bloody Rifles still hold me in pious remembrance, corroborates the words of the prophet that the memory of the just shall live. I wish I could see their old mugs once more. Remember me to them one and all with the heartiest Merry Christmas I can give. By the way the ancient Steeve is in San Francisco in the Mar[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] jumping off the second story piazza of Sorings old house. I presume he is recovered long since. As soon as I get warm in office I am going up to see them at Vancouver. Astoria is abandoned to my great discontent. I shall move the office down to the lower burg. Adairville is deserted, & Leonard & Greene live below at Hensill's old Store. The Frosts are in California.

Oregon City. Dec 26. I am up here at Oregon City again — came up to see if my boads had been executed, but if so they have not arrived. I shall wait until the arrival of the next mail before giving a definitive answer to the department. As yet I have merely notified them of my arrival in the Territory. To give $50,000 bonds here is as you can imagine, out of the question. If my friends in New York are willing to back me, well and good. If not I shall be under all the less obligation to them and continue to paddle my own canoe as best I can. I am rather anxious now that I am here to get the place, for as soon as I can write out my account of the Klamath country to send on for publication, and finish copying my journal of the Rifle Regiment tour, which if I remain here I will do this winter & send to you, I mean to go seriously to work at a book on Oregon of intended to be of a permanent character. I ought to have done this before, but I have hitherto had no settled quarters of my