On Salmon River Sept 4th 62

My Dear Austin

I have owed you a letter for some time, but the very irregular life that a miner necessarily leads renders writing at all both difficult and irksome. I have been now for some months in the mines and feel very reason [illegible] instead of remaining in Oregon as I did employed in prop[illegible] entered them before the cream was taken off. In every thing I have undertaken the want of capital has foiled me & to have obtained this by direct means should have been my first effort. It is now late to begin, but though my success hitherto has not been flattering, I do not despair of bettering my fortunes yet. If you have any curiosity about the operations in this part of the country, get Wolcott to show you a letter I wrote a few weeks ago, giving details of mining &c. The northern mines as those of the Klamath & its tributaries & of Rogues River are called, have not hitherto proved as rich as those on the Sacramento or still further south. They are however still undeveloped & this has been to me an inducement to prefer them, as well as the circumstance that I had already become acquainted with the country, and that the outfit required was far less than elsewhere. I have been for the last fortnight engaged in a "prospecting" excursion, examining the sources of a number of the tributaries of this river which is one of the larger branches of the Klamath, & though not successful in finding rich diggings in the direction we took, I believe that I have hit upon ground which

[illegible] very warmly [illegible] Wolcott as to my always [illegible] opportunity occurs [illegible] part I hope to do [illegible] I insist needs many [illegible] you very [illegible] I do not anticipate success [illegible] this [illegible] you [illegible] you [illegible] very truly

Yours [illegible]

J. Austin Stevens Esq.