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Mr Eugene Owen

Benicia

California

September 22 1850

Dear Eugene

Mary received a letter from you a few days since, and I was astonished to learn you had not received letters from home, for I assure you you have been written to regularly. Your aunt (Mrs John Bell) is now at the Woodlands. She has been in wretched health, — but is now better. She is travelling in her own private carriage to Washington. She has her two little girls and young Mr Hitchcock with her. Mr Bell remained in Nashville. Mary's health is much better than when you left. Her babe is the prettiest she has ever had. Poor little fellow? How fortunate he is a boy. His name is James — but ever one has a perfect horror of calling him by it. — of late it seems to be an unfortunate name, as three James Owens have died in the last three years. The children have nick-