On reaching Olympia in the beginning of January, I was directed to proceed through the Sound for the purpose of ~~collecting information~~ making inquiries relative to the Indian tribes. The journey being performed by water & the weather very inclement no opportunity occurred for exploring the interior, but ~~such topo~~ some information ~~as~~ was ~~[illegible]~~ nevertheless collected, ~~from~~ incidentally. The country at the head of the Sound is pretty well known, but only a few persons have penetrated that farther to the northward. The whole forms a ~~great~~ basin, enclosed between the Cascade & the Coast ~~a~~ ~~Olympian ranges~~ chains ~~mountains~~ and is of itself apparently but a portion of ~~that a~~ one more extended ~~one~~, stretching from the Columbia nine far to the north, of which the mountains of Vancouver's ~~Isle~~ and Queen Charlotte's Islands are part of the exterior wall. A glance at the map ~~indicates~~ ~~suggests~~ presents in the inlets ~~& canals~~ which pierce the ~~coast to the northward a continuance~~ main land opposite these islands ~~of~~ the same geological ~~conditions~~ ~~character~~ features that exist upon the Sound. & The ~~Olympian range~~ mountains of the Olympian range ~~were doubtless~~ evidently at one time ~~an~~ formed but another island ~~while the plain before within which~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~and~~ the prairies ~~between~~ lying upon the Cowlitz & the Chihalis were ~~doubtless~~ elevated at the same time with the present shores of those arms of the sea & probably intersected with ~~the same~~ similar canals. The wash of the mountains has filled them up, ~~leaving the Cowlitz~~

0530