

been a spy upon you in any way, or tried to pry into your secrets; Father offered you a home just ~~that~~ house rent free just as he would me, under similar circumstances, his motives were purely disinterested not one selfish thought; only for you and the childrens good; I have home silently a great many of your ~~injust~~ <sup>injust</sup> charges, but dear Alpheus would never approve of what you wrote my parents and had he lived to return he would have been told the "true story" about things.

Dear Alpheus was the Parents only son, and they loved him just as well as you love your children, and Sarah you will be reminded of all these things when your children take to themselves companions.

Dear Sarah

I know the past week, has been full of sad remembrances to you, and to us; and I know from my own sad experience we shall pass many more similar to this, but I look forward to the reunion in a better and happier world than this. The last day or two has seemed more spring like than for some time, winter is unwilling to resign his severe reign to the milder seasons. but I presume the heat will make

up for the past.

Perhaps Sarah you are not aware of the fact that our dear Alpheus made Father his confident the first <sup>time</sup> he and Mother visited Wadden, and among other things he confided to him, was about your Mother, remarking to Father "Sarah and her Mother could never live together", Father replied to him, "it is Sarahs own Mother and I dont wish to say anything", a few days after Alpheus spoke to him (F) again, the Mother then replied "if Sarah and her Mother cannot live together, you had better help her find her own home."

Father did every thing in his power to help Alpheus, and has been a good and faithful parent to him, when Alpheus came from Wadden to move his things, he

spoke of it to Mother, and also said "Father is all the one I have got to assist me", I told F while in Wadden "Susie will do any thing in the world for me", and he knew he was speaking the truth. And now for you to write "Alpheus told you Father would come to Wadden and try to make you come to the other house to live", we that have always lived with Alpheus know that is not his we have heard you told you did not intend living here", and since dear Brother was taken from us we heard you said "you should not come here to live for Father to have any control of the children, or say to you, Sarah you had better do this or that, or have Mother and Susie seeing every thing you did". I have never

And now Sarah please inform  
me when, and for how long a  
time you paid me one dollar  
and a half per week for services?  
It has been a long time since  
that story went into circulation  
and it has been said "It came  
from head quarters and is  
certainly true", I have always  
acknowledged your presents, and  
thought I expressed a great deal  
of gratitude for them (although I  
have been accused "of not  
appreciating" them) and for return  
for those presents, I have tried  
to give you and fairly the  
equivalent in value, they did  
not seem worth much to you  
(only a few picture books to the  
children) but Sarah when the

amount was putted up, I could  
not buy for six (the number  
of your family) without paying  
out more than you had for me,  
I think you was mistaken when  
you reported "you could have  
me with you all winter but I was  
annoyed you so much, and I was  
so annoying to have around you  
could not possibly, as I said  
before you was mistaken, my  
Parents were neither of them  
well, and they needed me here  
at home.

[Undated 01 – A draft of a letter written by Susie Baker<sup>[1]</sup> to her sister-in-law Sarah (Percival) Baker<sup>[2]</sup>. They did not get along and this letter demonstrates that. Probably written early in 1877<sup>[3]</sup>. Susie uses a comma (or not) at the end of thoughts, phrases and sentences, so it's difficult to determine where one sentence begins and ends; the transcriber has tried to make it readable by ending sentences where it seem to make sense.]

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Father did everything in his power to help Alpheus, and has been a good and faithful Parent to him, when Alpheus came from holden to move his things, he [page] spoke of it to Mother, and also said "Father is all the one I have got to assist me." A told F while in holden "Susie will do anything in the world for me," and he knew he was speaking the truth. And now for you to write "Alpheus told you Father would Come to holden and try to make you come to the other house to live," we that have always lived with Alpheus know that is not him we have heard you told "you did not intend liveing here," and since dear Brother was taken from us we heard you said "you should not come here to live for Father to have any Control of the children, or say to you, Sarah you had better do this or that, or have Mother and Susie

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<sup>1</sup> Susan Freeman Baker – b. Eastham, 6 Oct 1835; d. South Dennis, 15 Oct 1919 of arteriosclerosis; d/o Alpheus Baker & Bethiah Knowles Bangs; m(1) South Dennis, 6 Aug 1863, Reuben Ryder Whelden (b. South Dennis, 8 Nov 1829; s/o Miller Whelden & Anna Ryder; d. South Dennis, 9 Mar 1865, of Consumption); she m(2), as 2nd wife, Boston, 16 June 1885, Capt. Joshua Harding (b. Chatham; s/o Thomas Harding & Betsey Taylor; d. Providence, RI, 2 Oct 1896); she never had children.

<sup>2</sup> Sarah B. Percival – b. Barnstable, 5 Dec 1837; d. 28 Nov 1925; d/o Isaac Percival & Catherine G. Stockwell (she later married a Bodfish); m. Alpheus Baker Jr., brother of Susan F. Baker; they had 5 children.

<sup>3</sup> Sarah's son Charles G. Baker d. 3 Feb 1876, so it is probable this is the 1st anniversary of his death.

<sup>4</sup> After the death of Sarah's father, Isaac Percival, her mother married a second time a Bodfish from Barnstable. Catherine Stockwell was born 28 Nov 1810, d. 10 Dec 1895, and is buried in West Barnstable Cemetery.

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Dear Alpheus was the Parents only son, and they loved him just as well as you love your children, and Sarah you will be reminded of all these things when your children take to themselves Companions.

[Page]

And now Sarah please inform me when, and for how long a time you paid me one dollar and a half per week for services? it has been a long time since that story went into Circulation and it has been said "it Came from head quarters and is certainly true." I have always acknowledged your presents, and thought I expressed a great deal of gratitude for them (although I have been accused "of not appreciating" them) and in return for those presents, I have tried to give you and family the equivalent in value, they did not seem worth much to you ("only a few picture books to the children") but Sarah when the [page] amount was footed up, I could not buy for six (the number of your family), without paying out more than you had for me,

Sarah you was mistaken when you reported "you could have me with you all winter but F annoyed you so much, and I was so annoying to have around you Could not possibly, as I said before you was mistaken. my Parents were neither of them well, and they needed me here at home. [The draft ends here. Whether it was sent or not is not known.]

