

Letter No. 24

My address Navy Pay Office
San Francisco, Cal.
October 29th 1885

My dear Harris:

Yours of the 15th of this month both reached me to day. I have written to McGregor and asked him to let you see the letter so you can know everything I write. There is so much to tell you both that I write half and half so I won't leave anything out. The first thing - I have no doubt at all about those sales you made, as no one in god's earth can touch them. You had a perfect right to sell, as you have no creditors, and will not be anyways indebted to Fuller until he gets a judgment against you, and my brother and I propse to keep him out of that. I engaged my brother to go up next spring to try your case, as I might not be able to go myself. But even if I did come too, it would not cost you but little, if any, more than if one of us came alone. He has been working with me for some time on the case and we feel confident of winning it. I am glad you got Mr. Muloney to look out for it while I am down here, as he can stave off any move for a snap judgment during my absence.

Since Col. Ball went back on me so completely, I was thinking of coming up right away myself, but as Mr. Muloney is there, I won't do so. I wish you had sent that money for Pilz, as he is in need, and a small present now and then would keep him in a good humor and to tell you the truth I am quite hard up just now, and am unable to advance any money. I have just got down to San Francisco to live and will be able to keep an eye on Pilz, and next steamer will send some questions etc. as I do in this mail for Ring - You had better send what money you choose for him and I will carry out your wishes and account for everything to you - You need his testimony, and as he is now ready to tell the truth which is what you need, for gracious sake, Keep him in the humor before the other side buy him up to perjure himself. You are dealing with a set of scoundrels, Pilz included, and everyday is precious to you - I am awful sorry you did not send me the money, but as you authorized me to advance him \$50.00 I will borrow and pay him that in small amounts until I hear from you by next steamer. Ask McGregor to send me my copy of the "General Laws of Oregon" as we need them here.

Now while I am on this matter, if you do not want my brother or me to come up there, let me know by return steamer. As you have retained Muloney I don't know exactly what stand I have in the case. My understanding is that he is engaged to watch the case for you, and we (my brother and I) are still the leading counsel to try it. Of course if you want him (Muloney) to be alone I will back out for you, and if you want us, we will remain and try the case for you. Until you let me know, I will say nothing about the case to Mr. Muloney, and if he is only to watch it and do the little work up there, I prefer not to say - anything about the merits of it until I come up. You understand that we think the fewer people know our case the better for you. Please send me by return mail a copy of the "Answer" to the complaint. You have a copy of it in your papers and a copy of that will do. I am going to keep on work" ing the case up as though you wanted me to do so, until I hear from you, and if you then still wish me to remain in it I will be just that far ahead. one of the letters forwarded me from Juneau by the Sept. steamer was from Ring, and I

send some papers up by this mail expressed to Pat Corcoran get them and attend to them immediately.

I hope I am still to remain in the case, as I want the satisfaction of getting ahead of that gang - I will take my oath that Col. Ball, engaged himself to me as your lawyer. I will swear he spoke to Murray in my presence for the first time he saw him, after he had engaged himself to me - For he said among other things to Murray "Why I did not know you were on board". But I guess we better keep that quiet just now, until I get a chance to go for him properly. I gave him no points in the case, as I told him you had the papers. So they gained nothing, except to show Ball up for a worthless friend. Ring's deposition will be good for us. I will write to McClellan and see if he knows anything for us You need not worry at all, old man as we are doing everything in the world for you and when the time comes we will be on hand for the fight unless you discharge us. If we are to stay in the case, don't say anything about it to anyone else.

I am sorry to hear of Cushman's death - Old Mike was a good sort of an old thief, and there are many more there who could be better spared than him - Attend to the legal papers - Read this letter carefully and do everything I ask you. Believe me that everything you trust to me will be well looked out for and an exact account rendered. Regards to Church and Jim Williams - Also to uncle Billy and Mike Hayes - With best wishes in the world for you I am yours sincerely,

J.B.Coghlan USN
Care Navy Pay Office San Francisco, Cal.

Tell McGregor I went to see George and Beirn just as soon as I got down and they promised to send the samples right up - I will go down there again to-morrow. J. B. C.