

Virginia City Sept 23, 1864

My Dear Spooner,

Yours of August 12 was received about a week ago, while I was busily engaged in the trial of an important and maritime case involving the value of a large stock of g___ brought to this country by steamboat up the _____. I was rejoiced to hear from you. While East last winter, gave a friend of mine, Mr. Hint a letter to you, and if he had found you, I would have gone to Boston, but _____. _____ informed me that you had left the city and had been away for some time Ill fortune bothers you as it does me, but we are informed by the good book that the quater will be our reward hereafter. If this be true, I think this whole affair of live and its concerns as a precious blunder. I have ceased to hope for much here. My position does not pay my living. Every thing here is p.e. higher than in the States, and my \$2500 a year in greenbacks does not half pay the expense of my family. Consisting of a wife, her sister, and my boy and girl. My present wift, 4th in number, is a Philadelphia girld, not yet 14 years of age, blooming and beautiful. I live in comfortable ___ share as good as any in the _____ and as contented as a man can expect to be in the midst of the Rocky mountains surrounded by savage tribes of indians, and _____ of whites more savage than they. I send you herewith a copy of my account before the B_____ Clark N.Y. which will tell you more about Montana than I can write also, copies of my changes to the _____ which will give you an idea of the manner in which criminals are disposed of.

_____ you with some good gold and value clauses _____ a company in Boston that will _____ on machines to work them? I have some as good as any on the continent quartz that will yield from sixty to one hundred and thirty _____ the ton. It cannot _____ to make any company rich in a year or two that will work it, and I can furnish any guaranty of it necessary for the success of a company. It is my last hope for some making and I have enough of it for us both, and will share equally with you in any _____ that can be made for asking it. If you think you can do anything, I will send you a _____ worth the assays property certified to and in such shape as to command the conf. _____ of capitalists. You say you have a scheme for money making. I hope it will be successful for if it fails in quartz after a year longer residence here, I want to return to the States and I hope you will have something for me to do there. Let me hear from you soon. Tell me everything. A letter from twenty to thirsty days in seaching one. I am old and grey how is it with you. I am not sorry either that my life is approaching the final goal. It is hardly worth the having. My boy, is with me, has _____ plenty, but a frail constitution, and will probably die of consumption before he arrives at maturity. My _____ is with a (_____ at soher) and _____ She is very pretty, smart, eccentricm

and of good promise

Bellia[?] me as everm in haste.

Yours truly

[illegible signature]

[Looks like: My Spooner]