

We are wondering how much longer we are going to be out here. In most countries the usual thing is that there are plenty of people who want to rule but cannot find a kingdom. In China we have a kingdom but we cannot induce the Emperor to come and sit on his throne.

I am going to Peking shortly to see the dragon throne and the forbidden palace. I will try and bring away some trophy from these for you.

I must now say goodbye. God's blessing on you all through the New Year.

Your old friend,

R. B.

Fort iv. Shan Hai Kwan.

Feb. 8th., 1901.

DEAR SISTER:—I am here safely at my father's mine, and I am very happy with him. He met me at Lillooet on Saturday evening and brought me out to the mine, nine miles distant, on Sunday morning.

I cannot say I enjoyed my journey, from Yale, very much, the train was detained at Spuzzum three hours, owing to a land-slide, so I did not reach Lytton until midnight. I had to take the stage very early the next morning, so I did not get much sleep. The distance to Lillooet is 47 miles. I sat on the front seat by the driver and another man, we were the only passengers.

My father's mine and mill are

closed down to-day of course, but to-morrow they will open up for work. It is very interesting work I think.

The ore is blasted out from the hard ledge by dynamite; it is then carried down to the mill, a mile lower down, in iron baskets suspended on a great moving wire cable, which is called an aerial tramway. The mine is 1900 feet above the mill. The ore is emptied out of the buckets and dumped into the mill. After passing through a large revolving dryer, heated very hot, the ore is crushed to great fineness between great iron rollers, and then the crushed matter is run into large vats and a solution of cyanide of potassium is poured over it, which has the effect of extracting and dissolving the gold in the ore. The solution is then run over zinc shavings upon which the gold precipitates in the form of very fine black powder, which in its turn is taken up and dried over a very hot fire and then put into melting pots. When so heated the powder turns into bright yellow gold, which is run out into moulds, and there we have the gold-brick.

I shall be very sorry to leave my father, but I am looking forward to this next term at school with a great deal of pleasure.

I am, dear Sister,

Your sincere little friend,

FRANCIS RIVES.

Ample Mill, near Lillooet.

Christmas Day, 1900.