Benicia April 16. 68

My dear Mrs. Dominis

Your dear kind letters of Dec 26th, and April 2d, are before me. The former would have been answered by the Idaho last time, but did not come to hand until after her departure, owing to the fact that it was overlooked by Mr. Aldrich to whose care it was addressed. One day while I was in the City he brought it up to me with the expectation of receiving a good scolding for not having delivered it before, I was quite lenient with him however, simply alluding to some of the faults of his sex, among which, was that of thinking ladies' letters too unimportant to require prompt delivery. I think he is an exception to the generality of his sex, and a noble specimen of God's last and best gift-

Just now is a very busy time here with all; only five weeks more in which to prepare for the examination and Exhibition on the 28th and 29th of May- Everything is excitement with the young ladies who are to take part in the Exhibition, hardly a spare moment can they seem to find for themselves- the consequence is, their friends are neglected, but not forgotten. They have three hours on Sunday to be called their own, and today, will be improved by Katie and Nellie in writing to the Solanas-

I must tell you they received a letter from their father per Idaho, the first time they have had since we left them. It was a letter calculated to work upon their sympathies, and written probably under a good impulse, which I wish might last longer than the few minutes it took him to write it- To me, acts speak louder than words, and I am

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loth to believe, he loves any one but himself – The children cried over his letter as if their hearts would break. They will write to him by this opportunity, which I would not have them miss for anything. Don't speak of what I say in this matter to any one but Mr. Rapley, who will understand the nature of the letter when I say it is one of the old style –

The little Aldrich Children are all well and always talking of Auntie Dominie – even Bertie, says, "I wish I could see Auntie;" Since the rain has ceased, he plays out all day long, I say to him Bertie, come in my room, he says, "I can't Mrs. Spencer, I have so much work to do; I have fences to build, grass to cut, and I can't come and see you until a rainy day; then, I will stay with you all day" –

I suppose Mrs. Miles has told you how much those who fell a victim to the measles, enjoyed the tamarinds; they made such a nice drink for

for the feverish patients, who blessed Mrs. Dominis from the bottom of their hearts.

I made a visit to the city of about six weeks, and came home quite refreshed about two weeks ago.

It was very cold while I was there and Mrs. Green and I used to hover over the fire and talk of you, seeming in our imaginations to see you, sitting upon the verandahs enjoying the cool breeze, while we, drawn up to the coal fire, could hardly keep comfortably warm.

I saw Mrs. Reynolds and she gave me ~~[illegible]~~ some of the gossip of Honolulu, but ~~[illegible]~~ many of the items which made your letter so interesting she omitted.

I should like to see Mrs. Snow. I feel you are almost alone, if you could only be persuaded to come over here for a visit; I am sure you would not like to live here, but a visit would do you good and be of infinite pleasure to us all here

You are so kind my dear Mrs Dominis in your repeated invitation for us to visit you, I hope that pleasure is yet in store for us, tho I think it is better for me to keep away from the Islands altogether.

I so long to go home and see Freddie. The low fair is a great temptation, and if it were not for the attendant expenses I should certainly go East for a year. I must be content to remain in Benicia, however, until the children graduate, which will be two years from June.

I expect to take Hattie and Nellie to the city to spend a part of the vacation, have made my plans to do so about the fifteenth of June. They are joyous at the prospect. They both need the rest.

Write as often as you can

I can't tell you how much pleasure your letters give us. Nellie intends to write to you this afternoon.
I shall write to Mr. Kapler this afternoon.

Give much love to John and Lydia - Tell John I am living in expectation of that promised visit which he expected to make me long ago -

With love to all
your aff' friend,
L. S. Spencer -

Katie has just come in and says "Tell Mrs. Dominis I wrote her by the Murray" -