June 25th 19

My dear Son,

I sit down to write you again doubtless whether last letter reached you as I hoped to have heard from you by this time. You will do me a favor by answering my epistles as soon as time will permit; it takes so long time for a letter to reach you and if I don't get a return about the time that I calculate on, I feel anxious and restless as can be.

Your Photograph reached Oakland and Peter changed the address to Gilroy so that I got them all right. I charged you not to write again to Oakland you should have waited until you heard from me again.
I was glad to see the Photo, your wife is very nice looking; she has a bright pleasant face. If she is good and cheerful as her picture represents her, you ought to be satisfied, and I hope you are. I wished to see you taken in your ordinary dress without cape or ornament; it is a good likeness, but the wind Cooper over the front don't improve the picture in my opinion—I shall say but little as I am in hopes you have got that of May 8th in which I told you about my removal to this place.

There is a Money Order Office at Globe, Santa Clara Co—If you could spare the amount in a short time I would be thankful—Times are exceedingly dull in all branches of business, in the harvest field they get but one dollar per day or 1.50—I do not take a paper.

and am not posted in the news of the day; one item, little Billy Boone and Lovelands eldest daughter were married have gone to Washington Ira. I wrote once to Miller but no answer yet—and remind you to give me an account of your trip last, I hope you found it pleasant and profitable. Please remember me to your wife lovingly for your sake.

From your ever affectionate mother
A. Douse
Levi to be done— I had a letter from George the same time I got yours, he was working with a thrasher they had sold a ton of strained honey and will have another ton to part with that they have interest to pay on $1200 dollars, but John is in a feed store in San Diego at 40 doll per month and round harvest work is too hard for him it hurt his heart—I shall probably visit Sidro before your next arrives. I hear that Defters third son is married he is 17 and his wife 16 Defters family is increasing rapidly.

I will close, while I look this over it is like a jumbled up mess to me but you will make out what you can and guess at the rest.

God bless you my son— Your loving mother

St. Duanne

Oakland August 12th /78

My dear son

Your letter and the money orders I received on Aug 1st and in the day following went and got the money, for which I thank you— I regret the necessity of having to apply to you for money but as you generously offered to assist me I felt at liberty to appeal to you for aid, and hope that you will not be seriously inconvenienced by your kindness to me— But I could not help but smile at the 600 or more per year what do you suppose I would do with six hundred a year? the half or less would pay my rent and keep me in every comfort. I have got into the habit of spending money very
As to my going to Montana and leaving my younger sons knowing it would be next to see them again, I don’t believe that I could be prevailed upon to do it— if they would consent, or advise me to go perhaps I would feel differently about it— On your part I know you would make my life as pleasant and happy as possible—but of late years I have hoped for a home in a quiet country place with a few neighbours to visit with, without regard to dress and fashion where I could see my sons when at leisure—that is any feeling at present I don’t know how it may turn out—This I will say I am so anxious to see you once more that if you would bid me come to you at any point on R.R. track for a few days I would undertake it willingly—by— but I will think over what is

sparsely. Peter pays 25.00 per month rent, and 15.00 sometimes 80.00 pays all house expenses including pay for two magazines. When Peter was in the bank he had his regular pay not less than 220.00 per month. Since he went into the brokerage, times have been so dull they don’t make only a bare living; all I know is what I learn from Mrs. Bellangely, Peter has something laid up, how much I have no idea, and then his life insurance for ten years will soon expire, that will be $3,000; he has no idea of dying, he takes the best care of his mental body—I am not sure that you were disappointed in Peter’s expedition it would only have ended in suffering and nothing gained; that great sea belt is a barrier that man cannot overcome, money spent in that way could be put to a better use.
Capitalists and most of the intellgentsia of the state are opposed to it this day. 

The bill can be amended to answer every purpose. I hope the new has got the majority. There is great equipolement over the matter at present—Your uncle family and Mr. DePeters have shown me great kindness, God grant they may be rewarded with interest—You wished the address to the money order office nearest me. The address will be Gilroy Santa Clara Cts. If you could spare me one hundred and twenty five dollars for this year with what Charlie furnishes it would be sufficient—God bless you my son your kind care is my great comfort, what would I do without it. I hope you are both well and happy in your married life. I hope you think it but I would like to send something as a present to your wife. The only thing I have to give you would direct me the safest way. Please give my love to Mr. Toone. Remain as ever your loving mother Deane.

Gilroy May 8th 179

My dear son,

It is not owing to a fickle mind, but to circumstances over which I have no control, that I am in old Gilroy and I am thankful that I am here in place of San Diego, Charlie heard that George and his partner were going to sell their place, and he concluded that it was no place for me to go to—I had sent for him to do my packing when he told me how it was, and thought it best for me to come with him, so he rented a small Adobe house in this place, about one mile from Mr. DePeters place. The house is an old settler there is one large, and two small rooms, with a shed kitchen that is
all the room that I require or am able to keep in order, there it comforts and feel quite content. Beside my own furniture Peter told me to take what I needed of his. I took the stove, kitchen and dining table, all the table ware, and one bedroom set, he gave me several pictures. I took more than I would have done if there had been any sale for them, but as they had to be almost given away, I thought after caring for them as long I might as well have them. I sold the farm without any delay to a near neighbor for $142. I spent as little as possible in moving, but every turn takes a dollar. I have to pay 6 dollars a month rent. The lot is 70 feet square and Charlie has it all planted in vegetables, he is with me at night and when out of work. I should like an account of your trip to the last.

I hope it proved in all respects a pleasant visit to me. The length of your stay would enable your wife to see all of Washington life to her satisfaction. In such a visit one sees and hears enough to make the subject for thought and conversation for some time. I presume by this time you are back in the old routine of duty. I hope you will not forget to send your photographs as promised. I send my own recently taken. It is perfect, also a copy of one of Annie taken the year before her marriage. It is the truest in expression of any she had taken. Today I pass my sixty-second birthday, and I remember that yours comes soon after thirty nine years. can it be that you are a middle aged man? how hard for me to realize the fact. Yesterday the rate of the state was taken on the new constitution got up mainly by the bankers working men's party. The Bankers
I hoped to go with him but he has not funds sufficient without going in debt and he will run no risks in that way.

Your letters are a pleasure and comfort to me and when I get settled again I hope to hear from you more frequently. I want no more money at present—I will have sufficient to pay all expenses down and something over I hope.

You used to study the Bible and if you do not practice its teachings, it is not because you are ignorant of them. I am going to send you a book I want you to read it over and over again. It will throw more light on the scriptures than any thing you ever read. I have changed from the old way of believing some doctrines as are still taught.

May your ever be in God keeping. Your mother prays for Doane.

Oakland Jan 15th 74

My dear Son

You see by this that I am still in Oakland. Peter and I have been writing and waiting all this time to find where it was best for me to make my home, and I have concluded to go to San Diego to George and John. I will get along with George nicely as I am not dependent on him. Thanks to you my son, he is anxious for me to come to him, says they can spare me a room 18x18 with a large fireplace and he says an abundance of wood so that I need not suffer from cold. I shall take with me all necessary to make me comfortable, and then do my own work and not be expected to do any thing more. This house
is idle and will be cool in
summer so the heat wont affect
my head as it would in a frame
house—I am just recovering from
a fit of sickness that had been since I came here I was taken with
diarrhea and cramps in my feet after
a day and nights suffering the doctor
stiff the cramping and checked the diarrhea
it left me weak but I am comfortable
and well Peter was very kind to do
what he could for me— I got my letter
from George while in bed and after
I was able to be up I told Pete about
my going as usual he said little asked
me when I was going I told all about it
he knows that I am not able to do
what is necessary to be done here, and
I fancy he feels as if a load was
removed off his shoulders to have
me go to my own I told him
that you urged me to go to you
but I felt as if I could not
make the change The Lord willing
I expect to go down the latter part of March
then the boys will have their crop in and
will have time to go after me you
know it is 40 miles to San Diego from
their place Your aunt Sarah and
her daughters were both with me one
day and talked things in the house
and kindly offer to do what they can
for me I do not know what
decision we will make of our goods
and chattlery but think Pete will do
about right I will inform you of every
thing If you want the Piano I
will have it sent where ever you wish
if not I will sell it for most I can
get—I hope you will answer this
immediately I do not even know where
you are or what you are doing
I will have Charlie come to help me
pack up and see me off
but I have prayed earnestly, fervently that the Holy Spirit might direct you to Christ and incline and enable you to come to him. That you might be saved. There is no real comfort or hope in anything out of Christ. The nearer my life draws to a close the more anxious I am to keep the Cross in view.

"There is my rest shall be, close to thy bleeding side; this all my hope and all my plea; for me the Saviour died; and the world passeth away and the last thereof; but he that dcath the will of God abideth forever."

Perhaps this will not interest you, but my son, I am constrained to speak a word of warning. God grant you may heed it. From your loving Mother

Merrill

Sibley Sep 16th 1859

My dear son

Your letter came to me on Sep 5th, and on the 8th I received a note from the cashier of Helena Bank, enclosing a check for $25. The money was welcome, as it helps to provide for my comfort. I will not ask for any specific sum, but will trust to your love and care for me to send me what and what you can spare, always notifying me beforehand, so that I may look out for the remittance. I don’t like to hear of your being in debt. I dread indebtedness. But you, your own business and make your arrangements accordingly, and I hope God willing, you may be prosperous. I do wish you would make it a rule to write to me at
Last once in three months, if you knew how much it chured me to get a few kind words from you you would not judge the time spent in writing. My health, taking my age into consideration, is good for which I am thankful. Though the old folks one by one are dropping off, Mr. Year was buried on September 1st, a little short of one year after his wife. He was in the city with Sarah, The dear love and homely, and of course almost friendless. George did not deceive me; they are in debt and think it better to sell as soon as possible. I could have gone down but Charlie thought under the circumstances I had better not and I am satisfied that I did not. I presume you have been an account of the shooting of Carson Haller by one of the DeYoungs of the Chronicle, cause slanderous utterances on both sides. This recovering very fast and is elected Mayor of San Francisco in the working men's ticket. They had four parties in the election—Democrats, Republican, W. H. and New Constitution; but I see they have all united to give Gen. Grant a grand reception he is expected in on Saturday 20th. No doubt it will be a gay and festive scene. San Fran can do the honors pretty thoroughly when she sets about it. I will send you a proper copy. You seem to be crowded pretty well up to the wall. I don't see why you are always kept in the frontier; but I sometimes think that you prefer that kind of life. When a child you regretted the people settling around you at Santa Clara, said they were spoiling the country. They haven't changed the climate that is charming as ever. Give my love to your wife. I pray God that she may give her heart to the Lord Jesus and her true Christian woman. There has no day passed since you left me...
My Dear Lettie Lady, Friend.

Your Most Welcome letter of the 24th of last came today as also one from Your Mother, enclosing yours of the 9th of the same. I do not know whether it may be a Betrayal of Confidence to tell you this, but presume it is not. At any rate, have no secrets to keep from you in relation to our Gentle Correspondence, and therefore there is no caution to exercise. So I am to have that long ago asked for Photo at last? And now have the Pleasure of thanking you for it before its Receipt. I shall Cook my Cereals, Fruits, for the Christmas Dinners in each coming Mail thereafter. My former Letters to you are all accounted for excepting two sent in August, to Care of Capt. Dallas; one to Send Delia - Helene to 3, and the other to 3 by your Mother - which she write was mailed to you - probably to Care of Mr. Duff. I never received those written before leaving Bozeman. Can you not give me it? write, address, or letter date? Write it Contents? I am infinitely obliged to you delight for her liberal allowance of understanding to me. My Mother for Arey's Birds & Skippers is - G - but made high in
the inability and in what the Shoemakers call a "Shoe-last.
But they will fit equally.

In years of the 24th (Which, by the way, I do not correct
and was more than I would pleased with) I remember entering
the St. Vincents School. Being with your sister,
it must be more satisfactory, than living apart would be.
And of course the advantages of a regular course
of study are to be greatly appreciated.

Of course you have my best wishes for your success,
and to have little riggie.

The present prospects are that I shall not be
able to set to work in as good season as at first
anticipated. We expected to be ordered in this last of
September, but are disappointed. I hope to be
let loose from the field shortly, however; and with
availing myself of the first opportunity to see you,
bringing all the credentials from your kind Mother
that may be required.

I am sorry you did not comply with my request
in the letter of the 18th. You should be supplied with
everything you need in this cold winter climate. It is
never safe to go anywhere in this latitude without
snow shoes, and a fur.

When you go out for a Riding next Place
Do not fail to Call at Captain Fuller's & Secund
these letters, he may have some word from your
Mother also. My kindest regards to the Viola.

It is especially the notorious how that the Indians
Some call gone East. Since seeing you I have been over a great deal of Idaho and eastern Montana. Visited the Big Hole Battlefield. It is strewn with bones and skulls and is a terrible looking place. About two weeks ago I was over the Cinnam Beck Battle Scene of last year. There are great signs there speaking the justification. Have shot salmon within six miles of the summit of the divide. And fished for trout alternately day after day in water flowing into both oceans.

In answering please direct — not as herefore — to

Lt. G. B. Drowne,
25th Infantry

Via Haunock City
Montana City

As Ever,

Very Respectfully

Capt. Friend

G. B. Drowne