

Upper Ferry of North Platte June 16. 1830

My Own Dear Wife & Children

I have learned since returning for the night, (and it is now 15 minutes of 11 o'clock) that the United States Mail will leave here for the States in two weeks and anxious to improve every opportunity to convey intelligence to my dear Family and friends, I have crossed to write a few hasty lines. We are now 825 miles from St Joseph. So far we have got along without any very remarkable incidents. Accounts ahead, as to grass are now more favorable than when we left Fort Laramie, which is the last point I addressed you. All in fine spirits and good health but one Mr James Allen who is sick with Typhus Fever. We are now camped about five miles from the base of a chain of the Rocky Mountains. A large quantity of snow is to be seen over, and several of the boys have ascended the summit today and brought back snow. We intend crossing the river here tomorrow morning. There are 5 ferry boats and the conveniences for crossing good. Yet from a want of prudence 4 men have been drowned two today and 3 on Friday. One left a son, a young lad who will return to the States with the proprietors of the ferry. I saw him today with much surprise. Dr John Pope formerly of Cumberland Howard Co Mo. You will recollect him. He states he was the projector of the plan of the ferry and received 1/8 of the profits from the company for conducting it. They had 5 dollars for crossing a waggon and one dollar a head for stock. They can cross 400 waggons in a day and still many are delayed. The net profits cannot be less than one hundred thousand dollars. The account I gave of the number

of emigrants from Fort Laramie falls far
short of the full number. From data there was
taken from those who entered the office and registered
their names. This I learned after writing from the
commanding officer. We passed six trains
that evening. I took pains to enquire what proportion
registered their names. Three registered and three
did not so it is a safe calculation that
one third did not register which will swell
the emigration to over 20 thousand ~~persons~~
at that time and probably as many before.
I forgot to state that Dr. F. informs me that
his family is in Samptons Co. and that he
has not seen them in two years, but intends
starting as soon as the emigration all passes
which he thinks will be in one month. From
his account of himself I think this is the
first cruise he has made since he left Co.
as he states he had not the means to establish
the ferry himself but only received an interest
from his property the plan and attention
It is surely a very fortunate lot for him,
and will yield him a profit of not less than
ten thousand dollars this season.
My health is remarkably good. But O! what
an aching voice - Dear Wife! how can I be
cheerful, when so far and still widening the
distance, that separates me from all that can
impart true happiness. O those dear Children
and thy still dearer Self! when shall I see
you - How often I live over the pleasures that
are past. Dear, dear pleasures! Hope assures
me they will return, with an increased
ratio commensurate with the distance, and

abandoned Thus I feel as each day rolls on, and I can
hasten the tedious journey, that throws distance
between us. Gold or no gold, we must meet
next winter. I fear I shall not be reconciled to
remain in Cal. objects, sufficiently long to be of any
pecuniary advantage. But then what is Gold?
a lifeless lump, in comparison with the thrilling
 joys of a sweet, quiet Home, rich with the
 true love of a dear Wife and Children.
The little Carpet Bag with those priceless features
 are my nightly pillow. What pleasure they impart
 Why did I not get Alton's - Sweet little fellow
 thy image is on thy father's heart in stronger
 colors than all the powers of art can impart. Still
 thy dear father would he had thy visible features
 that the eye might feel the pleasure as well
 as the heart, and many tears are shed that
 he neglected this one duty and pleasure. His
 cheek is still warm with those oft repeated kisses
 of filial love, and his lip glows with a
 holy desire that a parent only knows and feels
 to embrace his dear little Alton as he was
 wont to. And O! Sweet precious Babe rest softly
 on thy dear Mother's breast and imbibe the pure
 principles of that glowing soul. That they may
 light thy future path, and guide thee safely
 in virtuous ways, and guard thee from yielding
 to the temptations that will assail thy little
 heart. And O! dear Wife, Companion of my
 soul how responsible is the charge left you.
 Yet I have full confidence and shall impart
 no admonitions. My soul is full and it is painful
 to stop, but I hear no fird and the air is very
 chilly. My love to all Your dear husband,
 M. L. Angier