

New Buckeye Store
Paradise Valley May 24 1850

Dear Adopted

Yours of Feby. was duly received, I also received on our first arrival at San Francisco 2 Papers marked W.S. if it had been W.S. Dr I would have given you credit before.

You ask if I am not astonished at receiving a letter from the Secty of Cincinnati Division of C of T, I will answer, I was, as I never thought a single vote, could elect you to any office (office seekers must be very scarce in your division) since you have been elected, I trust you will fill the office with honour to yourself, and the satisfaction of every member of your Society.

You are also a student of the W H School I hope you will improve in your studies and become a learned and useful citizen Willey you will soon be a man now is the time to improve, make good use of it.

Since I left Home I have had many hard knocks, have seen the Elephant often, I was first introduced to him, on the Chagres River, he looked at me so hard that a man, I met actually mistook me for the Animal himself, I told him he was mistaken, I had merely met the gentleman as I was coming up, and I supposed that the short time we were together, he had left a kind of a Daguerriotype likeness of himself in my Countenance; he appeared satisfied with the explanation.

The next time I met the Animal I mounted a Carpet Bag and soon scared him off.

Hee became so very familiar with us in going up the Pacific, that it appeared quite dull unless we could get him to growl a little. The Bread we eat was so old and hard, we had to use a hatchet to break it, after which we soaked it in salt water to kill the bugs with which it was filled, we then dried it in the sun and made the most of it, this, salt beef & Beans was our principal food.

On the 3^d of July Mr Augier lost his youngest child, on the 6th Major Motz another member of our Company died; he was sick but a few hours.

The first land we made after leaving Marattland, was about one hundred & eighty miles below San Francisco we expected to be in San F. the next day instead of which the wind changed and blew us off the land, and in a week from the time we first saw California, we were six hundred miles at sea, on an allowance of water & provisions, with almost a mutiny between the Passengers and Officers, Pistols & Knives were drawn but no damage done, The Carpet Bag Orator acted as Chairman; Committees were appointed to take charge of Provisions and water, the course of the vessel was changed, and in a few days we made San Francisco without serious damage.

to Passengers or Crew. The day we arrived at San F we noticed a Boy picking up something in front of a Stone, we walked up to him and saw, he had some small specks of yellow metal, in his hand; we asked him if it was Gold, he answered, "Of Course it is, do you think I'd pick it up if it 'twant," that was the first Gold diggin I ever saw.

A few days after our arrival, we removed our Goods to a Schooner bound for Stockton we got aground and nearly shipwrecked at the mouth of the San Joaquin River, we had two very pleasant nights on this River, one we worked all the time to keep from sinking, the other we were fairly eat up by Mosquitoes.

The day or rather the night after our arrival at Stockton, we took up our Blankets and commenced our journey for the Gold Mines, which we reached after a three days tramp, I dug for a few weeks; liked it very well, but think I can make more trading, diggin is very uncertain, the majority of the men at work near us, have not made their expenses for the last two months; while some few, have made from fifty to a hundred pr day, The River diggings are not so uncertain, but the water is too high, to work them at present.

The appearance of the Country at this time, is quite different to what it was in the fall; at that time the whole Country appeared like a barren waste, now the Mountains and Plains are covered with Flowers of every hue, giving it more the appearance of a Fairy Land, than the dwelling place, of the long bearded rough looking miners who have their Tents pitched upon every habitable spot.

Our present Company, have enjoyed most excellent health since we have been in California, Mr. Wolcott formerly President of the Company, was sick for about two months with the scurvy, but is now as well and hearty as I ever saw him; he and his son are digging near us.

My luck in this Country has been so bad I will have to compromise, most of my promises; I enclose a specimen to off-set the 25th lump, as I think it doubtful if I ever get a piece of that size, If Henry was here I would give him the handsomest little Bay Mule in California, but as he is too large to enclose, in a letter I will have to let the Black Pony grow until I return I hope his tears have all dried up, and that she has received the little gold Lamb I sent her.

I am glad to hear the Rovers are still able to go through the motions with so much honour to themselves, let me know how they get along, as there are a number of the old members in California, who have quite an interest in their welfare.

The Towns in California have improved beyond all expectations
Rents and Property are very high; a few months back we thought
we would open Store in Stockton, we found we could not rent any
Kind of a Store, for less than from three to ten thousand per annum,
and that we thought a little too much, so we bought a stock of
Goods and moved back to the Mountains, where we have
our own House free of Rent.

I wrote Henry by last Steamer giving
him a full account of our welfare and as no change has
taken place since worthy of Ink and Paper, I will finish
this by requesting you to give my best respects to all enquiring
friends

Yours Truly

Wright & Andrews

PS Willey write often and send as many papers as convenient, direct to Stockton Cal

PS



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GMCE
10/77