

23 years old

I was born in 1832

St. Louis July 1855

My dear Mother

I am in my last day
 at St. Louis for which I am not sorry,
 though I think when it comes to the last
 moment, it will be more difficult to
 leave England than I expected. I am in
 high spirits as everyone considers
 me a lucky fellow, and my prospects
 seem very favourable. It is certainly
 much better than India, in every respect,
 as all accounts agree that the climate
 is splendid and very healthy. The
 people seem also to be much better
 than they are generally supposed to be.
 For Nevada my headquarters will be 200

miles up the Country, north of San Francisco
and none but hard working men
get so far up. all the riff raff staying
in the large towns. If I like the Country
I expect to stay out 4 or 5 years, so as to
be able to bring back some fair savings;
if not I can come back in 12 months.

I shall have good introductions to
the most respectable people there, which
will make it much more pleasant.
Altogether I think, and every one else
seems to think so, that it is a very
good thing, and though it seems a long
way off, there is no reason why we
should not hear from each other as
regularly and as often as hit best.
I am very glad to hear from Papa that

Matthew is so much better, and that
his squinting is probably only only taking
after you! Ahem! He looks very well,
though much more grey and venerable
than I remember him in London and
went to the Watts together. He is now
in Manchester at Mr. Coates but will move
to Mr. Nicholsons tomorrow as I am going
there. I go to Liverpool on Friday evening
and sail at 9^{1/2} on Saturday. The Directors
gave us a farewell dinner which
and I have been dreadfully dissipated
since, having to stand out every day to say
good bye to my friend but that will now
be over. Every one I have been connected
with has shown a great deal of friend
feeling towards me and seem sorry to
leave me. I suppose Papa told you
that I am to have £1000 a year besides all
travelling expences, house &c. I expect my living

to cost about 500 so that I ought to pay by
500 a year. I shall have to keep 2 or 3 horses,
and shall be in my glory. I shall have no
carriage, so you need not think I am drawing
out of my pocket money about you. I
I heard from Mr. J. Coultard that Mr. J.
has had an accident, being thrown off her horse
and is not expected to live. He desires

much to be remembered to you &
Well dear mother, next time you hear from
me will be from New York when I shall
probably stay 9 days. Write often and
never think I shall take your letters
because you have no news. You shall
often hear from me, I hope to say that
I am well and happy and I hope always
to hear the same from you. With best
love to you and Matthew. Believe me
Dear Mother
Your ever affectionate son
W. Stanroon