

Elizabeth N M Dec<sup>r</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1868

W G Barkley Esqr

My Dear Sir

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your very kind & interesting letter of 7<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>c</sup> 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

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W S Barry Esq  
My Dear Sir

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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 Brooke & 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 losses attending nearly all old California claims 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 & resources were exhausted in sinking shafts —

After thorough examination a Custom Mill was introduced and located closely one of my Lodes, & commenced processing away like a Sawing Giant for nearly a week, when a clean up revealed the enormous sum of 25<sup>c</sup> 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

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The election having been adverse  
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powers that be. We cannot have peace. Radical Republic was  
more certainly hate Swart, in less than a year, & I get more  
news, than ever was done at Johnson —

I shall be pleased to hear once more from  
you before I start adding for parts unknown to me & yet,

Please tender my kind regards & tell mother to send  
much respect to me —

My truly yours

J. C. Buchanan

J. C. Buchanan

Dec 6.

Ans Jan 24

Ans Jan 24

# The Quill & Pen

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#NM03

Elizabeth to J.C. Buchanan  
Dec 6 1868

My dear Sir,  
I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write you. I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write you.

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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.

