The appointments for this territory were evidently turned out body and boots to Gov. Lane and such another set of officers is not often seen. The Chief Justice, Pratt is a swindler who was whipped publicly in San Francisco by Dr Griffin & only escaped it here by abject craven cowardice. Of the other judges, one is a dough head who drove a wagon across the plains for the U.S. Paymaster. The Attorney Gen does not know the first word of law. The Surveyor of Portland is the town drunkard and has not drawn a sober breath within the memory of man & so on as to part of the rest. Considering the extraordinary pretensions to, or rather promises of purity which Gen Pierce made at the start, it seemed to me that he might have enquired a little into the characters of his new agents. I trust his administration generally is not to be of the same stamp.

Our spring is a late one here and we are compensating for the rare occurrence of a pleasant month of March in long continued rainy & cold weather. The salmon too, one great necessary of the season is slow in coming and provender is therefore both scarce and meagre. The amount of business doing is not great. in fact every thing is as dull as the skies. While I was at Fort Vancouver I met a young Mr Winthrop, a relative of the Chandlers and quite an intelligent man. He has been some time in the Head Quarters employment at Panama and was to start for the Salt Lake in Company with Capt Brent of the Army, & thence proceed to the States. I told him to call and see you, and I also gave a letter of introduction to an English gentleman, Mr Fitzwilliams a son of the Earl of that name

000445