

Virginia City Oct 18/68

Dear Brother

I am still in the mountains and cannot get away as you are aware that our lodes proved a failure or nearly so yet I believe that if they were sunk below water level then I think that some of them would prove all we ever expected but the question is which ones they be we may never know they seem to me a mystery so far this year I have been looking for placer diggings but all in vain the main cause of this failure was owing to the lack of funds to buy pack animals to move around with and was compelled to try where I had but little or no hope of finding anything in fact could not get where I wanted too and this is why I am now as I am not able to get home not able to go out to prospect any farther until I can earn a few Dollars by working for 2 Dollars per day and board myself this you see is hard away from home so long and get barely enough for grub & clothes and cannot save a dollar to

from such ways to pray my fare home and am
an Exile yet I must be content and yet how my
Wife and Dear Children are to live this Winter is
my Greatest anxiety God only knows for I cannot
get one Cent more than will Board me and for
Clothes this Winter for times are outfull Dull here
~~and food very high and Raising every Day and~~
only a few mills running and those that are
working ^{are} paying ^{only} 25 Dollars per month & Board so
they cannot be making much and in fact nearly
every Quarts mill has been sold for debt and
some have been sold 3 or 4 times already things
look Blue Blue here montana I fear is played
out but I have got to stop in it untill next fall
When I shall take my last look into these mountains
the reason of my stopping that long is only
for lack of funds to take me out sooner I
hope you will Corospond with my wife and try
to cheer her by advice and Encouragement
as for me I cannot rest Day or night hard at
work Day times and nights Worrying for those at
home I cannot help it how are they to live is a
serious Question for I cannot help them a
parting for work cannot be got here at figures

to live on and what will become of me I dont
know between this and Spring and to tell the
truth sometimes I think I dont care I have
tried hard to get enough to keep want from
my family but all my hard efforts seem to
have been blasted and every hope turned
to bitter-Disappointment from the beginning
of my life up to the present time and now
I scarcely know what to do Write soon to
me Direct to Virginia City

yours

E B Weeks

As I would like to write more but my
feelings in speaking of home and my helpless
ones bring a feeling worse to me than to die
and leave them a great deal so I must
close and beg for you to excuse me at
present

E B W