

California Oct. 2. 1850

Dear Dear Wife

Be not alarmed when I inform you that I am just barely able to reach the shade of a broad spreading oak for the purpose of writing a few lines to you. My last was written at Stockton on the 5th of Sept. and mailed on the same day. I then informed you that I should leave for the mines which I did, and here I now am amongst the Mexicans, Indians, Original Californians Chilians Chinese Japanese Jankins &c. I commenced digging in the mines on the 12th Sep. But with nothing very encouraging, although we found a little gold. I dug with 2 Mississippians and we averaged little over four dollars a day for a few days. after that my luck was a little better & I made the last day I was able to work just \$12.38⁵⁰ a day. I became cheerful & buoyant of hope as I saw the probability of soon having means to reach our dear home and enjoy the thrilling embrace of my dear Wife & Children. But this solace was cut short by my becoming afflicted with so many bites as to be unable to work. Several snakes then appeared at the same time and I continued work for three days after they were painful. This irritated & inflamed them very much, & possibly was the cause of producing more. I quit work with eleven bites and a very high fever. That night the fever & pain affected my brain and there was considerable derangement of mind. I had two bites on the back of the neck. Two on the chin. Two on the left jaw one under the left arm one on the back of the ^{right} hand. one in the palm of the left and one at the lower joint of the middle finger of the left hand on the inside. Most of them were very large & quite different from ordinary bites. All are on the inside but one that is in the palm of my hand which is still very painful. I often have to raise my head erect in order to ease the throbbing pain while writing.

Luckily for me I was to work not very far from where my
Nephew has removed his family in the mountains and when
I found I could not possibly work any longer, my sleep turned
them in haste. They were poorly prepared to receive a sick man
having no house but a tent and few accommodations yet did
what kindness could to relieve me. His wife though a Southern
lady from Ala. & "tenderly raised" seems to enjoy house life
very tolerably and although her form is very fragile she
surprising to tell, prepares food in abundance & good greatly
not only for a family of 15 hard working men but
frequently double that amount of French custom. The
table is most constantly sitting & they have 1.50 a meal
for single meals. He has a trading post for the miners
& Indians in connection with two other men and have frequently
between in trade about 3 thousand dollars worth of dust
in a day in exchange for Merchandise. He says he intends
to stay here 5 years and in all probability his wife will
not see a white lady in that time should they stay so long.
There are a great many Indians here but they appear to be
entirely peaceable unless first provoked. On Saturday last I
saw my cousin Joel. Nelson Angus for the first time
in this country. He assured I was highly pleased to meet him.
He is a tall fine looking fellow 27 years old and very
much of a gentleman and no ordinary share of talent.
He has been less fortunate than my Nephew although he has
worked much harder. He takes much interest in my affairs
& urges many objections to my returning to the states
before I make a fair trial of my luck. My knee
is getting very painful so I must stop for today.
Thursday eve. Last night Joel lanced the bile in the palm
of the hand found no matter from its going very deep - Was
in great misery - slept none through the night. This morning I
took chloroform to take him to use the Scalpel and
cut nearly through the hand. He died so and

found abundance of matter-globules of ~~fat~~
chunks of flesh and adipose matter came boiling
out together much to my joy and relief. It has
appeared for several days like a little pent up
volcano, the whole hand to the ends of the fingers were so
badly swollen as to be stiff. It was caused from the
jar of the hand in the use of the pick in hard stony
ground and was as much the character of a bruise
as a bite. I now think I shall be able to go to work
again in a week. Aside from the great suffering it
is a cause of much disappointment and grief, as
I had fair prospects, and which was ten fold more pleasing
the certainly, as I thought, of soon having means to be
able to reach the happy quiet home of those so dear.
I had intended leaving as soon as the first of Nov
if not by the middle of this month. But now the time is
necessarily prolonged and I know not when I shall leave.
I have not like yet cursed the day in which I was born
but still look forward with high hopes and bright
anticipations to that event, most of all others desired,
when we shall meet again. There is magic in those
words and I feel a thrill of deep pleasure run over
me, oh what words can express my anxiety to reach home.
but we must learn quickly to submit to necessity and
be patient under tribulation. The circumstances
of life here have a remarkable influence
upon human character. One is certain to show
forth the natural bent of his inclinations.
When free from restraint - most therefore become
very profane & licentious. While on the other hand
the truly great & noble in soul & sentiment feel
stronger the moral obligations resting upon them.
Many who passed as worthy factors in
the States, are the most depraved and

abandoned here.

~~Wednesday~~ 8. Undertook to work yesterday although some of my ribs were quite painful. Had a very restless night, - lay alone on the ground. - Cannot tell how often the ejaculation escaped my lips Oh! my Dear Wife & Children! but still Gods will be done. It is a destiny I chose of my own accord, even against the entreaties of those I hold most dear and I have no one to blame. Indeed I cannot yet say that I regret coming, as I could not be satisfied short of it. And I yet hope much good will result.

Thursday 10. With Lord St. Vincent another hand I have been three days sinking a hole with very fair prospects. - so much so that our miners waited to buy our claim. to day we reached the ledge and found not a cent thus bad luck still attends me. Furthermore my health is not good. - Have no appetite for any thing and what I eat offends my stomach. Probably the state of my mind has some influence. I have labored hard to be cheerful but there is no use and I cannot say that I desire to be. I should be alarmed at the state of my feelings. - could I become cheerful and happy here so far from my Dear Wife & Children. Yet I will try and bide my time and exertions with as much composure as possible. What much be. I am fearful I shall not be able to reach home at the time appointed. Ship is painful as I like to be exact in these things. There are a thousand things I want to say, but I have not time to write any more. May God be with you and comfort you my Dear Wife & Children.
write to Stockholm
N. A. Anger