

Rideau Club,  
Ottawa.

Nov. 9. 93

My dear Mother,

Reverting to the  
Subject of R's letter, about  
which I have been thinking  
since yesterday. — The way I  
think of it the way unsatisfactory  
it appears, for though as you say  
it is a way connected statement  
than he usually gives of his  
affairs, it is a most incomplete  
one, in which his main  
intention is to appeal to your  
feelings in view of further funds.  
You will remember that some

weeks ago he wrote to me that  
 he had cleared off \$80 or nearly  
 \$400 by his late trip. Now he  
 says that he employed all his  
 lot on that trip to pay his more  
 pressing debts. This would  
 seem to indicate that other of  
 less pressing debts exist, but  
 he says nothing about their  
 nature or amount. Your  
 supposition that he may owe money  
 because of the Phosphate failure may  
 be correct, but surely he might  
 give a clear account of his  
 position stating what he owes or is  
 likely to be made liable for. I  
 saw a great deal of him when in  
 London & rather devoted myself to



endeavour to encourage him,  
 but he never confided anything  
 as to his financial affairs,  
 or speculations, but always talked  
 in the same vague way about  
 bad luck & heavy losses. It  
 seems to me that you might  
 write him a business like  
 letter asking him for a distinct  
 statement of his supposed debts  
 & possible liabilities, make him  
 promise to incur no more, &  
 we may be able to give him  
 some fixed allowance which  
 he must not exceed. In doing  
 this, as I said yesterday, I shall  
 be glad to join. But this  
 means, if he stays in London,

that he should give up connection  
 with clubs & such places (or  
 at least have only one club) & live in  
 an inexpensive way. When I was in  
 London as a student I lived  
 very well on £20 a quarter. This  
 including lodging breakfast & dinner.  
 Lunch & omnibus fares added, my  
 expenses certainly did not exceed some  
 \$1.50 per diem (I do not count  
 lecture fees or clothes) But then I had  
 no expensive habits & endeavored to  
 economize. I must admit that  
 I do not see any special  
 advantage in his continuing in London,  
 & many disadvantages. In writing to  
 you he expressed the hope that he might  
 get some other mining companies in  
 the west, which added to what he has



might enable him to make a  
 living. — I see no prospect  
 of this at present. Such  
 things do not often come in  
 my line, & even if they did  
 I cannot feel the utmost  
 confidence in recommending  
 R as an agent, for he has  
 such an extraordinary faculty  
 of persuading himself that  
 whatever he does must be  
 right. If he could get back  
 on some such line as the  
 P & O, where certainly a minimum  
 amount of medical experience  
 should suffice, he might continue to

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woke an forest living  
at least in a live y life  
which he rather seemed to like.

Sours  
Sevys

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