returning next fall — Should it fail, I shall jog along as usual, until Sweeping gets below par —
Will you be kind enough to inquire what Shellbourn, or Nabolds place can be purchased at, as I have a strong notion of buying one of the two places — I have in this County four hundred and eighty acres of as pretty land as I ever saw — This I bought on speculation — Major Fitzgerald is now at San Diego — Doct W. Bryarly — (of Baltimore) a first Surgeon to Broth Williams Regiment in Mexico — is here, & one of the best fellows I ever saw, he sends his regards to you, & the Prince —
I received a letter a few days since from Broth William, who is now Commissioner, but does not expect to hold the office long — I have written him to come up and join me in business — which I am in hopes he will do —
Yesterday I received two letters, one from Mother, the other from Marianne, Marianne seems to have enjoyed a most delightful winter in Washington, and was somewhat of a belle —
The most surprising news that I have heard lately is Jim Earles, marriage to Wm C Lightner — I hope that Cousin Mollies heart is not broken in consequence —
The past winter has been the severest ever known in California, the snow has been so deep in the mountains, that miners have been unable to dig, together with the immense sums of money that has been sent home, has caused a most grinding state of affairs — The heaviest merchants in San Francisco have failed, for thousands — Steinberger, the celebrated cutlery man of Virginia, failed alone for fourteen hundred thousand — Indeed many of the merchants up in this section of country are failing — such is the pressure — Still there is as much gold as ever, in the mines now I must tell you what has caused this immense smashing — A man — will go into a city or town, & purchase lots, amounting from one to fifty thousand dollars, give his note for the payment in twenty, or thirty days — sell the same property in the mean time, for double, &c. &c. until real estate has gotten up to such an enormous value, that really I do not believe that there is money enough, in the United States, to purchase the real estate in California — The Indians have also been troublesome, and robberies are getting quite common, No one is safe in riding through the County, without his holster pistols, & knife — The election for State & County officers has created an immense excitement — Col Bryant an old Santa Fe Gambler was running for Sheriff, It is said I spent forty thousand dollars to secure his election, but was shamefully beaten by Jack Hays of Texas — Bryant is a busted man —
Much love to Sister Alace, & Cousin Mollie, I received the kind letters, and will answer them by the first opportunity — Also my love to Mother & the rest of the family —
You must write often my dear Brother, & give me all the news. — Tell the Prince that lawyers in California have coined gold — I am just starting up the Sacramento River, so I have to curtail my letter — Much love to all —
Direct to Sacramento City — Fred Emory — Civil Engineer
Adieu my dear Broth —

Yours Affectionately
Fred Emory

P.S. On Board Steamer Lawrence —
I have broken my letter open my dear Brother to inform you of the death of Poor George Bache,