Astoria O.T. April 13. 1853

My dearest Mother

The Columbia arrived yesterday, bringing me a letter from you and Laura of October 18th one from Alfred of Feby 5th and a long one from the Governor in answer to mine, who promises moreover a second chapter by the next mail. Your letter had been to Humboldt bay and back, which accounts for its length of time in reaching me. Its mention of Oliver however leads me to write at once and ascertain what he is doing & if he is in actual want. I regret excessively that I can do little more for him, my own time of office is as you know very unprofitable, and I have no patronage. What I can earn from my pay is necessary, at least for the present, to discharge my debts. At the same time I should be shocked to have him descend to a menial occupation. One of mine personal labor, I should care nothing about, for I have done it myself and may again before long. Alfred's letter seems to be written in good spirits, though he speaks with regret of his brothers death. I have been tremendously busy since I wrote you last, and have only just got through the worst of my duties, the getting off of the first quarters returns. If I have another to make up, it will be lighter. I took a run the other day up Lewis & Clark's river as it is called to the place of their old encampment, which long as I have been here I never visited before - ~~and~~ The site of their log hut is still visible, the foundation logs sotting where

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