June 4th / 99

Dawson
Yukon
Canada

Dear Jim

I am glad to know of your whereabouts and to hear that you are at work. I hope the job suits you and that you save some money against next year, for I suppose you would like to take a trip home then; if I was certain of having something for you to do here I would ask you to come at once. I have seen opportunities for you if you had been here; but as a rule it is hard to get a job, there are thousands of idle men. If you was here now I could put you into the way of making good wages, at water carrying, etc. I could get a few customers at once, and I am in doubts whether it would not be better for me to throw up my present job and go into the water peddling business. I have been working for the Bank of British North America for over 2 months; but I may leave any time now; I have sent for my cello and am expecting it every day, I think I shall be able to make a little with it. If you are not doing anything, and you would like to come, I

will gladly share with you. I can always find something to do now, and I am pretty well known, having done a good bit of hustling. I wish you had been my partner instead of the one I had, he was too much of an old granny and too miserly to make a success of any business; but I am just about rid of him. I have just had a letter from Lonnie Fletcher; he has got my old place in the hospital, Myers having left. The Yukon is now free from ice, and steamboats are arriving and leaving daily, a good many people will leave the country. You will hear all about the big fire in Dawson on the 26th of April, no doubt, I never saw anything like it, before; it came pretty ~~near~~ wiping out the town; but some of the people commenced to build again within a few hours after, and while the ruins were still smouldering. I was busy working against it, for the bank; but we were beaten; after the fire I helped to ~~clean~~ gather up and clean the gold dust which was scattered around when the vault was smashed. It was lying several inches thick in spots, there was a large amount of it. We had two rockers going to wash it from the ashes and other other rubbish; when cleaned up, there was a large wash tub full and piled up; the paper money, coinage, and gold in bars, was kept in safes and escaped unscathed. There was one safe full of gold bars, which took about a dozen of us about an hour and a half to move it about 30 yds, with crow bars, rollers, and planks; moving it on to a sled, then from the sled into the A. C. Co's buildings.

Sometimes I am employed in the assay office, helping at melting the gold and making it into bars, and in cleaning it. It is very hot job, for the furnaces have to be fired till the gold in the crucibles is liquid and at white heat. There is plenty of gold in the country, more than some people think, and I am in a good place to know of it.

I am beginning to like this country better, for the climate is all right, there is very little rain and a person can easily protect himself against the cold in winter. There is no night time nowadays and hasn't been for some time; it was twilight at midnight by the middle of April, and now it is broad daylight all the time.

I have had 2 or 3 letters from home lately, alls well; write soon and let me know how you are getting on, with best wishes, from

Your dear brother

Tom