

San Francisco

Feb, 28<sup>th</sup>/53-

My Dear Sam -

George Mather -  
has been greatly troubled at not  
receiving the proceeds of the lot -  
sold to his brother. Please let  
me hear from you in relation to this.

I had intended by this mail  
to have written to you and father & sister  
& Dorothea, but postponed it until  
it was too late - The truth is,  
whenever I begin to think of any  
friends at home, my late bereavement  
comes to my heart, & unmanly we

Tell them I will write to them soon -  
a proclamation connected with the P.  
Office fill me with the deepest sorrow,  
for by the last mail I received the  
intelligence of a <sup>very</sup> <sup>the depth</sup> brother Alexander of  
whose illness I had not heard - I am  
afraid to go to the office. I feel  
every day more & more that I am only  
"a stranger here, as our fathers were" -

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I am interested in all  
that concerns your welfare - what  
did you ~~at~~ the West? are you  
to leave North Carolina before I

see you again? I cannot but hope,  
(Selfishly,) that you will not.

Has Henry Ellison returned  
from Ala.? I cannot judge what  
is best for others, but I do not like  
to hear of my friends leaving home.

I cannot tell when I shall  
be able to come to the old North-  
State - my duty to others must be  
done. I had thought I should  
see you all this Spring - "man proposes  
but God disposes".

I do not feel able now  
to write more - God bless you -

Kind regards to our friends & brethren  
of the Bar — my truly yours

Edw. Smith

Th. Sprague Esq Washington D.C

P.S. Tell the Col: his boys are

well. — If David Tayloe has not  
a good horse, I wish he had my  
mare again — if he wants her. —

I wish some friend had her in possession  
until further arrangements —