

March 26, 1873
Newville, Colusa Co., Cal.

Dear Brother Morgan

You wished me to write about the country, now I will commence with the soil. We have every variety of soil that could be desired, the richest and the poorest, the stoniest and the freest of stones, gravelly and rocky. The climate varies as much as the soil, in the low valleys it is very mild, I speak of this part where I live, I am about 100 miles north of Sacramento City, on the west side of the Sacramento Valley, right at the foot of the Coast Mts. The northern part is very mountainous. The West and East has very high mountains, but in them there are small valleys of rich-land and fine pasture, the mountains are generally covered with heavy timber, Pine, cedar and fir, but on the coast they have red wood of enormous size 16 and 20 ft. through, 2 and 3 hundred ft. high. The Sacramento River is the largest river in the north part of the State and emptys in to the bay of San Frisco, the San Joaquin is the next longest river in the Sierra Nevada Mountain and flows west into the bay, the valleys are mostly prairie, except along the rivers and streams, they abound with oak, cotton wood, sycamore and willow, in the foot hills mostly oak. We hardly ever have any rain from April to November. The Weather is warm mercury running up to 110 in shade, but the nights are cool and pleasant, we plow and sow from the time it rains to first Of March. Wheat and Barley is the chief production, we cut our hay in May and June, harvest our wheat and barley first of June. Good valley land will bring 40 to 50 bu. of wheat and 50 to 70 barley to the acre. The winters are very mild, sometimes we have some snow this winter is snowed twice, first six in. lay on 3 days, next 3 lay on one day sometimes the ground will freeze 1 in. deep, but not often. We generally have wild flowers all winter, violets, and other small flowers, the grass and other vegetation commences to grow when the first rains fall and grow all winter so we generally have plenty of pasture for stock, I have not fed any of my cattle, sheep or horses since I have been here, except my work and riding horses. I have seen the time when I would liked to have fed them this winter, I started in with a little over 22 hundred sheep, I expect I have lost 2 or 3 hundred. I had to many for my range as the feed was short in the Fall did not grow much till after Christmas my farm and sheep pasture consists of about 23 hundred acres of land, all Government title, I have some 3 or 4 hundred acres which will bring first rate wheat and barley. The people are shearing sheep now, but I have not commenced yet, but will commence soon. I drive my sheep in to the mountains about the first of May and fetch them about the first of September. During the time we kill a good many deer, which is very fat and fine. My boys are first rate deer hunters sometimes killing 5 or 6 in a day sometimes we get a bear or panther or California lion, I think I have written enough for this time but if you will answer this, I will write more about this country.

Your brother,

C. B. Hull