

Hills Ferry San Joaquin Co July 17th 83

Dear Brother

your kind favor is at hand
I sympathise with you and
Sister in your trying affliction
let us hope they are not gone
from us forever but are entered
into there blessed abode there
to await our coming, how sweet
it is to contemplate our loved
ones there to wellcom us on
arrival I have thought our heavenly
^Father^ bestowed a rich blessing on me
when he took some of my family
from earth to heaven, although
it seemed to rend my verry hear
t strings to part with them,
it was ounce hard for me
to understand David when he
said it was good for him that
the Lord had afflicted him

[p 2]
but I can now tell by experience
what he ment, this earth is not
our abiding home but our affect
are so riveted here our heavenly
^Father^ in his Allwise providence sees
it is for our good to remove some
of our loved ones to that City
eternal in the Heavens wose
builder and maker is God
I feel so thankful you and Sister
were spared to care for those
precious little babes you are
boath getting old what a change
you will have but it is a precious
charge, that the Lord in his
allwis providence may spear
you to care for them is the
sincer prayor of your Sister-

[p3]
this leaves us in reasonable health
we are having extremely warm
weather, crops very light grain
badly shrunk in concequence of
hot wind; I have come to the
conclusion San Jouquin valley

is not the garden spot of California
is very healthy but is more subje
ct to drouth or rather the soil
requires more rain than other
parts of the state does not retain
the moisture, the canal is great
advantage to hose on the Ease
Side, Burtons land is on the West
Concequently cannot get the
Water, we have a splendid health
Here good society nearly all Mous
Sions mostly from Pikie Co church
And Sabath school our Preacher
Rev E C Lattie says he has been
At your house he spent the winter
In your neighbor hood some years since

[p 4]
[at top of page, written upside down:
are you living in town heard you had sold
your farm]

Have had several letters from
home this summer our relations
are all well, believe I told
you Sister Patsy husband Horatio
Bruce is dead her youngest son
John is living with her Dick
and Clara are Married and living
near her; there are but one of
our old neighbours left that is
Aunt Sallie Trail
Maus black woman ould Aunt
Sintha died in 82 she was living
on Allen Clare place Wesly has
been dead 10 or 12 years
it is so long since you left there
I suppose these things have gone
Out of your mind
Will ^cose^ with love to you all
Give my best wishes and love
to your children when you see
them remain as ever your sister

Clara Fentem

[written next to signature, upside down:
hope to hear from you often]