

(24)

San Francisco
Monday 6th November 1866

My Dear Mother

I write these few
lines in haste to tell you I have
arrived safe sound and in
good health and spirits -
We had a pleasant voyage
and arrived here on Sunday
morning - I found Charly and
the Colburns all well and glad
to see me back again - Louise
was very much pleased with
your presents and Charly also
as well as with Charlotte -
He and I have played at
Spellicans every evening since
I came - He has grown and
is quite healthy and strong
On Monday morning I settled

right down to work in the
office and my employers were
very cordial and appeared
glad to see me. The work
stopped last week but I
expect to commence ^{it} again in
a week or two and am now
making Estimates to determine
whether to go to work at the
end of the ^{first} 20 miles near San
Jose or at Sacramento -
If we do the latter I shall
have to be at Sacramento
most of the time for the next
few months, but should in
that case be down here at
least once a week -
We have got rid of the
troublesome Contractor on
the works though there is a

heavy lawsuit pending between
him and us which when it
comes to trial will be very
exciting, and perhaps amusing.
Colburn is not doing as well
as he did for a year or two
having put everything he could
take and scrape together into
an invention of which I
do not think he will ever
derive any benefit and I
expect to have to help them
a little for some time to
come - I expect to have
to go up to Stockton tomorrow
to be gone some days and
will close with best love
to Pa Mat and Lucy and
to all at Geneva when you

write to them - Tell Lucy I
will write to her in my next
when I have more time
Tell her to send her picture
if she has not already done
So need to write often -

Believe me my dear mother

Your affectionate son

M. S. Staupoon

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]