

from his mother, Elizabeth

Reily, November the 26, ~~1866~~ 1855

Dear Willard. It is a long time since I received a letter from you but those from the boys always gave satisfaction concerning yourself and family. My last to which was addressed to Amanda your part was never received as Raymond informed me. Amanda is a grate favorite with them. They frequently spoke in the highest terms of her many excellent qualities. They describe her all that a woman should be. I desire that you return to her my warmest thanks for her kindness to them.)

It is now five months since I received their last communication. This causes me uneasiness particularly as Raymond has been so thoughtful as to write hitherto once a month. They wrote last from Portland whence I suppose they embarked for California since which time no tidings has arrived from them. I look with intense anxiety to the arrival of every maillatterly conveying bad news such as cholera, disasters to vessels and Indian Wars, especially in Oregon. All conspiring to create alarm. While they remained in Oregon I felt perfectly satisfied but since they went to the land of graves many fearful forebodings as to their fate harrass my imagination. Still I trust them to providence who has always as I believe cared for all my children. They wrote at one time they might return home this fall and again that they had concluded to remain until spring. I hope you will not delay writing as I expect you are apprised of their locality at least. We have had a fine summer and fall.

to Elizabeth and Willard

Corn crops are excellent except in lowlands where it was injured by the rain which fell in great quantities during the early part of the summer. Your Papa thinks he never raised better. He has just disposed of his bags at \$6.31 per hundred net, 25 in number. averaging 200.50 lbs. it is \$7 in the city. Corn is 40 cents and wheat 1.75. Vegetables though raised in great abundance ? high prices. The foreign demand in consequence of the war which is likely to be a protracted one it is thought will continue to enhance the price of our staple articles. The Rwily people are I believe doing well. E. H. Gaston ahs two daughters by his last wife. Sam Gray continues to live in stile and act the dishonest part when opportunity is afforded by misplaced confidence or otherwise. E. H. Gaston who has been Esq. for a number of years and is I presume posted in such matters says your account can be collected with interest by any person you authorize. Sam has outlived all his friends, if he ever had any which is somewhat doubtful. He cheated ? twice out of three months

Crops

Sam

of his newspaper and attempted the same fraud with Frank. He is far from a reliable PostMaster and got the office by falsely representing EHG, his predecessor.

Sewell is in Minnesota engaged in the St. Paul Democrat, gets 15 dollars per week and has entered some land. Mr. Carroll has just returned from that region but I have not seen him since his return. Victor and he have been buying land in Iowa for speculation I suppose. Wilson Pottinger and his brother are selling goods on a large scale in Camden. They procured their fall stock in New York. Wilson rents his farm for 300 per year. They call their last boy Bayard. Jacob has sold out his printing establishment to E. P. Taylor his former partner. I have not heard his intention or prospects for the future now do I know why he has abandoned the press. His paper had a good circulation and was as proved by various notices addressed to the journal since his valedictory appeared by his contemporaries of the press, a useful and ably conducted periodical. Decative in going to school from Ellens and Clayton from Olives. They have sent their adopted daughter Elvira Carroll east to be educated. Our family one so large is now reduced indeed. Only two, Franklin who was a baby when you left and Corra our present baby eight years old are all we have at home at present. It has so happened that Corwin is decidedly the most beautiful of the boys. He reads in the third reader, writes remarkable for a child, and is beginning to cypher. Our school is good or at least should be, the assistant is receiving 80 dollars per quarter. David has been engaged since last spring in E. H. Gaston's store, he is the most delicate of our boys. David Griffin is about moving to his new home or more properly his old one, being part of your GrandPapa's Indian Creek farm. It was when sold by David Dick divided the part bordering on Davis's in David's situation. It was bought with your Aunt Priscilla's Dower. The buildings are good. Fifty five dollars per acre was paid for it. Your Aunt Priscilla's health is better than she has enjoyed in two years. Cregmiles family are doing very well. The new Universalist meeting house at Runterhill is finished in good style and has a respectable congregation. Ellen and John are zealous members. Mrs. Harris who I believe was a widow when you left home was recently married. His is a blacksmith and resides in Illinois. Your Aunt Rebecca is about building a new house. She lately purchased some 10 or 12 acres of land from Charles who is married and has a daughter. Priscilla is married also. I have now seen either of them since Griffing carries on

two tan yeards at Eaton and Elexander, also a shoe and leather store. Lucy resides with him. Willard, Olivia, and Ann are at home but I expect I am telling you of children fo whose existence you never hear. I might doubtless tell you of many things more interesting if I coud summon them to memory. But my sheet is filled and the shades of evening warn me that is is time to make a fire in the stove having no one to assist me at this time. It is four o'clock and I have bread and mince pies to bake for supper. So good evening and do not fail to reply on receiving this. I think you had better bid adieu to the land of Indian troubles. Many places are quite as good and far safer. My love to all, E. S. Rees