

Denver Dec 10th 1876 -
Dear Mother -

Your letter of the
3^d Inst with scraps about
arrival of W. M. - duly
reached me - they were very
interesting to me, and al-
though I had read many
little items concerning that
distinguished Personage's
return home, Steel had
not seen anything as
definite - still there is
Daily N.Y. papers on
sale here but I have
never invested in them
the most interesting note
that has come under my
observation - was under

the heading of "Short cuts" -
the paper I've forgotten;
and said that in answer
to all enquiries &c - all
that could be got from
him was "~~no~~ ~~Sabe~~" -
a Spanish phrase - and
used more recently by
myself - as it's the dialect
of the Mexicans - meaning
"don't understand" or "don't
comprehend" - I thought
it very good - The last
letter dated Dec 3^d is
the first one for two
weeks - you made no
mention of not writing
and from that I presume
it's gone astray - I shall
try and be more punctual
so as to put you in

Could we but live over
the past ten or fifteen years
but its foolish to talk that
way - every ^{or many} one before us
has dreamed that some
thing in our ears, and
how heedless to take the
warning - are the ones
now at the age of from
12 to 19 years, but will
have the same cry in
the future - "the present
is good enough, the future
will care for itself" is
a mistaken reasoning -
Political life has proved
the ruin - financially
of Frank & myself - Had
I accepted the position

ordered by Mr. Marshall
I venture to say I never
have been in N.Y. City to
day - my business expe-
rience commanding a
good position, and
perhaps a business,
but the almighty dollar
shone in the form of
\$1000 - per annum so much
brighter than the small
\$250 - that we grabbed
in the filthy racket, and
although morally I withstood
the storm - it robbed
me of legitimate commer-
cial experience - I sat
in the lap of comfort and
ease - I drank and sat
from the table of luxuriance
I roamed abroad - I was

a crabby, and had all
a heart could wish - I
couldn't look any further
into the future than to
day - mark the contrast
to day - and I lay it all
from the fact - that the
\$1000.00 position hung in
a gilded frame on one
side, surrounded by all
the luxuriance and fine-
ness of finish that artist
pencil could portray -
carelessly thrown aside
on the floor - covered
with - but one day's dust
lay, a small insignifi-
cant shabbily penciled
\$250 position - that frame
contained a subject which
required dusting off + careful

get - Give
love to
Joe and
many tall
with a
bully good
share for
father &
yourself -
Alfred

looked
study - the longer you
at it the brighter grew
its meaning - It had a
future - The gilded present
won the day - Do you remem-
ber that I rather objected
to Frank taking his posi-
tion in the Board of Education
you can plainly see what
that's done for him -
now I didn't mean to write
such a bemoaning letter
for I don't feel one yet
as I write - I mean blue
in only apologizing for
the boys, and in the face
of all these facts - can't
wonder that we don't
amount to much - But
there is a good day^a coming

possession of your weekly
massive Friday's - you^{will}
have to push the matter
before uncle Wm so as to
get some decisive answer
from him - I feel very much
annoyed at your unsettled
state and am more
disappointed that I
should be in such a
position as to be
helpless to you - the more
I live in Denver the less
prospects I see - but
where could I do better?
I accepted a proposition
from Princeton and com-
menced on it yesterday
at a very much reduced
salary - it will but pay
the most necessary living

expenses - will better ^{myself}
if any opportunity offers
I preferred it to being
idle, or spending my time
on the cattle Ranch which
would entail some expense
at any rate. I consider
myself lucky - to make
these arrangements, at
least until something
better offers. don't say
anything about it - or let
any one know how close
it's going with me - as
for your matters take things
as easy as possible
don't fret or worry - I
thought of you all on my
Birthday - I can really say
"I would I were a boy again"