Astoria February 15. 1853

My Dear Mother

I have left two mails slip without writing you as I have been in a state of [illegible] here consequent on several arrivals, one of them an English vessel bringing some £20,000 sterling worth of goods which have to pay duties, and which will take me up the river to discharge her. This will put Uncle Sam in funds out here but give me the responsibility of taking care of about as many thousand dollars. However I am very glad to have some thing to report as on hand to the new Cerberus of the Treasury. I did not find the first red cent on my arrival. Adair is in Washington hoping to get reinstated, but whoever gets the place I do not believe he will. He boasted here before he left that he would oust me on the 4th of March, but he will find that there are some other cases to be attended to before his, and that they will want to see his old accounts settled before he opens new ones. I see by the papers that Pierce is overrun with applications for all sorts of places & undergoing a species of martyrdom in advance. The legislature have adjourned in this territory and have made preparations to instruct him on the subject of appointments ~~in this territory~~ here. Whether he will attend to them remains to be seen. I have two letters from you and Frank, to the 5th of

000427