decision of our Supreme court should be obeyed or else we have Chaos and confusion. I think that the black Race *owe* it *civilization* and *enlightenment* to the very institutions that the north is warring against. And unless there is more Charity between the North and South we will be precipitated into more serious trouble than any Politician can ever regain. Henry Clay said on his death Bed to a clergyman that the division of the Methodist church upon slavery was an omen towards the final rupture of one of the best governments on Earth but enough of this. I want you to write often to me and write often to Henry. He is a hard worker and industrious and more steady than ever. Give my love to all of Clarissas Family and all Friends in Niles. Write soon and often. Your affct Br

C. R. Hoppin

I dont know how George is situated pecuniarily. I hope he is getting along. As far as I am concerned I feel poorer than I have ever done since I came to Cal— John has kept his business from me too much for the last two years. C. R. H.

Cache Creek Jan 13th 1863

Sister Maria

Your letter by Mr. Wolsey came to hand several days ago, was much pleased to hear from home again. Have not seen Mr. Wolsey, think he is in some other locality. Saw a Mr. Howe and Georg Platts son from Niles, left there before John had arrived. They gave some newes from Niles and its changes since I left. They say that there is a large number left for seat of war, so much so that there is hardly an abled Bodied Company left in the town, is this true! or is it an over drawn picture of the Patriotism of the citizens of Niles. Since John left there is no change with us worth relating with the exception of the loss of our dwelling house by fire with all of the furniture bedding &c. It ocured on Sunday and were six persons near the house but were unable to save anything worth mentioning, the wind was blowing from the North and it was lined with common sheating and papered over and burned very suddenly. We have another house built and are now living in it though were put to some inconven as well as expense. Nathan Thad and Henry are well. I was much pleased to hear from the Illinois Cousins and from Clara Family. Are not those Girles large enough to commence correspondng with Gentleman! I should like to hear from them so it is not a real sentimental love letter as it would be an impossibility for me to answer one of that kind. Cousin John is here on the Ranch this winter. Our season so far has been very dry. Farmers are anticipating a dry season as it is the 13th Jan and very little rain, yet we may have enough for farming purposes. There are no Political changes since John left. Gen Wright has called on Cal— for one regiment of infantry and five companies of Cavelry for the war. The Political Prisoners under arrest while John was here have all been released. And the Secesh of this State are more hopeful than ever of the success of their cause. For my own part I see no

end to this war as it has been conducted and unless the Federal forces succeed in some decisive hard fought battle that the chances are about equal for the dissolution of our Republican form of Government. Yet I hope that day may never come as with it goes mans best hope of civil Law on Earth.

I suppose that the People in your vicinity are unanimous on the Presidents proclamation of Liberty to African Slavery. For my own part I think it will be a long time before the American Slave will have bettered his condition taking in to account the loss of the white race killed in battle and by sickness and the demoralization of men in long service in large armies. The Freedom of the Black on purely Abolition principles will send many a good man to his *long Home* besides making many a heart desolate with bitter sorrow. For my own part I only adopt the Proclamation from necessity. I now firmly believe that the only way that the North will ever succeed in conquering the South is in giving freedom to every Slave within the reach of its Armies. With their conscription law calling every able bodied man into the field capable of bearing arms and using slaves to provide the necessary produce and provide for its mantainance as well as perform service in fortification they can hold out until the cause of preserving this Union is extremly doubtful. But strike out of existance four million of Slave producing labor and their cause is allmost hopeless if the North remain united. I suppose that our Government has allready called out one million of men from its population and a chance for five hundred thousand more I think before the end comes. I thing that all kinds of Labor must necessarily be high and difficult to obtain this being the case the resources of the North are not half tried or tested yet. If there is any scarcity of Laborers with George I would advise him to put John to Husking Corn or if the season is over put him at any kind of farm labor, and if George succeed and *John Goes at work* they ought *both* to be entitled *any amount of credit*, as least so say I. It would seem that in these times a man out to have some purpose before him either go at some labor of some kind or else shoulder a musket for the preservation of Civil Liberty. I wrote you a letter about the time John left here, please say whether you received it in your next. Was much pleased to receive Mothers Likeness, it looks very natural so we all think. I gave one to



Nathan. He is getting to be an old man in his appearance, his health is generally very Good. It is now quite late and I will close, hope you will answer soon, you are one letter behind now and you are the only one that will ever write, so dont neglect

Your affct Br

C. R. Hoppin

