

SOPHIA PARKER LAFON, "MRS. THOMAS", B. 1812 - D. 1844

MRS. LAFON'S PAPERS CONTAIN THREE LETTERS TO HER MOTHER; ONE EACH TO MRS. COOKE AND MRS. BALDWIN.

Original in possession of
Col. Patrick Hogan 5/13/65

Sophia (Parker) Lafon to:

Mrs. Parretta Parker
New Bedford
Mass. U. S.

Koloa January 1st 1842

Dearly beloved Parent

Husband has gone to Lihui, and altho' its nearly dark, I know not how to improve my time better than by commencing (sic) a letter to you. I have nothing new to communicate, but I do love to sit down and converse with you on paper, it seems to bring you near--but alas, its one of earths pleasures, a pleasure mixed with pain. So many anxious thoughts intrude upon my mind--So much uncertainty about your state, and such a flow of tender recollections, that I hardly know how to proceed. I have spells of thinking about you almost constantly, and were it not for the privilege of going into my closet and committing you into the hands of our covenant keeping God, I should be miserable. And here my dear mother is, I doubt not your consolation also. Yes your letters speak the language of Canaan, and they afford me, much pleasure.

Your last letter was written on the 19th of Dec. One year ago last month. Mary's was a little later, written in Jan. It is just about a year since I heard from you, except a line by Mr. Tinker, who said he saw you. I was very happy to hear it, but I long to hear more. I have heard of a box at Honclulu, which came from Boston in the California, directed to Dr Lafon. Whether its from NB, or from Dr's friends, we know not. It has been there 3 weeks. Two vessels have come down since it arrived, but they were so full, that there was no room for it. I am begining (sic) to feel very impatient. Mrs Alexander had a bureau, filled with clothing, which come (sic) out three months ago, which has just arrived at Koloa. Thus it is, and these are our greatest perplexities. I hope I, shall not have to wait so long., Especially if there are letters in it. And here let me say once more, Never send a box, without a letter to accompany it. Put as many letters in side (sic) as you please, but leave out one, at least, to go with it. This would save us a great deal of anxiety. But my dear mother, do not think that I blame you. I know that you, and all the rest, do all in your power to make me happy. I only want you to know the best way. You have done a great deal for me. The debt I owe you is enormous, and can never be paid. One of the most painful feelings that I have is the thought that I can do nothing for you. But is it true? Is there nothing that I can do for you? I want to know how you fare in every respect. Cant (sic) Paretta or Sarah write for you, and speak of things which you would not like a stranger to know. I know that you have a good home, but I'm afraid that you feel dependent. You

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must not feel so. If we live we shall send you a little sum of money, in the course of the year, and in the course of another year (o-r t-w-o,) we may send ourselves. We have but little use for money here, but I suppose Dr is about as prosperous as any one in our neighbourhood. His yearly medical bills at Kbloa, average about \$50 a family. If he charged as high as the other physicians, they would not be less than a hundred dollars per family. His charges depend upon the circumstances of his patients. Koloa is a healthy place, but still, there has been sickness in every family, for 3 or 4 months. We have two cases in our family. Two of Cap Stetsons children are very sick, The eldest, Harriet MacDonald, a lovely child, of 5 years, and Elbert the babe 7 months, were both taken down in one day, with fevers. The next day they came out in inflammation spots, on their arms and legs, which has increased untill (sic) their limbs are a sight to behold.

Jan 4th

"Dearest mother. Another vessel has come without our box. Dr is now writing a line to Ladd & Co requesting them to send it down by the first vessel. I presume it will come before many days. If the box is from N Bedford, it will be a comfort to you, to know, that it has reached the islands in safety. If there are letters in it I should love to answer them, but you know it is. I suppose this letter will go by Mrs Jarves, and it will probably be the last opportunity (sic) that I shall have to send letters untill (sic) Spring. Should I know of any other, I shall certainly improve it. We are expecting two arrivals daily, one from Boston, and one from N York. Hope I shall get a line or two from some of you. We are now in our new apartment. Capt S and husband, have been making improvements in, and around the house, and now every thing (sic) is as snug, and as neat as a pin. Our doors and windows are open, the birds are singing, and the grass is so green, and the trees so blooming, that I can scarcely realize that you have snow & ice around you, and are shivering over the fire. I don't know what I should do at home, in the winter. We have it quite cold here in the morn before sun up at this season, and this mornng (sic) it was unusually cold. I got up and dressed, and threw myself on the settee. And my indulgent husband covered me up in blankets, and then went out and brought me in a cup of smokeing (sic) hot coffee, but I did not get warm untill (sic) I had drank the 2nd cup. This is the climate for me, and if you was here my dear mother, I should love to live here. No one could live easier than I do. I lie down when I please, and get up when I please. No family cares, such as cooking, washing etc. When the bell rings, we go out to our meals. When done we return to our neat & pleasant rooms, where I either prepare work for the girls, or read or write. I read for husband two or three hours every day. He says send much love for me, and tell Mother Parker that I would write her if I could. His eyes remain weak. His

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general health is excellent. His cheeks are filled out so, that you would not know him.

*Note
in album*

The children in the other part of the house are very sick. The inflammation has traveled from Harriets foot all the way to her thigh, and broken out into great sores. The babe is nearly as bad. Dr calls it the Erysipelas. He is now engaged in dressing their limbs. The babes disease is in its arm. I was with them most of the day yesterday. (Sabbath) and I was on my feet so much, that I have a lame back to day (sic), and my piles are not as comfortable as they have been. Rest is the remedy, and I am now taking it. I have not bled any for 18 months. Dr feels quite encouraged about me. We are no longer members of the Board. Were dismissed under the most pleasant circumstances. If I had time I would copy (sic) Mr Andersons letter, wh^h h^e sent by the California. But its time my letter was off. Should you send letters or packages to Boston, you will pay the postage of course. I regret that we did not send you \$50 by Mr Jarves, but its too late now. I shall not let another good oppotunity (sic) pass.

I have just been talking with Dr. He says he will write a line to Ladd & Co at Hon: who is oweing him, to advance \$25 to Mr Jarves, for you. He says he had rather it was a \$100, but he has just given 50 dollars towards the Accademy (sic) of the Mission children. It was commenced but they were obliged to stop for want of funds. A paper was sent to each family to raise enough to carry it on. The board and Mission have been so kind-- have done so much for us, and the object was so important, that Dr felt constrained to give as much as he could afford. Take this little sum my dear Mother, and get some thing for your comfort. He will try to do more hereafter. I trust you will receive \$40 dollars from Mr Hill in Boston, to purchase (sic) a few articles for us. The list I have sent. Besure (sic) and not send by a whale ship. I hope to find something to send Lydia, for the clock. I cannot write her now, but tell her that I think a great deal about her. I supposed that Mr Jarves had gone, or I should have had some more letters ready to send by him. Should have written to Rebeca (sic) Nie [spelling of name not clear]. I hope this letter will be in time for him, but it may not. Our united love to you all. I have written this in haste. You must excuse, and not expose it. I believe I have written to Mary & Lydia this season, but how many letters I have written, I dont (sic) know. Not less than 20. I feel more and more as tho' the time is not distant when we shall meet. But let us not make too much dependence. Pray for us that we may be guided aright. With a heart full of love, I am your affectionate daughter

Sophia.

Original in possession of
Col. Patrick Hegan 5/13/65

Sophia L. Lafon to:

Parretta Parker
New Bedford
Mass.

Lahaina June 7th 1837--

Dear mother

When I closed this letter, I thought we were on the point of leaving for our station; but before I closed word came that the brethren had decided that we should go to Mau'i [sic] and remain till [sic] Sep [Sep], and the next day at 4 oclock [sic] AM ["M" not legible] we were on our way thither. We were out 4 days and experienced all most [sic] as rough weather as any that we experienced while doubling the Cape. Our Capt. officers and men were natives, and the Brig was freighted with naked and almost naked men, women, & children. I counted 68, and came far short of takeing [sic] them clean, for they laid on deck as thick as I ever saw flies upon a honey pot. The voyage however was not without its comforts, for I have got to be quite a sailor, and enjoy sailing quite well, and I consider it a great favour that I am permitted to go from Island to Island, with my husband (free from those encumberances which tie down almost every missionary as soon as they get upon the ground) Mrs Johnston excepted.) All I want to make me happy is the society of my dear absent friends. I begin to feel exceedingly anxious to hear from them.

Lahina [sic] is a delightful spot, We were invited to stop here, and spend a week or more with Mrs Clark, she says I am the image of sister of hers who died a short time since, and its rather singular, but she is the image of sister Mary. We love each other very much. She has the care of Mr. Dibble's two children, and she has three of her own. I have been engaged this week in making and [weaving?--hole in paper here] dresses for the children of Mr D--and have just finished the 7th dress. Mr D expects to go to America [?-hole in paper here] in about 4 months. He is going as a delegate from the [Mission.....hole in paper] carry his Childⁿ and leave them, and probably return with a wife. He is a lovely man, the.....[hole] a great deal of comfort with him, we have a nice comfortable room by ourselves, and he [spends?] his eve'z [sic] with us and a great part of the time between schools, he told me last night that he expected to go through New Bedford, and that he would certainly look up my friends.

Some time next week we expect to go to [blank--Wailuku?] Mr Armstrongs, about 30 miles from this place, Mrs A expects to be confined next Sep [sic], She keeps a native nurse in her family, and 3 or 4 natives besides, She says she does not wish me to have any care, but wishes me to come as a visiter [sic]. The last time she was confined she had no Physician, the Taula, an [Hauai] brethren

Sophia L. Lafon, June 7th, 1837

concluded untill (sic) a day before we sailed, that they could not spare us so long, and poor Mrs A weeped (sic) day and night; and when her sorrow was made known, they concluded to let us go, and she was so overjoyed that it really did me good. Oh how favoured I am to be united to one, whose business it is to go about doing good. Mother are you not glad that you parted with me for such a glorious cause? Just think how my younger days were spent, and how wretched I should have been, if the Lord had left me to myself. O what superabounding goodness! what hair breadth escapes I have made! But the Lord be praised. He knew what discipline my proud heart needed. Nothing but just what I passed through, would have humbled me, I needed stroke after stroke, and it never can be told in this world how miserable I was; even in the gay assembly I was not happy, but I was something like a gilded cup, filled with better juice, that is, gay without, but better within; going on to the bar of God, with a heart of adamant, oh wonderful grace! The more I reflect, the more I wonder, and thus it will be through eternity; and now think again for a moment, if we live near the Lord, we shall soon stand upon the summits of those hills of the Canaan, above, and look back upon the path in which the Lord has led us--and shall we not then praise him? And why not begin now? May the Lord help us to begin the song below, and then with the ransomed above in praising (sic) irredeeming grace forever!

In Oct we expect to go to Hanna (sic), and its no knowing when we shall get back to our station. but when we get there, I suppose we shall stay till (sic) the general meeting, in May.

I have an oppotuniry (sic) to send this to Honolulu, perhaps it will not go from there before next Fall, and by that time I shall have several more to send, if the Lord wills. And I hope by that time to hear from home.

SLL

I have no time to read.

June 10th

We expect to leave this place next week, we are but a few yards from the high school--we had a teacher from there, and have made considerable progress in the language, I have enjoyed this week more than any since I left home. This place is much more retired than Honolulu, and retirement must be my definition for pleasure. I love the natives and you cannot form any idea of their attachment to the missionaries; I should not be afraid to live in the midst of them, even if I had no other neighbour. Do not be concerned; but rely upon it there is no condition in which I could be placed, that would make me so happy as the present, If all the world was as happy, earth would be Paradise. The Dr and Mr D are gabering (sic) so fast that I scarce know what I write. Dear mother once more adieu. Our tender and united regards to all.

Affectiony (yrsly)

S L Lafon

Original in possession of
of Col. Patrick Hogan 5/13/65

Sophia L. Lafon to:

Mrs. Parretta Parker
New Bedford
Mass.

Not to be published

Honolulu April 19th 1837

My dear mother

Before you go over a long nuration (sic) I would ask you to thank God with, or at the close of every sentence. I know not where to begin to speak of his goodness. He led our ship over the pathway of the ocean, and sent neither gales to drive, thunders to terify (sic), or calms to detain us; but continued pleasant weather from the time we left Boston untill (sic) we arrived at thisport, which was April 9th. It was the Sabbath, several gentlemen came on board and invited us to go on shore but all declined. We had divine service on deck as usual, and spent a pleasant and happy day and altho in full view of Honolulu, there was less excitement than I would have believed possible. In the eve'z (sic) we had a very solemn prayer meeting. Seven of those with whom we sailed, and of whom we entertain hopes that they are Christians arose and thanked God for what he had done for their souls. The next morning our company rose very very early delighted with the idea of going ashore. Our ship was thronged with natives and more than a 100 canoes were in view. One came before daylight in a little cance not much bigger than a knife box, and brought us milk and fruit from the missionaries; a several of the brethren wentron shore immediately after breakfast, and quite soon returned in the King's Barge with the counsel, and several of the missionaries; and invited us to go ashore. The brothers called on the King & Govevner (sic). But to return the ladies all want on shore (and) met all the brethren and sisters at Mr Bingham's, they received us with all [the] affection of own folks. He united our hearts in thanksgiving to God for his goodness not only to us, but also to them in bringing help at a time it was so much needed, for the field is white for the harvest, and the Lord is evidently among the people giving them a willing mind to listen to the truth. After our little meeting of singing a hymn, then two prayers, one by Mr Bingham, one by the Doctor, then singing a piece written by Mr B. a part of it at the leaving of the Methodist missionaries, which put in here, bound from the United States for Oregon Territory (sic) and left here the day before we arrived, and a part written since our ship anchored. and then another hymn after which our company dispersed. I have kept a sort of journal which I intend to send the 1st oppotunity (sic). We are advised not to send large packages by the M. Kruzuni (previous word not clear) as she is to return by the way of the Cape of Good Hope, and our letters will probably be re-shiped, and if not, you will not receive them in short of eight or ten months, I shall venture but a few by this oppotunity (sic), and risk the other untill (sic) an oppotunity (sic) presents of sending

* probably M. Frazier

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them by the way of Cape Horn.

Several homes were offered us before we came on shore, and we would have preferred to have gone to Mr Deals [Diell], (the seamans preacher) because its more retired. But while he held on to one hand, Doctor Judd took hold of the other and led us off. Our situation is very pleasant, altho we are somewhat crowded. Doc Andrews & wife, Husband and myself occupy a Doby house which stands in Doc Judds garden. The roof is grass, and it has no floor; it contains one room only, here we have two bedsteads, and a curtain hung between for a petition [sic], a setee, 2 chairs--a wash stand, one chest and 8 trunks compose the furniture, not exactly either for we have a centre [sic] table which stands in the middle of the room, the Doc is now sitting to it writing to the Board, he intended to have written to several friends in N Bedford. But he has had various duties to perform, and unlooked for cares, which I cannot tell you about at present. He is in excellent health, and a happier man was never seen. My health is also good I think a sea voyage has been beneficial. We had great enjoyment on board the Mary Frazuni [sic--Frazier], and as it was observed last eve'z [sic] meeting by Mr Thoustone [sic--Thurston], that notsuch ship had ever anchored at Honolulu. Where ever [sic] we go, the Capt goes, and at all the meetings the crew are there also. You will see by the papers that we had a wonderful passage--a lovely Captain--and what is better that all a glorious revival, 8 were hopefully converted, and the Lord is still among them, strengthening the hoping and bringing others to repentance. The brethren hold meetings on board two eve'z [sic] a week, and I have often thought if my dear Pastor and elder Mudge could be presnet, and hear some of the prayers and exhortations of these hardy son's [sic] of the sea; they would thank God--and take courage. We have certainly very great reasons for gratitude to a kind providence, in the first place that we were able to dwell together in unity for such a length of time, and secondly for being brought so speedily across the wide waste of waters. Thirdly for enjoying such a good degree of health, and lastly we have reasons to rejoice for what the Lord did for us. O that all the world would praise him for his wonderful goodness. We hope that 9 of the ships company are converted and that the impression left among them, will result in the conversion of some of the others at least. Oh for more faith. The Lords merciful care over us, call for songs of loudest praise. Now we have entered upon the field where we expect to spend the remnant of our days, and of our strength. Oh for grace to spend them in such a way as the Lord can own and bless our labours and save many of the perishing and benighted around us. It is a pleasing reflection indeed that now we have left the Ship that bore us on to this our place of destination, the Lord has raised up others who will remain to conduct her over distant parts of the world who will be glad to tell of a Saviours love, 'of a Sinners wants'. Oh how often has my selfish heart said, would that it was one of my dear brothers instead of Capt Sumners

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that had met with this wonderful change. I meant to have written to each one of my brothers, on the voyage, but time passed ~~off~~ ^(sic) rapidly that I did not accomplish half that I intended. My dear mother I have thought much of you. Perhaps you have had many a frightful dream, and have said 'oh my poor child, if I only knew where she was, I should be happy.' Do not ~~oh~~ do not worry about me, and when I shall ^{hear} ~~hear~~ from you let me hear that you are perfectly resigned, and that you are even joyful & happy that you have given me up to a work so glorious. I have felt an increasing satisfaction from day to day in thinking that I am in the path that my heavenly Parent marked out, and altho we are unsettled, I feel perfectly easy and contented. He who preserved us from dangers on the sea will not leave us on the land. "I will never leave nor forsake thee" is worth a million of worlds. We rest in his protection--if for his glory we would long live and labour; but, if otherwise his will be done. I sometimes almost dread to be settled again, lest I should be too happy, and want to live to ^(sic) long; we feel now like travelers and pilgrims, and so I ever wish to feel. It is not that I do not expect trials I do; and who has passed through this wilderness without them? Ah this is a thorny earth, mother you have found it so, notwithstanding your ten thousand blessings, and now let me say one word about that world to which we are hastening. Let me intreat ^(sic) you to buy up your treasure there. You have been accumulating for a long time, for a home on earth, you have now enough for your support, leave all your cares, and spend the remainder of your days for the glory of God. Tho old you can do much for Christ, live near his crop, and pray at least half the time, and praise the Saviour, say a few words at least in his favour in every hour that you enter. O make sure work of it and do not miss of Heaven, we can die but once, and it is a solemn event, and a life time is a short period to prepare for it. You have been one of the best of mothers, and now your children have grown up they are off your hands, now devote all your powers to God and become one of the best of Christians. Oh my dear mother, we are far separated but it is a joyful thought that we can meet in Spirit--that we can meet at the same alter ^(sic) we can go to the same Father and tell him of our sorrows, our infirmities, and make known our wants, and plead for grace, with the assurance that we shall not plead in vain. To the Bible let us go for instruction, and to the Mercy-Seat for grace to follow those instructions. "Great peace have they who love thy law" Let the little remnant of your days, be spent chiefly in reading meditation, and prayer. Then will you find peace,--yes that sweet ~~peace~~ ^{peace} of conscience, and joy in the Holy Ghost, that is more to be desired than gold, that is sweeter than honour, and a hundred-fold better than all earthly possessions. Perhaps you will say I trust in the Lord and my daughter is needlessly alarmed. Well my ever dear Parent, I read of those who say Lord! Lord! and do not the work of the Lord, and we are told of what shall be said to such in the last day "Depart from me I know you not!" And now when I hear that

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my mother is doing the works of the Lord, then I shall be happy, when I hear that she has avouched Christ publicly than (sic) will I be at peace. I do not know that I shall reach Heaven, but when I think of the possibility of my mother's (sic) being shut out, I am in an agony, and often when alone I find myself sobbing aloud. We are so prone to walk by sight and not by faith and not by faith, I have been led to think more of this since I have been among the heathen than ever before, We are not affected with that which we do not behold; I had heard of these natives and of their condition, and sometimes My heart heaved a sigh for them and I believed (sic) the day would come, when they would be converted and I felt that I desired to have a part of it. But if I had seen what I have since seen, could (I) have offered such cold & formal prayers? Oh that you could witness the multitudes that attend (worship) on the Sabbath, the native church is 196 feet long, between 3 and 4000 are present every Lord's (day), and they listen with all the attentiveness of beings, who are hungerings (sic) and thirsting after righteousness. It is impossible in a Ch^r land to conceive the extent of ^{the} blindness of mind of a pagan. But its highly encouraging (sic) that the Lord makes them willing to hear, and gives them so great an interest in the subject. The people will crowd around a missionary who can tell them 'of the land beyond the grave' from morning untill (sic) night, and listen with the greatest attention. An extensive course of protracted meetings have been recently held with the happiest effects, and the Spirit of the Lord is evidently hovering over the land, and things are in an exceedingly interesting state. There are nearly 200 members belonging to Mr Bingham's church, and 48 stand propounded. 8 of them are those who sailed with us. Could opposers have been present at the church meeting last sabbath it appears to me, every objection would have vanished. You can't think how interesting it was to hear, the remarks of these heathen as they rose up one after another and spoke of their love to God--one in addressing the seamen said, "you have been great sinners, very great, you was^{born} in a Gospel land, and you have sinned against great light, but if you have heartily repented we receive you into our church and give you a hearty welcome." The (sic) quoted scripture as readily as though they had been trained in a sabbath school all their lives. Some of their remarks were very apt and appropriate. The Capt was deeply affected, said that he had no idea that they were so intelligent. They are also (sic) the most grateful & lamb-like kind of people in the world. I long to acquire a knowledge of the language; some of our company can converse with them considerably; I can make them understand some things, can read very well in the testament, and doubt not that I shall be able to converse with them in a short time. We commenced going to school last thursday (sic), the Rev Mr Smith is our teacher. We have strong ties in America, but we have no wish to return, I see more charms in these little native huts, than in any^{any} ceiled house that I saw. The climate here is delightful, It is now about as cool as May in America. We have fruit in abundance I am extravagantly fond of the Tarro (sic)--could make it a substitute for meat or bread. The Doc thinks it will agree with me better than any other food. I have had nothing of my old complaint since I was sick.

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(see Mary's letter). Would that my friends was (sic) here. Tell Father Holmes that the brethren here think it very strange that the Board did not send out a dâlegation, Mr Tinker said to me the other night, "Mr Holmes had ought to come," We think that his church would be blessed, and that he never would repent it. Since commencing this I have been interrupted several times, Give my love to all. I cannot designate. But I would send you the message that Kenau (sic) the queen sent the new missionaries this morning, she has gone to Tavai on a visit, "She said to a messenger from there, give much--very much love to the missionaries, tell them I have got time to think of them now, and I love them more and more. I have filled my sheet and left out many things that I wanted to say. I think I shall try to scratch off another. If I do not, it will be for the want of time, we have so many meetings and so many interruptions that its almost impossible to write. Tell my dere (sic) brothers & sisters to write me often, and do not grieve because you cannot write yourself I know your will.

In the greatest possible haste,
Your affectionate daughter
Sophia L. Lafon

P.S. The Doc says whenever you write to your friends in N.B. put my love in and put it in ~~in~~ in strong terms too, Oh I wish you knew him as well as I do, I am sure you would love him. But if you never see him on earth, if you should reach heaven I think you will be sure to find him there. Do not let the children forget us. Give our love to Maria L, tell her that I shall write, and that she must do the same. Particular love to Mrs Huffards. I shall write to Lydia, to Lucy & Susan as soon as I get settled. Do not be uneasy about me.

SLL

and he must come. 5

Helena May 13th 1832

Dear sister Anne!

Your note came to hand several weeks ago, and I scarcely need tell you how grateful and refreshing it was to me. I thank you that in the moments of writing it, you could write so much to my happiness. I have had some sweet seasons at the throne of grace, since your account of the sick man, who thought his work was prayer. It was new, and struck me with peculiar force.

I am sorry to hear that you are pale; hope you will be better soon. Keep up your courage, the Lord's promise stands sure. read 1 Tim 2-15. What a Saviour we have, who never leaves us without a promise. The Lord preserve and bless you, dear sister, and may those dear pupils who are brought under your influence have much cause to praise forth this gratitude and blessing on your name, and hail your memory in their hearts, and may you, and your dear companions,

Mrs A. Cooke
Hemelulu.

be the humble instruments in the hands of God
of much good, this undoubtedly is your sincere wish,
and whole aim. Oh that it was mine, that I felt
more deeply engaged in the cause of religion, which
of all subjects, ought to interest me most, and occupy
my thoughts. But alas I feel that my life is
almost useless, that I live to no good purpose,
am doing nothing in the cause of Christ, and often-
times fear that I have but a name to live, while
I am dead in trespasses and sins. Pray for me,
a precious privilege it is, that we can pray for one another.
These our concert of prayer will continue through another
year. The circumstance of being remembered by so
many on the 10th of every month, has a tendency
to animate, and warm in some measure, even a
heart as cold as mine.

My health is better than a few months ago, I find
any reason to expect it ever would be. Husband
is out in the wagon ploughing, and I am door-
keeper. I have jumped oftentimes, since I commenced
this little note. The natives come for medicine, for

books - work &c. &c. Tell Mr. Locke, from what
we heard we had reason to expect him, and others
with Mr. G., and when the vessel came in sight,
it gave me much pleasure. I hastened to prepare
dinner, set a table for Mr. Locke & Castle, the Dr.
went down to wait upon them up, but he and Mr. Locke
brotherly saluted me. I hope, however, that we
shall see them in the course of the summer.
My love to your beloved companion Sally, & others,
I trust will unite with me if present.

Yours ever dear sister

Stephina L. Leford

P.S.

Please remember me to sister Castle.

43
New Bedford Sep 11th 1839

My dear sister

I have spent the summer with my mother & sisters out of town. My husband returned from his agency to day week, and we set off the next day for town in order to attend to your orders. A week has nearly expired and we have done but little besides. It will seem a small business I know to collect a few articles, but I labour under more disadvantages than you can imagine. In the first place, if I want to go to a store, I must send for a Cab of drivers. He will take me to the store, for 12 p. ch and leave me. If I wish to go from purchase St, to Cheap side to compare the goods, I must take another Cab, then perhaps the goods dont suit me as well as they did at the first store, and if I return I must take the third carriage, and when ready to go home the fourth. This makes it very dear shopping as you can see, but if you are pleased with the articles I shall feel abundantly repaid.

My health has been very poor

through the summer, and the tomorrows
troublesome, but less so, than I had dared
hope I expect to suffer a great deal. The
Lord give me grace equal to my duty.

Pray for me dear Sister.

I did not intend to put you off with
a note, but my husband spends so little
time with me that I cannot think of spending
any part of it in writing. He must return
home tomorrow, and the next day he is off
again.

I will try to write you again before win-
ter.

We have rec'd a number of letters from
the Island, but only one from Hawaii, that
was from our good bro: Jonathan.

Do not forget us. I am sure I shall never
forget yourself, ^{particularly} nor the many kind-
nesses rec'd from you. We feel that we are under
many obligations to you, and to most of our
Island friends.

I wish it was in my power to add something
to articles in your boxes, but money is scarce,
and we are returned Missionaries, you know.
We like beginning life again.

I am pleasantly situated and if my dear husband
could be with me, my cup would be as full, as I ever
expect it to be in this world. Still I often feel some-

sick, and there is nothing in the wide world
that will be so gratifying to my feelings, as to
step on board the ship that is about to sail,
and go back to my old home the I. Columbus
I shall never take so much comfort again
as I have there.

This is a cold world, and the only ray of light
that we find an individual that takes interest
enough in the cause of Missions to make
any inquiries after those engaged in that great
work. It is astonishing how stupid and indifferent
Christians are.

We have travelled a good deal since our return
and I enjoyed it as well as you might expect.

Two of the tumours in my breast are running,
and the summer was a pretty trying one to me,
but it has been quite cool for a few days, and I've
felt better. But my time is used up, and I must
close this with a bill of ^{prices of the goods} the bonnets. Do let me
know how you like them.

Lawn bonnet	_____	2-10
Straw bonnet	_____	3-75
3 yds ribbon	25 ct	75
3 bits of quilted lace	1/6	75
		\$7-25

The lawn bonnets are very much worn, but they
charge \$2.00 for making. I got one made for
less however, and trimmed it myself. The straw bonnet
was it in Philadelphia, and was considered low.
You sent for a p.c. of boys clothing clothing.

