

Carson City Jan 8, 1863

Mrs. John M. Sterling
Kalamazoo Mich

Dear Sister

I have not received any letter from Kal. for more than 3 months; and during this time have written but one to Kal. so I guess I have not got any reason for complaint except against myself for not being more prompt; and it will probably not be long before I shall get two or three, then everything will all be forgotten. Well Brother John I had chance to view what I suppose to be, a facsimile of you: I must say I do not recognize anything in your face that would lead me to believe that we had ever met, I presume we never did; but I must say I am well pleased with your photograph; and if we ever do meet I have no doubt but observers would think we had met a heap of times before.

As for the Baby she looks as if she was sitting up there by the earnest request of her Papa & Grammy who wish to gratify her Uncle Frank; and that it was a matter of small importance, and she was important to get through with it. I must say she is a chirp looking Baby, but mighty spunky good thing in this world nothing like it.

I returned a few days ago from a trip, which I made down to Carson Lake for the Indian Agent for the purpose of distributing some presents. I had about \$4000.00 worth of blankets calicos etc. These Indians hand never received anything before from the government, and of course they began to have some misgivings about their Great Father who

lived away off in the States, and about who they have heard so much about, but when I arrived they were most agreeably surprised and promised to be mighty good Indians in future.

The winter so far has been delightful, better than I ever saw it before. As usual my health is good. The political excitement here is big, the Constitution which was formed here not long since will be submitted to the people for ratification or rejection on the 19th of this month. From present appearances I think it will be rejected.

The taxing of mines has created a big opposition and then the infernal politicians thought to expedite matters and get in office as soon as possible it would be better to vote for State officers on the same day they did for the Constitution. Now there not being enough Copperheads to run a ticket, there is non left but the Union party which called a nominating Convention. Now this Convention was controlled in part by money and consequently they nominated a set of men that the people don't like, so in order to defeat them the people will have to reject the Constitution.

If they had submitted the Constitution first then this horde of politicians would have been active in working for the Constitution but now there being no prospect for office only for the regular Candidates of course they don't feel quite so enthusiastic...Then to add to all this muddle the Constitution says to all the taxing of mines shall be left to the legislature to decide in what manner and to what extent it shall be done. Now these candidates for the state legislature from the mining counties in order to conciliate those that are opposed to taxing mines says they can so construe constitution that the tax will amount to nothing. Then up jumps another party in what is

called the Cow Counties or in those counties where they farm for a living and says if the mines are not a going to be taxed we cannot support a State Government. The value of the mines is estimated at \$60,000,000.00 other taxable property of the Territory at 20,000,000 From the way things look I think before we don State Sovereignty we will have to remain under Uncle Sam's fostering care for about 2 years. I suppose I have been filling up this sheet with a lot of uninteresting matters but it is better than to write nothing.

My friend Mr. Wasson did not receive the nomination for Congress and I guess it full as well he did not for a man would feel rather foolish to be elected a Representative to Congress and have the Constitution defeated the same day. I am still stoping in Mr. Wasson's office and probably will until spring.

I saw in a Kal. paper that Uncle Jacob was drafted, but I should think the law would exempt him. I hope so at least for he could illy be spared from home. In closing this letter I would say as far as the love question is concerned, my feelings are unchanged and I will reiterate my words love to all.

Yours as ever
Frank Campbell