

Pajaró Workings

Island of Moná to

November 12 - 1882

Dear D Harrington,

That I have reasons in replying to your most welcome letter I cannot but acknowledge, but I have had been so fully occupied every day, so nearly feeling the position of having a large amount of work to do, and a very indifferent class of men to do it. Mechanics are my base, or more properly there are none but of the professors I have not single good word to say; they would in promises more the very snowmountains, in reality the roughest most unmitigated fiends.

I assure you I have been toiling in a manner I never did before, and if I did not do so the success of this adventure would be quite hopeless. Yet it seems to me after a years work that there is much more to be done despite what has been accomplished, and that has not been a  
little



contracts at any time. The Seller takes all  
the risk & disadvantages, without any of the  
benefits of the future. But it is a good  
sign. I mention these facts, to let you  
know how "my departure" is becoming good  
a practical point of view. And if there  
were the usual tonnage to be had, I should  
be in full feather. Vessels have been  
scarce, and almost impossible to get of  
late. The progress made such as it is,  
has not been accomplished <sup>with</sup> much difficulty  
reputation, and I am afraid demoralization  
too. Swearing & hard swearing at that, is  
the habit here; I have heard genuine ladies  
that is persons moving in the best society  
do so soundly. As the workmen are habituated  
to it. It is as necessary to them as their food.  
I tried dealing with the men here as I used to  
do with my old hands in Tempeston, but I  
assure you I only got out it for being a  
milk-sop. Good natured and good for little.  
You may have heard a story, perhaps it is a  
fable of a Bergsmann who having seen a shop



retaker of propriety, withdrew his ban when  
in a storm, the vessel & those aboard were in  
great danger. So having failed to imbue  
my men with the necessary abacosty & deliqued  
during working hours by mild direction and  
entreaty, I have at length been compelled to adopt  
the emphatic declamatory style, and I assure  
you it has proved quite a success. My voice  
too is stronger and I feel my lungs more  
expansive. You have in general to rule this  
people, and fear goes a long way further  
than love or respect or any other of the good  
adjectives.

The impudic style, and a few cigarettes  
daily, are however all the tropical vices I  
have acquired yet. I live the same quiet  
batchelor life that I did in Templeton.  
I have a plain comfortable little summer-  
house. You probably would call it a hut  
we want nothing better in this delightful  
climate. A very decent little Pomeranian  
keeps it and myself in order, as well as being  
Store-man, he has now been with me for two



There is still <sup>2</sup> very much more to be done than I had any anticipation of. The sugar story repeated tho' of course on a very small scale.

The place is proving extremely good, and that brightens ones gloom, and at times I am very gloomy. The quantity of Guano will greatly exceed my expectations, and the rock is now quite thick 6 to 24 inches, consequently abundant. Last month I shipped a second cargo to Europe, making in all 700 tons, and I shall have another ready about the middle of Dec. or abt 1000 tons in part of a year. The last has been sold to arrive in Hamburg at 1/9 on the basis of 75%. The Sausen goes 87. to 88. Guano is, or has, despite of infamous management, depreciation from interested parties forced its way too, and the analysis now is nearly fair 52%. At first, all I could get out of them was 32. to 35%. My last advice were good. Parties wishing to contract for large quantities at remunerative prices. But my experience is against making large



to wear them of this most undesirable habit.  
for it deranges work very much, to have  
such constant changes, but to little purpose.

I prepare the boat and immediately there  
are a number "I will, (they always say) not  
wish to go, and if you say no, they at  
once tell you either they are sick, or their  
families are sick, and they are wanted,  
and after trying, I find it just as well  
to let them go: for they become home sick.  
(only) will even take the huge doses of  
Sarsaparilla I prescribe for almost violent  
being taken by invalids? in preference  
to continuing at work. Then they are  
so touchy, and revengeful and whenever  
they wish to be disagreeable they begin on  
the subject of G. & A., altho I do mind  
better than they are accustomed to, or  
than any one does in P. Q.

I believe they look upon me with some respect.  
I know as a matter of fact they do with  
a good deal of fear, for during a couple  
of disturbances I have been compelled to  
act promptly and severely, to prevent a  
climax, and the men from taking sides



and as they would do, and with their big *Prunella*.  
Our settlement looks quite imposing now from  
a distance of 4 or 5 miles. The large store  
houses - shops - lookways, platforms &c.  
appear very conspicuous on the otherwise  
bare island, my house the least significant  
of all.

I wish and hope so much you will sometime  
take a run out here. I am sure you would  
be greatly interested. The separating out  
of the various combinations, <sup>inconsolidations</sup> and crystallization  
from the masses of *Mitt* *quartz* and the  
formation of *rocks prophanes* is so  
clearly and beautifully illustrated, and  
that really it <sup>is</sup> much to be seen, and by  
me at least learned of <sup>new</sup> *late* *geology*.

Since my last however I have done  
little or nothing in the way of collecting,  
work not to be deferred occupying me *stolley*  
and I have my hands full still. I have  
never been fished up any of those beautiful  
*sea feathers* & *fans* abounding in *hundreds*  
close to the line of *Gulf*.

Sometimes when I am compelled I go to *! Neo*



The people are very kind and hospitable, and I have many acquaintances already, but 40 miles in an open sail boat even in fine weather becomes monotonous. Except we had a rather narrow shave on the South side of P.T. entering the harbor of Fajardo we got wrecked on a shoal and were several hours in the water and that I assure you was intensely disagreeably monotonous. As I had plenty of time for rumination, I began to think that perhaps I had been somewhat too emphatic since my advent here.

I should have been delighted to have been in Canada and to have accepted your kind invitation for. It was not possible however, and indeed having been absent at the capital, as Sanchez called, on business with the Govt. I did not receive yours until very shortly before the time. I can understand how much you would enjoy the occasion. Altho I am equally sure you had of your share of the fatigue and worry resulting therefrom. I notice you made me appear



and during that time with him I have never  
 once had to be impetuous. Another disadvantage.  
 It is a rough hard life however. But I get  
 over at day breaks. work begins at day  
 I always call the roll myself, and until six  
 p.m. I have little rest. For it is not sufficient  
 to instruct them once how to do any work.  
 They are so strongly of the sweating type that  
 daily, certainly, weekly admonitions and  
 instructions are indispensable. and that it  
 is that emphatic declamation I succeed  
 best. Still, I have made so good provision  
 of the 300 different hands I have had good  
 time to time. And one boy who has been  
 with me from the first is without any  
 exception the nicest and best, the most  
 careful attentive obedient youth I have  
 ever had, and he works like a little horse.  
 The men, bad and good alike are tainted  
 with what I consider a vice of the first  
 magnitude. They feel strongly homesick  
 and require to visit their families every  
 two weeks. They must go every month.  
 I have endeavored by premium & advice  
 I am convinced. by example



9 J. J. Miller, Ed of Mon  
Nov 12/82

as done to The University. Still in reality  
it was yourself. for I gave the things to  
you, to do with as you pleased.

I have had a couple of Stalagmites  
in view for sometime. they are grand stones  
at least I think. one I intend for you,  
the other for Mr. Selwyn. and I hope shortly  
to get them safely removed. I have  
observed with surprise that, altho' there  
are thousands of small Stalagmites,  
or acutiles of alabaster & tuffaceous,  
yet the large ones are either buff or brown.  
The two I allude to are buff and  
somewhat discolored.

Is there anything special here you  
would care for? for really seeing how  
so many of what would have been great  
prizes at home. now I feel as if were  
satiated.

While I am writing in the most abridged  
costume possible, in the situation to  
catch the product and most of the breeze,  
you, I expect will be "hugging the fringe"



and I presume after your sea side holiday  
we now or probably have for a little  
been hard at work. I hope if Mr & Mrs  
Harrington and the youngsters will have  
enjoyed but not needed to be benefitted  
by your stay. Most I suppose as formerly  
I hear constantly from home and Ottawa  
early from Montreal.

We British Subjects were very proud  
of the recent success in Egypt (but I heard  
nothing later than the taking of Cairo)

The Spaniards however were raging. It  
seems to me to me, that the lion still has  
good teeth and can use them. I had some  
business with the officials at the time, and  
until it was explained to me could not  
understand why they were so cross and disagree-  
jealous. It seems to me that in maligant  
respects a sheep like that of death is upon  
this people they keep so far behind the times  
and yet there is much that is admirable  
to be found also.

With warm regards to Mr & Mrs Harrington  
and best wishes for yourself and family  
Believe me dear Mr & Mrs Harrington  
yours always  
Wm. Milled