

Letter #10

Placerville Dec 23rd 1852.

Dear Mother

Date:

12/23/1852

Place:

Placerville

From: Ann

To: Mother

2 weeks ago we heard the United States mail had come. Chit went after letters but could not get any for 3 days owing to the crowd at the door. there will be one or 200 standing in a row waiting their turn. Saturday he took his turn & when there was only 2 or 3 before him they closed for the night. he said he had a good mind to take a stone and smash their darned old door in. At last Sunday night he rec' your welcome letter of Oct. 24 and a happy time we had reading it. The next Saturday morning I was commencing to mix my bread when he came in with 3 letters. 1 from Uncle Sam^l, one from Jane and yours of Oct 4 (they had been forwarded from Martinez.) of course I did not work much till I read & reread them all. This morning we heard the mail was in again with 5000 letters for this place. At noon Chit went down & soon came back with yours of Nov 6th which was received with all due rejoicing. Chit took 1 piece and read while I read another aloud to Parker only I did not see Harris's. I suppose there was some privacy in it & I would thank Harris not to write any as I want to see every word from home. Parker, Chit, & Dwight have gone back to their work & have left all to tell you how glad I am to hear that you are all well. Dwight always stands by and hears every word of the letters and comments on them. today he was wishing to see you all. Parker asked him if he would like to go back in 2 or 3 years and live there. he said he would like to go & see you all but not to live even if I stayed for him & Father would come back & mine & get money. he talks about you all every day, wants you to live here, near enough for him to go too your house every day but is never willing to live in Ohio. (All he wants of money is to go to Grandpa's with.) he tells every day what he would do if he saw you coming. we have no school now but he reads a lesson every day in his second reader & Parker gives him 5 cts a lesson. he is learning the figures and multiplication table also how to count money. he paid 1.68 for some new boots, (they cost 3.00 but that was all he had.) & now 50 cts to spend Christmas. Candy is 10 cts a stick but by going the candy factory he can get a pound then peddle it out around the street. I asked Guy what I should write for him. "Tell Grandma to send Harris & Willie here to see us." He talks as broken as ever, has a great deal to say about you all and every night has a "dood deem (dream) bout Willie tome to pay wis tara (Clara)." Clara stands watching me write & putting her finger on the paper says, "I may be you roting this berry nice. She is just such an old woman to talk as Mary was, has a great deal of trouble with her children & work, Grandma Fassett would laugh to hear her say, "Oh la I pose I must get supper for my childrens." She calls herself part father's & part mother's daughter & all Grandpa's little Clara, says Grandpa learned her to sweep &c. They are all very healthy, talk about Willie and all of you. Parker & Chit are very well, are still mining, & make from 3 to 12 dollars per day. The other day they found a fine specimen in their tom which weighs 6.80. Chit is going to keep it so perhaps you will see it some day. They would both like to go back

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next year after stock if they had the money. Parker says he intends going back with his family in about 2 years to make a visit if we live & prosper, but dont want to stay there unless it is my wish. I dont know how that will be as I have not been down to the bay yet. I still think I shall like it there very much and feel anxious to go there. Think we will in the spring. I have no privileges here that I want. I dont know but 3 Baptists here. true the Methodists have a church close by with preaching every Sabbath but that is not my home. the preacher lives as near to me as your house is to your office but never has his lady stepped inside my door. Mrs Harker told him I was her Aunt and he had slighted me (in not inviting me to the sowing society) he made a great many apologies, called on me and said his wife was coming, but they found I did not dress in satin as she does, so I am passed by. Mary Ann dont do so I assure you, I enjoy my self very much in visiting with her. indeed that is all that makes me willing to stay here this winter. Our clothes held out well, we had more than enough to last us here. I made each of the boys a pair of pants & a sack out of the cloak but it was not worth it as it is all eat up by the moths. it must have been done in your closet as it could not be done on the road. as for books, I had those I brought from home, & I bought one of a colporteur on the boat at Cincinatti. The life of Mrs. Isabella Graham who died in New York city several years ago. It is a beautiful book & I never see it without thinking of Grandma Peck. I would give almost anything if I could send it to her. I think she would prize it as much as any book she ever saw except the Bible. much as I think of it, I would be glad to send it for Grandma, Aunt Ann, & you to read. She was born in Scotland, married a surgeon & went to Montreal, from there to the West Indies where her husband died & left her with 2 little daughters & in 7 months after she had a son. she went home found her mother dead, her father had lost his property, & she supported her father & her own family by teaching school. her account of her husbands death, her poverty &c is very affecting. she says when she was wealthy she was courted by all, but when she went back poor, she had to eat her porridge & potatoes & salt without a friend to help her. She was a very talented woman with a splendid education, was principal in a seminary in New York a number of years and her death was mourned as a public calamity. I forgot to write in my last that Chit spent one day with Trueman this side of Sacramento. he was well, liked the country, & had sent to know if his family would come too. We saw James Morrow in Oct, he was very well, said he had a claim at White Rock 4 miles from here, & should mine there this winter. I suppose he is there now. Give my love to Mr & Mrs Morrow, & tell them we would like to have them write. we saw Green about the same time. he was very healthy. I never saw him look as well. Mary Ann was sick last week with rheumatism. I went to see her yesterday, she is about well. I intended writing to Jane by this steamer but the mail closes today & I must leave it till next mail. I thank John, Mary, & Harry for writing & would like to answer each one separately but cannot this time. this is for them & all of you together. I will try & write every mail if I can, but if I dont you must never

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think it is neglect. I have laid awake many an hour both on the plains & here and written long letters in imagination. It is my greatest pleasure to think of you all, but I never had been homesick one moment, I really wonder at it. I am contented & happy, I wanted to fill the sheet but the mail closes today. Love to Grandmothers, Mother Germain & all, Father I would like to see your writing in every letter. Love to every one of the family & good bye. Ann F. Germain

[The following is upside down at the top of the first page.]

Give my love to Aunt Green the girls & tell them I sympathize with them in their deep affliction.

Keep on writing all of you. it does me so much good to hear. I suppose I have no more friends in Ohio that will write to me. Mary Ann sees your letters, it seems to do her about as much good as it does me.

[The following in Chit's handwriting is on the last page.]

Dec 27

I have a letter partly written but the mail closes and I promise a letter next mail. love to all. hope you will continue to write one and all.

Yours truly

Chitt

[Enclosed in the envelope is a small paper scribbled all over and marked-]

Clara's letter to Willie

Willie come & see

Harris