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Cough Ready Jan. 11. 1854

Dear Mary
I sit down to write you
a few lines under rather embarrassing feelings
this is on account of the drianep of the weather
for this fall it has not rained enough to make
the dry diggans & has ~~not~~ rained so as to
rais the rivers so the miners had to
quit working there so that money is as
scarce here as it ever was in Glaucon but
thank god it has commenst raining this
evening & if it continues a few days money
will be plenty enough but for now
It is a lark what I arhoe you

Now my self Mary
My darling wife I have be it I will
to say as there is no exchangers taking
Plais Bains I lost great so I cant say
very much about thing in ginerat but
My angel wife I have not lost my
Affections or Love for you & I can say
something about your goodness of disposi
and kindness of heart & my love for you
of I have speaking so after perhaps
you have become tired of hearing it but
Mary dear I am not tired of thinking

of your goodness. for it is the beam
of a heart it employs my waking
hours & fills up my dreams with
pleasure & what happiness it is to
have some one to love that we think
yes know that that love us in return
and this is my joy for I ever know
you love me with all your woman's
heart & this always casts a sun shine
over my darkest hours.

O Mary. Love how home
sick I am this evening & if it lasts
till Spring you will see me at home
sure but enough of this

as the windmill Scott
was lost on his down ward trip we
have had no mail more don't expect any
till the twentieth & this long sail
is the reason of my homesickness &
he says if there's any more sterns
lost he will leave her or till
I can hear from home for that
I am two hours for every person
with when I can't hear from
you very much & if any thing
would happen that I could not hear
from home for a few weeks after

I expected to know what would become
of me if anything would happen you
the same he can't know but he
surely would be a mad man altogether
I don't know but he is write
it now my darling wife you
will please excuse me for not writing
you a long letter but as I said before
I have nothing new to say so please
pardon me for the love I have of you
Give my love to the children
till then that I think the winter
have to stay a nother winter without
me & Give my respects to the
friends in general I will add no
more at present but believe
me your true & loving husband till
Death
Mary & Reardon John Reardon

P.S. You will discover that
one page of this was is written upside
down please excuse it my dear

Rough & Ready Jan 25 1854
My Darling Wife

Your very interesting letter of Dec^r 5th was received yesterday & I must say I was truly glad to hear that yourself & the children was well & my darling how pleasant it is to hear that the loved ones is well & in good spirits

My precious wife I am well at present that is in Body & mind but my legs I must confess has not got altogether well yet but they are much better & I think if I stay out of the water they will in a few weeks be entirely well & my dear how painful it is to me to tell you about every thing — Being the matter with me for I know it gives you pain of mind but my love for you compels me to inform you of all my sorrow as well as happiness this I think my duty as a husband I still am very fleshy as I weigh over two hundred pounds & feel as strong as a Grisley bear but thank God I don't feel half as gross

The weather has bin very cold here for the last two weeks & snow about one & a half foot deep but now its gone

and there is a prospect of good times
tho as I said before money is scarce at
present but if the weather remains pleasant
it will not be long so the miners in a general
way have not made their boarding this winter
up till this time but now that is within
a few days tho feel quite encouraged with the
prospect of things & tho now will make money
as all the winter was winter & good weather
& for a few days tho have had both so tho
are contented & working briskly as yet
tho tho have cleared nothing being indebted
for their boarding

My Gracious Wife as yet
this winter I have made no more than
clear my expenses but if the weather
continues pleasant I will soon clear
something pretty handsome for in the
fall I laid in my stock of provision
~~full~~ now then will do us till spring
so I will be at no expense for any
thing but my hired help which is
about one hundred & fifty per month
and I am out of debt & my property is
worth about four thousand dollars besides
my stock & cow which is quite valuable
as the cow is worth one hundred & fifty
dollars alone besides several hogs

Long is still with me tho
he ~~is~~ ^{is} talking of going south
in the spring & I think it is a good idea
as the Minister of the United States has bought
all of New Mexico & Sanliffe & Bombers of
the Californians is going there is quite a number
of the citizens of this place going there
in order to get farms as it is one of the best
farming countries in the world & I think
some of locating a farm there myself &
fetching my darling my angel wife out
to the Eureka State please tell me in
your next whether you would be satisfied
for me to go there if by so doing you
would get coming out there & spending your
remaining days with me on the frontier
and of indulging your children & having
right born down on you when you could
see them in affluence & circumstances
No more of this at present you can consult your
own feelings on the subject & I will be governed
by your decision as it is your happiness I desire
so please let me have your mind in full

My sweet Mary you speak of desiring to
be with me it would be the joy of my heart
to have you pillow your head upon my breast &
there to feel & know that the heart that beat
within had never disowned you in thought or act

and this my darling wife thank god
you could do with safety fore alltho
I have from necessity bin compelled
to be fore away from you I always
tried to act as tho you was by my
side seeing my every act & in fact you
was always with me fore I can see
you at all times if I am sick or
feaverish when I am asleep there is
my angel wife fanning my feaverish head
or giving me water when my legs pained
me very much you was in all my
dreams working fore my comfort or
with your angel sweetness & holy
smiles incouraging me to be pacious
I can say truly you are my guarding
angel that watches over me fore my
good O that my sheet was larger
but I must close fore want of
room give my love to my children
thearis six of them & thank god I
claim them all

No more but Remain your
Affectionate & Loving Husband till death
Mary Ann Reardon John Reardon

Lost Camp June, 23. 1854
My Darling Wife

I embrace the opportunity
of writing you a few lines to inform you
that I am well at present & hope these
few lines may find you & children enjoying
the same blessing of God

as I informed you in my last
That was bringing in a water ditch to supply
us in in water for mining purposes we
will have it in in four or five days at
farther then we will begin to mine which
we intend to carry to a considerable
extent we think of employing some 15 or 20
men which we think will pay from 10 to 12
dollars per day to the hand if this turns
out as well as I expect I will be well
satisfied with my situation this I say
from the look of things and the prospects I
have got & if it pays as well as it prospects
it is the best place I have seen in the
country & this is the opinion of all the
men that has seen it.

Six or seven weeks ago when we
came here there was not a man here & now
there is more then one hundred men here
all waiting for us to get in the water

When the calculate to comens mining
tha all think of making a pile hear this
Summer & I have no doubt that some of them
will succeed tha are all anxious to get water
but at least one half of them will be
disappointed as there is not more than the
amount of water that is wanted in the
creek that we are bringing it out of this
will be quite a draw back on them & as
as we can sell all the water we have
to spare at one dollar a square inch & there
is not more than of hundred inches in the
creek of this our company will use about
one hundred inches per day the Rest
will be sold unless we find it more profitable
to use it our selves & in that case we in
all probability will bring in another ditch
from another creek about four miles from
hear if we conclude to do this we will
comens as soon as we try the diggins sa
as to be surton that tha are as good as
we expect

in the last few days there is men
coming from every direction some come &
start right back fore their partners
tha say that there is the greatest excitement
about this place all over the country
now is leaving good diggins & coming hear

Now my angel wife I believe I have
given you all the particulars of my business
to hear & that is all I know every thing about
as I have not been one mile from hear since
I came neathear have I heard eny thing from
~~my dear lady~~ ~~my dear~~ I last wrote before some time
before the Conquinnse is I know nothing but
what goes out hear neathear have I heard
from you the last letter I got was written
on the 1st of april & I am farley sick to hear
from you & thear is nothing but the angualy
to get this dictah in that keeps me from
going to Rough & Ready a distance of about
seventy five miles on purpoo to get my letters
as I know thear is quite an ombix thear
fore me at present I am also quite
anxious to know if you have Received
that last money I sent you fore I know
you must neade it & if you havenot Received
it it is time that thear was more on the
Road ff but I feel pretty well batesfide
that it has Reached you as every thing has
that I have sent but if it has not it is
lost fore ever as I lost the back draft with
my over boat in the american River while
crossing it but if I thought you had not
Received it I would not sleep untill thear
was more on the Road nor not much till
I untill I could hear that you had got it

My Darling Mary I haven't
heard any thing of George McPoweel
But in a few days I will go to
Rough & Ready then I will
probably see him
Now my Pretty My Angel
Wife I will have to bring my letter
to delay as it is getting late & I am very
tired this I will send to the Mountain
Springs Post office tomorrow as one of the
men for here is going there for provisions
it is about 35 miles from here
Please continue to write to Rough & Ready
Give my love to the children
Kiss my Burton & my Mary Ann
I Remain your affectionate
and Loving Husband till death

M. A. Reardon / J. Reardon

Iowa Hill Augth 29 1844
My darling Wife.

Yours of June 16th was
Received a few days after I last wrote
in it I knew you was well but the
state of your mind was every thing
but pleasant this I don't wonder
at considering your surroundings
but my sweet wife this was not my
fault as I thought you was well
provided for but as it happened otherwise
I was my loving wife don't think too
hard of your poor husband for my
mind was all summer being much harass'd
about home & if I had not got my eye
hurt you would not of wanted for
every thing for then I calculated to
go to Rough & Ready the next day but
that prevented me from going and as
soon as I have hear I Express after
my letters & got them in a few
days & not till then was I apprised
of your not receiving that draft
then I sent you a draft of one hundred
on Adams & Co New York & until I hear
from that I will be very uneasy

Now my Sweete & Lovely my angel
Wife I will try in my same manner
to give you the state of my health my
Eye is improving very slow tho it does
not pain me any at present but it
is still very weak so much so that I
cant bare the sun to shine in it but
in the morning or evening I can see as
well as before it was hurt my health
otherwise is good as it ever was altho I
am very thin of flesh but am gaining
som now & if nothing happens I will soon
be able to go to work

My darling Wife you spoke
of the children being in high spirits
about my coming home but you said
nothing about the weather you would be
pleased or not yourself but I hope you
would be

May my angel my adored Wife
when the moment comes that I can
clasp you & them I tel ones of ours
to my hart in reality as I so often
do in my dreams I will be the happiest
man on Earth but you can judge of my
feelings by your own if your Love has not
changed & I hope free my fears of mind
that it hasnot but you know

Now my Angelik Mary I will not
write much now as my eye
is getting somewhat dimfull so I think
you will excuse me for the present on
that account if you see my Father tell
him of my eye & it will be an apology
for my not writing him also to Rachel
as she have both written several times
but my pretty wife when I cant write
to you the rest must not feel neglected
I thank your mother for
the high opinion she has of your
husband & her son in law but if god spers
my life I think I can get along with
her yet before long I will move on this
subject again.

Give my Love to the
children take as good care of them
& yourself as possible tell William &
Robert that I thank them for
their kind letters & will answer them
soon whenever at present but remain
your affectionate & loving too dear

M. A. Reardon } J. Reardon

Iowa Hill Sep 12th 1854
My Sweet & Sober Wife

I imbrais this opportunity
to adree you a few lines to let you
know that I am well at present
and hope this may find you all enjoying
the Sains blessing of god

it is now some time

Since I last heard from you the
last letter I received bore date of
June the 16 & this is along time to be
without hearing from those we love
but my darling wife I dont blame
you in the least as I have left the
pleis that my letters come to
now my darling my eye
is well & I have bin at work fore
the last week

I have but little
to say as things have changee but I'll
send I last wrote direct your letters
to Iowa City Blacer County Cal
Dear Mary my tenderest wishes
for our litle ones I remain your
affectionate Husband till death
Wm. M. & Reardon. John Reardon

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Road City John Reardon
Placer County
Plains }
direct }
thus } California

Iowa City Oct. 26th 1844

My Darling Wife

I recd your very interesting letter
Sept 11th it was received on the 2^d inst
in which I find you was all well
but in rather bad circumstances on account
of not receiving that money & the drought
destroying all the grain in that section of
country but thank god if you get the
last money I sent you will be able to
get along till I send you more which
will be as soon as I hear that you have
received the last I sent & I think that
will be the 1st Sept mail & if I don't
hear from you then in one month I will
send some way how I have some money
Now on hand altho I have laid out a great
amount in & canvas &c I have heard in
regard to it & paying assessments for running
in Journals to prospect the ground has
cost me quite a sum but my expenses
is about over I think or nearly so and
as soon as water comes in I feel in hopes
of getting paid for my travel & expenses
as the canvas hear is all paid very
well that is all that is open & this
we think incouraging fore us to go ahead

My Sweet Wife I am well at
Present & hope you are all enjoying
the blessing of perfect health

How long I love my angel wife
as you have often spoke of Love to me
and appear to feel afraid of my not being
Pleased with your saying so much about it
I now say there is nothing pleases me more
than to hear you the woman I love
more than my own life say she loves
me for I believe my sweet Mary that
you do love me with all your woman's
heart & as I have said before to be loved by
any good person is quite a source of comfort
but to be loved by those we love so dearly
is happiness indeed & this I know is my first
for I love you with all my soul & I feel
satisfied that you love me above every thing
on earth O Mary my sweet dear how can
I express my love for you I can call you
Sweet dooley my own darling my angel
wife but all this falls short of express^{ing}
my love for you O Mary dear continue
to tell me of your affection it is sweet
to hear any good person say love one day
a father Mother Brother or a sister but to
have such words come from the lips of my
much loved my angel wife is a joy
unspeakable to me so please continue

Urban Peace & George McDowell
is near & will be at the board with
me & soon just Reit

My Pretty Mary give my Love to my
Childrens from I claim them all & love
them next to you tell Mary & that
I am very thankful to her for
her Letter it was not very interesting
but you know that I can appreciate
any thing in the kind

Give my best wishes to your
folks take good care of our babies

I need not tell you to be careful
of your Life as I know you will for
my sake for mine it is the thread of
mine

May heaven protect you in my
constant fear

I Remain your affectionate
Husband until Death
M. A. Gordon John Gordon

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Iowa City Nov 12 1854

My Dear Wife

I Received yours of Sept. 26 this evening & was glad to hear that you was all but William in good health & he was on the move this was incoriging

My Darling Mary I am in good health at present & hope this may find you all well I kneed not tell you to be carefull of William fore your Mothers sort will prompt you to take care of him please dont think me foolish in making this request fore you must bare in mind that I am his father & feel fore his wellfare

I am still at Iowa City & making alittle more then keeps me & my Pelly Mary I am taking good care of my health & caretee so as to Return to you pure as your own - Spatter hart this is saying a great deal of my self but as you know me you will appreciate it as much as you would pounds of gold & I know I think more of your good main then I do of all the wealth of senses & of Rattles

Arthur Meas is hear & fore
the last week has ben some sick
with a healing on his jaw but is better
now he is in good spirits & has some
claim hear

George McPowell is hear
also & is well he is the same old george
he never speaks unless he is speaking
to & then says as little as possible
but Arthur is a greater ear like Mr
Reardon's bell goes fore he is always
talking this much fore California but
tell his mama that he is a good boy

the rest of the Clarion dogs is
well I saw Sam I Dacl & Shits &
young on wednsday

Elais Eneas this short
letter for it is written in an express
office & there is about fifty people
talking all around me

give my love to the
children kiss my mother & my
Mary Ann tell her of my Ruth I have
not hear from her fore so long

I Remain your affectionate
husband till death
Mary Ann Reardon John Reardon

Please Give Me all
the news

Yours truly Dec 10 1854

William my dear son

after an excusable

delay I sent myself for the purpose of
answering your very kind letter you will
I fear excuse me for the delay as I am
very busy & the advantages of writing is
not very great here as if nights & Sundays
there is always somebody about interrupt you
in consequence of this I ask your sympathy so
don't think hard of my apparent neglect for
I still have the warm affections of a father
for you all so please excuse me & continue
to write

I am still in good health
& making all the effort in my power
to come home which I think I will
accomplish in a short time

I would say to you William
be a good boy obey your Mother in all
things as she knows what is best for you
and you know how it would hurt my
feelings when I return to have her
complain of you

Be very kind to your
Brothers & Sisters as good as the oldest
the will look to you for an example

Let them one of kindness be
wonder & above all be honest and
truthful as this is the only way
to acquire true greatness go to school
as much as you can & obey your tutor
as I am writing to Robert
and your mother you will please
me for this short letter

I am at present
but remain your affectionate
Father

Wm. J. Reardon J. Reardon