

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR OF MACHINERY FOR U. S. NAVYUNION IRON WORKS  
San Francisco, Cal.August 29<sup>th</sup> 1897.

My dear Judge:

Yours of June 3<sup>rd</sup> via  
 Vancouver was duly received and we  
 were glad to hear about yourself and  
 family. I have since that date had  
 a letter from your son Conway in  
 New York asking me about coming  
 to San Francisco, the conditions for  
 work, living expenses & to which  
 I replied that there would be a  
 fair opportunity to see a great deal  
 of building activity, but advised  
 him not to come unless he had  
 an assured position, since  
 there is a very uneasy feeling  
 among investors owing to the  
 tightness of money and the bad  
 political state of the city government  
 that has caused a very serious  
 decline in building activity. I  
 have had no reply from him yet

Cent. we will be very glad to see him  
if he decides to come and stay a  
week before going home to  
Hobart. My work here is drawing  
to a close as the last ship the  
"South Dakota" will be delivered  
in a month or two after which  
it will be several months before  
the records are completed when the  
office will close as they have no  
more Navy contracts on hand.  
We have no definite plans for  
the future beyond a visit to  
Massachusetts to see my family  
there, after that I have hoped  
that the plan to visit Japan and  
Australia can be carried out  
but can make no definite plans.  
The rebuilding of the city goes on  
with rapidity and will be  
greater owing to political changes  
that have taken place in the last  
few months. I send you some  
magazines and will give you  
some input into the conditions.  
During the last election for Mayor

and city officers in 1805 at a republican  
town meeting Francis H. Henny made  
his statement that if given his chance  
he could prove & convict the  
hoodlums, this offer was accepted  
by Rudolph Speckles and he was  
appointed asst. district attorney and  
has been active ever since, with the  
assistance of detective Burns he has  
made 16 of the 18 supervisors owe  
up to accepting bribes and used  
them to convict Mayor Smith  
who has been sentenced to 5 years in  
State Prison and is now held in the  
county jail pending an appeal.  
Caleb Puff his "boss" plead guilty.  
The charter provides for a new Mayor  
on conviction of the incumbent, so  
the supervisors were compelled under  
fear of the big stick of imprisonment &  
promise of immunity to elect a good  
man for Mayor, for what purpose  
the 16 in turn resigned so that 16  
honest men out of 18 were in power,  
these elected Mr. Taylor a lawyer  
also a physician, & his man  
and we now have an honest Mayor

and board of Supervisors. The police  
Commission, and the Board of Public  
Works have been reorganized and  
others will be. The Supreme Court  
in an able decision written by  
our friend Judge Beatty, unanimously  
~~afforded~~ Mayor Taylor right to the  
office which has been disputed by  
Smith. Trials of his principal officers  
of some of the public service corporations  
are under trial for bribery, the  
first one of "Glass" head of the telephone  
Co has been held but his jury failed  
to agree, the second trial is now  
nearly finished. The trial of another  
telephone officer "Halley" had to be  
postponed owing to his serious  
sickness. These public service  
officers, telephone, gas, Street Railroads  
etc have attacked the validity of the  
Grand Jury which is now before  
the Supreme Court and a  
decision is expected soon.

These public service corporations men  
who have been indicted are leaders  
financially and socially in the city.

and an asking a tremendous fight to  
 save themselves from State Prison,  
 using every means that money and position  
 gives them. This fall comes a new  
 election for city officers, the primaries  
 to send delegates to the Nominating  
 Conventions elected on the Republican  
 + Democratic tickets - delegates by a large  
 majority against the Goyers, the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 party the "Labor" by a small majority  
 stood by the old Goyers so there is a  
 chance for an honest set to be  
 elected. If there is confidence built  
 to restore, people will feel safe  
 to invest - money and the large  
 city bond issue for needed improve-  
 ments - can be sold and many needed  
 things for the city - Convents, Sewers  
 Street paving, Schools, Hospitals, Parks &c.  
 I hope I have not worried you with  
 all this about the local conditions  
 but it is a very interesting fight against  
 a very bad condition of things, and  
 as you know something of the city  
 I thought it would interest you,  
 and I am sure it will also  
 to know I am sure you will read this letter

and his magazines. The old Oceanic firm has  
discontinued the Australian review and a new  
one begins tomorrow. The "Jocovic" living here  
In Sydney. I was in hopes Alex. would  
take up the service so we could see him  
again. You must give him our best  
regards and would be glad to see him again  
The Eastjoke and his wife took up his old club  
voluntary meeting, they have had a house  
but I have been here but once since  
the fire, so I do not often see any of  
the old crowd, Judge Bostley, Lyman, S.  
or Horace Davis, I presume that a new  
Memorial house will be established  
some day as his club is in a good  
condition financially.

We are still living at The Dorchester 1482  
Sutter street and find it a very comfortable  
place. We wish to see Conway there  
before he leaves for home and would be  
greatly pleased to see Alex. before we go  
East. With kindest regards to your  
wife and daughter from us both  
believe me

Very sincerely yours

H. N. Stevenson