

A3.11 - Letter from Jabez Dean DeWitt of Virginia City Nevada to Rebecca DeWitt Jack, 29 July 1871. Transcribed 20 September 2015 by Alison Mitchell-Reid. Page one of four

---

Virginia City Nevada July 29<sup>th</sup> 1871  
My Dear Sister,

I would not have written quite so soon again but partly in answer to yours of the 18<sup>th</sup> inst and because I am about to leave the City of Virginia for Seven Mile Canyon where the Park & Bowie mill is situated. Mr. Shay our Superintendent gave all the hands who had not previously got word to be ready to move into our new Lodging house as soon as possibly convenient for us, so that I shall have to leave on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> and I should consequently not have the same opportunities & priviledges [sic] that I have hitherto enjoyed except that I believe I shall be at liberty to keep the Sabbath except on very

---

A3.11 - Letter from Jabez Dean DeWitt of Virginia City Nevada to Rebecca DeWitt Jack, 29 July 1871. Transcribed 20 September 2015 by Alison Mitchell-Reid. Page two of four

---

injust occasions. I sincerely thank you for your sincere & kind wishes, and you will please kiss little Freddie and tell him that Uncle Jabez will never forget him, and thank him for the violett. I shall continue to send Dolly's Birds until the last of the doz. is gone. I shall in the mean time look around and see if I can get something that will be as interesting for Freddie. I shall endeavour to finish my letter tomorrow (Sabbath). Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup> I have been at Church today. the roof of the Methodist Episcopal church and part of its walls fell in & it will cost \$10,000 to put it in good

order again. So that we now have two congregations in our church in place of one, they made a Sabbath school teacher of me two Sundays ago. Only think of me being a Sabbath school teacher with a class of unruly boys. I heard a discourse

---

A3.11 - Letter from Jabez Dean DeWitt of Virginia City Nevada to Rebecca DeWitt Jack, 29 July 1871. Transcribed 20 September 2015 by Alison Mitchell-Reid. Page three of four

---

after service from a learned Proffessor of one of the principal American Colleges. I did not hear his name properly but I think it was Newman on the order of the creation with extracts from various learned <sup>savants</sup> Layers of strata of the different periods. Today's text was 1 Samuel 3<sup>rd</sup> Chap 35 to 48 verses. Give each of the little ones a kiss for me with much love. I desire to be remembered to all kind enquiring friends. We are going to have another wedding on dit. Mr. Parks the senior Proprietor is to be married this fall coming, and he is putting up a magnificent little brick house. he has the carriage road all round his house and the grounds are beautifully laid out with trees. The mill in which I work (only think) turns out about \$3700 pr day in silver. I am getting good knowledge of the business and am fully sure of getting employment right along. I am thinking of cooking my own

---

A3.11 - Letter from Jabez Dean DeWitt of Virginia City Nevada to Rebecca DeWitt Jack, 29 July 1871. Transcribed 20 September 2015 by Alison Mitchell-Reid. Page four of four

---

meals along with another man so that between extra work and so on that I shall be able to save about \$80 or \$90 pr month. We are to get our lodging [pd?]

Please wish Mr. Davidson much joys (for me.) There is a 1 ¾ or 2 in rabbit plane of mine at his place that I would like to have taken care of and put with the rest of my tools if you will be kind enough to attend to it. I am sorry to think of your working yourself so hard. You hurt yourself with those big washings and house cleanings. One story buildings are a good deal less tire-some to clean than these Houses of two or three stories, and besides you ought to hire a good strong woman and give her the wages that she ought to have, as you try to do too much work. take my advice, give a good girl \$5 or \$6 pr month and do not go and kill yourself working. Why a woman here gets from 40 to 100\$ pr month. China men do most of the washing & cooking & waiting that is done here. You would be delighted and so would the little ones to see this place, beautiful, richly & tastefully are the stores arranged here & the fruit stands contain the finest collection grapes, plums, peaches, pears, nectarines, apricots, limes, lemons, immense watermelons, and a variety of fruits too numerous to mention.

Yours affectionately, J.D. DeWitt

---

A3.11 - Letter from Jabez Dean DeWitt of Virginia City Nevada to Rebecca DeWitt Jack, 29 July 1871. Transcribed 20 September 2015 by Alison Mitchell-Reid. Crosswriting on Page one of four

---

Give my love to Sisters Hattie & Chattie and Andrew. the blackberry season is about done here. We have had an exceedingly dry summer here except for the last week or ten days. I forgot to mention that we have a splendid choir in our church here, and the way the ladies dress it would do you good to see. I can

tell you that the girls are lively in  
this region. This is the busiest place  
that I ever yet set my eyes on.

Yours affectionately,  
J.D. DeWitt



myself occasions, I sincerely thank you  
for your sincere & kind wishes, and  
you will please kiss little Faddie and  
tell him that Uncle Paby, will never forget  
him, and thank him for the violetts, I shall  
continue to send Dolly's Birds until the  
last of the doz. is gone, I shall in the mean  
time look around and see if I can get  
something that will be as interesting  
for Faddie, I shall endeavor to finish  
my letter tomorrow (Sabbath), Sunday  
July 30<sup>th</sup> I have been at Church today,  
the roof of the Methodist Episcopal  
Church and part of its walls fell in  
& it will cost \$10,000 to put it in good  
order again, so that we now have two  
congregations, in our Church in place of  
one, they made a Sabbath school teacher  
of me two Sundays ago, only think of me  
being a Sabbath school teacher with a  
class of unruly boys, I heard a discourse

after service from a learned Professor  
of one of the principal American Colleges,  
I did not hear his name properly, but I  
think it was Newman on the Order  
of the Creation with extracts from various  
learned <sup>servants</sup> Layers of strata of the different  
periods, Today's text was 1 Samuel 3 Chap. 3<sup>d</sup>  
to 4<sup>th</sup> verses, Give each of the little ones a kiss  
for me with much love, I desire to be re-  
-membered to all kind enquiring friends.  
We are going to have another wedding  
on dit. Mr. Park's the senior Proprietor  
is to be married this fall coming, and  
he is putting up a magnificent little  
Briar house, he has the carriage road  
all round his house and the grounds are  
beautifully laid out with trees, The mill  
in which I work (only think) turns out about  
\$700 per day in silver, I am getting a good  
knowledge of the business, and am fully  
ornic of getting employment right along  
I am thinking of cooking my own

meals along with another man, so that  
between extra work and so on that I  
shall be able to save about \$80 or 90  
per month, we me to get any lodgings per.  
Please wish Mr. Davidson (men just for  
me) there is a 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  or 2 in cubbit place of  
mine at his place that I would like  
to have taken care of and put with the  
rest of my tools if you will be kind enough  
to attend to it, I am sorry to think of  
your working yourself so hard, you  
must yourself with those big washing  
and house cleanings, one story  
buildings are a good deal less tri-  
some to clean than these houses  
of two or three stories, and besides  
you ought to hire a good strong  
woman and give her the wages  
that she ought to have, as you try to  
do too much work, take my advice  
give a good girl \$5 or 6 per month and  
do not go and kill yourself working.  
Why a woman here gets from 40  
to 60 per month, China men do most  
of the washing & cooking & waiting that  
is done here, you would be delighted  
and so would the little ones to see this  
place, beautiful, richly & tastefully, and  
the stores arranged here & the fruit stand  
contains the finest collection grapes,  
plums, peaches, pears, nectarines, apricots,  
limes, lemons, immense water melons and  
a variety of fruits <sup>immense</sup> <sup>to mention</sup> <sup>appetizingly</sup> present