a source of trouble to me that even the chance of gain-
ing anything should be lost to the family through my
fault. I am afraid that our chances however are distant
enough. You have never told me whether my debt to
Frederick ~~p~~ was paid by you or not. I wrote to advise that
the life insurance should not be renewed if it had been done
but that the whole interest should go to repay you. Let
me know whether you got the Sea otter skin among the
list. Gunther knows precious little about their value, or
else is a cheat. Such as he describes are worth $100 and
upward. I can get $75 for them here. I wrote to Howe
by the last Steamer & presume he has told you the substance
of my letter. I think it would do him good to come out here.
I gave a letter to Mr Leonard, introducing him to Wolcott. He
has been a very good friend of mine, is an upright & excellent
fellow. Dont fail to treat him with kindness. The Prudent's
message has arrived but I have not got a sight of it. We
take a curious foreign sort of interest in all matters of home
affairs. People here speak always of "the States". I sometimes
think that we get a better view of the proportions of objects &
men than you do there, as one does in looking down from
a steeple. The other day while at Oregon City I read Ike
Marvel's Lorgnette & was heartily amused - Without being as per-
sonal as Carl Benson, he cuts up follies & fashions very
well. I see by the Papers that Calhoun's life &c dont sell.
The truth is that Calhoun died. With the body his power &
in fact his mind expired. A subtle & acute logician, he