

Dear Brother & all the folks at home

It is a very long time since I have written. I ask your pardon for this seeming neglect, and when you consider how easy it is, to not write, I think you will forgive me.

No thing, worthy of mention, has happened to me since I wrote last - good health & hard work has been my lot.

I have been a miner on my own account, subject to all the gains and losses of that most of all uncertain business. I have a partner in a claim on Looper's Hollow we are snugly putting in six day a week at an average of about three dollars per day each; our water rent is only three dollars per week, jointly. No doubt, to you folks of strict economy, it seems that if any one is making, one, two, or three, dollars per day; he is doing very well. But that depends all together, on the worth of the dollar, here, at a first class hotel, it will buy a dinner, at a second class two dinners; thus you see the money goes fast, and of all the gold that taken from the mine it is surprising how little of it remains in the hands of the miners. I would not wish you, however, to think that I am dissatisfied with the country, far from it, I like it well, or I should have left it ere now. I have never needed dollar here, although I have at times, kept in a close vicinity of zero - always hearty, I rejoiced that I was alive

We, that is Mr Sarvent, my partner, and my self, have fenced

about three acres, of alluvial soil, in Loafer's Hollow, and intend to sow it with wheat, except a small corner, for a garden, and like wise to plant some peach trees. We have a cow and calf, we paid seven: type five dollars for, and some fowls, which we intend to breed from this coming year. Land will yield from twenty, to thirty, bushels of wheat to the acre, in these mountains and we intend to feed the wheat to the fowls and sell them for the cash, they have always well, and readily, at one dollar for chickens, and three dollars for turkeys. I think that one could do well at half those prices. Cattle thrive finely, all the year, without any feed from man. How our operation will turn out I do not know: but I will post you up in my next. Our object in thus writing mining, and husbandry on a small scale, know for that to read 'if you please' is this; we cannot get water longer than, about the first of May, until the next November, and thus we can fill up the interval with our chicken: fixins. Now I have to beg of you a favor. I wish you to send by the return of post, a few grains of seed, say nineteen of each, to wit, blackbury, black: rasbury, hucklebury, red clover, timothy seed. I think you can get the several bury seed from the dried berries which the good women of Pa never fail to have laid in store for winter. Nothing of the kind grows in this country: but I think would thrive finely if once planted.

I suppose you are in the midst of tight times as far as money is concerned from all I read in the paper, perhaps though the smash will not much

effect the industrious citizens of the beech wood. With the wise men of your cities it appears to be a great mystery what was the cause of the stress. Now if I might venture my opinion, it ~~came~~ came like any other stress, from the lack of power, men have been undertaking, beyond their means, it is like a boy turning grindstone, the downward sweep goes very well, but coming up is the tug; thus to go in debt is very well, and very easy to providing you can get credit, but to pay goes rather hard. Tell me in your next how you stand affected. Now the Mormon war, if war, it is forming the basis of our daily talk, rumour has it, that a battle has been fought; but with what result she does not know. The feeling against the Mormons runs high, many have had friends murdered by Indians, by Mormon instigation, and they feel very much like wiping out the land pirates of many wives. It seems that if it comes to war that the small force sent by the government will have a small chance. Now a religious war in this land of freedom will be a novel thing, But how can it be avoided? If the Mormons will not dispense with polygamy, and Mr Buchanan will not allow it. What else but fight? It is my opinion if it comes war Uncle Sam will whip of course then the Mormons will amalgamate with the Indians forming a race of thieves, who will dwell in the secure places of the Rocky Mountains, and plunder for a living, then it will be almost impossible to crop the plains. How convenient it

will then be, to have a foothold in Central America. But
of this time will tell. It is more than three years since
I have heard from you, but I suppose if any thing had hap-
pened you certainly would have informed me. I have
not had a letter from Frank since I was in Iowa.
Surely our family is not notorious for writing letters
from our friends in ~~ex~~. I know nothing ~~only~~
as it comes through you.

Give me along letter full of matter as for me
if I had written. I am well and left the rest
blank it would perhaps been just as well.
Give my regards to all who have not forgotten
me, and my errors you must pardon.
Direct Eldorado Eldorado County Cal Eldorado
is a new name for Mounds Springs.
Do not forget to write immediately.

Yours Respectfully

Barley Bedford

R Bedford

Loafers Hollow Nov 28 1857