a relatively easy time of it since ("relatively," I said). The camera has picked up the pebbly finish on some prints and the smudgy wiping marks on others. But, as we now survey the stacks of printed sheets around the press, we feel good about the whole job. We could have had better help from the cameramen at the printer's shop. We certainly would have had a smoother time on soft stock--many of the imperfections would have been more absorbed into the background. But the basic book is moving, beautiful.

An unwise decision of ours at the very beginning was to be rather silent on the matter of costs. Since we very much wanted to give you a book commercially successful, one that had its rightful place in the market, not requiring a subsidy, we had to operate accordingly as we understood the marketplace. Thus we felt that $8.95 was the top price we could ask for a clothbound Mother and Child. To reach that price, we had to make certain compromises, compromises which (I presume) were not made in your other books. So, all this time, I've had the guilty feeling that we were not going to meet your exacting standards and that we might do a disservice to your work. I can see now that I should have more completely discussed our plans with you, in anticipation that our compromises--such as using a good but not great printer--~~would~~ might not be acceptable to you and that you, understanding our squeeze, would demand the chance to contribute some money to the project. Well, that chance is behind us. You will have bound books in about three weeks. Our costs: 5000 copies times $1.80 per book equals $9000. You probably have vivid memories of the costs of a comparable run of gravure work.

So, to sum up, Scrimshaw is about to have a book of which it can be proud but it will be--it has to be, naturally--a different book from the first edition. And since I've already written a longer letter than makes any sense, I'll close off this part.

As for the Mitchells, and I am always and forever aware of your concern, we have at last arranged a nice trip to see our families in the East and get some time away from the decisions that so vex us here. Greta is in the midst of changes which she does not comprehend. They all press in on her. Her clockworks are mis-arranged. Time and perspective and support will be the healers and we will come through it. We will be in touch with you during the trip . . .

Love from

all the Mitchells