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Robert Hornby Gillespie

Sancelito near
San Francisco July 14. 1876

Mr Robert H. Gillespie

My dear Herbert, I am most heartily ashamed of myself for having allowed such a long time to elapse without writing to you as I really I do not pretend to make any excuse but will only say that I will try to do better in the future. We have been staying out here for two weeks & find it both pleasant & healthful. I had been a good deal worried about business matters for the last month & was for the first time in my life tempted to try some mining stock, as my friend Baldwin who married Mr Duncan daughter was at the mines and posted me as what to buy. I had made me a thousand dollars in a short time & was in a fair way to make much more, but unfortunately the man who I employed as my Broker, who I and all my friends thought was a most honest & high bred gentleman proved faithless and my stock was sold out for his debts by which I not only lost over 2000$ but had two months worrying work trying to get something out of him, all without success, this has annoyed & embarrassed me and made me unfit for writing letters. I had made up my mind now to let it go & do not worry any more about it.

We had been staying out here for two weeks and find it very pleasant indeed. It is within 40 minutes of my office. It is a wild romantic place with many resources for amusement, rides and water excursions &c. We went up yesterday to the Oyster beds. Could well believe ourselves to be on the Chesapeake bay in October, taking oysters on the shore & seeing the men rake them up with fresh