

Tuttle-town June 8th 1852

Dear Mother

Excuse me for not writing sooner but I was anxious to receive an other letter from home and in fact doing nothing different from what I last wrote have been steady at work but making nothing. Three of us have on a flat dug a ditch about 100 yds long from 4 to 7 ft deep and 20 to 30 ft wide washed all the dirt without more than paying expences will leave here in a few weeks as the water is beginning to get scarce great many persons are leaving for Charlottes Island and Australia as the diggings are reported richer than Old Cal. was in her best days so do not be surprised if I should shoulder my Blankets and leave for Australia. Have several cases of small-pox in Sonora and one on Mormon creek about two miles below here a man committed suicide by shooting himself about two weeks since and an other yesterday by taking landanum both supposed caused by drink.

Two weeks since attended a Bull and Bear fight in Columbia they have a large and comfortable amphitheatre capable of accomadating over 3000 persons the correll or Bull ring in the centre is about 100 ft in diameter boarded up about 8 ft

high the Bear (a cinnamon) was chained to a ring in the centre with 30 or 40 lb rope the Bull turned in entirely loose with his horns sharpened it was rather a poor fight as the Bear had been caged so long he was perfectly tame and the Bull the first dash run his horn full length and carried him some distance before throwing him off when the Bear tried his best to get out of reach of his horns but no use the Bull killed him in about two hours weight of the Bear on hand bills 1100 but I should not think the actual weight ^{and} over 800 lbs the performance concluded with Cock fighting

I think some of the missionaries have arrived safely here from the States as last Sunday about noon a man was riding a Jackass about town ringing an auction bell and crying Oyes Oyes Church at 3 O'clock a large congregation requested but do not know what luck he had as I did not attend

the weather is now very warm impossible to work in the middle of the day we generally quit about eleven and recommence at 3 O'clock I have no news to write my love to you all all

Yours most affec son D
I sent my daguerotype by mail when I last wrote but believe I never mentioned it in my letter you will find me in the most common dress for miners calico under shirt tweed or flannel over shirt blue pants

as I have not had an opportunity of sending this letter will try and fill it the miners are now sadly complaining of poor diggings here and indeed I know of but a very few that are making anything should think that two thirds are not making over three dollars per day and to pay 10 dollars for week for board makes the pay small. I should think the miners now wash four times as much dirt to the man as they did two or even one year since as we use altogether different machines generally now use Toms which are made with three boards the bottom 12 to 16 in wide and sides six to 8 in high with an iron sieve at the lower end where the fine gravel dirt and gold falls into a box and the water carries off the lightest or all except about a pan of dirt which we pan out every evening a sluice is nothing more than a trough 8 or 10 in wide ^{and} about as deep with bars about 1 1/2 in high ^{every ten ft} across to catch the gold some use sluices fifty and a hundred feet long set with about six inches fall to ten ft fifty ft of sluice will keep 3 to 4 men busy pitching in dirt and one to shovel away the small stones from the mouth a tom head of water is about 4 in by one or will run through a hole of that size and takes about twice as much for a sluice at Columbia the water co

Charge 8dols for the first Tom head from the
ditch and 5 for the next and then 3dols for week
always charging less as the water gets thicker
which after being used by 6 or 8 toms will scarce
run at all so you can form an idea how some
of us look towards the last of the week after being
well splashed

Dear Mr. Gilpin I received his letter and
tried to think of something to write to him
about but indeed I know of nothing that
will interest him still my love to you all
Aunt Margaret

Abingland
Harford County
Darlinton

Mrs Rachel Wilson

How are Mary Leggie and all the rest getting
along now is she much better and you and
Linnah - Susan Jane is a fine boy
you will have to come home for
him soon

will write again soon as possible Ruth then
send the names of certain young ladies leaving
him. Francis says don't say has you home
have not been to school for some time as
should of sent you papers
to you yet they would regularly
even miss as I will not read it and

I have nothing particular to say to the girls except that I
wish them all to write Ruth Pollio^m Salie and Jenie why does she
not write sometimes as it would give me much pleasure
now to receive a letter from her am glad that sister R
is again in Balt as it seems so much nearer home and
the children write when they all are as you never mention
but two or three at a time