

Butteville, Ore. May 31, 1857

Olivia (Carroll)

Whilst we sojourn upon the 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. V. 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 Br. MS 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 fraziology as he is pleased to term it, constantly busy doing up chores. During the late presidential campaign Mr. was ~~pleased~~ quite surprised to learn that you people were so sectional in your views, his motto then was America and Union. Whilst you have been disappointed and your standard bearer defeated, his fondly cherished hope was consumed 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 and so far as I know satisfied to make Oregon our future home, We now number eleven Reeses and would propose to the Atlantic portion of our family the propriety of their sending an ambassador to Oregon while it is called today to adjust the ballance of power, for this is eminently prolific country. Should you people abandon your Iowa Kansas notions and migrate to the Elysian land. No treaty stipulations as above suggested would of course be necessary. Portions of Iowa and Kansas are beautiful during the months of May and June but from July until the migratory movement of the people from those attractive countries to the village cemetery is truly alarming. 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, my 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 and healthful clime--A bright star is just beginning to dawn & by her light we are enabled to see about a Sabbath Days journey in the future of Oregon and all seems to be most joyfully encouraging. This peep behind the curtain of time enables me to speak in this wise 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 railroad which of itself will give a sufficient impetus to emigration for this coast--to drain Kansas of all her inhabitants except those who love to quarrel and 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. Garrison and 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/~~pertain~~ pertaining to religion and sectarianism. I am truly pleased to see the Rev. W.W. Curry 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, Mc & one other brother-in-law are confirmed Universalists. Should you meet with any pamphlets of merit containing debated or sermons & mail us an occasional 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 N. W. notwithstanding I have written to you toth, & 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 Wloyd 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 & narrated but little & perhaps nothing of interest & will now close. My fondest regards to Father, Mother, & friends. Please accept my best wishes for you future welfare.

Adieu

W. H. Rees