

Letter No. 72

Puget Sound Naval Station
Bremerton, Wash.
Nov. 11th 1899

My dear Harris:

Your letter of Oct. 31 has just reached me, and I hasten to let you know how glad I am to hear from you again, after all these years.

But I don't understand what you mean by my going back on you. You are away off there, of course I have been "on the go" all the time & haven't had the time or opportunity to write to all my friends. I certainly never did anything to give rise to any story or to have anyone think I had gone back on you. Since I saw you in 1885, I have been cruising a great deal and was also on duty in the Eastern states, so I have not kept posted in Alaska, except as I saw about the Klondike etc. in the papers. The last two years, as you can imagine, have been very busy ones with me. I left the U.S. May 6, 1897, and went to Europe, from there to China and arrived there Feb. 18th 1898 in time to hear of the blowing up, of the Maine, of course after that there was nothing for me, but preparation and then the war. I took part in Dewey's battle of Manila Bay May 1st 1898. and in every one of the different "scraps" our vessels had out there and only left Manila Dec. 15 1898. Since then coming home etc has kept me very busy.

I have just come back from the East, where I went to receive Admiral Dewey, and I had a royal time, I can tell you. I am now in command of this station, where we have a good Navy Yard, which is being built up very fast, and consequently I am kept here pretty closely.

Capt. Goodrell of the Marine Corps, came down from Sitka (where he has been for a year or so) on the last steamer and gave me all the news of that place, but very little of Juneau. From what he says Juneau must have changed immensely, but most of the "old timers" must be dead and gone. I shall try to run up next year for a trip and stop over one steamer, but nothing is certain as yet. Give my love to your boys, and regards to any one I know. Cape Nome seems to be the great place now.

Write again soon and believe me

Your sincere friend

J.B.Coghlan Capt. U.S.N.