

From Silas Reed to Mrs. Abner Stone

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Copperdom, Mo[.]

Aug. 16th 1854

Dear Mrs[.] Stone

I am much indebted to you for attentions shown Mrs[.] Reed & myself in sundry ways, but I have had too many demands upon my time since you left, to be able to make my acknowledge[men]ts in this way. Even now I write in a hurried manner just before going to bed, because I can send to City to-morrow, and because, also, the mine is doing so well, I want to give you an encouraging account of it.

It is more than paying all expenses now, by the guild of one from the upper level in North hill, and no more assessments will be needed, nor will it be necessary even to sell any new stock for a "working capital," for, as soon as we can smelt, it will not take many weeks to make up all monies advanced for the expenses to that time.

Tell Mr. Stone the mine never, in its best

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days, presented a richer vein of ore than now. The vein under the tunnel shows finely now, and yeilds up to my most sanguine expectations last winter when I struck it. The shaft by the road side is down to the level of the Engine works, and the connection is made between it and Michael's level, thus affording good air. The vein came into the shaft from the west side [*text stricken through*] after you left, and to my surprise it dipped back to the west side again before the shaft was finished.

The miners are now out 10 feet from it on W. side, with a cross cut, and have struck some fine copper, and sulphur[.] enough to show that a very rich and strong vein is behind it, and that it goes down to greater depths than the greatest mining energy up to the time of our children's grand children, will be able to follow it.

To all appearance now, the mine will yeild back all our expenditure within the next year and pay its way too, and turn out to be all that my most

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ardent anticipations have pictured to my mind[.]

I have six good Cornish miners, I will soon be able to work as many more. I have hands enough to fill the table the whole length of the large dining room next to the kitchen and the cabins are full with families that board themselves. I keep ore hauling constantly going on, & six men washing ores[.]

I mention all these details, for I thought they might in some measure compensate you for the dull winter you spent with us, and also relieve your mind as to further assessments.

You need not be surprised to find this far the best property you have, before the close of another year.

My wife & Clara are on a visit at Deerfield, Portage Co. Ohio, where they met Belle at my Father's. They are having a fine time of it, & I shall go for them early next month. Do write my wife. Tell Mr. S. the trunk reached the city with artist, the Eve. he left, & went only Express.

Jessee is with me, & as faithful as ever. Was pleased with your presents, & speaks of you in terms of high regard.

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Nebraska & Kansas turned out as I feared, but I hope New England people every where will resolve that Kansas shall be on the side of freedom. The soil and climate are much the same as Illinois, & the face of the country similar, and if free emmigration will only pour rapidly into the Territory, the "compromise" outrage will be avenged. I see a colony of 30 active men have already reached there from Mass. under the auspices of a society for that purpose, and I hope hundreds will soon follow of the same stamp. If I were a young man I would go there at once.

But I shall tire you with the length of my epistle, so I will close.

Please make my regards to Mr. Stone and believe me

Very Truly

Your Obt. Servt.

Silas Reed