

Brother Stephens

Cape Colquhoun Baker  
South Dennis  
Mass



New York Oct 31/62

Beloved & Respected Parents

Your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> ~~was~~ came duly at hand was glad to hear you ever well and hope that such may ever be the case for no more joyfull news can a letter contain than that my Parents and Sister are well.

Father you wer complaining that you wer unwell while I was at home which I was sincerely sorry to hear perhaps you thought me unsympthizing and selfish while at home. but feeling unwell while at home at the same time mortified to think that I should not be able to obtain command of a Ship after trying hard and gaining the good will of almost every one you I hope will excuse my conduct if it was not such as it would have been under other circumstances. Still shall try to make my conduct towards you and Mother such as a dutifull sons ever should be toward his Parents. One thing Father I would now say out of love for you and Mother you are both getting to be past the prime of life and must try to take every care of yourselves for by a little imprudence the tie which now holds us together might be broken.

What as by Providence and care there are yet  
many many years of happiness yet in store  
for us all I hope

Susan I think ought not to go in her shop  
to work this fall she had ought to have discretion  
enough of her own not to over work herself  
for once overworked and health gone it is hard  
to get it replaced as I well know from  
experience, though young still I have felt the  
effects of overworking and the thanks I get in  
return were by no means flattering and not such  
as to lead me to do so a second time

Cape Howes left New York two days after my  
arrival here since then have been getting along  
slowly have in now 1100 tons of Coal  
are in hopes to get away in two weeks for  
laying here so near home and not able to  
see you, I do not like

My love to you all please write often I  
shall write again soon

From your affectionate and loving son

Alpheus B. Benson

[1862-10-30 – Letter from Alpheus Baker Jr. to his parents; envelope, stamp cut off; address "Capt Alpheus Baker, South Dennis"; postmark "New York 31 Oct 1862":]

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