

“A CROWD IS AFTER THE MISERABLE REBEL”

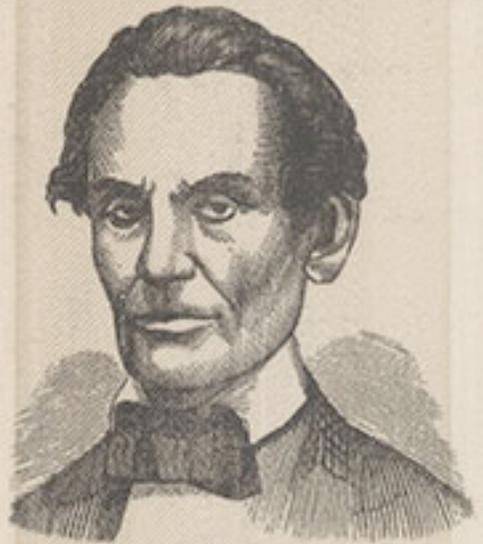
DATE: APRIL 16, 1865
PLACE: GOLD DIRT,
COLORADO

[Editor's note: This is a transcript of a letter given to me by the relative of the young man who wrote it. It has never been published. Charles - the author of the letter had come out to Gilpin County, Colorado to run a gold mining operation. His home was in Boston, Massachusetts.]

My Dearest Ma,

I have been thinking about home all this week, and thought that today, I would write you a long and cheerful letter. I had thought of many things to say which would please you, but like the whole nation I feel sad and gloomy. The fearful intelligence which we received yesterday has down cast us all. The foul - cowardly - wicked - damnable murder of the President & Secretary of State - has cast a gloom over Colorado, greater, deeper & more sad than the territory ever before experienced, and we all feel in our very hearts, that it is but the messenger of war & the death knell of every traitor. One poor devil paid the penalty for his rashness yesterday, when on the reception of the news, he was immediately shot for saying "I am glad of it." One from this gulch, - was compelled to fly for addressing the same opinion - a crowd is after the miserable

WE MOURN
OUR LOSS.



A. LINCOLN,
Born, Feb. 12, 1809.
Died, April 15, 1865.

rebel, and if he is found, he will be hung as high as Haman. - When I received the news, (which was brought to me in an extra by a friend from Central) I immediately issued an order for all work here to cease - Every thing with us is now standing still. - I also ordered the immediate discharge of every known or suspected rebel on the place.

Since I have been here I have been very quick - have been nothing more than expressive, very decidedly my opinion when occasion required - now I am worked up in the highest degree, and will make every rebel bite the dust who expresses his opinions to me. The glorious successes of our armies; the favorable condition of all our surroundings, together with the lovely springlike weather of the past day or two, united causing me to feel a buoyancy of spirit and hopefulness of heart, to which we had for a long time been strangers. The light which seemed to be dawning upon us has turned into darkness: our bright sky has become clouded; but these things will soon give way to a bright and more glorious state of things; the sun of our national cause will soon burst forth with far more luster, with a more dazzling effulgence. If possible, my whole heart and soul are more for the Union that ever....

Gold Dirt Col. Co. by Appl. 1st P. 1863

LETTERS from ~~Mountain City, Kansas,~~

To *Empire City Col. Co.*

Rates.	Unpaid.			PAID HERE.						Free.	
				By Stamps.			In Money.				
	Cents.	No.	Dolls.	Cents.	No.	Dolls.	Cents.	No.	Dolls.		Cents.
					1		3				
				<i>I Missent</i>							
				<i>D. W. Sterling Pres at his assist.</i>							
				<i>J. P. Hickman, P. M.</i>							

This is a receipt for postage purchased from the post office in Gold Dirt, Colorado. The letter cost three cents to mail, and it was sent only fifteen days before this letter from Charles to his family in Massachusetts.