

French Gulch December 7<sup>th</sup> 1855

C. S. McFarland

Dear Sir

Yours of Oct. 29 is

recd. & all well. I was glad to hear that  
you & your Lady love were enjoying your  
Selves to the best of your abilities. As for  
my part I take things as they come. My  
health is good & I have worked all Summer  
with out a sick day. I have sold my  
Gulch Claim. & I am now engaged with  
4 more Boys digging a ditch on to some  
hill diggings that are located about ~~two~~  
two miles below mine. We have got  
our ditch nearly completed & when  
finished I think we will open some rare  
diggings. our ditch is 2 ft. 6 inches on  
the bottom 3 ft. 6 on top & 18 inches  
deep & will cost about \$25.00. so  
We have got 13 Claims each Claim is 90  
feet front & runs back as far as we can go  
I think we have got a grand show. we  
have got our winters grub. & I think  
that we Bachelors shall enjoy camp life  
any one can. What do you say ch ch

Beef is worth 20 cts per lbs Flour 8 1/2 cts per lbs  
Potatoes the same, Bacon 30 cts Boston refined Syrup  
1.87. per gallon, New Orleans Sugar 25 cts &  
So on &c. You will see it costs some thing  
for us to live up in the Mountains.

I like the miners life much better than I thought  
I should, there is nothing lacking to make  
a miners life the most independent of all  
men. that is if he had some one to cook his  
grub wash his shirt & help to keep the family  
from quarrelling &c. Some times I have a  
fall out with the old man for not having  
my dinner ready when I come in, after a  
few minutes we shift & make up & all goes  
on as if nothing had occurred.

You think that it would do a miners eyes  
good to look at one of the fair sex (But  
to you they are Poor Property) How long is it  
since you felt so

I think it would  
Scare me to look at a pretty Miss,  
however I think I will try it if I should  
lose an eye by the operation. So goes  
the world Some are enjoying life one way  
& some another. every one in their own sphere

When you get out next write to me & let me know  
how you like living there the peculiarities &c.  
I will come out & see you some day & tell you  
how I like it. I think Wis. & Iowa are no

good States & will improve very fast for the  
next 10 years. What is Perry doing out west  
has Leeb got his eye on a gal yet as is he  
waiting for better luck like my self. O  
I have not heard from Frank very lately I  
do not know what he is up to the last I did  
hear from him he was in good health & was doing  
very well. The question has been asked me  
why Frank & my self did not seek to gather &  
I presume you would like to ask the same.

You are well aware every man has an opinion  
of his own & at all times it should not be  
let out ~~at all times~~ if he wishes to keep <sup>on</sup> good  
terms with those that have the privilege of rejecting  
or keeping a man. then a gain in this  
country men look for their own interests first  
if they think their way for making a raise  
is the best they do so. I am on just as good  
good terms with Smith as ever I was.

I will try & scare you out some of those specimens  
you speak of I have got some that are to large  
to send in a letter I have got about  
200 or in specimens buried. I will dig them  
up & see what I can find. The miners  
Safety Bank is in the sand bank across  
in the cabin floor which is made of the  
natural (ground it self.) You will see that  
it is impossible to lose the key as far as I know.  
Truly Yours Wm D. Royce

Dec 9<sup>th</sup>

Dear Sir, Since writing the foregoing we  
have had quite a snow storm & to day I  
have been out a hunting but did not have  
very good luck as the weather was not  
favorable it commenced raining a short  
time after 9 o'clk. I saw several Deer tracks  
& several other signs. Deer is quite  
plenty & I expect I shall give some  
of <sup>them</sup> ~~it~~ are of these days. This is a well  
of a rough country it is up one hill & down  
two & a Mountain on top. The snow fell  
in the valley about 4 inches & I travelled  
up hill to day to where I came to 2 feet of snow  
If you get out next year you can have a trial  
with an old Buck & O'Leary how your  
hair will stand. When I come out next I  
shall fetch one of the guns what is a gun & one  
will have a time of it on those broad  
prairies. I think I shall go to Iowa  
or the west part of Missouri.

Give my respects to all of my friends &  
write soon. Respectfully Yours &

David J. Rogers

{ I have just found a specimen that  
weighs 2.12. It will make a very good  
Breast Pin. when cleaned }

