

Rough & Ready Feb 10 / 53

My sweet & Lovely Wife

I received your Letter this Day
Dated Dec the 18th & I was very much pleased
to hear from you as you & them Babes is
all the happiness I have in the world &
it is a great pleasure to me to think of you
so you can easily imagine how much pleasure
it affords me to hear from you Especially if
it is a Letter written by your own hands -
This my sweet wife & angel is my store
of Pleasure hear while others amuse them
selves by going to the Brothel or the gambling
House & hear amuse themselves by sporting
with the detestable creatures hear that profane
the lovely name of woman by their action &
others gambel away the money that rightfully
belongs to their wives & children & thus amuse
themselves I take my amusement by sitting
at my Cabin & musing over the pleasant hours
we have spent in each others company of the
joy I have had in listening to the silvery tone
of your lovely voice or the artless tales of them
Precious Babies O how sweet to me is the
memory of their loves & their things it
is a pleasure to sacred a joy to holy to enter
the minds of these men that forget their wives

and children as soon as they are out of their
site but my sweet angel you shall never be
forgotten by me as long as the ^{Lord} spares me my life &
grants me the use of my reason you will see that
I do not say this in the way of boasting as this is
a confidential & will not be seen by any person
but your self so I can say what I please without
it being laughed at as I know you two will to
have every scruple about your apprehending what
I say so my charming wife pray God that I may
always be able to live in virtue sweet & flowery
path so that no one can cast up to you or our
children every thing that your husband or
their Father has done in California that would be
calculated to make their young hearts ache or bring
the blush to your sweet cheek O Mary my sweet
wife my Garding angel how I miss you out hear how
dull and Lonsome every thing is without ^{you} if I had
not you I should not want to live but thank
God I have you & you are all my own Body & Soul
I claim it all & I thank God that you possess my
hole affections you are my divinity the mistress
of my heart the ruler of my every action my life
is yours my heart is yours my body is yours
and while you live & remain true to me there is
nothing that can discourage me what if I should
not make much in this country what if I have not
much of this worlds Goods while I have your Love
I am richer then Caesar ere he never was loved

as you Love me or at Least I think so
for if he was & knew it Cleopatra with all
her Beauty & Loveliness could not have seduced
him & caused him to leave the path of virtue as
he did but Perhaps he did not Love Fulvia as well
as I do you this I suppose would make a great difference
But none of this for if I say much more you
may get tired reading it so I will proceed with
my business matters I am not doing as well at
Present as I could wish but thank god I am
doing middling & what I am making is mainly mistery
and that is saying something in this country as
there is so much villainy going on here that to be
honest is something I tell you but I thank god
that the evil influence of this country has
not altered me in every way so you can rest
contented on this account as to my coming home
without money that I cant think for then we would
be in a wretched condition then before I started but I
thank you my sweet soul for the assurance you
gave me that it wasn't money it was me you loved
But if I should not succeed after staying 3 years
& I live I will come & remain with you & enjoy
your sweet company the rest of my life so
I must close bidding you adieu for the present
& requesting you to take good care of your self &
our Precious little ones asking the favour of
of you to take care of my letters so I remain
your Loving Husband John Reardon

Rough and Ready
February 10, 1853

My Sweet and Lovely Wife,

I received your letter this day dated December the 18th and was very much pleased to hear from you as you and them babies is all the happiness I have in the world and it is a great pleasure to me to think of you so you can easily imagine how much pleasure it affords me to hear from especially if it is a letter written by your own hands. This my sweet wife and angel is my store of pleasure here while others amuse themselves by going to the brothels or the gambling house and amusing themselves with the detestable creatures that have profaned the lovely name of woman by their actions and others gamble away the money that rightfully belongs to their wives and children and thus amuse themselves. I take my amusement by sitting at my cabin and musing over the pleasant hours we have spent in each others companion or the joy I have had listening to the silvery tone of your lovely voice the _____ tales of them precious babies. _____ to me is the memories these _____ in these things is a pleasure to _____ a joy to holy to enter the minds of these _____ that forget their wives and children as soon as they are out of their sight. But my sweet angel, you shall never be forgotten by me as long as the Lord spares me my life and grants me the use of my reason. You will see that I do not say this in the way of boasting as there is a confidential, I will not be seen by any person but yourself so I can say what I please without it being laughed at as I know you too well to have any scruples about you appreciating what I have to say to my charming wife. Pray for that I may always be able to live in virtue, sweet and flowery so that no one can cast up to you or our children anything that your husband or their father has done in California that would be calculated to make their young hearts ache or bring a blush to your sweet cheek. I will marry my sweet wife, my guarding angel, how I miss you out here. How dull and lonesome everything is without you. If I had not you, I should not want to live, but thank God for I have you and you are all my own, body and soul. I claim it all and I thank God that you possess my whole affections and you are my divinity, the _____ of my heart, the ruler of my every action, my life is yours, my heart is yours, my body is yours while you live and remain true to me there is nothing that can discourage me. What if I should not make much in this country, what if I haven't much of this world's goods? While I have your love, I am richer than Caesar for he never was loved as you love me or at least I think so. For if he was and knew it, Cleopatra with all of her beauty and loveliness could not have seduced him and caused him to leave the path of virtue as he did. Perhaps he did not love Hulina as well as I do you. This I suppose would make a great difference. But, no more of this for if I say much more you may get tired of reading it so I will proceed with my business matters. I am not doing as well at present as I could wish but thank you, I am doing meddling and what I am making is now mostly and that is saying something in this country as there is so much villainy going on here that to be honest is something I tell you. But I thank you that the evil influences in this country has not altered me in every way so you can rest content on this account as to my _____ without money that I can't think of as then we would be in a worse condition than before I got started. But I thank you my sweet jewel for the assurance you gave me that it was not money, it was me you loved. But if I should not succeed after staying three years and I live, I will come and remain with you and enjoy your sweet company for the rest of my life. So I must close bidding you adieu for the present and requesting you to take good care of yourself and our precious little _____ asking the favor of you to take care _____ letter. So I remain your loving husband, John Reardon.

No 19

Tough & Ready Marchth 11/93

My Precious & Loving Wife

I avail myself of the Present opportunity to inform you that I am Well at Present & I do sincerely hope that these few lines may find you & Children in the enjoyment of the same unintermittent Blessing

As the Mail Steamer was back on the Coast some Eight hundred Miles below San Francisco and another Steamer had to go down after the Passengers and Mail it has been delayed so as it will not reach here till tomorrow then it would be too late to write so as to get it off in this Mail but if I receive a Letter from you I will write a few lines in acknowledgment of it but if not I will let this suffice I have received 11 Letters from you & one from your Brother James this you will perceive is my nineteenth & if I & you live you shall have one every Mail so if you should cease to love me I will not let you forget me don't undertake me that I think you don't Love me for I think you do with your whole heart so if you don't you see I am mistaking

I am Waiting Eagerly to hear from you as I do sincerely hope it will bring me the intelligence that you have received a draft I sent you in — Remember that if I do get a Letter & it does not bring me that news I will send no more in next mail.

now my ~~Wife~~ Wife I beleave I told you
That I had bought an interest in some Claims
fore which I paid \$400 dollars down & I now think
of buying & shears more I am not surten that I
will by them tho I think I will the Claims I
bought paid me 60 dollars last week & forley work
5 1/2 days this was not as much as it generley Pays as
we was onley working one sluice we generley work
4 this takes 6 hands or 3 to each sluice theas we
pay from 3 to 5 dollars per day you will perceive that
this sixly dollars was my share after the Expenses
was paid we have to pay 5 dollars a day fore each
sluice head of water I suppose you will be curious
to know what a sluice is like just take 3 boards
nail them together like a trough & you will have
one joint of a sluice we put from 45 to 20 of theas
together & as the boards is sawed fore the Purpose
big at one end & litlel at the other so as the fit
we put them together & then let the water run
through them then it will wash the dirt as
fast as 3 men can dig & shovel it in I calculate
send you the likeness of our diggers as soon as I can
this in connection with this letter will give you
a pretty good ide of the Prosses of Washing Gold as good
as you can have unless I bring you till this
yellow sand & I donot think of doing that at
Present but if I should get in that region do
you think you could make up your mind to leave
your relations to come please let me know

I have rec^d. receive a letter from Mr Long
1 from Hollis & 1 from Father on the 24 of Feb^y
Father informs me that Hollis is coming hear &
he is going to leave his Wife with them Hollis tells
me he thinks of fetching his Family along how
it is I cant say but I suppose they will fix it
to suit themselves

Mr Long informs me if you need any
thing he will furnish you with it & he said he
would call on you in a few days to ascertain wheather
you did or not if you have not received that draft
I know you must need a great money things
he said he had told on you soon after he received
my letter but ~~you had~~ moved to your Father's &
he'd not see you but he would go to see you in a few days

Now my sweete Wife it is Giting Lait & I must
bring my letter to a Close not but I have a hundre
things to say as I never get tired in talking to you
my Darling Wife my Angel & how devotedly I love
you my Precious Jewel my Love Fore you have
always main my arm strong & my Heart gai when
I think of the security of your heart & disintrested
Love you always Manifest toward me the willingness
with the which ^{you} submit to satisfy my every whim & the
cares you always took to make me comfortable &
happy is now a great source of Pleasure to me receive
this as my best Gift I remain your Loving Husband
John Beardon

is Confidential To my
Sweet Wife always Remember
Chear's No Plais Like
Home

Rough and Ready
March 11, 1853

My Dearest and Loving Wife,

I avail myself of the present opportunity to inform you that I am well at present and I sincerely hope that these few lines may find you children in the same _____ bearing. As the mail steamer was _____ on the coast some 800 miles below San Francisco and another steamer has to go down after the passengers, our mail it has been delayed so as it will not reach here until tomorrow then it would be too late to write so as to get it off in this mail. But if I receive a letter from you, I will write a few lines in acknowledgment of it but if not I will let this suffice. I have received 11 letters from you and one from your brother James. This you well perceive is my 19th and if I and you live, you shall have one every mail. So if you cease to love me, I will not let you forget me. Don't understand me that I think you do not love me for I think you do with our whole heart. So if you don't you see I am mistaken. I am waiting patiently to hear from you as I do sincerely hope it will bring me the intelligence that you have received a draft I sent you in _____ the 25th. If I do get a letter and I do not bring _____ that's _____ I will send you _____ in next mail. _____ wife, I believe I told you that I had bought some interest in some claims for _____. I paid \$400 down and now think of buying two shares more. I am not certain that I will buy them though I think I will. The claim I bought _____ the \$60 dollars last week and I only worked 5 1/2 days. This was not a _____ as much as it generally pays as he has only working one _____ so generally work in this takes six hands or three to each _____. These _____ pay from \$3 to \$5 per day. You will perceive that this \$60 was my share after the expenses _____. We have to pay \$5 a day for each _____ here of matter I suppose you will be curious to know what a sluice is like just take three boards, nail them together like a trough and you will have one joint of a sluice. We put fifteen to twenty of them together and as the boards is secured for the purpose being at one and fitted at the other so as the fit _____ put them together and then let the other through them, then it will wash the dirt as fast as three men can dig and shovel it in. I calculate since you the likeness of our diggers as soon as I can. This in connection with this letter will give you a pretty good idea of the process of washing gold as good as you can have _____. I bring you to this yellow lane and I do not think is doing that is present. But if I should get in that _____ you think you could make up your mind to leave your _____ to come, please let me know, I have or did receive a letter from Mr. Long. One from Hollis and one from Father in the 24th of July. Father informed me that Hollis is coming here and is going to leave his wife with them. Hollis tells me he thinks of fetching his family along how it is I can't say but I suppose he will fix it to suit themselves. Mr. Long informs me that if you need anything he will furnish you with it and he said he would call on you in a few days and ascertain whether you did or not if you have not received that draft. I know you much need a great many things. He said he had called on you soon after he had received my letter, but you had moved to your father's and he did not see you but he would go to see you in a few days. Now my sweet wife, it is getting late and I must bring my letter to a close but I have 100 things more to say, I never get tired of talking to you my darling wife, my angel and how devoutly I love you. My precious jewel my love for you has always made me arms strong and my heart gay. When I think of the purity of your heart and disinterested love you always manifested towards me, the willingness with you submitted to gratify my every whim and the promise you always _____ to make me comfortable and happy is now a great source of pleasure to me. I receive this as my best gift. I remain your loving husband. John Reardon

Rough & Ready March 12th 53

My Sweet & Loving Wife

I received your letter of January
the 15 & one of the 25 of the same Month &
one From Amelia I am happy to inform you
that these brot a great deal of Comfort to Me as
I was uneasy about you on account of that
Money & More so on account of your head as you
informed me you had a very severe Pain in it
But now it is well now I am contented &
you have received the Money also this will
relieve your pecuniary circumstances

With Regard to the Way you got that Cash
changed I am satisfied with your way of doing
Bisness as to leaving your Father I would
rather you remain there till I come home
and your father & I will not quarrel about
our business you must excuse this short note
as I have not time to write more by Mail I
will answer yours & Amelias both I thank her for
her quick answer & you for your sweet slip & the
sack of hair it is very pretty I prize it highly
I received a letter from S M Glavin 1 From Hobbs
1 From B Heger all this Mail no more at Present
But remain your Loving husband
John Reardon

Let the Postage Cost What it May
I wish you to Write as usual I Will
stand the Cost My Heart is Well at
Present

Rough and Ready
March 12, 1853

My Sweet and Loving Wife,

I received your letter of January 15th and one of the 25 of the same month and one from Amelia and I am happy to inform you that these brought a great deal of comfort to me as I was uneasy about you on account of that money and more so on account of your head as you informed me you have a very severe pain in it. But now it is well. Now I am contented and I am contented you have received the money. Also this will relieve your _____ circumstances. With regard to the one day you got that check changer, I am satisfied with your way of doing business as to leaving your father's, I would rather you remain there until I come home and your father and I will not _____ about our business. You must excuse this short note as I have not time to write more _____ mail. I will answer yours and Amelia both, I _____ is for his quick answer and you for your sweet _____. The lock of hair is very pretty and I prize it highly. I received a letter from _____, one from Hollis, one from _____. All this mail no more present but remain your loving husband, John Reardon

On verso on this letter: Let the postage cost what it may, I wish you to write as usual. I will stand the cost my health is well at present.

My Dear & Loving Wife
I received your note yesterday

I had written on the 28 of March but on account of a very heavy flood the stages could not reach here till the first

I was sorry that you had not received my letter of the 25 of December before you wrote but I feel satisfied that it reached you on or about the fifteenth

as to my going to Australia you can rest contented as I have no notion of going at all but if I had I wouldn't go without your consent

I will send you a paper inclosed in which the trial of one man killing another I fear except it for the

sake of your Loving Husband
Which is yours only Till Death

Take good care of my Boys & my Daughter Ruth

John Deardon
Yours in Love

Q. 11

10/20/20

Mrs. M. A. Pearson
Shipperville
Clarion Co
Pa.

Rough and Ready
April 2, 1853

My Sweet and Loving Wife,

I received your note yesterday, I had written on the 28th of March but on account of a heavy flood the stages could not reach here until the 1st. I was _____ that you had not received my letter of the 25th of December before you wrote but I feel satisfied that it reached you on or about the 15th. As to my going to _____ you can rest content as I have no notion to going at all, but if I had I wouldn't go without your consent. I will send you a paper enclosed in which the trial of one man killing another. Please inspect it for the sake of your loving husband which is yours only until death. Take good care of my boys and my daughter, Ruth. John Reardon, yours in love.

Rough & Ready May 1 / 53
My Loving Wife

as there is a Mail Running from
here to the States every ~~two~~ Weeks I avail
myself of this opportunity to let you know that
I am Well at this time & do sincerely hope
this may find you & them Precious Babys of ours
enjoying same blessing

The Weather is fine here at
Present tho the last Week we have had some ^{Rain}
but it is clear now & is thought wont Rain any
more this Summer & I hope you may be benifit
and comfort that the propsey is true as Rain is
very much against me in that Revue claim
that I sought

Last Week we drained our claim &
think of going to work in it in the morning
if the Lord is willing

how Well it may say is to be
seen yet but I think from the present looks
of things that the prospects is flattering

as you will find adlip With in I will say no more

Peter Flyshill is Well John H Long is here
and doing Well the rest of the Boys is Where
the War When I goot last none but remain
your Loving Husband John Reardon
May God keepe you & Children from all harm

Rough and Ready
May 1, 1853

My Loving Wife,

As there is a mail coming from here to the states every two weeks, I avail myself this opportunity to let you know that I am well at this time and do sincerely hope that this may find you and them precious babies of ours enjoying some blessing. The weather is fine here at present although last week we have had some rain but it is clear now and it is thought it won't rain anymore this summer and I hope for my own benefit and comfort that the prophecy is true and rain is very much against me in that _____ that I bought. Last week we drained our claim and think of going to work in it in the morning in the morning if the Lord is willing. How well it may lay is to be ____ yet but I think for the present it looks of things that the prospect is flattering as you will find ____ and ____ say no more. Peter Hyshill is well, John H Long is here and doing well , the rest of the boys is where the _____ when I wrote last _____ but remaining your loving husband, John Reardon. May God keep you and children from all harm.

To My

Rough & Ready Mayth 22 / 53

My Sweet & Much Loved Wife
as in my last I had not the time to write
you a Confidential I avail myself of this
Sabbath as it is the only spare time I have
and as you are the Wife of my bosom & the only
Being that I ever loved with my whole heart &
who still retains my entire affections I thought
it best to amuse myself by writing to you.

I have a great many things in
my mind to say to you but for fear of your thinking
it flattery I will forbear for the present so you
can say for yourself but sweet Mary true Love
Heaven detests flattery for the heart is to fall
of honest devotions & sentiments to descend to untrue
or insincere ones Besides in flattery there is open deceit &
my Loving Wife I have never said every thing to
you But what was the promptings of an honest heart
And if the Great God of the universe permits me to
retain my senses I never will so if at any time
you should think me insincere or using
flattery please forgive it on account of this
Declaration & Believe me my Charming Wife
ever true & faithful to you for as the medal is to
the pole so is my Heart true to you & never
for one minute has my mind wandered from
you in pursuit of any other pleasure.

My darling ^{wife} tho far away my thoughts
revolt to thee
thou art my steady beacon light across lifes solemn sea
tho high the waves that intervene tho dark the
clouds above

I turn to thee my cheering beam in confidence & love
No 2

I know not if this heart so fond so faithful would
Not Break

thus pained by absences more it not console for ^{sake} they
I know not if thine weary watching tearful eyes of mine
Would not be dim but for the smile reflected back by thine
No 3

I think I treasure of my heart of all thy winning ways
I think of thy devoted love above thy husbands praise
of all that thou hast been to me my happiness & pride
since at Gods altar thou didst stand serenely by my side
No 4

I think I bitter thought how small has bin thy ^{Return} ^{loves}
How few the deeds that I have done so dear a price to earn
But as a sailor cast upon a lone tempestuous sea
Repentant turn to heaven & pray so turn my soul to thee
Grant Grant him heaven that I once more may hear ^{his} ^{birds} gently
and the sweet voices of our boys my prattling little birds
and then if sorrows comes ill kiss the hand that

Wields the Rod
& from afflictions deep exclaim my Will be done
Great God

Except this little time my Sweet Wife

My Loving Wife since I last wrote I have
not main every thing more then boarding & have
bin at considerable expence as the rain has in the
last two weeks filled my drain three times which
has cost me a bout 3 hundred dollars to clean it
out but I think the rain is over now but I
thought after every shower but it is sitting so fast
in the season that I think it hasnt rain much
more at present I think so

My Loving Mary it is now over one year since I
left home one long year since last I saw you one
year since last I kissed them rubies lips of yours
O my Sweet Girl how long the time has bin
if the next year was long I am a fool that I
will hardly stand it but for your sake & the
sake of our children I will try

I will keep this letter till the mail
comes in that is if it comes in time for me
to send this out on the first of the
month and I will send a letter with this
give my love to my boys

and thine my Ruth my darling Girl so sweet
as she is boy could I once more behold his fair
how great would be my joy
& my Maryann our youngest child whose smile we
Heaven seen but take my love my Loving Wife
I love her all the same

I Dont Wish to Complain fore I know
That you will Gratify me as soon as Can
But I am Waiting stil fore that Likenup
I Give my respects to the friends
Especially to your Mother & Mother Hyskille
his son is Well John H. Long is Well
the rest of the Clarkson Boys is Well as
fare as I know Galt Gable had two of
his Brothers come out here the Looker
very much Like him

Stil Continue to Write
as frequent as you pleas nomore at
Present But Remain your
affectionate Husband till Death

Mary Ann Reardon } John Reardon
Do Farewell

Rough and Ready
May 22, 1852

My Sweet and Much Loved Wife,

As in my last, I had not the time to write you a confidential, I avail myself of this Sabbath as it is the only leisure time that I have and as you are the wife of my bosom and the only being that I ever loved with my whole heart and who still retains my entire affections, I thought it best to busy myself by writing to you. I have a great many things to say to you but for fear you thinking it flattery I will _____ for the present so you can judge for yourself. But sweet Mary, true love, never _____ to flattery for the heart is to fall if honest devotions and sentiments to descend to untrue or insincere error. Beside in flattery there's open deceit and my loving wife I have never said anything to you but was the prompting of an earnest heart. For if the great Lord of the universe permits me to retain my senses I never will, so if at anytime you think me insincere or using flattery, please forgive it on account of this declaration and believe me my charming wife ever true and faithful to you for as the metal is to the pole, so is my heart true to you and never for one minute has my mind wandered from you in pursuit of any other pleasure. My darling wife, though far away, my thoughts are _____ to thee. Thou art my steady beacon life across life's solemn sea thou _____ the waves that intervene _____ dark the clouds above I turn to my cheering _____ in confidence and love. I know not if this heart so fateful would not break. _____ by the absence _____ it not consoles for thy sake. I know not if these weary watching tearful eyes of mine would not be dim if not for the smile reflected back by thine. I think I treasure of my heart of all the winning ways I think of thy devoted love above thy husband's praise of all that has been to see my happiness and pride since at God's alter thou did stand serenely by my side. I think I better _____ how small has been thy love returned. A few of the deeds I have done so dear in praise to earn but as a sailor cast upon a lone tempestuous sea, repentance turns to heaven in praise _____ turns my soul to thee. Grant him heaven that I once more may hear her gentle words and the sweet voice _____ my _____ little _____. And then if sorrow comes ill _____ the harm that you'll the _____ and from afflictions deep exclaim they will be _____ for _____ this little rhyme my sweet wife.

My loving wife since I last wrote I have not _____ anything more than boarding and have at considerable expense as the rain has in the last two months filled my drain three times while it cost me about \$300 to clean it out. But I think the rain is clear now but I thought after every shower but it is getting so late in the season I think it can't rain much more at _____ I think. Loving Mary, it is now over one long year since I last saw you, one year since last I kissed them _____ lips of yours. Oh, my sweet girl how long the time has been _____ as long as I am a _____ that I will hardly stand it. But for your sake and the sake of the children, I will try. I will keep this letter till the mail comes in that _____ if it comes in time for me to send this out on the first of the month and I will send a letter with this. Give my love to my boys and to Ruth my darling girl so lovely as she is coy. Could I once more behold her _____ how great would be my joy. And my Mary Ann, our youngest child whose smile we haven't seen but take my _____. My loving wife, I love her all the same. I don't wish to complain for I know you will gratify me as soon as I can, but I am waiting still for that likeness. Give my respects to the friends, especially to your mother and Martha Hyskill. His son is well, John H. Long is well, the rest of the Clarin boys is well as far as I know. Cable has two of his brothers come out over here, they look very much like him. Still continue to write as frequent as you please. No more at present but remain your affectionate husband until death. John Reardon

No 25

Rough & Ready June 23 1853
My Sweet & Loving Wife

I avail myself of this opportunity
To adree you a few lines to let you know that
I am well at present & hope in god that this may
find you & children enjoying the same blessing
Sens I last wrote there has but littel
of intrest taking place here so I shall have but
littel of importance to write & as it is night I shall
make this short please dont expose it to eney person
as it consins no body but ourselves & I should not
have written at present but fore sending you a
draft of one hundred dollars on Adams & Co. fore I
knew you must stand in need of some money please
excuse me fore not sending you more & I will try to
make the time shorter between this and the next
but as you are aware that I have been at considerable
Expens lately that I send it as soon as I can
be careful of your money fore it is uncertain what
might happen me & if eney thing should befall me
so as to lay me up fore a while you might suffer
and the bare ide of that woud kill me fore your
enjoyment is my life if eather of us must want fore
heavens sake let it be me now I know my sweet
wife that you will find fault with this last
Remark fore true to your loving nature you woud say
if eather of us has to want fore eney thing let it be
myself but Mary my darling girl your happiness
is my very existence my soul is with you

So if at every time you should think for a moment
that I have slighted you here in mind that it is not
my fault for I would as soon lose my good right hand
as to wound your feelings but enough of this for the
Present as I have not time to say more

I am doing middling well at present
as I have my claim secure from an overflow as I had
the pleasure to see on Sabath Evening last as we had a very
heavy Rain here then tho it don't do no damage it injured
almost every person on the Ravine some that it will cost
five hundred dollars to get in Repair again some of
Theas fellows Suffer at the fore going to do much expense
to prevent being overflow when it as the said had quit
Raining for this summer & forever for what the knew
Now the say that I am a profit

The weather is very pleasant here now
and I think our dry season has fairly commenced the
Miners is very busy here both in the Ravens & dry
diggings in the Creek & Rivers there is too much water
but the claim holders is busy rather ditching or
preparing Lumber for plumes so as to be able to commence
working as soon as the streams gets down low enough for
them.

You may tell Burton that I am very thankful
tho him for that Letter he sent me tho it was
badly written I think I could understand him pretty
well as it must have been his young inebriant heart
bursting forth in Love to me he can't Love me any better
Then I do him this much you know & I Love the best
fool as well as him all my Children is the same to me
but there Mother is as much more loved as you can think

The Clarion Boys is all Well as far as I
know I must close as I hear the Boys holding
fire. Me to come to Warke

You will perceive that I did not
finish this last night & it is noon now

or far Well for the present
I remain your affectionate Husband till death

M. J. Reardon

John Reardon

Give my respects to the friends
and my love to my Rabies

[Faint, illegible handwriting in cursive script, likely a historical document or letter. The text is written on aged, stained paper with visible fold lines.]

#25

Rough and Ready
June 3, 1853

My Sweet and Loving Wife,

I avail myself of this opportunity to address you a few lines to let you know that I am well at present and hope in God that this may find you and children enjoying the same blessing. Since I last wrote there has been of little interest taking place here. So, I shall have but have but little of importance to write and as it is night, I shall make this short. Please don't expose it to any person as it concerns anybody but ourselves and I should not have _____ at present but for sending you a draft of \$100 on Adams and Company. For I _____ you must _____ in need of some money, please excuse me for not sending you more and I will try to make the time shorter between this and the next but as you are aware that I have _____ at considerable expense lately that I send it as soon as I can. Be careful of your money for it is _____ what might happen me and if anything should befall me so as to lay me up for a while you might suffer in the bare _____ that would kill me for your enjoyment is my life. If either of us must want for heaven sake, let it be me. Now I know my sweet wife that you will find full with this last remark, for true to your loving nature, you would say it either of us has to want for anything let it be myself. But Mary, my darling girl, your happiness is my very existence. My soul is with you. Anytime you should think for a moment that I have slight you, bear in mind that it is not my fault for I would as soon as loose my good right hand as to _____ your feelings. But enough of this for the present as I have not time to say more. I'm doing meddling well at present as I have my claim secure from _____ as I have the pleasure to see on Sabbath evening last as we have a very heavy rain _____ though it don't _____ damage it injured almost every person in the ravine since it will cost \$500 to get in repair again. Some of these fellows laugh at me for going through so much expense to prevent being over _____ when it as the rain has quit raining this summer and forever and for what they know, now they say that I am a prophet. The weather is very pleasant here now and I think our dry season has fairly commenced. The miners is very busy here both in the ravines and dry diggers in the creek and rivers. There is so much water but the claim holders is busy _____ either ditching or repairing lumber for plumes so as to be able to commence working as soon as the stream gets down low enough for them. You may tell Burton that I am very thankful to him for that letter he sent me, though it was badly written. I think I could understand him pretty well as it must have been his young innocent heart beaming forth in love to me, he can't love me any better than I do him. This much you know and I love the rest _____ as well as him. All my children is the same to me but their mother is so much more love as you can think. Dream boys is all well as far as I know. I must close up, I hear the boys hollering for me to come to _____.

You must perceive that I did not not finish this last night and it is noon now. So far, well for the present. I remain your affectionate husband until death. John Reardon.

Give my respects to the friends and my love to my babies.

No 33

Rough & Ready Sept^r 19 / 53

My Sweet & Adored Wife

Your Letters No 27 & 28 bearing
dates of July the 1st & 2nd I cannot receive till yesterday
On account of my absences from this place but I
was much rejoiced to hear that you was all well
and in pretty good spirits this is always good
news for me

I am also very glad that you have
received that money for I knew you must need it
By that time as a hundred dollars don't go for in
as large a family as ours & I was very afraid you would
need it before you got it & was afraid of hurting my
Feelings by letting me know

Now my Sweet Girl as you speak
of my coming home this fall this I fear I cant do
For as much as I may love to be at home is much as
I love you & my children I shall think in duty to
you & them I should make one great effort to make
you comfortable at least while you all as well as myself
has good health so I think I had better stay here at
least this winter & then be governed by circumstances
for Mary Dear it is a long journey to come here
For nothing tho my Sweet dear I find no fault in you
For persuading me to come home for I know you
must feel very Lonesome indeed without me

Tho my darling Wife I cant say yet what
I may do fore I may do so well yet this fall
that I can come home this winter but Mary dear
make no calculations on it fore fear of being
disappointed & I will still let you know how I am
sitting along & if it is possible to come home this
fall I will certainly do it but if not please dont
feel disappointed

My claims on Scotchmans Creek is
paying, better then I thought tho would as
tho have paid about 12 dollars per day ever
sens I lost Wroat & last Saturday we took as high
as 100 dollars a out to the span of dirt but I dont
think that it will continue as good as that but I
will let you know in my next

I am in very good health at present
and weigh just 400 pounds & am in good spirits
and I sincerely hope this may find yourself &
the children enjoying the same blessing
John H Long is well & doing well your Aunt
Peter left hear as I said before fore put river
Rescued it better from him some time ago he is
on Canyon Creek about fifty six miles from
Chasta & I suppose about 200 miles from hear
I forwarded his letters to him he was well when
he wrote tho he said he had done nothing as yet
but thought he would as soon as the water
came I expect to hear from him again soon

I saw my Loving Wife as you speak of your
tooth you know I always said as soon as you lost
that I would leave you but as I left you before
it was lost it will not keep me from coming
Back for there is my feeling on the subject
Tho thy voice may lose its sweetness & thy eyes
its brilliancy too tho thy step may lose its fleetness
and thy hair its sunny hue still to me wilt
thou be dearer than all this world can give
I have loved thee for thy beauty but not for
that alone I have watched thy heart dear Mary
and its goodness was the white that made thee
mine forever sweet Mary thou art mine
this my charming Wife is my sentiments so
you can judge of my feelings when I speak from
the woman of love so well but Mary dear I feel
that my love is returned for I believe that you
love me as warmly as devotedly as I do you this is
why I am content for to know that one is
loved is pleasant but to be loved by those we
love is happiness indeed

I will inclose within this
a Gold half & Quarter piece except it for my
sake I am very thankful that the things I
sent has reached you as far as I know but there is
several things on the road one gold dollar & 2 quarters
2 specimens & half dollars piece Let me
know whether these has reached you or not

Give my respects to all the friends
and my love to my children tell them
that I am well and glad that I have
such good boys & works so well tell Ruth
I love her to ship at B.R. & my Maryann &
charge it to me & when I come home I will
pay you with interest

Tell of Amedea I thank him for
writing to me

Some at present but remain

Your affectionate & Loving Husband

So Farewell my Loving
Wife & the present

Maryann Reardon
my own Wife

John Reardon
Your Husband

I leave here tomorrow morning for
Scotchman Creek

Rough and Ready
September 19 1853

My Sweet and Adoring Wife,

Your letters number 27 and 28 having dates of July 17th and 20th was not received until yesterday on account of my absence from this place but I was much rejoiced to hear that you was all well and in pretty good spirits. This is always good news for me. I am also very glad that you had received that money for I knew you must need it. By the time as a \$100 don't go far in as larger as ours and I was very afraid that you would need it before you got it and was afraid of hurting my feelings by letting me know. Now my sweet girl as you speak of my coming home, this fall, this I fear I can't do. For as much as I may love to be at home and as much as I love you and my children, I shall think in duty to you and them I should make one great effort to make you comfortable at least all as well as myself has good health. So, I think I had better stay here. I _____ this winter and then be governed by _____ for Mary dear, it is a long journey to come here for nothing. Though my sweet dear I find on fault in you for persuading me to come home for I know you must feel lonesome indeed without me. Though my darling wife I can't say yet what I may do so well yet this fall that I can come home this winter. But Mary dear make no calculations on it for fear of being disappointed, for I will still let you know how I am getting along and if it is possible to come home this fall I will certainly do it. But if not, please don't feel disappointed. My claims on Seotshemans Creek is _____ better than I thought and could as that have I think about \$12 per day. Every since I lost _____ and last Saturday, we took as high as \$100 out of the pan of dirt. But, I don't think that it will continue as good as that but I will let you know in my next. I am in very good health at present and weigh just 200 pounds and I am in good spirits and I sincerely hope this may find yourself and the children enjoying the same blessing. John H. Long is well and doing well, your uncle Peter left here as I said before _____ river. I received a letter from him some time ago. He is in Canyon Creek about 56 miles from Chasta, I suppose about 200 miles from here. I forwarded his letters to him, he was well when he wrote though he said he had done nothing as yet but thought he would as soon as the the winter came. I expect to hear from him again soon. Now my loving wife as you speak of your tooth, you know I always said as soon as you lost that, I would leave you but as I left you before it was lost. It will not keep me from coming back for these is my feelings on the subject. Though they voice many _____ its sweetness in _____ brightness to _____ sleep, Mary _____ and they have it's _____ still to me. Thou be dearer than all this _____ can own. I have loved thee for thy beauty but not for that alone. I have watched thy heart dear Mary and it's goodness was the light that made thee mine forever. Sweet Mary, thou art mine this my charming wife is my sentiment so you can judge of my feelings when _____ from the woman I love so well but Mary dear, I feel that my love is returned. For I believe that you love me as warmly and as devotedly as I do you. This is why I am _____ for to know that one is loved is _____. But, to be loved by those we love is happiness indeed. Enclosed within this a good half and quarter _____ for my sake. I am very thankful that the things I send has reached you. As far as I know, but there is several things on the road, one gold dollar, one quarter, two

Lough & Ready Sept. 23 / 58
 My Dear Wife

I avail myself of this opportunity
 To advise you in accordance with my promise to you
 you will perceive that I have made a mistake in the
 claim of the place it is Scotchman Creek in place
 of Lough & Ready

I returned to this place shortly
 after I had written to you & ever since I returned I
 have done very well & think from the present look
 of things I shall make every good thing of it

There is 7 of us in Company & yesterday we
~~had three hundred & fifty seven dollars~~ this day we have
 not done so well tho there we have made 7 hundred
 dollars & haven't got our claims farley spent yet so I
 think when we get our claims open right we can
 do very well at least I would not take one thousand
 Dollars for my interest here but I may be very
 silly in my views of matters but I think of seeing the
 end of them & we have plenty of ground to keep us
 working for several months & then have ground
 enough to sell for as much as it would bring now
 or at least I think so here we have not to pay for
 the water & this is quite saving

Dear my sweet Girl we have to bake
 Our own bread as there is no bakers here

Now my dear & loving wife you may think
that I am very cold & formal but please excuse me
for all my partners or all talking about me &
to me on all subject & just now my bed fellow is
giving me fits for not coming to bed

This may never reach you as I must send
it through a little mail that runs from this
place to Nevada once a week

in one week from now I will be
in rough & ready on horse back for the company
and then I will write more freely

I am very well at present & hope
this may find you & children enjoying the same
Blessing of god

Take good care of yourself if ~~possible~~
I can write more as it is getting late
and the boys is making so much noise I can
think of nothing so please excuse me & take
the will for the deed

So farewell for the present
You shall soon hear from me again

Continue to write to rough & ready

I remain your devoted husband

Mary Ann Beardon

John Beardon