

Cartwright Lane Co Oregon, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1883

Dear Chan & Mary & Winnie.

I have finally made out to begin to write to you again. I still have some hope that the time will soon come when I can communicate with you orally and not be to the trouble of writing. And now if you ever intend to move out here, I have a few suggestions to make. Viz. That you come by the N.P.R.R. Get through tickets to Eugene City. Start late enough, say about the first or middle of June, so that the weather will be apt to be pleasant and vegetation growing. It will be pleasanter and you can judge better for the capacity of the country and you will have time to sell off and perhaps get your pay for what you sell – Bring all your good bedding and valuable things which are not too bulky to pack safely and snugly. Bedding is excelent to pack pictures and crockery etc in. I would like to have those pictures and perhaps those books (if you have them yet in good order) brought out. – I have an idea that the family will spend their days on this coast and those things will be of some use or pleasure to them. If you wish any father advice or information let me know. This is a good dairy country. Butter & cheese are very high generally because so few give dairying any attention. This place is real good for dairying or Grain raising but raising grain will probably be the main business until it can be stocked with cows or something else. Good cows are scarce because they practice letting the calves run with them and little attention has been given to raising cows for milk. It would not cost a great deal to stock it with Sheep, which can be bought for \$1.50 each but there has been too many on the place lately. It rather needs good tilling, seeding down & there has been about 41 or 42 acres of fall Wheat sown. I.W.P. has put in about 20 acres on Shares with my team and a neighbour has put in 10 or more acres on shares & I have hired Eleven or more acres sown and think of sowing five or six acres more. We can sow wheat here at any time from August to May if it is not too wet to work the land. That sown before the middle of Jan is Winter – and that sown after that time is considered Spring wheat, all being the same kind of seed such as I sent you a sample of last Winter. There is lots of land on the place which ought and probably will be put in with Spring wheat and oats and lots left to Summer fallow.

And now in regard to the Marsh. I hardly know what to say. If you could sell it for what it is worth whatever that may be I would sell it by all means, but I don't suppose you can. I wish However you would try pretty hard. See what you can get offered for it any way. If we must leave it entirly I suppose it ought to be pretty well fenced and protected from cattle and wood thieves - as long as it is unsold the main thing will be to keep Cattle off of the mowing part and get a little rent for it and the pasture if we can. I suppose there will be nothing done till Spring excep to get a little material on the ground. In the meantime we will think of it. About Garsky's note, collect it if you can without too much trouble. You need not send any money until you can Bring or Send all that is comeing at once. - I don't believe you like to write much better than I do.

I send you a twig that grew within 6 inches of the top of a Fir tree, which grew on my 48 acre lot, which tree was 174 feet high, it lay down. The boys have been making it into Cord wood... Did you get the Sample of Wheat I sent you, and will you send me a fair sample of the Winter & Spring wheat you raised on the old place. Also a small sample of the oats and Barley. They will be all I shall have left of the old home farm. I may wish to propogate them here.

I once wrote asking about those "Foot Stones" - What about them? I suppose you have had that Insurance Policy cancelled as I directed. With what promptness or otherwise are those **Vandue** notes paid - Have you talked with Garsky about his note. As to Emerson's note I suppose I shall have to charge it to I.W.P. - What about that receipt you sent me - Did you ever find a pair of Pinchers about the place. If not, tell the Black Smith I am sure he owes me a pair. Get them if you can - Tell Buskee all about the cellar drains so he can open them if he likes - What did you let him have with the place. Tell him I will throw in Hank and his family - There are quite a lot of things of some value which I left behind, I wish you would take pains to realize something for them as opportunity may offer. If you expect to have a sale yourself offer them then.

Since we have been on this place I have helped Sam a little but have employed myself mainly in clearing a small swail which injured the looks of the farm. There is over 3 cords of scrubby white ash wood besides quite a number of brush heaps in it. I done it splendidly so that a mower can pass over most of the stumps. On this place there is about 35 acres of pasture which has never been tilled. It is considerably grown up with wild rose bushes and small white ash brush and trees. For some time past I have been cutting said brush with a bran new brush scythe, or trimming fruit trees with a bran new fine Saw and I sometimes dig up Plumb and apple sprouts with a bran new spade. The boys have helped Sam put in 18 acres of winter wheat and helped him plow 35 acres to put in to Spring crops besides 5 ½ acres sowed with cheat or chess which they sow here in low ground and cut early for Hay (and it makes very good hay). Since we moved onto this place, the rest of their time they hunt and chew tobacco and it pays just as well as it did in Wisconsin.

Day before yesterday evening Harley and I went to the river (it is only a good big creek here near its head) fishing. He said he would learn me how to fish - well he caught four Speckled Mountain Trout from 7 to 10 inches long and I caught five a little larger. When the coast Salmon come up the streams (and they come in the winter when the water is high and run into the little creeks and road side ditches even one was caught in the road 25 rods from my house last winter) I expect to catch some as long as your leg - Last night Just as I was going to bed my partner in the mill Mr. Brooks, came in said he had shot a deer and we could have it if we would get it so we lighted a lantern and got it about ¾ mile from the house. I dressed it this morning and we had some for Breakfast and dinner - a young doe nice and tender. Don't your mouth water now.

Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>

Yesterday & today I have been working helping finish up around a New School House in this School Dis No 87 in Lane County. The Co contains 120 Government Townships. School House is 1 ½ miles from our house by the Road, 1+ miles on a straight line across lots and appears to be only a good ½ mile. The land is so level and view so unobstructed. The People about here are all Americans apparently very nice inteligent folks. Our nearest neighbour Mr. Aubrey lives about as far off as Webber from you. Next Mr. Harlow, as far as Shepherd. The next Mr. Masterson as far as Dr. Chapman. In my next letter I will send you a map of this Farm which will give you a better Idea of its awful shape than I can give simply by writing. We are all pretty well. Sam grunts the most of any of us. I feel a little more rheumatism than heretofore probably on account

of the dampness of the winter. I send herewith Meteorological statments of rain fall etc. Observe them closely. Pa”

Ma and I went two days and Harley & I went one day Huckelberrying. We got about 17 lbs each day. They grow on bushes from 4 to 12 feet high about the Size and color of real large red currant, not so tart and real pleasant. We think considerable of them as fruit is not very plenty this season - all this Fish and Venison, and Berrys were captured on my own land - so you see if we get the Mill to making our flour and feed and lumber and shingles and also get RR we will have a pretty good thing - We are sawing Lumber and Shingles for own use in covering and enclosing the mill - have got the 3/4 fo the roof on now - our Saw does not run just right, My partner does not prove to know half so much about the millwright business as he has pretended to - O how I wish Uncle Carp would come and buy him out.

Upside down writing:

Send or bring me a description of the Factory Lot so I can make a deed in case I can sell it.

We have fleas, but no mosquitoes, **Cherec** bugs, potato bugs or insects to injure fruit or grain to speak of. No winds or hard blows. Very little thunder & lightning & never feel afraid of them. Still they may come sometime.”

Uncle Carp has not been here and I Guess will not come. (letter torn) has gone to Eugene to get some notions expect him back all the time - tomorrow we all expect to help thresh Oats and wheat grown on this place. Pa