Portland Oregon Dec 31. 52

Happy Fred Year

My Dear Wolcott

On reaching Oregon City I found the Judges there returning from Court at Salem. They held a confab with Holbrook the Dist Atty & Col Boston the Surveyor General & it was determined that I should give bonds there. Accordingly two of the wealthiest men in Oregon were applied to & consented at once. The bonds were executed & I took the oath & received my commission. This whole thing was unexpected, as I was unwilling to make application for security to men on whom I had no earthly claims, but the other officers were very anxious for me to qualify & took the matter on their own shoulders. The result was the more gratifying as ~~some~~ a d-d contemptible loco foco rascal - a methodist missionary had been round cautioning people not to give security for me. This however renders me the more anxious that the security required should previously have been given at home, in which case I should cancel the Oregon bond. If however I do not get it by this mail I ~~should~~ shall not expect it. Now if any substantial influence can be made with Pierce to have me in, well & good. I think I shall have strong military aid & have written to Alfred & Col Hooker to let them know that I have accepted. The Salary &c are limited to $3000, not 5000 as I wrote you. This has been a very severe spell of weather