

From C.W. Campbell

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To David M. Campbell , his brother in -law  
Sept. 27, 1850.

San Jose, Calif.

Dear Brother:

Your two sons David & James arrived here yesterday about noon. They came into my store and introduced themselves to me as your sons, they were but children when I saw them last and I never had heard of their coming to the country and when they informed me who they were I was truly gratified to see my sister's children in this distant land. Not having my family with me they felt something like my own children and I assure you I received them heartily. I have this morning started them to Billies four miles in the country.

They arrived in California on the upper Sacramento about the 6th or 7th of this month and not knowing what was best to do, on account of the mines being crowded with people and but little chance of success there, they left their wagon and team at a Rancho some 250 miles from this place with part of their company and came here to see myself and Brother Billy to make inquiry as to the mode of operation. They have gone to their Uncle Billys and will return in a few days and then we will advise some plan that they can make money.

The emigration is very large this year and the greater part go to the mines. That branch is entirely over done, so much so that those there cannot get room to work profitably. There are hundreds of thousands in the mines from all nations under heaven that ever heard of California. The gold taken out in the aggregate will be this year immense, perhaps one hundred millions of dollars but there is so many at the business that the share of each will be small after the expenses are paid and I think that gold digging at this time is the poorest business done in California. Farming this

is now the best business in California for years to come and perhaps forever.

Such a large proportion of the inhabitation will be employed in mining and in commerce and so small in farming that produce will at all times bring a high price and more can be produced here to the labor bestowed than in any other country.

One acre of land produces from 40 to 75 bushels of wheat, barley from 60 to 100, potatoes 200 to 400, onions from 1/2 to 2 lb. each, beats that range from 10 to 30 lb each, cabbage from 20 to 50 lb. each and everything else in proportion, except Indian corn which I don't think will do for a field crop, but everything else (and a great many think that will do here) grows more luxuriantly here than any other place I ever saw, Now the prices, barley is worth 6 to 10 cents per lb (all things are sold here by the pound) potatoes 8 to 12, onions 30 to 50, cabbage from 25 to 1.00 each and all other things in proportion and I think these prices will continue for some time to come.

There are the prices given at the farms. In the mines they are much higher and in great demand and always will be as long as

the mines hold out. One hand can make at farming more than twenty times as much money here than in Illinois. I think if your sons will conclude to farm that they can make several thousand dollars next year. I have land if they cannot do better I will start them in on my land, furnish seed and do the best for them I can. I have no doubt of their success as they appear to be of the right stripe for California.

They are both in fine health and since they got here I think in good spirits. All that I regret is that they left their

families behind. If they had brought them we could have settled them down and they could make a lifetime business of it and succeed



much better. They will be sure to bring their families sooner or later, for no one can ever live in the States after they have been here one year.

When I first arrived here I was not perhaps so in favor of the country but the longer I stay the better I like it until now I think this country is every point preferable to any part of the states. I think so much of it that I am determined to have my family here as soon as I can have them brought, next winter at the furthest.

I would like to hear that you Sister Jane and family were coming out next spring, but when your sons become better acquainted with the country they will write you on that subject.

San Jose is the seat of government of California and is improving very fast, is now one of the prettiest little cities in the world and is destined to be quite large. Society is getting to be good and will in a short time be very fine. Several churches are formed and meeting houses building, preaching in different parts of the city every Sabbath and several fine schools and I think shortly we will have very refined Society equal to the best in the States. All that we lack is a sufficient number of families. They are coming in daily but the number of men are much larger than women. I will write you again shortly. Give my love to Sister Jane and your Brother James, all yours and his family.

I remain your brother

C.W. Campbell

P.S. I will send this to New Orleans by a friend who starts tomorrow and where it will be mailed.

(David M. Campbell married Jane Campbell which accounts for the brothers-in-law having the name Campbell)

To D.M. Campbell  
from James Campbell

San Jo se, Calif.  
O t. 8th, 1850.

Dear Father and Mother

I got a leter yesterday from you dated June the 28th. David and I are well. <sup>a</sup>Barny Springer and James Hickerson are well. 2 or 3 weeks ago we got to the mines, September the 6th and when we got a place to work David and I wen to see Uncle Wm. and Uncle Charles. We got to San Jose September the 28th. On Friday Octoher the 2nd David started back to the mines after the boys and the wagon. As David went back he got the 1 letter at Sacramento and read it, then remailed it and sent it to me. I am glad to here you and ~~all~~ ~~all~~ ~~all~~ are all geting along well. We expect to ~~stay~~ stay at Uncle Wms. this winter and perhaps next summer. The mines have been crouded so this fall that they are not makeing but little. The truth of it is where one makes \$10 pur day fifty makes nothing. Things have taken a fall sense we came here from \$1 to \$3 a day pur day is what people hires for, some cannot hire a tall, hundreds are too lazy to work.

Farming is the best bisness here for a sure hit. Potatoes from 10 to 12 1-2 cents a pound, unions 40 a pound. We people rase from 250 bushels to 300, potatoees 300 bushels pur achor.

It is now 9 o'clock at night, they are all siting a round me talking and confuses me so I can hardly wrightl Uncle Wm. is siting at my elbow telling his gold stories and talking about his mills. He has bought a little griss mill. He is always tinckering about a mill or some kind of a mashine, he has a party in the store.

David and I want to make anuff to buy the old place by the time we go home anyhow. I think this vally is more healthy than the States. Tell Thomaas and Edward unless you all move to Callifornia they had better stay at home. I am not sorry I came to Cal fornia.



It is now most 10 o'clock at night. If I was comeing agane I would bring oxen and cows. Boys, don't get in a fret till I get home, then we will all go to California together. Oncle Charles is most crazy for us to move to California. I can't think of anything more to write about of importance. Tell Thomas he must write to me, Edward and Charles also. I want to get a letter every few days, don't forget to wright.

I want you to all live as you may wish that you had of lived when you come to die, that is of more importance than all the gold in California. While others are falling on t e right and on the left we are yet spared to prepare for Eternity, death will come like a thief in the night when we are not expecting/ it, be prepared at all times. Love God and prepare to meete him in Glory.

Afterthis when you w~~ould~~ wright to us direct your letters to San Jose, California . When Davie gets hack we will both wright. I have never got a letter from Elizabeth yet, don't all forget to wright.

Dear Father, and Mother<sup>1</sup>, Brothers and Sisters

Farewell

James Campbell

Q<sup>Q</sup> I am reading my letter in a hurry. Wm. Finley says to tell you that they are all well and he has 4 of theprittys children in the world. Cosin Sarah looks like Mother.

No. 2

To David M. Campbell

San Jose California

From: David L. Campbell

October 26, 1850

Dear Father and Mother:

I again find an opportunity to write to you. James and myself are in very good health. In fact I am heavier than I was at home. My throat is a little painful at times but I have had but little opportunity to take care of myself since we got in. I got in to the mines on the 6th of September and on the 8th I wrote to you and Martha and James to Elizabeth. I then wrote that we got in safe with provisions enough etc. but I will again state that we lost ~~Don~~ Dan on the road and one steer lame which has since died, so then we had three yoke of oxen and three cows left. I told you in my first letter now we got our third cow on the road. We had tolerable good luck in comparison to what many had but I will now confine myself to things since my arrival.

On the 9th of September James and I in company with four men that came over the plains with us went to Nevada City on Deer Creek to work but everything being crowded we could not get a place to work, so we bought a claim and tools to work with at \$300 to be divided equally among the eight men concerned, and we were to pay our provision bill out of the first proceeds of the claim. But we soon found that we could make but little of that claim so we sold the cow that we got on the plains for \$35, put the balance of the cattle out on a ranch to be herded at \$4.00 per month a head, there being two cows and six oxen, and James and I started to see Uncle William. We went with some wagons to ride and drive stock until we got twenty miles past Sacramento City and they went so slow that we concluded to walk on. We went to Stockton a distance of 40 miles the first day and two and a half days more we got to San Jose where we found Uncle Charles. We knew him



at sight, he favors Mother very much. He has a store here and is doing very well.

Next day we went to Uncle William's. He lives three miles from town and from all we met a warm reception; they persuaded us that as the mine were very uncertain that they would give us a good chance to farm on Uncle William's land. Uncle Charles furnishes us with everything you need in the store. Uncle William offered to board us or furnish a house and provisions and we do our own cooking, so we took the latter, as we thought we would rather do our own cooking then impose on our new aunt, but she has been very kind this far; and probably will continue, so James stayed here while I returned for our cattle.

I went by San Francisco, which is a large city with hundreds of ships in the harbor. I took a steamship and went to Sacramento one day, 150 miles. I there got a letter from you dated June 28th and one from Martha dated June 27th which gave me no little satisfaction I assure you. I sent your letter to James and started to Nevada City. I got back in 19 days whole distance about 520 miles. Then Johnson & Bennett the men that was with us and Barney and James Marion went to the ranch to get our cattle and hunted two days and found but four head of mine and eight out of thirteen of Bennett's. Then I went with two others and hunted two days but found no more. I found three steers and one cow as follows: Ball, Broad and one of the Pemberton's steers and the red cow, so I bought a steer from Bennett to make the two yoke and came on down to this place. Bennett and Johnson have gone to law for theirs, Johnson is a lawyer and from the circumstances of the case I have no doubt that they will get paid as the men have plenty of property. If they gain they will write to me and I will institute a suit if they don't settle which they will be likely to do but I feel quite sure of getting pay. The boys made but little while I was gone

so we gave up the claim to the ~~0000~~ men that we bought of with all the tools so you see we have done but poorly so far as money is concerned.

We have only about \$40 now after paying our expences down here, but I am not ready to give up yet, though I will not be able to send home money as soon as I expected, the provision is so high in this country that unless a man has uninterrupted good luck it is hard to save anything, farmers and tradesmen in a general way stop all the money

Uncle William has given us a chance to make something sure this winter and spring in which there is but little risk by farming. He has 40 acres fenced in and rails enough to make two strings of another 60 acre field. He furnishes our provisions, team, seed, etc. and Cousin David goes in to help work and fence the balance and make a hand in the crop, and they take each one share and James and I take four shares which is the whole, there being six parts.

We have broken up the contract existing between us and Barney and James Hickerson for two reasons, one that they ought not to have what Uncle gives us and the other between ourselves is they are not of age and consequently we could not hold them to the bargain, but this you must say nothing about, never let on how we are doing. I have hired Barney and James Hickerson for one year to divide is made clear of all expense equally between us four until each has \$600 and then I give them 5 per cent on all that is made over the \$2,400.

Wheat is sowed here the last of January and barley in February. Wheat averages 45 bushels per acre and barley 70 bushels and never fails. Flour is now worth \$16 per hundred at the mill and barley 10 cents a pound, e c. There is one man in the valley who has 160 acres and has sold \$120,000 worth of it this year. There is a great deal raised here with but little labor.



We will plant a garden so as to have something to sell early, the crop will be finished in August and then if we conclude to mine we will throw up dirt in the dry season and wash it out next winter in the early part of the wet season, as we expect to try and be ready to start home by the first of January.

If we can raise only two thirds as much as people say they raise and get one third as much as things now are James and I will clear over \$3,000, but I think there is but little doubt we will make between \$3,000 and \$6,000. We will send you the first money we get and it is likely that we can send some \$200 or \$300 by June next and possibly sooner. You must not tell any person what we are doing further than that we have a profitable job here this winter. We have a good frame house to live in with a cooking stove and everything necessary to make us comfortable.

It is very healthy here, but I have not seen a sick person since I have been at San Jose. In a word this is quite a pleasant place and I have no doubt but that we will do well. I should have said that I received your second letter as I came down with my wagon containing one from brother Thomas dated August 8 and one from Elizabeth to James dated August 15th. You asked several questions in your letter which are mostly answered in my first letter but I will have more time in a week or two and then I will answer Thomas and Edward more fully.

For the present they had better raise hogs, horses, cattle, wheat etc. and use just such a team and wagon as they like and haul to Quincy with. From the best information I can get from men who ought to know say that McMurry took home about ~~\$12,000~~ \$2,000 besides some notes to the amount of \$1,500 or \$2,000 more. Do the best you can at home and do not give yourselves any uneasiness about us. We are doing very well and I will write often and you must do

the same.

We have regular preaching here and things appear something like we were at home. I am in a hurry to put this in the mail. Direct your letters to San Jose, Calif. May God Bless us all while we are separate.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

P.S. Sunday 27th I have just returned from church. The morning lesson was Ezekiel, 33rd Chapt. Text 11th verse.

D.L.C.



From D.L. Campbell  
to D.M. Campbell

No. 3rd  
San Jose Calif.  
Monday, Dec. 9, A.D. 1850

Dear Father:

I once more take an opportunity to inform you that I am well and in good spirits. I weigh 154 pounds which is heavier than I ever weighed before and ten pounds than when I left the States.

Brother James has been sick as you will find from a letter written to Brother Thomas & Edward some two weeks since; James is now well as ever he was, but is not stout yet, but his flesh is gaining fast and he thinks will be all the better for it. The other boys are well and getting out timbers for our fences.

The weather is fine and pleasant. We have had but little rain, yet not enough to ditch to advantage; but the grass oats and mustard is coming up, and it looks fine indeed. I am at Uncle Charles' in San Jose tonight. Brother James came in this evening, he is setting by me reading and our prospects look very flattering without which makes us feel quite comfortable but still we would like to know how you all are and whether or not you are happy and contented, but we can only commend you to Father in Heaven, believing that he will do all things for the best; though we do not always understand his providence but still we ought not to complain for he knows best.

I suppose that ~~with~~ what little work I have been able to do besides attending on Brother while sick would amount to near \$150 but it is not all collected yet but it is good. I am afraid that I shall not be able to send you much money soon, but I will try and send a little sometime during the winter and next summer I think I will be able to do something right handsome.

be contented and believe we will do all we can and you try and make every edge cut, save all you can and we will do the same and we will all try and enjoy it together.

Now for something pretty good, Uncle James of Oregon came down here last Friday on his way to the States. He is very friendly and I am very much pleased with him. He is sorry we did not go to Oregon and he thinks we could do well in money matters besides taking a claim. He insists on our going to Oregon to look at the country next fall after he comes back, which we may do if we make "the hat full and something to spare."

He is going in to get an estate and see his friends if possible. Cousin Benjamin Campbell went in last Spring and is coming back next year across the plains with some of the connection. I told Uncle James about our situation at home concerning the timber land and the cost against James, the old place, etc. He says if he was at home he could fit it to our satisfaction and thinks that he can yet arrange it if the river is open. He will go to see you immediately but if not he will write to you to meet him if possible as he will have considerable to attend to. He expects to collect some money for Wallace Finley who married Cousin Sarah and Cousin Benjamin had several thousand dollars with him and from all these he thinks he can get enough to pay for the \$300 for the timber land and cost for me and James and possibly more and I will pay then next fall, or know that that much money cannot be raised honestly by any means. If that arrangement can be effected and I have strong hopes of it I will then be happily situated so far as earthly things are concerned and believe we could all live comfortably, enjoying rest for want of money having peace and plenty.

If Uncle James concludes to come back by land he may not be able to come to see you and Mother, but if he comes by water he expects to see you and go to Kentucky, see Uncle John and bring out Uncle Charles's family. I am in hopes he will be able to see you all and make some arrangements that will help us and

not injure him



We have not heard from Uncle Thomas for several months and he was then sick, which makes us a little uneasy about him, but we hope for the best.

I think that by next summer some of us will take a little round in the Gold mines as we will have our own provisions and it will not cost us much and if we can make a good haul we may work at it next fall, but we will put in a large crop of this winter of wheat, potatoes, beans, cabbage, onions, etc. which will be sure to turn us out a good pile of money.

The mines are not as good as they formerly were and there never was as much clear money made as people represented from the fact that the expenses took nearly all the profits, but still once in awhile a man makes a handsome fortune, but none of them drink, gamble and spend money foolishly, all of which we save.

Our oxen are picking up considerably, but I will not sell them as they will be of service to me in hauling when they get fat. I have not received any letters since your second but I have sent to Sacramento City and think in a few days I shall have an answer by the way of letter. I have not heard from Martha since the 27th of June. I am very anxious to hear. This is my third letter to you since I came in and one to Thomas & Edward. I have written two to Martha and one to Mr. Fruit. Say to Edward, Charles & Margaret to be good, kind and affectionate one to another and obedient to you & Mother, do all the good they can and nothing wrong. Remember their Creator always and I have no doubt but they will find pleasure in so doing. Write to me about everything you can think of.

Give my respects to Mr. and Mrs. Morey as well as all inquiring friends. I expected to send this by Uncle James but he left here this evening before I was ready, so I will send this by mail unless I should get a chance to send it to him. Tell Mr. Mix to

excuse me for my neglect as I have had so much to write that I forgot it. I called on D.G. Whitney as I came from the mines but could get nothing then. He said he would try and pay it this spring. He has since commenced merchandizing in Sacramento City and I think I will be able to get it yet. Give Mr. and Mrs. Nix my respects, etc (Nix Mix)

Now Father, Mother, Thomas, Edward, Charles, Margaret, Harriet, Wm. Leander and Elizabeth and John Sidney.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

I Want you to go and see Martha if you can and see if she needs anything. Do what you can for her and comfort one another, be not distressed about anything.

Farewell

D.L.C.



To David<sup>m</sup> Campbell  
From Thomas Campbell

Columbia, Mo.  
Jan. 12, 1851

Mr. Campbell: Sir:

Your letter has come to han. I was much pleased to lurn that your sons had landed in California in good health and were well pleased with the country. ~~The~~ longer the stay thare the will become more pleased as that is t e invariabel case. If you coul get to California this year you would do well as property has fallen very much sin I left that country.

I don't expect to return this spring. Joseph Lovel has moved to Salane county for the purpo of going to Califonnia next spring tho he and Mr. Finley ha declined going and I suppose the will never go and I suppose it is the be t for them not to start. If the should start the haven't energay safficient carrey them through and the would dye on the road for want of it. Mr. Givian has no notion of going, he is afraid he will luse the proseads of one year's labor. Mr. Norflett has declined going, he thinks ~~he~~ would be unreligious to go to California.

Brother John ses he will send two of his sons with me when I go back and if the like the country and bilt a house then he will go . He dos not say much about going but I can see from his arrangements that he entends to go. In talking about his bisness he will say that he has worked hard and long anuff for the papel of Muhlenberg County and if he stays thare he will have to worke all his life . As California holds out the best inducements he may move to that country

Robert has sould out his tavern and is fixing for California in the spring tho he wants to go by Watter , but is not entirely abel to go that way. I wish you would wright to him and get him in the notion to cross the plans with you as that is much the best way for a family to emigrate. The outfit will be worth twice the

amount you pay for it , four when you go by watter you get theare with emty pockets and no outfit. That is just the differance in going by land and watter.

Your auld friend Thomas Moppin went last spring with his family. He got in in good time and order. Col. Billey Willson of Ky. is going out this spring with his family. Col. Willson when a young man lived in Greenvill. When you wright to Robert direct your letter to Grenvill. Ma is well Mary Dyglass is at Norfleets this winter. I think the emigration this year will be about sufficient for protection, pleasure and comfort. Martha Ann joins me in love to you and all of the your family.

Thomas Campbell

N.B. Wright to me as sune as you sell your farm

T.C.



To David M. Campbell-  
 From David L. Campbell

No. 4  
 San Jose, Calif.

Jan. 13th A.D. 1851.

Dear Father:

I again inform you that Brother James and I are well. James is now able to work a little though not as stout as he was before he was sick, he weighed last Friday 186 1-2 pounds without his coat on. He is much fiesiar than you ever saw him and he is getting his strength pretty fast. The last time I wa weighed I pulled down 157 1-2 which was so three weeks since , so you see I am gaining. I am in hopes that we will both get our healths well before we getready to start back.

We have had but very little rain here yet, only enough to make it good plowing. It is as pretty weather as you ever saw. We have been plowing for <sup>two</sup> ~~three~~ or three weeks past with our coats off, the ground sca cely ever freezes over night. We have 17 acres of barley that is up three inches high and six acres of wheat that is up; we have thirty eight acres more broke up ready to sow but the ground is hardly as wet as we would like for things to grow, besides 8 acres broke for potatoes etc. We have about thirty five acres to brake yet. We have got along very fast with our work since we got things underway. We are farther along with our farming operations than any

other person around us. Mining is quite full this winter, owing to the fact that there is more at it than can find work and there has been no rain to start the branches so that they could get water to wash the dirt.

Mining is getting to be a poor business , in fact as soon as any busine is found to be good , it is over run.

This is a fine climate and in some respects I would like to live here. There is no cold pierceing winds, and no feeding of cattle and this winter it has been as fine weather as I ever seen and I am fearful we will not have rain and mud enough to answer our purpose. Wood is scarce, we have to haul our fire wood five or six miles and scarce

at that, railes are hauled 10 or 12 miles out of the mountains. There we get redwood which is a species of wood between cedar and pine. It is the prettiest timber to split I have ever seen, we have made several hundred posts and railes and never had an iron wedge, we split cuts six feet through with the ax, but the valley is settling up so fast that I think that timber will be almost impossible to come at in two or three years.

I have nothing more to write that I know of. I have received no letters from you since we came down here. I want you to write about everything about the farm and country, whether Browning or Richardson goes to Congress, etc. and may love and kindness abound in us all

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

P.S. I believe I have never written, but likely you have heard, that Bill Harrison died on Feather river last February. His last end was miserable. He expressed the same opinion of that company out here that we had at home. I understood he said that they treated him bad across the plains, they took his team, sold it, took the money and left him sick to die without a dime in his pocket or a friend to assist him. He gave a man from Missouri his note for \$300 to collect out of his estate for taking care of him.

D.L.C.



To D.M. Campbell  
From D.L. Campbell

No. 5

San Jose, California

Jan. 20 A.D., 1851

Dear Father

I again take an opportunity of writing to you . Brother James and I are still in good health and hope these lines may find you in the enjoyment of the same blessing.

I have nothing new to write. I wrote my fourth letter to you on the 13th inst. We have been plowing since then and have upwards of 50 acres broke. We run two teams of two yoke of oxen each. The ground is not very hard to barake when it is wet enough, but at present it is most too dry. We have had very little rain here this winter the valley here where we are farming is covered with black mustard, clover and oats and in the fall looks like an old field. It brakes up very nice and loose but is better for one crop to plow it twice, so we expect to plow a part of it over again this week and sow it in wheat, and the balance we will sow in barley plant potatoes, onions, cabbages, etc.

We are getting along very well. Our red cow had a calf ~~and~~ a few days ago and I bargained her away to the Rev. Mr. Owens for one hundred dollars to be paid in March next, provided I meet with no opportunity to sell her for ready money sooner. When I get that I will send it to you in a check.

We are now so busy at our farming that we have no time to do little jobs for money but when spring comes if things are flourishing we will be able to make something that way as our stuff will need no attending. It is the most beautiful weather here I have ever seen so far as personal comfort is concerned, but it is too dry for our business. We work with our coats off and often sweat while plowing . We are all doing well and could be well satisfied if we could make a little more ready money, but we cannot and so that is the end of it. If the season is

anyways favorable I feel quite confident of doing well next fall. I can assure you that we spend no time in idleness, we are always in the field at sunrise and drive like we were obliged to finish the Drive ahead at home to the best possible advantage and may peace, prosperity and happiness crown our efforts.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

P.S. I send this by a man going home who lives in Iowa, viz John McCutchen, Van Buren county, I believe.

D.L.C.

January 26th

Dear Father:

Since writing the foregoing Uncle Charles received a letter of the 20th of November, 1850. I received it on the 22nd ~~inst.~~ from which I was glad to learn that you were all well. It surprised me to learn from it that you were trying to sell to move to California and as I have heard nothing from home since the 8th of August last I am unable to say wheather it is best or not. I would be glad to hear wheather anything new has transpired to put you in that notion. From all I know if we had that place we wanted to get and were all settled once we would be as well fixed as any need for so far as living is concerned, but then there are other things in the neighborhood that are very disabreeable. If <sup>were</sup> ~~we~~ ~~have~~ all here now or had been here one year ago we might have made an independant for one and got a good situation to live, but this country has changed wonderfully since that time, but if you have sold and are ready to come, then don't be sorry but come on. California has many good qualities and in some things great advantages over Illinois. I will give you a short description of it as far as I know.



When we got to the Siera Nevada Mountains I found them covered with the finest kind of Pine timber and as we gradually ascend, the timber increased in size and hight, when we got near the summit we found a species of pine called fir and some timber called Redwood which is rather between pine and cedar and grows very large. It is the finest timber to split I have ever seen.

All this cou try is very broken and stony. Untill we got within 30 miles of Sacramento City where we found a level plain covered in places with small stones. It is said to be very beautiful in the spring after a wet season. This is not good farming land except close to the Sacramento River which is on the west side and the American River which runs through it east of the Sacramento River.

Sacramento City is about a half mile below the forks of the Sacramento River and American River, on the east side; we tyen keep down the valley passing through strips of oak timber which is of but little use except for firewood and the land gets better. After crossing two small streams we finally reach Stockton, distance from Sacramento City 65 miles. This is close to the Bay and near the San Joaquin River. This part of the country might be cultivated to some extent if a sufficiency of timber could be procured. From Stockton across the River of the San Joaquin and its valley a distance of 30 miles there is but little farming land; but it is fine for pasture near the river; then 15 miles over the mountains they are covered with oats; then a valley of 15 miles covered with oats and clover

Here I saw the fattest cattle I have ever seen. This has some tolerable farming land but scarce of timber, then 10 miles over mountains covered with oats as thick as the oats fields in the States and then we get into the valley of San Jose. This valley begins at the lower end of the Bay and runs south about 40 miles and then (as I am informed) the mountains

come close together for a short distance and then widen out and continues on down the Coast for several hundred miles.

One part of this valley runs up the West side of the Bay of San Francisco. There is a range of mountains between this valley on the West and the Pacific Ocean though there is a valley six or eight miles wide from between the mountains and the Ocean. The Valley of San Jose is about 30 miles wide. San Jose is near the center and eight miles south of the Bay. It contains between 2 and 5 thousand inhabitants and is the seat of government. The valley is fine farming land and is covered thick as it can stand with black mustard, clover and oats. I have seen 10 thousand acres as thick set with oats as if it had been sowed. People say they raise 40 or 50 bushels of wheat, 70 to 100 bushels of barley, 2 to 4 hundred bushels of potatoes and other things in proportion, except for corn, it is not good for that, one thing they have no good seed.

As to the climate it is just as fine as you could desire. The days are not very warm, but for a short time, and the nights are cool. It is generally rains three or four months in the winter, but not so much but what a person can work the greater portion of the time. This winter it has been uncommonly dry, there has been but two rains and the ground is now very dry. I am fearful that there will not be enough to make it a good crop year. The land here is very rich and must undoubtedly produce well. A man can live here on very little ground and but little labor as it is not necessary to lay up anything for his stock, there being plenty all the year around growing wild. There are more cattle here than any place you have ever seen, but the Spanish cattle are not as good as the American cattle.

There are but few hogs and what is have to be kept up as timber is too scarce to fence against them. There is scarcely any timber in the valley, it is all brought from the mountains west of it, and it



Write everything you can think of and if you still want to come next year James and I can bring you over so handy you would be surprised.

(The letter above is a portion, four pages of an 11 page letter mentioned later on. However, the other pages are missing but judge the material in this is covered pretty well by the letter to Edward Campbell dated January 28, 1851.)