W G Barkley Esqr

My Dear Sir

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your very kind & interesting letter of 7th Nov with slips, all of which I forwarded to Mr Berryhill, hoping thus to encourage him with the hope of eventually recovering some portion of his losses—

Your communication has enabled me to obey at least one scriptural injunction_ "Rejoicing with those who do rejoice"_I allude to the success attending Maj Brookie_ & most heartily pray his success may continue until he is enabled to cry out enough.

A late letter from Mr. H Spencer has resulted in obedience to another injunction_"weeping with those who weep"_ his circumstances must be truly distressing_ & he has my deepest sympathies _ without ability on my part to [relieve] him _ The luck attending nearly all old Californians clings to me with a vengeance _ upon failure of placer adventure here resolved once more to experiment in quartz, Gold _ Lodes having been found which gave evidence of great richness, my strength and resources were exhausted in sinking shafts _

After thorough examination, a custom mill was introduced and located close by one of my lodes, & commenced pounding away like a [young] giant for nearly a week, when a clean up revealed the enormous sum of 25° cents. An earthquake could not have caused more consternation & dismay among those interested _ indeed it seems to have proved a death blow to the hopes of the entire community _ They hold that development of this is a fair test of the value of all yet discovered. Results are a mystery to all, the quartz is evidently rich easily crushed But the reason why the treasure cannot be saved not easily known

The result of all this is a death blow to all my hopes _ In fact never before have I been so circumstanced _ or so enveloped in clouds of worse than "Egyptian darkness". [However] the Devil cannot tempt me to follow the counsel of Mr[s.?] Job _ Winter has set in with a vengeance _ &I may be forced nolens volens _ to remain sometime however reluctant. I seems to me that if Lodes similar to any in Montana can be worked by a cheap & simple process, there is no reason why ours cannot. Should it be in your power to give me anything additional of of an interesting & reliable character a letter would reach me here _ & it is possible I may again be a citizen among much esteemed friends in Montana _ & there lay my old bones at last _ Please inquire of the Maj. the cause of his late success, was it the result of prayer faith & fasting? or what? _

I have no news of importance to send you _ but little inclination to write if I had

The election having been [adverse] to our wishes we may as well content ourselves & submit to the powers that be. We cannot have peace _ Radical Republicans will certainly hate Grant, in less than a year, & spit [out] more venom than ever was done at Johnson

I shall be pleased to hear once more from you before skedaddling for parts unknown to me as yet,

Please tender my kind regards & well wishes to your much respected lady _

Vry truly yours J.C. Buchanan

[Docketing] and [answered] Jan 24

J.C. Buchanan Dec 6 And [answered] Jany 24

My Dear Sin

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge

I. m. of y" Nor with Slips, one accept of Your my Kind & interesting letter of 7" Nor with Steps, our of which I forwarded to me Serry hier, hooping thus to encaurage hem with the hope of eventwally recovering dame fortion of his lefes ___ Jaur Communication has enabled me to obey at least one Scriptural injunction Rejaining with them who do rejain I allende to the Sweams attending may Sworke & most heartily from his Sweens may Continue until he is enabled to Cry aut enaugher A late letter from me the Spenser has resulted in Noduence to another ingunotion musting with Those who weep his Circumstance must be truly distribing I he has my dupent Lyonpathing Without ability an my part to believe hem the lives attending hearly all old Cal i fermions Clery's to me with a rengerance - depan facture of Place adventure here resolved ance more to emperiment in quart, Sold, Lodes having been found, which gave eridence of guar richness, my Strength & Cusauves mere exhausted in Sinding Shafts-After thorough examination a Custam mill was introduced and boated Clary and of he lades, & Commenced freunding away lest a Jawny biant for hearly a nest, Then a clean up Revalue The enormous Prem of 25 cents. An earthquare Cauld nethan Coursed more Constravation & discovery among Thou Interested indeed it beens to have proved a death black to the hopes of the entire Community - They hold that desdopment of this is a fair test of the Value of all Yet discovered, Results and whystery to all the quart is widently rich early brushed

(See The reason why the treasure Cannot be Sand hat wasily thrown The result of all the is a death blow to all my hopes In fact here before have Theen to Circumstanced or de insulsped in Clouds of worn than Egyptian doesness, He awen The Derse Connect tempt One to faceour the Coursel of mrs Job - Winter has Ser in with a lenguance I I may be forced noters voters to remaine Sometime howen reluctions, It accus to me that of Lodes Semilar to ares in Manhana Can be worked of a shoop & Temple for uso there is a Wason why aws Connot, Thousand it him Josen power to gin me any thing oudditional of of an interesting I reliable character & Letter Wauld award one here I it is prosable I may ingain to a Colgien annong much estumed freend in montance I there lay my old haves at last - I leave enquer of the maj the Course of his lat Swearf, Was I the asset of frager faith & fasting or what I han me neus of impulance to level four but letter in climation to mait of Thad_ The election having been advers to aw ni her no may as mee Content auseles the brut tethe powers that he he Cannot have peace Radical Republic wire. mie cestainly hate Swant, in less than a Year, to pot au mon Tenam than sur was down at Johnson -I Phoque to pleased to hear once more from Lan before Itestadding for parts unknown tromes Hot Selesan times my Kind Copard & meet make to Seen of much as parter Seen - Buy Truly Houses Ly Truly House.

The Quill & Pen

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Letter: Completely handwritten letter from Elizabeth(town), New Mexico from J.C. Buchanan of Montana Territory to W.G. Barkley of Montana Territory. Lengthy letter, written on front and back of ruled paper talks about gold mining and politics. Interesting content:

"The luck attending quartz, all Californians cling to me with a vengeance Upon failure of placer resolved once more to experiment in quartz gold, a lode having been found which gives evidence of great riches It occurs to me that if lodes similar to any in Montana can be worked by a simple process there is no reason why mine can't If a letter would reach me here, it is possible I may again be a citizen of Montana and there lay my old bones at last . . . We might as well content ourselves to control of the powers that be. We cannot have peace , . . . radical Republic will certainly hate Grant . December 6, 1868.

