Ship Silas Greenman N Orleans Dec 11th /1857

My Dear Son Edward

 Yours of the First came to hand to day and read with much pleasure. I am glad that you are again attending to your studies. You have made improvements in your writing, and also in your letter composition but I must request that you pay attention to your spelling. I find a number of words spelled wrong in your letter. I think more from a want of care than anything else, for I feel assured that some of them you must know how to spell. I think however upon the whole there is a great improvement made, which bids me hope you may yet be a scholar. I am glad to learn that you are taking piano lessons from your sister. You have every opportunity of improving yourself if you only. Your hand writing is far in advance of all your other studies but in those you can make improvement if you persevere and I really hope you will do so for your own good and the satisfaction of others.

I am glad that Natty has a place and hope he may be let stay there. I am sorry for Esra that he is so long out of employment. Business is exceedingly dull here. I have no idea when I shall get away from here. Capt. Berry goes down tonight. Capt. Olmsted has been gone about a week. Capt. Coffin in the Indiana has been gone more than a week. He has a number of things for the house which I wish you to attend to, and get them as soon as you can after her arrival, while she lays up town. I do not want them to go down town in the Ship for Mr. Frost to see them, and another thing you will want them at the house as soon as you can have them. I hope you get them before Christmas, as soon as you have received them let me know. There is two barrels flour, one barrel bread, half barrel flour, and a demijohn of syrup or Sero as it is called here. You had better find out where the ship is and what time the things can be delivered, before you send the Express for them, so that the man does not have to go more than once for them. John has sent some things which he wants the same Express man to take to his house at the same time. The things for him are one barrel flour, one barrel bread, a box of sugar and a can of molasses, all marked in his name. And the directions are on each package, if Captain Coffin should not be on board. I think likely he will have word with Mr. Hall the Mate to deliver the things, when called for.

Tell Mr. Middlebrook I am much obliged to him for the papers he has sent me at different times. I should like to know when Captain Williams is to sail and if Mr. Williams and Agnes are coming with him. Please remember me to them all. I have told John about your not having received an answer to your letter, or rather I showed him your letter to read for himself. I suppose he will answer it soon. He writes often to Nancy and she has written often to him. My kind regards to Mr. Van Vorehas. Tell him I hope he will make a good scholar of you. I do not know as I can tell you anything more about New Orleans then you have already heard, that it is awful dull, money tight, and the Silas Greenman tied up tight to the Levee. But there is one thing favorable, provisions are cheap all over this part of the country. Abundant crops of every kind, altho there is one thing to be regretted. The first cold snap we had here some three weeks ago was much sooner than was expected, and has hurt the sugar crop very materially, particularly in the Northern part of the sugar district, so there will not be so much sugar made by many thousand haggsheads as anticipated in the early part of the season when they first began to grind. There is about one hundred and fifty thousand bales of cotton in this city now, and boats coming down daily with large quantities. Some of them with over 5000 bales, and yet very little business done, waiting. I suppose for the movements of Great Britton, and they you know are at war with India, and China, the very country, where they and our own manufacturers used to send their domestics, and other cotton goods. That in a great measure is the cause of the cotton manufacturing in England. And at the North being closed, hence arises the great part of these dull times. Set wars alone, and Peace, Lovely Peace will bring good times.

I would write more but it is getting late. Fare well my Son. Take good care of your brother and sister and my little kidly's.

From Your Affectionate Father my Love, Nathaniel Webber

To all the family

c/o Master G. W. Webber

Franklin Av.

Brooklyn

L. Island