New York 27th March 1851.

My dear Gibbs

[illegible] obtained a few letters of introduction to various parties at San Francisco and the Islands - then you can deliver, and feel assured that the parties will give you good advice - My instructions can be summed up in a few words - Keep a bright look out for information - and register it in your book for future reference, You must not place to much reliance upon information picked up from any single individual - Never "shew your own hands" ask but few questions on any important subject of one party - Continue your enquiries among others - and combine the result - You thus are more likely to gain reliable information - without exposing the drift of your researches - Learn the standing of every mercantile house that can