Walla Walla Nov 28

Beloved Sister

Once more do I engage in the pleasing task of confiding with thee my dear and absent friend, in hopes to revive in thee a kindred spirit. I have looked with no little anxiety for each successive mail in hope it would bring me some glad tidings from you, but the arrival of each one only deepens my disappointment. But still I have not despaird that you have given me as yet up for lost. I still shall hope, hope ever. When last wrote to you I was in Oregon, but you will see by the contents of this letter that I have returned to this place where I intend to spend the winter at least a portion of it. For it is my intention to start again for the mines as soon as it will be safe to cross over the mountains.
Their have been new and richer diggings discovered than those that I have worked in this summer it is incredible to describe the richness of them it is on a river called Salmon to make from one to five and six hundred dots pending to the man is of frequent occurrence and one instance was a man took out 1800 in five hours but they were discovered so late this fall that they could not get provisions in over the Mountains so there is no way to get provisions in unless they carry it on their backs and then travel on snow shoes for at least forty miles and then over the largest kind of Mountains what provisions was brought in then fetched from one to two dots per pound it would cost one man not less than five hundred dots to live through this winter but even that much would not be as much according as ten dots would be with you if it was not for the hardship of a person would have to undergo in sleeping out in the snow and rain were I to relate to you the trials that a person will have to undergo go you would hardly credit it for instance Myself with two
The 17th of

Three days started last June on a prospecting
trip from Crispina, a distance of about 30 miles with
our blankets and provisions on our backs besides a
pick and shovel a piece and cooking utensils so the
each of us had between forty and fifty pounds to
carry so we had a large mountain to cross before
we got on to the creek we were going to before
we got over we got into snow that was from 10 to
20 ft. deep and I moved on us the night so
that when we got up in the morning there was snow
one foot of snow on our beds. I suppose you would
think it rather loud to spread one blanket down
in the snow with two pairs over you and go to
sleep on that. We were in these mountains that has
no other way to sleep for most of the time well it
snowed on us all day and sometimes we would break
through the snow and go up to our arms and it was
not at all infrequent to break through into a stream
of water and the next night was worse the first for
it commenced raining and blowing and continued
all night so that by morning all that needed
the tent you could only see you first one open eye and
not disturb the rest.
And from that time until erect, I wrote... there was not a dry thread on us. I suppose you would think a person could not stand such torrentual wetness as that but their was not one of us that didn’t catch cold after it. But that was not a beginning to what hundreds bore through and what any person that expects to go to the mines in this country will have to go through. But I will have so great many incidents to relate to you when home in regard to what I have seen and gone through from sent a man to Salmon river about a month ago, he is to go their and remain till winter. So that he will have a chance to get a great mining claim because there are persons that has no provisions and their is none that to get and if a man does not work on his claim every third day an other person can take it, and I gave my man provisions to last him four months and when I come up in the spring I am to get half of what he makes that is half of everything that he does.
I Agt 1861 My Mining claim in Dec

I shall sell out as soon as I can

I could make about six hundred for it but when I got there I found the other mines are all closed. I could not get two hundred though it pays from six to twelve dol per day but such diggers as that does not pay either now

Dec 1st 1861

You see their has been a
apportion of time since I commenced my letter but I will try and finish it this time and I am very glad that I did not finished it for 2 years ago your letter of Oct 15 the day before yesterday was a great deal of pleasure to hear from you and I more especially to hear that you are getting along so well as it has caused me a great deal of uneasiness on account of the troubles of the country. I am in hope that the accursed rebels will be crushed out ere another year elapses and that lasting peace and prosperity will again prevail but the assurance of yours truly

[Signature]
To come back the war would not deter me one moment because such a thing as conscription I can hardly believe will be resisted. The whole country it seems are determined to cut out the Rebel Hostiles you may be sure. I have no sympathy for desert or any person that advocates it. I hope fortune we do not feel any of the effects of it here as every person that is their own business and enough of this we will do better. I think Bridget is bound to Maldon and good about not writing to me for four years tell her I feel deeply honored by your carriage you give my best respects remember me to cousin John and family and to all my friends and receive for yourself my warmest love from your ever affectionate and loving brother

James Mulvaney

Please write soon