

Hills Ferry San Joaquin Co July 17<sup>th</sup> 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 very heart  
strings to part with them,  
it was once hard for me  
to understand David when he  
said it was good for him that  
the Lord had afflicted him

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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 whose  
builder and maker is God  
I feel so thankful you and Sister  
were spared to care for those  
precious little babes you are  
both getting old what a change  
you will have but it is a precious  
change, that the Lord in his  
allwise providence may spare  
you to care for them is the  
sincere prayer of your Sister-

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

is not the garden spot of California  
is very healthy but is more subject  
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 those on the East  
Side, Burtons land is on the West  
Consequently cannot get the  
Water, we have a splendid health  
Here good society nearly all Mous  
Sions mostly from Pike Co church  
And Sabbath school our Preacher  
Rev E C Lattie says he has been  
At your house he spent the winter  
In your neighborhood some years since

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[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 old Aunt  
Sintha died in 82 she was living  
on Allen Clare place Wesley 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]