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Columbia Industrial Co. July 24th

My dear friend Samuel

For a long time I have thought of writing to you but I have put it off from time to time till the present. I left New Hampshire March 19th for New York on my journey to this country. Left N. Y. in the 22^d following. We had a very pleasant passage to New York or New York was but 64 hours on the Lithuanian. Sailed from Panama the 1st day of Apr. about 11 O'clock P.M. Made the port of San Francisco on the 15th being only 24 days 6 hours from N. Y. I stopped at San F. three weeks & finding no employment there as I intended I started for this place & some \$25 from Frisco. After getting up here & finding some of my acquaint^{ances} I hired out at \$4.00 pr day worked out some five weeks & then got into a charmer paid six hundred. Happened to be fortunate in getting a good one. Mining is very good in this district they miners are doing well generally much better. I expect than they are in many other places I have not done any very big day work as yet make some six & seven dollars pr day which is some better than I can do at in New Hampshire.

But it is hard work it is something like shoveling
on a Rail Road however we do not work as many hours
as the work the Poddus, I think I shall stay in
the mines now I have got used to it The population
is a mixture of all the varieties that has descended
from our Grand Old Adam, There but what
are represented there is Mexican, Chilean French
English Irish, &c &c The Irish and French are the most
numerous & the most troublesome
Broughtons have to pay a monthly tax of \$100 per month
A great share of the miners are foreigners
The climate agrees with me first rate never enjoyed
better health than I have here although it is much
warmer The temperature is even not those sudden
changes that is found in many other climates
We have everything to do cook, wash, &c Live in a log house
made of logs of no small dimensions Plenty
of rats & fleas the last which are enough to make a
Priest "Lace" This section of country would be worth
nothing were it not for the golden treasure hid
beneath the surface, But down on the San Joaquin
or up on the Sacramento is the place to find a farming
country what puts all other land in the shade in
the way of producing crops You will probably hear of the
big tree the big oaks the latt eye great Potatoes & huge
Beets

What will be exhibited at the Worlds Fair in New York City
I you should go to the worlds fair I think you would enjoy it
New York is worth a visiting much more than Boston
It is true that Boston is a large active business place
& has some elegant structures, in all New York exceeds
& altogether different, San Francisco is the most business
place probably in world in proportion to the number of
inhabitants We have a tribe a small part of a tribe
of Indians in these diggings They go by the name of Diggers
They are nothing less than beasts in human shape. They will
eat anything it matters not what They go to the slaughter
houses and take the entrails & chew them down raw
eat worms lizards & live. A portion of this tribe who live further
up in the mountains have been committing depredations
on some of the "Ranches" & Last Monday a party of men
from this and places adjacent numbering 73 started
in pursuit of them. Mr. Injuns will probably pay dear
for their fun. Some men here who have always ~~led~~ led
a frontier life, would think no more of shooting an Indian
than they would a duck. I saw capt. Davis in San Francisco
he looked finely was yet doing anything. I suppose in this
the ~~the~~ new school is under heading. I hope such is
the case with steam up to the bursting point. I would
like to have it relieve the stars of old. Eli's constellation
so that they would never shed their unhallowed light
in New Hampshire. Let him & his glory go to Halifax
take Memphremagog who care where he goes I don't
I want you to write on the receipt of this without fail
Write where Bill Blair Frank Woodman McEllan
John Mooney I you see them give them my kindest
regards and accept a large share of the same to yourself

Samuel B. Mason

Yours Truly
Leonard W. Gilchrist