

But - I must close for this time. I have
said you help me
postage with regard
to your changes and
all your plans. I shall
feel sure - if ever change
at all in this direction
i.e. in giving me that
confidence due to a
brother. In my next -
I will tell you state
ments of our business
remains & prospects.
In the much love from
our little group to you
& send it along. I remain
as truly as ever,
your affectionate brother
Henry

Moniville Apl. 28th 1862

Enclosed please find note
to Edwin for \$373.48, and also note for Dea. Fowler
for \$470.02 according to your request.

With regard to the Campbell affair, mortgage
&c. you have given me a stumper in asking me to
propose some basis for an adjustment of the whole
thing. I might with almost equal propriety ask
you to offer some such thing with regard to my
affairs in Cal. Why Thacher I had almost forgot-
ten (aside from your own connection with it;) that
there was such a place as Tenosha. I have
an indistinct recollection of a place bordering on
one of the great lakes, which I bade adieu with a
heavy heart. "at dead of night" - some three or four
years since. but so many things have passed through
my mind since, that time. that I can scarcely
think of it in detail, at all. And when I would do
so, the consciousness that I will get the heart ache
in the process deters me from the undertaking.

The very thing that wants doing I am utterly
powerless to bring about. I can plan, contrive & finan-
ce & get round a business matter, when that will
answer the purpose, but that you can do for me
being on the ground, just as I would do it for you

("Confound it." - here is the whole inside of this shut-un-
ruled) but - cash is the ~~the~~ thing ~~needed~~ in this case
and cash I cannot - send. and in this feeling, viz -
that - I ought - to do, & must do something. always & so far
accompanied by the consciousness of utter inability to
do. you have the explanation of my neglect of you
& also of Mother. But return to the Mortgage; you see
how I am placed. Campbell will not take the mortgage
at any fair price. Sumner ditto, Campbell will not take
my note it - seems, because I am too far away to have
it tangible security. & for a clincher I cannot - pay
the debt at present. Circumstances say to me "you
must." & with equal doggedness they say, on the other
side, "you can't." So that - if we can determine satisfactorily
that the "can't," is the result of deliberate, earnest, con-
sideration, in full view of the case, in all its bearings,
it of course settles the matter. & we have only to bow
to circumstances we cannot - control. Now whether I
am wont - to bow to circumstances, I yield my point with-
out - earnest - effort; you must judge. It is scarcely worth
while to detail my condition here and I will simply
say that nothing but the shrewdest management keeps
me up, ~~here~~. though I may add that - my credit - in
Dillon is No. 1. at present. And what would be-
come of my home debts if I allowed it to be otherwise.
Let a few debts be called for, here & payment refused
or postponed, & the distrust awakened thereby would
precipitate creditors upon me in a way that
would oblige me to back down & "sign over" at once.
& what would then become of the footing I have struggled
so hard to obtain. To show the thing in a strong light -
let us come down to facts & figures. As you doubtless know through

Jennie, we are keeping boarders & by it just about pay
our own board. Well, including my surveying receipts
I pass through my hands every month from three to
five hundred dollars. One month last winter I
received for the month, nearly six hundred dolls.
330.00 for board 250.00 for surveying & Jennie 18.00
for music teaching total 598.00. Of course there was
no one to dictate what I should do with that sum.
The disposition of it rested solely with myself. Traders
here in town, have perfect confidence in me, & value my
custom. If I desired it my bills could run a long time.
This being so, how easy to have taken five hundred dolls, that
month & sent - J. J. & the other hundred to mother. How happy
it would have made you! how heartily would you have
praised me, & with what vim would you have pronounced
me to be a genuine trick. "Some pumpkins," & doubtless many
other equally high expressions would have fallen from my
tongue. The month spoken of was an extra one, but I have
taken five hundred frequently & not less than 350.00 in
a great while. And yet dear brother although I often
fear that my good name is suffering in Wisconsin,
that my brothers will be tempted to harbor hard thoughts
of me. & that dear precious mother, may sometimes doubt
my affection, for her, I still dare not abstract from my
receipts any amt. which it would be worth while to send.
You know how sensitive I am on all these points
and can judge whether I would pursue the course
I have without earnest consideration. To say that
it has cost me anxious days and sleepless nights, and
many of them too, conveys no adequate idea of the men-
tal suffering undergone in connection with these things.
So Thacker you see I can make no propositions that mean

money. & any other kind. would come with better grace
from you than me. Whatever you see from the nature of the
case must be done (excepting cash operations) that name, and
it shall be done immediately. Let it be distinctly understood
that you are to make no arrangement to save my name or
property which will injure you or fetter your movements.
Avoid this if possible. I entreat you. Throw the burden of the thing
on my shoulders & if I live long enough I'll throw it off again to the
entire satisfaction of all parties i.e. if a kind Providence will allow me to
do what is in my heart. Now a word of my general condition & prospects.
In yr. letter you ignore the fact that I am County Surveyor of
Sierra Co. but I know that you have been informed of the fact
before this. It was a droll move to make ~~kind~~ a dicky one.
Inasmuch as I had not been in the county a year when I
was put on the course. Old surveys & good ones. were run
by other parties & of course opposed me both. & I was obliged
to canvas the county which I did & to make a long story short
the election returns declared me victor & in Oct. last. having
filed bonds to the tune of ten thousand dolls. I was duly sworn
into office. said office supposed to be worth from three to four
thousand per. annum. It is all job work & of course fluctuates much.
My first six mos. have yielded \$50.00 but they all say that the
winter mos. are no criterion. there always being more work
in the summer. My charges are 25¢ per day for all the
time I am absent from home. Twice I have been called to
settle disputes between different surveyors where a good many
thousand dolls. were at stake. One of the jobs yielded me \$100.00
the other 122.00¢. Both were under ground in long crooked
tunnels & required great care & skill. The miners work under
ground in every possible angle. When these surveys are made
it is sometimes to find out where they are with reference
to the outside lines. Sometimes to locate a shaft on the outside
which is to be run down until it strikes ~~the~~ ^a shaft being run
up by the workmen on the inside. Sometimes after running 1500
or 2000 ft. in two different tunnels you are to give them a course
which will break through from one tunnel to the other. and etc. x

The old Surveyors were very jealous of me of course and often threw it in the face of those who were supporting me, that nobody knew whether I was qualified or not, or whether I had had any experience excepting as they learned it from me. This being the state of the case I would not commit myself with them at all, but treated them with perfect indifference & by doing so of course challenged their criticism. In one case I was called to make a survey where ~~my~~ my predecessor and my deputy differed. When I arrived the old Surveyor requested the privilege of making the survey with me, I taking the lead. Of course I granted it. Then we differed he had to yield. After the survey I beat him three hours on the calculations, each agreeing to go through the calculations only once & then check by each other. When we came to check, he altered but one figure of mine, that was in tenths, whereas I made him alter not less than a dozen numbers of them in fact & in one case 100. Of course all this had its effect & I heard afterwards of his expressing great confidence in, and respect for me, as a Surveyor. As returns came in from my surveys they all proved themselves right & a man told me the other day that he had often heard it remarked that I was the best Surveyor that had ever been in the county. A word more and I have done with this head. I am obliged as considerable drafting it has been the custom as the thing in pretty good shape. In this direction I have improved much I mean to much more.

I turned off a map the other day which was quite a wonder for me having something of that-finish in the lettering & general appearance which I had always thought it so hard to obtain. For some time I had my office in the Court-house, but have finished me a room in the basement of my house which I like much better. I neglected to say that my predecessor is one of the handsomest draughtsmen I ever saw neither Tracy or Phillips begin with him. His work is fully up to the draft we had of West-Aux Plains bridge from Stone & Borman. If I had it to span I would gladly give two thousand dollars to be able to draft as well, & I believe I could make it pay at that.

There sir, you have some ideas of my "posish" &c. &c. which will enable you to think of me with some degree of tangibility I trust. Seeing it is right in this line I will state that - in the middle of the last sentence I was interrupted by a man who wishes a survey of a Quartsy ledge about 14 miles from here. Said survey will be worth about - 75.

And so brother T. you are really a married man and feel that you are so; and you are happy & growing more so continually. I congratulate you on your good fortune & sincerely hope and pray that you may be blessed in and through each other. It would have been a great pleasure to have been present at your wedding but when I left Wisconsin I thought it quite probable that that pleasure was lost to me. & after all I lost

no more than the shawl, friends & moreover.
not one of my relatives was present when I took
a similar step. I thought to have written you a
letter for your wedding day, as the only offering
poor though it might be, which I could make
in proof of my love for you & my interest ⁱⁿ all
that interested you. But the nightmare seized
me when I thought of business matters that must
be treated when I wrote. & I was led to procrastinate
from time to time, until I was ashamed
to offer a congratulatory word, on a subject wh.
I had seemed indifferent to, for so long a time.

In truth, we felt as much interest as you
could have desired & have rejoiced with you in
the possession of your treasure. To my sister Floy I
wish to give a brother's love, & a kind welcome to a fam-
ily circle, which I trust will become increasingly
dear to her as the years roll by, & she becomes
better acquainted with its members, & in turn
may I not hope to receive a sister's love, and
confidence, from her. Don't think me so bad a brother
as my long silence would indicate. Jennie had a
decided advantage over me, in that she has seen you,
and I believe that she & P. T. (I am talking to my sister now
sir) take a kind of malicious pleasure in taunting me with
the fact that when I might have received at least an introduction
I failed of it through "maliciousness," as they termed it.

Had I thought that there was the remotest probability that either
of P. T.'s handsome friends would ever become my sister I should
have needed no urging to induce me to make the acquaintance.
I assure you. Well I must put up with the misfortune as best.