Rochester, April 12th, 1852.

Ever Dear Sister—

I am happy in being once more permitted to write to you. Little did I think when we parted last fall, that so few letters would be exchanged between us during the winter, but knowing it to be something of a task for me to write, & thinking it is probably the same with you, I hope we shall be willing to forget, & forgive, the neglect of so it is called & do better in future. My health is good as usual, & has been through the winter, oh how often have I wished during the long lonesome winter that I could visit the dear friends in Boston again & help pass off the wearisome hours that I have endured, (not enjoyed) although I have a good home, & kind children, around me, but still there is an acheing void, these things can never fill. I thought before we heard from him, could I but hear that they were safely through California, my mind would be more at ease, but this I find is not the case, the more we hear, the greater is my anxiety—we received a letter from him bearing date of Jan 6 which we received April 3, saying that he had been sick about four weeks but was then better, just able to write. He took a violent cold by lying out on the cold, wet ground when he could not procure shelter for the night, & in two days was taken sick with a severe pain in his head, fever sweats, & was never as sick before. Mr. Munson had a letter from Hinam Kellogg at the same time which said that he was well except was troubled with the rheumatism a little, he thought it a man had a home he better stay there than to go to California. In less than two weeks we had another from him dated Feb 16 saying that Hinam was dead, he was subject to rheumatic complaints I think from a child, he was taken sick the first
of pain could not lay down at all. He made him a great chair
which he kept for the last five weeks; they had to lift him with
the greatest care possible, his feet & legs swelled even to bursting. Two days
before he died, the pain left his limbs then modification took place & Sept 13 they closed his eyes in death. He wished them to write to his
father in Sandwich, & his brother in St. Louis. They have made nothing yet but their boards; they have probably seen times that would try
men's souls. It was late when they got through, they lost most of their
on cattle before they got there, & the rainy season commenced in a few
days. By the time they had dug a little gold to buy provisions
with, flour was $20, dollars per barrel, pork $20, & other things accordin-
gly, they built them a comfortable log house on the south branch
of Feather river 180 miles from Sacramento City Upper California—
where they have spent the winter. He says unless a man can dig
more than one ounce a day which is about an average days work,
he can't save one cent. He thinks he shall not be able to get
back as soon as he told of coming which was two years from the
time he left; he says he never knew how to appreciate a good
home & kind family until since he left home. Sweet home for
California. I am keeping house now for Fidelia, & consequently alone.
She & her man have gone to Southport to spend a few days with
the friends there, Helen is now at home, but expects to commence
school a week from next Monday for the summer. Abby & her family
well, also Emeline & her little one. Anna tot is quite healthy since she
had the whooping cough & seems to grow well. I might say the four
are all well for such is the case far as I know. Priscilla is
at Mrs. Floyd's they are talking of going east this summer & she
will stay with Martha whilst they are gone. I suppose you are
now in the midst of sugar making, give my love to your children.
Tell them to eat some sugar for Aunt S. The months of Jan. Feb. were warm & springlike here, since that, cold & backward, more like winter than spring. I want when you answer this you should write about all of your children & where they are & about all of the friends & acquaintances. I should be glad to hear from all, write if they hear from James Marsh & where he is, how they get along there & how did Mrs. Wheelan get along after her operation is Hector Mclean living where is Iuenta. and so on, are you going to leave our dear aged parents this spring or do you stay with them another year? that this may be the case is the sincere wish of my heart do all you can my dear sister, to make them happy & you will have your reward if not in this world, you surely will in that which is to come, give them my warmest love tell them I still hope to visit them again. When I was at Caleb mother gave me her quaint trembling but I could not catch it if she is yet willing to spare it, I will send it by brother Th. I should be very thankful of it for the giver sake please write how long she has had it. I wish you to say to brother Henry, if he is intending to come into this country this season it may be an advantage to him to get here early as he owns in case he should not get the favor he has in view (which I think is somewhat uncertain) as a man in this country cannot deal his hand away without the signature of his wife, if they are both, it is hard fording out by them what they intend to do, but what I wish to say is that the school sections in Maine & ore to be sold in June must sale to commence the third day of that month. Give my love to all that enquire after me tell your husband & brother Rufus next time I come to L. I will remember to say a good by to them but my feelings were such when I reached the stage that I entirely forgot it until it was to late, for sure they will forgive the neglect.

My Emeline & Helen send much love to Grandpa & my aunts & cousins
In looking over my shirt I see that I did not tell you that Mr. S. said he would write every month he stays there; if so we will let you know with what success from time to time my own sister and I do write them. I am in as health as ever.

I am as ever your affectionate sister, 
Lucia R. Hoyt.

[Stamp: ROCHESTER, N.Y. 1881]

[Address: Mrs. Delinda Webster]

[Signature]

Aunt Delinda.

Mr. Simonds says mother has made a mistake in regard to the handsaw, for it will commence the last of May and close the 3rd day of June. Mr. S. thinks we shall get the saw, the wants of the house are to ask Mr. S. write himself, for he don't like his Yankee friends, so pretends to us. He would rather be at home. Where is the Hon. Mann, how is all. Write soon. Affectionately yours, Delinda.