

Per <sup>my</sup> Horace

Forest Grove

Oregon

Ann Arbor Mich Feb 13<sup>th</sup> 1883

Dear Brother Ueli

Your favor of 20<sup>th</sup> ult. was rather longer on the way than some from you I. & it involved such an important matter that it seemed to require some consideration & thus I had not my reply quite ready before I heard you had gone to Washington Co. but not what was your P.O. address there - until now I hear you are expected back this week & suppose I can now make this at some time a reply to the postal from my Aunt sister of 31<sup>st</sup> ult. & enclose also for your reply to her letter

Unfortunately for that unworkable plan of yours which might work such advantages for Francis & Mother beside relieving Mayant & yourself if I could only perform wisely & satisfactorily both concerned the pleasant part you assigned to me I must confess my total inability to do so as I can think of no person that

I know within the circle of Francis's acquaintance  
than whom I should wish to recommend  
for that position and I am just enough  
acquainted with him to feel that I should not  
wish to advise my brother to make his  
choice of a life partner from such a  
stock & thus ally himself more closely  
& indissolubly to the Caranitas of that  
land & however many we might recommend  
him or elsewhere can hardly hope that  
he could persuade one of them to make  
their abode here for life unless very  
completely blinded by Cupid & do you  
not think there is much more danger  
that a person of his age with habits  
consequently more fixed if they were  
in fact will soon repent at leisure

I fear also of the many unhappy marriages of promising well for another cause they get some  
I think the more you become acquainted with the  
whole family the more you will perceive the utter im-  
probability of finding anyone else either by hiring or  
marrying who can fill the place Margaret has filled for  
past 20 years without more troubles in some direction  
& consequently more anxiety & discomfort to mother in  
her declining days & I am thankful that as I had no  
occasion to advise as to the probability of your closer  
union with our family so it is not my business to decide  
it to be said to taking her out of it

union with our family so it is not my business to consider  
what is your duty in regard to taking her out of it  
but I trust your affection for Margaret is strong  
enough to deter you from persuading or even  
advising her to leave Mother or move her  
such a time or manner as will be likely to  
mar the completeness of her servitude then  
or cloud her future life with any feeling that  
Mother had suffered thereby which would  
doubtless be a more lasting injury to  
Margaret's mind than any temporary separation  
from her chosen life partner. Even if you feel  
constrained to go to Oregon & leave her until you  
can return your case is no worse than  
Sea-Captains I have known who left their  
families in Boston while voyaging around the  
world

Since you & Margaret have become  
one will it not require both of you to  
properly dispose of her interest in the  
real estate If all concerned are now agreed  
in wishing to sell & if you can arrange to leave  
your Oregon affairs long enough to become well  
acquainted with the property & its surroundings &  
also with those who are likely to become best customers  
for it can't you get enough more out of it than  
Francis will be likely to do alone to compensate somewhat

from Oct 1841 April 1842  
with her in it at the  
same time

for the time necessary to find a good sale therefor &  
I do not know certainly what Francis' plans are  
or whether he has any definitely formed but  
understood he did not intend to stay long after  
Margaret leaves & if so I think he might miss some  
of best opportunities to sell if he has to consult her as far  
away as Oregon & it would also be inconvenient to execute  
the conveyance papers & things left about he has  
not much time (if he has the skill) to look up  
a good customer. I have been sorry I did not  
say more to you about that cedar in the swamp  
where P. wanted to get the lines run & also that I could not  
see them run again while there as I made many traps  
there one winter to prevent lumbermen taking off  
that cedar & was told by one man that we had saved them  
(I think) \$500. worth - but don't know how correct  
his estimate or how much of it has since been  
plundered nor whether those lines can be reestablished  
without costing principle part of what value is left but as  
there seems a prospect of some demand for Cedarwood  
that may be worth looking after this spring or next fall  
if you find necessary to go to Oregon this spring I hope you will call on the  
way & give an opportunity to confer more freely on these & other matters  
& in the mean time let us hear as fully & as often as you can afford by this pen  
Respectfully & affectionately  
Francis' Brother  
Jas. J. Duncan  
P. O. Box 101 Arroyo Arbo Mich.