

My Dear Col,

Shirwood Forest April 3^d 49

I suppose that you have fairly gotten rid of Mexico and Mexicans and are gazing with wonder and I hope with delight on the golden treasures of El Dorado. The last accounts which have reached us left you at Jalapa, and unless some Signorita the proprietress in her own right, of some rich Mexican mine, has persuaded you that she had treasures equal to those of California and that they were all at your disposal I take it that this letter will find you ⁱⁿ your stoucked hat and miners dress among the placers of the Sacramento. How great would be my pleasure if with the magic power of Asmodeus I could translate myself to your side just at the moment you had snatched from the rocks a wedge of gold of the weight of 2003³. You would sing the words of "Oh Susanna," and I would join most heartily in the chorus. I hope that your journey is terminated in good earnest, and that you are reaping a rich reward for all your toils and privations. We are ^{the} all here extremely anxious to hear from you ~~and~~ ^{the full} ~~the~~ narrative of your journey & your etchings by

the way side. We shall look for accounts "of forests
wild and caves deep," and altho we do not ex-
pect to have repeated the tales of Othello to Desde-
mona "of the Anthropophagi whose heads do grow
beneath their shoulders and who eat each other,"
yet we are quite curious to learn something
of the manners and customs of those distant
people who look out upon an ocean as broad
as our own Atlantic. Particularly are we
interested in knowing something of the great
traders who have gathered to the gold regions, and
some veritable account of the Country itself.
Is it all that it has been represented to be, or
has more usurped the place of poetry and
dealt in fiction? Let that turn out as it may
you will have seen "the Elephant," and acquired
additional knowledge of the world. There will
be some compensation in this if in nothing
else. You took us wholly by surprise in your
trip and many exclamations went up from
every lip when it came to be announced to us.

Nothing of any interest has transpired
in this dull region since you left us in Decem-
ber. Julia, Alice and myself, ^{with the children} took a trip to
Richmond the last of March, to relieve the mon-
otony of life and remained a week. We were
feasted without limit at dinners and evening
parties attending sometimes two of an evening.
On the last day of our stay Julia and myself

dined at the Governor's who is the son of the most
sincere friend I ever had in public life, and
who formerly filled the office now held by
the son. He had at dinner a large company
and Julia was in her glory. The company at
her end of the table consisted of most of the
first men in Richmond and she seemed to have
extracted adulation from all. I was more quietly
seated at the other end of the table and had a
pleasant time in conversing with Mr. Floyd
the Governor's wife, who is possessed of a highly
intelligent and cultivated mind. From thence
we went to Judge Halliburton's (the judge of
the U. S. District C. and the evening finished off
with music and dancing. The next morning
we returned home, and my business since
has been to hasten on preparations for corn
planting - Corn planting at 40^{cts} per bushell
after all charges paid. to be mentioned to
a gold digger of the Snow mountains! Why one
plunge of your spade and one blow from your
mattock realizes more wealth than a whole
year of farming. I hope at least that with
you and Mr. Beckman it may so turn
out. May we not hope often to hear from you?

I might prolong my letter by telling you
of the green cast of our fields, which the spring
has already thrown over them. I never saw
the crops of wheat so full of promise. With

politicians you know & have but little to do, but
I cannot withhold my deep detestation of a
Congress which could so far forget what
was due to this great people as to adjourn
without giving law or government to Cali-
fornia and New Mexico. My hope is that
you will all organize a government with-
out delay and send in your Constitution
to Congress by the 1. Dec: next. Thus you
will disappoint the men of the seven
principles, the two loaves and five fishes,
and add new recruits to our happy Union.

All here are quite well and our two fine
boys "grow apace" - and all unite in wishing
you every blessing and no one more cordial
-ly than

Yrs Truly & faithfully

John Tyler

P.S. Should you fall in with that gallant fellow
General Riley, an old friend of mine, do
make him my compliments. After telling
him who you are I doubt not that you
will find him in every way friendly -

J. Tyler