

Butteville Or May 31, 1857

Olivia

Whilst we sojourn upon this mundane sphere, patiently awaiting for the end of time Occasional events transpire so unlooked for that we are really taken by surprise

And have I not some reason to anticipate that such may be your feelings, when you glance at the signature affixed at the conclusion of this letter

Having never acquired but little proficiency in letter writing, I rarely attempt to perform what is to me so arduous an undertaking

I have had the privilege of perusing the letters received from home by Mr & Raymond for the past three years, hence the cause of my writing less frequent than formerly. But this gratuitous privilege seems to be fast drawing to a close, at least so far as Mr. M's is concerned, for I fear his delinquency in communicating with our friends will soon equal my own, I presume his excuse will be an encroachment upon his hitherto leisure time by pressing family duties or in his yankee prazid-ogy as he is pleased to term it, constantly busy doing up chairs. During the late presidential campaign Mr was quite surprised to learn that you people were so sectional in your views, his motto then was America & Union whilst you have been disappointed and your Standard bearer

defeated, his fondly cherished hope has been consummated
by a union with Miss America Frances Hall

Raymond is now with us assisting in farming they
having purchased 320 acres of land from me, we are
carrying on the business in common. ~~We~~ are all well & so
far as I know satisfied to make Oregon our future home, we
now number eleven Deeses & would propose to the Atlantic
portion of our family the propriety of their sending an
Embassadore to Oregon while it is called today, to adjust
the ballance of power, for this is eminently a prolific coun-
-try. Should you people abandon your Iowa Kansas notions
& migrate to this Elysian land, no treaty stipulations as above
suggested would of course be necessary. Portions of Iowa &
Kansas are beautiful during the months of May & June but from
July until now the migratory movement of the people from
those attractive countries to the village cemetery is truly alarm-
-ing. Jack Frost then seizing the remaining six months
holds all subject to his icy will. And were I doomed to
spend the remainder of my life in Iowa or northern
Kansas from what I have seen of those countries I
should be ready to exclaim with one of Old Mys punishment
is greater than I can bear. But this discriminating choice
of locality could not be expected to rise so vividly in
the minds of those who had not experienced the deleterious
effects produced by a residence in a cold sickly country
when experimentally contrasted with the beneficial results
secured to those who inhabit a more mild & healthful
clime. A bright star is just beginning to dawn
& by her light we are enabled to see about a Sabbath

days journey into the future of Oregon & all seems to be most joyfully encouraging, this peep behind the curtain of time enables me to speak in thiswise of the acts that will be passed during the next sitting of Congress beneficial to Oregon, - first, she will be admitted a free, Free Sovereign State of the Union, the Government will pay the expenses incurred in the late Indian war by our citizens amounting in all to some 4 or 5 Millions of dollars, & also do her part in such manner as to insure the certain & speedy completion of the Pacific Rail Road, which of its self will give a sufficient impetus to Emigration for this Coast to drain Kansas of all her inhabitants - except those who love to quarrel & fight, who among you leaving the bonny Buckeye State that would be satisfied to stop at the half way house, while you could perform the through trip, few indeed, Larison & his sympathizing friends are only making a kind of free rendezvous of Kansas for Pacific Emigrants to recruit preparatory to their march across the plains

I suppose you know that I am married, that my wife has only six children, that she calls the eldest Olivia, & the youngest Thomas who is but six months Old - I take the Star in the west the perusal of which affords me much pleasure & keeps me somewhat posted in matters pertaining to Religion & Sectarianism I am truly pleased to see the Rev. W. W.bury moving in the important work of raising the necessary funds for the endowment of a denominational School for Ohio & Indiana, Universalists are

quite numerous in Oregon but we have no
preachers of the true faith, My wife, We & one
other brother-in-law are confirmed universalists,
Should you meet with any pamphlets of merit
containing debates or sermons & mail us an occa-
sional one they would be very thankfully received

I wrote to mother last June but received
no answer, neither have I ever received a letter
from you nor W.W. notwithstanding I have written
to you both, & been absent sixteen years from
home & under existing circumstances you must
allow me to enjoin upon you as an imperative duty
that you answer this letter I presume that Ellen
is a resident of your village you will please
remember me to her & family I suppose Kansas
Jake has returned to Ohio ere this & taken up his
residence with Lloyd again, should you see him
please say for me that I would like to have him
visit Oregon before he swaps of Ohio for Kansas
I perceive that I have filled this sheet & ~~written~~
& narrated but little & perhaps nothing of interest
& will now close, My fondest regards to Father
Mother & Friends, please accept my best wishes
for your future welfare Adieu
Olivia R. Carroll

W.H. Pees