

Adam Abbott

California No 2

Dear Friends, I again attempt to pen a few lines to you to let you know where we are and what doing. We are here where we first stoped. Palmer has nearly recovered. Aida is well. And my health good. I have spent the week in looking around a little prospected some but the lack of water will prevent operations at present. There are ditches dug upon the banks of most of the rivers and streams ready to take the water (when it runs) to an elevation from its bed where it is sold to miners to their benefit and at a good profit to the stockholders in the ditch Company. The water of the Cosumnes river is taken some 40 miles in a ditch. The river rises in the Nevada and has fall enough so that the water is carried to an elevation of about 500 feet above the bed of the river. Miners say it pays well to buy water at six dollars a day for a team sufficient for three or four men to work. Mining is considered the best business for men without means of speculation. And I am so nearly straped that I must dig or beg and that soon but notwithstanding if Providence favors me with health I shall shift to get along.

To E. Abbott Esq

While at Salt Lake I disposed of most of James' clothing and tools to the best advantage that I could. Of the outfit six shares Henry owned two, Palmer and Warren, two and James and myself two. Henry had paid more than his part. So in the division of the rig Henry took about half, leaving us but three horses, little wagon, harness, tent, cooking utensils &c. prized at 290 dollars, 4 shares. And he took Mr. Hubbs to carry through. I found no sale for James' rifle and revolver at S. L. and here they are of no value in market. All that James owned ^{of value} is the individual one-fourth of three horses, wagon and harness. Not meeting with an offer to suit us, and casting as from five to eight dollars a day to keep four horses here, we sent them off to a ranch thirty five miles. I don't know as we shall ever see them again, but if we don't good bye to them. When James died I had 28.25 dollars I paid out of this, Doctors Bill 12

Leaving \$16.25
I have sold in clothing &c. 25.10
Charged against myself to his credit \$41.35
I think there will be enough to pay Jackson
At any rate I will pay that debt for James
effects here And you may do so out of my
means which you have
E. Abbott

I might speak of the Mortality upon the Plains
this year but I hardly know what to say. I have
heard different estimations of the number that have
died, some setting it as high as 5000 but I think this
is quite too high. I think one thousand would be a
low estimate, perhaps fifteen hundred would be nearer
correct. Don't let this number frighten you, there
have been a great number on the Plains this year,
you say, will not the emigration over the Plains
cease? stop, yes, it will stop when the waves
of the Pacific dash up before it in tones that
say "Thus far mayst thou come but no further".
The emigration to California will continue for
a few years more or less every year after which
a reaction will take place and the flood will
pour towards the east. This is my judgment in
the matter for I do not ^{think} that California will
long contain the numbers that are so fast
pouring in from all parts. For every
nation on earth is here represented. The
Chinaman is here with his umbrella hat
and loose breeches the Chilian the Spaniard
the German, I have seen emigrants from fifteen
states while on the road. The Doctor the
Lawyer the Merchant all had to bear their
share of the fatigue and the Preacher too where
is the Preacher I have not seen a Preacher
on the Plains nor since I arrived in California

I have seen too, more Fiddles than Bibles
more Cards than Hymn Books more Dirks and Pistols
than Book for the cultivation of morals heard more swearing
than Praying, heard of several murders on nine
cases of lynching in all of which ^{cases} the Judges were
chosen the Jury called the Sheriff appointed
witnesses sworn and all the trial conducted with proper
order in most of these cases the prisoners have confessed
their guilt and then they were hung by first running
two wagons together so as to rear the tongs against
each other between which the prisoners were sawn
Well I am tired writing and by the time you read
this far you may be tired reading so I think I
will draw to a close by subscribing myself

Yours ever A. A. Hall

P.S. Give my respects to all

Please send me some newspapers