the Columbia River frozen up so that I could not go down, 18 inches snow all over the country - All the emigrant & many of the old cattle perished - Thermometer nearly down to zero. It is now a warm rain and the Willamette rising with great rapidity & there is danger of a worse flood than in 1849. The suffering among the emigrants is very great, both from their want of preparation for the winter & the dearth & price of provision - flour is worth 42$ per bbl, the ~~average~~ usual price being 10 to 12$. [illegible] I trust in heaven the miners who were talking of holding meetings when I came away, will go down in a body & lynch the pack of German Jews who have monopolized it. I scribble this in the express office. I expect to go down to Astoria tomorrow & take possession of the office. Adair is going on to Washington, report says, to lobby for the Governorship. He and judge Pratt who is there already, will do all they can to turn me out. I told you that Adair was a defaulter - He is a deceitful & false man to boot, & Pratt an unprincipled rascal - so that if you take any steps you must look out for them. I shall put things on the most economical footing possible so that there will be no fault to find with my management in any event. In case I get letters in time at Astoria I will write again by this mail. Meanwhile love to all. Tell Lidy I will write to her by next steamer.

Yours always

George