

Copies

San Francisco, Mariposa County,  
California. March 10<sup>th</sup> A. D. 1846.

Dear friend,

I have been thinking of writing to you for some time, but, I have not undertaken until to day, I write few unwor-  
thy lines. I am enjoying <sup>an</sup> excellent health, In fact, I have been very healthy ever since I left the "Chabta-yakini" but I am not wealthy, I heard in my boyhood up, the common phrase, "<sup>as</sup> good for luck, and poor for children" where I am, I have been humbly blest with both, no luck nor children as yet. Notwithstanding, all this, I am not discouraged by any means, I live in hopes to be sure, it looks hard, but it is fair. I suppose - I have worked hard at times for little money - but whenever I happened to get little ahead, there are men ever ready to speculate with me, they use good languages, good plans, to to double the capital that we should invest, and of <sup>no</sup> mat-  
-ter of course, <sup>we</sup> will at once lay our little Pile out, which will be about the last of my portion of the Pile. That is the mischief with this golden Country, there are plenty of Yankees that are wide awake - for such advantages as might induce others to trust their money into their hands - I am no speculator, I earn my victuals by hard work, I have worked on farms also, but I could not make any headway towards that Fortune, that I earn after, so last winter I returned to the mines, with the expectation of making a Pile, before dry weather set in; but I am disappoint-  
-ed as ~~bad~~ as others, no rain of any account - this the third day winter, I am living with Mr. Jos. J. Folsom - Your Nephew, Joe, is in delicate health, and has been in bad health ever since he has been in this Country. An old complaint of Bronchitis, of which will sooner or later carry him to his grave, some times he talks of going back, but his physician says he cannot live long after he returns. he has been taking Cod liver Oil for some time he is fat, looks healthy, but he has had severe spells - whenever he exposes himself; It is not hard to make

A living; we <sup>have</sup> hunted deer there <sup>and</sup> plenty in these mountains  
of black tail deer - we bring them to miners and sell  
or exchange them for other Provisions, Joe is speculating  
in Chickens, he buy Chickens from farmers and hauls up  
and sell them to miners and China men, I have rather  
unpleasant news to write - Although, I do not know much  
about it, Joe left here a week ago to ascertain the  
particulars, when he returns, we will write more about  
that is King W<sup>m</sup> Tolson, wrote to Joe stating that he was  
in prison in Los Angeles, three hundred miles from this  
place; without stating the cause of his Imprisonment; I there-  
-fore thought he must be guilty of some crime, wishing  
Joe to come without delay and render him the assistance  
that he need; since Joe left, I have heard the report  
of he having employed to the Express Company in Los  
Angeles and that he broke a letter open that contained  
a draft or certificate of Deposit, the Amount of \$200.  
and he was offering to sell at reduced price of \$50.00  
immediately suspecting him, the Officers arrested him, and  
was brought before, Justice of the Peace, and he would  
neither plead innocenc nor guilty, if he is guilty Joe can  
not assist him without means - A stranger has poor chance  
in this country - I think that the law will have its course  
I am afraid the law will penitentiary him, I will ~~write~~ you  
the particulars, as soon as Joe gets back - so I will change  
the subject, I have been away from Choctaw Nation longer  
time than I anticipated; I have thought of going back  
among you great many times but I can not give up  
the idea of making little money to support me in my  
old age; Oh Inta! I am young yet, I am going to  
try little longer, I do not know how long before  
I will remain in this country, I would like very much  
to hear from you occasionally, for there was one  
in your neighbourhood, I thought great deal of; Joe  
told me that you wrote to him; stating that my sweetheart

was alive and doing well now I want you to inform her that I am ~~alive~~, *teu bien*, but not doing much at present but as I am stating to you, I hope to do better next time Col Pitchlyon if you please to write to me concerning her. If I know where to write or direct my letters to, I should sit down and written dozens letters to my school mates sweet heart and friends, but as I expected they have moved to different places therefore I am going to send this and when I receive an answer I will know where to direct my letters, I've told you had moved down to Mountain Fork; I will direct this to Eagertown, in case of Rev Cyrus Byington, your missionary, my old friend; as to politics, I have paid little or no interest whatever therefore you cannot expect political news of any consequence, great country this, there are people from all parts of the world in this state, all sorts of people in these diggings - Among whom Chinese are numerous in the mines, they are various race of people, but hard working, industrious, people, work for little and live on little, they work on claims that an American will not think of working - if they had same advantage as an American has, they would be all rich in little while - but they have to pay taxes, Monthly \$4.00 per head, as a general thing they are peaceable, not addicted to dissipation any way, there are also plenty of Digger Indians in the state; there is one Indian reservation within fifteen miles of this place - They have an Agent living with them, they are trying to break them to raise grain for their support, But they are not doing much for them these Indians are probably poorest of Indian race, good for nothing; no ambition, plenty games all around them, they are too lazy to look for them.

I saw Hampton Perry last fall, in Stockton, he working at blacksmith's trade, and Silas Ward, Chickasaw from that Nation, I think it is time to bring this to a

Close by requesting you to tell my old friends <sup>to write,</sup> to me,  
direct your letters to Stockton California in care  
of Dr L Leach,

To Col ~~W. P.~~ Pritchard  
Choctaw Nation

With respects, I remain your  
friend,

William. P. Grower.

P. S. excuse my poor hands  
writing, the specimen of old  
Kentuck!