

COPY

Atool one of the Sandwich Islands
Nov. 6, 1820.

Dear Sisters, [Mrs. Polly Smith, Mrs. Grace Smith, Mrs. Statira
Foot.]

Believing it will be interesting for you to hear from one whose heart still clings to you by a thousand ties, I cannot let this opportunity pass without writing. God in His Holy Providence has dealt kindly with your brother. Since our separation, my hands have been strengthened & my heart encouraged. In my former letters I stated the cause of our separation & removal to this Island. Since our residence here, we have been permitted to pursue our work in quietness; with the hope of soon becoming more extensively useful to this heathen people. I suppose you have our place of residence, employment &c. fixed in imagination; however this may be, I shall give you the particulars. We live on the southwestern part of the Island in a village called Wymaah. Our house stands about 5 rods from the sea on a cool and pleasant spot. It is made of sticks tied together, and thatched with straw. Somewhat resembling a large haystack. Is 50 feet in length & 22 in breadth, having a space of 8 feet in the center with mat partitions, making two very convenient rooms. Brother R (?) occupies the west & I the east end. There is a portico in front extending the whole length of the house, which we use for our schoolroom and meeting house. We have three windows in each of our rooms, one of glass, six panes, the other two of boards. Our furniture consists of 6 chests, three trunks, two chairs, a bedstead, looking-glass and a small table. One side of the room I have tied up three boards, on which I place my library, upwards of two hundred volumes, a pledge of collegiate affection. We have another house near by, where we do our cooking and keep the kitchen furniture, one pot, two small kettles, a tea kettle and frying pan. Back of our dwelling we have a garden in which are growing cucumbers, watermelons, corn, potatoes, beans, pumpkins, squashes, grapes, fennel, orange, tamarind, cotton, bananas, castor-oil & Coccoanut trees. Some of these vegetables will soon be fit for use, but at present our food is principally fish, taro and potatoes. We have a little pork and shall soon have some beef, as I was at the eastern part of Island last week and shot a large wild bullock. We have one native for a cook, another for a steward and a little boy whom we call Eli Smith living in our family. But this is not all. God in His good providence has given us a little daughter, born on the 19th of Oct. A lovely babe, we call her name Maria. We had the medical assistance of Doct. Holman during Mercy's illness. She has now so far recovered as to be able, in a great measure, to attend to the concerns of the family. Thus pleasantly situated and attended by the blessings of God, you may think my state enviable; indeed I would not exchange it for any on this side Heaven. But Ah sisters were I to look no further than earthly comfort I could never recognize this dark region as my home. Everything without our own doors, carries the im-

COPY - Letter from S. Whitney to Sisters Smith, & Sister Toot(?)
[Foot (?)]; dated Atooi - one of the Sandwich Islands -
Nov. 6, 1820 - (Continued)

press of Heathenism. Here are no Ministers of Jesus, no social circles for prayer, none of the companions of our youth, & alas none to whom we can yet communicate the news of Salvation. I want very much to hear from my dear friends in America. Surely it would be like "Cold water to a thirsty Soul." Often does my imagination hover over them. I seem to see them, & again to unite and mingle my prayers & tears with theirs. But sisters we shall never meet where prayers and tears are found.
x5 [paper worn away] Some of the numbers of my friends have already gone before me to the regions of blessedness. There I hope to meet you all. The conflict of life will soon be over and it ill becomes us to mourn at a separation which continues but for a day. But while we live let us be active to promote the Redeemer's kingdom. This alone can give us happiness more than all our friends. - - I trust you will pardon me for writing to you collectively as I have written to all your families in three previous communications. I have likewise written to our Father and Brother J - I wish if practicable you would read this to them and Sister B - (?) but it is a family letter and I trust it will go no further. I have sent my Journal during the voyage, & shall now send the remainder provided I have time to take a copy. By the ship which conveys this I send one of the Gods of Atooi, to Pres. Day, perhaps you may see it. It was given by the King to send to my friend.

Every communication you wish to make, if forwarded to Esq. Evarts of Boston, will be sent me. There are several ships sailing directly to these Islands every season. You will please to direct them to the care of the Missionary at Woahoo, as that is the principal port.

I know not when or how to drop my pen as I have told you but little of what I could wish. Believing however you will get much information respecting us from other sources, for the present I must close.

Your brother,

[Signed] SAM WHITNEY.

Mrs. Polly Smith,
" Grace "
" Statira Toot (?)

[Addressed, Mr. Eli Smith, Northford, Con., U.S.A.]
Politeness of Cap. Bennet, Ship Volunteer.

~~~~~  
Boston, June 6, Mo.  
~~~~~

C O P Y

Sandwich Islands, Atooi (?)
Dec. 27 - 1821.

Dear E -As it is late in the eve. and I have a letter to write to the treasurer of the Board before I sleep, you will excuse my haste. Last week I received your kind letter, dated Yale Valley (?), June 27,- 1821. I can not be sufficiently thankful for such a friend and correspondent, nor grateful enough to God that he has given you such a heart. In connection with this you will doubtless expect the continuation of my journal. I am sorry to tell you I have none. But since I see by the late annual you have spared me the chagrin which some of our number feel, at seeing their journal in the papers. I have come to the resolution hereafter to continue it. I thank you for your fidelity. - Your Sister L. wishes to know something more about our little Eli (?) Another ship will sail in about three weeks, when I intend to write particulars respecting him. I have just asked him to write you, he replied hida-hida o-o'u (I am ashamed) owing to a very limited knowledge of writing. He added o-o'u olelo, oe Hena hena (I will speak and you write) What will you say: Anoha (?) (my love to him) and then modestly asked, whether it would be right to speak to you about Clothes. I told him he would want a book, yes says he, one to learn me about Jehovah. If you can send him a hieroglyphic bible it will be an excellent thing. He continues "I love my book, and by and by when I become akumai (expert) I shall want to go to America & see you, if Mr. Whitney can spare me. My Father and Mother are dead. Mr. Whitney my Father now. I love him very much he takes good care of me. I dont want to live again, as I did before Missionaries came here. I want you should come here very much I will be your boy then, and live with you." All I can say at present of your namesake - he is a lovely youth. You shall soon have his history.

In your late letter you wished for information relative to a Missionary life. First of all qualities; ardent personal piety is requisite, without this (in the language of the first Missionary) he is of all men most miserable. He must be possessed of a thorough knowledge of men - a Spirit which can look in the face of danger & Death, when duty calls him to it - diligence and perseverance amid all the discouragements which depravity can impose, meekness and humility when attended with success and honored by ~~the prince~~ the great and the good. In short, one who can become all things to all men, to save their souls, - forget the things which are behind press forward to those which are before - continually look to God as the Author and finisher of his faith, with a heart full of love to God and the souls of the Heathen is in a measure prepared for a Missionary. Till you have at least some of these qualities, I must again entreat you never to take one step in this mighty work - You say that my friends at Yale have sent me

C O P Y

Letter from S. Whitney to Mr. Eli Smith; dated Dec. 27, 1821.

(Continued)

ten or twelve letters by every known opportunity. I have received but one such packet. I have written to the Sec. of Inquiry - some months since. If you will send me all the books, pamphlets &c. published by that Society you will oblige me much.

Our little Maria is a fine girl. Mrs. W - is well and unites in love to you and the family. Pray for us.

Yours &c.

(Signed) SAM'L WHITNEY.

P. S.

Where is Benjamin. I have not heard a word from him. I expect that he & B (?) and all the family write. Love to all Brothers & Sisters.

(Addressed, Mr. Eli Smith,
Northford, Conn. U.S.A.)
(Politeness of Capt.)
Pueblo.

C O P Y

Waimea, Tauai, San. Isl. June 28-1826

My dear Nephew,

I thank you for yours of March 20-1825, which I received about three weeks since. I have written a journal of six sheets and sent it to Mr. Evarts with the request that he should direct it to Mr. Hoadley. I should have directed it to you but before it reaches America you will have left Andover and gone I know not where. I fear from one or two sentences in your letter that you think I have written rather in the style of a Scholar (?) Probably I wrote the letter you refer to on one of those long -faced days which now and then come along in this enervating climate. Pray excuse it and believe me I do not and never did think that my friends intended to neglect me. To indulge for a moment in such a thought would ? rather the sensibilities of a northern iceberg than those of your ever grateful friend. - I do not however mean to excuse wholly the taciturnity of our good Northford folk.

It is now about four years since I have had a word from them - the same I could say of Pranfend (?) But I suppose they have much to do, write but little and think they Shant (?) make out a good letter. Now such excuses are not to be admitted. If ever the canal is cut through South A- and I go home to see them I will preach them a long lecture on the subject, probably in the language of Polynesia - as I hope never to preach in any other.

You have now read almost two pages of my letter and begin to think where is the news - Be patient friend the journal will be along in a few days. Get your glasses ready for I am sure you will need to be keen sighted to find it all out. Mrs. W - looking over my shoulder says. I fear your friend will think you are joking. I can only say to her I am what I am and they know what that is. 'Tis but now and then I feel in so good Spirits as I have this morn. My health is not good this summer. Last week there was scarce an hour when I was free from the headache. I am considerably affected with nervous weakness. Your aunt M's constitution is ? - mine I fear is falling.

We talk of sending our little Maria to America. Do any of our friends want a daughter. I have expressed my views to Mr. Hoadley on the subject. My letter is called for and I can say no more. Love to all,

Yours &c.

(Signed) S. WHITNEY.

Mr. E. Smith.
Northford, Con- U.S.A.

C O P Y

Kauai, San. Isl. - Aug. - 1 - 1826.

Dear Brother & Sister B.

The painful moment of Separation from our little daughter has come, and taught us what we had reason to expect, that it is one of the most heart-rending periods of our life. The fact however, that we commit her to the hands of those, whose kindness is a pledge that they will be her parents while under their direction, is a source of much consolation. We wish you to receive and govern her, as your own. Should any thing occur to stop the intended voyage, you will please to send her back, by the first suitable conveyance. We have written to the Rev. Loami L. Hoadley of Worcester, Mass. with whom we wish her to be left, the letter you will find in her trunk which together with one from your hand announcing your arrival, you will please to forward to him, as soon as may be convenient, after arrival. It would be desirable to us, if you could see her conducted to Mr. H-s house. This however will depend on circumstances, and you must act as you think best. We send sixteen dollars, to bear her expenses from the place where you may land, to Worcester.

Should you land at any port in New York or Connecticut however you will please to send the child to Mr. Eli Smith, of Northford.

Everything necessary for the voyage that we could, we have put up. A barrel of molasses on board of Capt. Meek, you will please to dispose of as you see fit. Should there be any thing wanting, Mr. Chamberlain will get it if he can.

Wishing you much health and a prosperous voyage, we remain dear friends,

Yours affectionately,

(Signed) SAM'L WHITNEY,

(Signed) MERCY P. WHITNEY.

P. S.

Your tapa, I sent to Niihau, the day after my arrival, but have no returns as yet. We send you a few shells. Curiosities are very scarce.

(Signed) S. W.

(Addressed, Doct. Abra'm Blatchley)
Oahu, S.I.

orig follows

C O P Y

Kauai, S. I. Nov. 16 - 1826.

My dear Niece,

Your kind letter, came to hand last week. I can assure you that it would have given me much pleasure, to have answered it, by a Ship which sailed a day or two afterwards, conveying your little cousin Maria to New London. By this vessel I wrote to your brother Benjamin, and should have written to more of my friends, but circumstances would not permit.

I thank you, and B., and wife, for giving me so much news about home. It was just such news, as I have long been waiting to get. I would a thousand times rather you would tell me about the old Shop, its occupancy - the tan yard - the marriages, removals, deaths of neighbors - the state of religion in and about your family, &c. &c., than to compliment me on Missionary Sacrifices, Success and reward. But I must not enlarge.

You on your part will wish to know a little about home. Come then I will lead you first into my Study. It is a little room in the north corner of the house, eight feet by ten, has two windows opening through walls built of mud and stones, such as may be found in the Street about your house - at one end of the room, stands a bed reserved for company, which however is seldom occupied - at the foot of the bed, there are shelves put up, on which stand Materia Medica, as you have probably learned, that I am Something of a Quack - At the other end of the room, each side of the window, you might see some coarse slabs (?) put up, which has a little the appearance of book cases. There stand my books which the Students gave me; Many much eaten by cockroaches. Alas, too the _____ have made havock among them! In the middle of the room backside stands a table three feet by two, covered with a blue cotton cloth;; here is my writing desk occupied but little, except for translating and writing native language, &c. Nothing more here at present. Now go with me to the front room which is the largest in the house - twelve feet by fifteen. As you enter the door, you will see a small china (?) table, a toilet covered with native cloth, on which (for want of a better place) stand a few tumblers, decanters, &c. at the end of this, stands a china dressing case, a valuable little thing to keep shaving apparatus, et cetera. On one side stands a sofa, where I lounge when I have the head ache, and low spirits. In one corner is my Clock, sent by some kind unknown hand. Each side is a large chest, which aunt W - brought from America, well filled with things which women know best, how to use and describe. But perhaps you are now tired, so I will leave the bedroom, kitchen, cook-house, &c. and if you please, take you across the drive to the church.

C O P Y

Letter from S. Whitney to Miss Hannah Smith, Northford, Conn.

Dated, Nov. 16, 1826 - Continued.

It is a large house, capable of holding about as many people as the meeting house at Northford, without the galleries - there are no seats, but the people crowd in as thick as they can sit. A person is appointed to secure a passage for the preacher, from the door to the pulpit; but it frequently happens that he is obliged to wait some moments, and then to step over many shoulders, and heads, before he arrives at his seat.

During service all is attention, every ear and eye is open; not infrequently do we see, the mark of what we believe to be, the operation of the Spirit of Truth. I might enlarge and tell you much about our success, opposition, &c. but you will doubtless get that from other sources.

The reasons for sending our little M - to America, are the prospect that she will ere long be left motherless here, as Mrs. W - s health has been declining for some years and I fear will not hold out much longer. The opportunity of sending her free of expense, and that too in the care of a kind motherly woman, might not occur again in many years. But above all the influence of Society here upon children. It is moral Death. Of this our Society are now to be made acquainted, with a petition from all the members of this Mission, that the children may be educated in America. As we know not the minds of our friends or the Committee, we shall be anxious to hear what reception our daughter meets with, and the opinion of Christian patrons on the Subject.

Do not fail to send a letter every month to the Miss. Rooms, Boston, for me. I will answer every one. I shall write soon to Aunt G- or some of the family.

Your affectionate friend and Uncle, (Aunt W - unites in love to all.)

(Signed) S. WHITNEY.

(Addressed, Miss Hannah Smith)
Northford, Con. U.S.A.

(South Attliboro, Mas., July 7th, - 12.1)

C O P Y

Oahu, San. Isl. - Sept 15 - 1827

My dear Brother & Sister,

I have just closed a letter to E - at Malta, which I forward to Mr. Evarts together with this. I regret that we have heard so little respecting E-s departure, probably however letters are on the way and we shall get them in good time. Have you seen our little M- ? We have had many anxious thoughts on her account, and feel almost impatient at times to hear from her. A joint letter of this Mission, was sent to the Board some months since, requesting them to take the Guardian care of all our children, and from the reasons stated, I have no doubt but they will be of the same mind with us viz. that our children must be sent to America. We are still plodding along in the same good way, preaching the word - contending with foreign opposition - translating the scriptures and guiding immoderate (?) beings in the way to Heaven. Most of the Chiefs and people of influence, are in our favor; quite a number we believe are the true friends of the Redeemer, and have united with our church. About twenty are now ~~preparing~~ PROPOUNDED for admission.

My health is better this season than formerly, but Mrs. W- still continues feeble. On her account we left Kauai about five months ago, judging it not proper in such circumstances to be so far from any of our brethren. Her complaint at present is the inflammation of the liver. We leave here in a few days for Ohelo (?) on Hawaii, where the climate is much cooler, and more favorable to her disease. Should her health recover, we hope to return to Kauai in a few months. Since I last wrote you, we have borne a little daughter, we call her Emily Elisabeth, hope you will one day see her. - O my friends I long to see you exceedingly. Often does my imagination fly across this wide Pacific and the intervening wildness to the Spot I shall never cease to call home. You are not particular (?) enough in your letters. Do not think that we have a press here to give them publicity or that I am grown so great and wise, that little things will be uninteresting. Though I am called a Missionary and a preacher of the Gospel, still I am S. W. the Shoemaker sometimes. I get on my apron and pull the bridle (?) and that brings me into the old shop, with many a well-known face about me, but I can only see them as they used to be. Do tell how they now are ? How is our Father ? on whom does he lean in his old age ? Many tears have I shed for him. Though duty still appears clear in the course I have taken, yet I often wish it were in my power to visit my Father and that I might be the child who should conduct his grey hairs to the grave in peace. Where

C O P Y

Letter from S. Whitney to Miss Hannah & Mr. Eli Smith; dated,
Oahu, Sept. 15 - 1827; Continued.

is Brother I - not a word from him this four years. I know not where to direct my letters or I should have written him long since. I hope to write to Mr. Hoadly by this vessel and to brother & sister H. Smith, but it is somewhat uncertain. I have much to do and you know I always had an unconquerable dislike to letter writing. I mean however not to neglect my friends, and will agree to write twice to their once, except to such as are more in the habit of using the pen than myself. -

May the great head of the Church keep you and us to that day when on the Hill of Zion I hope to meet you ~~and~~ and all our friends to part no more.

Sister M. unites in love to all.

Your affectionate Brother,

(Signed) S. WHITNEY.

Mr. E. Smith.

NEW Apr. ##
21 ##

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S H I P 14-1/2

(Addressed, Mr. Eli Smith, Northford, Con., U.S.A.)

orig. follows

C O P Y

Kauai, S. I. - Dec. 12 - 1826.

My dear E -

Among a packet of letters late from A. I recognize your hand on the back of one, which was written at N. during your vacation visit. I was much pleased with its contents, for which however, I must thank your sister. An expression or two, in one of your last, leads me to think, that you view some of my communications, as rather censorious. On the subject of letter writing perhaps I have some times felt so. The peculiar situation in which I am placed, is my only apology. This however shall never be a refuge from which to throw arrows at my friends. If I have grieved you, pardon me, and continue your correspondence. - Before this reaches you, I suppose you will have seen my little daughter M - About a month since she left us, committed to the care of Mrs. H - of Worcester. As I had not learned his mind on the subject, previous to her departure, it is not without some apprehension, that he will think I have imposed on him an unwelcome task. But such are the views of our Mission, with regard to the necessity of removing our children from this country, and the possibility that so good an opportunity would not come again for many years, that I have ventured to risk her reception among my friends. Not however without the advice of all my Brethren, whom I have been able to consult. You will at once see the necessity that a female child should have Motherly attention during a voyage of six months. Mrs. Blatchley very kindly offered that attention. This circumstance, together with the kind offer of a gratuitous passage from Capt. Chester of the Ship Connecticut, induced us to believe that the present was an opportunity which we ought to improve. With many tears and heartfelt anxiety for her future welfare, we have sent her.

Should there be unwillingness ~~in the part of~~ in Mr. H - to act the part I have requested, I must look to you and my friends at N. to find her a home, at least for a season, till I can hear from her.

At a late meeting of this Mission, a request was drawn up and forwarded to the Committee, that provision may be made for our children in A. I know not how the subject will appear to good people at home, but with us and all enlightened people who visit us, there is but one mind. The example of our Brethren at the Society Islds. is appalling. Some of whose children are now public prostitutes in the Streets of London. But enough my friend, I shall tire you on a subject, which none can feel like a parent. Our prospects of success in the objects of our mission, continue flattering, though the opposition from foreigners was never so great as at present. At this island however, all is quiet. The authority is vested in a

C O P Y

Letter from S. Whitney to ^{Mr. Eli} ~~Miss Hannah~~ Smith; Kauai Dec. 12, 1826

(Continued)

man, who takes a very lively interest in our cause. For eighteen months past, I have heard of but one instance of intoxication among the natives. This was on another part of the Island. He was immediately reposed ? and banished. Adultery the curse and scourge of the land, is punished with a heavy fine; but few instances are known. But one Ship has been able to get a vile female onboard, for two years past!! Infanticide is now unknown! Our meetings are well attended, many are serious and inquiring. Three have been added to our communion. We have fifty schools, and upwards of sixteen hundred scholars. I count none but such as can spell, in words of two syllables. As my time is much occupied, I have kept no regular journal of late. Not knowing where you will be when this reaches A - I shall direct it and all my future communications to you at N - till I hear from you. Love to all, especially to Brother & Sister, Father and Mother. Do not fail to write, and believe that I am dear sir,

Yours in the Gospel,

(Signed) S. WHITNEY.

(South Attliboro, Mas., July 7th)

12.1

(Addressed, Mr. Eli Smith,)
Northford, Con. U.S.A.

C O P Y

Kauai, San. Is. - Oct. 10th, 1830

My dear Bro. & Sister S -

As the homeward bound ships are about to leave the Islands, and I have a few moments leisure this eve - I will again indulge myself in the pleasure of writing you a Short letter. But I have so much to say, that I know not where to begin or what to write as that however which is nearest home is usually the most interesting, I will tell you a little about one who has abundant evidence that you still hold him by the dearest ties. Eleven years have this eve. elapsed, since I gave you the parting hand. You knew a part of what I then felt the rest must remain untold till the secrets of all hearts are revealed - pen and ink can never tell the emotions, that passed within. Since then, I have had various scenes to encounter, some of the darkest, and some of the happiest days of my life, have intervened. Few have seen so much to disgust and sicken life, and fewer still have witnessed so great a moral revolution in a nation, as that which is now passing in my view. My faith in the Redeemer has been unwavering, though not without evidence of a "heart prone to evil as the sparks fly upward." In health have suffered but little though at times it has been far from good; the effect of which together with constitutional weakness of nerves and debilitating climate, has sometimes produced a depression of Spirits, which has been among my greatest afflictions. As a minister of Christ, my labors have been blessed far beyond my expectations. To him be the Glory. At present, I find myself in circumstances for promoting the good of my fellow beings, which, considering my talents, education, habits and disposition, could not be altered ~~but~~ for the better. Between the members of the Mission and myself, there exists mutual good understanding and brotherly affection. From the chiefs and people, we have unlimited confidence, and kind feelings. With regard to my family, it is sufficient to say, the candle of the Lord Shines upon us. We have all things necessary for our comfort. Our trouble in this respect, (if such it may be called) is in anticipation. We have three lovely children fast growing to age, when parental restraints if they do not cease, must relax - exposed to the temptations of idleness and dissipation for the want of manual employment; and what is more, to heathen habits and customs whose touch is death. To the Board we have written repeatedly on the subject of receiving the children to America. In return they say we expect the children will come, but recommend that we send them to family friends. The language of such is, have faith in God, and here the subject rests, and probably will, till a list of brokenhearted parents and ruined children follows in the rear of Missionary enterprise. I do not say this to reproach you, or any of my friends. You have done more for my child than I ever expected, or could ever ask. But I do say

C O P Y

Letter from S. Whitney to Brother & Sister Smith; dated, Kauai,
Oct. 10th, 1830. - Continued.

say, that in the Christian community who claim the missionaries as theirs, and who have pledged themselves to supply all their reasonable wants there is in my opinion a neglect with regard to their children, which will at no very distant day react with tremendous weight, on their benevolent exertions. To those who have never been on the ground and an eye witness to the dangers to which children are exposed, the subject cannot appear in its true light. Missionaries may write, but they are interested, & like other men they may be warped by ambitious motives, and so their reasons fall to the ground. Have faith in God however is a good motto, it has been mine in days of trial and I trust it will continue to be so.

The last we heard of M - she was with you - much love to her. I wrote her not long since. Her mother has just written. We fear our friends think we are expecting too much from them, by way of her education. Though our circumstances have altered much for the better since she left, yet rather a thousand times would we have her with you in the situation which Aunt Grace occupied, or her Father, than exposed to the temptations of this land with all the privileges we could give her. With much love to all in which M - and the children unite, I am dear Brother & Sister,

Your affectionate brother,

(Signed) S. WHITNEY.

(Addressed, Mr. Eli Smith,)
Northford, Con. U.S.A.

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BOSTON
Apr. 15,
MS
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SHIP

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