

is true we live better than we did when we first arrived but it is expensive - The situation in which we are placed is nearly as bad as transportation, there is no society in Mariquita the people do not even speak the Spanish language in its purity. From this you may concieve the difficulty of getting a correct pronunciation. It is comparable to a person living among Pitmen to learn the English language - There are only two or three in the whole place that speak moderately correct. Instead of speaking to the natives I have learnt to read spanish Books, of which we have but few. I must close my letter.

In future I will write regularly to you putting my letter into the post letting it take its chance. Surely some of them will reach you and let you know I have not forgot all. Give Me kind respects to Mr & Mrs Longridge & all the Bedlington people to Mr Pease's family and to all that I know & Believe me My Dear Father & Mother Your Affectionate & dutiful Son

Rob. Stephenson