in him to part with it, even at the price offered. He
for expects to go home in the Spring and will of course
call on you. You cannot too highly appreciate his friend-
ship to Alfred or myself, or too highly value his fine
character and disposition. Col Hooker, another of Alfred's friends
has resigned and I suppose will remain in California.
If he does go home however he has promised to go and
see you. He is a fine fellow & a fine officer and it is
a pity for the service to lose him, but with a fortune be-
fore him where he is, it would be folly to stick to it.
Many old Artillery friends here are going to the States. I
shall give Lieut Talbot an introduction to you. He is
a man of reading, very pleasant & was a companion
of Hermione in his journeys. He is from Washington and
a Catholic. You appear to have exchanged climates
with us. Last winter it was very mild with us and
stormy with you, this year it seems the reverse, tho'
for the last two weeks it has been comparatively
pleasant. February generally is so, but next month
we have to look out. I hear discouraging accounts
from the country I left, starvation, heavy rains &
snow on the mountains, men unable to work &
unable to procure food with the proceeds of labor.
I dreaded this when I came out & am thankful then
I had the prudence to leave when I did. I am
glad to find from your letters that Lucius' business
is so bright, but I suppose he works himself to death

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