

Caly
Salmon Falls Feb. 16th 1857

Dear Father, I take this opportunity to inform you that I am well and hope those few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing. I just received your letter dated December the third which I was very happy to learn respecting your health and your success in getting a passage. I had almost given up getting a letter from you or from Home but Mr. Haled went to Coloma the other day and brought me three letters from an express which I had forgotten to take my name from.

One was from my Father one from my affectionate brother Emerg. S. Allen in this letter I got all the news from Home and to rejoice ^{fill} to hear that my friends my Mother and my dear brothers wear all well. The third letter was from my friend Wm. Shoumaker dated June the 16th the former I sent to

Father I suppose that you feel interested in my welfare and would like to know how I am making it I am sorry to say that the mines are much poorer at this place than expected to find them I have been making from five to eight dollars per day but the diggings have been so poor that we have spent a good deal of time prospecting we have been washing dirt that would pay from five to ten cts which you are aware is rather poor pay but we are very comfortably situated we have a good cabin and are prepared for the rainy season but it has not made its appearance yet I never experienced as pleasant a winter before

in my life we have had but little frost not any snow
and not so much rain since you left as we had before.

Provisions are much cheaper now than they were when
you were here flour ~~is~~ is worth 10 cts so you see I did
not make much in laying in my provisions. Potatoes 10 cts
Pork 20 cts and other articles in proportion.

I suppose that you have heard of the new mines
that are said to have been discovered near the mouth
of the Clamoth River which has went by the name of the
Gold Bluff it has created a good deal of excitement here
but has turned out to be a hokey. There has been no
new discoveries made since you left that I know of.
I must let you know my calculations for the coming Spring &
Summer. Last evening I joined a daming Company
of twenty men Mr Jonathan Kalsled Daniel Rogin and
Lawyer Sweet a cousin of Edman Sweets belong to the same
company We are a going to turn the river at what is
called the natural Dam two and a half Miles below
Salmon Falls We are a going down to morrow to
make a commencement ~~to morrow~~ the race will be about
three hundred yds in length and twenty five ft wide
sufficiently large to contain all the water that is in the
river at this time we calculate to complete the race in
twenty days and when that is finished the work is all done
for the dam is a natural one. The river has bin prospecte
at this place and is said to be rich but how it will
turn out is more than I am able to say. If it should
prove a failure I shall go east for the north.

I must bring my letter to a close. I want
you should write as often as you can
and let me know the particulars of
Matters and things. Tell Emory that I
will answer his letter next week and
shall expect to hear from some of you every week.
Tell aunt Lydia that I have not heard from
George since he got in he promised to write to me
but I received no letter from him yet give my
respects to her and the family and to all of
our relatives and friends.
Dear Father and Mother I don't wish you to
borrow any trouble about me for I am not among
strangers entirely but have some first rate friends
and am doing as well as could be expected.

I must close give my love to all
and accept the same your self

Benjamin N. Allen

Edwin N. Allen

