INTRODUCTION TO LETTERS

The Heber C. Kimball Family Association is pleased to present this packet (1983) of old Kimball letters. Except for minor punctuation changes, the letters included in this packet have been typed as originally written including original spelling and grammar. Paragraphing, capitalization of the first word in each sentence, periods at the end of sentences and some commas have been added (or deleted in the case of commas) to improve readability. Words in brackets were not in original letters and have been added to make the meaning more clear. Words that were undecipherable are so indicated by an underlined blank space. In many cases several letters in a word were decipherable and so a probable word including those letters have been put into brackets with a question mark and underlining to indicate the uncertainty of the original word.

In several cases only secondary sources for a letter have been found, i.e., the letter from Whitney's Life of Heber C. Kimball. These letters were heavily edited and corrected before printing. They have been typed exactly as they appeared in the edited form.

The reader is reminded that Heber C. Kimball had very little formal education for which he was very self conscious. He tended to spell phonetically and thus we are given a glimpse of how he might have talked and pronounced many words. The letters also include little idioms of speech typical of his time and place. In all probability he spoke with a New England drawl.

It will become evident as one reads through this material that there are missing letters. It is the hope of the family organization that a supplement to this packet including many of these missing letters may someday be prepared. Once more we plead with those of you who might have letters to share a copy with us.

It is hoped the reader of these letters will gain a deeper understanding and respect for his or her ancestors and the forces and circumstances that helped to shape their lives and character traits. Modern research into the human personality has shown that extreme, overpowering or profound experiences in the lives of people can exert a strong influence on the development of people in succeeding generations. There is an old saying that in effect says, "The present has meaning in terms of the past and the future will have meaning in terms of the present". Perhaps these letters can help us gain a better understanding of ourselves and the impact of the past on our own lives.

Pat Geisler
Chairman of Genealogical Committee
May 1983
GLOSSARY OF SOME NAMES MENTIONED IN KIMBALL LETTERS


ADOLPHUS HUIT: See Rhodolpus Hewett

ALEXANDER (ALEXANDER): Benjamin Alexander Ellis, son of (s/o)/Eleazer Ellis & Lucretia Murray, Vilate's paternal aunt.

AUSTIN: Austin Hewett, s/o Rhudolphus Hewett Jr. a Murray relative.

BR BABBIT: Almon W. Was president of Kirtland Stake & held leadership positions in early Church period.

BEMAN, Father: Alvah Beman, convert to the Church from Mendon, New York.

BR BENTLY: Probably Richard Bently whose family came to Utah. Md. Ann ?

BR BOND: Prob. Ira Bond a convert from Mendon, NY. Md. Charlotte ?

BOYINGTON, JOHN: One of original 12 apostles who later apostatized.


CAROLINE: Caroline Dunks, wife of (w/o) heber's brother Solomon F. Kimball.

CHARLES: Charles Spaulding Kimball, Heber's oldest brother who died in 1830.


CRETIA: See Lucretia Murray

DAVID: David Patton Kimball, s/o Heber & Vilate. Born shortly after they settled in Nauvoo and not long before Heber left on 2nd mission to England.

BR DEAN GOULD: Member of church living in Kirtland when Heber left for England.

BR DORT & WIFE FANNY: Prob. David Dort, a member of Nauvoo High Council.

ELECTA: Electa Murray, d/o Roswell's uncle Daniel Murray. She was also a sister to Laura Murray, w/o Roswell's son Roswell Gould Murray. She married Rodolphus W. Hewett Sr. Rhudolphus Jr. mentioned below is their son.

ELIZA: Eliza Kimball, Heber's oldest sister. Md. Harvey Hall.

ELIZA: Mentioned in R. G. Murray letters in connection with Fanny Young Murray. She is probably d/o Betsey Murray (Sister of Laura, Electa & Sophronia who were all lst cousins to Roswell) and Ira DOTY. Md. 1) Austin Craveth. They joined the church and moved to Nauvoo where Austin died. Md. 2) William Ellis Murray (plural wife) who died in 1847. Md. 3) Alfred Brown who died enroute to Utah. Md. 4) Heber G. KIMBALL. She was a lst cousin once removed to Vilate and her brother William E. whom she married.

This list does not include names of the more well known Church leaders. Also excludes names whose identity is unknown.
ELLIS: Eleazer Ellis Campbell, s/o Vilate's sister Lucretia Murray Campbell.

ELVIRA: ??? Referred to as Heber's sister in Sept. 15, 1854 letter from Eliza Hall another sister. She is not listed in family records! Needs further research!

FANCHER: W. H. Fancer h/o Eliza Ann Campbell who was dtr of Lucretia Murray & Nathaniel Campbell.

FANNY: Fanny Young Carr Murray, a sister to Brigham Young. Md. 2) Roswell Murray f/o Vilate on 2 Feb 1832.

BR FIELDING: Joseph Fielding, one of early English converts in Canada who accompanied Heber on his 1st mission to England.

Mrs. FRENCH: A resident of Victor/Mendon area. Prob. a Murray relative.

BR. GOODSON: John Goodson, one of early English converts from Canada. Accompanied Heber on 1st mission to Canada.


BR GRANGER: Oliver Granger, a New York convert. He acted as an agent of Church in purchasing lands in Nauvoo & settling Church financial affairs in Kirtland.

HARVEY HALL: Husband of Heber's sister Eliza Hall.

HEBER: Heber Parley Kimball s/o Heber & Vilate.

HELEN: Helen Mar Kimball Whitney d/o Heber & Vilate.


ISABELLA ELLIS: Isabell Bennett, w/o Henry Ellis who was a son of Vilate's uncle and aunt Samuel Ellis & Vilate Fitch (sister of Vilate's mother Susannah Fitch Murray).

JENNITT: Helen Jennett Murray d/o William Ellis Murray, Vilate's brother.

LAURA: Laura Murray w/o Roswell Gould Murray Sr. She also dtr/o Daniel Murray, a brother of Roswell's father Ezra which made her 1st cousin once removed to her husband and Vilate.

MRS. LELAND: ? A convert from Mendon/Victor area who immigrated to Utah.


LOUISA: Prob. d/o Alvah Beman who became 1st plural wife of Joseph Smith.
Glossary Cont.
Page 3


MARY: Mary Springer, 2nd wife to Vilate's older brother William E. Murray.

MARY of HCK letter 12 Mar 1839: Mary Fielding Smith, w/o Hyrum Smith

MR. McGLAUGHLIN: ? Resident of Victor/Mendon area.


MR. MUNN: Jess Munn, husband of Heber's sister Abigail (Abby).


NATHANIEL (NAT): Nathaniel Campbell, husband of Vilate's sister Lucretia Murray.

RHODOLPHUS: Rodolphus W. Hewett Jr., son of Electa Murray (sister of Laura Murray) who md. Rodolphus W. Hewett Sr.


ROSILLA: Rosalia Kimball, d/o Heber's brother Solomon F. & Caroline Dunks

RUHAMA: Heber's niece. Uncertain which sibling was her parent. Md. Charles Dibble

ROSSEL MURRAY (Father or Father Murray): Father of Vilate, R. Gould, William E. & Lucretia Murray. Md. 1) Mary Wilson 1792 2) Susannah Pitch ca 1798 3) Fanny Young Carr 1832 (She was sister to Brigham Young)

BR RUSSELL: Isaac Russell, one of early English converts from Canada who accompanied Heber on his 1st mission to England.


BR THARE: Prob. Ezra Thayer an early convert from Mendon/Victor area.

BR THOMSON: Robert B. Thompson, an Englishman converted to Church in Canada. Later he was associate editor of the Times & Season in Nauvoo.

FATHER TOMLINSON: ? Perhaps either John E. or Nathan who were both early converts from Mendon, NY.


Glossary Cont.

Page 4

MR. WHEELER: Joseph James Wheeler, husband to Heber's sister Melvina.

WILLIAM: William Ellis Murray, Vilate's older brother. He & family joined the Church and moved to Nauvoo. He died/April 1847 in Missouri. His family were at Winter Quarters and came on west to the Salt Lake Valley with Heber's Company.


BR & SIS WINCHESTER: Stephen & Nancy Case Winchester, early converts to church from Penn. Their dtr Nancy later became plural wife of HKK.

NOTE: For further information on the MURRAY-ELLIS family refer to the book:


For further information on the wives of Heber C. Kimball mentioned in the letters, see the following pamphlet:

lade hands upon them & blessed them & we also set apart Elders Hedlock & A. Carnes to go to England Elder Hedlock to preside. The blessings that were pronounced upon the heads of the Brethren were written by Elder Richards.

24 About a dozen of my neighbors turned out & helped me dig out my suller. We flung out an immense quantity of Sand. I worked myself more so than was for my good.

25 We finished digging my suller. I also commenced digging me a well. I made a curb.

26 Several masons & tenders came to commence my suller wall. Several teams were drawing stone for me through the day. My well caved in & I had to sink a curb in it. I injured myself very bad by hard work & drinking water while very warm.

27th A rainy day. I arose sick in the morning. In consequence of hard labor & being heted the day before. I was confined to my bed the fore part of the day.

In the afternoon I met in council with the Twelve & first Presidency when the case of Benjamin Winchester was brought up on trial for improper conduct & conduct in Philadelphia for rejecting the council of Hiram, Joseph, & the Twelve & tearing to pieces the saints instead of building up. Hyrum plead for mercy, Joseph for Justice, & the Twelve decided according to testimony, & in all we had an interesting time.

Elder Winchester was refractory & out of order. Joseph wished the Twelve or President of the quorum to call the house to order.

Several Letters were read touching the subject after which Elder Winchester made a lengthy speech trying to justify himself. Was followed by President Hyram Smith. Plead in behalf of Winchester on the side of mercy. Elder George J Adams gave his testimony against Winchester. Then Elder Winchester followed Adams & both spoke sever[al] times.

Then President Joseph Smith arose & rebuked Elder Winchester in the sharpest manner. Said he had a lying spirit & had lied about him & told him of many of his errors.

After hearing the testimony Elder B Young President of the quorum of the Twelve said he had made up his mind & his decision was that Elder Winchester should give up his license & cease preaching until he should reform.

President H Smith said he should not like to have such a decision given without another trial & give Elder Winchester a chance to get more testimony if he could. President Young said he should then prefer to have case turned over to the High Council.

President Joseph Smith said it was not the business of the High Council. They could not try him. It belonged to the Twelve & them alone for it was concerning matters abroad & not in Nauvoo. The high council was to try cases that belong to the city & the Twelve to regulate the churches & Elders abroad in all the world & Elder Winchester case came under the jurisdiction of the Twelve & them alone. President H Smith urged that the case should be put off until tomorrow. President J Smith said the case might be put off until tomorrow at 10 o'clock if it would do any body any good.

President B Young arose & spoke in the majesty of his calling & among other remarks said his mind was made up & the remarks of Brother Hyrum or Brethren Joseph had not altered it. As for himself he would not sit upon the case another day. He considered it an insult upon his office & calling as an apostle of Jesus Christ & he would not bear it. As for the rest of the Twelve [they] might do as they pleased. As for himself he would not do it. Benjamin Winchester has despaired & rejected the council of the presidency & the Twelve had said they had no jurisdiction over him in Philadelphia & to say where he should go &. But he & others will find their is
feelings were hard toward me. Tell me how the presence quit a long to gether; tell how the twelve? quit a long with Joseph; tell me how the Church prospers; tell me all the news of all of them; tell me the holy truth and nothing but the truth. Tell me how you quit a long; how your health is and how you enjoy your mind. Tell me how the children quit a long and how the crops grow. Let me know all a bout your temoral and speretel concerns. I have dremp twice about you and you was qute indigrent towards me. This I think this would not be the case if I could see you. So the day would come when we can have the desire of our harts: That is to never be separated a gain for its like taking life to me.

June the 28 This morning we are imge in bying our provision to tord bord of the ship to morrow. It will cost us about fifty dollars for our provisions. It will take us about 30 days to cross to Liver pole. It makts it short times for us. Brother Talor greed to meet a Buffalo and bring us one hundred dollars in money which we have been disappointed of, which cosed us money but felings. The devel seam to want to hinder us in our journy. This would caus our enemies to rejoic. went to work and we put up 75 dollars of Kirtland money and got fifty convert money. We could not quit a nother cent off. We have bot one barrel of ingen meat to mak pudens--one hundred pounds of crackers, 40 p of rice, 40 pounds of chuger, two gallons of hummy, one gallon of molases, half barrel of flour, three hams and got our utensils to cook out and bulen. We have plenty to eat. We may have a calm or a wind to blow us of the cost, so we quit more then we think we shall want. We cant quit it bord of the Chip. We are well (and) excited to gether. There was qute a co [hole] when we first came to gether. This is now wonder when we [hole] of confusion and death and distress. This is the largest ship that ever was bilt in America and the largest that ever sailed to Liver pole. I am in perfect helth this morning and my brethren, Brother Richards is troubled with the same complaint that I was. He is getting better. We are in good sperrits this morning. Give my Love to father (Murray) and mother (Fanny Young Murray) and Brigham and Joseph and tell them to pray for me. Tell them I expect to see them this fall. Remember me to brother Williams and family. Remember me to my dear little children. Tell William and Helen I want them to pray that the Lord will bring me home again. I wont regret this of

Give my love to all inquiring minds--We have spend most of two days distributing brother Hides prophetic warnings in the City. We did up a bout one hundred and fifty in letter form and directed to evry prast of evry profession in the City. We found thare names in the papers.

June 29 I take my pen to say that I am now going on bord of the Chip. They are going out about five or six miles to stay till to morrow morning (and) then we shall set safe. I am well this morning. So fare well my Dear Companion; I bid you fare well till I see you again. Amen.

Heber C. Kimball

Taken from a photocopy of original letter in Church Historical Dept.
VILATE TO HEBER

A Revelation given Kirtland July 23, 1837

The word of the Lord unto Thomas B. Marsh.... [Vilate then wrote out in long hand the revelation that has since become Section 112 of the Doctrine and Covenants.]

She added the following note at the conclusion of the revelation:

Kirtland, September 6th, 1837

My Dear Husband: Once more I resume my pen to address you, who although far distant in body, yet you are ever present before my mind. I cannot express to you the heart felt gratitude which swells this bosom of mine while I reflect upon the goodness of God, not only to me in your absence, but also for the heart cheering intelligence we have received from you. Brother Hydes letter came to hand yesterday; it could not have come in a better time as Sisters Walton and Snider were here from Canada and were about to start for home. Also Elders Abaziah and Patten were about to set off for Missouri (and) they all had the pleasure of hearing the letter read and rejoiced with us for your speedy and safe arrival upon the shores of Europe.

I know not where to begin to write or what to say to you first: for the multitude of thoughts that rush upon my mind. You see I have filled a good part of my sheet with a revelation which I thought would be more interesting to you than anything else I could write. I copied it from Dr. Marsh's book as he wrote it from Joseph's mouth. He told me there was one thing made known to Joseph while he was receiving it which he told him not to write: It was that the door of ordination (ordination) could not be effectually opened ________ Dr. Marsh should ________ or send some one whom he should ordain unto ________ The bottom part of the original letter is missing, therefore the above is all that remains of letter.)
HEBER TO VILATE


My Dear Companion,

I take this opportunity to write a few lines to you, to let you know I am in the land of the living, I am a pilgrim on the earth, and a stranger in a strange land far from my home and among those that seek my life because I preach the truth and those things that will save their lives in the day of tribulation. On the 18th of July we landed in Liverpool in the afternoon. I had peculiar feelings when we landed, the Spirit of God burned in my breast; and at the same time I felt to covenant before God, to live a new life, and to pray that the Lord would help me to do the same. We remained there three days, resting our bodies; on Saturday the 22nd we took coach for Preston, the distance 31 miles, we arrived there at four in the afternoon.

After we had unloaded our things, Br. Fielding had gone to see his brother, and Br. Goodson had gone to get lodgings; all at once I looked up, there was a large flag before me, with large gilded letters written thereon, "TRUTH WILL PREVAIL" we said Amen, so let it be Lord; the same evening, one of the clergy desired desired an interview with us. Elders Hyde and Goodson, and myself went to see him, conversed with him and one Mr. Watson until about ten in the evening, when we retired to our lodging, the next morning we agreed to go and hear him preach, we did so; after he got through he gave out an appointment for one of us at three in the afternoon. It fell to my lot to preach first; I spoke upon the first principles of the gospel, and what the Lord was doing in these last days, it caused the people to start at me; after I got through, Br. Hyde bore testimony and many received our testimony, for they date their conviction back to that time. The Rev. Mr. gave out another appointment at half past seven, Br. Goodson preached and Br. Fielding bore testimony after him, and it came with power, he then gave another appointment for Wednesday evening. Br. Hyde preached, and there seemed to be many that rejoiced, that the Lord had sent his servants to preach to them. The Rev. Mr. closed his doors against us, and found fault with us because we held forth the order of baptism, said we agreed would not hold forth these things, this was not so. For we did not ask him for his house, but we prayed that the Lord would open his heart to let us preach in it and so he did, and we gave God the glory. After this there were private doors opened for us to preach; we had two or three meetings every night, and many began to bear testimony of the truth of the things which we declared, and desired to be baptised. Eight days after we arrived at Preston, nine presented themselves for baptism, and I was appointed to baptise, on Sunday morning, and Br. Russel was appointed to preach in the market place at half past two in the afternoon; this was concluded upon on Saturday evening, and we retired to bed as usual.---

A singular circumstance occurred before morning, which I will quote from Br. Hyde's journal, as he wrote it down, he commences as follows, "Elder Russel was much troubled with evil spirits and came into the room where Elder Kimball and myself were sleeping, and desired us to lay our hands on him and rebuke the evil spirit. I arose upon the bed, and Br. Kimball got upon the floor and I sat upon the bed; we laid our hands on him, and brother Kimball rebuked and prayed for him but just before he had finished his prayer, his voice faltered, and his mouth was shut, and he began to tremble and real to and fro, and fell on the floor like a dead man, and uttered a deep groan, I immediately seized him by the shoulder, and lifted him up, being satisfied that the devils were preceding angry because we attempted to cast them out of Br. Russel, and they made a powerful attempt upon Elder Kimball as if to dispatch him at once, they struck him senseless and he fell to the floor; Br. Russel and myself then
laid our hands on Elder Kimball, and rebuked the evil spirits, in the name of Jesus Christ; and immediately he recovered his strength in part, so as to get up; the sweat began to roll from him most powerfully, and he was almost as west as if he had been taken out of the water, we could very sensibly hear the evil spirits rage and foam out their shame. Br. Kimball was quite weak for a day or two after; it seems that the devils are determined to destroy us, and prevent the truth from being declared in England." The devil was mad because I was going to baptize, and he wanted to destroy me, that I should not do those things the Lord sent me to do. We had a great struggle to deliver ourselves from his hands; when they left Br. Russe1 they pitched upon me, and when they left me they fell upon Br. Hyde; for we could hear them gnash their teeth up us.---

Eight days after we got here, we held a counsel: Br. Goodson and Br. Richards, went to Beford; elders Russe1 and Snider, went North, about one hundred miles; elder Hyde, and priest Fielding stayed at Preston, it is a large place; there is between fifty and sixty thousand inhabitants; and the most poor people that I ever saw. There are 55 now baptized, and it is as much as they can do to live, there is not more than one or two that could lodge us over night if they should try; and in fact there are some that have not a bed to sleep on themselves; and this is the situation of most of the people in this place, and it is so in the country; we cannot travel the streets without meeting beggars half naked, this gives me feelings that I do not like.

We have to live quite short, but the brethren are very kind to us, they are willing to divide with us the last they have, they are quite ignorant, many of them cannot read a word and it needs great care to teach them the gospel so that they can understand; the people here are bound down under priestcraft in a manner I never saw before: they have to pay tithes to the priests of every tenth they raise; so that they cannot lay up one cent; they are in the same situation the children of Israel were in in Egypt; they have their taskmasters over them to bind them down; it will be as great a miracle to deliver this people as it was the children of Israel.

There are a great many believing in Preston; we are baptizing almost every day. The Rev. Mr. is like to lose all his members, and the priests are mad, but they are afraid of us and durst not come near us.

You stated in your letter that some of the twelve were coming to England next spring, and you say they are calculating to bring their wives with them; this I have no objections to, but if they come they had better bring money to support themselves; I think they had better take up with Br. Joseph's advice and leave their wives at home, for if they bring them here, they will repent the day they do it. I do not wish to bring my wife to this place to suffer, if they could see the misery that I do they would not think of such a thing, the Savior says, "he that is not willing to leave father and mother, and wife and children, brothers and sisters, houses and lands for my sake and the gospel, are not worthy of me." We have had our own hired house, since we have been here, and bought our own provisions; we do not eat but one meal at home, for the brethren invite us to eat dinner and supper with them.

You stated that our brethren thought of appointing a conference in England next spring, but we know not what will happen before that time; we know not how long we shall be here; if we come home next summer, we shall come before they can get here. The Lord says "take no thought for the morrow" and this is the way I feel at present, I commit myself into his hands,
that, I may always be ready to go at his command; I desire to be content with whatever situation I am placed in.

The 2nd week after I came here, a minister's daughter came in where I was, and I commenced preaching to her the words of life, she seemed to listen with great attention to me; I told her I was going to preach in the evening, she said she would come and hear me, she did so, and the next night she came again, and the next morning she sent for me to come and baptize her; accordingly I went and baptized her; this was on Friday morning, and on Saturday she started for home; she wanted me to come to her father's house, for she thought her father would open his chapel for me to preach in; I told her if there was a door open, I would come. She appeared very intelligent, and I have since learned that she was a person of great influence in the place where she lives, which is called Walthorpe, about fifteen miles from Preston. I saw her into the coach and she desired that I would pray for her, and her father, that his heart might be softened that he might not find fault with her. I bade her farewell, went home at my lodging and found Br. Hyde, and Fielding, and told them what I had done; and that I wanted to call on the Lord and ask him to soften her father's heart, that he might open his chapel for me to preach &c. Then we bowed before the Lord, and we were agreed in asking for these things, the next week I received a letter from her father, requesting me to come to his house on Saturday as he had given out for me to preach three times on the next Sabbath, I accordingly went, he received me very kindly; I preached in his chapel seven times, stayed there nine or ten days; and preached thirteen times, and the Lord was with me, and I baptized eight; and almost every one that came to hear, believed. The Rev. Mr. R. has preached here 33 years, he is a Presbyterian. It caused me to marvel to see how the Lord is able to turn the hearts of the people: Mr. R. did not receive my testimony, but the Lord softened his heart, that he might gather out his saints. I never was treated better any where than by them, while I was there, the Lord warned me in a vision to go back to Preston for I was wanted there; the Lord is with me and warns me of almost every thing before hand. Walthorpe is but two miles from the Catholic college, the most of the people here are Catholics. They have threatened my life, but this does not scare me, for the Lord is with me, and you know that perfect love casts out all fear. I feel from in the Lord, I never enjoyed myself better than I do now, and it is so with brother Hyde and all the brethren.

Brothers Goodson and Richards went to Bedford, and Mr. Matthews received their testimony and exhorted his people to do the same, and set a time to go forward and be baptized; and when the time came, he was missing and did not come. He had turned against the work; and been baptized by some of their ministers; and is now preaching repentance and baptism for the remission of sins; and calling on his members to be baptized. He has written a letter to the Rev. Mr. at Preston, and says that the best of his people have left him. The last we heard from the brethren there, they had baptized twelve.

Br. Russell and Snider that went North, we have not had the particulars from. We have preached in the streets the most of the time, until our lungs are injured much, we have large congregations to hear, and the houses are very small in this place.

We have had the Cock-pit to preach in, two Sundays once a day, and next Sunday we have the privilege of preaching in it twice; it will hold six or seven hundred people.
Sept. 6, I am now going down to Walkerford to visit that little branch. — There is a great and affectual door opened there, I had many calls in different places, and so it is here in Preston, more than we can attend to; and they are calling for us in the country: Br Hyde and myself went out ten miles last week, and preached twice we had as many as could hear us. — They had a shock of an earthquake here a few years ago, but they say it was nothing compared to this, the people find much fault, and threaten us much, because we get their best members; we tell them all we want is the wheat.

I cannot tell you much on one sheet of paper, but I shall write again in about three weeks from the date of this, you must forgive me my dear Vilate, that I have been so negligent about writing to you, but I will not do so again. I felt much gratified with the news you wrote in your kind letter; I had many sorrowful hours thinking of the things in Kirtland: it has been my prayer ever since I left, that a reconciliation should take place. I feel contented about you I know the Lord will take care of you, and preserve you till I come home; and feed you, and clothe you, and the children. And he will take care of me; give me your prayers, and you shall have mine: be faithful my dear companion, our labours will soon be over, when we shall meet to part no more forever. I am glad you have sister Fielding with you. I hope she will stay with you till I come home. Tell William and Hellen and Heber to be good children, and pray for me, my love to all enquiring friends; write when you receive this, and let this sheet be an example for you, this to my dearest friend.

Heber Kimball

From Elders' Journal of The Church of Latter Day Saints, Vol. 1, No.1, Kirtland, Ohio, October 1837 {Original punctuation has been preserved}. 
My dear wife,

This morning I sit down to write a few lines to you and may the Lord assist me to convey the same that I may write a few lines that may be interesting to you my dear friend [illegible] hope you have a great anxiety for my welfare and how that I quit a long in the ministry. I now let your heart rejoice for the Lord is with me both night and day teaching me the things of the kingdom both in dreams and in visions and so it is with Brother Hide. Your kind letter came to hand the eighteenth day of October which made my heart to rejoice to hear from you and the children that you were in good health. This caused my heart to rejoice for when one member rejoices all the members rejoice with it; so it is with me, all though I have been afflicted much in body with a bad cold on it. (It) is a cold of the influenza (type). Brother Hide has had the same so that he was confined to the house for several days, and I have been so that I could not preach at all for some days (as) my lungs was so affected. I am now mending fast. This complaint is raging in this country. I believe I have had the terror of it.

I received your letter in 31 days after it was mailed in Kirkland. I think this was a quick passage. Brother Fielding came the same time. You say the brethren and sisters are looking for us to come home this fall. This is something that has been borne on my mind. Brother Joseph told me when I came away that I should not come home this fall and say he "don't you come in the winter on the count of the storms". I think Brother Joseph must forgotten what he had told me. And if we had wanted to have come home it would have been most impossible to have gotten a way from this place for the work had just commenced in this place and many believed our testimony and the reason that they didn't come forward was because they were afraid that we were going to leave them alone; for they perceived quite harde in this place. And they are not a fraud when we are here, for the press are afraid of us and dare not come out against us openly but cry false prophets and false teaching and delusion in thare pulpits and not a word to our faces.

Last week I had a cold about 12 miles from Preston in to a country town for to preach where they never had hard before. All though I was on well (unwell) with a relapse (relapse) so that I was quite weak in body so that I had to sit down beside of the rode to rest yet I went. When I got there, there was a large congregation got to gather to hear me preach being an entire stranger to them. When I got there they wanted me to preach about two miles from that place. I agreed that I would go. When the next evening come I went and they had a chappel ready for me to preach in. After much stir they got the doors open for me, for there was several press sed that I should be examined before I should preach. The Lord prevailed and I preached to them about one hour and ten minutes and there was appointment given out half way between two places for me next night to preach. Previous to the people gatting to gather there was five present then selves for baptism. This was one half hour before preaching and the next morning there was two more come forward for baptism and before I left the place there was three more come forward for baptism, making in all ten. The affects of preaching three times (to those) who never heard before and two of these were Methodist Preachers. There was five of these brethren...
There was five of these brethren that hark me the three times and I baptised two and I expect I shall baptise one more when I go back. I think I shall go next tuesday if the Lord will. The week before that I went to Warberfold and baptised nine. I have not ben in Enny place and preached more than four times but what I have baptised men or boys?

The work of the Lord is holding on in this Land in great power. The harvest is ripe and all ready to perish and the labours are few in deed. My dear wife what a desire I have for the soles of men that I never did before in my life. I pray the Lord to give me strength according to my desire for I desire to bring souls in to the Kingdom of God that we may rejoice with them in our fathers kingdom. I want your prayers day and night that I may be supported and upheld from the powers of the devil for he is trying to destroy me soul and body. And the priests are trying to over throw us and put us down by lying about us and saying that we are preaching against the Government. They have tride most evry way to stop the work of God in this land but the standard is planted in this land and they cant root it up for it has become so powerful it and it is spreading in almost evry direction in this island. There has people ben baptise here that lives hundred and fifty miles from this place.

Brother Rusel came herelast Thrusday and staye till Mondy none [noon]. He wanted me to go back with him to set the Church in order and help him confir the members for he had not done any thing of the kind. I could not leave this place for brotherHide is sick and brother Fielding has gon to [the] southern fold to see to those branches there and there is some coming forward evry day for to be baptised here in Preston. Brother Rusel had baptised 24. He ses Holy Guite hard in that place. It is where he was born and brought up. We received a letter from Brother Richards Mondy morning, he had add three more in Bedford and has ben out few miles into the country and baptised six more. See the way seems to be shot up before him in that part of the country so that we cant quit acces to the harts of the people for he ses preaching is differrent from any thing else that he ever saw. His manner of communication is very hard and cuts the ears of the people off [off], so that they went hate him. He seems to quit the illwill of the people. It is not the case with brother Hyde and my self for the people are just as grade [greedy] to here us as they was at the first and they are coming in to the Church evry day, and our metings are so crowded that there is sum that are and they haft to carry them out for they flow in so full. Our bidders will hold about eight hundred persons and there is hundreds that go to evry meeting that cant quit go to the hous. They have got so that they say it is sure deth for to come to here us preach for they will surely be caut in the streets this the cry of some of the people.

What I have ses about brother Richards you better keep to your self for it well caus his friends to feel bad. He is very kind man but he has not skill to preach the gospel. You know there is no us [use] of driving men to heaven but (rather) to persuade them to come and embrace the gospel. There was in number about three hundred and fifty members now at this time. The lines [stations] have followed the believers. There has ben several that have ben heal that have been sick. There is one old lady that had been sick for six years so that she had not don any thing for she is now well. They say she is a limvalid? and enjoined it. She began amend from the very time that I praid for her. In a few days she was so well that she walked one mile and I baptise her and she went forth and . She had not ben out of the door for six years nor had her hand in cold water. This was .
You see in your letter that Brother Marsh said there was one thing made non [known] to him that should not be eaten that was the dose of the [problem?]. If ordination? [pre-ordination?] could not be effectually open in Europe till he came or sent send some one or came he said. Still Brother Joseph said it was all right to prepare the way for Brother Marsh, as John was the fore runner of Christ to prepare the way before him and to baptise for the remission of sins. So we have come to prepare the way before Brother Thomas and we have baptised a good lot of them. He may say all that he can, it don't make it out that he came first to bring the gospel to the land of Europe, nor he can't make the people believe it except one moment. There has never been such a work done since the Church of Christ has been established and it has been with us both night and day. I don't care any thing about it only to say this [unreadable] some to share in the honor and praise of well doing without toiling and labouring to obtain it lawfully. This is a secret for you and Sister Hide and non others.

Amen.

My dear Vilate I think of you much. I know that all the means that I had left with you had failed and you were left destitute with three children. This causes me feelings that I don't like but still I feel to trust in the Lord for all things both temporal and spiritual blessings, sore I know he is able to do it. I see that we have got to be bright down so that we are wellen to trust in the Lord for all things in this world and in the world to come. How glad I would be if I could have the chance to labor to suport you with my hands. But there is going to be a day of deliverance for the poor of the Earth, for blessed are the poor of the Earth for they shall inherit it for ever and ever. So my dear wife hold up your head and rejoice for the day of our Redemption draweth nigh. I have [hole] much pleasure with your letter saying that you have a great interest that I know what is going on in Kirtland and that you have such a spirit of ha [hole] [wb挪威?] of the things of God. You say that is good times in Kirtland but it looks dark to me. I look at things as they are for I think there is much wickedness in that place. As the Lord sees in the revelation that the judgments shall begin at his house first for I think there is much need of it. I pray the Lord to sustain my dear wife and children and feed them and clothe them and all the Saints of God for I think it is about time for the Saints to rise and shake them selv and rise from the dust.

You was rising in your letter that they should expect us home this fall. This has not ben my feelings at all for when I left Kirtland I calculated to stay till next Spring and according to the best under standing that we can quit it is the will of God that we should stay till Spring. We have thought much on this thing and made it a subject of prayer before the Lord; if we could come home and justify [justify it] we should come. But I thought it best to give up all baby notions and tend to the things of God. We shall start about the first of April for home if the Lord will. I want to have you write to me abouth six weeks before the first day of April, then I shall quit it before I leave this place. You may look for us about the first day of June. I want to have you keep some of your corn and beens till I come home. Tell William that he must be a good boy and be kind to his dear mother, the same to Hellen and the same to Heber. Give my love to all of the twelve and tell them that I have not forgotten them. Give my love to all of the beloved brethren and sisters in Kirtland. This from your dear husband.

Heber C. Kimball

Original in Church Historical Department
Letter contains a note from Orson Hyde to his wife which is undecipherable.
HEBER TO JOSEPH FIELDING

ADRESSED:
Joseph Fielding
Preston Lankshire
..... Street No. 21
England

Far West March the 12, 1839

Dear Brethren

I now take my pen in hand to wright a few lines to you that you may know that I am alive and yet able to speak for my self in the name of the Lord. I have not recieve only two letters from you since I have come home. I am looking evry day for one. I hope I shant look in vain. If you new (knew) the feelings that I have for the welfare of that people, your pen would not be so idle and may god sture you up to dilligence to feed the sheep (sheep) of god, for they are children of my begotten through the gospel. Think not strange that I speake thus for you know the feelings that a father has for his children. It is my meditations day and night, the anticipation that I expect to injoy in my fathers kingdom. Now brethern be faithful and vissit the Churches and exert them to be faithful in all things and not lay down thare watch for one moment for thare is great danger of falling beneth the power of darkness. Don't think hard brethren of me for my plainess for I am a plain man and God requires it of me and the same of you. Don't keep them in ignorance of those things that I have made you angainted with, for they will know them when I come--that is our sufferings for they will have to pass through similar things that we do. Don't be selfish for it will not impovish you to tell them all that I tell you.

Brother Orson Hide was here last week and made me a vissit and we hade a long talk together about things that have passed fore a few months that have past. He is sorry that he left us when he did, he lamentes about it. Brethren it was because of fear. He is going to setle up his business and move his family where the rest of the church is going, and is coming to England with me next summer. So brethren let your hearts rejoice in the Lord. Brethren it you don't tell of this now one will know it, and all things will be as they ware and much more abundantly. If you have, tell them that all things are well as to this matter (matter). As to Orson he will have to suffer much in his felings, pray for him.

The brethren have most all left this place and moved in to the Illinois. My family left here about fore weeks agow for they ware not safe here. I calculate to stay here in Farr West till the Brethren are set free from prisson. They are still confined for some wise purpose in the lord. Mary left here about eight weeks agow and all the wives of the prisoners, thinking that they would be out in a few days, but all hope have faillied as yet. Seames as tho Mary was born for truble. Sister Tomson has gone with hur to hur husband. There is ten in prisson. They are all well and in good spirrits. I am going to see them to morrow if the lord wills.

Thare seames to be great great commotions in the ri..en country. The Indians are breaking out in severel places and commiting depradations on the citisans of this country.--And Hobs are common now in this country. It is guiting so that there is now safty any whare in this land. Prepare your selves for truble whare ever you gow, for it awaits (awaits) you and all others that love the Lord and keep his commandments. Brethren I want to have you gow to the north whare brother Russel has labored and see what situation they are in for I have some fears about them. Gow and strengthen them in the name of the Lord for I think that brother Russel is leading them astray from the truth. Why because he has
gon astray him self and leading others. There is about thirty that follows him. They are of the Canada brethren such as farther Scott, Sister Walton and Dorson and others. They say that Joseph has fallen that the church has had no power to administer for two years and what has been done is void. You no that he is a man that errs in spirit and that will not be taught of the Lord nor of his servants. To tell the truth he is prophet him self but he will not oner it. So he is gone to the devil. He is holy but we are fallen.

Brethren I can truly say that I have never seen the Church in a better state since I have been a member of it. What there is left they are firm and steadfast, full of love and of good works and have lost all that they have and are ready to go out to preach the gospel to a dying world. We have ordained about one hundred Elders in the seventies. There is about 150 that has gone in to the vineyard this winter to teach the gospel, and there are as many more that will go in the Spring, and sevrel that will come to England with me in the summer. I like to have forgotten to tell you that brother Rigdon has got out of Prison and has left the state. He was bailed out.

The number that had gathered in to this state is about ten thousand members. By the first of May there will not be one member left in the state that has any faith. This we have done this winter for a resting spell before we go out to preach the gospel. At this time there is about family now live in tents and out of the door (doors), and it has ben .... last winters that I have known for many years tho no .......... I think this is a great miracle for there was not one forth of ....... teams to move with and we had 200 hundred miles to go .......... (Before we?) could quit out of the state. Such times as I never have seen before but after all it seems to be the old paths. I feel to Rejoice in all these things.

Brother Levi Richards came in here this fore noon with a letter from the friends in Massachusetts stating that he read account in a London paper that he Willard had ben taken up for murder, that he had given a woman sum cayenne and ginger and she lived two weeks after it. This is all on this subject. There is many things that I could tell you but I cant wright them, but I well tell you by the word of mouth when I come. Brethren be of good cheer and the Lord be with your for ever. Give my love to your wives and to Sisters Dorson and the family and to all the brethren and Sisters in the East and North and South and west and all inquiring friends. This from you beloved brother in Christ. Amen

Brother Levi came in to Sisters Bemans this evening to read my letter. He sends his love to your and ses he is well. He is firm as the hills. Wright to me as soon as you quit this and direct it to Quincy Illinois, Addams County. I want to quit one before I start to come thare.

Heber C. Kimball

Taken from a copy in possession of Stanley B. Kimball
VILENE TO HEBER

September 21, 1839  Friday eve

My very Dear Husband

With a weak and trembling hand I attempt to write a few lines agreeable to your request to let you know how we do: which is very poorly I can assure you. As to my feelings I don’t know but I am perfectly reconciled to your going, but I must say I have got a trial of my faith as I never had before. The day you left home was as sick a one as I ever experienced. The pain in my back and head was almost intolerable. No doubt the pain in my head was worse on the account of my much weeping. But I did not weep any after you left, for my distress was so great I could think of not much else. William moaned and cried about all day and had a chill in the evening. Sister Bentley staid with me through the day. She was sick but she did all she could for me. Fanny went over and stayed all night with me. I was a lone a little while before she came. I then crawled out of bed and sowed (sued) before the Lord and plead with him to give us a good night’s rest, and he did so; and be assured I did not forget to pray for you. The next morning I felt free from pain. 

...headed that I could not walk without staggering. William and Helen were not able to do anything so I was obliged to call a round and do my chores and wash a little for the babies. No one to help me but little Helen P. I soon got over done and brought on my chill and fever so that I had a very sick afternoon and did not rest but little last night. To day I have not been able to do any thing. I was taken early this morning with a shake, and shook about an hour and a half as hard as I ever saw any body in my life, and then wetted under a fever and extreme pain until almost night. William has just had the hardest chill that he has had in a number of days. Br Rogers has been here and left more pills for him, and he has taken them up but they dont seem to do him any good. He offered to leave some for me, but I told him I would try what virtue there was in bone set first, but it has not done me any good, and what to do I dont know. I have no one to get anything for me, or to do any thing for my comfort. Br Bentley has moved in here, but sister Ann is very feble hardly able to do her own work. She is very kind and would be glad to Doctor us if she was able. Helen is complaining all the time, but is able to do some chores to day. Now I have given you a statement of our situation, not to make you feel bad, but because you requested it of me. Thus you see I have got a trial of my weak faith as I said before. But all that I can ask of you is to pray that I may have patience to endure to the end whether it be long or short. I feel as though if you ever see your family all alive again it will be through your faith.

Saturday morning, dear Hiber we are all alive and tolerable comfortable this morning, would to God we could remain so through the day. We will hope for the best. Mother Benon stayed with me last night. She said I must tell you she had slept with your little Prophet. I must draw to a close for Br George is waiting. Unless my health should improve I shall not be able to write next week as you requested, for I’m going weak every day. You had better enquire for a letter at New York. Perhaps I shall direct there. So fare you well my dear Hiber. I pray that it may be well with you.

Vilame Murray

Sister Ann sends love to you. The children all send love to you.

NOTE FROM HEBER’S JOURNAL:

"Oct 25th, 1839 I received a letter from my wife, giving an account of her sickness since I left; also of our children William and Helen."
Heber to Vilate

Addressed:
Mrs. Vilate Kimball
Commerce Hancock Co.
Illinois

Pleasant Garden Oct. 24 1839

My ever dear Companion,

Through the goodness of God I am permitted this morning to sit down to write a few lines to you that you may no [know] how I quit a long upon my journey. I will assure you that it is with trembling limbs that I do it, but to fulfill my word that I made to you, I proceed in the name of the Lord. I left Washington on the day that I stated to you in my last with your father & Br Brigham; went six miles to mister Barnes; stade all night. The next day Br Lorenzo came (carried) us to Jacksonville; stade all night. The next day Brother Babcock got a buggy and carried us to Springfield [Ill.] being 35 miles. Went it in half a day; stade it well my self, Br B was taken sick [and] not able to travel or to set up much. He went with a cart of medicine by Dr. Cones. We remained there one week. I spent my time in going from house to house amongst the brethren strengthening and teaching them the things of the kingdom and preached on the Sabbath to them. There was a great feeling of love shown to us. They went and got a two tons waggon and horses for us which they paid 55 dollars and made up 35 dollars in money for the company. Here was great liberal feelings and they shall in no wise lose there reward with the Lord. Judge Adams took me home with him and made welcome to his house. I stade with him three nits and most part of the three days. He was asking questions all the time. When I left him he gave me five dollars. He is Judge of the Supreme Court. He will come in to the Church soon I think.

We put the three horses before the waggon and started on Friday evening; went 8 miles and stade at old mister Draper's being quite late in. Then when we got there then found them sick, our living slim quite so. Next day went on our journey; traveled all day till night when we put up. I went foot part of the way being all sick. Got supper. I slept in the waggon with your father and Br Hadlock. I got cold the next morning. They would not quit us any victuals to eat because we was Mormons. Went on our journey: got to a brother house about 10 o'clock. They got us something to eat about noon and this was corn dodger and transparent porridge. By this time I began to fail. Our waggon began to fail--break down twice. And the chills came on to me again about two in the after noon and held me till night. Then the fever held me all night. This continued for three days. I had lost my appetite not having any thing between meals to eat. The third chill that I had, it seem to me as tho I could not live till night my distress was so great. I got to Doctor Hodsdeth about dusk. I made out to quit in to the house with helpe. I was made wecom by the Doctor and his wife. I spread my self on to the bed; laid a short time; got up set a spell and began to grow faint. I then told them that I must go to bed. The doctor and B. sprung to helpe me and I fainted and fell my hole length on the floor [floor]. There was hardly a breath of life in my body. I laid on the floor for a long time before I could be taken up. When I was put on to the bed it took the doctor and his wife and Br Brigham all nite to keepe a breath of life in my body. This continued till about ten in the morning when I felt better. There was a cold sweet [swet] that rolled out of me all night, which swet the deseas out of me and I have had no chills since.

I got to the Doctors Thursday night. The next morning the brethren twist the team and went on and left Br B with me, his helth being very poor. When they left me they wep like children a speachly your father for he thought I should not live. Mondy nite brother Babbit and Doctor Nites came to see me if I was a live. The next morning I felt to start on my journey the Doctor twist his carriage and carrid me with in four miles of Pleasant Garden where brother Babbit was laboring. Br Babbit took me into his waggon and cared me to Br Crosby. I have made my home there and at Doctor Nites. He is one of Br Babbits children. He is
HEBER TO VILATE
October 24, 1839
Page 2

a very eminent position (physician), a man of great wealth. Brother Almon has begun a good work in this place and in the region round about. He has suffered some persecution. They have injured his wagon some. His wife is with him. He has baptized five and some more that have presented themselves for baptism.

We expect we shall start from here to morrow if the Lord will(s). Brother Bobbit says he will take us on our journey seven miles. We have sent on our trunks. We expect there to be a brother that will take us to the Capital Indiana. Then I expect we shall have to take stage to Columbus. Then we shall have to take the canal. After we leave this place I don’t (hole in paper). My courage is good at this time and has been (since) I left home. My health is increasing very fast at present. Don’t be concerned about me for I am in the hands of God. Now my dear Companion do not feel bad because I have told you the truth, for this I agree to do when I left home. Now do the same to me, then we will be even.

I heard from you by the way of Brother [Hole] an (hole) was glad tidings to me of great joy. But I s— when I receive a letter from your own hand have under you more in my feelings in my life. I left home, about the children and yourself, I am going to try to be more of a man than I have been. Tell me all about the children, how they quit a long. Tell William and Hellen I think of them all the time, that I pray for them, and I want they should for me. Tell Little P. to be a good boy. Kiss Little D. for me. Take good care of yourself and be prudent my dear Vilate. Give my love to all my friends. Tell me what Brother Thomson is doing with the pamphlet. Now I bid you fare well Vilate for a little Season.

Heber C. Kimball

Taken from a copy in possession of Stanley B. Kimball
My Dear Companion and most beloved of all on God's footstool,

I have just been to the office and got a letter from you and I need not tell you that it was a sweet morsel to me. I could cry like a child, if I could get by myself, to think for one moment that I have been the means of causing you any sorrow. I know you must have many bad feelings but I feel to pray for you most of my time, for I think you are not out of my mind one score of minutes at a time since I left you. There has been a few nits but what I have des't about you, but most always find distant my person. My feelings are of that kind that it makes me sick at heart so that I have no appetite to eat. My temptations are so sever it seems as though I should have to lay down and die for it seems as though I should sink beneath it. I go to the woods (woods) evry chance I have and pour out my heart before God that he would deliver me and bless you my dear love, for I love you most dear I assure you, fore my heart ake so it seams as though it would burst. I have been trouble about my self some of the time. First I would know I would be in tears weaping like a child about you and the situation that I am in, but what can I do but go ahead. My dear Vilate do not let it cast you down fore the Lord is on our side. This I know from what I see and realise. We are blest all the time and we manvill at it many times, You say you are tried and tempted. I am sorry fore you fore I know how to pity you my dear. I can say I never suffer more in all the days of my life than since these things come to pass. As I have said before so say I again, I have felt as though I should sink and die.

O my God I ask thee in the name of Jesus Christ to bless my dear Vilate and comfort her heart and deliver her from temptation and from all sorrow and open her eyes and let her see things as they are, fore Father thou knows my sorrow is in part on her account that thou wots [wouldst] give her comfort and peace and be pleased to look upon thy poor Servant and handmaid. And grant us the priviled of living the same length of time that the other does that one may not go before the other goes fore thou knows that we desire this with all our hearts, mind, might and strength. Then Father when we have done with our care in this probation that in the one to come that we may still be joined one still, to remain all eternity and then still to be one. And if we have ever done any thing in our day to grove after, be pleased to blot it out and let us be clean and pure before thee[el] at all times, that we may never be left to sin in thy sight or to betray any one that believe on thy name. God save us from all things that is sin with thou. Let our seed be righteous. Incline thare hearts to be pure and virtuous and clean and pure that this may extend from generation to generation. Let us have favor in thy sight and before thine angel that we might be washed over by them and have strength and grace to support us in the day of our temptation that we may not be over come and fail. Now my Father these are the desires of our heart. Will thou grant them to us and thy name shall have all the glory fore ever and ever. Amen and Amen

H C Kimball  Vilate Kimball

You said you did not love me any less since these things have transpired. I dont believe you do. If I thought you did not, of all I should be the most miserable. I can tell you one thing in the presents of Heavenly Father, that the love that I have for you has eclips all mens on earth and I believe ever will while I live and through Eternity and then will never end. I can tell you one thing, it is a sorely ch [charged] love for you, that I am perfectly miserable out of your site. I esteem you most pressious
of all things below this sun:Fore you and my children are my earthly object and it is all that hold me to it; and to do the will of my heavenly Father and bring souls into him while I live that they may be stars in our crown on this earth where we can join the heavenly band and rest from our labours. Now my dear I have been expressing the very cream of my soul. I feel determin to set out to live a new life the Lord helping me, and to make you happy and to soothe your sorrows. I am aware of one thing that no one in this world can make me as happy as you can. The Lord knows I do not know of any one that I want shoed bring up our children but your self. I must come to a close my dear love VK.

H R Kimball

Original in Church Historical Department

NOTE FROM JOURNAL OF HEBER C. KIMBALL:

"Oct. 25th, 1839 I received a letter from my wife, giving an account of her sickness since I left; also of our children William and Helen." [Orson F. Whitney's *Life of Heber C. Kimball*, pg. 271]
My Dear and much beloved Companion

I have arrived safe in Kirtland but at the present confined to my bed and have been quite low for several days. But through the grace of God I shall be able to go on my way rejoicing and do the will of my heavenly master. I now have the chill fever two days since I come here. I have made it my home at Brother John Young and Brother Dean Gould and Brother Bonds and now receive the best of attention from Bro Dean and his wife and Louisa Young. They live in the upper part of Br Bonds house. They also are very kind and offer every assistance necessary to make me comfortable. Last Sabbath I preached and had very good liberty and gave general satisfaction. Last Sabbath Br Tallor spoke in the fore part of day and I in the after part. I was blessed by having three competent Judges before me to criticise and to pick all the flaws that they could in my discourse. I spoke in parables generally, and some of them being so applicable to those that were before me. One of the Judges came to me and wanted to know to whom I referred. I told him to no one in particular but if the coat fitted any one they might put it on. It is impossible to speak of any wickedness or bring any comparison of rascality without the congregation being jealous every one that the speaker means him self.

Some of the Brethren besides myself have preached here and gave good satisfaction. But as a general thing there can not be a meeting without some disput or a riot at the present state of things. Yet there are some here that stand firm in the faith. I am disappointed in what I expected to find here. I had anticipated meeting the brethren united and enjoying the blessing of the people of God. But to my sorrow I found them all broken up and divided into several different parties. And we have now found out that Ileasing reports are generally false. But this fact is certain that if it was not fore the elders of the [Church] that disagree there would be no difficulty in uniting the Church.

I will now commence where I left off at Pleasant Garden where I wrote to you last. We Brother Young and my self left there Oct 26. Brother Babbit took us in his buggy and carried us to one father Scotts where our trunks were. The next day being on the Sabbath father Scott sent his team and carried us to Indianapolas. I am mistaken. He did not carry us only 15 miles at Bellville on the account of the rain. There Bro Youngs was quite sick all night. The next day about 1 o'clock we took coach and continued our journey by night and by day without but a very little rest until we got here. Agreeable to the words that I told them when they left me sick, I arrived on Kirtland flats first. Br Taylor has been sick with the ague and fever several days but has now recovered and the rest of the Brethren have been quite unwell but are now on the gain. We still all of us God being our help feel determined to press our way onward. We are here with but little means to prosecute our journey but still we think that some of us will be able to start within a few days. I have not myself been able to tend any meetings except last sabbath. The rest of the brethren have had several evening meetings, but the weather being very stormy there was but few attended.

You see that this letter is written by a strange hand. I was not able to sit up much at the time. Br Dean Gold write for me. I did not have a chill to day but an very sible. Br Bond and wife is as ever true, steadfast, are much pleased to think you are coming there. Br Morton and wife is the same as
Heber to Vilate
November 16, 1839
Page 2

ever. I have not seen but few of the brethren only in publick. Br. Dean has
given a very good description of things here. I have seen some, they seem to
want to want to say something to make me mad so as to quarrel with me. This
they was not able to do it. Simon Vanks and Joseph Earl's lives here. Fancher
came in to see me last evening. They were glad to see me. His wife come in to
the place with him on a visit. Kirtland is a desolate place. There is a fort
one half houses empty in this place going to rack (wreck).

Your father is here--feels well. I don't think you ever see a man feel
tetter then he did when I met him in the streets of Cleveland. I had been to
the office or sent twice a day since come here supposing I should quit one from
you but all in vain. This makes the forth one that I sent to you. I think you
are going to come up with me for my slothfulness when you before. I feel to
repeal of that.

I shood your composition to sister Bond and Sister Norton and others. They
felt sorrowful, but when the rub come they shook there sides. I feel glad to
think that God has bless me this time that I have got rid of my chills with out
taking medison. I have got a very bad cough on me. I took cold riding through
the nits (nights). I think I come near to the time of my release. So be of
good cheer my dear Vilate for this is only one trial above the rest. So we have
gained one more victory over Devils. When you see brother Miles he will tell
you about me. When I ride again I am in hops that I shall hear from you. They
all want to see you here. Give my love to all my friends. Now fare well.

H C Kimball

Taken from old photocopy of original in possession of Pearl K. Derrick
HEBER TO VILATE

ADDRESSED:
Mrs. Vilate Kimball
Commerce, Hancock Co.
Illinois

Victor Dec. the 27, 1839
(Mailed from Mendon Jan 7, 1840)

My Dear Companion

I have not forgotten you. Neither the promise I made you. This I mentaon for a spouse to your mind. I will begin where I left off in Kirtland. I left there with my brethren on the 22 of November. Went to Fairport (Fairport, Ohio), there we were detained till the 26 on the account of a tremendous storm ever was known here. It was a snow storm. Our band was fifteen dollars. While there got bord of the boat and landed at Buffalo on the 27 in the morning. The same day got bord of the stage and went to Batavia (NY). Got there in the evening Stade thare till the next day. Fore in the after noon took the cars (railroad) for Rochester. When we got to Biron I got out and left the Brethren (because) Harvy lived there. Had not more then got out before some one told me he had gone to Rochester. I think I never felt worse in my life, my antispation was so great to see them. I had no way to quiet away till the next night.

I went to William Louis and stade till the next night. Just at evening got bord of the cars and went to Halls. Got thare eight in the evening. Found them well. I had a good time with them. Ruhana is a gin girl. Rosilla lives with them. She is about 24 years. I stade thare one week. I was confined to my bed most of the time. I took a cold on bord of the steam boat. Had to take deck fare for the want of means. It settled in my right side. I was so bad I could hardly (....) my breath I had such a pain. They were very kind to me.

Br Thare (Thayer) carried me to Solomons. Found them all well and glad to see me. On Sunday Nathaniel came after me. I went home with him. They was glad to see me and here from you. I got on song story. Look down below. There was a seer come in while I was thare. She gave me an interation to them telling them that I was her Mormon Brother. They seem to take a great interst in our sufferings. This seer comes to be the feelings of all candid people. Eliza and I went to see Muster Macfie and wife and they came to see me. She sends her love to you. I received great kindness from the friends in Victor.

Nathaniel lives in a hous belongs to James Campbell, east of Harvies. Nat and Cretia went with me to Goofs. Had a good time with them. They live in Herreeta. Br Goell has purchased him a place. Gives seven hundred dollars for it. He is traving to deliver lectures on the Moral Reform. He is gon from home most of the time. I have made William a visset. It has been a pleasure to me to see them. They were so kind to me. William sees to me when you want to pray you [use] your liberty. They seem to take much pleasure in the things of God. I will say more of this here after. Nathaniel and Lucretia seem to be the same as ever - not very fixed in there belief. Muster Colwell and his wife is here at Nathaniel. Do not keep hou now but expect to soon. She is sum troubled wheather no she is writ. She begins to think there is something to do.

I presented the presents to Lucretia you sent. She red them and wep over them, desiring to see your dear face once more. They would weep and morn
for you. All of our friends want to have you come here next Spring and make
then a visit. Caroline sez she will keep you three months or more is you will
stay. All the friends seem to have the same feelings. They want to have me
go after you. It would be a pleasure for me to do it but this will not do
for my face is turned the other way; for he that looks back is not fit for the
kingdom of heaven. And you would concedes your self disgraced in sight of God
and man. My dear Vilate you no [know] what we are cased to, so we will press
forward to the mark that is laid before us, to the expense of all things.

I have not said any thing about your kind letter you rote me to Mendon.
I was thankful to god to hear of your health for I believe this him that has
raised you up and the children. For when I was in the town of Winchester at
fathers [Rowell Murray] I had such a travele of soul for you as I never had
before. I would go into the woods fore or five times a day to call on the Father
in the name of Jesus for you. I saw you in a dream in a sickly state most dead.
I took my hands and clast [clasp] my hands on each side of your face and raised
you up on your feet, and since that I have felt contented about you and the
children. Only once in a while I get home sick. Being amongst our friends
brings home nearby. They are all pleading to have me stay till warm weather
on the account of my health. A little settlague will bring me down again. My strength
increases daily. Your letter got to Mendon about three weeks before I did. Sister
Hall was at Solomons and advised him to take it out. So he did. They brook
it open, could not tell where I was supposing that I was dead. Had many feelings
about me. There seems to be great feeling for us here. I think it be as well
for you to come down next Spring and make your friends a visit if you think
wisdom. Take council of some of fathers in Isreal and see what they think best
todo, for in much council there is safety.

As for going to Kirtland to live as things are now it is against my will.
For I had rather live in a cave an be driven with the Saints every other year
while I live and be one then to have all the good things of the Earth and be
at variance with the others as they are there; for you can't find two that
agree. For I had rather go forth amongst the unbelieving Gentiles and suffer
by them, then to be amongst those that have named the name of Mormon. I pray
my Father in the name of Jesus Christ to deliver me from such while I live if
it be posable let the cup pass from me Amen--

Now my dear Vilate if you should conclude to come and make a visit, I will
meet you here next fall if it be the will of God. You had better sell off every
thing but your clothing and one bed and some of your bed clothes, for we
(can by again with the same money. Act your pleasure about selling your place.
When we meet again there will be sum other cars to take not know to us now.
I should *[*] buying a team to come with. The better way would be to *[*]
Chicago and take water for it well not cost half t. ... money that it would
by land. Bring all the chickens with you. I ... see Father Tomlinsen and
wife. They were glad to see me. They are ... [fml?] of the gospel and
have more Richousness then all the rest of na. ... One week ago this day
I preached in Menden Churchous. At one ... the ... was full. Then
in the evening again being appointment ... Methodist. There preacher
did not come, nothing to ... I preach-- and once at Millers Corners
there seems ... desire to hear. My health will not permit me
to ... was appointment given out for me to preach her in ....
but the storm is as sevver no one can turn out. Nathaniel says?,
snow? is three feet deep this morning. The snow is still falling
ever.... I am block up at present. This is Sand the 29 of December.
this place for the East I have not made up my mind when last fridy
Mrs. French and Isabella Ellis and Sophromna was her on a visit. If your presents
had ben here our joy would ben full.--

Just at night your brother William come down here to Nathaniels through
the snow that to share Horses sides. Nothing to do but I must
gow home with him so I started with him. It was as much as we could do to get
to his hous on the count of the snow. He lives closet by old mister R. ......
(Roo.,dy?) closet by the Hopene hill. He has about one hundred acres of land.
Ellexander lives closet by him. I went there and I had a good viset with your
uncle doctor.

I hardly know what to say to you, my dear Vilate. But suffice it to say
on the first day of this year one thousand Eighteen hundred and forty I went
into the water and Baptised William E. Hurry and his wife Mary. They are refor-
ming in God. The weather was as cold as it was when we joined our selves to
the Baptist Church. I have had a good time with them. They believe my testimomy
and feel determine to go forward to the end. Now I think you come here next
fall and see them for they have great desire to see you. If you should make up
your mind to come start in the Spring early. When you receive this quit
concel from Brother Putridge (Edward Partridge) and let me know when you write
your next for it should be happy to see you here.

Brother Goll is about the same as ever--very proud, so is his wife. Father
Hurry is a great advocate for this work where ever he goes. He sed to me one
day, "I am as good a Mormon as your are". He seems to be on easy here as much
as he did there. On the 6 of January I preached in Hopden once more. Last
night I stade to John F. Tomlionsons. Receive great kindness. I think I shall
leave this week or next for the east. Give my love to William and Hellen and
Heber tell them to be good children and pray for that dear father. I now bid
you fare well and may God bless you with health and pros. Give my love to Br.
Bently and wife, Br Hubard and wife, Br Pirtle......, sister ...... and A. Pitkin
and brother Smiths and families and Rigdon and to all those that inquire for
me. Peas be with you all. Amen.

Heber E. Kimball

The following poem was written in a different handwriting on the address page:

He never there will happy be
For you and I he'll want to see
More than all the world beside
Which surely will his peace deride.

*.... A small section of sides of original letter torn away.
Commence Feb 2nd 1840

My Dear Husband

I have received your letter of January 26th which gave me great joy. I can assure you not to hear of your sickness for that pains my heart, but that you have been an instrument in the hands of God of converting some of my dear kindred to a knowledge of the truth: yes I feel that this is a recompense for all my privations in having you gone from me, for how great in the sight of God is the worth of one soul. Is it possible that my dear brother has become a praying man? Do you think he has got the root of the matter in him so that he will hold out to the end? If so what an unpeachable blessing.

You have very kindly offered me the privilege of visiting my friends the ensuing summer. At the first thought, my heart leaped for joy, but upon more mature consideration I think perhaps it would not be wisdom for me to go. I should have to sell everything we have to bear our expenses and then to be visiting so long with a whole family it would be a task for my friends and me too, and if I should get ever so sick of it, I should have no home nor any thing to keep house with. But I would run the risk of this if you thought it wisdom to settle in Kintland, but I feel as you do about that. I can’t think of changing my good neighbors here for the society of those who are at variance one with the other (there is a perfect union here and we have meetings at our house twice a week.) However I cannot make up my mind what I shall do until Joseph gets home. I shall then take counsel from him. If he thinks it wisdom for us to settle in the east I shall probably go; it will then be time enough to let you know it.

You will be so long getting to your journey and I very much fear you will not get home next fall. Time seems long and I want to hear from you often. I feel very anxious on the account of your ill health. I long to get one letter that will not give the painful intelligence that you have been sick again. I would just remind you that from the 16th of November to the 6th of January is more than three weeks. Perhaps you will excuse yourself because I have not written you so often as you requested. If I had done so you would have found more letters in NY than you could pay the postage on. I fear I don’t know where else to direct. But to return to my subject, if I should go to the east what shall I do about your debt here. I expect Mr. Granger would be unwilling to have us go without first taking up that note. If I should sell our place I could do it, but I wish you to write and let me know your mind on this subject. I presume I can sell if I want to. Bro Bently wants me to give him the first chance. If he can pay for it he wants it. He has got the five acres that Brighin had and wants all joining him. His wife is very sick now and no one thinks she will ever be any better. If she should not live, perhaps he would not be so worldly minded. I hope she will live but she has every appearance of a person in the last stage of consumption. This place is admired by all who see it. I have no doubt but what I can get one hundred and fifty dollars for it.

Brother Hyde has given up building here; says he can’t get any spirit to do anything about it. He has moved in with Mrs. McFall for the present, is waiting for Joseph to get home to tell him what to do. He has just returned from his mission; went as far east as Cincinnati; feels well in his mind; says he never saw a greater field open for preaching than at the present time but his health was so poor he was obliged to give it up. He stayed here last night and he dreamed of setting in counsel with all the twelve (who have not crossed the ocean) and when they went he was going with them. I told him perhaps it was a true dream and have just heard that Joseph has sent for you all to go to Washington. If so I hope you will come home and take a fair stand.
Then you can arrange your business and take us to the east if you think best. William is very anxious to go and no wonder for he has not been able to do a days work this winter and thinks he never shall if he stays here. The rest of us are as well as usual. I have been sorely afflicted with a cancer wart in the palm of my right hand but thank the good Lord it is now as well as ever. I often think the hand of affliction is not taken from you yet. If it was we should all be well for your faith would be stronger but I have great reason to be thankful that it is as well with us as it is. Through the kindness and generosity of our neighbors we are made comfortable for good and wood. We were in want of some clothing and I went down to Br Laws store the other day and traded nine dollars. I took your over coat and left for him to sell if he could, and take his pay out of it. I feel bad every time I think of it, that you did not take it with you. I hope you have got something to wear besides that old cloke.

Feb. 4th Tuesday evening: The family have all retired to rest, and I set myself by our pleasant fire side to address a few more lines to you. Brother and Sister Hyde are here to night, and nothing but your presence is wanted to make the visit very agreeable. I have not much news to write and have invited Br H. to fill up this sheet. But I would just say sister J. Pratt has been to town to day; saw Brother Hyram Smith; heard him talk about Sister Young going back to Kirtland; said he should advise her by all means not to go. William has just come from there, says they are all well, and she is making preparations to go. Thephas has just got a letter from Brigham requesting her so to do. But I presume she will give it up when she is counseled to do otherwise. Sister Pratt wishes to be remembered to her husband. She got his letter of Jan 6th the same day I got yours bearing the same date. Sisters Pitkin has gone to stay with sister Hubbard a few weeks [as her husband is going on] a mission. They all wish to be remembered to you. Br by. She says I must tell you the Doc considers her case (Hope) less one; but she requests your prayers. Br. D. C. Smith came in, saw me writing, said I must give you his respects, also Br Rich. He has been very kind to me. I think they are the best of neighbors. Br Pitkin told me a long thing to tell you, but I can't remember one word of it. Suffice it to say, he is a humble man and has got his health again. Our children talk much about their poor father and want to see him. Heber says to tell "Pa" I am a good boy and hold David. I can't begin to tell you what a fine boy David has got to be; you must come home and see for yourself. I haven't left much room for Br Hyde and will close by subscribing myself.

Your affectionate Companion Vilate Kimball

Your wife has kindly offered me a space in letter to you. I have just returned from a mission to Indiana and Cincinatti-- have shook with the ague almost continually and finally abandoned the idea of going eastward any further than Cincinatti until warm weather and consequently returned and found my wife with another little girl. It is my calculation to start for England immediately after April Conference this Spring "if the Lord wills". Since I hope to have the pleasure of crossing the ocean in Company with yourself and some others of the 12. Your wife is quite unwell at the present. Myself and wife are at your house on a "sort" of a visit. I am going to live at the Bostier place. Should you get to England before I do give our friends my best respects and tell them that I am coming soon if all be well. Give my respects to all the 12 that you see. My anxiety to sound the gospel trump is very great, and I do think that the situation of a devoted minister of the gospel is the most enviable of any in the world. May this be our occupation through life and that sound be ours in that life which is to come—-
My Dear Companion

I sit down this morning to write a few lines to let you know that I am well, that is much better than I have been; my courage is good at present; I feel to press forward in the name of Jesus Christ. I am sensible that the Lord will try his Saints to the uttermost, for it seems as tho the Devil was determin to destroy my life and the life of my brethren the Twelve, but they seem to have good courage as yet. Br. Young has fell and hurt him self quite bad [but] he is getting better (and) his hast is on the mend. Br. George has the chills yet (and) he is quite portry. Orson and Parley enjoy good health. Br. Hadlock is well. Sister Pratt enjoys good health.

I will return back and begin where I left off and that at Mendon. I preached in Mendon fore times (and) there was quite a sture. I had coles [calls] in other parts of the town. Menny ware anxious to have me stay and preach in those parts, and I had coles in other towns and pases. Jeuell (General) Caddy wanted I should come to his house and preach for he sees I was welcome to such are as he had. The Baptist are so [hole in paper] I think most of them will die soon I think. Solomon [came] to hear me preach. I think neve see him more set [against] this work then he is now. I did not stay there more five nites. The sun of peas did not abide there. I felt so stressed while there. When I went to John E. Tomlinson redom of Spiritit. John went to hear me five time and mily. When I left he gave me one dollar and said if I could come again he would give me more. I did not receive any thing from our friends except William and Mister Wheeler. We gave me two dollars in money and a pare of pantoles and a pare of drawers and would given fifty dollars if he had it. Melvina gave me a pare of drawers and a pare of fine Churts and a Skall (shawl) to ware round my neck. I only stade there one nite. She was bind. She send much love to you. Lucretia seems to have much faith in..... [Bottom portion of original letter torn off at this point. However we have an old typewritten version of this letter which contains some of the lost information and the following is taken from that copy]

William and Mary are very faithful saints and even say they always remember you in their prayers. Your father says Brother Gold cant begin to pray Like them. He says it beats all that he ever sees. Your father is firm in the faith and preaches it where ever he goes. He feels more uneasy than he did in the west and wants to go back. He says he would not stay here if he could have all the town of Victor for the people dont seem to him as they did. While in Victor [back to original letter] I had severel calls to go to Pikes preach; after being much not upon I consented to go. Wm and Harry went with me. We got to Adolphus Hall the first day of February. I never saw a person more pleased then she was to see me. She sed she had been calling on the Lord that he would send me thare. Sunday morning we went to the Cristian Chappel. After they got thre, they gave out an appointment fore me to preach Mondy evening. They sed they was willing that I should preach because they was in such cold state that I could not have any effect upon them. When the time came I went to the hous (and) it was crowded. My text was in the Epistle of John the 9-10-11 verses. When I had got most thre, two of the ministers came in to the desk. I gave permission to speak. There was a Baptist preach rose up and found fell with me because I had preached the bible. When he had sat down I rose, ansawed him, then one of the others rose till fore of the ministers spoke. I answered all of them and they ware confounded and began rather to ridicule my speaking. One coved such expertion it toot [took] force to put it down. There aising made it wors for it opened thare eyes. I baptised Huit's wife and menny believe. She is going to write to you. I only
February 19, 1840
Page 2

I only preached once.

We returned back to Victor on the 7 (and) on the 10 I started for New York (City). On the 12 I got to Albany (and) found Mister Wheeler there. Stade with him all night at the Marcan Hotel. He paid my bill while there. Sed if I would stay one week he would pay my bill (as) he thought I would go away further. Our friends are anctious to have you come in to this country. I think you had better come and meet me here next Fall. It will be of great pleasure to me to meet you there. Even if we should return next Fall, when you guilt this tell me what you shall do.

The next day took Coach for New York. The fare was nine dollars. Went up on the (next portion taken from typed version of this letter.) east side of the river across the Catskill mountains. It took three days to get to New Jersey City. When I got to Jersey City, I did not have one penny left. They would not let me cross until I paid 24 cents. I told them I was out of money. Then a gentleman gave me 25 cents and I crossed the river into New York at 9 o'clock at night. The next morning went and found old Mrs. Fordham and he directed me to the brethren. This was Sunday morning. (Back to copy of original letter) I went to Br Parley found Orson and Brigham there, glad to see me. Went to meeting on the Sabbath. I met with 150 in the after noon. I preach to them. It was a great pleasure to meet with them (as) they were very kind to me. They gave me money to redeem my trunk. I only eat one meal a day while on my rode to New York; this was for the want of money; but I did not go hungry nor a thirst.

I received your kind letter of Nov the 4. It was of great worth to me to hear from you. It had laid in the office for a long time. I was glad to hear that you were well and the children. May God grant this blessing rest upon you and the children for ever. This will be the case as much as you are faithful and keep the commandments of God.

After I come to this City Brother Orson and my self was cold upon to visit a sick woman. She was so bad that she could not turn her self in the bed with out help. We inducted her with oil in the name of the Lord and she was healed and maid well. She did not belong to the Church nor her husband. Two days after she and her husband was baptised and fourteen others; in all made sixteen. This was on the 20 of this month. The work of the Lord is moving in power in the East. There is about 200 hundred Saints in this City. They are liberal and kind and have as good a spirit as I ever see in enny Church in this Land. They are very kind to me and to my brethren and speak of you many times. Sister Nelson sends her love to you. She is a sister that lives with Br Parley. The ship Garrett starts on the 25 of this month. It is with much difficulty that we can get bord of the Packet's Chips for they have so much great to carry. Can do better then to carry passengers. Whether we shall quit a way on the 25 or not I am not able to say. The Lord('s) will be done and not mine. There is some transport Chips are going to sail soon. Br Wadroff and Tailor, Clark and Mulner and White and Lusty have gon over. Brothers P and O and B and Hadlock and K are here in very good health at present. I have a sore mouth. They send their love to thee wives and children. Brother George Smith [next portion taken from typed version of this letter] went to Philadelphia. He has been sick. The work of God is going on in that city. There are about 100 souls that have been baptised. There is quite a large church in Albany. This did did not know when I stayed there all night. So you can see that there are Saints in all the eastern cities. There are calls in all parts of this land.
I shall write again before I leave this place. Tell Sister Pratt the Orson will write the day before he starts. He says he has got all of her letters up to the 31st of January. One reason that I have not written before was that I was waiting to get a letter from you, so forgive me my dear. I think you have been slack but I forgive. Farewell for a little. When you write tell me how the wives of the brethren are so that I can tell them and they will do the same for you. [Back to original copy of letter] My dear Companion my love to you and my dear little children. Be sure and take heed to what I have told you. I have no fears Vilate but I thought I would start you up by way of remembrance. Tell William and Hellen and little P that I am glad to hear that they are faithful to pray for me. Give my love to them and tell them to be good children. Give my love to all inquiring; tell them that I am as ever thare brother in Christ.

H. C. Kimball

Taken from old photocopy of original in possession of Pearl K. Derrick
New York (City) March the 5 1840

My Dear Companion,

I received your letter dated Feb the 2 this day with feelings of joy for I went to the office to look for it every day. I most given up the chase. I feel thankful that your are alive and the children, for you are on my mind most of the time. This is because I left you sick. My dear Vilate I will tell you some good news this evening, (and) that is my health is good deal better then when I wrote last. It is improving quite fast. My labour is quite hard here in the City. I have to go to meeting every night and dont quit to bed to 12 or 1 Oclock at night. This over comes me once in a while. The Lord is here in this city— the people are inquiring the way to Heaven. There is calls (calls) on all hands (to) come and preach to us.

We are going to sail next Saturday for England if the Lord will on the Patrick Henry. We have to pay 18 dollars for our passage. We got disappointed of going bord of the Garrick for they would not take any passengers on board for they could make more to carry (f)ail. (Because of) our being detained, we have Turley to go with us.

Tell the sisters that there Husbands are all well and I tell well, that is Orson, Brigham, George, and Hadlock, and H.C. Kimball. I received great kindness since I came to this city. They did evry thing they can to make me happy and my brethren. Sufficient to say they are a loving people. There is one sister here she is going to bring you a frock. Her name is Madworth.

I will now return to your letter. I dont wish you to sell your place without is wisdom. I dont want to settle in the East now. My mind was to have you sell it (f) (f) (f) (f) your loss (last) things and come to Victor and make a visit and then If it is thought wisdom we can go back in the fall. Rent it to some person that will pay you some thing in advance. Under stand me, I dont want to Settle in the East without times change. I want you should come and make a visit with your friends. I should thought you might have under stood me before. I told you if it was thought wisdom you could sell your place. Brother Joseph will not say any thing against this if you should want to go. You can bring the children with you. Sister Hall would like to have one of them come there and go to Croell. Sister Wheeler take one. I would pay them for it. Now my dear Vilate you no (know) this would be better than to have them Strolling round the country. A hint to the wise is sufficient. As to my debts I dont trouble myself about. I think no one will have any objection of your visiting your friends. If they have, let them have our place in security till we come home (and) then I will pay them all I ow them.

I want to have you tell me what Brother Tomson has done with my journal. You wanted to no if Brother William had the Root of the mater in him. I can say yes. I never saw one more so. You no he is a go (good) a head. He has a mind of his own, therefore his Reel. He has a great desire to see you and have you teach him of the things of the Kingdom. What more shall I say to you.

Last week I went over to Brockland on Long Island to the wedding of Benjamin Winchester. There is a Church in Phetadelpha that numbers about one hundred; one in Albany and sum where near to 200 in this City. I am at the house of Elder Divine. He and his wife send there love to you and
there best wishes. They are very kind to me. You did not say any thing about that little black Eyed girl that lives with you. Tell William to be a good boy for the Lord will heal him. Tell Heber and David I think much about them. I feel as tho the Lord would bless you with health and peas and the good things of the Kingdom. Give my love to brother Joseph and Hiram and Patridg and Tomson and all others that love the Lord.

(No signature)

The following written on the margin in a different handwriting:

"Isaac Hecker, 56 Rutger Street, New York. For the money enclosed have a paper sent according to the above directions."

NOTE: Heber probably wrote a few more sentences on the address page as was his custom in other letters. However that page is missing from our copy of the original letter.

Original letter in possession of Dr. J. LeRoy Kimball
My Dear Companion

I sit down in the house of Thomas Smith to communicate a few lines to you whom I love. I started on the last day of April to come to this place. The weather being warm, has most over come me. Had to travel a foot. I cannot inure much. My helth is on the mend. I think I shall soon be as harty as ever the Lord will.

Now I will begin back where I left off and till what has past. On the 9 day of April took the cars (railroad cars) for Preston. The first mile and a half went under the city of Liver Pol. Being dark had to have lamps to see. It was arched over head with brick and stone. When we got to Penwortham being three miles from Preston, they had been looking for our arrival for months. They stood by the Railway (when) I saw them I put my head out of the car and swung my hat. They (their) agreement was to raise a Red flag to let the neighbours know of it. This was a time of rejoicing in this land if there ever was in the world. The world had said that we should never come to this land again. It has caused a great stir you may be assured. It begins to touch the popular feelings in this land. The Church ministers in this country are much stirred up about this thing. It has been agitated to petition to government to see what can be done about it. But this does not concern me for it is the Lords own work, and he will take care of it. The work of the Lord has taken a deep hold in this land, and causes the people to tremble for we have broken up many churches. We have baptised about one hundred preachers of the Methodist order and one baptist preacher who has been ordained a priest, and is now baptising his own church.

On the 14 of April we got together, organized our selves and appointed Br Young to be our president over the twelve and ordained Br Richards. On the 15 we held a Jenrel (Jenrel) congress of the church. There was about 35 branches represented at this congress in good standing. The number presented was 1700 souls and many others scattered in different parts of the land. There standing was not known by the saints.

On the 16 we met in council of the twelve and took in to consideration others matters. One thing was a paper to publish and to print a hymn book. The Prospectus is now printed. The paper will come out this month if the Lord will. The title of the paper is the laterday Saints Milennial Star. It will be printed in manchester. Br P P Pratt is our Editor. It is done under the direction of the twelve; we are now scattered in different parts of this land. Br Young has gone South East with Br Wadduff; G A Smith and Clark has gone down to the Potteries; Br Richards has gone to Beford; G Tailor is in Liverpool; Orson Pratt and Hadlock have gone North; Br Rice and Nutten are in Scotland and one Br Lee, that was ordained in Preston. The last I heard from they they had baptised 57 and the Lord was pouring out his Spirit in a wonderful manner. Last I heard from Liverpool there was forty or fifty souls baptised. The prospect is still good. The Br are generally in good helth at present. If we all now know that our dear wives were well we should bee happy for the Saint do Everything that they can to make us happy. Yes if we were infants, they could not bee more kind than they are to us. I expect to leave this part of the land soon as the Lord shall open the door for me. The Saints lay claim to me for a little while. There is Souls adding to the Church daily such as shall bee saved in the Kingdom of God.

Clitheroe, May the 25, 1840
The Elders here have been very faithful. Brother Fielding is in Preston. He is well. He is a humble man. He sends his love to you. His wife has been quite well for several days. She is now better. Br Richards wife had been quite low. I went down with him to Waltham last week and prayed for her. She is now quieting well. I stopped there yesterday and the old gentleman told me to leave the house. I went out and pursued my journey to this place. I could hear the old lady and Br Richards wife cry when I got in to the Rode. I felt to weep for them. She is a mother indeed. She has fed me and gave me money and administered to my wants. She will not lose her reward. They send their love to you.

There is one thing more that I mention that is the twelve are one for they all draw to gether. We feel encourged at this time. We fell as tho we wanted to rest of our brethren come to take a part with us. There is great cats for preaching in this land.

Now my dear Vilate I will tell you I Red your letter till it has got thred bare. I dont no but it has been so with [you]. I think it is about time for us to come to sun tetry on this subject and bee more fammiller, for I have seen you several times and you have been very distant to me. For my part I have got out of patience with this order of things. Now do try to bee Like your self. We have had much talk about your coming to the East. I want to have you do write before the Lord. What council you receive that lessons to and the lord shall bless you for the Lord will be with you. Donot be disheartened. I think I could comminicate better with you if you should stay there then I could in Kirtland; for there will be Saints coming there most all the time. There is some gon and some about to start and if I now that you would bee there I could send you some things. But I dont no to how. I shall bee glad when I can quit a letter from you, then I can no what to do. I pray the Lord to grant me that priveleg. I think it will bee doubtfull about my coming home short of one year from this spring with out some thing happens more than I now of at present. There great change of times in this country. There is money that was well of when I was her. I have been to see them. I would find them weeping. I asked them what was the matter. They said when I was here before they could set food before me and now they could not. I will tell you my dear wife this is hard. They are anectious to go to Zion but they have no means. My heart gets to mourn for them. I am at the house of Thomas Smith. I come on purpuse to quit where I could rest me for I cannot bare much. Br Smith daughter ses to her mother now ses she, 'I want you should make Br Kimball as comptable as posable and I will work in the factory as hard as I can. If you could see the simplicity of this people it would cause you to weep. Give my love to brother Joseph and B Rigdon and Herm and to the high council and Bishops and counsellors and all the Saints in that land. The Saints lift up their voices daily for the Saints in that land.

Give my love to my little William. Tell him to bee a good boy. When I come to this Agin I shall want him to come with me if Lord will. That little black Eyed girl that you have with you I want to see her. I hope she has been a good girl. Give my love to lurr and William. There! little Heber P his father would like to see him to see if his Eyes has got strait. The little D P I have not forgotten. What a satisfaction it would bee to me to see them little children. Tell them they must pray for there poor father and I will pray for them. I feel grateful that you have such good nobouns in Springdale. May the Lord bless them and Reward them for there kindness to you and me. On
HEBER TO VILATE
May 25, 1840

Page 3

the 6 of May in this place a large number of Saints came together from different parts. It was at pentecost to the Saints. How thare seems to bee a gret stir here. Brother Fielding come here last Evening to spend a few days with me in the churches.

Please give my love to brother Hide and wife. Thare is a great longing for his presents here. I have a great desire to see Br Hide. I should like to no where you are so that I could send some things to you. Thare is Seveal families going to start this month. I hope I shall here from you before they start. I subscribe my name as ever.

Vilate Kimball

Heber C Kimball

Envelope:  Mrs. Vilate Kimball
            Commerce
            Hancock Co.
            Illinois
            N. America
            June 25, 1840

Taken from old photocopy of original in possession of Pearl K. Derrick
My Dear Companion,

I am sitting at the table with Br Young and Br Clark Br John Taylor and P P Pratt. They are selecting hymns for a hymn book. It will be out by the first of July. There will be three hundred hymns in it. The Star has come out of the press and has gone to the world and to the Church. I think it will be of great use if it is carried on at once. I pray the Lord to direct it right. We are calculating to print the Book of Mormon. This will be done soon if the Lord will for we have great need of it; for the work of Good is rolling on in this land in power. There are many churches that have none, and have never been any. There are about three hundred Saints in Manchester and more adding in the quarter where brother Woodhul is labouring. There has been about 350 added. Br Young (and) Richards have been there with him. Many ordained preaching the gospel, souls crying what they shall do to be saved. O that the Lord would send in more faithful labourers in to the harvest, for the wheel is falling in to the ground for the want of harvest. How I wish that all the Elders feel the worth of souls as much as they ought. The Church in Liverpool numbers about 60 and it is still progressing. The last I heard from Scotland there was 60 or 80. I have not heard from Orson since he left Preston for the north. Where he is we do not know. Br Hadlock is down where Russel laboures. He was baptising.

Brother Fielding and my Self went down in to Clitheroe and Downham and Chadderton and Waddington, Walthersfield and Ribchester. We baptised from 3 to 5 a day— I have heard from thare since (that) there has been several more added and a more loving set I never saw before. I dont no if I should ask them they would pluck out thare eyes and give them to me. They often speak about you and want to see you—not more then I do you may be assured.

We have been through the Churches at Church Town and Southport. South Port is a bathing place. I see holt and blind and deaf and blind and maimed and leprous and a distressed set of beings. The place was pleasant as I ever see. The buildings are very nice. It is on the Sea Shore; a great place for the rich and noble of this land to come to bathe. There is a small Church thare. We preached thare. There was a sister that was sick that was not expect to live. She was healed and the next day went with us 2 miles a foot and the next day [she] went on our journey when we started for hom one or two miles. From thence we went to Longton and laid the case of gathering.

There is several of the Churches here are going to go up the next Spring to Zion in Churches, for the rich love the poor so well they cant leave them behind. This is a Celestial Spirit. I would to God that all the Saints had it. The saints have begin to gather to Zion from this land and it will never stop till the Salt is drained out of all nations. Some have gone and others are ready, will start next Tuesday. There is about forty of them. This letter I shall give it in to the hands of Sister Susannah Moon, one of the fuels of the earth. She will come to see you and tell you all things about me and how the word of God goest on. You must be free with her and the rest of them. The family of Moon that had 13 in it they say much about going to see you. I think you will be happy to see them for they are some of the first fruits in old England. They appear very humble at this time. I hope this may continue with them for ever.
I will say my dear Companion I have received your letter that you commenced on the 9 of May which and finished on the 20 which I feel thankful for. I am still more pleased that you are going to stay there in Commerce for I can have the pleasure of sending a few things to you from time to time. I had a great desire to have you come to Kirtland. I praid severl times for you to come. I could not guilt much faith. Some times I have been sorry for it but I feel as tho the Lord would forgive me for it. He knows better what is for our good then (than) we do. I have a great desire to do his will. I feel as tho I had rather dye then to do rong in one thing. I feel to pray the Lord to keep me to the end that I may never fall and bring a wound upon on his Caus or apon the preast hood or a stigny on my carictor. This I feel to ask in the name of Jesus Christ Amen.

I feel as tho it was in the wisdom of God that, that letter should bee directed rong for I do feel as tho it was in the wisdom of God that you are going to stay there. I feel as tho the Lord would bless you there more than any where else. My Dear Vilate you (k)now the Lord seed you should bee blest with friends and with the good things of the Earth. I feel greatfull before the Lord that we are a live as yet. I red your letter to menny. Had it red in one publick meting. They would crye some times and laught. I felt greatfull that the Saints were gethering to gathere once more. 0 Lord Rowl it on in power till completed when his servent can come home and rest in peace.

I have no objections of Sister L and Sister A having that lot. May the Lord bless them for ever. I feel thankfull that Br Rich and Br Hubbard has been fathers to you. I pray my fahther will multiply his blessings to them and to there wives and children. If I cant reword them the Lord will. Give my love to them. Tell Brother Bently he must give you a doke yard and I will pay him for it. May the (lord) bless him and Sister Ann. Tell Br Bently he that has the love of this world has not the love of the father in him. Tell him to remember what I told him before I left home. He will no when you tell him. If dont, let him guess. Tell Br Joseph Young that I am his brother in Christ as Ever. Give my love to him and Sister Jane. Br Brigham ses the same. He sits to the table with me.

There never was better feelings among the twelve then (than) at this time. All things go on well. We are some what seeble as yet. We are in creasing in strength fast. Brother Clark has the age now. As to the tryal you have had there is but a small thing, for we must have our faith in God and not in man. I have hund you say that God would shak evry thing that can bee shak-king and what cant bee shak must remain. So I say. I write evry thing that comes in to mind furst. I am sorry that William is sick. Tell him to be a good boy and pray much. Give my love to Hellen and Aber P. Kiss that little David for me. You thought I had forotten my family. You have been quitt out of your head I think, for I have remembered you in all my prays. I think it is the other way for I have seen you severel times but I could not guilt near you. Now you have tried to paln things on me that you are guilty of your self; When I come home I will tell you more of this. When I shall come home I dont know. It may bee in six months and it may not bee in one year. God knows all things better then I do, and I shall leave it to him. The field is so wide it takes a great while to quit it. So you [see] it is wisdom for us to labour with our mits for the last time. It would be a pleaing thing for me to bee with my dear family but this cant bee (for the) present. Remember me to Br Joseph Smith and Eld Higdon and Elden Hiram Smith and Bishop Patridg and Whityn, and to thare families and to all of my brethren and Sisters in Christ. I will say to the wives of the
twelve that thare husbands are well and the wives of the other brethren, excepting Br Clark. He is not very sick. We are in good Spirrits as ever you saw men in this world and we have now [no] desire but to do the will of God. Give us your prairs and you shall have ours. I am glad you have Br Winchester and Isrel Barlow for yours naubours and B Rock wood. Give my love to them and thare wives.

In this place thare is a bout three hundred thousand inhab- itence and they look distressed. Last evening I was asking some of my brethren what made the people look so bad. They said becaus they ware famished for the wont of food. Say they to me, thare are hundreds that are starving for the wont of food and others things. I thought thare was misry a nough in Preston. It is nothing to compare with Manchester. I asked them if they thought the brethren went hungry. Yes menny of them have not to eat. Times are so hard they cant quit work. Therefore they have to go hungry. Thare has been such a change here in two years as never was known by the oldest men in this land. Preston is called the most pleasant place that thare is in England and is said it is the best times at present for the people to quit a living. The brethren all tell me that this is the case in all thare travels. They dont find them so well off as they are in Preston. You may know by this that it is hard times in old England.

The brethren send thare love to you. Give my love to evry body and be sure and take some your self.

This from Heber Chace Kimball to his wife Vilate Kimball

Taken from a xerox copy of original letter in Church Historical Department
Dear Friend,

According to your desire I take this opportunity to do the same. I will say unto you bee of good cheer for all things Shall go well with you in as much as you are faithful and keep the commandments of God, and in as much as you will do this God will bless you with health and strength and with all wisdom. And the time will come when you will see it and feel to praise God in the highest and tend to you(r) Secret Prairs by night and by day, and the Lord will give you the desire of your heart in as much as you desire it in Rich- ousness before God. Pray for your Companion and the Lord will hear your Prairs in due time. Bee humble, bee patience, bee kind and have that mind that was in Jesus. Train up your children in the way of the Gospell and when they are old they will not depart from it, and when your young Sisters are in your company be a M..(bottom.right.corner.tore.away) them, and teach them to obey thare paren(ts) your self, and teach them to observe thing, and to teach them to harken to thar and all things shall go well with...

I took my leave of you and the Saints on the 29 June in Thornly with Br Richards and Fielding, got to Preston at nine in the Evening. I was much tired. On monday Br Richards and my Self went to Penworthan. Stade all night at Thomas Moons. Menny of the Saints came together (and) we had a glorious time together. There was a about 15 spoke with toungs and others had the Inter- pitation of tongues, and menny had the gift of Prophesy and declared menny good things. The next day Br Richards took cares (cars) for Manchester (and) got thare five in the afternoon. I found Br Young and P Pratt and George Smith and Wodroph and others. Thare tidings are good from the parts where they have been.

Give my love to all that Love the Lord. I shall write to the Church Soon if the Lord will. May the peas of God Rest on them for ever. Now I will Say unto you dear Sister that God will bless you if you will harkin to these things. Now I Say unto you fare well for a little Season. This from your Brother in Christ.

Heber Chase Kimball

To Elisebeth Parenthood

Taken from old photocopy of original in possession of Pearl K. Derrick.
London August the 21, 1840

Dear Brother Robinson,

I take this opportunity to write a few lines to you to let you know that I am in the land of the living, about five thousand and two hundred miles from you. My spirits are good and I have the same desire to press forward in this cause, that I had when I saw you in Richmond prison with a chain round your leg, and when I saw you in Commerce last. I will tell you brother Georg when I think of my brethren that have stood through thick and thin for the cause of Christ and have stood to the rack, hay or no hay. I say, Father let me dwell with them in thy Kingdom.

I have thought much about writing to you since I came her but I am not mity in writing. So you must excuse me for this time. I had but little time to write to any one since I came to this land. My helth has been quite poor since I came to this land, sometime hardly able to Sit up, but after all I have traveled and talked to the people every day since I have been here. I have Spent my time in the Churches most of the time. Since I have been here. I never saw Churches in a better state then there are here in life. They are so teachable. We landed in Liverpool on the 6 day of April. Since that time there has about two thousand added and the work of the Lord is rolling on in every direction. There is an increase among all the old Churches as to the gathering. As soon as they come out of the water, they want to go to America. They would come by the thousands if they had means. There is good money thare by this time I suppose and others on the way and some about to start next Spring. There are five or six of the old Churches that are going up together. They are making every preparation to start.

I left Manchester on the 4 of August for London all a lone, expecting to find G A Smith and Woodruff in Herefordshire. I took coach to Burston on to the Potters, the distance of 40 miles; stade 3 days with the Saints; then took coach in company with Elder Conden to West Bromwich, the distance of 40 miles; stopt with the Saints two days; then I was taking in a gig to Birmingham 7 miles; stade at the house of Elders Turley Fathers. This is a large place, three hundred and fifty thousand inhabitance. It is with in five miles of the Center of England. The next morning took coach and Railway to Ledbury in Herefordshire at Elder Kingston, the distance of 45 miles. The next morning Elders Woodruff and G A Smith came to me. This caused me to rejoice to see one of the tribe Saints. The same day started on our journey, went 2 miles, stade over the Sabath, preached and baptised 15, ordained two of them Preas that had come 12 miles that day to hear for the first time. They went forth preaching the word every where on Monday. Went 5 miles to a town (of) forty thousand thou (and) inhabitance call Chatterton of the Saints in this place that we baptised; stade all night. The next morning took coach 40 miles to the Railway; the Coach cares to London 70 miles further, then took Coach 3 miles to the London Bridge, then we cross the Bridge and went half a mile to one Mrs. W. Allgood, R19 King Street, Borough London. Mrs. Allgood is Sister Turley sister. She has been kind to us. She has invited us to take tea with her at secret times. She hunted up Logins for us and id Evry thing that she could to make us happy.

On the 20 we went to see some of the Joanna Youth ?cots? disciples (disciples?) as we had directions to some of them. We found they were divided. There has a other Protestant Risen. Yes Joanna was the Shaddow and she is the Substance. They treated us very kindly. Yesterday we went to visit one Rev J. E. Smith who has deserted from the Church and from all others.
Says they are all rong. He has a Book of Mormon that he got most three years ago, doe not feel to receive it with out some power manifest. There has been so many fals things Risen in this City. The people Eyes are blinded against the truth. The sex (sects) seem to bee in a deaffull state at present—know as we have tended their metings in the Evening to see if there is no place for us to Brack in. All dores seem to bee closed at present. We are going to see the Teatotle Society this after noon to see if they will let us have thare Hall. We have received great kindness from them in Preston.

On yesterday the 21, Elders Smith and Woodruff and my Self went on to the top of the Monument Erected in Commemoration of the Dreadful Fire of London in the year 1666. It is two hundred and twofeet high. I had the pleasure of over looking the great City London. It looks like a great world. It at the end of the London Bridge that runs over the River Thames. St. Pauls Church is Still higher. I am going to look throw (through) that next week. The house covers two acres of ground which will be more then three acres of our measure. I have seen it three times since I come here but have not been in to it. There plenty to see in this place but not much time to spend.

24[th] On Saturday I went in Surch of the Tettotal Society They had been the guest that had oppened thare Halls for us to preach in in England. I thoug I would trye again. I went to thare head men telling them I was a friend to temperance, and every thing that was good. They directed me to one minister Halkings that had the care of the Hall in the Evening. Elder Smith went with me. We found him to bee a warm friend. He gave us an introduction to the Luutenent of the Navy. Mr. Halkings invited us to tend thare commity metings, then thay would see what they could do for us. They will all come to help us. We have Received great kindness from the. They are men that look at the Sines of the time. Thare is much good Results from this Society for thay have open dores for us to preach when all others god closed thare dores against us. So it Seames to be a fore Runer and I have a Respect to thay.

On Sunday we went to Hear one Mr. Robert Abthen. He is a man that has many fellowers in England. He has two large Chappels in London. He had a large society in Preston. We brock him up when I was over first, and he is most brock up in the Liverpool. Elder Taylor has baptised 8 or 9 of thay preacher thare and he is brock up in the Potteries, that is he has had a hard shake. His people seem to be Rige here but we have now [no] way to bare our testimony to them as yet. He is a Smart man and tells what is going to befall the Nations, but he him Self does not no what to do but ses all the Sex (sects) of the day are going down to Hell. I think I shall go and see him soon if the Lord will. I expect he will Rige [rage] when he here that we are here. He knows my by name. He called [called] on his Society in Preston to pray the Lord to drive Eldor Hide and me out of the Cost (Coast) and he ses if this will not do, I pray God to smit thom and thare Leaders. The lord helping us, his people shall here these tidings.

It is hard times in Engal, thretined by woe [war] on alls sides and distress on all hands. Give my love to President Rigdon and family and to your wife and take a good share of it to your self. I hope that President Rigdon has got his helath. May the Lord bless him and his family and you and yours with life and helth and peas and every other good that this world affords. Give my love to Pres Joseph Smith and Be Hiram and thare families and to all that inquire for me and I pray the father in name of Christ to bless them all with eternal life and a comfortable journey while on the way may each
I pray for it for Christ Sake. Amen.

Elders G A Smith and Woodruff send same to you. All
the Brethren are all well as far as I have knowledge. When you receive this
ples to write to me and give me knowledge of things there. Direct it to H C
Kimball, the care of Rushton Silk Manufacturer, Canal St., Leck Stanford Shier
England.

(Heber C. Kimball)
VILATE TO HEBER

Note: The original copy of this letter is in poor condition. Sections have been torn away and there is considerable bleeding and fading of the ink. Consequently the transcription may contain incorrect interpretations of certain words.

Nauvoo  (Sept-Oct) 6, 1840

My Dear Companion

Dear man I set myself to converse with you in this secret way (which?) is a great blessing which we cannot do for each other face to face. I know not how to express my gratitude for the blessing which I have received. Some of our beloved brethren and sister(s) from England arrived this week at last. Four families were left back at Cincinnati? first means to come in. I heard yesterday some of them had arrived. Sister Turley has come to see me the first day they landed and brought me your letter and presents which were thoughtfully received. I can assure you it seems as though the Spirit directed you to send the veryy things that I most stood in need of, except the work? bos off. I could have the worth of that in factory cloth or almost (any) kind of clothing. It would suted me better. As you know I can never enjoy any unesssary thing while I see so much poverty around me. It is a beautiful thing and I know you got it for the sake of pleasing me. Therefore I thank you for it. The boots are just one size too small for me. They fit Hellen exactly. She wares number 4 and I ware number 5. Sister Bently says if you will send her a pare to same size of Hellen, she will pay me for them. (You must remember you promised her a present.) Br Joseph Young says you must not forget his wife. Sister A. Parker? says tell him to remember me. The boots that you sent first fits all of them. Perhaps you had better fetch a ship load no more of this.

I had anticipated seeing you this fall, but if it is the will of the Lord for you to stay longer, his will and not mine be done. I understand that Joseph has written for some of the brethren to come home and take care of their families. I asked him th(is) Theresday if he had written for you to come home. He said (that?) it was my privilege to write for you to come home when we (were?) in (need?) of your assistance. To so do? (this?) _______ that _______ we got to take care of your family, whether at home or in the vineyard. This you have always done with a vary little exception. You say you can help me more to stay there than you can to come home. This I have no Doubt. Therefore I am willing to submit to it a little longer, rather than you should come home without means to pay your debts. For I never can enjoy what I have while I live? here.

Is anybody looking at me with a jalous eye because we save them. I dont know if this is the case but I always think of it and it was my peace. I shall have to bare this taryal in November on this place but I have no fears about getting along. The Lord is multiplying my friends Daily, yea I have more blessings than I am worthy of. I think it is because I have a worthy husband. I think much of our English sister(s), especially Sister Moon and Sister Moss. She visited me yesterday, said you must tell her friend he should write as soon as he got settled.

The Saints are still moving in here very fast. Several families arived last week from Philadelphia very sick. I hope they will help to build up this place (which?) is so sickly here. It is almost discouraging,
There has been rising of fifty deaths here within a few weeks. The sickness is mostly among those that have come in this season. Brother Allins family has lost his wife and youngest child ______ and all the rest of his children have been very sick. (Two?) sister(s) that came in with him have died. Those that were here last year are generally well though there has been some deaths among them. Mother Beaman ______ was buried one week ago today. She died with the cholery morbus. (She) was sick but a few Days. Semor Brunson is dead (died Aug. 10, 1840). Everything was done to save him that could be done but the Lord had need of him. A short time before he ______ died he told Joseph not to hold him any longer; for said he, "I have (seen?) David Patten and he wants me and the Lord wants me and I want to go". They then gave him up. At one time as death entered the room, he told them there was a light encircled him bout the brightness of the sun. He exclaimed the room is full of angels. They have come to waft my spirit home. He then bid his family and friends farewell and sweetly fell asleep in Jesus. He requested President Smith to preach his funeral sermon which he did. It was attened by thousands of people. He was buried under arms. The procession that marched to the grave was judged to be a mile long. A more solm sight I never witness, yet the Day was joyful because of the light and glory which Joseph set forth. I can truly say my soul was lifted up for joy. 

_______my self am as well as I can, deprived of your dear Society ______. (Approx. next eight lines are missing from the original letter--apparently torn off at a crease.)

_______ some have (helped?) to gather our crops and cut fodder for my cow. Br Joseph Young shall (go?) to his farm (and?) (promised?) to get me a cow and he has got me a gold one for which I feel very thankful. Br Hubbard gave me a pig last spring which I think if (he?) will fatten will make our meat for winter. I have plenty of potatoes turnips and other garden ______. I shall not have much to buy but bread. I hope I shall not have to ask on the Bishop again while you are gone. They find some fault with brother Talor; say if he could send means to N.Y. to bare expenses of his family over the sea, he could as well send it here to support them. I am glad Brother Brigham has sent some assistance to his family for they were needy. Their house could hardly be called a shelter. They will soon have it fixed nice. Elisabeth and Vilate are both sick with the chills, however, the rest of the families of brethren are well as far as I know.

I called to sister Young day before yesterday and carried a letter that I had just taken from the office. It was from Brigham written last of June? They were rejoiced to hear from him again. They were in good spirrits and I think when they get the house dun they will be quite comfortable. Br and sister Green send much love to you. He is sick yet. Br(r?) and sister Winchester send their love to you; wish you to inform Benjamin they are all well. They received his letter. Pres. (Smith?) says I must always remember him to you. Br Thompson has got your journal redy for (the?) (press?). I believe I have got about through. I would just say I am well convinced that you have not forgotten me. I never thought (you?) had? but I wanted to stir (your?) mind by way of remembrance. This is the (third?) letter I have written you. I have received: ______ ______ ______ to be remembered to you.
(The following is taken from the top of the address page. The left side of the page is mostly indecipherable.)

_____ would ______. I (was worried?) about my little fat calf ______
_____ for now? he grows better (or fatter) for meat. 13th I pray the Lord his
health he'll give (you), that his (sheltering? care? & good? favor has not?) failed
before you cross the rageing Main ______ Your beautiful (children?) with me
(fear?) to think you may have not (the) opportunity to see (them? again?).

................................., for which kitten? to hath charmed me ____
................................., you may have? a letter _____ the folks _____

................................, speak of David for he is my pratling child
................................, Heber is well. Says tell you thanks for?
................................, for my jack knife. Hellen joins with me in
................................, do you remember me to those inquiring for me.
................................, Fare thee well. I am yours forever

Vilate Kimball

Taken from original letter in LDS Church Historical Dept.
London Sept the 19, 1840

My Dear Companion,

It is one year yesterday since I left you in Spring vale sick on your bed. Then after I started you recollect well I cold [called] you to the door to bid you fare well. I will tell you my dear that time will be remembered by me as long as time lasts, for no man has ever suffered as much as I did in my feelings, no nor do I ever wish to while I live on earth. I think if ever one man did, I have left all fore the cause of Christ. Other feelings that I had no man has language to express. I must say my constitution is broke down, and I suppose it has been the case with you. Brother Brigham Young and G A Smith has failled in the same way. When I look back on the journey that we past though and the sickness that we passed through I don't wonder at all. As you say it seems like an age to me sometimes. Last week I was taking with the Colany in the evening. It appeared to me as tho I could not live till morning. I was cramped in my legs very bad and bowels. I was in a strong place and no one to assist me. Chills come on me in the night and it seem to me as tho I should freeze to death before morning. I was obliged to leave my own bed and quit in with Br George. The next day my legs were so numb that I could scarcely walk. It held me about three days (and) brought me quite low. I am doing tolerable well at present.

Brother Woodruff left us about 2 weeks ago. We had not baptised only one here in the City before he left. He felt most discourag. He said he never saw such a hard case before in his day, every done closed against us and evry heart. We travelled from day to day from one part of the City to the other to find some one that would reveice our testimony. It seem all in vain fore some time. At last we found one old Colneallous that was ready to receieve our testimony as soon as he heard it.

Last Sabath I went for word and and baptised 4. This was the next morning after I was taken with Colar. I thought it would do me good to go in to a cold bath. Last night I went in to the water and baptised 4 more. Some more going on Sunday. So you see the ice is broken in London and it has got such a hold the Devil cannot root it out. But he is very mad and I am glad. I never shall try to pleas him, the Lord assisting me.

You may think I feel discouragd. My dear Vilate I will say unto you I never have seen the first moment as yet, fore I dow not see anny thing to discourag me but evry thing to the reverse. I know that I am built on the foundation of Jesus Christ and the Postles, and I know that my name is ritten in heaven and that I shall come forth in the first resurrection, that is if I should lay in the dust before that time comes. It matters not to me whether I die or live if I dow the will of my Father which is in heaven. And I know also by the voice of God and by the Spirit of Prosvy and Revelaion and by the power of God and by more then one hundred other testamonies that I could mention if it was needfull. You know it is not a small thing that cast me down. Now my dear Vilate pray for me that I may continue to the end and magnify my coling in the Light of God and angels and all holy men that has gon before us. Now my dear companion pray to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ to uphold me to the end, but rather then let me fall that he will take me to him self. Fore I know if I know my heart I wish to be come a man of God in the full sense of the word and I know I cannot become thus except God be with me. In by my self I am nothing; neither can I dow any thing, nor any other one. They may continue fore a little while in thare own wisdom for little season but will fall at last and go down to perdition, at last. I speak of these things because I feel my
weakness before God. I hope when you receive these lines they will find you in the same way.

Now I will tell you of some things that I have seen. Brothe WoodRuff, G A Smith and my Self the 5 day of Sept. viseted the West Minis ter Abbey and went through evry department of it. Saw all the tombs and Monu ments of the Kings and queens and lords which are laid therein and also sat in the Chair in which queen Victory was crowned and all the Kings and queens fore the last eight hundred years. So you may know it quite an old chair. It is worth going to som ways to see. Before we went to St. James park and saw the queens trop -- 200 horsmen al red black horses. I never saw amore beautifull seen before in my day. There was about 400 hundred footmen nd a beautifull band of music. On the same day viseted the hous of lords and the hous of Commons. This was on the 8 of Sept. Elder W. was with us. The west Minister Abbey, the part where the Kings have been crowned has been built twelve hundred years. The work is very antient.

On the 17 Elder Smith and my self went and viseted the queen(s) Police. Saw hur horses. They are of a cream collar. There is 12 span of them. There is for span put before the Carriage at once. The carriage of State weighs fore tones. It is 24 feet in length and in perforation (proportion) other ways; the most superb that was built in Europe. There is 8 or 10 others simeter. Probably 150 more horse kept for her majesty. Saw queen Adolite Pollice, King Williams wife. I will not under take to tell what these things cost fore you would think it hard to believe it. We went through all the stables and harness hous and all that aportains to it. I never saw every thing even begin to equal it before in my day. You would be astonished to see the star there is made over a little queen, at the some time thousands starving to deth fore a little bread, but they have there rowwond. Blessed are the poor fore they shall rejoice in the Holly one of Israel. They have [hole] and we shall have ours here after so I donot see [hole] vie them.

The work of God is spreading in evry direction. [Reci]ved a letter from Elder Richards yesterday. There is 15 to 70 baptised in Manchester evry week and so it is in Preston and evry other part that I can hear from. He is with B. Young. Got news from O Pratt—they three are well. I had a letter from John Tailor [and] he is well. The brethren are all well that I herd of. Since we have been here in London, I have received 31 letters from different parts in about one weeks, which gives the jenuel new(s) in different parts of the land. All things goes well at present. The Devel is mad and those of his comrades. G A Smith is [here?], wishes to be rememberd to you and Sister B. B. and please remember me to hur and to all of hur friends or family a little polly. On the 6 of next month I shall tend the conference in Manchester if the Lord will. I think the Star will be moved here to London before long. I expect there is one at the _______ [The bottom fourth of page torn off.]

The following is taken from an old typed version of this letter and seems to contain most of the missing part:

The last letter that I got from you was written June the 9th. It cannot be that you have forgotten me. When you do right to me I wish you would give me the general news of the day. We don't get any papers from America, therefore we know nothing. O how I want to see home, but this is all the good that it does me. I do not expect to come home till next spring or
summer. How I should like to see William, Hellen, Heber, and David. They are on my mind a good deal of the time. I shall be glad if the Lord spares me to see you once more. There is one thing that may comfort you and that is I never bow before the Lord but what I call on his name for you and the children.

(Back to copy of original letter) Give my love to Br Jospeh and family, Elder Ridgodn and family, Elder Hiram Smith and family, Brother Thomson and wife, Don C. Smith and wife, Ebezer Rob and wife, William Smith and wife, Brothers Hubard, Bently, Rich, Joseph Young, Isreal Barlow and thare wives and all the wives of the twelve and every body else that you see and may the Lord bless them all for Christ Sake Amen.

The above letter was addressed in the following manner:

UK
Mr. Georg M Robinson
Nauvoo Hancock County
Illinois
North America
Steam Ship by the way New York

Taken from old photocopy of original in possession of Pearl K. Derrick
My Dear Companion,

I have retired from the busy scenes and cares of life for the purpose of answering your letter of July 9th, which I received three weeks ago. I had written to you a short time before, so I thought I would delay writing again until after conference, which closed last Monday. We had the largest and most interesting conference that ever has been since the Church was organised. The people that attended it, were estimated at four thousand. Some thought there was more. Much business was done and many good instructions given.

President Smith has opened a new and glorious subject of late which has caused quite a revival in the Church. That is being baptised for the dead. Paul speaks of it in First Corinthians 15th Chapter 29th vers. Joseph has received a more full explanation of it by Revelation. He says it is the privilege of this church to be baptised for all their kinsfolk that have died before this Gospel came forth; even back to their great Granfather and Mother if they have ben personally acquainted with them. By so doing we act as agents for them, and give them the privilege of coming forth in the first resurrection. He says they will have the Gospel preached them in Prison but there is no such thing as spirrits being baptised. He does not wholly discard sisters Booths Vishoni says it was to show her the necessity of being Baptised. Since this order has ben preached here, the waters have ben continually troubled. During conference there were sometimes from eight to ten Elders in the river at a time baptising. There is a particuler order that the Elders have to administer in, and to preserve this order it was President Smiths advise that it should not be attended to only in this place.

I want to be baptised for my Mother. I calculated to waste until you come home but the last time Joseph spoke upon the subject he advised every one to be up and a doing and liberate their friends from bondage as quick as possible. So I think I shall go forward this week, as there is a number of the neighbors going forward. Some have already ben baptised a number of times over. They have to be baptised and confirmed for one person before they can be baptised for another. Those that have no friends on the earth to be baptised for them can send ministering spirrits to whom so ever they will and make known their request. Thus you see there is a chance for all. Is not this a glorious doctrine? Surely the Gentiles will mock but we will rejoice in it. Sister Moss is clear carried away with it.

You say she is one of the jewels of the earth and I believe it. Sister Moss is another. They were both here the other day. They wondered why you did not say any thing about them in your last letter. Sister Moss heard you had forgotten them. No sister Moon sais, she knows? Br Kimball had not forgotten them. I told them your letter was written? So soon after they started, you did not realize that they would [be here]?

There is two families that Br Moss helped as far as Pittsburg (he impoverish himself to do it) that have since ben here. They were dissatisfied with many things they saw here, and have turned aways from the church. Say they would not live here at any rate. One of their names is Leach, the other I donot recollect. He is a Taylor. It is not Brother Sutton. He lives with Br Noon. They have built them a house, and I think they are well satisfied. Br Richard Noon brought his family within seven miles of here. He came to get council from Joseph what to do. Joseph wrote a letter to the Bishop there, to
let them have work and provision. But it appears he did not do it. They got 
dischanted and have gone off and taken a farm of man that has said he would 
not have a Mormon on his premises. So we have reason to fear they have denied 
the faith. I haven't received the things they brought from sister Greenhatch. 
Don't know as I ever shall. They could send them if they had felt disposed. Br-
other John Hoos is in Pittsburg yet. They expect to stay there until spring. 
They have got the dress patterns that the young man bought for us, and the furnish-
ings and caps that you and Brigham sent us. I am sorry about the fustion for the 
boys kneed it now very much. We have heard that Br Turley is within a few days 
journey of here; with his company. I flatter myself that you have sent some 
winter clothing by him. Goods are so dear here. It costs almost a fortune to 
clothe a family comfortably. I pity the poor brethren that are coming in here, 
but they must all have their trial as well as us.

You wished me write the price of produce; wheat is 50 
cents a bushel, flour two dollars and a half a hundred, corn 25 cents a bushel, 
potatoes 25 cents. Beef from 3 to 4 dollars a hundred, store pork is selling 
for eight cents a pound. I don't know what fresh pork will be worth, people 
have not begun to kill yet. Butter has sold all summer for a bit around. It 
has gone up to a shilling. Sugar has ben from 8 to 11, but it is worth a bit 
now on the account of the cain batteens being destroyed by water last spring.

You will want to know how the church prosper(s); I believe 
they are getting along with their land debts very well, they have got Doct. Gatun 
payed up. He took land in Missouri. They have got 3 thousand dollars to pay 
this fall for another purchase. They will not have to pay any more on the 
city plot under five year. They have commenced building the Temple. I don't 
recklect the size of it, but it is considerable larger than the one in Kirtland. 
President Smith in company with several other brethren have bought a steam Boat, 
which is now running from St. Louis to Gallena. They calculate in the Spring 
to run it to Wellsville. Perhaps you will have the privilege of coming home 
on it.

As for the sickness here, I believe.
good degree. Father Smith has died since I last wrote. He ordained his son 
Hiram to be a Patriarch and pronounced great blessing upon all his children be-
fore he died. The quarter master General of this state has recently ben baptised 
into this church, and taken up in aode in this place. He is a big man and I 
hope a good one. He is a great warter. Many of our brethren have got the same 
spirit. I expect it is all rite.

Oct 13th - I sent to Brother Thompson yesterday after 
a copy of those dreams which you wished me to write in this letter. He didn't 
send them, but sent word he was going to have the journal printed soon 
he would send you a whole copy. I could not my self, so you must not blame 
me nor withold your heart and hand from me.

We are all tolerable well at present, except little David. 
He is afflicted with a bowel complaint. I have weaned him and hope he will get 
better. William and Helen have a little of the ague now and then. I brake it 
as often as they are taken with it. Our madison costs about as much as our bread, 
but I had rather go without bread than to have the ague. Heber P has not ben 
sick a day this summer. I feel truly thankful that he is so rugged. The children 
have not ben to school but a few weeks since you left home. This I feel bad 
about; there is no school any nearer than Taun. I hope there will be this winter,
"I feel to rejoice to hear from you once more. Elders Young and Woodruff and myself have been traveling all day to see some of the sight of this great city. We visited the Tower of London. We entered into one room 150 feet by 33; there, arranged in regular and chronological order, were no less in number than twenty-two equestrian figures, representing many of the most celebrated kings of England, accompanied by their favorite lords and men of rank, all of them, together with their horses, in the armor of the respective periods when they flourished,—many, indeed, in the identical suits in which they appeared while living. There were 400,000 stands of arms, and cannon, taken from all parts of the world, in their conflicts with other nations; and all the jewelry and crowns of the kings and queens. I wish you could see them, for we can see better than we can write about them. We went to see the Thames tunnel; from thence returned home to our lodgings. Mrs. Morgan presented me with a letter from you, dated Oct. the 11th. *** I felt to rejoice at hearing from you, that you are still alive and in good spirits and to hear of the good times that you have in Nauvoo, and the good tidings that President Smith is laying before the Saints; I should like to be there if it was right in the sight of God. But I feel no liberty as yet to come here, but I think I shall soon. I want to see you and my little children, and I want to see Brother Joseph, Brother Rigdon and Brother Hyrum, and all of my old friends that have gained my affections, that have stood through thick and thin, through evil reports as well as good; they are the ones that I wish to live with on earth, and I believe I shall; for I have no desire for anything else but to press forward for the celestial world. I don't expect to find much rest this side of that, but I feel to prepare for the worst and hope for the better. I have strong sensations of what is coming on the earth. I shall not be disappointed if I get home about the time to have a little sport with my brethren. As you say, a hint to the wise is sufficient. I am sorry to hear that some of our brethren have denied the faith, that is, some of them that went from this country, but it is just what I expected and told them so; they thought they were going to be fostered by the Church in that place; they might have known better, for they knew the Saints had been driven and robbed of all their goods, and they could not expect help from them but rather the reverse. I don't know but they think it will hinder the work of the Lord if they turn away; they are mistaken there, for it will advance the work just as much for them to turn away as it will for them to remain; so it is all the same with the Lord. The Savior says we cannot do anything against the truth but for it. I have got so I feel perfectly easy about these things, for they are the work of God and not the work of man. I know no other way than to be subject to the powers that be. I pray my Father will give me this disposition, for I wish to be in the hand of God as the clay in the hands of the potter. The Lord has His own way of doing His own work, and we have got to submit to Him instead of His submitting to us. I feel well in mind—never felt better in my day—but I am afflicted in body with bad colds. The weather is cold and wet, and the smoke is so bad some of the time that they have to light up their lamps in the middle of the day, it is so dark. It is very unhealthy for me, and it is so for my brethren. Times grow worse and worse in this country; the people are driven almost to desperation; the times appear sad and gloomy. I had some conversation with a Frenchman the other evening; he says it is hard times in France; all lands seem to share in the same fate; distress on all sides.
"I will begin where I left off at Liverpool on the 31st.
I stated to you that Elder Young and myself were going to Wales. This was on
Saturday, the distance of twenty miles, seven miles by steamboat, and the rest
by coach. Got there in the evening—at the town of Harder. On the Sabbath
we preached twice; had as many as could hear us; it appeared that everyone believed
our testimony. We were called to pray for the sick. One young man lay sick
with the fever, and a Methodist preacher received a blessing, and one woman.
They were healed, and began to proclaim it aloud to be the power of God. Sunday
was the 1st day of November; on the 2nd we started back to Manchester by the
way of Lynn; there were some baptized the day we left. I heard there were about
thirty others ready to go forward the first opportunity. The six Methodist preachers
that sent for us are going to be baptized if they have not been already. There
has another work broke out in Wales, fourteen miles from the place where we went.
The last news we had from them, there were fifty-two baptized. We received a
eight from Elder Pratt yesterday, stating that there were about ninety baptized
in those two places. After we got to Manchester the 8th, I took coach for
Clithero in Yorkshire, thirty miles distant. I preached four times in Clithero,
one in Waddington, once in Chatburn, once in Downham. I remained with them
six days, and baptized several while there. In a few weeks’ time there have
been about forty baptized; these are some of them from the old churches; the
excitement seems to be as great as it was when I first went into that place.
There were scores that believed my testimony that had formerly been much opposed
to this work. The opposition is great in that part. They collected in mobs
to break up my meetings, but did not carry their designs into execution. The
deal is mad and the work spreads in all parts. They are publishing pamphlets
in all directions, and the papers are full of all kinds of lies. If things continue
as they have for a short time past, we shall be driven from this country.
In the places that I have mentioned the spirit has been poured out upon them;
they speak in tongues, interpret, prophesy, dream dreams, see visions, and there
seems to be great humility. There seems to be a revival through this land. * * * *

"On the 25th of November Elder Young and myself started
for London. I felt quite feeble when we started. I will continue my epistle
from the 5th of December. The day we started we went twenty miles to Maches
field, and stayed all night. There is a church of nearly one hundred members
there. It is a silk manufacturing town of about 80,000 inhabitants. The next
morning we went to the Potteries; stayed two night; preached to the Saints;
the world’s people came in throngs; they acted more like devils than like men.
There are many coming into the Church in this place. The gifts are among the
Saints; this makes the devil mad. Many are turned out of their work because
of their religion. Many go hungry and look pale for the want of a little food
to eat. When I have a penny in my pocket it goes freely. I have taken pains
to ask them; some tell me they have not half enough to eat—and have a little
child to the breast at the same time. These things are hard. I will stop,
for I cannot paint the scenes that are before me daily; these things grow
worse and worse. From there we went to Birmingham; found Elder Snow on Sunday
evening heard him preach for the first time. After he got through Elder Young
and myself bore testimony. The Saints felt to rejoice, and some believed.
There are 300,000 inhabitants in that city and only eighteen Saints.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

"Sunday, the 6th. I have been to St. Paul’s Church this
forenoon with the brethren. It was so dark they had to light up the church
with gas. A considerable part of this letter I have written in the day time, and have had to write by a candle. It is very disagreeable to me, and makes me feel bad and sick. Not one of us feels well. Brother Smith's lungs are very bad; he will not be able to stay in this country. He is at the Potteries, where he will remain until he goes home. * * * * *

"December 12th. You will think I have been lazy since I commenced this. Elder Young left here yesterday for Herefordshire; it was thought best for me to remain here for a short time with Elder Woodruff. The prospect seems to be better than it has been. There was one man baptized this week, and several more are believing. I shall stay here about three weeks if all things go well. Now my dear Vilate, be of good cheer, for all things will go well; and pray much, and hearken to counsel from those that are over you. * * * * * My love to all of the Saints in Christ. Remember me to my little children, and kiss them for me. Oh, how I want to see you all!

I am your husband forever,

H. C. Kimball

*Typed exactly as printed in LIFE OF HEBER C. KIMBALL by Orson F. Whitney Page 298.
ADDRESS:
Mr. Heber C. Kimball care of
Rushden Silk Manufacturer
Canall St. Leek Staffordshire
England
(Mailed from Nauvoo Dec. 11, 1840)

Nauvoo Dec 8th 1840

My Dear, yea very Dear Companion,

My mind is overwhelmed at this time and I hardly know how to compose myself enough to write; but I desire not to neglect you whatever else I do. It is two weeks to day since Eldertunley arrived. There were one hundred and nine persons come here with him, and the remainder stoped at Kirkland. I have had much joy and rejoicing with the dear sisters from England. But your letter of September 12th has come to hand, which pains my heart to hear that you have been thus afflicted, in a land of strangers, and no one to administer comfort to you. O that I could fly to your relief; but alas! I cannot.

I have just received the heart rending intelligence that my dear Father is no more. The particulars of his death I have not heard. William Bosley called here, said he saw Mother a few days since. She told him she had got a letter from Victor giving an account of his death, and that her letter stated they had written all the particulars of his sickness and death to me, but I have not received it. The last news that I had from Father before, he was well, and calculated to set out his journey for this place the first of October. I had for sometime, daily been anticipating his arrival here. But alas! How are my fond anticipations blasted and my joy is turned to mourning.

My husband’s gone, my Father’s dead,
But my ever loving head;
Always hears my soules complaint
and ever comforts me when faint.

If I could fly to you I would
But the Lord is very good;
He will care for him that’s dead
and you who from your family’s fled.

I’m here with four children dear,
But I know I need not fear;
For the Lord is always nigh,
and will all my wants supply.

O Lord it is my souls desire
That thou would my heart inspire
With a fore knowledge of thy will,
That I may all thy law fulfill.

I feel very greatful to you, and Br Brigham, and all the saints who have administered to my necessities; may the Lord reward them four fold. The things all came safe and in an acceptable time I can assure you.—It costs a great deal to support your family. We are continually on expense, and not earning a cent. There was rising of thirty dollars due this fall on our land, but I paid off for the present, by paying fifteen dollars. I told Kimball I would pay him the next in the spring, or before if I could. Br Rich wishes you to write whether you are depending on that acre of land that you bargained with Br Hubbard for, or not. He says if you only wanted it for the spring, he will give you that; but if you want the land, you shall have it. He wants to know, so he can make the division fence. I think you had better hold on to it; if Brother William comes here in the Spring, I shall want to let him have a lot.
Br Bentley has sold his house and two acres of land joining us to a brother Taylor from New Portage, the one that you swapped horses with the first time you came to Missouri. They are very good neighbors. Br Bentley has built a large frame house over the next spring below. They moved into it today. Sister Bentley is very fable, has a chill and fever every day. She has been sick so long, she is quite childish. She was very thankful for her present and Sister Hubbard too. Sister Bentley was very sick the day I gave it to her and the next day she felt her chill coming on again. Her Mother told her to put her shawl round her. She said she wanted to keep it nice, but her mother told her to wear it and take the good of it. Well said she, who knows but brother Kimball has sent a blessing with it. People used to be heated antecedently with any thing that the Apostles had caught. I will put on my shawl and claim the blessing. She did so and her chill immediately left her. She was quite smart all day, and so thankful that she could not speak of it without weeping. Her Mother says if you will fetch her a woolen shawl when you come home, she will pay for it in washing for me. She has been very kind to me. They live close by.—

I must tell you a little more about our English sisters, one week ago yesterday there was six of them came to see me. I will mention their names, sister Floyd, sister invasive, sisters Harriet and Lyda Moon, sister Susannah Moon, sister Elisabeth Provanscroft (she was here before). I must say, I never enjoyed a visit better. They acted as glad to see me as though we had always been acquainted. When they first came in, after shaking hands with me, the next object that caught their eyes was little David. Ah said they, there is Heber, see his eyes. They then went to the bed to lay off their things, and there beheld your portrait, and such another ado you never heard. Oh said they, it is so like him, and they wept like children. They all said I must give their best love to you. Sister Elisabeth lives with me. I tell her she may stay until she can get a better home. She thinks that will not be soon. She says she expects I will be far turning her away when you come home, but she will not go. I think she is a fine girl. We take much comfort together. She says she is quite contented and happy. They all appear so that I have see, but I am told that some of them murmur very much, especially the Benbows. I expect they have got too much money to be happy here.—

Now I have some good news to tell you; I mentioned in my last to you, that our people had bought a boat. They have named her Nauvoo. The last trip she made up the river, President Smith went with her, and when he returned who should accompany him but John F. Boynton and his wife, and Lyman Johnson. They made it there home to Joseph Smiths all the time they were here. I never saw Joseph appear more happy. Said he, I am going to have all my old friends around me again. They both bought lots and calculate to build and move here the ensuing season. As to their faith, I have not heard much about it, but I conclude they have got some or they would have no object in coming here. I never saw any body that appeared gladder to see me than John’s wife. They all called brother and sister, and appeared as friendly as I ever saw them. Lyman called here the day that the English sisters were here. He had quite a chat with them. That is a day long to be remembered by me. It was quite a paradise. The sisters sang so beautiful, and among the rest they sung for you to come to Zion ensted of England.—
VILATE TO HEBER
Dec. 8, 1840
Page 3

Please give my respects to Elders Woodruff and Smith. Tell them I thank them for the few lines they wrote me. Tell Brother Woodruff his wife left here in company with two of her brothers about a week before Elder Turley arrived. She purposed visiting her parents, there to stay until her husband returned from Europe. You can inform him that the things sent to his wife all came safe, and I have them in my care agreeable to her request. The letters that had money in, I took the liberty to open and take the money out, as I thought it not safe to send ...... by mail. I have mailed all the most important ones to her, and wrote one my self at the same time, where in I inclose small letter ......... we did not open. Sarah Milliban counseled with me about .......... them. I deeply regret that Sister Woodruff is gone, but I will endeavor to take good care of her things until she returns. I mention these things for Brother Woodruffs consolation. Bishop Whitney wishes you to see that the Star is forwarded to him, with all the back numbers.

Now my Dear what more shall I say: I am grieved that you do not get my letters. I have taken pains to write often and give you all the news that I was in possession of. I have sent 3 by privet conveyance. I expect these are the ones that you do not get. You talk in some of your letters about coming home next fall, but I shall not think of looking so far ahead as that. I shall look for you in the Spring or in part of summer; then if it is the will of the Lord you should stay longer, he will give me patience to wait.

The children are all impatient to have you come. You are losing all the most interesting part of Davids life. A child is never so pretty as when they first begin to walk and talk. He goes prattling about the house, and you may be assured, that we think he is cunning. Elizabeth calls him Heber altogether, and every one that sees him says that ought to be his name. He looks so much like you. Br Rich says if he lives, he will look as much like you, as Seth did like Adam; could only be distinguished by their age. Brother Rich and wife send their respects to you, also Br Hubbard and wife, and all the neighbors. Sarah Milliban and Louisa Bamor were here yesterday, they send much love to you. Elisabeth says I must put in a bundle of love for her, as big as my sheet will hold, to you and also Brothers Woodruff and Smith. She wishes you to inform Br George that the trunk has ben sent to his father, but it has not ben convenient for her to visit them yet. I purpose going with her when she goes. I have never crossed the river yet since I came to Commerce. I seldom go any where unless business calls me; but when you come home, I intend to visit some. Sister Noen says I may expect to have my house full for awhile. Sisters L and A Pitkin send love to you. They are faithful to pray for you. They say you promised if they would be, they should be partakers of your blessings. Please give my love to all your quorum and all the saints that inquire after me; and be sure to take a large share for your self. The children all send love to you. Now may the Lord bless you and comfort your heart in Christ is the prayer of your unworthy companion.

Vilate Kimball

Your journal is now in press, we all all well except William he has just got his uncle bruised with a wagon running over it, but I think the bone is not hirt. Now fare you well my dear Heber.

Taken from Xerox copy of original in possession of Stanley B. Kimball
Dear Mother:

I am glad to hear from you once more that you are yet alive and as comfortable as what you are. We had anticipated much pleasure in having a visit from you this winter but in this have been disappointed; I still hope that you will come the first opportunity. I have spent this day at Bro. John P. Green's, his children were all at home and I had a good visit with them; but there is a vacancy there, that never can be filled. I have not been there before, since the day that dear Sister Greene was buried. I regretted that you could not have come before she died, it would have been such a satisfaction to her and you too, but do not cast any reflections upon yourself about it for I'm sure that you would have come had it been in your power.

Sister Greene and I had many a good visit together since we came to Commerce; although her health was so poor, yet I would sit down by her bedside and we would take sweet counsel together. We often wished that you were here with us. She has now gone to rest and we have nothing to regret but the loss of her society which is very great. She had everything for her comfort that she could have had, if Brother Greene had been worth thousands and you know he is one of the best nurses in the world. Her children were all as kind as they could be, especially Rhodaj; she merits praise from every beholder. I never saw such unceasing care and tenderness as she manifested for her mother during her whole sickness.

I shall not be particular to write all the news as Evan and Susan can tell you more than I can write. * * * I have not had any news from Victor, since receiving those letters which I shall forward to you by Evan. I have perused them with great satisfaction and feel perfectly reconciled and thankful that father was there instead of here-- If he had died here, perhaps the children would have cast reflections upon us for fetching him to this sickly country; so I feel that it is all for the best. As for myself and family we enjoy comfortable health this winter. I received a letter from Heber last week bearing date of Dec. 12th, he and Brigham and the rest of the brethren were usually well, with the exception of George A. Smith, his lungs are so affected that he raises blood; he is not able to preach. The work is still rolling forth in mighty power and persecution increasing as the work advances. Heber says if things continue as they have for a short time past, they shall been driven from that land-- Joseph has been afraid of it by the spirit and has written for them to come home in the spring. He says they will make their escape and that is all.

I have many anxious feelings about them but try to commit them into the hands of the Lord and look forward with anticipation to the time when we shall meet and rejoice together. We have many things to cheer and gladden our hearts while sojourning in this vale of tears. The Lord is again revealing his will to the Church through his servant Joseph;
there has been a very lengthy revelation given of late concerning the building up of this place; also concerning all the different Quorums in the Church. The Lord says there has been a day of calling and now cometh a day of choosing-- I understand that the revelation is be be read at the April Conference. I hope that you will be here. I must now close as I have promised Helen one page to write you.

Yours affectionately, Vilate Kimball
My Dear Vilate

I will say a few words more as I have this opportunity of sending by Elder Thomas Smith which I esteem as a worthy man of God, also Br Wm Moss. I am sitting at the table with Elders Young and Richards. They are both troubled much with bad colds and also my self. The weather is so changeable and cold but we are in good spirits. You need not trouble your self about me, for I feel well in mind and have no other desire but to press forward to the mark in order that I can obtain the prize; for this is what I am after, and it is so with my brethren. My prayer is that we may obtain. I know I can do nothing without the aid of the Almighty.

Now I must tell you what I have been doing since our Confrance we held in London on the 14 of February. There was represented 106 members. There was Sevret [several] ordained, one Independent Minister. (After?) I baptised a Jew and a Jewess. In 4 or 5 days I started for Edord, the distance of 50 miles what Elder Richards had laboured. I found 42 saints. I never was received with greater kindness in my day. I stade one week, preached every night. I was throned all the time with the Saints and Sevret [several] baptised persons that Mr. Mathue [Matthew] had baptised. He is the man that baptised him Self, the one that Marrid Sister Smith’s [Smith’s] sister. I felt to come out Publically against his abominations and deceptions. It caused a great excitement. He calls him Self a later day Saint, preaches up faith repentence and baptises fore the remissions of sins, and lays on hands fore the gift of the holy ghost. So near no one could tell the difference till I told the people how he got his authority, that he baptised him Self. He is or it is thought he is about going back to the Church. Mr. Pitkin has gon back to the Church. He was a partner of Mr. Mathue in Liverpool. I confirmed 7. The hole town was in an uproar.

When I left I ordained 3 or 4 and left them and went to Birmingham to organised a Confrance. As the work commenced share a bout the same time that it did in London, there was 107 members represented—9 ordained. The work is spreading in that part. It is called the Center of England.

From thence took Coach for Lane End where I found Elder Smith. I stade 3 nights, baptised some, Confirmed Sevret, preached once. It wondrously see what congregations there was to hear the work increased in that part. Br Smith injures better health then he did. He is in the Potteries, will stay share till the first of April. From thence I took Coach to Manchester where I found Elder Young and Pratt. I stade 4 or 5 days. The work is still spreading in that place, more or less baptise every weeke. Elder Pratt will Stay and continue the Paper. Sister P joins tolerable health being in travel. Her sister is well. Sister P wished to be remembered to you when I rite. It costs a deal to live in this Country. Elder W. Richards Ses give his love to you also Br Young.

Last Thursday Elder Young and my self come to this place, found Elder Tailor in tolerable health. Elder Hadlock is poor at this time. He will go home with us. Elder Hide and Br Adams arrived here on the 3 of this month in good health. I have not seen them. They had gone to Preston before I got here. I am going to Wales in Company with Elder Young to Stay one or 2 days. Then I shall go to Preston as there is a Confrance on 21 of this month and on the last day one at Clithroe. From thence I Shall go directly to Manchester as we hold our jennel Confrance. Then we Shall prepare fore home. I think we Shall do well if we guilt started by the 20 of April.
There was 6 presented for baptism last Evening. I am going

to send my trunk by Elder Smith and Moss and I have Sent Some of my pantaloons

in it. a pare of boots and a pare of ____ Chues. I have Sent 4 yards of

fustion fore Wm and Heber. a pare of Pantaloons, and also cloth for Wm a coat

and Heber a round about, and a flock fore you. It was made fore you but I think

it is to small. So it will do fore Hellen. It was mad by Sister Mary Cannon

in London. You will find 3 pare of Clogs, 2 pare fore Heber and one pare fore

David and a pare of Cloth boots fore David. They were present by Sister Warden

of Beford. When I come home I Shall bring you a pare of boots and some other

things if I can get them. I Should Sent you more. I thought I Come and bring

them my Self thinking I might gain your affections. I have been gon so long

from you. I think it will all work rite when we come to See Each other. I want
to See home and I Shall soon if the Lord will.

I am at the house of Br Richard Harrison. Elder Richards

and my Self are giving a short history of our first mission to England in order
to have it pite in the 12 No of the Star. There is a great move of Emegrating.
The Saints want to go to America. What has gon and will go before we will leave

will amout to one thousand Since we Come over this time. I Could tell you manny

things but I have not room in this but will tell you when I come home and can

Speak face to face. Give my love to Wm and Helen, Heber P and take a good share
your Self and kiss little David fore me. I pray my heavny Father to bless you

and Comfort your heart till I come. Give my love to all of my friends. It now

12 oclock at night and it will take us 2 hours to get threw with what we have

on hand. Good night my dear Vilate. I Still remain your affectinet husband fore

Ever and Ever Amen.

Heber C Kimball

Taken from a photocopy of original letter in Church Historians office
My Dear Vilate

I have just found Br and sister Davis on thare way to Nauvoo. They have been here two or three days. I wish that I could have know it fore I pute a letter in to the office fore you on yesterday. I am sorry fore I could sent to you at [hole] when you get this it may [hole - approx. 5 words missing] silent way, but it is beter then nothing. I told sister Davis that I would have been glad if it was so that I could gone home with them. Be still. There is no other way for poor Heber only to go ahead and that in the Name of the Lord fore my trust is in him and on him I rely fore help and wisdom. How I long to see you my dear bosom friend. Will you find fell with me becaus I am so much of a child. No I know you will not fore I know you have a heart and spirit like my self warm and tender. My Dear do wright of and give me your heart. One letter Each week is none to much fore Heber to peruse. The old one will have to be read till I get one.

My health is tolerable this morning. My mind feels composed and I fell as though all things were well with you and the Children. Iwant to get in to the Country where I can get me a prood. I have non so it makes me lonsom. I pray fore the(e) all the day and I am shure that God heard me fore my dear family, fore he knows that I love them dearly. I have sent you a pare of chues (shoes) that was given to me fore you. Put them on and rember me, poov me. When you get these lines wright. Tell me the size of your foot and hellens and Sariah; that is the numbers, not to send a masure. Give me the size of Davids and Charls feet by masure. Mark it on your letter. The brethren will give me a par of Chues when they can do nothing Else. So I will bring you home a stock of Chues. There is one Br here that has promised me a pare of Moroco ones fore you when I come back, so you need not lay in fore Chues. I will calculate fore you.

They are redy to go on to the boat. I must come to a close. Give my love to sister S. fore she is not forgotten. Now I wish just what comes in to my mind. You must keepe it to your Self or read it to others as your beter jugmen shall dictate. Now my fare you well. As Ever your dear and affecshinate Heber and husband in Christ. A

To Vilate Kimball

Heber C. Kimball

ADDRESSED: Mrs. Vilate Kimball
Nauvoo
Hancock County
Illinois

Original in possession of Dr. J. LeRoy Kimball
HEBER TO VILATE

Aple Creek Oct the 16 1842

My dear Companion

I think you will Echnoed that I have not forgotten you long at a time. I can assure you my dearest friend you are on my mind by night and by day. I dream about you most Evry night, but the most disappointed I became by beholding I am a dream and I could cry up it would do me any good. I am quite a Child some of the time. What I wright to you I hope you will keepe it to your self. I must trye to be more patient and more of a man. O Lord my God. I ask thee in the name of Jeses Christ that thou wilt look upon my dear Vilate and bless her with health and remove all pain that is unnatural and make you sound both body and mind, and my children and let them live long on the Earth that our seed may be as numerous as the Stars in the firmament and that they may be all richous from the Least to the Greatest that when I have finished my cours that I may have power to bring forth my dear Vilate and all of my posterity in the Resurrection of the just and take them through the gate in to the City and partake of the eternal life. O Lord grant these blessings to rest upon me and mine. For though O Lord noest I Long for this. Grant this blesses to rest upon us and thy name shall have all the Glory. Amen.

Top of second page of handwritten letter

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

I am not able to Express the fine feelings that I have in me the bosom toards you. They are keen and warm I can assure you my dear. Pray fore me my Love that I may have power with my God to finish my cours with dignity and honor, that there may be no stance on my carior from the time that I made a covenant with my God till he takes me to him self, that I may go in peace and have the privilage of sleepin with the Fathers, and my wife and children, if God should call fore us before he comes in his glory. I had rather die to day then to be left to sin against my brethren or against my God. O Lord hold thy poor servant Heber and grant him these desires that he may live and be a comfort to his dear friends and those that he loves so deart, and would suffer all the privations of this life to have the privardi of reigning in the kingdom of my God, that is as far as God shall require of me. God is just and true, and faithful, to those that are true to him.

You was speaking about if I had sent a kiss to you. I will send you sevrel on the top of this page where those round marks are, no less than one dozen (13). I had the pleasure of resaving those that you sent. I can tell you it a pleasure in some degree but when I come home I will try the lump it self. I bage of you to keepe this to your self. B Edwards is going bring a bashes of Aplees and he will bring this letter. I dare not wright much to others on the accout of Exposer. So I must be wise. Give my love to all the children and tell them to pray for me.

[Unsigned. Probably an address page missing]

Taken from old photocopy of original in possession of Pearl K. Derrick
My Dear Vilate,

I am at Brother Evan Green's. We have held all our conferences, have had two meetings today, it being the Sabbath. Some have been added to the Church and prejudice is considerably laid. Monday we shall go to Jacksonville, then on to Springfield. I shall be home in two or three weeks if the Lord wills it so. Since I left you it has been a time of much reflection. I felt as though I was a poor weak creature in and of myself, and only on God can I rely for support. I have been looking back over my past life before I heard the Gospel. It makes me shrink into nothing and to wish I had always been a righteous man from my youth, but we have an advocate with the Father, and I can look back since I come into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints, with a degree of pleasure, but I can see it I had more knowledge I could have done better in many points. *** I feel as though I had rather die today than be left to transgress one of His laws, or to bring disgrace upon the cause which I have embraced, or a stain upon my character; and my prayer is day by day that God would take me to Himself rather than I should be left to sin against Him, or betray my dear brethren who have been true to me and to God the Eternal Father, and I feel to pray to Thee, O Lord to help thy poor servant to be true to Thee all the days of my life, that I may never be left to sin against Thee or against Thy appointed, or any that love thee, that I may have wisdom and knowledge how to gain Thy favor at all times, for this is my desire, and that these blessings may rest upon my dear companion, and when we have done Thy work on this Thy footstool, that Thou wouldst receive us into that kingdom where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the holy prophets have gone, that we may never be separated any more, and before I should be left to betray my brethren in any case, let Thy servant come unto Thee in Thy kingdom and there have the love of my youth, and the little ones Thou hast given me. *** Now, my dear Vilate, stand by me even unto death, and when you pray, pray that I may hold out to the end. *** My heart aches for you and some times I can hardly speak without weeping, and that before my brethren: for I have a broken heart and my head is a fountain of tears. My life in this world is short at the longest, and I do not desire to live one day only to do good and to make you happy and bring up our little children in the ways of the Lord and my prayer is that they may be righteous from the least to the greatest. *** The world has lost its charms for me, and I want to seek for that rest which remains for the people of God. I never had a greater desire to be a man of God than at the present, that I may know my acceptance with Him.
VILATE TO HEBER

Nauvoo June 8th 1843

My ever kind and affectionate companion,

I write these few lines for you to look upon when you are far distant from me, and when you read them remember they were penned by one whose warm affectionate heart is ever the same towards you; yet it is fixed, firm as a decree, which is unalterable. Therefore let your heart be comforted and if you never may behold my face in time, let this be my last covenant and testimony unto you that I am yours in time and through all eternity. This blessing has been sealed upon us by the Holy Spirit of Promises and cannot be broken only through transgression or committing a greater crime than your heart or mine is capable of, that is murder.

So be of cheer, my dearest dear. For we shall meet again, where all our sorrows will be over and we will be free from pain.

V. Kimball

HEBER’S RESPONSE

O God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Jesus Christ wilt thou bless her with peace and with a long life; and when Thou shalt see fit to take her, let thy servant go with her; and dwell with each other throughout all eternity; that no power shall ever separate us from each other; for though O God, knowest we love each other with pure hearts. Still, we are willing to leave each other from time to time, to preach thy word to the children of men. Now, O God, hear thy servant, and let us have the desires of our hearts; for we want to live together and die, and be buried, and rise and reign together in thy kingdom with our dear children; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Amen

(Taken from Whitney’s Life of Heber C. Kimball, pg. 335)
Vilate to HEBER

Nauvoo June 29th 1843

My Bosom Friend, the Love of my youth,

Gladly do I retire from the busy cares of life to spend a few moments in silent conversation to you. O that I could take the wings of the morning and fly to your embraces. How much easier I could unbosom my feelings. But yet I am thankful that we even have this privilege of conveying our thought to each other. I received the sweet parcel that you sent by Dr. Smith, and thank you for it. It was doubly precious to me I can assure you. I have read it over and over with tears in my eyes; the feelings expressed therein, is worth more to me than words would be without them; for nothing could make me happy without your favor. It is one week last Sunday since I closed a letter to you. Brigham then expected to start the next day, but he sent the letter by Phineous and I hope you have received it.

There are to many changing scenes in this church, one moment our bosoms may beat high with anticipation and the next be thrown in to confusion. There is a great excitement in Nauvoo at present. Brigham told me this morning that he did not much expect to go. Said Joseph had sent word to him not to go until he saw him at any rate. I am thankful that you got away before the fuss. I feel as though you are more safe than you would be here. O that I could be with you. I sometimes feel as though I never could let another such an opportunity pass without going with you. If it costs all that we have, I dont know but I may as well enjoy it, as any body else. I should not wish to go unless I could go with you clear to the sea shore, but I need not talk about it now, for there is no telling where our lot will be cast next. Things look rather gloomy here at present but I believe good will come out of evil. I shall not attempt to tell you about Josephs arrest as Brother Hadlock the bearer of this letter can tell you all about it. I must tell you about our concerns with Elder Pratt. I heard his goods had come last week and went up to get my parasol and some other things, but to my great surprise there was not one cent due us. They said they had made a mistake in reckoning. Instead of their owing us, we owed them three cents. Fanny had ben there previous with the order you gave her. They told her there was only ninety seven cents your due, but they let her have eight yards of bit calico which left us three cents in Debt. I was some disappointed, but did not cry about it. I then went on to sister Pitkins to see about some butter. I was there disappointed again. She is making cheese and does not make butter enough for her own family. She let me have a small cheese and I HAVE TO GET BUTTER as I can. While I was there who should come in but Tery Cool. He appeared glad to see me and when I came away he gave me fifty cents and told me to tell you he should send me too on three bushels of dry (bad stain) fell. He lives in endyain where Brother Tihats has been living through the winter. He made it his home at his house. Tery and his wife have been baptised again. He feels well I assure you. He has called here several times. He send much love to you. Here you see the marks of our little mischeuous David. (There are a number of scribbing marks across the face of the original letter.) I left it on the stand a moment and went into the kitchen, (and) when I came back I found it in this Phise. I dont know as you can read it. I must close for the present.

June 29th Since writing the above I have had a viset from brother Parley and his wife. They are truly converted to Polygamy. It appears that J......p has taught him some principles and told him his privilege and even appointed one for him. I DARE not tell you what it is (as) you would
be astonished and I guess some tried. She has ben to me for counsel. I told her I didnot wish to advise in such matters. Sister Pratt has ben raging against these things. She told me her self that the devel had ben in her until within a few days past. She said the lord had shoon her it was all right. She wants Parley to go ahead, says she will do all in her power to help him. They are so ingaged I fear they will run to fast. They asked me many questions on principle. I told them I didnot know much and I rather they would go to those that had authority to teach. Parley said he and I were interrupted before he got what instruction he wanted and says he didnot know when he should have an opportunity. He seemed unwilling to wait. I told him these were sacred things and he better not make a move until he got more instruction.

I have a secret to tell you but I am almost afraide. It was commited to Sarah and she was requested not to tell me, but she said she considered me a part of her self and she would tell me, and I might tell you for it was just what you had prophesied would come to pass. Now if you know what you have said about Sarah Abby (?Ally) then you have got the secret, for it is even so and she is tickled about it and they all appear in better spirits than they did before. How they will carry it out, is more than I know. I hope they have got more faith than I have. Brother Nobles folks all send love to you.....

My Dear Father

The morning you went away you wished me to write to you when Mother did, and as the opportunity presents itself I gladly embrace it. We are all well at present. Little Charles has been sick with the canker, but he is well now. William commenced going to school last Monday. We received the apples GC you sent us from St. Louis, and we were all glad to hear from you, and that you were well. I have one favor to ask of you that is if you can get me a few cakes of paint. I should like yellow, green pink and blue, also a fine and a middle sized brush. I should like them of a good quality. As I suppose Mother will write all the news I will draw to a close. Sister Monro desires to be remembered to you, also Sarah Ann. We always remember you in our prayers.

I remain,
My Dear Father
Your affectionate daughter
Helen M Kimball

(Vilate continues) Sarah Noon is here, sais I must tell you she is in usual health and spirits and sends her best love to you. She received a letter from William with the parcel. He writes that he shall sail in september. I believe I have love enought now to fill this sheet. Sisters Winchester, Whitney, Billings, Adams, Juana, and I dont know how many more all send their love and best wishes to you.

Now my dear this page is all devoted to love from me and the children. My daily prayer is that you may finish your mission with honor and be returned in safety to our embraces. I think you had better burn this as soon as you can after reading it. I should not dare to send it my mail, but I trust it will go safe. To Brigham should go I will write by him. I am as ever your affectionate wife Vilate Kimball
HEBER TO VILATE

Philadelphia August the 13, 1843

My Dear Vilate,

I am your true and most affectionate friend Heber, and I can tell you with a pure heart that I love you truly. I am not able to express my warm heart and good feelings I have for you and the interest I have fore you my heart is. O may God bless the love of my youth and let her life be prosperous in thy sight. Give her health [health] and peace. Now my dear I am going to tell you some news. On the tenth I went to the post office. I found a letter from you which gave me joy and peas mixed with sorrow because you had been sick and you are so poor. O that I had you with me. I could take you into my bosom, set your task and make your burden [burdens] lighter [lighter] and more pleasant. I know you love me but it is not in vain. This letter was written on the 9th of July. It came by mail. You said little Charls had been sick and the rest of the children. I am sorry. I hope they are all well by this time. I have not got over the influenza as yet. It has ingered [injured] my money but it is coming to me again. It comes hard for you to have me gon from you. I know well how you feel and I know your tender heart. My prayer is to my Father in heaven that I may never do the first thing while I live to grieve the holy spirit of God or to mar the peace of my dear Vilate or friends, fore my desires are to make all happy and have a pure heart before God. But I am frail and a poor week man. I need your prays. I now know I have them and you are allways remembered by me when I bow before my God. You have told me many things in your letter that I understand and so forth. As you say, I expected it would go ahead more abundantly and so on.

I have received one letter from Elder Lorenzo Snow as he rode from Ohio, one from Sister Case. She speaks as though she had much good feelings fore you and me. She is a good sister. I shall expect one from Wm Murray soon if he has not left before my letter got to him. I think we shall leave here on the 16 which will be on thursday. We shall go down through Jersey to New York. We shall hold our Conference in New York two weeks from this day and two weeks from that in the City of Boston, which will be fore (4) weeks from this day which is the 15 day of July [August]. I think I shall go round by the way of Buffalo to Pittsburgh as will be the nearest and cheapest. There is nothing to be got fore the houses here P a. The Saints are poor, many of them will leave fore the west this fall. Now I must tell you what I have got fore clothes while in Pittsburgh. I bought two pare of cotton [cotton] pare of Pantsloomy blue and white and blue mixed. Both pare cost me two dollars and twenty five cents. Nine bits each fore suspursion. Since I com here I have got me cloth fore a frock coat and pare of Pantsloons of black Orleans. I have suffered much with heat with my wolen coat. There was a sister gave me three pare of cotton sox and gave me a gow [gown] pattern fore my dear Vilate. Sister Jeffers, the family I stop with is going get you one before I leave. She wanted to know if you was very dressy. I told her you was quite so, so you will get a good one, I think. Keep this to your self. I shall get you the Black one, silk. I will get the one fore Hellen when I get to New York. [I will try to lay in fore cloths fore the winter if the Lord will.]

I seem to have favour in the Eyes of the people and I hope before my Father in heaven. It is my meat and my drink to do the will of my Father in heaven. I will get through with the business I have on hand now, then I will talk about other things. As to what brother Wooton said about that lot, I am owing fore it. I cannot trust long fore I must pay next spring or I shall lose it. Cannot take less then two hundred dollars fore Father quarter. I shall have to make some difference I [price]. If he should want to
HEBER TO VILATE
August 13, 1843
Page 2

take one quarter, let Claton prise it and I will submit to it for he is my
friend. And if Br Woodbury do not want to take any of it, ask Elder Claton
if he will try to sell it for me. Tell him I will take part cash and in
good property and goods or some good pay--- will know what I want. And I will
reward him fore good. [Give my kind love to Elder Claton].

My dear borrow some money of Br Whitney till I come home.
then he it with interest. Don't go hungry nor pinch y
in the least. If he has not got, he can tell you of some one. Be obedient
and live. I know of no way to send to you. I shall have to come my self and
bring it. I want to tell you a C will you keep it? You say yes. I shall
be there in less than three months if the Lord will. I do not think you had
beter direct any more letters to Philadaphia when you get this-- Take a good
while fore me to get returns from you. When I leave here I shall be on the
move and come round to Pittsburgh. When you get this direct that I mean
Pittsburgh. Wright[,] once a week till I tell you to stop. I will remember
the rocking chair. I was intending to fetch you one when I come home. I think
Br Baker will send you one. If he dose not Heber will.

August the 14 Monday. I am in tolerable health. You are before me and you have
my warm heart and favour all the day long. What more can I say with out I
see your face (face) to I will be in a short (short) time if the Lord will.
Remember my love to the children. I remember then all the day long.
Give my love to all that inquire after poor me. When you get this (writ)
Pittsburgh. I will have some one take them out for me. Tell me what letters
you have sent before this comes. I shall get they will be sent to
me. Look of fore letters. They will come free. He of t and tell me all
about how you feel and how you feel (and) get along. ? My dear may the
Lord bless you and all that we have.

Heber C. Kimball

August the 17. I am in tolerable health. I intended to have left this day,
but shall not go till to morrow. O my dear how I want to see you and my dear
children. You may think I am foolish but I cannot help it. Do not expose me
to any thing. Wright your dearest friend and companion for time and eternity;
worlds without End. Amen. You are not out of my mind long enough fore mt to
Eat a meal of vittles. I can tell you If I have any thing that is very good,
I allway think of poor Vilate. I wish she could have som of it. Peas for
Ever.

ADDRESSED: Mrs. Vilate Kimball
Nauvoo
Hancock Co.
Illinois

Note: In this letter Heber left underlined spaces. I have put question marks
in those spaces that are unreadable to distinguish then from the former.

Original letter in Church Historical Department
New York Sept the 3, 1843

My dear Companion,

I have been here in the City of New York some where near two weeks. We intend to leave to morrow if the Lord wills fore Boston. Our Confrance will be held there on next Sartaday and Sunday. When that is over I shall make my way home as soon as posable. I shall go down through the State of New York to see our friends. I suppose this will please you but my dear it is a scene of sorrow for me to go through that country without you with me. My mind is on you all the time fore there is no other Earthly thing but you and my dear children. Fore you surround me (circumscribe) all other things here on Earth. I must tell you the world has lost its charms, fore the more I see of it the less I care fore it. It more then one month sin I had a line from you. I think you cannot say so by me, for I have written once in eight or ten days ever since I left you. But you have more to press your dear body and mind then I do. I pray fore you all the day long, for I know it is a task to get along with your work and to see to the children. How I would like it to be with you and help you have a? I will come as soon as posable, so keepe up good courage.

I have a chance to send this by Wm. Readman. I dont intend fore you to take them in with you, nor no other family. I can not tell you much now. I am sick with bowel complaint. You know that runs me down quick. I am very weak. I have had it three or fore days. I have lost much flesh. Sister Rogers is going with me to morrow to get you a silk dress. She is not member of the Church. She is a dress maker. She will be the only person that will know of it. Even the twelve dont know of it and I want you should keepe it to your self till I get home. I have got you and Hellen each of you pair of good shoes (shoes). I hope I shall have other things when I come home to cloth you up. So be at rest about that.

I got a letter from Wm. Murray since I come here. Said he should be in Buffalo on the first day of? on his way to Nauvoo. They wanted me to meet them there fore they had a seat fore me. They will get there before I do. I told Wm. he may build a house on that lot by Sister Pitkin if he has a mind, and it all shall be made (e) right when I come home. Or take a part of that lot where Dr. Coburg lives on by his hairs (theirs). Tell him if I have anny thing that he wants he can by (buy) of us and let you have some money if he has anny to spare.

I use no compliments to anny ones but you and the children. I must come to a close. I hard that Wm. was sick with the aguer. I am sorry. Tell him to pray. You shall have another letter when I get to Boston. Now my dear Vilate, now I must bid you aduee fore a little season. You have my first and best and Eternal love fore time and Eternity. And I pray God the Eternal Father to let you live while I live, fore there is no Soul that can fill your place in my heart. I remain your dear Heber and husband in Christ. Give my love to the children and that will do as this is a family line to my dear Vilate.

Heber C. Kimball

ADDRESSED: Mrs. Vilate Kimball  
City of Nauvoo  
Hancock County  
Illinois

Taken from old photocopy of original in possession of Pearl K. Derrick
My Dear Companion,

It is one week yesterday since I closed a letter to you. Although I have not spoken to you for a week, yet you have not ben out of my mind many moments at a time when I was awake; and when I am a sleep I often dream about you. I dreamed last night of being in Victor at Nathaniel's with you. I thought we were very happy. I hope this will prove a true dream. Nauvoo never was so lonesom since we lived here as it is now. I went to meeting last Sunday for the first time since Conference. I was so home sick the moment I got there, I should have turned right about and come home a foot if I had not been afraid it would make me sick. Joseph, Hiram, nor any of the twelve was there. Noah Packard preached and you may be sure I was glad when he got through. When I got home I found a man here from Fort Madison after a girl; Jennett went with him. His name is Webster, he said he was acquainted with you. I hope she will do well. The next day Backenstausee from Carthage came after her, seemed disappointed that she was gone--this was Monday last. I heard in the morning that Sarah was sick ahead the day before. I went over to Br Nobles to see if he would take his wife and I up to see her towards night. He said he would, and accordingly did. We found her much better. She had had a turn of the nerves headache. I tried to have her come home with me, but she said she would not till she felt better, then she would come and stay several days. I expect her this week.

Br. Nobles is very kind. He knows I am not able to walk much, he has invited me to ride with them several times. Yesterday he took his wife and I down to Hibberd's after cherries. They charged 10 cents a quart for what we brought home, but gave us what we wanted to eat. I bought 3 pints, and I believe I eat as many more, so I did not begrudge the money. I have had one mess of green peas. I bought 4 quarts at 4 cents a quart, when I got them shelled I had 3 gills. This was paying dear for whistle, or the peas, but I do not begrudge myself any thing that I can eat now days, and I know that you dont nor never did. My health is very poor, my stomach loaths almost everything. I am so sick and faint that I cannot set up a good deal of the time. There is a cause for this, which cause you will no doubt rejoice in. A hint to you, is sufficient. William and Mary started for Ramus yesterday. I dont know whether they can get there on account of the bad roads and high water. The weather continues cold and wet. Br Whitney called here to day, said he had ben talking with Doctor Bernhisel. He thought the gumor had better get to gather and pray for the rain to be stayed, or we should all be sick.

June 11th William and Mary got home yesterday. They went to her Fathers, but could not get to Ramus. The bridges are all washed away in every direction, so that there is no passing nor repassing. I am sorry, for I was in hopes he would get that cow. But I do not know as we shall want cows or anything els here much longer. Nauvoo was a scene of confusion last night, some hundred of the Brethren turned out and burned the printing press (the Nauvoo Expositor), and all the appuratus pertaining to the office of the oposite party. This was done by order of the City Council. They had only published one Paper, which is considered a public nuisance. But I dont know whether it will be considered so in the eyes of the law or not. They have sworn revenge, and no doubt they will have it.

June 24th My Dear Dear Husband, various have ben the scenes in Nauvoo since I commenced this letter, I should have sent it before
now, but I have ben thrown into such confusion I know not what to write. This is not all. The mails have not come regular, eather on account of bad roads and right water or less they are stoped by mobs. I have not had a letter from you since the one you wrote back by the Ospsy. I know your anxiety to hear from us must be very great, as you will no doubt hear of our trouble by report. Nothing is to be heard of but mobs collecting on every side. The Laws and Fosters, and most of the decenting (dissenting) party with their Families left here a day or two after their press was destroyed. They are sworn to have Joseph and the city council, or exterminate us all. Betwene three and four thousand brethren have ben under arms here the past week. Expecting every day they would come, the brethren were calld in from all the branches round to help defend the city. Joseph sent word to the Governor if he and his staff would come here, he would abide their decision. But insted of his coming here, he went to Carthage, and there walked arm and arm with Law and Foster, untill we have reason to feer he has caught their spirit. He sent thirty men in here dabefore yesterday to take Joseph and sent him a saucy letter, saying if these could not take him thousands could. He ordered the troops here to deliver up their arms, and disper.

Yesterday morning (although it was Sunday) was a scene of confusion. Joseph had fled and left word for the brethren to hang on to their arms and take care of themselves the best way they could. Some were tryed almost to death to think Joseph should leave them in the hour of danger. Hundreds have left the city since the fuss commenced. Most of the merchants on the hill have left. I have not felt frighted amid (it all) neither has my heart sunk within me, untill yesterday, when I heard Joseph (wrote) and sent word back for his family to follow him, and Br Whitney’s family were packing up, not knowing but they would have to go, as he is one of the city council. For a little while I felt bad enough, but did not let any body know it, neither did I shed any tears. I felt a confidence in the Lord, that he would presure us from the ravages of our enemies. We expected them here to day by thousands but before night yesterday things put on a different aspect.

Joseph went over the river out of the United States, and there stoped and composed his mind, and got the will of the Lord concerning him, and that was, that he should return and give himself up for trial. He sent a messenger immediately to Carthage to tell the Governor he would meet his staff at the big mound at eight ocllock this morning in company with all that the ritt demanded. They have just passed by here, on their way there. My heart said Lord bless those dear men, and presure them from those that thirst for their blood. Their giving themselves up, is all that will save our city from destruction. The Governor wrote if they did not do so, our city was suspended upon so many caggs of powder, and it needed only one spark to light them off, so you can see how he feels. What will be the fate of our dear brethren the Lord only knows, but I trust he will presure them. If you were here, you would be sure to be in their midst. This would increase my anxiety of ours.

Now I must tell you the fluctuation of mind I have had about going to meet you. I saw Br Adams a week ago last Saturday. He told me he had ben detained so long here, that he had concluded to have his with him when he went. Said if Helen and I would go with them, he would agree to take us to you. Said he had no money but he was acquainted with the captains of the different boats, and he could go to Sincinatti (Cincinnati) without money, and there he could get what he wanted. He calculated then to be here last Friday and stay untill to morrow when we were to start on the Ospsy. I saw no prospect of going at all unless I took up with his offer. Tashed council of Br Whitney and others. They all advised me to go, so I went to making reay
with all possible speed. But it was not three days before I heard they were going to write for the twelve to come immediately home. I saw Joseph passing by and went out and asked him if it was so. He said yess, there was a prospect of trouble and they wanted you here, and you would want to be here. He also said you promised to return immediately and fetch him that money.

I came in feeling so disappointed that I could not help but shed some tears about it. Br Richards soon came along and told me to cheer up, said he did not apprehend any danger. Said he, hold on a few days, we shall not write yet at any rate, so I took courage again, but it was only to meet another disappointment. He called her[e] last Friday. Told me he had just dispatched a messenger with letters to all the twelve to come immediately home, and fetch all the horses with them, that they could race. This messenger was to take the first boat and go down to St. Louis before he mailed them, as it is no use to mail them here. I knew nothing but what they were gone, until Br Adams told me Saturday evening, that was all counteracted and the messenger did not go. They had concluded not to send for you, and said he, perhaps we shall go yet. That is the last I have seen of him. He preached here yesterday, and started for home last evening. I understand he has another mission appointed him. So I see no prospect of going east at present, although I never had stronger faith about any thing in my life. I have no desire to go and love the children unless the excitement should wholly subside, which I do not believe it will at present.

My page is full, and I can only say may the Lord God bless and preserve us all to meet again. I believe he will. The children all send love and glad wishes to their dear Father.

Sarah has been here and spent a week with me. She is usually well, and not much frightened. Juslen Jonson is going to take this over the river and mail it for me, so fare well my dear.

V. Kimball

Photocopy of original in Church Historical Department
My Dear Vilate

I am here in Delaware at the House of Br Sanders. He is a kind man and so is his family. I fell (feel) free and at home. We got here yesterday at two o’clock, left Washington at six in the morning. From there (to) here is 114 miles. We stopt one hour at Baltimore being seven hours. As to Congress they have not got it in their hearts to do the first thing for us because it is not popular. My dear we ask no ods of them. No way they can fix it for the Lord is our King and he has all things in his hands. You will recollect that he said to his Apostles all power is given unto me both in heaven and on Earth. As this is the case it is fore him to give us our inheritance for Congress has violated all rites and claims to the Earth or any thing that pertains to it. I must say I felt indigent some times when I was in Washington, to see there indifference towards us. There is some three or fore that seem to be friendly I think merely to get our support. I will give there names Jeral. Sample of Aiton, Judge Digless and Mr. Wintworth from Chicago. These three belong to Illinois. We sent them. Jeral Ashton and Huen from Missouri, they seem to be kind. O the decepception that we have to find in this world. Elders Wright and my self have presented a Petition fore to get redress of our wrongs in Missour, or for them to give us some lands some where in the world, Either in Texas or Arizona (or) Iwoy. The bill had gone before the comity of Publick lands. It was thought by some of the members (to) go favourable. Do not think that we believe they can restore what they have taken from us. This cannot be done in this world.

Now I will leave that subject (and) come home to our matters. Shall I say I want to see you. This will be needless fore you know my heart. It is warm and would melt if I would let it. O come to me. I have no intimation but what it is all right and the Lord is willing and I have a witness that you will come safe and sound if you start to come. If you start bless the children. Tell ihm to be carful of the children and keep them out of the weat and see that they have plenty to Eat. Tell him that he shall not loose any thing by so doing. Tell him and Mary they must tend to prairs when you leave. If they will do it they shall have health and pease and the good things of this world fore they shall have while I have. I want they should see to things the same as though I was present. Tell ihm to take that blue cloth and get him a good flock coat made. When I come home I shall bring him some clothes and Mary and hollen if I can get means. Pray that I may dispose of my lands, keep the garden clean, white wash the house, be prudent in all things, use viles and drink that will fore your comforts.

We shall leave here to morrow fore Phellidapha and from thence to Boston as the Confrance will be on the 29 and 30 of July. Then I shall return back to New York. When you get to Ph. I can get word from you in one or two days. Then I can come to you. Keep all of our family matters in the family. I spoke to the Captain of the Asprey to see that you got on a good boat. You will be used kind fore ladies are not insulted. I have enjoyed tolerable health since I left you. I must come to a close. I hope I shall get a line from you soon. Then I can see what your calculations are and when you will be in the East. O my Father bless my dear Vilate and let hur come to me in perfect Safety that it may be fore the god of thy cause and fore our pease fore we desire to do all things with an eye single to thy glory. Bless my dear Children and thy name shall have all of the glory through Jesus Chris thy beloved son. This letter I thought would reach you before you started. I shall write no more at present as you will be gon but I shall write to the Children. Now fore you well. I am Ever your affectionate husband and friend fore Ever and Ever Amen.

To Vilate Kimball

Heber C. Kimball

Tell the children to direct to the City of New York. Write oft.
My Dear Companion

Never before, did I take up my pen to address you under so trying circumstances as we are now placed, but as Mr Adams the bearer of this can tell you more than I can write I shall not attempt to describe the scene that we have passed through. God forbid that I should ever witness another like unto it. I saw the lifeless corpses of our beloved brethren when they were brought to their almost distracted families. Yes, I witnessed their tears, and groans, which was enough to rend the heart of an adamant. Every brother and sister that witnessed the scene felt deeply to sympathize with them. Yes, every heart is filled with sorrow, and the very streets of nauvoo seem to mourn. Where it will end the Lord only knows.

We are kept awake night after night by the alarm of mobs. These apostates say, their damnation is sealed, their die is cast, their doom is fixed, and they are determined to do all in their power to have revenge. Law says he wants nine more, that was in his quorum. Some time I am afraid he will get them. I have no doubt but you are one. What makes me fear, is from a circumstance that took place when the legion was first called out to defend the city. There was several drums found with blood on, no one could account for it. They examined to see how many there was, they found ten, and while they were examining the eleventh there came a large drop of it. I hope they have found the man, he says with all the drums have been used the blood is yet plain to be seen. He has got two. If he gets the nine more it will make eleven. But I try to submit all things into the hands of God.

I have felt opposed to their sending for you to come home at present and did not know as they would until brother Adams called here a few moments ago, and told me he should start in about two hours. If I wanted to write I must send it to the mansion house within that time. So I have not time to say much, neither is it necessary as he can tell you all. My health is getting better, the children are all well. I mailed a letter to you last Monday directed to Baltimore. The letters you sent from Washington all came to gather last Wednesday, and a paper. The mail has not ben in before for four weeks. The letter you sent from Pittsburg I have never got. When I read your pressing invitation for me to meet you, and that you had got a witness that I should do so, I again took courage that some door would open that I should yet go. But Alass my hopes are all blasted. My constant prayer now is, for the Lord to preserve us all to meet again. I have no doubt but your life will be sought, but may the Lord give you wisdom, to escape their hands. My time is up to send this, so you must excuse me for I have written in a great hurry and with a bad pen. The children all remember you in love. Now fare you well my love till we meet, which may the Lord grant for his sons sake Amen.

Vilate Kimball

Original in Church Historical Department
Letter addressed in following manner: William E. Murray  
Nauvoo  
Hancock Co., Ill.

"If Mr. Wm E. Murray shall have left Nauvoo before the arrival of this  
the Post Master then will confer a favour by forwarding it to him."

Hiram Wayne Co N Y May 17, (18)46

My Dear Brother,

Having business a few days since which led me into  
Genesee Co., I touched at home when I found your favor of April 11 which had  
just been received. I can assure you it was regarded as a Special favor--  
Almost as life from the dead-- for I had not only given up all hope of writing  
you again in time-- but also of seeing anything from your pen. Under such  
circumstances to receive a letter from my Pure and only Brother, which brought  
intelligence in regard to himself and family, and Fanny & Eliza, all of whom are  
very near by kindred ties--And endear themselves by the recollections and associations of  
by gone years. (It) could not be regarded in any other light than that of a  
Peculiar Privilege, nor was it less gratifying to hear once more from Brother  
Heber and Sister Violate and their family. It is true, I regret that they should  
have deem'd it to be their duty to Emigrate further West-- And that the rest of  
you feel that it is yours to follow. But for this I do not hold myself respnsi-  
ble and shall endeavor not to be unnecessarily afflicted. With the thought that  
it is so, to feel no Solicitude, under all the circumstances would be unreason-  
and this, I cannot promise. We are already involved in a war with Mexico and  
it is not improbable that the Mexican powers will be aided by those of England  
and France together with many of the Indians-- who in violation of every princi- 
ple of right have been driven by our government from their hunting ground,  
their peaceful huts, & the graves of their deceased kindred. Should these com- 
bine, the Mou's of this Nation may be terribly avenged. If so, your Situation  
must be any thing but Enviable. Then Again, I saw in a paper which I took up  
a day or two since a statement that the Governor of your State (Illinois) had  
withdrawn the troops which had been stationed for your protection at Nauvoo--  
and that the inhabitants were mustering to drive you out from that place, or  
those of you who have remained behind. So it seems if this be true that there  
is no security for you either in staying there, or going further. But on this  
theme I will not dwell.

I reached home at the time I alluded to with the commen- 
cement of this letter Saturday Evening-- A week ago. Found Laura absent--  
Electa had come from Michigan some days before on a visit and So had gone with  
er to Wrathersfield. I rode out there on Monday & brought L. home-- Took  
your letter with me and read it to the friends there. Nothing new has transpired  
among our relatives in that vicinity resolutely, excepting that Rholdolphus and  
his son Austin have been cut off from the (so called) Church on account of their  
opposition to slavery-- At this I rejoice as it may lead them to discover the  
clovefoot that has been concealed from their view by the garb of religion, and  
this form of their Education, and result in their sundering the chains--and  
tearing off the shackles by which they have been and still are bound--mentally  
if not physically. All our relatives in this State so far as I know are in  
comfortable health, also Harvy Hall & Misses of Rochester whom I saw day before  
yesterday. There is to be a general convocation of the remaining Murrays and  
their decendants as far as practicable-- at Wrathersfield or Pike on the 15 of  
ext month. Would that you and all our Kindred in the far west could be present.  
We would kill a fat ox (should a fattened calf be insufficient) and have an old  
fashioned Murray jollyfication-- But this pleasure we must forgo. You wish me
to inform you how Alexander gets along and whether he has paid for his place--
The latter question I cannot answer definitely. He has appeared to be in pros-
perous circumstance when I have called on him, and I presume he has mostly or
quite completed his payments. Should this reach you do not fail to write &
let me know where you are-- and how it is with you, and all in whose welfare
I have an interest-- so far as you can.

    You will tender to Mary and the children, Fanny, Elisa
and all, my unabated affection. Tell F. I am anxiously waiting the arrival of
her letter.

    As Ever Yours Fraternally,

                      R. G. Murray

NOTE: William Ellis Murray died in May of 1847 in Snyder, Carroll Co.,
Missouri. In all probability he had gone, along with a number of Mormon men,
into Missouri settlements to seek employment which enabled them to provide for
their families whom they had left at Winter Quarters or other temporary Iowa
settlements. In this way they were also able to obtain necessary supplies
and provisions for the trek west. Because of the Missourians' negative attitude
towards Mormons, the men usually did not reveal their Mormon identity. William's
widows and children continued west with the pioneers to the Salt Lake Valley.
My dear beloved brethren Huntington, Benson and Rich:--- If you will be so kind as to lend your aid to assist your unworthy brother H. K. Kimball, to get me a good wagon and 3 yoke of good oxen and send them on to me by Alva Tibbitts, or some other person, it will confer a great favor upon me, as you intend to return to Nauvoo to supply yourself with teams and means to perform your journey. I will give you an order on Elder Heywood who will restore unto you the same amount or more if you have need. When the teams come unto me I shall know how much to give you an order for and if you should need any more write unto me. Bro. Howts spoke as if he would use his influence for me if I should wish. He is one that let Bro. Richards have 2 yoke. Any ones that are staying then can assist you or me to their? teams till you can go to Nauvoo-- I find that I am too heavy loaded for my teams and wagons, and shall not be able to carry my load under present circumstances and this is why your servant pleads with you to assist him while I am disenabled at my present location You? ? shall lose anything by so doing, and I feel to say in the name of the Lord you will be blessed with a perfect fit out, and a privilege of wintering with us in case you are diligent in putting your works with your heart-- I remain your humble servant,----

R. C. Kimball
I, Heber C. Kimball, wish to give a few words of counsel to my family, and to all that belong thereto, both male and female, old and young, and what I say unto one I say unto all. And what I do say unto you I shall expect it to be heeded in the full sense of the word. Of late there has been a great deal of carelessness, imprudence and slothfulness with many of the members of my family. In neglecting their own persons as regards to taking care of themselves, going without suitable clothing, without stockings in cold chilly weather disregarding the counsel of Sister Kimball sitting out of door? and the house, and in different direction after dark when it is cold chilly wet weather, exposing themselves to sickness and death, which we have suffered much of--- these things have caused me much sorrow and regret, and have caused my family a great deal of toil hardship and fatigue, which has been brought upon us by a total neglect of counsel, which would have saved us these things. I have born these things, and spoke of them till I am actually ashamed to speak of them again in public or in private. I therefore consider myself aggrieved and the spirit of the Lord is aggrieved. I am now about leaving you for a short time, and I improve this opportunity to address you in this manner. I love my family and I have never faltered for the first time in seeking their welfare to provide every thing that lay in my power for their happiness, and still intend to in as much as my counsel can be respected. Now my feelings are this: that all domestic affairs, as far as women (hole in paper) of the way "while it is called (hole in paper) the right cometh. no man can work: for the Lord says in a certain situation? retire to thy bed early and rise early that thy body may be invigorated, that thy days may be many. Now I shall require these things of your hands. except in circumstances shall otherwise direct—— Cease from vanity, seek humility and meekness. bow before the Lord in the morning and at eve, and in so doing your days shall be many; peace and tranquillity shall sooth your bosoms, health and happiness shall dwell in my wagons, tents, wigwams and cottages, which these things are? observed?--- Cease from murmuring, or complaining finding fault with your father, husband, and friend, or with each other, but manifest to all men and women by your works and the closeness of your tongues, and the integrity of your hearts, that you are right, and that God is with us of a truth. I always do and shall expect that thou which constitute my house will? servant? me before the Lord, that I may have wisdom, health, patience and endurance to endure all things, that I may always give suitable counsel to my family, even that that shall proceed from the Holy Ghost for I never wish to counsel by any other spirit. If they will do this instead of seeking to dictate and counsel me they will find much more peace and happiness and the Blues will not be so frequent. I now feel to bless you all in the name of the Lord God of Israel with peace prosperity and salvation, that we all may be pure in heart-- These are the words and blessings I feel to communicate and leave with my dear family-- as ever I remain your most affectionate husband, father and friend in the new and everlasting covenant. Amen

August 22d 1846. Heber C. Kimball

Taken from old photocopy of original in possession of Pearl K. Derrick
To William Kimball and Daniel Davis:

Matters of business which I design for you to carry out:

In the first place, I want you should fit out a waggon in the first order for your mother, and see that she is supplied with anything for her comfort, so that she may live in a relieved situation, and take every method to throw off every burden from her shoulders and take it upon yourselves, or cast it equally upon others with yourselves. Also that Sarah Moon shall have a waggon by herself. And also Sarah Whitney with her family, and also Br. Ho-ard Egen & family; also James Smithies with his family, and be particular that these families have a gab of flour and a bag of meal. Put into their own waggens. Also meat & such articles as are necessary for their convenience, that they may not have reason to complain, or borrow of or trouble each other. And when their bags & stores are empty see that they are filled. Be very particular to retain a prayerful, meek & quiet spirit-- that you ever have comforting words for your mother, sister & friends who are with you, while attending to their wants & necessities, that you may prove a blessing to them and a comfort and consolation in very deed. They will rise up and bless you & your hearts will rejoice & you will always be glad & your father in heaven & on earth will bless you & it will be a source of rejoicing (rejoicing) to you forever, and your sons and daughters in their turn will arise & bless & comfort you in like manner.

(No signature)

NOTE: Heber must have dictated this note as written in a strange handwriting

Taken from a xerox copy of original letter in LDS Church Historical Department
My Dear Vilate

One word by my own hand. I am well and in good spirtits, so is the camp. Now my dear Vilate I love you as true as I am able of loving according to my capacity, for you do have the love of my uth (youth) which is first Last and now and fore Ever. So be of good cheer my dear girl for you are blest and Shall Ever be blest in time and in Eternity. This is your privit Epistle so keepe it to your self. I feel to bless thee with all my heart in the name of the Lord with all my family, praying to my Father in heaven to incercle them all in his arnes and let peace and health and life be and abide with them for Ever. Let Jeneit and Harrit stay with you. Let the rest come on in the Spring. Keepe my I caull (call?) to your self, without they refuse to obey, but you advise. Br Whitney will had (hand) 90m one hundred dollars and one hundred to you. Please Keepe it privet from him and all others. He has thirty or forty Know (now) (and) with the one hundred more will pay all the demands. Keepe the rest till I com home without it is needed badly. If so hand out little at a time. If Hirum Should Send Enny Keepe it (and) use what you want fore your comfort. Take care of your self. I gave Sarah Noon five dollars. Keepe the presents Cournal Kane Sent Clost till I come home, without there is Some Choice thing you want fore your dear Self. All and Evry thing this Epistle contains and the Contence Keepe to your self and the articles I mention in it. Write when you get a chance. Tell the rest to do the Same. Kiss and bless those little ones. Ellen wants should write a long letter to hur. She ses give my Kind love to you. Sister Harit was glad to See hur. She sends much love to you. Now I must stop for time. Now fate ye well my dear. I Still remain your true Husaband and friend in time and Eternity in the New and Ever lasting covenant.

To Vilate Kimball

H. C. Kimball

My Dear Vilate Since I wrote this I have got a line from you. It was sweeter then Honey to your True Heber. May Lord bless thee with Evry thing that can be bestowed on a woman. There is not a feeling but burnest the purest in this Brest towards the(e) my dear. My soul ses bless thee for Ever Amen and Amen.

H C K

ADDRESSED: Mrs Vilate Kimball
Winter Quarters

Taken from original in possession of Mrs. Pearl Kimball Derrick
My dear companion Vilate

Having another opportunity to convey a few lines to you, I do it most cheerfully as you are upon my mind always, knowing that you have many cares and that you are watching over a group of small children, and others that look unto you as a mother. I feel to sympathize for you and pray my father who art in heaven that he would bless thee and give thee wisdom, economy, fortitude, and quality thee with every qualification to suit thy condition that thou mayest be blest with health and peace & long life and see thy children grow up to manhood, and be a comfort to thy companion, and to all those connected with thee in the holy order of God. I have at this time a very bad cold, with soreness in my bones and limbs. I feel dragged out with fatigue, not having had a privilege to rest a minute as yet. Brother Young’s health is poor, and many others in the same situation with colds, but we are all in good spirits and verily know that the Lord is with us, and we know nothing but go ahead in the name of the Lord God of Israel. Now remember me kindly to my dear son William and family. The Lord bless him and comfort his heart and give him health. Peace be to thee and Harriet, Mary Ann, Mary, Janette, Mary Ellen, sister Noon, Sarah Ann, Brother and sister Whitney, Mary Houston, James Smithies and family and George Rhodes. Brother Egan wishes to be remembered kindly to his family and to you all. Ellen sends her kind love to you all. She tries to do everything in her power to make us all comfortable. You must remember me kindly to David & Jacob Frazier.

I remain as ever yours in the Heber C. Kimball

NOTE: This letter apparently dictated by Heber to a scribe (probably William Clayton) as it is written in strange hand writing.

The following from Howard Egan probably refers to above letter:

Sat. April 17th: Father Heber C. Kimball has taken Broth William Clayton into his mess. Sister Ellen Sanders and myself, with other, make up the mess, and I thank the Lord for the privilege of being one of the number and enjoying the society of my father Heber.

Sun. April 18th:-- This morning there was high winds from the south and very cold. Today, being the day set apart by the Almighty God for his people to rest, we do not intend to travel. Three wagons loaded with fur passed this morning; also four or five pack miles, a short time afterwards, going to the settlements. H. C. Kimball wrote a letter to his companion this morning and sent it by Brother Ames, the contents of which I heard read and it done my heart good. It portrayed the feelings of his heart and his affection for his family, in the most simple, and beautiful language that would touch the soul and cause the heart to rejoice.

PIONEERING THE WEST - Major Howard Egan
Dear Children James Smithies and others of my house which I consider in the Lord, I think much about you and those left in winter quarters. I pray always for them and you, I hope you do indever to be patience and not murmer at your Leaders for they have the hardest time. Take good care of your teames and be kind to each other. We have come very slow and the Lord has blest us all the day Long. We have lost 6 horses 2 stole, 2 Schott, one drowned, one choked to death. This is all our Laws. We all have enjoined good health till we got to the green River whare menny were taken sick with a fever. This you will see in my other Letter to you and Br. Wallice. Read this and that to my hous so as they Shall have the advice. One thing more, if thare should any messenger be sent to us from your camp send all the Leters thare is in camp for me and my family that is with me. Hellen wishes to be remembered to you all. Give my Love and best wishes to all. I mention no names but the above names as I do not no whoe is coming on in your camp, but the bless all. Give my love to Br. Rich and all the Saints, for they are mine and I am thares and we are all the Lords. Peas be with you all for Ever. As Ever, I remain, Friend and Br. in Christ. H. G. K.

Pioneer Camp of the Saints
West Bank of Green River
July 3 1847

To Bro George B. Wallace & James Smithies & others:

Dear Brethren -- as we have had some experience from the effects of moun- tain climate -- upon our systems -- I take the opportunity to drop a few lines of counsel, hoping the(y) may prove a benefit.

Several of our camp have been and are affilicted with what is called the Camp or mountain fever. It affects eyes, back & in short the whole sysitim with aches and pains, in most cases accompanied with a sickness at the stomac from 1 to 3 days; as far as we can judge, is brought on or caused mainly by the sudden change from hot to cold & from warm to Cool, against which we have not been sufficiently on our guard.

I wish all of you to be more prudent than we have been and profit by our experience. You will therefore please observe the weather closely. When the day has been clear warm or hot, counsel all to put on more clothing towards evening & to do the same if the weather during the day changes from clear & still to cloudy & windy as you will allways observe a sudden depression of temperature which will of course caus colds & fevers unless guarded against by additional clothing.

Have all, especially women & children expose themselves as littel as possible to the night air. To do this succesfuly you will have to make your calculations while traveling to camp in as good season as water and grass will permit.

Be carefull to have the night guard wrap themselfs up warm; if their clothing is not Sufficient the(y) must put on a quilt or buffalo robe.
From these few hints you will learn our views of the injurious effects of these sudden changes of this mountain region and will of cours guard yourselves & all as much against them as possible. In the case of loose or extra clothing, our idea is to put it off before you becon uncomfortably warm and put it on before you are chilled; otherwise it is like locking the door after the stud is stolen, the whole policy consisting in keeping the surface of the body at as uniform a temperature (much) as possible.

This is more particularley to those of my familey, as this counsel will be given to the Saints in general by the council. My health is good & has been in general. How many there are of my familey in your company I know not which is the reason I do not mention names; but say to them that I remember them allways in my prayers, hoping that they will all be faithfull and humble before the Lord & listen carefully to all the counsel they shall receive from these leaders. By so doing you shall allways be blessed. My love & best wishes to all of them.

From Yours H C Kimball
by Albert Carrington

These two letters were taken from an article prepared by the Smithies family descendants of Heber C. Kimball entitled "Crossing the Plains with Heber C. Kimball as told by James Smithies". The article contains excerpts from the journal of James Smithies and includes the above two letters. The journal indicates his company left Winter Quarters on June 14th, 1847. The following are several other interesting entries from the journal:

June 14, 1847, Monday morning: We left Winter Quarters for the mountains. Before we started we went into Father Kimbels house and took breakfast with mother Kimbel. She called upon me to offer up prayer and thanksgiving to the Lord. I did so and felt that it was good to call upon him. While we sat to the table Mother Kimbel (probably Vilate) read to us a letter which she had received from Father and he express money good feelings towards (h)is familely and it mad my heart rejoice. We traveled about 4 Miles and then let our cattal feed about 2 hours and then took them up again and went 8 miles further. A littel before we campt we had a slew to cros and in going through we had to put on 12 yok of cattal on our waggons and we brok 7 chains. We campt on the open preire -- 12 miles for the day.

July 26, 1847: Monday Morning.... had a litter from Father (Kimball) giving us some instructions.

Sept 26, 1847: Sunday Plesant all night and a fine morning. Our cattal has don well heare and we feel thankfull: started to go up the hill and went up about 2/3 of the way and duble our temes the hill was so steep after we got up we locked our waggons and went down the mountain and the road was verye bad; but we arrived about 4 Oclock in the great Basin: and about 6 in the city and found that all was well as we was glad; and my hart did Rejoice in the Lord for his great mercy over us while jurneving to this place; traveled 14 miles makinig 1000:44 miles from W.Q.

Jan 25, 1857: I gave my daughter Mary to HCK for a wife.
Keepe this to your self  Great Salt Lake Valley Feb the 12 1849

My Dear Vilate  I will coll your mind to a few words in silince. I truly feel sorrowfull for you my dear Vilate. I wish you knew my heart and desire for your pease and comfort. Now Vilate I want you should cheer up your heart and trust in God the Eternal Farther. Now listen to my Council and you Shall arise in the name of the Lord. No one can supersede you, for you have proved your self worthy and I am bound in the name of the Lord to sustain you. And I feel to say in the name of the Lord, any one that shall Seek to oppress you, they Shall be oppresed and it shall add to they Glory and to thare Shame and confusion. I am thy friend and I will shield the(e) by virtue of my office in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Vilate I Love thee with a pure heart. I will try with my best abilities acording to the wisdom of God that Shall be given to me. It is true you are cald to make a great sacrifice but your glory will be Equal to it. This I know. Donot give up in the midst of the battle and give the Enemy power. I say unto you in the name of the Lord, Live and prosper and you Shall See good days for the Lord loveth the(e). Great blessings awate thee and they are nigh thee Vilate. What I have done is acording to the mind and will of God, for his glory and mine. So it will be fore thine. Let me say unto you V.K. Evry son and daughter that is brought forth by the wives that are given to me will add to your glory as much as it will to them. They are given to me for this purpus and for no other. I am a Father of lives, to give lives to those that wish to recieve. Woman is to recieve from the Man.

What I have done has been by Stolen moments for the purpus to save your feelins, and that alone on the acount of the love I have for you. I beg of you to consider my case, As you cannot do the work that God has re-quired of me. No one can do my work but my self. Now Vilate look look and see that God has pute power in to my hands for the purpus to get power to my Self and those that he has given to me.

Your duty is to look after your children and teach your Sisters how to use Each other and to mind thare own business, and to treet thare Husband with respect, and let my business alone, and hold thare toungs. When they want to speak Evil of me or one of another, tell them to hold their toungs. Let me Serve my God and fill up the measure of my days and make my self honorable in the Eyes of God, Angels and all honorable and holy men of God. Now I say God bless you my dear Vilate with peas and love and Evry good thing, that you may live long on the Earth to be a comfort to thy Servent, fore no one can fill your place. You no this is my feelings. I pray for you all ways. These few words I have riten while some one has been talking. Now I must come to a close. I am you true friend and husband in Christ.

To VILATE KIMBALL

Addressed: To Mrs. Vilate Kimball
Great Salt Lake Valley

Taken from a xerox copy of original in possession of Stanley B. Kimball
May 24th (1849-1850?)

Dear Vilate,

I have a little communication to make to you this morning, and I hasten to do it before the Teams begin to roll. Last evening, about Six hours after Mr. Babbit Started with the mail, a Lady from Rochester called on me, handed me a letter from Laura Murray. Saw Gould just before She started. They are living in Rochester, are all well. She is also acquainted with Eliza Hall, has a letter from her to Heber, also from Gould to you, says Gould saw Solomon a few days ago. They were well--Says Solomon is quite concerned about Mormons--says Eliza Hall is very bitter--weeps about her Dear brother that is deluded and ruined. Lucretia and Ellis have been down to visit Gould and Laura. She and her family were well. This lady has expected to go immediately to the Valley, therefore did not seek an opportunity to send your letters, as she had promised to deliver them with her own hand. She walked four miles yesterday to bring my letter--did not bring the rest--knew nothing about the Mail going out, until She got here. She has some little parcels for you, and Ruama's likeness, all which you will receive in due time. It is now five weeks since this Lady left Rochester and it will do you some good to get news as late as this.

We have had a terrible winter and the Spring is cold and backward. Many brethren will Stay back on account of the thousands of gold men, for we know it impossible for so many cattle to be sustained. I am sure the hand of the Lord is in this thing somehow or other, but I am sure I can not see through it, unless it is to bring a mighty famine on our people. They will be like the Locust upon you there, and I tremble for the consequences--however, the Lord reigns and there, I always find rest.

I expect to send this by Mr. Lewis Bidamon--the husband of Emma Smith. I have written in haste for fear of missing the chance. I know Vilate, you would like to hear how I have got along since you left--and I would willingly inform you if I could see you but I will say one thing--the two men that were boarding with me when you left have ever been the same to me. I am sure if I had been their own Mother, they would not have treated me with more respect and kindness than they have ever done: and would still provide for me if I would go and live at their homes. I am bound to remember them with gratitude as long as I live. I am made to know who my friends are, generally and I do not complain.

I must now bid you good morning, as breakfast is ready, and I feel the need of it--My best love to all that love me, if any such there be. I cannot say I should have any objection to taking a little peep at you there--but several things must come to pass before that does. Farewell, Dear Vilate, may the Lord bless you forever,

Fanny Murray

Addressed: Mrs. Vilate Kimball
City of the great Salt Lake

*Fanny was a sister to Brigham Young and third wife to Roswell Murray father of Vilate.

Original letter in Church Historical Department
**Note:** Handwriting on the original letter is not that of Heber C. Kimball. He probably dictated this letter to a scribe and the scribe then made a second copy, or else the original was never mailed.

Great Salt Lake City U.T.
Feb 29, 1852

Dear Brother Solomon.

It is a long time since I have written you, but not forgotten by Heber. It would be a feast to see you once more in the flesh, as you are the only brother I have in the flesh of my fathers house; we are a long distance from each other, over two thousand miles. This seems a long distance to you, but small to me, as I have been in the habit of roaming much on the earth. I am now writing about four thousand feet above your head, about a thousand miles either way from any white inhabitants, in the tops of the mountains; still the mountains that are surrounding me, are almost seven thousand feet above me, being so high, you would naturally suppose it would be a very cold and snowy country. We have not had but three or four weeks here this Winter, but what has been like Summer Weather, and the inhabitants here have been putting in wheat and many kinds of gardening seeds, and setting out fruit trees, etc., and building and attending to all kinds of employment as though it was in the summer season. This may seem strange to you, but so it is. Money is scarce here, but goods plenty as groceries also. We are not starving here, as many of the inhabitants in the States are; plenty of wheat, butter and cheese, beef, pork and potatoes and almost every luxury you can obtain in the states; and good fresh oysters as fresh as I ever eat on the sea shore. I picked off the peach trees last year, ripe peaches, and plums off the plum tree in my own garden. I have at this time over 50 Bushels of Carrots and Beets in my garden standing, that I have never dug, as good as they were last fall. The winter does not injure the root vegetables if they are not pulled. I am enjoying with my family first rate health and in good spirits. Villate has her tenth child which is about two years old. Our oldest son William has four children. My family are all living within a rifle shot of my house. We hear a dreadful rumbling down in the lower world about Govt Young and Heber C. Kimball having so many wives, what will be done about this wonder?

Dear Brother. Mormonism is not annihilated, it makes a dreadful noise in the lower worlds there amongst the nations, and as I have always said to you and to my kindred Mormonism is truth, and truth will prevail; and truth will make a dreadful stir in the earth, and who can hinder it. I am aware you do not wish to fight the truth. I have to a good an opinion of yourself and my sisters, as being a pure and virtuous race, springing from a pure source of parentage. We are prospering in the valleys of the mountains, we have spread our settlements 350 miles North and South and are enjoying peace and quietness among ourselves, and have had no outrages nor outbreaks, as our Government officers have reported that has gone back to Washington. Poor fellows how I pity them, their salaries were too low. I have been engaged this Winter for near two months in the Legislature of the Territory of Utah, not much time to write, nor to play. Last fall Govt Young and myself with others went on an Exploring excursion south about 250 miles. After our Conference on the 6th of April we are expecting to start again. We shall go South, we shall pass over the Rim of the Basin on to the Rio Virgin. There will be a company probably of 20 waggons and perhaps 50 men, so that we may be safe, as it is a wild Indian Country. The Mormon emigration will be very great this season, and also the emigration from the states to the gold mines, that will probably put some money in circulation. Still, we do not depend here on Gold or Silver for our existence, but with industry and home manufacturing. Our policy in going to the South is to find a Country that is suitably warm to raise cane, hemp, cotton,
grapes etc., as many of the inhabitants here are from the South and wish to settle in a warmer climate. We have now nearly finished a meeting house or tabernacle, for Public Worship, a hundred and twenty feet in length and sixty five in breadth, without a column or post.

As to my own individual circumstances they never were better than at the present time. My present house that I live in now is thirty by fifty six, two story, consisting of sixteen rooms, is plastered and painted, with an addition of a Wash Room, Woodhouse, and storehouse, also a Building for a granary or corn house, and a good Barn, two storys high. These buildings are built upon the spur of a mountain, which gives me a view of Salt Lake Valley, East and West, North and South, and also of the Salt Lake, with a stream of water as near my house as it is desirable, with a good saw mill, and three barns. I intend this present season to erect me a Grist Mill, if the Lord will that I should, as I have my Timber and mill Irons on hand. I might mention many things but let this suffice for the present. I would wish you to remember me kindly to my sisters Eliza, Abigail and Malvina, with their families, also to your wife Caroline and your children. Vilate would also wish to be remembered to you all, her health is good, and she is as smart and active as ever, and much more happy than you ever saw her. I shall be 51 years old the 14th day of next June if I live. The most of people that knew me twenty years ago, say they cannot discover that I look any older now than I did then. I would be glad to have you write to me and give me a history of our kindred. We have had the mail regular during winter once a month. As you requested in your last letter to me, wishing to know about Warren Parrish your minister, I use to be well acquainted with him in Kirtland, Ohio. He is anything but a good man. He is a hypocrite. He believes Mormonism but preaches Baptist doctrine for filthy lucre, not because he believes it. I could say much concerning him, but let this suffice, by saying he knows I tell the truth. I wish you all well. God bless you,

As ever I remain your Brother affectionally,

Heber C. Kimball

Original in L.D.S. Church Historical Dept.
To Br and sist. Your communication of Apr 27 1852 has ben Duly received and perused with no ordinary feelings I can assure you, and now I beg Lieve once more to correct mistaken ideas concerning our religion and then I will forever after hold my peace on this subject. For I do not expect to convert you to my faith any more than you do me to yours and I presume you have no hopes of that, as long as I am such a confiding fool that I will commit any crime that I am told to. But to my subject, I am so far from being a Roman Catholic that I believe in a God who is the same yet to day and for ever, just as able and willing to reveal himself to the humble heart and contrite spirit in these days as he was eighteen hundred years ago, and were it not for the testimony of his spirit on my own heart of the truth of his work in these last Days, I should not be a Mormon or Later Day saint, but I know it for my self and not for another. You atach great blame to our leaders. I would ask if you know who our leaders are? I will tell you Brigham Young is the Pres. of the Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day saints, a man with whom I have ben intimately acquainted for 25 years, have known his harry walk and conversation of to be that of one (who) would do honor to a Saint of the most high God. Heber C. Kimball is his first counselor, a man that I have lived with 30 years and upward of 20 of that time I have seen his faith and humility before the Lord, which I know cannot be surpass. He has toiled and suffered by sea and by land to promulgate the Gospel of Christ and that without purs or scrip. He has sacrificed almost every thing Dear to him on the earth for the cause of God. And you know as well as I Do that he is honest man and would not commit an unlawful act any quicker than you would. No not even to save his own life, and yet not worthy of the respect of my friends (relatives). I say in my heart O Lord forgive them for they know not what they Do. You say no wonder Joseph Smith Died by the hand of violence in the prime of life, as well might you say the same of the Savior of the world. He died in the prime of life, and that is for preaching the same gospel that Joseph Smith preached.

You seem to think that Polygamy is a covering for adultery and crime, but let me assure you dear Br. and sist. that Polygamy as it is practiced (practiced) here is so far from being adultery, that it is a perfect life of self denial. We do not believe that it is right for the human family to place them selves beneath the brute creation. We believe that they who bear the soles (souls) of the children of men should be pure in heart and body, before the Lord. Please obtain the book called Forever on Maternity and read his views on that subject and you will then have ours in a samalitude. He is not (a) Mormon but he is a saint if he practices what he preaches. Now I have told you the truth, the Lord bearing me witness. You can believe it or reject it as seameth the(e) good. Sist Laura does not believe in any scripture that saith we shall go to this mountain or to that (or) to that valley or to that to worship God. So of course she does not believe the scripture that says it shall come to pass in the last Days, that the mountain of the Lords house shall be established in the tops of the mountains and all nations shall flow unto it. Neither does she seem to believe that was not the Savior who says (said) How oft would I have gathered---This is only one of the many scriptures that I might quote to prove the gathering of the saints in the last Days, but suffice it to say I am bookful! (p.98y) that I have not ben left to reject the timely warning. They that Do alone will be the sufferers. The savior said your house shall be left unto you desolate.

I will leave this subject praying that you may be wise for your selves and not condemn that which is of God. If you cannot receive it, let it alone. I shall ever be glad to hear from you or any of our kindred according to the flesh. It is a long time since I have had a line from sist. Lucretia or her children. When my friends cease to answer my letters, I shall

*Word crossed out and an undecipherable word written above in both instances.
cease to trouble them, and not till then. You did not mention Harvey Habels(?Hall) family. We should be glad to hear from them or any (of) the rest of our friends who think us worthy of our notice.

Our family and friends in this place are all well. Eliza wrote you by the last mail, also Fanny Young? has. Our daughter Helen has a fine little girl 2 weeks old whom she calls Vilate Murray. We count her quite a prise as it is the first child Helen has had to live. She has gained her health under the water cure treatment.---- Now may the Lord bless and enlighten your minds is the prayer of your humble

sister Vilate Kimball

to R. G. and Laura Murray

Original in possession of Dr. J. LeRoy Kimball

NOTE: Since original of this letter which is in Vilate's handwriting seems to have stayed in Utah, perhaps Vilate either made a 2nd copy for mailing or the original was never mailed.

*Date of birth for Helen's baby mentioned above was June 2, 1853.
NOTE: The first page of this letter is missing with its salutation and date. It must have been a letter similar in tone to this one that provoked Vilate's 1853 letter to her brother. Because of its length and wordiness, we have abridged it somewhat but retained most of its main ideas. The letter begins:

...said, or written, nor have I a desire to know. I have never felt anxious to look up and examine the dark shady in the pictures of Mormonism, but rather to trace out as far as I have been able its commendable features. When your characters have been aspersed? in my presence, I have vindicated as far as I could do so with any show of propriety, and with any regard to the confections of my own mind. You say, some of your friends in the States change their religion--first this church & then to another'. In this category I am not included. I rejoice in entire freedom from all sectarian organisations believing them to be, in the language of the Bible synagogus of Satan--and the legitimate daughters of the old mother of Harlots. Again you inquire, why I left the Ministry. I answer because I became satisfied that the religions of the 19th Century was and is anti christian--that I was "teaching for doctrine the commandments of men" (just what religionists are still doing everywhere, Mormons eminently included)--that I was identified with a religion, which if it had the form of godliness yet denied the power thereof"......

Becoming disgusted with such a religion, even to loathing I could not of course continue to minister at her altar. You ask again "what is the matter? Has God changed". I answer the self-Existant & Eternal God "is from everlasting to everlasting the same, without variableness or shadow of turning, but as great and wise a man as you are should have learned even this, that man is ever changing. You might have learned this before from your own Experience, for notwithstanding the stability of your mind and character, you have passed through a variety of changes. Change is one of the inherent elements in man's being. He never has, and never will reach a point, when he can remain stationary in mental development and up to a certaintime or period in his Existence he will never worship the "one living and true God", but will pay his omage at the shrine of an imaginary Diety. "There are Lords many, and Gods many" and these are constantly multiplying. Every Nation, & sect, under the heavens, has its Diety, and so with every individual--and every mans God, is just what he conceives him to be. To illustrate--The God of the Calvanist is an austere, Sovrigna, full of jeolisy & revenge......(He then goes on to talk about Gods of other religions)

The Mormons God is a youth, with whom I have not been very intimate -- but from the acquaintance I have formed with him, I have formed with him, I have found him to be rather an excentric genious, evincing a want of wisdom in his plans, and hence frequently foiled in the execution of his purposes. The first I heard of him, he came in his perisginations into Wayne Co, between 20 & 30 years ago & found there an obscur individual, not particularly distinguished for laborious habits, but having the bums of marvilousness, and acquisitiveness somewhat developed which led him to devote some of his earnings in searching in the earth for hid treasure. This individual he directed where to dig successfully, and obeying instructions, after some terrible encounters with the powers of darkness, he succeeded sun(soon) enough in getting possession of some golden plates, which were heraled to the world as "the golden Bible'. On these plates were found inscribed caracters wholly unintelligable to the literary world & to the finder, until he was put in possession of a stone, which by placing in a hat, enabled him to decipher the characters & translate them into English, which being done, made its appearance under the name of "The Book of Mormon'. The Mormon Diety had now fairly made his entrance upon this stage of action. He selected the person alluded to above as his true profet, faith-
fully to make known his will, and proclaim what he would do in the future—his Priest, to expound his doctrines, and his King, to rule over and govern his people. I was affectionately & earnestly exhorted and entreated by my friend Fanny to embrace the faith and flee to the City of Refuge. But not having the utmost confidence in the pretentions of this Mormon Deity, I concluded to risk the event and take my chance with the rest of the unbelieving world. This God it seems concluded to figure More largely upon this theater of action, in accordance with which he established a Church embracing the different orders of Priesthood -- in a word, the officials of the various dispensations under both the Old & New Testament-- with the rights, ceremonies & gifts peculiar to each, and placed his true prophet at the head, whose word, must be regarded as an unerring rule of faith & practice by all who would be saved, finding his Saints brought into delinquency & unpleasant circumstances, fatal to their peace & prosperity in that locality, he abandoned his Holy Temple, and everything within the precincts of his consecrated grounds and concluded to locate his New Jerusalem in the state of Missouri, whither he lead his people under the direction of his true and faithful Prophet. Here he determined to congregate his saints, with all who should believe on his name from every nation under the whole heavens, and give them rest from all their Enemies. But scarcely had his people obtained a lodgement in "Far West" and commenced building the City, when the ungodly cruel and brutal Missourians came upon them, killing some, and forcibly expelling the residue from the boundaries of the state. In this painful dilemma, he beheld himself to Nauvoo, and finally fixed upon that place, as the grand center of his Earthly Kingdom, and the secure abiding place of his people, & commenced gathering his little flock that had been scattered & torn, and passed through great perils - privations & suffering. Here for a time he found favor with the inhabitants of the land. But Alas! he was doomed again, to disappointment. His enemies, casting off fear, & restraint--disregarding not only right, but decency, and trampling upon law, human & Divine--invaded his city-- Seized & thrust into prison his faithfull & true Prophet, when a few days subsequently, they slew him causing mourning, lamentations, & war, among his followers, that the anointed of their Lord who was not never to have tasted death-- had died by the hand of violence and this as it were was only the beginning of trouble. While the death of his prophet did not pacinate the thirst of his enemies for the blood of his saints, it lead to internal discontents, commotions, and divisions and a scrabbling for the office vacated, one and another prompted by a desire for self aggrandisement, or zeal for their Lord set up the pretense, that upon their shoulders had fallen the mantle of the departed prophet & drawing around them those within their influence went out to fix new centers of the Kingdom of Latter day Saints. But the Mormon Deity abode still in Nauvoo, and casting about among his followers; he could not find one, nor two that would fill the place of his prophet Joseph, so he selected those of the most wise & holy & constituted them the head of his true Church, & made a desperate effort to restore harmony & peace within & subdue or repel his enemies from without. His efforts to accomplish the latter, proved abortive. He was again overpowered by brute force-- his people compelled to abandon their pleasant homes--their Holy City-- their consecrated & sacred Temple, and go out empty handed, in search of a place where on to rest the soles of their feet, without being in momentary & imminent danger of losing their lives. Temporary resting places having been found, their Lord selected a chosen few, to go with him in search of another location for his New Jerusalem. And having been thrice failed, and routed by his normal civilised enemies, he penetrated with them beyond the
mountains & the bounds of civilization, and found in the valley of the Great
Salt Lake the place, the very place, of all others known on eath's surface for
carrying out his plans. Here he and his people have enjoyed a season of tran-
quility and prosperity, unknown to them before and finding himself in favorable
circumstances he has made various important new revelations, as well as brought
to light perhaps some previously made to his prophet Joseph which for prudential
reasons had been concealed from the multitude until they were better prepared to
bear them. In one of these he has evinced his love of children, particularly
those begotten by his most sanctified, & special favorites and has promised to
reward them in his everlasting Kingdom in proportion to the number of their
posterity, while those of his people who should appose this wise & judicious
arrangement he has threatened with his displeasure. He may have been influenced
in this matter by a desire to make sure of a greater number than he could obtain
by the slow process of prociliting, and not only this, but to secure a symon pun.
article-- Mormons dyed in the wool. Now this is I am not prepared to state. You
say you are satisfied with him & I have no doubt of this fact-- but "I pray thee
have me excused". What he designs to do with his enemies, ultimately, I have
not learned. In a publication sent me by sister, he threatened to send some of
them "to hell across lots", but in regard to what his hell is definitely, I am
not posted up. You charge me with talking "like a fool, and acting the fool",
but make no specifications & therefore I can not plead to your charge -- pro
or con.

And now Br. Heber, in complyance with your request, I have
"spoken unto you". You may think that you have got more than you bargained for,
if so -- you are at liberty to return the balance to

Your Br

R. G. Murray

NOTE: "Roswell Gould Murray was graduated 7 May 1821 from Middlebury Academy and
entered the Presbyterian ministry in 1824. After preaching about 20 years he
left that profession and engaged in secular pursuits for the balance of his life.
He was a radical reformer and always gave his influence fearlessly in behalf of
the enslaved whether politically, morally or socially."

The above statement taken from: The Descendents of Jonathan
Murray of East Guilford, Connecticut by William B. Murray
(Book on file at Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City.)
My Dear Brother and Sister

It is long long time since I have written you I know. I have commenced many letters and left them unfinished and now I will be honest and tell you I have no excuse for not writing save one and that is I supposed you had so many to divide your affections with you had no place in your hearts for me. Yes and one other reason, I was afraid I should be severe. But when your dear son William took so much pains to visit us, I thought I would sit down and write immediately-- I have just seen a letter from him directed to his Uncle Murray saying he was in London--health not as good as he would wish. We were much pleased with William, found him apparently a good, frank honest man. Hope his journey will prove a great benefit to him. I presume you feel his absence much. He seemed to love his parents very much--spoke of them with great respect. I have just received a letter from Mrs. Leland--she expressed great regard for you both. It is with great satisfaction I hear my friends extolled. DONT for a moment think I have forgotten or have lost my affection for you--- Oh no indeed, I often think of you and am rejoiced to hear from you, although my heart often sickens at what I often read in public print about the Mormons. How can I avoid it? Not while I have human nature about me. I have just been reading a work sent me by a friend, written by Benjamin G. Ferris, Late Secretary of Utah Territory, (about) his observations during his six months stay with you. Some of his observations I think must be correct. You probably have seen his work. He seems very candid gives the Mormons credit for some things. Some things are horrid enough I can assure you. I saw both your names--nothing bad in connection with them-----but enough of that. I have not set down to try to convince you of your errors by any means. I suppose I understand something of your views--and I can assure you I am farther from embracing them than ever-- and I verily believe you will be convinced you have been great error in the last great day if not before. I believe the Gospel is simple and plain so much so, that all can understand it if they will search for it as for his treasures-----

And now my Dear friends I suppose you would like to know some thing about your friends here. They are all alive, and well, for any thing that I know. I have just been writing to Abby. I have not heard any thing from them in a long time. They have a very lively family of five children. Eliza is married and moved to Michigan. She has two children. Her husband is a smart money making man. Sister Abbey looks much younger than when you saw her last. They have been much prospered. Mr. Munn is quite sick. He has a farm of two hundred acres of land. They live in good style---ride in their nice carriage and seem to enjoy life. She often speaks of you. I wish you would write her it would gratify her much.

Brother Solomon has been much prospered of late years. He has three children, his daughters are married. Roxilla Married a Dentist, is living in Trumansburg, Eliza has been married about a year to a gentleman by name of Stearns, a druggist. They live in Buffalo. They have done very well I believe. Sisters Malvina is well and her family. She has five children-- Your Sister Elvira and her husband are well and situated much as they were when you were here. She is very fleshy and well fat the most part. They are boarding with her Niece Rhuama. She is married as (you) know to a man by the name of Dibble. He makes her an excellent husband. They have no children living, they have lost one. Rhuamas health is not very good. Brother Charles second wife has lost her husband-- has a large family of children. She is rather dependent.
Eliza Hall to Heber and Vilate  
September 15, 1854  
Page 2

Her oldest daughter Anna by Brother Charles is married to a lawyer by the name of Parker and moved to Minnesota St. Paul. You recollect Mr. Mc Laughlin and family, they are all very well and are much prospered in this world goods. I had almost forgotten your Brother (R. C.) Murray & family. I saw Mr. Murray on Sunday. He handed me Williams letter. He said they were getting along very well. The Lord has been very merciful to us as a family in preserving us so long for which I desire to praise his holy name. I suppose you have received your Brother & Family likeness (picture). I could not read a single expression of Vilate in her. I felt very sorry for I had almost forgotten how she looked. If you should see Mrs. Leeland before I answer her letter please remember me affectionately to her. Tell her I have not forgotten her. I have not answered all her letters as politeness requires. I knew she had friends here that she corresponded with--supposed she would obtain all the news from them that she would be interested in. Thank her for her last letter, tell her to write me again. Perhaps you or she have not received all the letters that I have written. William says the mail is sometimes left behind.

We have had considerable sickness here this Summer, a good deal of Cholera and Summer complaints of all kinds. Never do I recollect such a warm summer and so very dry--no rain from last of June till the first of August. We have had five showers lately. There has been a general drouth throughout the Country. We were fearful of a scarcity of provisions but prospects are more favorable. I have written every thing that I think will interest you.

I hope it will not be long before I hear from you. Tell me how you are. I want to know how you get along, any thing will interest me that concerns you. I think you will need no caution about showing my letter. I am out of the habit of writing much, and that is not all, I have had two gold pens to write with and I think I could have written much better with one quill pen.

Mr. Hall, Mr. Dibble and Rhuana all send love and except a large share from me and believe that I shall ever feel a deep interest in all that concerns you or yours. I should like to see Helen. I remember something of her. Give my love to her and the rest of your children. Farewell--this may be my last letter. We live in a dying world, all things are uncertain. Who knows if I live and there should be a railroad through to California I may go and see you.

Your affectionate Sister Eliza Hall

Taken from old photocopy of original letter in possession of Pearl K. Derrick
35 James St. - London
Oct 4, 1855

My Dear Mother

I have just finished writing a long letter to Mary & to the rest of you which I hope will repay for the Many kind Letters that I have received. I have made a general Letter of it for the reason that my time is so occupied & having so many Letters to reply to in relation to the field of labor assigned to me. I feel very thankful for your lines to me dated July 29. They are of great worth. I hope you pardon what I have said in my Letter addressed to Mary for I felt really plagued when Mary mentioned that you had read one Letter that I had written to Mary to a Company assembled at your house. Also the Letter Mentioned by Uncle Gould. I don't mind your copying & sending portions of them but I don't like them to go. I have received a very nice letter Letter from Uncle Gould in answer to the letter of which I sent you a copy. I will copy the letter for you verbatim:

Rochester Aug 28, 1855

Dear William

Your favor of the 9th instant was recvd the 23rd and perused with interest. I have made such disposition of it as you requested. We were favored a short time since through the kindness of your mother with two of your Letters sent to her & others dated Nov 21 & 24, the other to WM & May under the same date which were forwarded by her to your aunt Lucretia and by this letter to us your first letter to me was received and the response you should have had a long time ago. In your last you spoke of having written me twice since having forwarded various other mailable matter, which have failed to reach their destination. Subsequent attempts to reach us with printed documents may prove equally unsuccessful and therefore altho they might be a gratification to us if received, we cannot ask you to incur the expense of continuing to forward them. We were grateful to learn that you had been so highly favored with health & enjoyed so many opportunities of visiting points of interest & seeing distinguished personages. You may derive benefit thro' life from your Eastern tour & the recollections of it be to you a source of pleasure. We shall be happy to have you visit us on your return. Regret that you thought it would not be convenient for you to do so. Notwithstanding the wide difference in our religious views we recognize you not only as a member of the same great family but as kindred to us by kindred which are nearer & more endearing.

And as you wish to be regarded & treated with kindness by those whose religious opinions are unlike our own, so we would ever feel & act towards them. Looking upon Mormonism from the standpoint you occupy, it undoubtedly assumes an importance in your mind paramount to everything else. Though we can readily excuse your solicitude & appreciate your kindness & cherish for you feelings of sincere & affectionate regard. You are doubtless aware that we have had some opportunity of becoming acquainted with that system of religion, how it originated up to the present time, that situated as we have been in relation to it, we could not be uninterested spectators of its developments and that we have had many & strong inducements to view it in the most favorable aspect in which it has been presented to your mind. Thru the solicitude of your mother who is endeared to us by thousands of tender recollections. We have been furnished with papers, pamphlets & books on the subject, hence our views of it have not been derived from the slanderous reports of its enemies but from
but from the testimony of those either occupying responsible stations in the Mormon Church or clothed with her highest authority. With these advantages for knowing Mormons both in faith & practice you will permit me dear Wm to state frankly & yet in all kindness that we have failed to discover in it any evidence of a divine origin. While we have found somethings as in all other isms or religions organizations which seemed to us commendable & right, we have discovered much that to us appeared to be of the opposite character and others still to our minds alike opposed to the dictates of reason & the precepts and practices of a pure Christianity. With these views honestly entertained, we cannot of course ? on this subject sympathies with those who regard that system as furnishing if not the only, yet the most reliable passport to happiness here & hereafter at this point.

I am agreeably surprised by the receipt of a large full sheet from your dear mother under date of June 24th at which time she was in health & excellent spirits as appears from her letter. All our relatives there are in usual health, except your youngest who had been very sick but was recovering. My own health & that of my family is good. The same is true as far as I know of all your kindred in this region. Your Uncle Solomon I have not seen lately. Your uncle Hall & wife I see almost daily. William Dibble & wife are living in New York. Your aunt from Canandaig, I saw day before yesterday. Your aunt Lucretia has been in a decline for a long time past, I suppose is consumptive & probably will e'er long pass into the spirit world. Your aunt Laura, Hattie & Gould send kind regards to you, also your uncle Hall & wife. Wishing you health, prosperity & happiness I am ever

Your affectionate uncle

R. G. Murray

Dear Mother

I have now given you all the news I have & pray God to bless you with health & strength daily & bless you with all you can desire. Time is but short till I shall be privileged of being there with you, the Lord being willing.

Your affectionate son

Wm. H. Kimball
May 3, 1903; Sunday

We arrived at Kansas a little after eight. We went with the street cars to Independence. There we viewed the old historic places. The Temple ground was very interesting. From there we had a fine view of the surrounding country. It is most beautiful.

We visited Mrs. Mary Judd Page Eaton. She was married to John E. Page, who was once an apostle but had apostatized and fallen in Transgression. She told us his visions and she seemed to believe in them implicitly. She said to Pres. Smith: "I hope you will return to Zion when you quit your impure practices." He smiled and said: "We have not come to argue with you. Then we went to the meeting house on the Temple grounds and heard a brother Hill speak on the folly of lineal succession. He did well. Next we went over to the Josephine Church and heard H.A. Smith speak on the laws of the Gospel. He was a good speaker but his manners seemed to say "I am the speaker." We went out when he closed. We took the cars to Kansas and had a meeting with the Elders there.

--Anthon H. Lund, Diary, under date.
My Dear Sister Vilate

It was not until the 19th ult. that your favor under date of Dec. 24th came to hand, almost three months after it was written, but it lost none of its interest from its protracted, and wearisome journey. Its Contents were pursued with interest and gratification. I was somewhat amused on Examining the slip of paper you enclosed that you should have carefully preserved, through all the ups and downs of life for thirty five years, an article so insignificant in itself. But in a moment, I read in this the touching and pleasing fact of a Sisters continued love, and before my Minds eye, stood that pert sis, in her teens, full of frolick & fun, joy sparkling in her countenance, while the melody of her hearty laugh sounded delightfully in my ears. However trifling, any article or event in itself considered - it assumes importance, when it serves to awaken in the mind, bright recollections of early days, when the heart pure and free, basked in the genial rays, with which (a) pleasant sun guided the future. Those were days of delight, but little appreciated at the time. Their Memory is still so sweet. Alas: those glorious day dreams of childhood, and youth are never realized. The stern realities of life fling their darkened shadows o'er those fascinating visions of early joy. But I must not pursue this strain of sentimentallism. I have delayed answering for a few days in expectation of receiving the paper and book to which you alluded but they have not yet reached me. I was happy to hear that He was improving in health and hope he may be spared, to thrill with delight by his return, the hearts of all to whom he is dear.

In the States, as well as in your Territory, the last season, was an unpropicious one. Never before probably, since the settlement of America, has there been experienced as Extensive, and Severe a drought. And in addition to this, in many places, vegetation suffers greatly from insects. These calamities were followed by one of the most terribly severe winters ever recorded in this latitude. Still there is a surplus, but the foreign demand renders almost everything in the provision line Extremely high, which of course produces a vast amount of want and suffering among the poor. But spring has returned brightening the prospect of the children of want. From what you say in regard to our dear Sister Lucretia, I infer that you all together misjudge her. You seem to think that the reason why she has not written you is because she feels that you are unworthy of her notice. Do not for a moment harbor such a thought. Nothing can be further from the real cause. It is not in her nature to cherish such feeling towards any human being, much less towards her Sister. She inherited I think, from our beloved parents, more of that generous kindness for which they were distinguished, than either of their other children, and she is the same kind, good hearted sister that she was when you last saw her. But you probably recollect, that in her more youthfull days, she never held the pen of a ready writer, and since her spirits were crushed by the loss of her husband, and son, and her physical powers undermined by disease, she does not attempt to use it at all. It is a long time since I read a letter from her and have no expectation of ever being found with one in the future, and yet I feel the strongest assurance that I am often in her thoughts and share as largely in her affections, as in her more youthfull days. I hear from her occasionally through Ellis, who possesses many Excellent traits of character, is highly esteemed -- and exerts considerable influence in the Political world, but has not inherited largely his mothers spirit or rather, her feelings for her kindred, whose views or religious matters differ from his own. This will account for his not writing to you. My last from him was under date of Jany 26. Sisters health at that time was not as
R. G. Murray to Vilate
April 4, 1855
Page 2

good as usual, which for a few years past has been bad, at the best. She was living in the village of Valparaiso with her daughter Eliza Ann, one of the best souls that ever lived, but Fanchen, her husband, is not all that a husband might be, nor yet is he one of the worst. Eliza has three children -- Ellis two. His house is at Valparaiso, but he has spent the two past winters at Indianapolis, the Capitol of the State, as clerk of the Senate.

My family remain as when you last heard from us, Libbie her husband, and daughter Belle (The latter our little darling pet) in Victoria--Hattie and Gould at home (Gould still in the Com. Banke) -- Adaline & family at Dore! and all in usual health. Harvey & Eliza Hall are comfortably well -- are in easy Circumstances, and have changed but very little in their appearance for years past. Mr. Dibble & wife go to New York to reside the lst of next month. It has become a Herculian task for Laura to write, so much so, that (in) late years, she rarely makes the attempt. I believe however she has commenced a letter to Eliza and probably will give her all the particulars Known about the family relatives in this region. She told me that she intended to write you also, if possible, by the mail that takes this, but I doubt very much whether she will be able to do so. As ugly as man, we have a good many friends (including the associates of our children) who favor us with their presence, so that in addition to her ordinary domestic concerns, and attending to Company, she finds but few leisure moments, and those nature demands, should be devoted to rest. You gave us no information in your last, particularly about Fanny (Young Murray) and br(other) Wms children. We are always gratified to learn definitely about them. In your request for a copy of the names you enclosed, I suppose you did not care about my attempting to imitate the caricues and circumstances, on that slip of paper, so I have omitted them. You will accept our thanks for the ticket you enclosed to us. It was got up with taste and Executed in good style. It is no part of my creed: that dancing is inconsistent with Christian character; when indulged in within proper limits, I regard it rather as a religious duty, especially for the young, and if Grand-fathers and Grand-Mothers feel like it, and want to, I say, let them go it. Hattie & Gould were members of a select dancing association that spent one evening each week during the past winter under the instruction of a very competent teacher, and I have no doubt but what the excercise was beneficial to their health, in addition to the pleasure it afforded them. But here I am, at the bottom of the last page of this sheet, with scarcely room to tender my kind regards to all. Without discrimination who may inquire after

Your Affectionate Br.

R. G. Murray

Original letter in L.D.S. Church Historical Department
I received your very kind letter and also one from Lucy, and one from Harris (Harriet?) which I thank you very kindly for your very kind wishes to me. I can say God bless Ann, Lucy, Amanda, Sarah Ann for many kind acts from each of you, though I hurled nothing about Sarah or Amanda. Only Lucy said they were going to ride to me. This mad me think they still were living in the house with you. When either of you ride, tell me how all prosper and how all get along, both in body and spirit that live in the house with you for I do feel very kind and tender in my heart towards you all. I have not but good in my heart towards you all as Lucy says. I ride with my own hand and with an honest heart and a firm spirit. I shall give my heart and feelings to my friend for there reflections, for I do love my friends. I do consider you all of that cast. You have, that is you have 12 fine children which are of great worth to each of us, both those that are dead and those that are living. You well know we have all got to die as well as they so let us live to live for ever that we may never die, only to be asleep for a little season then rise with our little children and enjoy the fruits of our loins, for we act to be equal in this matter and all others in each of our callings where we have been called. You say you have no news because you have not been any where. I only want to know about those things that are going on in my own house and not among our neighbours. Let them tend to their ownbote and you tend to yours. That makes peace and plenty. Wash over the flock that is in your care and teach them true principles while they are young and tender and not lye to them and cause them to lose confidence in you. When they lose it in you they will lose it in me. You should not promise them things with out you fulfill on your part. Don't talk things before them that you do not wish them to hear and practice, for they not what is true or false with out some one to teach them. The Apostles said Lord teach us to pray as John taught his disciples to pray. They were men called to great and holy callings but did not know how to pray. Why because there mothers did not teach them when they were young. Perhaps there mothers did not no them selves. Can you say this? No, you have been taught. Now I say to all of my wives teach our children to pray and teach the truth plain and simple so that they can understand, then it will be natural. I have no time to teach children. I teach you and you teach them and my head teaches me. This is your calling and I am to hear and listen to your voice as you would like to have your children listen to you in all things that you tell them. Now if I listen to my head and you listen to your head and the children to thine head, how long will it take to make a heaven at home? When it is made at home, will it not be made when we are away from home. This lesson has got to be burned by us all, both old and young, male and female, and no is the time to begin. If we have not then we shall be happy in the house and out of the door, at home and abroad, up stairs and down seller. Amen

January the first 1856. I am now in the State house writing in company with P. Pratt, O. Pratt, L. Farr, B. Larson and others. We have no session to day, not till Wednesday at 10 o'clock, when both houses will come to gether in joint session to appoint the officers of our territory which are all vacant at this time. I now wish you all a very happy new year both mothers and children and friends. God bless you with menny and better and more than. All is peace and quietness in this City. No children running through the streets and stores give(s) me a news year's gift. No guns firing, no fests, no drunkenness, no bands of music, no slay rides, finnly nothing to do but to write to our family and friends. There is one thing, Br Uchins and Wm Hanifer have given out tickets for a dance this evening, fifty cents a couple in the State House in the upper part. It is sixty by forty. Larger room than the Social Hall and better furnishd. No No Nothing to eat but what we brought with us.
We are all well except Bishop Stoker who is very sick. Next weeck I suppose the Devle will come from Salt Lake in Babbit Kinny and thare trane, nor hire only those that donot speak. I understand it is very Cold in your City and you have had hard winds. Blode (blew) vary hard here and it is very Cold but plessent today. It is now most nite. Now what I have riten for the benifit of all for to Lock upon when I am not with you. For when I am with you and talk it goes in to one Ear and out of the other and it is forgotten and Lost in the confusion of buisness and Cares. My mind is not vain but on the thing that god has planted in my heart. I want you to take care of that, that you have in your owns. Some say they donot want anny more Children. That is all rite as far as I am concerned, but I one thing; take care of what you have Least that should be taken from and could not have anny more. How would that make you feel. It mite caus you to reflcit and Sorrow and mourn before the Lord and all in vain. I nearly feell to give you admonition to be conscious how you speak and think for our god knows the hearts of his Children. My mind runs on Present and future blessings. This time is Short and full of trouble and a great many cares, disappointments, pains, aks (aches), sores, head and heart ake and a thousand other things two numerous to mention. You know them on your Side and I on mine. I have my owns troubles, then have to Care for yourn. But I have no heart to murmer nor complain at the delims (dealings) of my god. It is so dark I cant see, so I will Come to a close as it is the first day of the year. I am all alone in the State hous but feel well. Good nite.

Thursday January the 3: I went to the party on Tuesday Eve (and) had a very good party, but I got a very bad cold as I always do without fail. Some times I think I will go no more but this will not do as the girls must dance. I have been so sore since the party that I could hardly get up at times. Still I have been at the Council Evry day. Yesterday both houses met in joint Session and did more buisness then we had done in one weeck before. It was in the new year, so we felt renewed. We sat all day--no dinner but felt first rate. Brother Stoker is very Sick. He is the Bishop that Lives near my mill. There is great change taken among the people of this place. They feel as though they ware converted. Now this letter is for Ann, Amanda, Lucy, Sarah Ann and fore my fine little men and Ladies that Live with you. God bless you all in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

From your Servant H C Kimball

Taken from a xerox copy of letter in possession of Laurie Huffman