

State of Tennessee Lincoln County March 1st 1857

Dear Mother

I take this opportunity of informing you that I am still enjoying good health and will make my start for California tomorrow and I am very sorry that you have so poor an opinion of the expedition had I of known that you would have taken it so hard I never should have gone for you know that I never have done any thing forcibly against your will and it pains me very much now to think I am doing it but I do not think that there is near the danger in the trip that you think for and we have a first rate company and as good a physician as our County affords he was a surgeon in the army and understands his business well I bought me a bible to carry with me and tried this morning to get my likeness taken but failed in that I will have it taken at Memphis and send it to you by mail I will write to you every opportunity that I have and will try to take as good care of my self as the nature of the case will admit of and should I be so unfortunate as to lose my life before I reach home again I wish B F Hudson to wind up my business and pay all my debts and what is left I wish you to have it I will enclose to you in this a copy of the agreement between B F Hudson and myself I will box up my cloths sent out to you and I wish James to wear them for they will be out of fashion before I shall want them I am unhappy when you consider the matter carefully that you will become better reconciled to my leaving for I have lived a sedentary life till I think that it is absolutely necessary that I should stir round a little but should I go to the most remote part of the earth I shall accept the parting admonition that you gave me when I started to come to this place and that is if we never meet no more to prepare to meet you in Heaven I have often thought of it and had cause to tremble at my prodigality though I still feel like pulling my bow in god and he being helper that if we never meet on more on earth that I will try to meet you in a better clime I have nothing more to write more than you have gave my love to all my Brothers and Sisters and respect to enquiring friends I shall ever remain your affectionate son until death

John W Hudson