

henceforth address <sup>to me</sup> at  
Michigan Bluffs, La Crosse County, Wis. December 1857.  
From the description of this  
I have gathered that some  
of the nomadic habits of my family & that we  
will all of us literally wander on the face of the  
earth. About a month ago following the principle  
of Manifest destiny & the mountains I determined to  
set out in search of business, as it did not seem  
to be making any very anxious inquiries about me.  
I accordingly on the 14th of last month after having  
packed up our household goods, consisting of 3 chairs  
and a few other articles, and our own provisions & unexpressed  
property, together with a few articles of clothing which I  
gathered up in my travels, we <sup>made up</sup> a load of  
traps for Michigan Bluffs and bidding adieu to  
Pewaukee, started on this stage for Sacramento.  
We stayed three days to buy what little furniture  
we absolutely wanted, provisions enough to last  
us through the winter & some of the little things I might  
want by the way. Charles the negro got perhaps a price  
in attendance here for the venerable title of  
Ambassador. I should not be very much  
surprised at such an event occurring about  
that time. The carrier backed as far as Hudson,  
and half way to the timberline set this piece of baggage  
to rest 2 days with a friend. The carrier was  
sent on an office in the house, but was

sent to me

house we staged a week 2 years ago - if you remember  
 We should have much liked to stay a few days longer  
 among pleasant people but in the rainy season  
 had already cast its shadows before we had to  
 hurry on to get settled before the reign of wet  
 weather set in. I had been some time  
 before to look for a house and had not found  
 it much difficulty in making a selection for this  
 Orleans. As to the year I believe in the letter that went  
 to town with the Central America, the "City" of Michigan  
 Bluffs was erased by fire a week before my first  
 appearance in it or rather in its place, on my return  
 from my prospecting trip in the mountains. Since  
 then it has been rebuilt as well as better than it  
 was before and the accommodations are now  
 in almost every respect to the alternative of building himself  
 a house or of doing without one. I succeeded however  
 at last in finding a desirable family mansion consisting  
 of 2 small rooms & still smaller kitchen, the whole  
 being exceedingly well ventilated and having the  
 good aspect of the Green, a dancing birth & tailor by  
 education, a miner by occupation when at work, and  
 in the present instance (if you may it be the best)  
 a carpenter by choice when idle. California has a great  
 name for making men trades for men though there must  
 have been in his case an intractability of material that  
 would not be overcome. I wish to be able to have a bed  
 for my mother who is coming to live with us, as also to  
 have an office in the house, but was considered quite



to tell. There are 3 or 4 Steuerges in this County, but as no  
none of them live within 15 miles and have not much  
to recommend them but the sound of their own trumpets  
I do not think they will be very formidable. I doubt  
here on my own walk and by various other facts  
I gathered that I can not expect to have any great

Success for future, far less to escape anything for  
some months to come, it will take years of our  
Sacramento game was a young Canary to the boarding  
with, but the poor little thing caught as he was coming up  
and I am afraid permanently spoiled it would be so low  
already a great favorite and spend part of its time hopping  
about all over the house, inspecting things generally  
This is so far out only for all game, whatever nests too

Just before I was to sail they had much feeding  
and bread keeping and some more. I received several  
gentle hints that it is more than necessary to have  
its company. I had not heard from you for a  
long time. I do not even know when you are in camp  
and I suppose you are at Nice. I suppose however study  
is at present. I will get this. I am sorry to hear that  
Grandmama has such poor health. Give my love to her.

My old watch after repeated "battering up" has finally  
refused to go any more. I am very much to want  
of one. I will write to Paul Breyer this week to send  
me if he has a silver watch as he has for 200 francs  
which he will be paid at Geneva, or applying to you  
Grandmama's present with that may be very useful to me  
With best love to Papa, Charlotte the Sisters, believe me I am  
Your affectionate son  
M. Stangroom