

United States Hotel Nevada
17th September 1855.

New Tam at last sain et saup.

of an quite walk again in spital meth and spital
only patient to get to work. We are waiting here while
the legal preliminaries are being settled, and expect to
start for the mountains, to view the site of our works,
tomorrow or the day after. This is a small town up in
the mountains, 2,000 feet above the sea and in the
middle of the forest which covers the whole mountains
side country it is nearly entirely built of wood. There
are however good hotels and shops, and much better
accommodation of every sort than I expected so far
in the country, though every thing has to be paid for
except washing costs. A man, blacking 1 pair of boots 1/-
and so on. Though all these things seem tremendously
heavy I do not think living altogether will cost as
much as I expected. We are now in the middle of the dry
season, and the sun is very hot and everything is parched up,
but the country is very beautiful and even now. Soaly stayed
in San Francisco 3 days after I wrote to Charly. There was
nothing more to see in the town, and though a great place for
business speculation, it is very dull, and we were glad to get
away. We took a nice ride one day to a place Wmels
along the coast, and came back along the beach, to avoid going
a long way round, we took a short (!) cut across the

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sand hills which extend for miles inland. We got into a perfect desert, hill after hill rising before us, each the same as the last. The sun set without our seeing any sign of track or anything else and the sand was so deep that we had to get off & lead our horses. We began to have serious thoughts of having to pass the night there when from the top of a high hill we saw a windmill about a mile off. We made for it and came across a track which we followed & which brought us into the Road back. It was capital fun and comes to get lost that way. There are a great number of Chinese in the town, they have a quarter to themselves, built by themselves in Chinese style. It was very strange and interesting and dirty. We started from San F. on Thursday the 6th at 4 in the afternoon by steamer up the River, after getting grounded several times we got up to Sacramento at 2 the next morning & went to bed. I had gone along with Dr. H. The next evening Darcy came on & joined me. At 6 Sunday morning we both started by stage for Placerville a mining town 50 miles off, where I wanted to see some existing waterworks. People that have not been on them can form no idea of stage travelling here. The roads are simply tracks through the forest, which are pretty well beaten ~~and~~ though every vehicle chooses its own line. As no road is made, but we run on the surface, taking stones, brooks &c. all as they come, the ups & downs of life are dreadful, and it really was as much as we could to hold on. As for the dust (which is the same on all the tracks in the dry season) it is tremendous, and we could often not see our leaders at all. The Prairie dust sinks into complete insignificance beside it. It is often feet deep. In the winter I believe it forms mud so

deep as to be impassable. It was the hardest days work I had had for a long time. The only redeeming feature in the horses, and they like all the horses in the country were very fine. We got in at 4 p. m. We had an introduction to the manager here who was very attentive. We took horses and rode all over his works with him and to see the digging all over the neighbourhood. It seems very strange to see men working whole hills down with water coming from a hose like that of a fire engine. We left at 4 the next morning and came over the same road. I saw my first rattlesnake, a fine fellow lying by the road side. We stopped and a passenger got down & shot it from philanthropic motives. We had a race with an opposition coach, broke one of our springs, propped the coach up with a branch of a tree and at it again and loose coaches racing on a good English road is sometimes thought ticklish work, what was this? We got back to Sacramento at 8. ~~am~~ We went on at 7 next morning up the River by boat to Marysville, where we arrived at 5 p. m. after being a ground about every 5 minutes as the water is very low. We went on at 6 the next morning and going through the same kind of staging, got here at 5 in the afternoon. We are beginning to get accustomed to it but where possible we mean to travel on horseback. A mile from here we passed through a pretty little town of about 400 houses, at 10 p. m. we saw the sky illuminated and in 2 hours every vestige of the place was gone excepting the cracked walls of one or two brick houses. Although almost every man lost all he had I have not seen one look cast down. Before the fire had done its work, timber was being bought to build again, the next day when we rode over the ground, several houses were begun again, and the next evening a saloon was actually

finished and opened. So much for Yankees - where
Englishmen would have cried over spilt milk, they set
to work and made themselves too busy to be miserable -
We rode over there the next day to go over some Quartz mills
and all the men we met said they were only sorry they
had not ~~had~~ ^{the} Quartz mills and
very interesting and yield very large profits where properly
managed and chosen. I wish I had 2000£ to invest and
make 600 per cent with as some are doing.

We have met with great attention and civility ~~everywhere~~
everyone throwing their works open to us and some their houses.
There are several Englishmen out there for Companies, but
none of them pay - they set the wrong way to work, completely
as far as I can judge at present from disinterested opinion
our affair is likely to be a very profitable one, and water co's
are decidedly the best investments in the Country, though
I doubt it realizing W.W. expectations. However I shall
be better able to form an opinion in the course of a
month, when of course I will tell you (Papa) all I know
(privately of course). We were lucky in our boat; as the steamer
that came this week from Nicaragua, 220 out of 800 died
of Cholera en route - We have Capital horses here, some
American ones that are the dearest but expensive, and native
or Mexican ones, vicious little devils, but beggars to -
My married friends prefer the former, but I do the latter,
you would be much amused to see me galloping over the
hills in a large Mexican saddle, all leather & wooden stirrups.
They certainly are wonderful little creatures (when they have
got their master) and will gallop 30 or 40 miles almost
without stopping - Wouldn't Charly enjoy it.

Nov. 17 Sep. 1858

Newark)
17th September 1855.

My dear mother
I was so very sorry
to hear of your
illness and I
was glad to
hear you were
getting better
I am well
at present
and hope
these few
lines will
find you
all the same
I am
Yours affectionately
John

of the Englishman
I was yesterday
and she
with her
I must get
off for
that so very
Grandmama
to go to work
I am
at present
and hope
these few
lines will
find you
all the same
I am
Yours affectionately
John