Astoria May 10th 1853

My Dearest Mother

I wrote a hasty scrawl to Wolcott by the last steamer, while up the river, since which I have a letter from you and Laura which I found awaiting me here. I [illegible] will not suffer my removal to annoy you as there is no help for it, and I hope before long to find some other occupation independent of political favor, and free from the anxieties of public trust. In fact I should not willingly resume the office when once clear of it, nor do I think I shall ever put myself in the way of another. As it is, the pay will have been so far of service to me in the time I shall have held it that it will have cleared off sundry small debts which I owed in Oregon, and leave me money enough to last till I get to work again. My present plan is to finish up a quantity of my notes forthwith & send them on to you, within which time I shall expect to hear that my accounts have been settled. Then I shall probably go over to Puget sound on a journey to see the country, which I have not yet visited. I cannot however absolutely decide as yet on my next steps. You may I think depend on my retaining a sort of head quarters at Astoria for some time to come. Adair is not ~~yet~~ expected here by his family until the first of June, though he may possibly arrive earlier. The sooner the better so far as I am concerned since he is to come.

You more homes and more extended interests. Some must necessarily cling close them others. The youngest, those who have been weepest and last dependent on your care are the hardest to part from because they have no one immediately for you to watch over but your children's children will yet furnish objects of affection and interest. I regret to hear every time that Francis is still at home and idle, plunged up to his eyes in pathies as if they were the objects of life. If he can find no occupation in Newyork for Harris take it him seek it elsewhere. But of this I shall write to him for the ale [illegible] Lindsey