

From George Applegate to James Applegate

[page 1]

Lisbon, Cal March 3rd, 1865

Dear Bro. Jim,

Your very punctual favor acknowledging the [MS. illegible] of photographs was recd. [received] some days since and I postponed answering because you are in receipt of one from me written since.

I have nothing to communicate of an interesting nature, we have had a hard winter and storms are visiting us daily on the present writing.

My prospects are good for the future if I can keep my property from my creditors. I owe about one third the value of my property and may be forced to sacrifice it during the next season, but hope not. I am paying a very high rate of interest (2 per ct per mo.) which is the current rate in Cal. My prospects are good for an extra crop the coming season and that with my wine & surplus on hand I think will more than pay me out and permit me to keep up the system of improvements I have steadily followed up. I am planting more vineyard and churning up more land etc all the time & it keeps me hard up.

I am happy to learn of the

[Page 2]

Continued good health of our family and pray for the time when we will all be together again if such a pleasant reunion can ever be had in this troubled land.

If you can ascertain the P.O. address of our dear Father I think I can get a letter to him from here as many are passing through from Cal to Texas.

I have commissioned several persons to go and see him and tell him all about us – but fear none of them will take the trouble to find him.

The photographs are very poor and people here laugh at them and not to be vain the female portion of my acquaintances say I am much better looking than the picture. I will try another artist the first opportunity and see if I can't procure a better shadow when I will send you another installment if I find them improved will shave off my whiskers and then perhaps you would know me. my old home acquaintances say I have changed but little in the past ten years.

There is considerable excitement on this coast in regard to old [MS. illegible] occupation of Mexico and thousands of southern men were going down on the steamers

[Page 3]

to become subjects of his when the Genl. Commanding on this coast (McDowell of Bull Run farm) put an embargo on the shipping and no more can leave without permission from the [MS. illegible] Master of our destinies.

The last account we had was that [MS. illegible] had returned to France for what purpose does not transpire.

I see Mo. goes straight on in her radical course and seems to be more abolitionist than the delectable [detestable?] state of Massachusetts, what do the people mean. a negro attorney was admitted to practice in the supreme court of the U.S. Nothing serves to satisfy the pubs [Republicans] so well as to raise themselves upon a level with gentlemen of color and sniff the fragrance of the darkie in preference to [MS. illegible] of roses[.] All the harm I wish them is

that they may indure all the evils their suicidal course is bringing on our once happy land, but such cannot be the case as all must suffer to expiate the crimes of the few.

Remember me to all and ask the boys to write as I will take much pleasure in answering all their letters, Kiss Katie and give my love to all our family.

[MS. illegible] your affectionate Bro George