

San Francisco, Jan. 22, 1866

Friend Gus,

Your ever welcome letter dated Dec. 5th came duly to hand a few days ago. Enclosed I found some of your cards and I was glad to hear that you were in good health and doing well. Times here are not improving. It has been raining for some time past and every kind of business is at a stand still. Even the theatre has not been doing much business lately and that makes it bad for singers [?]. I am still this, and everything goes on lovely. Mr. Maguire, McCarthy Stevenson, Dan Davis, Mark Ettling, Johnny Schneider and all your friends, Fred Woodhull included, are all glad to hear that you are doing well and send their regards to you. You will accept my kind wishes and believe me your friend.

Charles A. Buckley

P.S. I will send you papers by this mail.

Buck

San Francisco, June 8, 1866

Dear cousin Gustave,

I have received your letter dated March 15, 1866, in which you inform me that you are all in good health and which I can say is the same with us with the exception of our son who was vaccinated a short time ago and in consequence was unwell for a short time, but he is getting over it. I was sorry to hear that you were sick for so long a time but now as you got over it, I hope that you will remain in good health hereafter. You say at last you have received a letter from me, but I can assure you that I have written very often to you and your father. Still your father has never written to me a word. I should like to know the reason. In answer to my inquiries regarding your father you say that he is with you and that Simon is also with you in the same business of which I was pleased to hear you complain of the dull times there but it can't be any worse than here. Still you expect to make something this summer. Our wish is that your expectation may be realized. I thank your parents, yourself, your brother and sisters for the good wishes you have sent me, and I hope that they may be realized in time. I was told by someone that you were coming to this city on account of your ill health. Let me know if it is so or not. I was also informed by Mr. James that his nephew, my cousin,

Jan. 22, 1866 (cont.)

Joel, was coming to this city and that he has sent him money. If this letter reaches you before he leaves, please tell him that he should bring the pictures of my brother and sisters in New York for me, and I also wish that you should send me pictures of your twin sisters with him if you can and if not send them with the answer of this letter soon, yourself. My wife as well as myself send our regards to your parents, yourself, your brother and sisters. Receive the same from our big son, Israil Lindeman. I will now close and remain your true cousin.

C. Lindeman

San Francisco, June 8, 1866

Friend G. Lindeman,

I must inform you that I have received your last letter in which you inform us that your father and brother are stopping with you in the same business, which is surely better than employing strangers. We were pleased to hear that you are all well, with the exception of yourself, but as you expected to be out in a week, you will no doubt be all right long before this reaches you. We were also delighted to hear that your twin sisters are growing up to be nice girls, and that Fanny is going to school daily and is fast learning which every young lady requires. You inform us that you have dull times there, but it surely can't be any worse than it is here at the present time. Your cousins Charley and Gustia are now finding out what it is to be married. They have a son now who keeps them up during the evening occasionally but they will get used to it by and by. The boy is getting along finely and promises to be a smart boy. Your mother thinks that there will be an increase in our family soon, but I and my wife think it is just on the contrary. It is surely more likely to occur in your family than in mine. I must let you know that I have sold out my wood and coal yard which I found too hard work for me, and to keep men to do the work, the business would not pay. I have no doubt that your parents and yourself will be pleased to hear that I have now a homestead of my own. I bought a lot last November and last February gave out a contract for a house which was finished last week. The house is a double one and contains seven rooms and bathroom with hot and cold water in each one. We moved in this week and the other I have rented for forty three dollars per month. The house is

June 8, 1866 (cont.)

situated on Ellis Street No. 324 between Taylor and Jones. Your dear cousins send their regards and they send you a letter the same time with this. For want of more to write, I must now close this letter hoping that you are all well and in good health which is the same with us at present. Give the regards of my wife, Mr. & Mrs. Tilish, Sarah, Becka, and mine to your parents and brother and sisters and receive the same from us all.

I remain your friend,

Wm. Green

N.B. Mr. and Mrs. Friedman, Rothman, Neustadt, Mr. and Mrs. Lachman and family send their regards to your parents and yourself and the rest of the family. All others I have not seen.

Wm. Green

[This is a letter without a date]

Friend Gus,

As you ask of me to write you a letter, I will comply with your wish and write you all the news that is at present time. Firstly, city improvements Kerney St. is being widened 25 feet and it presents a very busy appearance such as tearing down old houses, moving them from one place to another and building large brick buildings. One block between Sacramento and California is now finished and it presents a very fine appearance. Other blocks are now being built. The whole street is to be completed in one year from the first of this month, from Broadway to Market and when completed, it will be the finest street in the city. It will then connect with Third Street. Maguire's opera house has been changed considerably since you left, mostly on account of the great actor, Edwin Forrest, who is now performing at that theater. He is acknowledged to be the greatest actor that has been out here. The prices have been changed. The first week dress circle and parquet were two dollars and gallery one dollar, but it has come down after the first few nights to the following prices: dress circle and parquet, one dollar and a half, and gallery, 50¢. I must also inform you that we had an earthquake here on the morning of the 30th of May at 20 minutes of 4 o'clock, which frightened everybody, but otherwise did no damage. I have no more to write. Give my regards to your parents, Tilish also sends his and receive the same from your friends.

M. V. Green

Brookfield, Mo. Aug 6, 1866

Gustav Lindeman, Esq., Cincinnati

Dear Friend,

Yours of the date of 29th July came duly to hand last week and I might have answered it with returning mail, but was so lazy from the fatiguing heat; and secondly have little of importance to write, for we have heard of each others prosperity, which rejoices me, and hope does you, excessively. What more than a contented and comfortable life does man want? Nothing, I should say. Yes, I am mistaken, he wants a partner, for life, a wife; and that I hope, I'll soon have. I do not doubt but you have already picked one up in your large city. If you have not, you had ought to have. I blame you if you don't. I might have had one myself by this time if I were not so unnatural homely, albeit, I am bound to have one before long. Dear friend, you will excuse for writing these nonsensical nonsense; everything is quiet on the Potomac, and know little else to write, or in other words, "Everything is lovely and the goose hangs high." I remain with respect, your friend.

M. Levi

Dear friend Gustav, give my respects to your parents and all of their family, and all that may inquire of me. Answer and keep up correspondence.

M.L.

Brookfield, Mo. Jan. 13, 1867

Mr. G. Lindeman, Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Friend,

Yours of the 8th inst. with enclosed photograph, came duly to hand, which caused me much rejoicing. I also received the "Literary Eclectic" you sent me for which I am much obliged, and send you one of our papers in return. It is not as large as yours but you know it is only from a small source. The mention you make about not having a letter from me in so long, I can assure you that I never let any correspondence be unanswered. I am positive I answered your letters whenever I received one from you.

Dear friend! I am very sorry I am unable to gratify your compliments with sending you my likeness this time, but rest assured you shall get one by about Passover holidays, when I'll go to Quincy and have an opportunity to have mine taken. I might have had a supply

Jan. 13, 1867 (cont.)

generally on hand of my likenesses, but you know I am not very beautiful, as nature deprived me of that faculty and I have to content with my luck, but still I am not altogether ugly in the eyes of my friends and when you'll receive one, most undoubtedly this spring, I hope it will be no less pleasing to you and your folks, as yours was to me. You look splendid it seems to me, with that little improvement, since I saw you last, "chin whiskers."

Dear friend, I hope that you are well and all your folks are enjoying good health. I, as well as all of my folks, are very well, and send respects to all. About business, you need not think you are an exception, that business is dull. They are very dull with my folks in Quincy, and not much better with me since 2 or 3 weeks and expect to do very well if I scratch a living till spring when I hope of good business and wish you the same. Please give my regards to your parents, brother and sisters and all friends who may inquire of me, and I'll do the same for you here and wherever I'll go.

I am with regards, yours truly friend and well wishes.

Mark Levi

Brookfield

Linn County

Missouri

P.S. In course of two months, I'll send you my photograph, for as soon as I go to Quincy, I'll have to have some taken to send to Europe as a lady friend wishes to have it and maybe myself--individually. We have no photograph gallery here only in summer.

Yours, M. Levi

Do you get letters from California? What do you hear, good times? or anything else?

Brookfield, Mo. April 8, 1867

G. Lindeman, Esq., Cincinnati

Yours of the 4th inst. came duly to hand. You say in yours that you are at a loss what to do yet, and ask my advice. I am certainly at a loss what to reply on the subject. Business here as well as everywhere has been dull in the last few months, and not a great deal better yet. What, under the circumstance, can I advise you? In this place and around here I know is not much for you and as for Quincy, I can't say, but I would advise you, simply, if you can do anything where you

April 8, 1867 (cont.)

live, no matter where, avoid traveling to save expenses. Above all, I would state that things out west here don't look so bright as eastern folks think. Then I think while there is a great western immigration from the east, there ought to be good times there.

I will close here by saying use your own wit and judgement, as I did when I looked out a place of business for myself. I remain, with regard to you and all your kindred, your friend

M. Levi

Dear Friend Gustav,

Have the kindness to see the proprietor of the "Israelite" printing office and tell him or them that I wrote them a letter to cease sending me the Debarah. If they don't I shall never pay them for it.

Yours, M. Levi

Armory of the National Guard
Post Street
San Francisco, May 10, 1867

Friend Gus,

I received your letter this morning and was very glad to hear that you were all well which I am glad to say is the same with us all here.

In your letter you say that you have not received a single letter from me. I have written four letters to you and Vick[?] has written too but neither of us has received any answer from you. I have sent you several bundles of papers but never received papers in return. I suppose you know that I started a Trunk Factory and lost \$9,00 [sic] in it. Times are so bad here now that some of the best men in the city have busted up.

National Guards Picnic we have at 10 oclock today. It is our intention to proceed to Alameda Encinal Park with our field equipment and after erecting our tents, establishing picket mount-guard, etc. We will proceed with our target shooting. After the shooting has terminated the members will engage in all sorts of athletic sports. We will remain in camp all night and tomorrow will receive our friends and feast them as only the Nationals understand how. Don't you wish that you were here to go, Gus?

I have no news to write at present.

I remain yours

(T)^{or} T.H. Lindsey

May 10, 1867 (cont.)

P.S. I have no time to write any more. All well, N.G.

San Francisco May 10, 1867 at 1 oclock after been D.D. all night.

You need not send this letter back to San Francisco the same as that one that you sent before.

J. H. Lindsey

[I have not been able to determine if it is I, T, or J. Lindsey.]

San Francisco, July 28, 1867

Friend Gus,

I received your letter last week and was very glad to hear that you were in business and that your family are all well which I am glad to say is the same with us all here.

William got married last Sunday and went to San Rafael for a week so I have so much business that I have no time to write you a long letter. Times are very dull here now, but I think that you could do very well if you were here. Send me some papers. I will write to you by the next mail. Yours,

J. H. Lindsey

Brookfield, Dec. 30, 1867

G. Lindeman, Esq.: Lima, Ohio

Dear Friend,

Yours of the 19th inst. came duly to hand and the reason of it not being answered sooner, because I had a little busy time on account of Christmas and thought to wait. Since Christmas business are extremely dull, and look for nothing better until spring opens. I hope you had joyous times Christmas. I shall have mine in about 2 weeks when I'll attend a great grand ball in Quincy given by the Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Society. I wished you could be present with your bride. I do not yet exactly know what day the ball will be. Pincus wrote to me I should detain coming till then, when he will let me know. Otherwise, I should have spent Christmas in Quincy.

You request in the name of parents, a letter from mine. Allow me for taking the liberty to find an excuse for them, and that is, chiefly, too, neither of them writes.

Let it suffice, they are well and live happily among their children, excepting two, me and my brother, who live 104 miles from Quincy, but pay them a visit almost every month. Business is not

Dec. 30, 1867 (cont.)

so thriving with them, but making an easy living. The papers you mentioned in yours were not yet received. I would also send to you our paper, but it's a small sheet and nothing of any interest in it. It's a backwoods paper.

I am enjoying good health, and hope the same with you and all concerned.

I remain yours truly friend,

M. Levi

Office of
C. Frank & Co.
Agents for
Eastern Manufacturers and Importers
in Boots and Shoes
110 3rd St. San Francisco

September 22, 1884

Friend Gus,

I think it strange that you don't answer my last letter. I suppose you read in the Cincinnati paper about my brother Jake being dead, although I have not heard anything about it yet and I have come to the conclusion that he still lives and it is but a put up job. Gus, I hope you will answer this at once and let me know how you are all getting along, etc. We are all well and hope these few lines will find you all the same. With regards from all to all.

I remain as ever your friend

Joe

ABRAM J. KATZ
COMMISSION MERCHANT
AND MANUFACTURERS' AGENT
33 & 35 MUMFORD ST.
ROCHESTER, N.Y.

December 17, 1886

Mr. Gus Lindeman

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of yours of the 9th instant. Absence from the city and pressure of other business prevented earlier reply. The Eureka Club has rooms in the upper part of the building which the caterer and his family occupy together with other rooms for the servants. These we give him free of charge, furnish him with coal and gas. The buildings are heated with steam. We give him these privileges together

December 17, 1886 (cont.)

with the right to cater to the wants of members and their families within the building. In exchange for this, we expect him to take care of the building, clean and sweep regularly, attend to steam heating, lighting and extinguishing, etc., either personally or by assistant. He is expected to furnish the suppers at all club parties, a la carte, and upon other occasions during the year vis a vis the Thanksgiving Ball, New Year's Ball, Purim Ball. He may give regular table d'hote suppers if he chooses. He has also exclusive right to bar privileges, cigars, etc.--can also furnish members at their homes with wines, cigars, liquors, etc., and whatever profit there is in it belongs to him. In short, he is in business for himself, paying nothing for rent, coal or gas and will cater to such customers as we furnish him with. He receives no benefits from cards or billiards. He will not be allowed to cater to non-members, unless he can make arrangements to do his cooking, etc., outside of our building. This, I presume, could not be done. It frequently happens that he is asked to serve at a wedding or party outside of the club for non-members, in which case we allow him to do it, charging him for use of coal, gas, etc.--a nominal price--that is when the cooking is done in our kitchen. I cannot give you any estimate as to the net amount of income to a caterer. I can say with no small degree of confidence that we have a set of members who think well of their stomachs, like to eat good food, smoke good cigars, and drink good wines and are willing to pay for them. The club owns only the tables, chairs, etc., in dining rooms, rough tables in the kitchen. The caterer is expected to furnish his own table linens, cutlery, glassware and porcelain.

Please consider this matter and let me hear from you at an early date, and if you should entertain any idea of entering into negotiations, I should be pleased to have you come on here, visit our club, while the present caterer is there and talk over matters in a better way than can be done by correspondence. In this case, we would be willing to pay your fare one way. Awaiting an early reply, I am

Respectfully yours,

A. J. Katz

* * * * *

The following letter was written in German. Several friends worked on the translation, among them one from Germany who has almost perfect capability to read the particular type of old German handwriting. According to her, the lady who wrote the following letter was definitely from the South of Germany. None of the names in the letter are familiar to me.

* * * * *

My dear Kathy & Camille! and the family!

You probably wonder why you didn't hear from me yet. But I wanted to wait until dear Herrmann left (the . . . boy, God keep him). I am now more homesick than ever before. I can tell you that it was very hard, when he said good-bye to us. He only stayed for 2 days, but it took only 2 minutes to say how nice the young man was and why he could not stay longer. Everyone who met Hugo and Herrmann and Walter said that they never would have thought that such plain and lovely people could be found living in Europe, because all the people of the upper class would be too stiff. He left us Sunday evening and today is Tuesday. Didn't hear anything yet, but couldn't possibly. I already wanted to write yesterday, but whenever I sat down my heart felt pain and I had to stop. But I couldn't wait any longer. The man looks full of life, put on more weight since I saw him the last time and his skin is so fine. Really, dear Kathy, I make you proud of him and the kindness and love couldn't be greater. He is so cordial and good. I think I make you too proud and therefore want to start on another thing.

Many, many thanks for the warm wishes for my Joseph's wedding. And I only hope that everything continues like it started. We had a small, but very nice wedding and all the gifts were so practical. The family furnished the whole house like it has become more and more customary here in the last couple of years, especially in the middle class. Adolph and Herrmann furnished the bedroom, myself the dining room, M. and Sarah the kitchen and the living room and all the other things came from friends and acquaintances, which even were not invited. The money from . . . and Herrmann, Enise? and Clem went for carpets and linoleum for kitchen and house. In short, what can I tell you, everything was practical and well spent. Hugo gave \$100 which came from his savings. They seem to be a little tight and economical. If they stay healthy - with God's help - I still see a lot of fun with them.

Now to the point. Tell me how come that you too sent presents. Wasn't it enough that we had the dear and nice visit, but it has been very nice of you and on top so practical. I am already making myself a tailormade dress for about 2 years, but under \$60.-or \$70.-you don't get anything good anymore and that is too much money for my age. Well with God's help I shall get to it first thing later in the year. Dear, practical Jenny sent me exactly what I need this summer. It seems you just found the right thing with the daughters in mind who will thank you themselves. Accept my own warmest thanks. Herrmann will tell you personally how we are. I only wish I could make up for it the way my heart desires. About this subject you have to take the good intention for the deed. We have a lovely baby who is now 6 months old, unfortunately she was a little ill for a couple of days due to her teething, but she is so sweet and pretty and gives us so much pleasure and Morris seems to get better - the hope keeps you going. As dear Herrmann told me, luckily the children turn out to be real good and I hope that Jacob gets help soon; and our Richard is still a little rascal. I hear he is a very good student. I am happy to hear all this and over there they have a merry-go-round too and Jenny has her hands full, well now, this way she does not get bored. I do hope that Margret and Maria have easy deliveries.

With all my love

Always your daughter and aunt

Bett