

The Following is a Letter to Parents by Elizabeth Firth (Daughter of Sara Firth)

**Elizabeth was the niece of Samuel Baines Firth who Built the Te Aute Store.
She arrived in NZ 20/11/1874 on the ship Bebington.
She died just two months after the letter was written at the age of 29years.**

Le aute Papier

March 12th 1875

Dear Mother & Father.

I have not received a letter from you yet and it makes me uneasy as I am very anxious to know how you are getting on it almost makes me wild to think of it seems ages since I left home I should be happy if you were here with me I regret leaving you very much I do assure you that you are never absent from my mind Dear Mother if Mrs J. E. Beaumont has taken her self offended and will not write to me ask Betsy Hardy to be

Kind enough to write for you
I would have wrote to her this mail
but I really had not time we
are pretty well kept at work the
house and store together I assist
Lucy with the house work and
waits on in the store as well
the young man ~~is~~ that is in
the store has married Lucy that
is a Taylor daughter and a
fine wedding we had Uncle
Sam bought her a splendid silk
dress money is no object here
then we had grand Ball at night
there was about 20 men came
with tins and bullock bells tin
kettling as they call it and a
fine row it was Paulina that

is the youngest me aunt has
sent her to boarding school
I was at a Ball last Friday
and stand till three o'clock
in the morning I like the
country on the whole very well
we had a sever shake the other
morning when in bed it
did no damage that I here of
you will be surprised when I
say I have only been to Church
once since I got here there is
one but it belongs to the Marries
we are going to have the use
of it once a month there is a
nice young man going to come
to preach he is like Mr Cheetham

Uncle Reuben dose not like he seems very unsettled I feel very sorry for him he is at Uncle Abra^{on} Aunt Elizabeth and him dont speak they had some words over him taking a few raspberries when there is more than she wanted for peaches and them are very plentiful they think nothing of giving boxes full of them I belive she is very bad if she takes against anyone he says he never settle here only me is wanted here he talks of coming back to England I told Uncle Sam I should not star with them if there was nothing for him the saw mills is not ready yet they are spliting and getting ^{ready}

Uncle Sam keeps saying to me keep
in with my Aunt it will be
all the better for me in the
end that he only intends carrying
the store on about twelve
months the more I look after it
it will be to my interest as it will
be mine they can do without it
and that I am all right only
think so but I want a wage such
as 10^s a week Paulina is my Aunt's
favourite she can't do wrong
on Sunday I went a ride on horse
back about 30 miles with a young
man as soon as our Reuben
heard he came to blow me up
Aunt and Uncle were in the room
the young man and I in the

kitchen getting tea that vexed
him more still you know how
black he can look he did not say
as much as he could have liked
because I would not talk to him
I was so grieved at him I could not
sleep that night Uncle & Aunt have
gone to Napier they drive ~~ten miles~~
to the train leaves the horse trap
at an hotel the horse has come back
and left them I shall take it and
meet them I am getting a first class
rider we are all of us enjoying
very good health I think hoping
you are the same with the exception
of Cousin Tom he got fever I am
sorry to say but he will be better
soon for he is steady young man
loved by all who know him.

I have not wrote to Aunt Mary
Ann and Uncle Walter yet I
forgot the address give my kind
love to them accept the same
your self Uncle Reuben has wrote
cousin William this month and
sent you a paper I must now

conclude with kind
love Believe me to
remain your affection
daughter E. Fifth

P.S. please write by return
and send me newspaper

Address

Miss Firth
Leaube ~~Post~~ Post Office
Care of S. B. Firth
Hawkes Bay. Napier
New Zealand