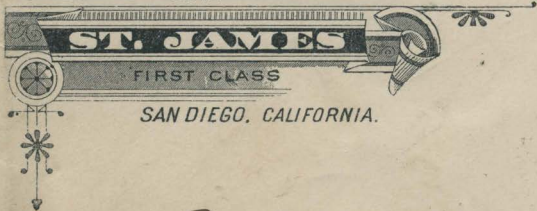


IF NOT CALLED FOR WITHIN 10 DAYS TO BE RETURNED



Miss Tacher
Cuddleg
Oak Hill
Surbiton
Surrey

England.

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San Diego, Cal. 3^d Feb^y 1887.

My dear Annie,

The extensive City of "Empire" Nev. was the last place from which I sent a letter home, the same being addressed to E^d, that is to say it was finished off there, but that city being too extensive a place to require a P. O. I carried it with me to Carson City situated some four miles distant. I there parted with it. My movements since then have been personally interesting. I stopped in Carson a day or two not that there was much to see, beyond the Powers & Mint, for it is only about a "one street" sort of place although the capital of the State. I had hoped to have visited Lake Tahoe amongst the Sierras but a snow storm coming up somewhat nipped my scheme and turned my steps back to San Francisco. Truckee a station on the Central

Pacific was my next stopping place, there I amused myself walking about in two feet of snow for good measure, I soon got tired however, and after conversing with the Hotel prop. of the house I was staying at found I might have a little snowshoeing experience if I wished, he undertook to introduce me to a man living on the boards of "bonner lake," from which place I could make a trip to the Summit or highest station in the Sierras where the Railroad crosses, the upshot of which was, I found myself that evening in a little cabin, by the lake, with a very genial young fellow as host, his wife & children as company, although it was cold outside, blowing & storming, it was jolly hot inside for these people know how to pile the wood into the stove, which fuel is cheap enough. We amused ourselves playing crib. & which, a man lodging & helping "mine host, taking a hand in latter, the following morning turned out very stormy & ill looking, but as the day progressed began to fair up, so I made a start leaving word that if I couldn't manage it, I would return to them, however I had no need to revert to that caution as the weather held up beautifully & I had a most enjoyable trip, the shoes are different to those used in Canada, being of the Norwegian type & very easy to learn, they ^{are} made of long strips of wood say 10ft., by 4ⁱⁿ wide consequently you can keep your feet close together, & have only to slide them along, with a swing which is easy to accomplish;



Dr. P. C. Remondino,
PROPRIETOR.

2.

ST. JAMES.

SCHMIDT LABEL & LITH CO. S. F.

San Diego, Cal.

188

turning corners, is the worst trouble, as the tyrod invariably manages to get the shoes crossed, so that he treads on his toes or his heels, which generally results in a flounder. The first portion of the journey was very simple being along the margin of the lake on nearly level ground, but the last two and a half miles (the whole was only six) was a tussle that hole way, as at times the ascent was so steep I & C. foot slipped back as fast as I pushed the other forward, & in some places beat me altogether so that I had ignominiously to "get off" & flounder along on hands & knees for a few yards, till I had surmounted a drift, or passed an extra slipping steep place, I was however well repaid for my trouble, as the scenery through the woods & from the summit which I arrived there was charming. As my train was

was not due till midnight & it was 3.00 pm.
when I arrived there, I had plenty of time to rest
& pull myself together. My next stop was, a well
known place in the annals of mining viz
"Butch Flat," here are the remains of the great
Hydraulic mines of California, that is to say they
are not worked now, as the amount of debris that
is washed down the rivers into the Sacramento
Valley has spoiled much good farming land, this
mining is carried on by forcing water, conveyed to
the spot in great pipes for miles, from the mountains,
against the ground from a man's fireman's
hose, which washes away boulders & earth and
all together, they start against the side of a hill
& soon wash a great cavity into it, the "wash"
is lead down towards the river, & passes along wooden
shoots, the heavy rocks & stones being kept back
while the fine passes gently on, quicksilver is
charged into this which quickly finds out all
the gold forming with it an amalgam, this
is allowed to settle, when it is collected & sent
off to the refineries, I need hardly say that this
sort of work completely spoils the face of the
country turning it into barren wastes, &
gravel pits & unnatural cliffs of ballast &
sand. I spent a day in these parts walking
around, & visiting the different mines, for it
is certainly a very interesting sight. A day
at Sacramento the capital of California
terminated what had been a very enjoyable visit.



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3.

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188

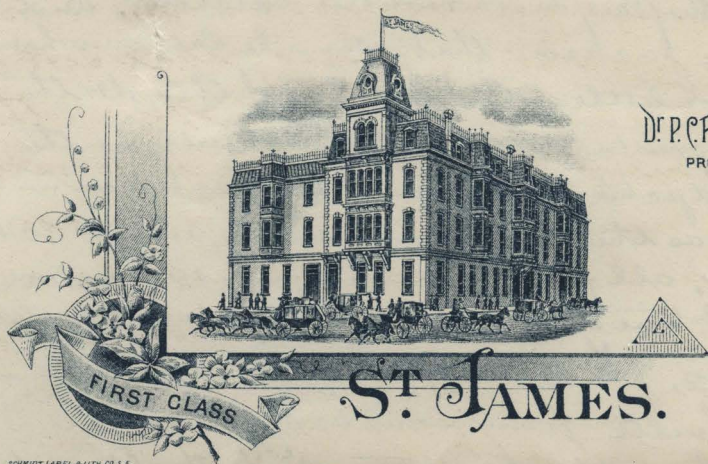
to the mining regions of the West. And now
before I forget let me ask you to forward a
Bradshaw's railway guide (of England) to the
following address. Wm. J. R. Loring.

Supt. Motive Power, Carson Virginia &
Tonchee R.R. Carson Nevada. U.S.A.

From the heading to this letter you will
see I am down South, I came here by boat
two days ago, at the present moment I am
being "bugging", it is full of men from the
East & elsewhere buying up property in every
direction, it appears Eastern people are getting
tired of bad winters & ailments coming there from
so that they are flocking to California for
business as well as health, in every direction
around this town, houses are springing up

this is what they call booming a district, and when they once start a game of that sort they go ahead like one clock, for instance, there are places around the city that in November last were bought for \$10 per acre, are now being sold at \$250 per acre, E. gave me a letter to Mr J Thomas of El Cajon near here I sent that to him before coming but received no reply so concluded he had left the country, last evening, I enquired of the Hotel Clerk, if he knew him, he didn't but had a Mr C. Thomas from that place on his books, this happened to be his brother, I soon met him, found him the usual ~~stiff~~ jolly genial Bohemian, we concluded it was a coincidence to become acquainted in that way, viz by our brothers to whom we were at the same time respectively strangers. J. Thomas has put his ranch into the market leaving his brother in charge, having gone to Kansas City & set up in business there. I hope to go out there tomorrow & will stop this now & resume later.

Feb. 4: Thomas ranch, El Cajon valley. Fine & some, have just come in from standing ~~in~~ out in front of house, enjoying the beautiful moonlight night, the only sounds being frogs croaking & an occasional weird sound of some night bird, this ranch is situated in the N.W. corner of a long & wide valley the surrounding hills not being high but barren & irregular, there are a good few ranches, & the land is fast increasing in value, the produce being raisins grapes, there is a river, the San Diego following near here, at the



Dr. P. C. Remondino.
PROPRIETOR.

4.

SCHMIDT LABEL & LITH. CO. S. F.

San Diego, Cal.

188

present time, I say this as a great part of the year it is quite dry, for you must know in this delightful country it only rains for one month in the year regularly & perhaps two months intermittently, the rest of the year is bright sunshine, they say in these parts, that you purchase the climate & the land is thrown in, this is a fine ranch of 250 acres, C. S. is great on horses & dogs like most Irishmen, & has a litter of eight rough little dandy divinements as well, three or four full grown ones & two grey hound pups, about 14 horses, a couple of cows, & ^{sundry} fowls all of which make things homely & comfortable, he is a father of neatness every thing having a place and being in it, that's the greatest nuisance about the place! said he to me yesterday pointing to a three year old boy "leaving his things all about the yard!" but you should see

him to enjoy His jokes, he is a rare old batchelor, said I was
to tell Minnie Jackson that when he last saw her she
was a very nice little girl, I told him I thought the
superlative degree could be used now without the
adjuinch adjective, there is nothing much to see in or
around here, as the whole valley nearly can be taken
in a glance, all fences are wire, mostly barbed, &
at the present time of year everything looks very dry
& uninteresting, J. H. the owner has left as his wife was
failing in health from some complaint, so I
presume he will not return. 5th Feb^{ry}. I have returned
once more to San Diego, being on my way to Los Angeles,
I have been favoured much by the weather which
has held up fine since I have been out here which
considering that they are all waiting for their
month's supply of rain is fortunate for me, but
now it has started in & I presume will continue,
Am afraid I shall not get a peep at the
"Goosemile" as the steamer I am thinking of
going to New Zealand by leaves on the 12th inst. (for I
have made up my mind to go there if possible) As I
shall most likely require some more money to assist me
to get home from there, you might ask E. G. to communi-
cate with the Hongkong & Shanghai B^{ank} (in London) to
forward me £200 (if I get it) to their house in Melbourne
as their agent in San Francisco will send ^{me} my balance
there (I don't know the name of Bank). This ^{is} the most
expensive part of the trip, but I must say I want to
visit, S. W. & the Bullens, etc. I shall write again before
leaving S. F. Co. so no doubt you will receive two letters
together when I left 3rd Feb^{ry} the other day I was not in
receipt of any news from you; indeed your letter from
the 17th ~~was~~ ^{is} the latest date I have from ^{you} home, I just
mention this in case you may have written ^{me} letters mixed,
I hope however your toe is well by this time, so that
you are able to get about again. I will close now for good
trusting you are all well & happy, with kindest ^{love} to father & all
I remain
Your very affectionate Brother
Herbert.

San Diego February 7, 1887 [on letterhead of the St. James hotel, printed by Schmidt Label & Lith. Co. San Francisco, Mailed to Miss Vacher, Chudleigh, Oak Hill, Surbiton, Surrey, England.]

My dear Annie,

The extensive city of "Empire" Nev. was the last place from which I sent a letter home, the same being addressed to Ed that is to say it was finished off there, but that city being too extensive a place to require a No. 6, I carried it with me to Carson City situated some four miles distant & there parted with it. My movements since then have been perennially interesting. I stopped in Carson a day or two not that there was much to see beyond the prison & mint, for it is only about a "one street" sort of place although the capitol of the state. I had hoped to have visited Lake Tahoe amongst the Sierras but a snow storm coming up somewhat put a stopper on that scheme so I turn my steps back to San Francisco. Truckee, a station on the Central Pacific was my next stopping place & here I amused myself walking about in two feet of snow for goodness knows what reason. I soon got tired however, and after conversing with the Hotel prop. of the house I was staying at found I might have a little snowshoeing experience if I wished he undertook to introduce me to a man living on the boards of "Donner Lake," from which place I could make a trip to the summit or highest station in the Sierras where the railroad crosses. The upshot of which was I found myself that evening in a little cabin, by the lake, with a very genial young fellow as host, his wife & children as company, although it was cold outside, blowing & storming, it was jolly hot inside for these people know how to pile the wood into the stove, which fuel is cheap enough. We amused ourselves playing crib & whist, a man lodging & helping mine host, taking a hand in latter. The following morning turned out very stormy & ill looking, but as the day progressed began to fair up, so I made a start leaving word that if I couldn't manage it, I would return to them. However I had no need to revert to that caution as the weather held up beautifully & I had a most enjoyable trip. The shoes are different to those used in Canada being of the Norwegian type & very easy to learn. They are made of a long strip of wood say 10 ft by 4 inches wide, consequently you can keep your feet close together & have only to slide them along, with a swing which is easy to accomplish; turning corners is the worst trouble, as the tyro invariably manages to get the shoes crossed so that he treads on his toes or his heels, which generally results in a flounder. The first portion of the journey was very simple being along the margin of the lake on nearly level ground, but the last two & a half miles (the whole was only six) was a tussle the whole way, as at times the ascent was so steep the foot slipped back as fast as I pushed the other forward, & in some places beat me altogether so that I had ignominiously to get off & flounder along on hands & knees for a few yards, till I had surmounted a drift, or passed an extra slipping steep place. I was however well repaid for my trouble, as the scenery through the woods & from the summit when I arrived there was charming. As my train was not due till midnight & it was 3 pm when I arrived there, I had plenty of time to rest & pull myself together. My next stop was a well known place in the annals of mining viz "Dutch Flat," here are the remains of the great hydraulic mines of California, that is to say they are not worked now, as the amount of debris that is washed down the rivers into the Sacramento Valley has spoilt much good farming land, this mining carried on by forcing water, conveyed to the spot in great pipes for miles from the mountains, against the ground from a mammoth fireman's hose, which washes away boulders & earth and all together, they start against the side of a hill & soon wash a great cavity into it, the "wash" is led down towards the river & passes along wooden shoots, the heavy rocks & stones being kept back whilst the fine passes gently on, quick silver is charged into this which quickly finds out all the gold forming with it an amalgam, this is allowed to settle, when it is collected & sent off to the refineries. I need hardly say that this sort of work completely spoils the face of the country turning it into barren wastes, of gravel pits & unnatural cliffs of ballast & sand. I spent a day in these parts walking around & visiting the different mines, for it is certainly a very interesting sight. A day at Sacramento, the capital of California terminated what had been a very enjoyable visit to the mining regions of the West. And now before I forget it let me ask you to forward a Bradshaw's railway guide (of England) to the following address. Mr. J.N. Fording, Supt. Motive Power, Virginia & Truckee R.R., Carson, Nevada, U.S.A.

From the heading of this letter you will see I am down South. I came here by boat two days ago. At the present moment San Diego is "buzzing" it is full of men from the East & elsewhere buying up property in every direction, it appears Eastern people are getting tired of bad winters & ailments accruing therefrom so that they are flocking to California for business as well as health, in every direction around this town, houses are springing up, this is what they call booming a district, and when they once start a game of that sort they go ahead like one o'clock, for instance, there are places around the city that in November last were bought for \$70 per acre, are now being sold at \$250 per acre. Ed gave me a letter to Mr. J. Thomas of El Cajon near here. I sent that to him before coming but received no reply so concluded he had left the country. Last evening I enquired of the Hotel clerk if he knew him, he didn't but had a Mr. C. Thomas from that place on his books, this happened to be his brother, I soon met him & found him the usual jolly genial Irishman, we concluded it was a coincidence to be some acquainted in that way, viz by our brothers, to whom we were at the same time respectively strangers. J. Thomas has put his ranch into the market leaving his brother in charge, having gone to Kansas City & set up in business there. I hope to go there tomorrow so will stop this now & resume later.

Feb. 4th. Thomas Ranch. El Cajon Valley, time 8 pm. Have just come in from standing out in front of house, enjoying the beautiful moon light night, the only sounds being frogs croaking & an occasional weird sound of some night bird. This ranch is situated in the N.W. corner of a long & wide valley the surrounding hills not being high but barren & irregular. There are a good few ranches & the land is fast increasing in value, the produce being raisin grapes, there is a river, the San Diego flowing here, at the present time, I say this as a great part of the year it is quite dry, for you must know in this delightful country it only rains for one month in the year regularly & perhaps two months intermittently, the rest of the year is bright sunshine. They say in these parts that you purchase the climate & the land is thrown in, this is a fine ranch of 250 acres, C.T. is great on horses & dogs like most Irishmen & has a litter of eight rough little dandy dinments, as well, three or four full grown one or two greyhound pups, about 14 horses, a couple of cows, sundry fowls all of which make things homely & comfortable, he is a pattern of neatness, everything having a place and being in it "that's the greatest nuisance about the place"! said he to me yesterday pointing to a three year old boy "leaving its things all about the yard!" but you should see him to enjoy the jokes, he is a rare old batchelor, said I was to tell Minnie Jackson that when he last saw her she was a very nice little girl, I told him I thought the superlative degree could be used now without the adjunct or adjective. There is nothing much to see in or around here, as the whole valley nearly can be taken in at a glance, all fences are wire, mostly barbed & at the present time of year everything looks very dry & uninteresting. J.T. the owner has left as his wife was failing in health from some complaint, so I presume he will not return. 5th Feb. I have returned once more to San Diego, being on my way to Los Angeles. I have been favored much by the weather which has held up fine since I have been out here which considering that they are all waiting for their month's supply of rain is fortunate for me, but now it has started in & I presume will continue. Am afraid I shall not get a peep at the "Yosemite" as the steamer I am thinking of going to New Zealand by leaves on the 12th inst. (for I have made up my mind to go there if possible). As I shall most likely require some more money to assist me to get home from there, you might ask Ed to communicate with the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank (in London) to forward me £200 (if I've got it) to their house in Melbourne as their agent in San Francisco will send my balance there (I do not know the name of bank). This will be the most expensive part of the trip, but I must say I want to visit S.W. & the Bullews, etc. I shall write again before leaving S. Francisco so no doubt you will receive two letters together. When I left S.F. the other day I was not in receipt of nay news from you, indeed your letter from the sofa is the latest date I have from home. I just mention this in case any of you may have written & letters missed, I hope however your toe is well by this time so that you are able to get about again. I will close now for good, trusting you are all well & jolly. With kindest love to Father & all, I remain your very affectionate brother, Herbert.