

Magdalena Bay
1870

Mrs Frances M Denny
Mag Harbor Long Island
Off of New York



Magdalena Bay Lower California Oct 30th 1870

Dear Sister

By this you will see that I am still here and as we have not struck water with the Artesian well as yet but have got water in several places by digging We are at work about five miles from the landing in a beautiful fine place the grass and flowers look very nice but will soon dry up as the rainy season is about over and it is a long time between the seasons it is a very fine climate and all it lacks is water to raise most any thing that is put in the ground some what warm in the middle of the day but the nights is very fine and does not want for much bread close and houses all though we have very good wood houses and the best with in some 200 miles of us, I help to build the houses as we have five around where we are at work and quite a fine garden under way, We expect the steamer to go by here in a few days and will most likely board her to get the letters and papers should she not go by in the night or foggy weather I am in hopes to hear from you as I have not since I left San Francisco, and not even seen a news paper so you

see we are quite out of the way of all communications with any one, Col DeKey has gone to San Francisco and Capt ^{Sham} left here some 3 weeks ago with a party to explore some of the other valleys so I am left in charge of our small city which we have not got any name for as yet the natives are very friendly all though we have not but one family living with in 40 miles of us One moved in a few days ago with a lot of stock mostly cows for milking and making cheese as that is one of the principal articles of export. the cattle are in very fine order and beef is from 2 to 3 cents a pound and very nice and dear meat in abundance we have killed some 20 or 25 and some of them the fattest I ever see, and lots of green turtle and clams and fish of various kinds so we are well provided for in the meat line the oysters is rather small and not very good flavor. but better than any to be had in San Francisco, all is taking in plenty of water to make things in a flourishing condition but it will take time to get these vast valleys and plains in an agricultural state but stock will do well with but very little trouble timber is very scarce a few muskats trees are to be found, this is the first time I have had any leisure since I first landed here as I have had every thing to look after and

some of it to do but as we are getting over our hurry and settling down I hope that I will have time to look over the plans and valleys as I have not been away only from the beach to where they are boring for water and have been that so often that it is getting to be an old story, hoping this will find you all well and my love to sister Elizabeth Eliza Charlott and all the Enquiring friends hoping to here from you soon

I remain Your affectionate Brother
Richard Dering

You will direct my letters to the care of J E Oakley 210 Sacramento Street
San Francisco