

San Francisco Sep 29 1849

Mr Galmon Sanford

Dear Friend

I had written home by this mail several days since, and having nothing important or satisfactory to communicate had concluded not to write you, but having a plenty of time ^{my mind} here changed, I wrote in my letter home an account of my doings since I wrote you last. How I left the mines about a month ago and came down here hoping to better my condition by some legitimate mode of business. How I fell sick and had a bilious fever for a week. How I hired a store at an enormous rent (\$550. a month) with a Mr. Oats from N.Y. But yesterday, Mr Oats and myself having a plain talk together, I found he was not disposed to fulfill his agreement about the

decision of profit & I straightway disparted
with him and am once more upon the town

I have been commended by my friends for
the course I took, especially as Mr. O. had
shown decided symptoms of a fondness for the
"critter". I have about \$400. left out of which
I have to pay my doctors bill the amount of
which I do not yet know. But it will
be a large one, I know for doctors like every one
else, do not work for nothing here. I shall
endeavour to get a clerkship in some respectable
well established ^{house}, where my Spanish will bring me
a good salary or get into some little business
with my little money. The store I hired with the
Oats we had to take for a year, and I do not
believe it possible that the present immense rents
can stand that length of time. The building
was 14 x 32 one and a half stories, and 28 feet yard
in the rear, a great deal of business would have
to be done to pay such a rent, and other expenses
and I thought the risk too great, not that I
had much to lose, but that I might get
deeply into debt after having lost my little all.
Upon the whole, I congratulate myself to day
upon the course I adopted in dissembling with O.

My health is perfectly good now and I consider myself pretty well acclimated. Every one seems certain of falling sick who comes down from the mines at this time of the year & a great many many persons are going home every steamer. Some who arrive turn right about and go back if they have funds enough to take them. I have been homeish a good deal myself and have wished myself back in the coal yard many and many a time. But I cannot bear to go back without money enough at least to pay my ~~other~~ debts.

If I should not succeed in doing anything here, I think I shall go back to the mines and join John and there remain until I am ready to go home. I received your last letter written I think in April a few days before I left the mines. I had previously heard that you did not succeed in collecting that provision bill from Wells, Miller & Perrot, I consider them great rascals, but never mind, it was not enough to cry about. I feel quite disappointed that Mrs Sanford does not thank enough of me to write as she promised, but shall look for something from her by the next mail.

The climate of San Francisco is certainly very disagreeable when you consider the dust which blows about the streets. Otherwise I like it well enough. Most of the ships from the States have now arrived. You see people of all nations in the streets especially Chinese and Kanakas from the Sandwich Islands. I think a great deal of going home and certainly do not think I shall remain in the country much more than a year longer than if I have to go back as soon as I can. I feel a great attachment for Newport and shall never feel satisfied until I get back there and then I think I shall remain contented for the rest of my life. I hope you will keep the control of the coal business until I return because I might have capital enough to go into it again. I feel quite anxious to know how the business turned out, as I fear there were not assets enough to pay all off, although I think it could not have fallen far behind. Money commands a very high rate of interest here. Ten per cent a month, and if a man has a thousand dollars he can live on his income even here very respectably. I am paying \$10 per week for board, which is about as cheap as any there is. Sleep myself. I send you a "Pacific News" I hope Mr Sanford you will not forget me altogether but drop me a line say once a month by every mail. Please give my love to all your family. I think of you all very very often and hope to see you all again before many months pass away.

Yours very respectfully
Othman W. T. Bayless