

San Francisco
April 10th 1855

My Dear Frank —

The last mail brought me yours of the 2nd ult: enclosing a draft from the Bk. of Washington, on the Fulton Bank, N.Y., for five hundred and nine Dollars 99/100, collected for George Mathew, from his brother William: I send you George Mathew's receipt for the money, which I paid to him, as soon as I received the draft — You gave me no statement of the precise amount you collected, & presuming you had deducted your commission I paid George the whole sum: I could not charge for my own trouble; he is a Beaufort-County boy, & was raised in a house next-door to me in that town for which I cherish an undiminished & indelible attachment. But you have a wife & children — God preserve them many years to you, and you to them — and if you did not take your commission you have done all of us great injustice.

I am especially grateful for the letter giving me so many interesting items of my old friends: I wish I knew how to return such a favor, for I fear I trouble you too much by inquiring such a taste in asking you to write: though I know when I letter you, your letters always welcome, are under my parent's deep-voiced sorrow, like the sound of fresh water in a barren & dry land, that you will be more than recompensed for all the labor your affection for me has imposed on you. I was particularly solicitous

to hear the result of your western observations & confess I felt
relieved when I saw you had not quit your home "for good" at
all events while you present, Heaven-imposed obligations last, you
cannot go & without expressing your anxiety, I rest in hope, for sufficient
unto the day is the evil thereof."

Tell the Col. when he gets his

Savings Bank in operation, a before, to have the charter printed in
the Times, that I may see it: at all events I shall take some
stock, to help our friend along & to have a little where California
uncertainties cannot destroy it. But he must have a fire proof banking
house, & such a place as our office would not answer at all: it does
not look like a Bank, & cannot be made to look so - you were
right not to consent to place my books, out of your control:

as to Fuller's hints "killing the family Bank" - I have no doubt
of it: that is, that he killed the animal whose tracks he
made his hand suppose howl over, and made me ride ten
miles to see: but that animal was a stout hog, since
fattened on potatoes & corn & changed to good bacon: How can a
man tell a hog's tracks from a buck's who sows mustard seed, for
turnips? - ("Credat Judaeus apella" -) who when he intends
to catch a runaway, sends a parcel of boys on an exploring ex-
pedition to give notice, the day before? -

I hope Col. Taylor, nor any other friend
of mine will allow themselves to be deceived by Mr. Reynier's fair talk.
They will regret it, if they do. He is altogether selfish and in-
sincere - "when the D-l was sick, the D-l a monk would be
when the D-l got well, the D-l a monk was he"

Just not the man, who once has broken faith - That a peer
said, a something like it. I wish to do Mr. Wagner no personal
harm: if he were hungry, I would feed him, & deny myself to do so:
if he were sick I would minister to his wants & relieve his suffering
if I were able. I have long ago forgiven him, for his conduct in the
State Convention: I was disposed for months, to make a personal
issue with him: but he fully disclaimed having cast any personal
imputation on me, and after I went to Raleigh, I paid him a
visit of respect & civility: but during my last term in Congress,
I learned from Reverdy Johnson, that in the unfriendly controversy with
Mr. Wise, where Mr. Wagner had acted, a pretence to act, as my
friend, that his conduct to me, had been anything but what
a gentleman and a friend had a right to expect. I mean all
I saw, & more than I can now explain. Now, how can I as a
gentleman, or a Christian, entertain any respect for one who could
act so basely? Mr. Johnson, I rely upon as implicitly as upon any
gentleman that ever lived & know he is incapable of deceiving me
& had no motive to do so. Then as Johnson told me the truth, could
any man act more unworthily than Mr. Wagner did to me? Shall
he desecrate the soil of glorious old Beaufort - Oh! how
much do these words recal, to my saddened heart! - Shall
he receive, not merely forgiveness, but - honor - though begged
for - from my friends, from that people in whose service, the
best years of my life have been spent, without any hope of
reward but their good opinion? Nothing could make that
satisfaction to me, but the bestowal of it, on an unworthy re-
cipient & if so bestowed, it might tend to reconcile me

to be content to be buried here, by the side of that best of all
friends, whose affection knew no change a shadow of turning. — You
remember when sitting with me in your office, on the day the Curator was
that nominated by estimable friend Gov: Manly, I remarked to you, that
I would bet you a glass of lemonade, that Col: Joyce, would be nominated
because his friends would be numerous in Raleigh & because Mr: Rayner would
not be there to advocate my claims. — I was in error, of ever having
given him any cause of offence — I never did, was always true to him;
never omitted an opportunity of placing him ahead of, and above
me in public opinion: tried for years to make him Gov: & begged
him to be a candidate: — but, I repeat — I assure him this: his
jealousy was a weakness — but can I esteem, or respect him, after
knowing what Johnson told me? Can any friend of mine do so? Can
any one who respects himself do so? He is entirely selfish: he wishes
to regain credit & knows the only way to do so, is to make it appear
that my friends hold him in esteem. — I am not bound, as a gentleman,
as one who is trying with humble hope & contrite heart, stricken to
the death with the severest affliction, to be a Christian — to aid
in honoring a faithless friend. I am bound to forgive injuries — I hope
I do — but I am not bound to render unto Caesar, the things which
are not Caesar's — Say to Col: T: fullbrants, Donnell, Dwyer &
such friends, — especially of the members of the bar — as you please, what my
opinions are: — of course I desire not to make them public or have them
talked of generally. I hope not while Donock and I are living, will
Ruffin or Rayner be honored, by true men & whips of "Beaufort"
I am sorry I have written so much on this, — but am not in
the habit of concealing my feelings, from those in whom I confide.
I am very grateful for the account you gave
me of the cases in Pitt: it imparted fire to my heart —
such as I have seldom felt lately. It is only

necessary for you to determine in receipt, in order to obtain it: that
you may no one more sincerely hope than I do.

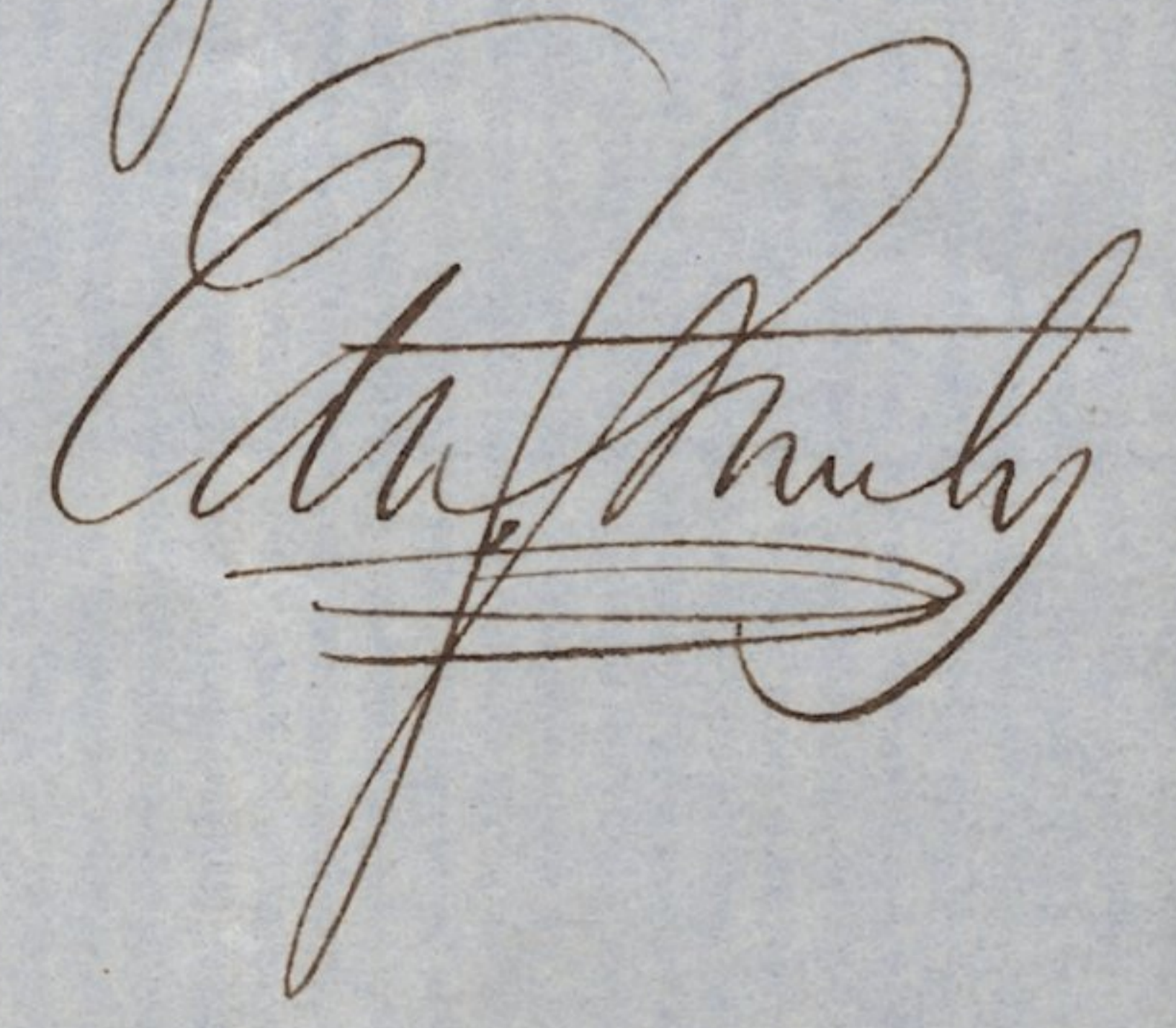
I cannot tell when I shall try to visit home -
it pains me to think of it. It is not for myself alone
that I remain here, but I hope to enable me to do some
good for others, by pursuing my profession diligently a while.

I have been about the last week, at
Sacramento, attending the Supreme Court, and I should by this
mail have written to father & mother to whom I owe a letter.
I have tried sometimes to write home, but have been
unable to do so

God only knows when I shall be able to meet
the friends at home, who are still dear to me - but
every day reminds me, that dearer than any on Earth
have gone before me, & that if I will, I may meet
all, where soon & a flying shall flee away, & we shall
be no more separated forever. May He, who
never faileth to aid those who trust in Him, prosper you on
earth, and save you eternally

farewell

Very sincerely yours



Thomas Sumner Esq
Washington
D.C.