Dear Sister,

Your letter of the 12th March was received by last steamer and I was extremely happy to hear from you all for it seemed quite a long time since we had heard from the Cape. I was pleased to hear that you were all so comfortable and I hope that you will long be blessed with health and that Father will improve as spring advances and again enjoy himself pleasantly and comfortably, that Mother also may be bounteously blessed good health and the happy in the society of those that remain at home. We are (as I suppose you are anxious to know) Chartered, but not for America as I hoped, but again to Calcutta. We shall sail without any doubt on the voyage. I do not feel as if I could have anything to do alone now that we have all been together for the last four years for he (should) miss us badly, and he being in ill health too I feel as if I ought to go with him, although it is little that can be done; yet it is better to have friends in sickness. I hope though and sincerely too that he will be better than he was last voyage. Anthony thinks there will be a better opportunity to get home from Calcutta than from other ports and he can do as well and perhaps better for should he go to Bombay or Australia probably Calcutta
would be the best to go to for a change so be must all make our minds that it is best for us to do this and enjoy our time as pleasantly as possible. Evelyn is extremely anxious to get to America asking days she has been quite enough to East Indian people. I suppose she wishes to get at English clothes & home for sheImagine the very strong hot come and live with and paints to her imagination fine pictures of life. But I think she would say as much as once to see the other. You say that your girls have grown amusingly; I think you could see Evelyn; she is as stout as possible and her arms and hands are thick and chuffed as a lady's. She was almost ashamed to go without a covering to arms when she first arrived in London having worn a sleeve around during the voyage she was jumping on deck so often. Her dresses have all been lengthened an eight of a yard and other under clothes are nearly as good a fit as the suits that the dancing girls board to the Theater. She will be able you to have a thorough fit out before she leaves here. Those thin dresses that I was to hurry in making at home have never been worn for we lined on board ships and she needed but very nice dresses; the only ones that she wore was the leftover silk and dotted cumberbund. Now I suppose they will have to be altered. The red cashmere is let out all that is possible in the yoke and shirt, the new Russian one looks like too short that it seems as if she has all legs to one. You ask about my hair; it is growing quite nicely now although my fore top is rather short and when I go to the wind short I don't care at but I think you will finish it now and my wig will have to be forth coming. One thing know it is little trouble to dress my hair very convenient as you know.
Anthony's health is as usual. When he gets tired his back
hurts him but not severely, twice he has had a cold but
and got relief. Same very quiet in London now, not been
very well seeing much for Anthony's business is as much and
sometimes more than he is able to attend to. I am perfectly
contented to remain at home for London is not a new
place to me. So out for a walk and to do a little shopping
and see the fine things and some of the sights that ladies
can go to and protected almost every day. While I have now
been writing Anthony has come in with a letter from David
Thistle says that father is more unwell and then again
tells the 16 that he is better that day. I am very sorry that
it is so. I was in hopes that he should go improve his health.
In speaking of winter I think it must be cooled with you.
It is so pleasant here. But the two days since had quite
a little blustering more & a wintryish weather than has
to come here to precede. We had quite a little snow
storm and in the country the ground was covered a few
inches while the fruit trees were in full bloom. Will say
a few words about George although I shall send enclosed
this a few lines to his mother in answer to Anthony's letter
for he is too busy to write. Received a note yesterday from George
saying that he was better that the Dr wished him to remain
a while longer which he seems willing to do. For Anthony
went Sunday to see him with the intention of bringing
him to town to send home, but he thought he should remain
a while longer if he could not go on board the ship to his
wish to go home quite yet. Anthony told him that he could
not live on board ship now for they were painting it all over
outside and in and that he had better remain too where the
could have good care taken of him for he did not feel willing that he should trust yet to his own judgment for he might get more unwell and the Dr said that he must have good care. George I suppose thinks it is not hard but still it is a good place and the first physician in Boston advised Anthony to send him there. It is no object to them for they get no pray only they feel interested for him. I often have letters from him and sometimes he is in very good spirits and then again he is rather desponding but the last one he was better and I hope he will continue to improve. He will come home by by when the weather at home is pleasant for he ought not to go again if he is better in the East Indies at present time and until he is perfectly well and strong. I do not know Lydia as you can read this for when I write it drible away at a rapid rate and now as it is 12 o'clock and I have three more letters to write before dinner and eat my dinner and dinner that I think I will close this all and seal it so that you good bye this time. With love to all of our friends Anthony and Evelyn joining with me. Tell Lydia she must write me very affectionately.

Yours

Cathie M. Gomes.

I must tell Susan a little about the little girl that is here from Chelsea. She is about 4 years old but she is in everything excepting the face like her; her little slender arms and legs, her talking and playing with Brandy buttons are precisely like her; it seems sometimes as if it must be her although I suppose now she is much bigger and feels rather dignified as being called a little girl. Uncle A tells her that she will throw her little baby brother to the pigs and he used to tell her and that plagued her and made her spunky and it delights to have so much of young and naughty time she tells him that he has got a little one a grown like her. All of the don’t come home just soon I fear she will not own them. many kisses to her from all.
London  April 1st 1859.

Dear Sister,

Your letter of the 14th March was rec’d by last steamer and I was extremely happy to hear from you all for it seemed quite a long time since we had heard from the Cape. I was pleased to hear that you were all so comfortable and I hope that you will long be blessed with health and that Father will improve as spring advances and again enjoy himself pleasantly and comfortably; that Mother also may be favored with good health and be happy in the society of those that remain at home. We are (as I suppose you are anxious to know) chartered, but not for America as I hoped, but again to Calcutta. We shall all without a doubt go the voyage. I do not feel as if I could leave Anthony to go alone now that we have all been together for the last four years for he would miss us sadly; and he being in ill health too I feel as if I ought to go with him, although it is little that can be done; yet it is better to have friends in sickness. I hope though and sincerely too that he will be better than he was last voyage. Anthony thinks there will be a better opportunity to get home from Calcutta than from other ports and he can do as well and perhaps better for should he go to Bombay or Australia probably Calcutta will be the port to go to for a cargo so he must all make our mists that it is best for us to do this and enjoy ourselves as pleasantly as possible. Evelyn is extremely anxious to get to America again, says she has seen quite enough of East India people. I suppose she wishes to get at Uncle Nathan’s home for he urges her very strongly to come and live with him and paints her imagination fine pictures of life. But I thank she would cry as much as once to see Mother. You say that your girls have grown amazingly. I wish that you could see Evelyn; she is as stout as possible and her arms and hands are thick and chubby as a sailor’s. She was almost ashamed to go without a covering to arms when we first arrived in London having worn a sleeve apron during the voyage she was popping out on deck so often. Her dresses have all be lengthed an eighth of a yard and her under clothes are nearly as good a fit as the kids that the dancing girls wear to the Theatre. She will be obliged to have a thorough fit out before she leaves here. Those thin dresses that I was so hurried in making at home have never been worn for we lived on board ship and she needed but few nice dresses; the only ones that she wore was the tussal silk and dotted cambric. Now I suppose they will have to be altered. The red cashmere is let out all that is possible in the yoke and skirt; the new woolen one looks so short that it seems as if she was all legs & so on &c.

You asked about my hair; it is growing quite nicely now although my foretop is rather short and when I go in the wind I look somewhat crazed but I fear Calcutta will finish it now and my wig will have to be forth-coming. One
thing I know it is little trouble to dressing hair; very convenient as you
know. [next page, 3]

Anthony’s health is as usual; when he gets tired his back troubles
him but not severely; twice he has had a sits bath and got relief. I am very
quiet in London now; not been sight seeing much for Anthony’s business is
as much and sometimes more than he is able to attend to so I am perfectly
contented to remain at home for London is not a new place to me. I go out
for a walk and to do a little shopping and see the fine things and some of the
sights that ladies can go to see unprotected almost every day. While I have
now been writing Anthony has come in with a letter from David Porter[1];
says that Father is more unwell and then again says (the 16th) that he is
better that day. I am very sorry that it is so. I was in hopes that the
spring might improve his health. In speaking of spring I think it must be
mild with you it is so pleasant here; but we two day since had quite a little
bluster; more winterish weather than has been seen here this season; we
had quite a little snow storm and in the country the ground was covered a
few inches while the fruit trees were in full bloom. I will say a word or two
about George although I shall send enclosed in this a few lines to his mother
in answer to Anthony’s letter for he is too busy to write. I rec’d a note
yesterday from Georges saying that he was better; that the Dr wished him to
remain a while longer which he seems willing to do for Anthony went
Sunday to see him with the intention of bringing him to town to send home;
but he thought he would remain a while longer if he could not go on board
the ship to live; did not wish to go home quite yet. Anthony told him that
he could not live on board Ship now for they were painting it all outside and
in and that he had better remain too where he [over page, 4] could have good
care taken of him for he did not feel willing that he should trust yet to his
own judgement for he might get more unwell and the Dr said that he must
have good care. George I suppose thinks it is rather hard but still it is a
good place and the first physician in London advised Anthony to send him
there. It is no object to them for they get no pay only they feel interested for
him. I often have letters from him and sometimes he is in very good spirits
and then again he is rather desponding but the last one he was better and I
hope he will continue to improve. He will come home by & by when the
weather at home is pleasant for he ought not to go again if he is better to the
East Indies; at present I mean; not until he is perfectly well and strong. I
do not know Lydia as you can read this for when I write I scribble away at a
rapid rate; and now as it is 12 o’clock and I have three more letters to write
before five and eat my dinner and dress too that I think they will be all a
scrawl so I bid you good bye this time with love to all of our friends Anthony
and Evelyn joining with me. Tell Lydia shee must write me from Eveyln

Yrs affectionately

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1  Sally’s brother-in-law (Anthony’s brother), David Porter Howes.
Sally W. Howes.
I must tell Susan about the little girl that is here from Chelsea. She is about 4 years old but she is in every thing excepting the face like her; her little slender arms & hands her talking and playing with Uncle Anthony are precisely like her. it seems sometimes as if it must be her although I suppose now she is much bigger and feels rather indignant at being called a little girl. Uncle A. tells her that he will throw her little baby brother to the pigs as he used to tell her, and that plagues her and makes her spunky and it delights him so much. Many and many a time he tells her that he as got a little one at home like her, but if he dont come home pretty soon I fear she will not own him. many kisses to her from all.