

Panama Feb 7 1850

Mr Stack

Dear Sir

I am happy to inform you of my safe arrival in this place without experiencing any of the evils of sea sickness which I had apprehended nor any of those other evils (thanks to Capt Budd) of which passengers upon other of the Steamers have complained so loudly—

Our table was supplied with everything in the way of delicacies that could be had upon this side of the Isthmus— The passengers testified their appreciation of Capt B's treatment in a letter of thanks, & in raising a subscription to purchase him a silver Trumpet—

As respects our affairs, I was not able to see Capt Holt at Mazatlan to make the request of him I had contemplated

I find on enquiry that the rate of interest here ^{varies from two to} ~~is~~ three per cent per month

You will see by the papers also that Mr Cowrie has arrived here as Consul & empowered by our government to transmit the mails across the Isthmus— how long he

will continue to hold this power or what the precise nature of it is I can not say

I fear there will be ~~no~~ more difficulty than we at first supposed in getting the appointment of mail agent - for the treaty between our government & that of New Granada puts it out of the power of our government to appoint an agent to direct when & how the mails shall be transmitted - that power remaining with the New Granada government - all that an agent can do is to request & suggest - this at present Mr Corwin will do -

Our government are now endeavoring to alter the present arrangement so as to control the whole business of the mail

Mr Messrs Howard and Son have now an agent here by the name of Dodge he I suppose will hold that office permanently - whether this has anything to do with the contemplated line of Steamers on this side I can not say. my impression was when I left San Francisco that Howard & Son's line would connect with the new line on this side and one agent would act for both, if so we may not be able to obtain the agency without exerting some influence in San Francisco -

This I presume you will see to -

The Engineers are now in Gorgona - whence I will

write you again after I have seen my friend
Wolcott.

Mr Stephens has gone to Bogota
on some business connected with the Rail-road.
The impression is pretty general that the road
will not pass over the Isthmus at this point but
at Nicaragua—

Judge Bryant on his way down
remarked that your claim to a certain piece
of property in Oregon was somewhat impaired
for the want of someone to reside upon it—that
otherwise your claim was superior to any
other— Of this I know nothing but thinking
it might be of some service to you I have
communicated it to you

I know of nothing more
that will interest you I will write you what
I learn at Gorgona

Yours Truly
E W Osgood

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