meantime I will work out my own destiny here. On this I am decided. What I want is money & poor as the mines are I believe there better than [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in which they are [illegible]

You will see by the race of this that it is my thing [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] very comfortable & pleasing contemplation. There was a time when I hoped that before nailing it I should have been something else than a Klamath miner and the retrospect affords no particular ground for the indulgence of vanity. Time fooled away in desultory studies & pursuits instead of being concentrated upon some one object & a good deal wasted in an even worse manner are what I have the satisfaction of looking back at. Half a long life time gone in this way and the only hope forward that of making some provision for keeping old age out of the alms house. But my candle is burnt out or rather run down by the wind blowing through the tent. & I must stop. I write in a huge canvass trading house where I am domiciled for a day or two until we have decided on our location.

Friday 18th. To day we concluded on our plans. Two of the men have gone off in different directions & the other remains with me. We have moved into a vacant log house & got to work in earnest again. As I find one of the packers going down to Trinidad tomorrow, I shall send this off by him although it is not what I intended to write when I commenced. My next shall be exclusively devoted to the diggings & not to the digger. You will think from the dismal strain in which I have written that I am deponting. This is not so, for though not sanguine of any great success or rapid result I am of good heart for hard work and am determined to fight the battle out. Thank