

Nevada March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1853

Dear Sister

I know of no other way to hear from home than to continue writing, although I have been at it for the last six months I still continue to receive nothing. However Charles Lloyd came to this place a few days since and so I have all the news up to the time of his departure from Ellsworth. He said that you all were receiving letters from me. So that I am glad you have not reason to think I have forgotten you. The reason I have not written to you is I have been waiting to receive an answer to my first of last October, as I have said before, it is hard to do all the talking in a conversation ones self, so it is in writing, I dont know but I shall have to give up after a while and sit mute, untill I get help from some quarter. There are ten or twelve letters due me from the States but none yet arrive. All the rest receive letters. However Mr Green did not receive any until last weeek he got three from his wife. I shall answer every letter I can get after this but shall not promise to write verry often until I do receive some. I know a young man here who has been from home two years and has not received a letter so he has quit writing altogether, but I believe I wont get quite so bad as that on my friends. I hear from Charly Lord frequently. He is getting letters almost every mail. The last I wrote to Father & Mother I had not been doing much for some weeks. Last week I done the best of any time since I have been in the country. Made about thirty five dollars clear of board in five days work. do not expect to do as well this week. Yesterday and today made about ten dollars. Mr Green and I bought a claim for which he paid one hundred dollars. Charles Lloyd has been working with us two days and I think will buy a share of us. I send you a view of some miners just about as natural as life. The first, "A Sundays Amusements", is a picture of them washing their clothes which many do on Sunday in the river or creek. I do the same but not on Sunday. The Second, "Occupation for rainy days" shows them mending their old boots and pants. The third "A daily pleasure" shows pretty fairly how I look baking flap-jacks in a frying pan with a pile of them by my side on a smooth board or tin plate. That fellow pounding coffee I should think had forgot that they had a mill nailed just before him. I should think by his looks he did not like the smell or else he is a little homesick. The fourth " A pleasant surprise" shows Mr Grizzly occupying the tent and verry calmly warming his hands by the fire when the miners come home from work. A while ago a man came from his work and found that a Bear had been making a meal of his weeks supply also carrying off a Bucket of Sugar several rods and eating the Sugar left the pail washed as clean as his tongue could make it. Those animals do not trouble us here, now, they have been drive back into the mountains towards the far east. A wild animal of some kind keeps himself about here and at midnight wakens us by his savage yell and roar. He came close to our cabin a short time since and we could hear him smelling about until we made a noise and frightened him away. We cannot tell what it is for it does not make its appearance in the daytime. We think it is a California Lion. I like this part of the country verry much, it being verry healthy and now the weather is like May at home. I send you a flower which is verry pretty but fades much in pressing. Some call it Larkspur while I call it the Gem it is the first flower of Spring up here. Charly says down on the Plains the ground is covered with most beautifull flowers of many kinds. He has some nice specimens. I also send you a Nevada Journal containing a "do They Miss Me at Home" but I cant go

the last verse yet. Charly says that they have had a large singing School at E this winter and that a lady has been teaching Music for some families Ellsworth will become quite a musical place after a while I suppose you are getting so as to finger the Piano some by this time. if not you must by all means commence soon. I would like to see you throw your hands and fingers as I have seen some in this country. There are many good Musicians here as well as anywhere else. I was sorry to hear by way of Mrs Green that Sister Mary had been sick. I suppose she cant stand it to switch the young ones about verry much.

It is getting late, now Eleven O'clock and must retire and rest for tomorrow and see if I cant dig out as much as Mary gets for one month teaching school So "good Night" before I fold this I will find out what I make tomorrow and put it down. My love to all and I remain Your Brother as ever

L. R. Bingham

To Susan

Only four dollars

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Envelope addressed to:

Miss Susan Bingham  
Ellsworth  
Mahoning Co.  
Ohio