

Curtisville June 22^d 54

Dear Mother

Intended to write by the mail of the 15th but made a mistake of a week in dates though we have an Almanac chalked on the door. Received Pollie and Sae's letter and indeed was glad to hear you were all well and going on in about the old way did not deserve an answer so soon, though expected it but will try and write more regular in future but indeed Mother know of nothing that would interest you the accidents crimes and change about here would be dull the mining news you would not care about so what have I to write about. I tell you that I am well and doing nothing (tis a song) the mines here are dull great many left for the rivers water is plenty here yet have a ditch from the Tuolumne and pay from six to two dols pr day for it pr sluice head three men to work with. Am in hopes of finding a place soon that will pay on this creek if not will leave for the river in a few weeks and try my luck there though at times believe am doomed to be unfortunate for the rest of my days have the Blues bad at times (mucho malo) Pollie and Sae both seem to be persons of great consequence lately as one has a namasake and the other

the Mother of a beautiful little babe six months old
but do not intend to believe a word of it think
Sae has just hired it for the time as she never
said it was pretty who it looked like what a
good child it was how smart now nothing well
Sae it seems that you are all getting old very fast
a trip to Cal. would do you good put you back
a few years, give little P a kiss for me
we have had delightful cool weather this spring
though its rather cool at nights blankets are
still very comfortable & the country is getting dry
though still green and many flowers still in
bloom when you girls write again please mention
some of my old friends Bill Coale & The H Stump
I Dallam L. Saeaway Dick Hollaway and others
Wm H Stump where is he and what doing his bro
I is still in San Fran Wm Herman is also there
Jim Frazer camps about three miles from me see
him often we intend to come back together
Jim Webster (Capt W son near Bush) is at work about
two miles below on the creek he has done just
about as well as I have
believe the last letters I wrote were from Algeria
have moved my camp here (about a mile)
a sketch of Algeria will give you an idea of
how things are done out here about the first of
April 83 a few holes were sunk on a flat which
paid well coarse gold one piece weighting over five lbs
which created great excitement the miners rushed in

and found a large tract of country scarcely
prospected and but little water though a ditch
nearly finished to the place to be supplied from
the Tuolumne they all concluded that it
was going to pay rich and staked off their claims
and concluded to wait for water which was expected
in a few weeks but did not get in till fall
by which time we had a town of a hundred or
more houses mostly good frames with planned fronts
and neatly finished inside we had Gambling Saloons
Hotels, Boarding-houses, Ball Room, Billiard Rooms, Tenpin Alleys
Barber Shops, Landangoes, Bakeries, Blacksmiths, Carpenters shops
groceries, Jew Shops, Restaurants, Butchers, Livery Stables &c
a stage twice a day from Sonora Jamestown and other
places but in a month after the water got in
the town was going down the miners & merchants
leaving and now the place is almost deserted some
of the houses burnt some torn down and hauled away
but three groceries or miners stores in the place no
places of amusement, lots which in June 1853 were
worth five hundred ^{the same lots} in June 1854 with a house which
cost upwards of fifteen hundred were not worth as much
in the Justice of the peace has left the Constable resigned
the missionary stays away and Algrine is one of the
has been and nothing else Ruth seems to be always
on the move if she should happen to be in one place
long enough to let send me a letter should also like
one from Leticia one when not in the blues but in
her most lively moments Pollie will not ask to
write as am certain of one from her she is the only one

of you all to be really depended upon but Pollio give
me more news about the beaver in your next
my love to you all all write soon & often
your most aff son
Dad

P.S. Where are Peggie & Sara and George & what doing
how is Joe Hains & Dinah getting along and Old Uncle
Jacob is he still alive write about them all See Shields
and Sara's see &c &c

who has the Bull tell me all every thing all
the changes you often forget how long I have been
away will you send me your Loves by the next
mail Mother's certain you cannot imagine how
much I wish for them will close as have now a
chance to send to Sonora will expect an answer
tomorrow from my last
~~Dear~~ Jas D