Please hand the enclosed letter to Madame Loth.

New York Feb 26" 1886

My dear Son Deenie

I will write a few lines and tell you that we are glad to hear from the children. You can read in this letter that we got no coal yesterday and will probably get about 70 tons today. At the office they say the balance of cargo is on the way and we shall probably get it tonight or early in the morning. Yesterday we had quite a severe rain storm from the S.E. today it is blowing a gale from the N.W. and cold. How glad I am that we are in a good harbor. One afternoon when I was at Milford, two boys came down to the vessel with a telegram for the Captain. They said the charge for delivery was 10 cents. I said "Isn't that right?"
The boys said "no, not for going afar." I said, "No," I looked at the envelope and saw in the left hand corner something like this: 75 cts. the 5 written in pencil and something written out after the 5. I asked the telegraph director:

"I waited 30 cts as the charge. I thought the boys had charged it to 75 cts. I paid nothing to the boys but charged my mother and went to the telegraph office in town. On my way passed the two boys who asked me if I was going to the office. I replied "No! I may be right." I went directly to the office and asked the operator what was the charge for delivering a message to this person. She said "30 cts." I handed her the envelope and told her I paid 15 cts. She said she would see the station agent. He came in afterwards and he said he knew the boys and would see them; after awhile the younger of the boys brought me 25 cts. He had been crying.

It is customary to sign a receipt for telegrams in a book which the operator sends with the message. The boys showed me no book, but at the office they had the book and it was signed Capt. A. H. Child but not in my handwriting, as you read it a deep laid plot they had to cheat me out of 25 cts. I signed my name in the book, thinking no one would be the wiser. I said to the boy when he brought me the 25 cts, "I would try to do right in the future." You can see by this how the tempting was of getting us into a scrape, but he didn't take us out. We must reform ourselves and always try to do right, then we will be safe, remembering that it is one who always sees us. I am glad you got along well with your example at school. Tell Eva I am pleased that she spoke for our first week at school. Also Lutie that..."
spoke his piece well and was well pleased with his performance, and, not been absent or tardy — well done; tell Edgar I am pleased that he does so well as he is the only being absent for students. We are always pleased to hear a good report.

My friend, Frank Chase, has a daughter, Eva, 12 years old and she is so far — I think she said she weighed over 100 lbs. — that beard you to eat. Eva is quite the school for Eva and said all the children my son. I can imagine I want to see you so much as it has now been more than four months since I saw you. Tell the children if I owe any of them a letter, they must see that I receive the letter, please try to write them.

Your Loving Pa
My dear Son Deen

I will write a few [torn] to you and that will [torn] the children; you can read it to them.

Tell Ma we got no coal yesterday and will probably get about 70 tons today; at the office they say the balance of cargo is on the way and we shall probably get it tonight or early in the morning. Yesterday we had quite a severe rain storm from the S.E. today it is blowing a gale from the N.W. and cold; how glad I am that we are in a good harbor. One afternoon when I was at Milford, two boys came down to the vessel with a telegram for the Capt; they said the charge for delivery was 75 cts; I said “isn’t that high?” [over page] the boys said “no, not for going so far”; I pd them; I looked at the envelope and saw in the left hand corner something like this – 75 cts – the 5 written with ink – the 7 with pencil & something [torn] [torn]ked out after the 5; I at once [torn] the telegraph operator had marked 50 cts as the charge & these boys had changed it to 75 cts. I said nothing to the boys but changed my clothes, and went to the telegraph office in town; on my way passed the two boys who asked me if I was going to the office – I replied “Oh! I may bye & bye”; I went directly to the office and asked the operator “what was the charge for delivering a message to the vessel” she said “50 cts” – I handed her the envelope & told her I pd 75 cts. she said she would see the station agent; he came in after awhile and he said he knew the boys & would see them; after awhile the younger of the boys brought me 25 cts – he had been crying. [next page] It is customary to sign a receipt for telegrams in a book which the operator sends with the message; the boys showed me no book, but at the office they had the book, and it was signed Capt A H Child but not in my hand-writing – so you [torn] a deep laid plot they had, to cheat me out of 25 cts, sign my name in the book, thinking no one would be the wiser. I said to the boy when he brought me the 25 cts “I would try to do right in the future.” You can see by this how the tempter will often get us into a scrape, but he don’t get us out; we must watch ourselves and always try to do right, then we will be safe; remembering there is One who always sees us.

I am glad you got along well with your examples at school. Tell Eva I am pleased that she spoke her piece well at school; also Luther that [over page] spoke his piece will and was [faded]ect in deportment, and not been absent or tardy – well done; tell Edgar I am pleased that he does so well at school only being absent for sickness. I am always pleased to hear a [torn] [torn] of my best girls. My friend Frank Chase has a daughter Eva 12 yrs old and she is so fat – I think she said she weighed over 100 lbs – that beats you doesn’t it? Kiss Florence & chester for Pa and give all the children my love.
You can imagine I want to see you [torn] so much [stained] it has now been more than two months since I saw you. Tell the children if I owe any of them a letter, they must tell Ma & I will try to write them

Your loving Pa