

Dryden Oct. 15th 1856

Dear Genl. Palmer

I set apart a few moments^{to} this afternoon to address a dear friend. It may appear strange to you that I have deferred thus long after my arrival home, I do not know that I have a sufficient excuse to offer for this seeming neglect. I would say however that time has flown almost imperceptibly away since I reached here while in the embrace of my own dear family.

As I wish to give you something of an account of my journey perhaps it will be well to commence where I last left you and follow along up to the present time and then I will mention more about matters ^{pertaining to us} here. I wrote you a few lines at San Francisco and sent by the return steamer (Sept 4th), I took passage Sept 5 on steamer "Golden Age" turned our backs (after a long look) upon the noted City S. F. and about 2 o'clock we were again plowing the deep waters of old Pacific. A good commander, obedient crew a pleasant company and a good ship well provisioned each ^{and} all necessary to a pleasant voyage at sea. We were favored with delightful weather and good health ^{with all} on board. Made a quick ^{trip} to Panama the wheels stopping but once about six hours at Acapulco, we lay in the bay over night and about sunrise we stepped on board a little steamer and were conveyed to

Jos. Chamberlain
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the depot under an escort of one hundred and fifty
Natives. Their election had just come off much to the
time for crossing the Isthmus being quite cool, and the
faces set direct homeward. We made no stoppage until
about 3 o'clock Sat, 27th. We were permitted to set foot
I wish I had occasion to speak and feel towards
a perfect contrast when leaving the one it appeared to
with the other we had no sympathy they treated us like
sunk with all her crew the moment the passengers had
aged is a caution to civilized people. But enough of this
ment of all necessary blessings. Perhaps there never was a more
whole rout but an Indian could have lived in his canoe,
a few calls on friends I reached the desired place on
All well, all happy. They had no knowledge of my return
I could hardly make myself satisfied that it was a
that it is not a dream. - 'Yes safe home,' and all we
swell with emotions of gratitude. A world of love is
much. The older ones recognized me readily. The little pair
I could not distinguish the one from the other. They certainly
upon, I will not enlarge upon this topic of speaking of
satisfy you. And I would be a little cautious as there is
going for yourself by personal acquaintance. I would say
the best of friends) been enabled to keep the old ship now
I think she has proved herself a perfect Commodore. I feel
I have hitherto done. Matters are not only pleasant and favorable
ably this season. Our Archipel is almost an exception (I must
you will pardon me for expressing myself so freely and
so enough of this Alive has had the pleasure (and profit) of
whole absence except when they have been out to visit their

of the U.S. Navy. They anticipated some trouble from the
dissatisfaction of the blacks or natives - we had a very favorable
same evening we were plowing the Caribbean waves with our
within six hours sail of port to take in the Pilot and
for the first time in the Metropolis of the Western World
the Illinois as I do towards the Golden Age. but there is
the leaving home and friends. Our hearts felt today "God bless you
the Lord I don't know as I could shed tears had the craft
left. The Illinois is a good craft, but the way she is man-
I trust we felt grateful for our safe arrival and the best
favorable time than we had I believe there was no time on our
I left N. Y. Monday evening for Cleveland and after making
Friday evening just as my family were sitting down at Tea-
until they saw me approaching the harbor from the gate
erity - But ten days happy experience is quite satisfactory
all!! O I should feel to disown my heart - did it not
ty all quieted - but to pass our children have grown very
called me pa of course. It was almost a trial to me that
only are the most interesting sight (to me) I ever looked
my family Mrs C. thinks you have already had enough to
a strong probability that you may have the opportunity of judging
the children are good enough and Mrs C. has by the help of
it only right side up but passing before a pleasant breeze,
that I shall try to appreciate her services more fully than
able with us out doors also our farm has produced remark-
ry poor and scarce in this whole county) Olives dairy surprised me
fully upon my family matters. Olive says you will think I am sick,
if the presence and aid of her Father and mother during my
somewhat with the eye she was and is down to her youngest sons about 2 months
other children they have been quite well except mother who is now afflicted

I see I have gotten to the last page of this sheet I shall have to be brief as I want to send this out to night.

And now in relation to my returning to your country I speak with some hesitancy and still perhaps I ought to speak with a good deal of assurance I find every thing as favorable in this respect as I could expect, Mrs. C. appears willing to forsake home and friends and go with me if I think it is best. We have had but little consultation with our friends neither do I think it absolutely necessary - for I apprehend no very serious opposition or rather feelings averse to our going except with our dear parents, I do not know how they will meet it. They have been absent nearly ever since I came home we are expecting their return tomorrow. I shall write to Mr. Hedges soon as this matter is decided for or against - I have not as yet written to him ~~to him~~ as I thought it best to defer until I could say something definite in relation to my return^{ing}.

Please remember me to him when you meet him. I wish to mention to you that I fell in company with a Mr. John Beeson of Rogue River I suppose you have some knowledge of the man as he told me he had written you, and doubtless you have seen some of his news paper publications, He is all awake to the interests of the Indian in Oregon - He stopped in N. B. I did not see Dr. Embrose.

I will detain you no longer at present, Mrs. C. had written to me some four weeks previous to my return I presume you have read it, you will please retain those letters until I come or send for them. I am soon expecting a letter from you, hope I shall not be disappointed as I am extremely anxious to hear from you and the state of affairs there. I have an earnest solicitude for those that I left at Grand Ronde I would that I could hear from them now and that I could be with them soon. It may be that I am all deceived in this matter but some how or other or for some cause my mind seems to center or fix on them. I feel my own inability in this matter, but I am anxious to be willing that God should make use of me and mine if He sees fit so to do. One thing I am not ashamed to say I love the Indian, and I think my wife and children are of the same mind I shall have to close this without speaking of Politics or weather. I wish to be remembered to each one of the family Mrs. C. writes in the regard respect to Mr. Gayle and wife Mr. Hesk and wife also for Mr. Blomfield if he is with you and to enquiring friends, I shall write to ^{my} Raymond shortly. Did you get the satchel in the Post office