

Letter #58

Pacheco. June 16, 1859.

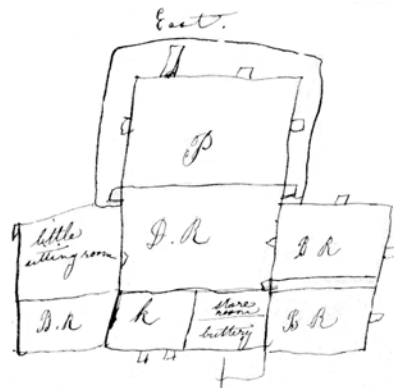
One sheet blue lined paper
7³/₄ x 9³/₄"
embossed in upper left corner

Dear Mother.

Date: 6/16/1859
Place: Pacheco
From: Ann
To: Mother

Yesterday Clara went to the store and Harris gave her your letter of May 16. I was not only pleased but surprised as I had not heard the mail had arrived. H sent me word he should write you this morning and I have left everything to do the same. Parkers business (as I think I have written you before) is teaming. anything he can get to do, he has plenty of work at 3 or 4,00 dollars per day as his is the only team here devoted to that. The warehouse that the boats come to now is about a mile from here, and everything must be hauled from there. besides he takes jobs of putting in grain, hauling wood, hay, &c. He is now at work in the hay. After it is cocked he hauls the cocks and stacks it at 75 cts per acre. he made a horse rake and the boys haul it and he pitches. Guy rides and guides the horses while D-holds the rake. They go about 3 miles, take their dinner and stay all day. Before starting in the morning they milk, feed the calf, pigs, and chickens, carry water and chop wood for the day. At night do the chores again, and Guy drives cows for two of the neighbors, makes 50 cts per week at that. They are gone now. Clara has sung over the dishes till they are done and is now sweeping, Sarah and Jane are playing woman and 'bisiting'. J- comes to me about every other minute "Miss Main how do. I berry well." We are more pleasantly situated now than ever before in Cal. Our house is small but if we are ever able to finish it will be convenient. The end fronts the road. The size is 16 by 24 feet, 1 and 1/2 stories high. It is divided into 2 rooms, 12 by 16. The parlor has a good, cheap, wool carpet on the floor, and a curtain across one side behind which is my bed and a trundle bed. The dining room has a curtain, the boys bed, and China matting on the floor. Back of that is another room 10 by 16 for kitchen, store room &c. Now we have a little corner partitioned off for Claras bed. have no spare bed, no room for one. when we need one put the boys on the floor.

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I Have tried to show you our plan for finishing but have not succeeded very well I fear. You can see we intend a Verandah to cover the dining room windows and extend around the parlor. The wings will furnish bed rooms and a sitting room for constant use. I dont expect to have a nice parlor and shut it up, but I wish to keep it clean enough for anyone to come in and sit down in comfort. Each bed room will have a closet or clothes press and we can

finish off two good sleeping rooms up stairs if we wish. Back of all is a room for a wood house well &c. If we wish an outside door to our dining room we can put in French windows or in place of one window a door with a glass

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sash in the top. The whole could be finished for about \$200 but we cannot do it this year. The lot has a good picket fence on two sides with a small barnyard, hen house &c. The other sides only a temporary fence. The house and fence are paid for but not the lot. Have given you full particulars because I thought it would interest more than anything else. Can you suggest any improvements, or Father either. you know we must go on a cheap scale. The frame is boards stood up, the inside to be clothed and papered. But I must wind up, time is slipping away and I have got 'stacks' of sewing to do. Do you know I have the sewing machine fever badly. Could we get them here at the Ohio prices would have one instanter. It keeps me slaving from one years end to another to barely clothe the children, and we are not able to hire. The San Francisco price for a good family machine is \$105. so I have no hopes. Many thanks for the flower seeds you sent but they were rose moss, and I have 5 different colors growing now. If you could get some Cypress seed without too much trouble would be thankful. I have Cactus and a Fushia in bloom in my dining room window. But I cant write the half. how I do wish you could step in and spend this beautiful summer day with me. Mother it is actually an aggravation to write you. It always makes me restless and dissatisfied. Money is said to be the root of all evil, and I know it is best for us to be poor, or it would not be so,

[The following is written upside down at the top of the first page]

but I cannot help feeling that a little money to visit you with would be such a blessing.

Good Bye.

Hope you will all accept much love from

Ann.