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My Dear Wolcott

A transient vessel which arrived three or four days ago brought word of Adair's appointment in advance of the mail. I am considerably astonished as I thought that after Pierce's inaugural, he would at any rate try and appoint men to office who were not actually recorded on the books of the department as defaulters. However I presume that between Gov. Lane & Mr Guthrie, the Secretary of the Treasury, who is a Kentuckian, that they shoved Adair through without stopping to ask about him. Some of their other appointments have been of a similar character. The Md Surveyor of Portland in this territory, Wm M. King is the keeper of a doggery, & has not drawn a sober breath himself in five years. That of Jack Hayes as Surveyor General of California is of a piece with the rest. He knows no more of surveying than I of Sanscrit, & if he saw a map could not tell the rivers from the Mountain chains. He was a Captain of Texas Rangers & that was the extent of his acquirements.

Well, it wont trouble me much after all. My salary for the four months I have held the office will square off all my old accounts here & have me free on that score - My accounts can be settled in

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