

LETTER FROM HELEN MAR KIMBALL WHITNEY
TO HORACE K. WHITNEY

Winter Quarters Jun 4 1847¹

My dear companion,

it seems a long time since I have seen you, and I feel very anxious to hear from you, and no doubt you do, from me, I have passed through various trying sciences since you left, I have been called to part with my little babe, which has been harder to bear than all my bodily suffering, (although that has been very great, for I had doted much on its society in your absence, but the Lord has certainly been with me to comfort me through all my trial and I have more than realised the blessings which were pronounced upon my head before you left, they have caused me to meditate more upon eternal things, than I ever did before in my life. I feel now as though we had a treasure laid up in heaven, to draw our hearts there, instead of settling them upon any thing on earth, everyone that saw [torn spot] said it was the most lovely child they ever saw for one so young. I think some times if it had been spared, perhaps we might have worshiped that instead of the Lord. I named it Helen Rosabelle. Your Mother will probably tell you more of the particulars than I can, for I am not able to write more than two or three lines at once, but I am gaining very fast, nothing ails me now, but weakness, I am very much reduced, I have the best of care and my friends are all very attentive to me, your Mother is all to me that a mother can be, and your Father calls to see me as often as he can get away from his business, which he is very much pressed with at the present time, he sent me a bottle of lemon syrup the first day of June

Saturday 6th My dear Horace I am quite happy to day, for I have had such blessings poured out upon my head, by sister Eliza Snow in the gift of tongues, (and interpreted by sister Sessions) that my heart is full to overflowing, she prophesied things concerning you and myself, which she nor sister Sessions could have thought of not knowing the desires of our hearts, had not the spirit of the Lord dictated them what to say, She told me I

should see you again, and a great many other things which I will tell you when you come home, Oh that you could have heard them for it would have rejoiced your heart as much as it did mine, Sister Sessions, and Eliza have called to see me quite often, and they can tell you more about me than I can write.

Thursday 11th Dear Horace it is a week ago to day since I commenced this letter. I felt so smart last Saturday, that I set up more than I was able to, so that I have been obliged to lay abed a good deal of the time since, but am so much better to day that I walked out door this morning for the first time, Horace I have had many many lonely feelings since you left, as well as many joyful ones, when I have been meditating upon the future, I am happy when we shall receive our little infant back to our arms, when sorrow and affliction shall be done away, (for that blessing is surely ours, it has been promised by your father, and many others, & it causes my heart to rejoice I long for the time to come when I shall see you, and rejoice in your dear society once more, and I do not think that time is far distant, my prayers are daily offered up to the Thrones of grace for your welfare and happiness, and I feel as though they are answered, Adaline Woodard has just called in, and she wished me to give her love to you, and Orson, Emeline comes in to see me quite often, and she is truly a friend in need as you said, she is a lovely girl, and I love her with the love of a sister, and Sarah also, she has been very kind to me, she sends her love to her brothers, give my love to Orson, Ellen and my dear father, Now my dear Horace I must stop, for I am very weary. I still remain, your true and affectionate wife.

Helen Mar

PS

Jenette wishes me to give her love to you, and Orson. You say you think to yourself as you write perhaps my trial is over, it was not, but was very near, the babe was born the 6th of May [torn spot] I experienced sorrow that day which I little expected.

Sunday evening 13th My Dear and beloved Horace, brother Hyde has just come up from the point and brought the letters and I have onley time to tell you that I have recieved yours which was very greatfuley recieved, for the folks are just upon point of starting and they are now hiching on the oxon. My dear when you get this letter you will know the cause of the foreboding which you have had on my accounty even before you left home but be comforted in the Lord dear Horace for he is able to suport [torn spot] through every triel now fare the well

Helen

NOTES

1. Helen's husband, Horace K. Whitney was with the first pioneers on their way to the Salt Lake Valley. This letter is located in the Utah State University, Special Collections.