

(26)

Canal Headquarters
26 December 1873

My dearest Charlotte

We just got
your letter of the 16th November
and are very glad to hear you are
in better health than you were -
We thought of you and drank your
health yesterday and wish you
and yours a very Happy New Year
as well as many returning happy
Birthdays. We saw your pictures
some time ago and thought them
very good. We have them here together
and expect to see you for some
months excepting
I intend to send
after the holidays
his teacher who
his scholars to
been enjoying his
during the six

here and has developed physically
enough to make me glad of having
kept him away from school so
long. He has all the shooting,
rowing, riding, and driving he
wants. He is a fair shot and
handy enough round a farm but
is too timid naturally ever to
become a good horseman.

Emily has a very nice horse which
she rides and drives, a perfect
pet but full of life and
spirit. Charles rode out with
me this morning and got
thrown or made his
Emily had much practice
takes to it very
make a good
Three months
ter run down
and took a
in San Francisco
very much and

at the end of the time rented
our house furnished for the
winter. Emily then went to
Sonoma and spent a month at
her mother's and came back
here, I having run down to fetch
her, a fortnight ago. We are
very comfortable and only hope
that the discussions in the
Company will not be the cause
of my having to leave here now
we are settled. Our winter
has commenced a month earlier
than usual and we have already
had some rain and much mud
but I am pretty well used to
it and Emily can find plenty
to occupy her and keep time from
dragging when she has to stay
indoors. Her health is good and
so is that of the children in
general though Johnny is just
recovering from a closing up and
inflammation of the eyelids caused

I think by a cold - I have been
well since the warm weather
and consequent malarious fever
left me, a couple of months ago
Mabel & Johnny are both nice
engaging children. The former
a regular student is improving
in looks and manner everyday
and is now in our opinion a
very nice looking and behaved little
girl - Johnny is, as he always was,
the beauty of the family and is very
attractive - We often wish you
and your family and father and
mother would pull up stakes and
move out here so we could be all
together and although it might
beem rather rough to you at first
I think it would in the long run
be best for you all as long as
you are not wedded to any
old country tastes and prejudices
sufficiently to prevent you from
enjoying a new life - In a
monetary point I view you
with your caution and my

I made sure that you were
not giving my reading the
same old story