



# BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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## E. L. Goodman (Phebe Bradstreet)

Holograph Letter. Written in 1864 by E. L. Goodman, Pioneer Farmer near San Francisco \$3000

*What has become of old George & Maria  
I think they are both dead & old & old*

San Francisco, April 14-3 1864

*Phebe*  
Miss Bradstreet i must write you a few lines to  
let you nowe that i have not fore got you to  
think how kind you have ben to me and  
Edward Bradstreet to if i shant fore get you all  
it seeme a long time since i have seen you and  
think how mar they just to cold me fore coming  
there to get my dinner our beef and pork and cabige  
The youest say that i must smell it when you had  
thes good dines i mis them mutch and mar they must  
miss me to whoe dos she cold at nowe i wish she would  
rite and tell me soe i could tell if she was a cold in  
gat the site wone i think what good times you all yourt  
to have there but we are a great wase apart from  
each other nowe i hope we shall all meate again i think  
we would have chapey old times wone se more  
but we cant tel what will take plase life is  
un seer i wished i had bene here ten years agoe  
this has ben wone of the greatest chances for mand or  
wimion that i ve see i think i will have a <sup>chance</sup> buy me buy  
it has ben the greatest chances for makin money and loosing money

*tel George & Maria how i am  
wone se more*

Quarto. 4pp. San Francisco, April 11/14, 1864. A long letter written by E. L. Goodman to Phebe Bradstreet of Bennettsville, New York, in which he describes conditions for farming and cattle grazing, and the rise of violence since 1849: "... here has been a great deal of murdering a going on through the country and robbing then in forty nine, they have gone in for lynching them up that is the only way to stop them ..."

Phebe Bradstreet was the wife of Edward L. Bradstreet, a descendant of Major General John Bradstreet, a famous British army officer of the French and Indian War. As can be gleaned from the letter, Goodman was a family friend of both Phebe and Edward before he left for California. A few modest stains and light toning to the folds, very good or better. The letter is mostly easily legible with obvious misspellings, silently corrected and with punctuation added in the following excerpt:

"Miss Phebe Bradstreet I must write you a few lines to let you know that I have not forgot you ... life is uncertain, I wished I had been here ten years ago, this has been one of the greatest chances for men or women that I've seen, I think I will have ... the greatest chances for making money and losing money."

"... here has been thousands of acres of land laying idle now it has been taken all up so you have to buy second handed ... it was a sight to travel over these lands and think what a country this was made fore white men, also to think what fools has come to this country and gone back without locating land here, I suppose they came out of the mountains they thought they had seen the elephant the poor fools. Edward Bradstreet if you and I had been here in them times we could had all of the money now that we should wanted fore life without going in the mountains, we could had some of the best farms that man would ever want and city lots ... the greatest wheat country ... the hay is bountiful it is the wild oat they cut it green ... cattle will fat on it and sheep here is thousands of sheep the best kind and thousands of cattle here."

"... it is a sight to see the herds of cattle and sheep, this country will beat the world fore such things and the mineral it will be one of the richest, the country is not begun to be explored yet thousands will lose their lives with the Indians and robbers they get out of provisions and can't find no water they must die they are a getting more cautious also cattle and mules their traveling animals ... here has been a great deal of murdering a going on through the country and robbing then in forty nine, they have gone in for lynching them up, that is the only way to stop them, they have hung some forty (or more), they would watch people a coming from the mines and shoot them, they have robbed and murdered over one hundred a fifty last fall and this winter all of the time but there is men out now after them."

"We have had some three shakes of earthquakes one of them gives us a good shaking ... but that is nothing after you get used to such things, it has got a big plantation to shake down ... If they don't keep quiet we can raise a big army here, we are over one hundred thousand strong in this city ... and would flock in at the sound of another nation the Copperheads have to keep quiet here the city is on a good look out for them, the Irish are [ ? ] of them here ... you bet this city keeps better order here than New York ... I hope to hear that you are all well and doing well ... I shall have to stay a spell longer, I am again to San Jose, how long I shall stay I cannot tell at present ..."

An historically important eyewitness account of life in and around San Francisco during the early 1860s. [BTC#424916]

here has ben thous and of acres of land laing  
idle now it has ben taken all up soe you have to  
buy se kent handed almost as levele as a house floce  
nat a stone more a root more a stump a beautiful soile  
it was a site to traule over thes lands and think what  
a cuntry this was maid fore white man aff to think  
what fooler has come to this cuntry and gone back  
with out locating land here is upose they come out  
of the mountains they thought they had seane the  
sliphant the poore fooler sedward brad street if you and  
i had ben her in them times we could had all of the  
money now that we should wanted fore life without  
going in to the mountains we could had some of the  
best farmes that man would ever want and citey  
lates eney man that ever was in a site or a porters houler  
thought the world of none this was the place or would of ben  
it is more of the greatest see portes port every thing  
situated for man the greatest wheate cuntry that is out  
or eney thing els the mountains raises good wheate  
the hay is butiful it is the wild oat they cut it green  
shove catter will fat on it and sheep here is thous and  
of sheep her the best kind and thous and of cattes her

it is a pity to see the heads of cattle and sheep  
this cuntry will beat the world for such things  
and the mineral it will be none of the richest the  
cuntry is not begun to be explored yet thousands  
will lose their lives with the indians and robbers  
they get out of provisions and cant find noe water they must die  
they are a getting more cautious also cattle and mules their  
their travelling animals they are now getting a new way how  
to work to take an auger to bore down in those desarts  
and if they strike it they can dig down then with their spades  
i think this is great news to weter <sup>you</sup> there id hardly noe what  
to write you this is a getting to be a great city her i had  
noe idea i think i have learnt something a coming her  
i would never knowen it is a great goe ahead her  
and beaked down to it will git writ worse of the days  
her has ben a great deal of murthering a going on throu  
the cuntry and robbing than sin for they nine they  
are have gone in for lincing them up that is the  
only way to stop them they have hung some forty  
or more they would watch pople a coming from the  
mines and shoot them they have robbed and murthered over  
wone hundred a fiftety last fall and this winter but their  
all of the time is men out now after them

we have had some three shakers of earth quakes  
wone of them gives us a good shaking here i tell you  
it maids things snake but that is nothing after  
you get used to such things it has got a big plantation  
to shake down we are geting the moniter moste out  
we are a geting oure fourtes in good train fore  
wars they will think hail clumbais up her  
if eney other nation at a ctars we are on a cite here  
if they donte keepe quiet we can rais a big  
army here we are over won hundred thousand  
strong in this citey hows and would flock in at  
the sound of another nation the Coper heads have  
to keepe quiet here the citey is on a good luke out  
for them the irash are man some of them her  
and all other pople to they cetch & Coper heads yeast dery  
they were a going to victory to see if they could gete  
up a company they straten them up here you bet  
this citey keepe betea ar der her than newyork  
i hope thar her that you are all wel and doing  
wel tel if la villa i have not fore got her more  
or in nowe launce i think if you all i would like  
to see you al i think i have got well trained soe  
ishal hafto stay a spil longoe i am a going to  
leave the citey a choet time i am a gain to sen  
jose how longoe ishal stay a cent tel at i pleasant  
Mister Brown will send my leters to me fore how  
ill noe where i be i think i will get rite this suna  
nowe i be when you writes me ore Edward Beadstreet  
or launce ore marthey or sum of you soe amust  
bid you good by Give my love to mathea  
E L Goodman