

March 14th / 85

Dear Father,

I am about to broach to you a subject upon which I intended to write while you were at Cincinnati, it is through fear of a refusal from you, that I do not speak to you verbally, but ^{by} giving you a note, and letting you answer with consideration rather than from impulse, I think that you will give me an affirmative reply — In the first place my ideas were of "California" but with mature consideration, my thoughts for a few days past have been solely concentrated upon "Oregon" — What is the use of me staying at Mr. Connelville forever? And where can I go to better my pecuniary situation within the precincts of the State of Ohio? I am nearly nineteen years of age, in the strength and vigor of youth, now is time for me to construct the canopy to shelter old age, and can I do it here at home? No, no young man can do more than ^{unless being miserably contemptible} make a living, especially when situated in somewhat adverse circumstances. look

at the hundreds of old men who are now living in our immediate vicinity - have labored hard all their lives and are worth nothing, yet comparatively nothing, and what little they have accumulated, they are killing themselves in devising some ~~new~~ means for its augmentation. Mr Israel Hedge - will start for Oregon in company I believe with ~~some~~ several families from Beverly in about a week or two, and I think would be wise and judicious for me to go with them, providing I ~~can~~ get to should be acceptable, If I should go, I have no doubt but that in a few years by application I could accumulate ~~so~~ enough to place me in a situation so that I could live ~~in~~ without manual labor in old age.

Yours Cyril

Father's plea for per-
mission to go west

Steamboat "Oriental" Saturday 3^o P.M.

April 5th / 57

Dear Father

I am now sailing down the beautiful "Ohio" upon a St. Louis Steamer with the above mentioned name. I am now within a few miles of Cincinnati, and not knowing how long the boat will stay at the City - I have commenced writing you this dispatch for fear of not having leisure while at the City. Our trip so far has been quite pleasant while at Marietta we were cheated out of ~~the~~ a passage upon one of the line boats on account of its stopping at Harmer instead of Marietta, the water being so low that the boats cannot cross the bar at the point of the island to the Marietta wharf, without danger of being grounded. But upon having crossed over the Muskingum and spending a day in Harmer we on Friday got on board the aforesaid "Oriental" bound directly for St. Louis. The boat is a good solid one, - from one to two years old - it has many passengers on board generally emigrating for the west. Our passage from Pt. Harmer to St. Louis is \$8.00 dollars only - we are compelled to sleep on mattresses. The State rooms all being filled before ^{The boat arrived} arriving at Marietta, But I think we may get

births after landing at Cincinnati
Our company sleep side by side, and I
think there is not much danger of rob-
bery, having our money in secure places - The
Boat appears to be free from Blacklegs
to a great extent, there had not been a
particle of gambling upon her since we star-
ted, I anticipate a pleasurable journey to St.
Louis - nothing more until I arrive at
Cincinnati

Cincinnati Sunday Morning
We ~~are~~ got here yesterday afternoon at about
4^o P.M., I met with my friends M. E. Whilden
& Mr. Howes - The latter is engaged in
a shoe establishment, the former is going
to Commercial School, I have been a good
deal over the city I was in Colledge Hall
merely to see the place where you operated,
I saw Dr. Johnson, he went with me to
the Art Union ~~Room~~ but we could
not succeed in getting into the room,
it being closed, I have bought nothing
here ~~as yet~~, we are all in good
health & spirits, I have been to a
great many places in this city
which I will not attempt to list
Burnett House establishments of Art &c
we came in here to late to have our
pictures taken last evening, but if I
can have any means of sending

miss
from St Louis I will do so
I will "write" to you from St
Louis probably - perhaps several
times from St Joseph or where ever
we stop

Your Son
Levin

St. Louis, April 11th 1851

Steam Boat "Alton"

Enroute - 1851

My dear Father,

I am now seated in the Cabin of the above named Steamer, one thousand miles! from the spot of my origin, Good Old M^r Connersville, we landed here last night about nine O'clock, we slept upon the boat, St. Louis is a great City, the amount of business done upon her wharf is truly wonderful. The Streets of New York cannot possibly more than compare with it, it is the point or great thoroughfare for all the productions of the West — Our trip from Cincinnati had been very pleasant indeed — and there had been nothing to trouble me, save the associations of the spot of my nativity — the thoughts of my pleasant home — and the friends I leave behind, I have been perfectly well since I left home, and ^{to} have all the company with the exception of a few slight colds, we were six to eight hours in Louisville, which time we partly spent in walking its streets and looking at every thing that feasted ~~to~~ our eyes with its luxuries, The far-famed Swedish Nightingale Jenny Lind was in the City the same time we were, and

it is a positive fact that I in company with some
others had the honour of walking apart the
Widow Romans' habitation in which the Congress
boarded & lodged. The people of that city ^{were}
greatly excited ^{with} Elmy Lindism, as in nearly every
place where she has visited it appears as if
a nod of recognition from her head to any
inhabitant of Louisville - would have been suffi-
cient to have made him ~~go~~ Crazy from the
vastness of the Compliment. Since I have been
in St. Louis I have ~~had~~ ^{of her} seen at least a half
a dozen miniatures, which prove to my satis-
faction - that notwithstanding all her accomplish-
ments - she is not very "good looking".
By the by I have had an excellent miniature
of myself taken by "Easterly" the distinguished
Artist of the west. his pictures are the most
splendid & lifelike that I have ever seen anywhere.
I will ^{send my picture by the Clerk of the "Ori-}
^{to Hall & Sons, Miniaturists with orders to send it home,}
ental "The boat upon which we came here;"
^{the miniature!} it cost me Three dollars, which I cheerfully
give - Its my farewell gift. Our Company
is somewhat separated. - Sprenger, Dingman,
Fox, Casaday & myself buy our own waggon
and soforth, and go independantly. The re-
mainder - including Bro. Weston go with families.
This was occasioned by the scarcity of funds,
however I suppose that we will all be in
the same Train. - There were forty seven Cabin

Passenger on board the boat I came down
on - bound for Oregon, We five (above refer
to) have bought part of our provisions here -
viz - Sugar, Coffee, Crackers, dried peaches,
&c &c, We buy our waggon & oxen at
St. Joseph, which is said, can be procured
tolerably cheap, We start from here to night
or tomorrow morning, - fare nine dollars to
St. Joseph, for my part I consider myself
equipped for the expedition, and I am con-
fident the rest are, today I bought a gun-
coat, which will be good, on a rainy day,
I wished I had the assurance that mother
would not feel badly on my account, the
idea of her having sad thoughts for me trou-
bles me much, but I hope that it will be
in my power to return again, - ^{eventually} to live
in peace, and prosperity - and to make
you all happy, farewell!

I will write to you from St. Joseph
Till Alameda, that I know that I am her bro-
ther and that she cannot be forgotten.

Your Son
G. W. G. W.

Missouri River April 15th
Steam Boat 1857

Dear Father,

Alton

Knowing how glad you generally are to receive a letter from any of your children under the present circumstances, I have concluded to pass away the time and to let you know where I am, by sending you an epistle, notwithstanding the little information I can impart. We are now creeping as it were, up the above mentioned river, for I assure you we go very slowly, on account of — in the first place our boat runs very slowly, in the second place the river is full of bars & snags, — perhaps you are somewhat aware of the construction of the Missouri river, its bed and banks are of black mud & sands capable of being removed from a slight pressure, consequently bars are constantly forming, the surface of which is imprinted with hundreds of huge snags, sometimes ^{they} are to be seen above the water, & very often ~~are~~ are but slightly covered, but these bars are not by any means permanent, the current of the Missouri is very swift, & while it tears away one bar, it forms another in a different place, our boat

boat has a great many timber sticks, & some few
timber run against snags, But if a hole should
be broken into the hull of the boat, and it should
happen to sink to the bottom, the boat could
not possibly sink deeper than ten, ^{or} twelve feet
& no person would be likely to be drowned,
The Captain is nearly constantly sounding to
find the channel & its depth, he hardly ever
finds more than ten feet, ~~but~~ ^{but} generally from
five to eight; we have been from last Saturday
noon until this ^(Tuesday) morning, coming about 200
miles, The soil along the banks of the river
is generally uncultivated, we see no splendid
& beautiful farms, like on the banks of the
Mississippi & Ohio, but apparently one monotonous
piece of wilderness, interspersed with a few
habitations, & now & then, a little town, we
arrived at Jefferson City last night evening about
goethe, and lo! and behold we took on board
The Hon. Tho. H. Benton, who goes with us
to Booneville about 50 miles above, shortly after
he came on board, I had the honor of "shaking
hands" and conversing with him, in company
with the rest of our boys, about 15 to 20 min-
utes, I think that he has changed in appear-
ance somewhat since we saw him, he looks
rather older & neglier, He told me that he
was born in North Carolina, and emigrated to
Tennessee fifty two years ago. he said Gen. Jackson

went to Tennessee about ten years before he went, & The first
time that he ever saw The General, was ~~while~~ while
he was Judge of The Supreme Court of Tennessee
he says that he was sitting on The bench in a
little log Court house in The Public Square Nashville
he said a good deal about Jackson, but nothing
about himself, in regard to breaking The Generals arm
in an affray, at Memphis, (I believe it was,)
I am rather inclined to think that The Old man
is somewhat in his dotage, while sitting aside by
himself you can perceive by The motion of
his lips, that he is soliloquizing, when he reads
he uses a squinting glass instead of Spectacles,
I saw him weighed this morning, his weight is
205 pounds!! - he is now standing within a few feet
of my side, Jefferson City is a place containing
about 1500 inhabitants, it is situated upon
about a dozen hills in The principle part of
The town. I do not believe that there is one
~~square~~ acre of level land, The State House
is ~~a~~ rather a splendid edifice - situated
on a high hill, I think from appearances that
The Penitentiary is an indifferent concern, on The
top of The wall they have little places built
similar to Chicken Coops for watch houses,
Our boat is now lying in The woods talking
out lumber - to lighten her so she can go over
a long bar, upon which we are situated at
The present time, The Captain wants us to walk

about 3 miles but he cannot succeed in getting many
of us to comply with his request, it is 488 miles from
St. Louis to St. Joseph, and we are now about ~~two fifths~~
 $\frac{2}{5}$ of the way, how long it will take us to go the re-
mainder I cannot tell, but for my part I am not
very particular if it takes us two weeks, for vegetation
is not very far advanced here, and I do not believe
we can start short of 3 weeks, I will write to you
again shortly, If I suppose I can receive letters
from home at St. Joseph, I think it only takes
ten days for a letter to come across, I would
like to hear from you and Almada too, before
I take my final start for Oregon, I wrote to
you from Cincinnati & also from St. Louis
and as I stated in my last letter, I will
state again for fear my last may not be
received, that I sent you my miniature from
St. Louis by the Clerk of the Steamboat
Oriental to Hall & Sons Marquette to
be sent home, — Company all well
and in good spirits,

Your Son

Cyril

P.S. I have got a couple
of the Hon. Thos. Benton's Cards

He just gave them to me
by request, I send one to
Almada to put into her
Card basket

Ch,

Missouri River on
Steamboat 1851

About

"Camp in Louisville"
Weston, Mo.

April 23rd / 51

Dear Father,

Three weeks ^{ago} from ^{to} day I left home, and now here I am sitting in our Tent situated in the suburbs of the Town of Weston, with a trunk for my seat, and a box for my writing desk. I sent you my last letter from Boonville, so I will endeavor to give you the news from that time until the present, when I wrote last I think our Steamboat "Alton" was on a bar, in the Missouri river, we were unfortunate in choosing our boat at St. Louis. We ought to ^{have} gotten on a small light draught steamer, instead of the one we did, and we ~~if~~ could have come through without any intermission, but as it was, we were running on snags, and bark, all the time, and when we grounded and were unable to proceed any farther, by the meanness of the crew, we ~~were~~ ^{kept} in daily expectation of proceeding, until we were swindled out of a few days boarding, at one dollar per day, (which is not so trifling for an emigrant) when they told us that it was utterly impossible to proceed any farther, we then got an ox team and had our luggage transported to Boonville four miles above, after staying there a day, or so, we got on board of the Steamer Highland Mary, a small boat bound for St. Jo. They knowing our

Circumstances, charged us just what they pleased. In fine our trip cost up about three times what it should. But we are all here now, with the exception of Bingham & Sprenger, who got off at the Independence landing, to transact some business at Independence. Independence is situated 3 miles from the river to my surprise. The object in stopping at Milton is - in the 1st place we are informed that every thing can be obtained at cheaper rates ~~than~~ than at either Independence or St. Jo. I ^{think} only the route is better from this point, than ^{at from} any other. We start from Ft. Leavenworth, which is 4 miles below this place on the established government road. We are waiting for Sprenger and Bingham, as soon as they arrive we will be active in procuring our team, and making preparations for starting. Prices are moderate here cattle can be bought for - ~~from \$60 to \$80~~ forty to seventy dollars, & waggon from sixty to one hundred dollars, provisions about the same as in Mr. Connellys. While coming down the Ohio river we became acquainted with a company from Pittsburg. The company consists of 4 men, One of them has been almost all over the whole world, he was in Australia 2 years surveying, he has also ^{been} on the western coast of California, & Oregon. he understands all modes of life well. There is another of them who has been several times across the plain, and will be a good guide. Then they have a Physician in their company - who is a very accomplished gentleman, not only as a linguist &c, but ^{as} a musician, he has

It has been teaching the languages, & music for several years
in Pittsburg, then the remaining one is a Lawyer, mu-
sician & a fine fellow from Pittsburg, I am happy
to find that the boys who do not belong to our
Company have found good situations, Ino. Weston
goes in Company with Ino. Bell of Morgan Co. There
are but very few emigrants that start from this
place, I think that they have generally collected
at St. Joseph and Council Bluffs, however there are
enough here to make quite a large Company.
There are large waggon loads of merchandise leaving
nearly every day for Salt Lake, We arrived here yes-
terday, & in the afternoon - pitched our tent & arranged
our trunks & provisions around in order, & last night
we threw down some Buffalo-robes & quilts, and
took our first sleep under a tent. In the summer
time I am sure I would rather sleep under
a good tent out in the open air, than any
other way that I know of. I think that we will be
ready start from here in about a week or two; the
grass at present is not high enough to start, vegetation
is not near so far advanced here as it is in
the State of Ohio. And when we do make a start
I suppose we will have to take feed along with
us, for a little distance, for our stock, Weston
is a place of two thousand inhabitants, situated
on the east bank of the Missouri 30 miles
below St. Joseph, there is a good deal of business
going on here, there are some large and hand-
some establishments of the mercantile order

that she must write to me, send her letter to Ft. Larimus, it must be done soon or I may never see it, for I do not know how often the mail goes to the Fort. I am very well, Off writing

Which appear to be doing a flourishing business
I can now see enough Indian territory every day
on one side the river is Missouri, and on the other
the land of the Indians, I have seen some few Indians
and since my arrival, and notwithstanding they
are considered partially civilized, you can
behold in their appearance & actions strong marks
of a savage nature, and character. They al-
ways let their women carry the largest loads, and
do the greatest drudgery, last night I
saw some of them coming from the mill car-
rying flour, there was one old Squaw who ap-
peared as if she was hardly able to walk,
had a large sack of flour on her back, and
while climbing down a craggy declivity,
to the canoe, she tottered, and came very near
falling several times. There was a half a dog
or large Indian sitting on the shore
who saw the difficulty of the old woman
but they remained seated, and seemed per-
fectly unconcerned about her, finally she
reached the shore and placed the flour in
the canoe, and sank to the ground, as if per-
fectly exhausted, I do not know whether you have
written to me or not if there are any letters at
Independence or St. Lo. at present I will get
them, but if they do not reach there until a
few days hence, it is a matter of doubt.
Whether I shall ever receive them, if you would
send one to Ft. Larimus, I think perhaps I might
get it, I will write to you again from here
before I make my final start for the far west,
Tell mother that her ~~and~~ comforts & blankets are just the
articles I wanted, & answer the purpose very well, all Almida

Blue Earth river Indian Sav.
May 17th 1857

Dear Father.

The mail carrier from St. Kearney has just arrived at this point, & by our begging, he has concluded to stop with us until tomorrow morning. I do not know hardly how to commence my epistle, because I am compelled to be expeditions from necessity. I suppose that you received my letter from the ferry on the Missouri river, well I will give you a little recitation of our journey from that point. In the first place, I feel rough & hearty never having enjoyed better health in my life. I look rough, our fare is rough, our work is rough, & all in fact that we have to do or see, is rough eps very rough. But we all feel very well indeed, whether you would know me or not, if ~~the~~ I should walk up main St. M^o. Councilville, I cannot possibly tell. My slouch'd hat all wrinkled & bent, is generally drawn down, so as to conceal nearly half my countenance, & my upper lip & the lower part of my face is covered with a kind of a grizzly beard! yes I have beard!!, & I think if I should be weighed, I find an increase of about ten or fifteen pounds in my corporeal frame. But I make haste with my letter. Since leaving the fort we have traveled quite slowly, only coming about one hundred & fifty miles. But this has been principally been occasioned by delays, occasioned by necessary resting & high water, I think that we will average 20 to 25 miles per day hereafter, at least this is our intention. Our Company is ~~thoroughly~~ thoroughly organized, & we all are now cooperating under one regular system of government; last summer we commenced forming our constitution; we concluded

we concluded that we could not delay the matter no longer, considerable of anarchy & confusion had ~~then~~ existed before this period in the company, & notwithstanding that it was Sunday we went about the work in good earnest. We had caught up with a part of our train which had preceded us, and in our absence had elected a captain which occasioned considerable discontent, But however after drafting a Constitution, which was submitted & passed, we elected the same Captain, whose name is Mrs. B. Hardin, he is a lawyer & heretofore has been a resident of Weston, All the Emigrants that I know of from Morgan Co. & with the exception of Hedge & Bro. Gird & About Bethel, are in our train. There are 18 waggons in our train, I wish that there were no more than 8 or 10, for then we could be more expeditious, so far on have not attempted to keep our Cattle in a corral for protection, during the night, but herd them, There are 42 able bodied men in our Company, 10 can be composed the day watch, ~~watch~~ & twelve men compose the night guards, six stand from 8 o'clock till 12 o'clock & the remainder from 12 o'clock to 4 o'clock in the morning, each set of guards ~~can~~ goes on duty every 3^d night, We are now encamped on the eastern bank of the Blue Earth river, & have been here ever since yesterday ~~in~~ forenoon, After encamping, we set about constructing a raft, (which was finished this morning,) to float our waggons over the stream, but to our regret, it will not answer the purpose, But now our men in connection with another train from St. Joseph, are building a couple of Canoes, which will be lashed together, & it is supposed that they will answer the purpose, the river before us is very high from hard rain, that we have lately had, consequently we are put to some necessary trouble & delay, if I should ~~not~~ tell you our 50th

part of what I have seen, & what has been said
and done in the camp, it would take more
time and pains than I can possibly spare.
There are many little incidents of interest, from
the witty expressions of our Irish wag, to the
sound sense & generosity of the camp that
I might attempt to describe, but circum-
stances will not permit. It is now dark,
and I am still trying to write a little more.
I have just had my supper, which has had a
great tendency to take away my apetite, for I in-
dulged freely I assure you. - The mail carrier
has been at his post, and similar oc-
cupations many years, he has lived
with the Indians and understands
their language well, he has been reciting
to me a great many incidents of their
manners and customs which will be
of great benefit. The society of our
camp is very good, generally pleasant
and agreeable, many very intelligent
persons in the company, I could
converse with you an hour I could
tell you everything, but now I must
make our bed & perform many other
little duties so good bye, Tell Almeda
that this letter must do for her &
mother too,

I will give you this without
correction, it is too dark to see

Your Son Levin

Enroute - 1851

1851

Dear Father -

Shasta City Dec. 4th
1857

This is the first opportunity that I have taken to write to you, since my arrival in this part of the west, which soars under the light of civilization. I do assure you that the latter part of our journey - across the broad expanded space between you & I - became quite tedious & tiresome; & to emerge from this mode of living - which was so little adapted to us - into a society - of at least partial enlightenment, - was a source of extreme gratification & pleasure - I found nearly everything in Oregon about as I expected - I found the wonderfully flattering reports which were heralded throughout the state in reference to the great resources for obtaining wealth, in this country to be exaggerations to a great extent; however parts of this country as farming districts are not to be excelled in the world - The numerous streams flowing rapidly from the mountains give the country water power unlimited - besides numerous ^{other} considerations which make it one not to be disregarded - After paying a couple of visits to Oregon City where we saw several of our friends, & remaining at Salem about two weeks, we concluded to purchase a ^(40 miles above on the Willamette) supply of provisions, & move for Shasta Mines

1857 - Enroute - seriously sick

I saw at at Oregon City Mr. W^m Foubt who anticipated returning home in November - by him I sent to you my little journal of our trip across the Plains. I also sent an Oregon paper by mail. I must not give you in this letter a description ^{even} of that ~~part~~ part of the country which came directly under my observation, nor what I think to be the Character &c of the people of Oregon, - but will give you a few personal items & bring my letter to a close. After starting from Salem we traded the entire length of the Willamette Valley which is a very beautiful one, we crossed the Calapooia Mts into the North Umpqua - thence into the South Umpqua Valley - And when arriving at the southern extremity, I was severely attacked with the Billious ~~fever~~ fever - but fortunately I found quarters in the house of a Mr Knott - who is merchandising at the mouth of the celebrated Umpqua Canyon - & received continually the care & attention of his lady - who is a "good old Jersey woman" After being confined principally to my bed for about four weeks, but being able to walk about the door yard a little and while performing this exercise how much was I surprised & gratified in seeing Austin alight from his mule in front of the door. You can ^{im}agine my feelings better than I can express them. I had no idea that he knew ~~that~~ my condition, & he was thrown into my pres-

ence like a bolt from some unknown quarter - Austin looks well & is well - has slightly changed - if any - from what he was at home - He got his information regarding my illness while at Shasta Butte City Cal^a when he was transacting business - Upon receiving the intelligence he came immediately to where I was, and in every instance he acted towards me, the part of a most affectionate brother, After remaining at Mr^s Knotts about 3 weeks longer I became able to ride, and we bid adieu the valley of Umpqua, and passed the almost impassible Canyon into the Rogue River valley - The Indians of this region have been very bad - & but a few weeks since a man was shot while engaged in driving some logs & several others were wounded, however we passed the entire length of the valley unharmed - Thence passing the Cascade Mts, & traveling about 30 miles we arrived at Shasta Butte City. This city takes its name from a magnificent mountain which stands about 40 miles to the east of it, it numbers in inhabitants about 1000, consisting principally of gamblers & miners - it is positively true, that about every ~~the~~ second house is a gambling & drinking establishment, & some of these houses are very fine in their interior construction, decorated with beautiful paintings, while their bands of music

Chime beautifully with the jingle of dollars
& dimes - S. B. Case day, is working at timbering in this
place - Ed. Corns is also working there at this
trade, Springer & Bingman are ~~working~~ mi-
ning near - Mrs. Weston, Ford & Bethel are still
in the Willamette valley - After remaining
at Chasta Butte City a few days we pro-
ceeded on our journey to Reading Springs
or Shasta City, Where I am at present, Our
trip from Shasta here to this place was through a
Country of hostile Indians - & in the hardest
of Storms of Snow, rain & wind, But I am pleased
to think that by eating ~~and~~ crackers and jerk beef,
riding hard all day, & catching "Thunder"
at night in the shape of hard ~~Storms~~ ^{Storms} - it has
renewed my health, & made me quite hearty

Shasta City is a very great business place, &
like all the towns of California a place of great
Corruption, To day (Sunday) all the mercantile
gambling and other establishments are open,
and thronged with customers, The Streets are
crowded with men and mules (miners come to town
on sundays) The auctioners' hammer resounds
from every ~~quarter~~ direction, & instead of hav-
ing the serenity of a sabbath in Ohio - all is
clatter & confusion - Austin notwithstanding
all this I like ~~California~~ California much better
than Oregon - It is more like home, but I find
myself contented anywhere, I have not ~~been~~ been
discouraged one moment since leaving home

Mr Sprague sends his respects to you he was elec-
ted Senator this fall from Shasta Co, I believe that Austin
is quite popular, and have heard from numerous sources
that if he had consented to have been a candidate for Sher-
iff of this County - That he could easily have been elected,
this is a very lucrative office here, worth from 5 to 6 thou-
sand dollars per year - I have been here only a day or two,
I may stay in this place this winter - Clerks wages are good
from one to three hundred dollars - I have much more ^{to} to communicate some-
times
your son C. M.

Wear, March 18th 1859
Sonoma Co. Cal^a

My Dear Father,

Yesterday I was much
delighted to receive from the post office a brief
letter from Austin, with a letter from You & also
one from Almada enclosed - You appear very
anxious to know ^{my} whereabouts - at the same time
expressing much concern for my welfare.
I am proud to think that my nearest and
dearest relative possessed so much parental af-
fection - most assuredly will I heed your good
advice, and make myself - as nearly as possi-
ble - worthy of my father's virtue - I find when
I attempt to detail information, or anything
else, that my ideas are too much concentrated,
and while communicating incidentally to one af-
ter another in succession, my composition becomes
entirely too long - consequently any and every
interesting - hence this letter shall be upon gener-
al topics and events, rather than otherwise -
My last letter ^{to you} was written at Shasta City -
I think sometime in last December, which gave
you my operations up to that period. I remain-
ed at Shasta altogether about two months, part
the time doing nothing save living high, and
expanding my personal appearance with the accu-

Dr. Mulvaney sends his particular respects to you, he says he was
in the 1848 concerning on the you when Miller made some note of for Jov-
mor - he would with you for good - He is on out and out - All Man

mutation of about eight ^{of flesh} ounces daily! and a short time before leaving the City I was engaged in a wholesale Cigar & Tobacco establishment — But notwithstanding the hardships and uncertainty of mining, now and then a goodly pile of the fascinating lucre, is taken from the bowels of the earth, to free some poor miner from the embarrassing embarrassing arms of adversity, and cheer his future career with happiness & prosperity — How many since the discovery of gold in California have made fortunes, and ere the lapse of a single year, have been welcomed again to the bosom of home, to hold "sweet converse with companions of by-gone days, while pondering these facts over in my mind, with hope whispering into my ears that I might prove a "lucky one" together with a desire to satisfy my curiosity — by mining a little before leaving the country; I concluded to take a tour with Austin — to loading a mule with a supply of provisions, and having another to ride on proceeded west to the Trinity river — Thence to the celebrated mining district in the vicinity of Weaver — at this place Washington McCombrell & Mr. Muller, from Morgan Co. O., are engaged in mining, from Weaver we traveled about 20 miles in a westward course and stopped upon Hamilton Creek — upon this creek we took claim in the bed of the stream, which we anticipated working but having remained upon the Creek about three miles

To Oregon - I deem this unnecessary having sent you my journal of the entire trip from Mr Combsville to Oregon City by Mr. Wm. Cook which I suppose you have received long before this time -

Dear Mother - how sorry & grieved am I to hear that you and Almida have been so afflicted by the common complaint of winter - and I fear the awful tearing of disease. A day never passes away without I think of your past kindness. My greatest desire is that I may eventually repay you in some manner for your unequalled goodness which you have always bestowed so bountifully upon me - Father writes that you apprehend danger from the Indians who regarding my welfare - It is true that they will kill and not every opportunity they have - but while traveling through the mountains we generally go in Companies and well armed. But I must now relate a little circumstance that occurred upon Kan you Creek a few days since. Austin and I had a tent which we slept in within two hundred Yards of a large Cabin occupied by some German miners & a Trading post - One Sunday morning after eating our breakfast we went up to the Trading post - in a few minutes Austin returned to the tent when to his great surprise all of our Hanlets mine in number with our axe were gone - Upon ex-

and the water being too cold and high to work
our claims - with the irregularities of the season before
us, we deemed it inexpedient to await ^{for} a favorable
opportunity to mine - so Austin returned to Shasta,
and in a few days after I came over to Grass -
Shortly after my arrival at this place I became acquaint-
ed with Dr. Mulvaney of St. Clairsville Ohio. He was
an uncle of the late James Kinler of McCornettsville -
He and I have taken a claim together upon "Rich Hill"
near Wash. McCornett - Sr. & I with the assistance
of McCornett & Miller, have built us a very com-
fortable little cabin - and now while the rain is
pattering down furiously - I am seated by a bright
comfortable fire in our romantic little ^{residence} ~~home~~ ^{penning}
writing a few lines to fly to my long old home -
Rich Hill received its title from merit - A great many mthrs.
in the last six months have taken thousands of dollars
out of it, McCornett & Miller have a little muslin
bag containing about 30 pounds of that precious stuff
called gold dust, nearly all of which has been taken
from this hill - McCornett talks of going home in
a few weeks - he enjoys excellent health & looks fine -
He goes the California fashion entire - A broad brimmed
hat - red flannel shirt, pantaloons ~~rather~~ "rather worse
of the wear" being patched with an old Coffee sack
upon the knees and other exposed parts, with long
whiskers braided under ^{his} chin, & mustachios like
a ram's horns sticking out from each side of his
mouth - he is a good jolly fellow & I hope his luck may
continue - Austin thinks of going to some new diggings

upon the Klamath river. For my part I think I will remain in this vicinity, or go to Shasta City & then find if possible a permanent situation. Send all letters & papers to me to Shasta City - I would give you a minute description of mining with all its varieties from prospecting to the last mode of obtaining gold. Now I not somewhat fatigued, & knowing that it will do just as well to reserve it for my next letter. I will write ^{but} a few more lines & bid you adieu - California is different from all other states in the Union; her population is promiscuous in the extreme; there is hardly a nation upon the earth, but what is represented here by some of her people, The Frenchman & The South American, The Chinaman from the remotest part of Asia, & The Englishman from the most enlightened part of Europe. The Norwegian, Swedish, Spaniard & Hungarian with their ^{brothers} from all surrounding countries together with the African American and those from the Isles of the Ocean are all commingled ~~together in one~~ with their different dialects and languages, in one motley group, perishing their lives in almost every manner, under going fatigue, starvation, and the fatality of disease for that one most thought of - most dangerous thing of earth - gold. What a beautiful panorama of civilization is here presented - Murder, riot, & robbery are of daily occurrence. Corruption has stolen forth over this broad expanded state in its most malignant form; in many of its different parts - a gambler sits upon the bench of Justice, gamblers and thieves are commingled with jurymen - gamblers pocket the clients' cause and with his gains, prosecutes ill gotten gains, with his ^{tricking} ~~tricking~~ "maneuvers" - No society is more corrupt, and tolerated than in this disgusting country - I suppose now politics &c of this State as I am myself - Bro B. Weller, contrary to your wishes is elevated to a seat in the United States Senate - They think him not - here - you desire in your last letter for me to send you a description of the latter part of my journey

Wealth population, and greatness — Perhaps there is
 no state in the Union so well supplied with office
 seekers as California, every city & town & even the
 mines are full of them, worn down politicians who
 have run at home until they can run no more, on
 account of forgotten popularity, come to California in
 every steamer to seek popular favor, and fill their
 purse with the emoluments of office — and also young
 men who could never rise in the states on account
 of good sense or talent, come here with the anticipa-
 tion of making a grand display of greatness — &
 being eventually rewarded, by the generosity of the
 people, for their disinterested efforts in saving the coun-
try. Hence every night the brilliant flashes of
 wit and eloquence are displayed most beau-
 tifully upon the street corners, & wherever an
 audience can be assembled — I hope to receive
 more regularly your letters hereafter — I have
 no doubt that you have written to me often
 but since last may I have received nothing,
 write to Sacramento, I saw Dr. McMurray &
 Charley Scott in Sacramento the other day — Lee
 Seamon died upon the plains, about 2 months
 ago, Hester is washing dishes in a San Fran-
 cisco Hotel at 60 per month — The poor fellow has been
 sick and got out of funds — Wm Casaday, Ins Miller
 arrived at San Francisco a month ago and have
 gone to the northern part of the state, Jobe Palmer has
 arrived from across the plains — The Country is
 very sickly at present — some Cholera at San
 Francisco — Give my love to mother — Your C. J. Hastings
 Son

The news of the death of Henry Clay produced a great gloom
 upon the minds of the California public — There was hardly a town
 or city in the state but what set apart a day of general mourn-
 ing to the memory of the renowned statesman, The ceremonies in
 San Francisco and Sacramento were of the most grand and im-
 posing description, At Sacramento — upon the day of the funeral obsequi-
 es his minute guns were fired from sunrise to sunset, & the whole city was
 shrouded with manifestations of sorrow, The procession was more than
 a mile and a half in length, composed of the different fraternities of
 the city, fire & military companies, Charitable institutions, bands of
music, the citizens generally and a most magnificent funeral car —
 Ayresville M^a Aug 2^d 1852
 Dear Father,
 I know you are always glad
 to receive a letter from me, whether it contains any-
 thing of interest or otherwise, hence I write this morning,
 not thinking that I will please you with anything
 new — but with the desire to perform a pleasant duty,
 You perceive from the heading of this letter that
 my place of residence appears to have been changed
 and you may think it strange in me not form-
 ing a permanent location somewhere, and then
 remaining — but this is not so easily done as you
 may imagine — Business in California is generally
 of such an unstable description that, although
 you may have your course marked out for a
 year in the future, your prospects may be blasted
 in a day — Such a desire for sudden wealth pervades
 the mind of California generally, that men of bu-
 siness many times drop that which by gradual
 accumulation will in a few years — and sometimes
 in a few months — lead them on to fortune — and grasp
 at a fancy notion of speculation — which sometimes
 is a lucky step, but more often proves their ruin,

I had nearly forgotten that Acacia was at home, I got my biggest regard to her
 you & mother must be very lonely since Alm da is gone — I hope to happen a day or so in
 the system

The news of the death of Henry Clay produced a great gloom upon the minds of the California public — There was hardly a town or city in the state but what set apart a day of general mourning to the memory of the renowned statesman, The ceremonies in San Francisco and Sacramento were of the most grand and imposing description, At Sacramento — upon the day of the funeral obsequies his minute guns were fired from sunrise to sunset, & the whole city was shrouded with manifestations of sorrow, The procession was more than a mile and a half in length, composed of the different fraternities of the city, fire & military companies, Charitable institutions, bands of music, the citizens generally and a most magnificent funeral car — Ayresville M^a Aug 2^d 1852

Don't think that I consider myself one of these men of bu-
siness - for you are well aware that the financial de-
partment of some gentlemen would not permit them
to make a very savage ^{stroke} at speculation. But in
two or three instances by the manoeuvres of fancied poli-
icy, of men that I have been engaged with I have
been left without employment and spent much time
and money in looking for more - When I wrote to
you last, I was engaged with the firm of John-
son Bencherly & Co Sacramento City - but shortly after
the senior partner of the firm died and after settling
up affairs the establishment was closed, and of course
my services were needed no longer - Now I am en-
gaged as an agent to an express, which does bu-
siness between the cities of San. Francisco Sacramento
& Marysville & several points in the mines - This bu-
siness keeps me traveling the greater part of my time,
and although it is somewhat complicated in parts -
and dangerous & responsible generally, I like it
very much - & I think that I will probably go into
the concern as a partner shortly - A very good
offer has been made me - but I will be careful
how I step, I will become perfect familiar with the
business ~~first~~ before going into it - ~~if at all~~ notwith-
standing I think it lucrative - I am on business
at Marysville now - This city is situated near
the junctions of the Feather & Yuba rivers - upon
the Yuba - its population is about five thousand
& it is a place of considerable business - I will

shortly return to Sacramento, which place appears to
me more like home, than any other that I have seen
in California — You wanted me in your last letter
which by the by was of the 15th of May — to give you
my opinions regarding California — &c. — Well in
~~the first place California~~, it is a hard piece of business
to form any fixed opinion regarding her future results
& future prosperity, & my knowledge is so limited
of her resources that were I to attempt to give you an
idea of her situation even a few years hence, I would
fall far short — But it is certain that she is sus-
tained by the richness of her mining at present — and
always will be if by anything — for certainly her agri-
cultural resources are not sufficiently extensive to
support any great mass of people — Were her people
to turn their attention to agriculture altogether even at
the present time the amount of tillable land allotted
to each person would be but small, and its improve-
ment would not recompense ^{them} for their trouble, &
the whole of their products would not be more than
enough for home consumption, Then the vast in-
crease of population every year, will be a sure call
for a heavier importation of provisions — (which ~~are~~ ^{are} now
not more than enough to fill the present demand — and
if more ~~are~~ ^{were} wanted, could not be gotten from
home resources — Consequently California can never
be sustained by agriculture alone — & the only other
resort are her mines — And as long as they continue to
yield gold in such abundance, so long will she increase

Marysville California

Oct. 1st 1852

Dear Father,

I was very much pleased last night by receiving by express from Sacramento a letter from Austin dated July 14th - This is the first news from home that I have received since the reception of father's ^{your} letter of May 15th. I am very glad to hear that Austin reached home in safety - although his desire to see poor Almada before her death was not gratified, I think probably before this time he has started back to California, & although home is home to him no more - and the places which were once familiar to a joyous youth have become estranged to him - I hope there are many days of happiness in store for him, in his adopted land, the far off West - Since he and I, are all that are left of your once joyous little flock - those ties of brotherly affection - notwithstanding they most unaciously bound us together before the our happiness was marred by the death of an only sister - they are now apparently more lasting - and purer than ever, I have just arisen from quite a severe attack of the fever similar to my sickness of last fall, & of course had to give up business entirely - & I assure you sickness in California is

Always accompanied by great expense, so I have found it at least at several periods during the summer and fall. Since my arrival in California I have invariably done that which I considered the best for my welfare and prosperity, but notwithstanding my exertions "Dame Fortune" has not been so propitious in her smiles upon the course of my operations, as I consider will recompense a person for leaving the enjoyments of a beloved home - and following the rough career of a California life, But despair is not my motto, by any means - and "Come 'real, come 'roe" - as a politician would say - I am bound to make the best of it, Sickness in California has been very bad this fall, and I think this never ^{can} be called a healthy Country, In the mountains it is undoubtedly healthy as in all other Countries - & but the towns and other cities, and even some mining districts have suffered most severely - The Cholera, the fever and almost every disease that flesh is heir to man is heir to, have been widely spread through the inhabitable parts of the land of gold, Even in this pretty little City of Marysville, The Sable Dead Car, is passing almost continually through the streets - I cannot hardly look upon it without a ~~shudder~~ shudder of awe and melancholy, - For who knows what beholding it - & hearing its hollow and rumbling noise

That he or she may not be its next inmate, and
be carried to the last resting place of man-
kind — I wish it were possible to receive
your letters — You surely continue to write
to me? but not one solitary scratch
have I received from home — With the ex-
ception of Austin's letter, since last May,

I also ^{received} a short time since a letter
from my good old friend "Sam" G. Davidson
sent from Jamesville, a one but one who is
far away from home, can realize the pleasure
in receiving from those who are near and
dear, the slightest token of remembrance.

Mr. Weston arrived in
Mansfield, from Oregon about 3 weeks since,
he was in fine health & spirits — and
has gone into the "quartz" near to try his
fortune in the mines — Succeed to him, for
he is one of the finest boys in the world,
He came from Oregon, by San Francisco
Co. — I was sorry indeed to hear of the
death of Hannah Campbell — But tears
of sorrow are unavailing, they cannot restore
the dead — When Geo. Campbell's precise
locality is, I ^{am} not aware, but I believe
some where in the vicinity of San
Francisco, —

Politics are discussed con-
siderably here at the present, Office seeking
are numerous — hence numerous calls are

made upon the "dear people" for their support
Col. Tho^s. D. Henry made a speech here
might before last. He is a man of
undoubted ability - And Eloquent and
Convincing. In his arguments 1852
But Politics is not my
theme, so enough of it, I have occa-
sionally considerable time for read-
ing and the general improvement of
my mind - I accept of the privilege
most cheerfully, and am beyond
a doubt considerably benefited,

Mrs. Love is doing very well this
fall and probably will return home
this winter.

Excuse the hasty style
of this epistle, I do not think
I love you less, for writing with dis-
patch, and as though I was doing a
duty obligatory - but not voluntary,
for such is not the case, I prob-
ably will go into the mountains this
afternoon and hence my haste.

My especial love to mother, of course
I write to you all -

Your Son Cyn^r Hawthorn

Shasta City May 9th
1853

To the beloved One of Love,

It has been perhaps more than a month since I wrote to you last; this has been in consequence of not receiving anything from you. The letter you sent by Mr. Bell was left at this place with Oullin and by some cause he did not send it to me — I thank father for being so punctual in his Correspondence, & hope for a continuance. I have not written as often as I should have done, but I will endeavor to make amends by being more frequent in the future. I am much grieved at by the intelligence regarding Almuday's health, and my mind is continually filled with fearful anticipations regarding the future result of her disease — But Heaven will be done — I only hope for the best — As to myself I am well and happy — my weight is 173 pounds! O that I could share my general health with Almuday — Regarding money matters I have done tolerably well — While Clerking in Marysville I my ^{made} engagements \$200 per month — Owing to the "reception" of another partner in the establishment, my services were no longer required. — Then I went to sign painting — Thanks to my natural qualifications I succeeded in my limited business quite well — making some times

from \$30 to \$40 per day - If I could
only have regular work at this business for
one year - I could easily make \$10,000!!
But this is impossible - patronage would be
too limited - I am now at Shasta City,
having walked ^{yesterday} 40 miles over
mountain to get here - Austin will start
home tomorrow - I expect to feel quite lone-
ly after our separation - for he has been
very kind to me - besides the ties of brother-
hood - I could have appointments from
State and County - transferred from Austin
to me - which would be worth eventually
\$800 per month! I would be paid immedi-
ately in script, which probably ^{would} ~~could~~
not be cashed for a year or so, conse-
quently I will not accept of them, for I
cannot operate so long in California with-
out cash currency - A gentleman with
whom I have a limited acquaintance - re-
siding in Sacramento City has obtained
for me a clerkship in a wholesale liquor
& grocery establishment, he has written to
me to know upon what terms I will ac-
cept the situation - I have written to
him, and if my wages can be given, I ex-
pect to operate this summer in Sacramen-
to -

I will write nothing more -
You will have a long verbal
letter from Austin -
Yours most affectionately
Cyril Hewitt

Cyril

they did then although you impressed upon me the importance of improving my time by study and reflection - and notwithstanding I ^{could see} ~~realized~~ the great benefits of such a course - my mind was always filled with youthful imaginings - and pleasure and "fun" was my chief desire - but notwithstanding however I got along as well as most of my companions - and always advanced in my studies quite as fast - but now I am much different - I feel like studying now - I take pleasure in it, and nothing affords me more delight than reading good and beneficial works - I think I am now something like you, in that respect - although such a work as "Bay's Political Economy" would not just exactly suit me - ~~although~~ (you used to like it ^{it} apparently very much) I am very fond of Biographies - and political history, & the history of the times connected therewith I may sometimes like "Political Economy &c" but I think it takes a matured mind to fully comprehend and understand abstruse and inexplicit words and doctrines - I am pleased to think that my thirst after solid and sensible reading, is becoming stronger every day

not entirely on my own account but because
it is at least a little source of pleasure
to you -

I hope father, that I may soon
have the pleasure of returning ^{to you} ~~home~~ ^{Confidante} I assure
you nothing would afford more real pure
happiness than to be once again an in-
mate of my old - home -

I sincerely ~~hope~~
wish mother may have good health, and that
you may prosper -

Please send me a copy
of The Democratic Paper of Morgan co.
I believe Mr. Sims is Editor - I do not know
its name -

Write me often - I thank
you for your past punctuality - may it
be continued -

I have written in great
haste - you may have a difficulty
in deciphering my "scribbles" but have
a little patience and I'll do better
another time,

Yours very affectionately

Cyril Hawking