

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

SENATE CHAMBER,

Sacramento January 26 1866

William <sup>James</sup> Hemsley

Dear Brother & Sister

It is a long time since I heard from you untill to day I heard through Mr Thomas Potts who gave me your address Mr John Douglass went back to the states two years ago I told him then to enquire for you he done so and wrote me he could not find you or your whereabouts Now I should like to know all about you what you are doing and how you are doing? how many of a family you have what their names are and how old they are? I should like all your likeness if it is possible to get them I would send you mine now if I thought you would get my letter all safe. How I long to hear from you once more I did not know what had become of you since the War. I suppose you know of my loss long before this but thinking you do not I will now proceed to tell you

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In January 1865 I went alone up to the Gold Mines of Idaho Territory leaving my wife and boy in this City in June of the same year I sent for them to come to me they started on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July from San Francisco to come by sea to Portland Oregon and thence to Idaho to me On the 30<sup>th</sup> the Steamer went down and all hands but 19 were lost All that was near and dear to me on this earth was lost to me for ever Oh how I do miss them my boy was over six years old when he was lost. I cannot now tell you how lonely I feel Oh! how I do miss them I do not think I ever was made to live alone. I am almost crazy now when I think of it I lost a true and loving wife and an Idolized and Worshipped little boy. Now Dear Brother and sister I want you to write to me of course you know our beloved and good brother Thomas Hemsley died

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January 26<sup>th</sup> 1866. he has gone to the land of rest. I want to know all your ages both you and the children I want to know how old Robert is I think I can see him now as he was when I was with you also Fanny how is she she must be over twenty years old now Tell me all the news you have how you got along in War times &c. In 1863+4 I was Sergen at arms in the Senate of this State this Winter I am employed about the Legislature about one month from now I go up to Idaho again where you must address your letters to me. my address is John Hemsley Placerville Boise County Idaho Territory. I expect to receive a letter from you as soon as I arrive there which will be about the middle of March. John Dougless is married again he is now living in Virginia State of Nevada Anthony Clark's daughter came out here

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over one year ago she got married and has a fine son. Clark is unmarried yet. Women are very scarce out here yet it is very hard to find a good wife if you do want a one. I suppose you have plenty of Widows there since the war. I have little more that I can say to interest you till I hear from you and see all your pictures Oh do send them as soon as you can I wish they were here now so that I could see them and relive me from my loneliness. Is it healthy where you live do you like the Country have you lived there long? I do not know that I will ever come back to the States again or not. till they get the Rail Road done I would like to see you before you die though.

So Good By and God  
bless you  
Your Brother  
John Hemsley

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