

Walla Walla Nov 28 ¹⁸⁶¹

Beloved Sister

Once
more do I engage in the pleasing task
of consoling dear and absent friends
in hopes to revive in them a kindred
spirit. I have looked with no little an-
xiety for each successive mail in hopes it
would bring me some glad tidings from ^{you}
but the arrival of each one only doomed me
to more disappointment. But still I
have not despaired that you have given
me as yet up for lost. I still shall hope on
hope ever. When I last wrote to you I was in
Profina but ^{as} you will see by the caption of
this letter that I have returned to this
place where I intend to spend the winter or
at least a portion of it. ^{or} For it is my inten-
-tion to start again for the mines as soon as
it will be safe to cross over the mountains

2
There has been new and richer diggings discovered than those that I have worked in this summer it is incredible to believe the richness of them it is on a river called Salmon to make from one to five and six hundred dol per day to the man is of frequent occurrence and one instance where 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 they fetched from one to two dol per pound it would cost one man not less than five hundred dol to live their this winter but even that much would not be as much according as ten dol would be with you if it was not for the hardships 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 under go you would hardly credit it for instance myself with two or

3

the 17th of
Three others started; last June on a prospecting
trip from Profina 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 that
each of us had between forty and fifty pounds to
carry 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 15 to
20 ft deep and it snowed on us that night so
that when we got up in the morning there was about
one foot of snow on our beds I suppose you would
think it rather hard to spread our blankets down
on the snow with two pair over you and go to
sleep and there are men in these mountains that has
no other way to sleep for weeks at a 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 unrequent to break through into a stream
of water and the next night was worse ^{than} the first for
it commenced raining and blowing and continued
all night so that by morning all that was dry
in camp you could very easily put in your eye and
not obstruct the vision

And from that time untill we got back ^{days} ~~six~~
 there was not a dry throat on us I suppose you
 would think a person could not stand such treat-
 ment as that but there was not one of us that
 took cold after it but that was not a beginning
 to what hundreds have gone through and what any
 person that expects to go to the mines in this upper
 country will have to go through But I will
 have a great many incidents to relate to you
 when I come in regard to what I have seen
 and gone through I have sent a man
 to Salmon river about a month ago
 he is to go there and remain all winter
 so that he will have a chance to get a
 good Mining claim because there are persons
 there that has no provisions and there is none
 there 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 provision
 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 every thing that he does

I got over my Mining claim in Nevada but I shall sell out as soon as I can I could have got six hundred for it when I left there but since this other Mining has been discovered I could not get two hundred although it pays from six to twelve dol per day but such diggings as that does not pay here now

Dec 1st 1861

You see there has been a lapse 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 finish for I received your letter of Oct 15th the day before yesterday which gave me a great deal of pleasure to hear from you once more especially to hear that you are getting along so well as it has caused me a good deal of uneasiness on account of the troubles of the country but I am in hopes that the accursed rebellion will be crushed out ere another year dawns upon the country and that lasting peace and prosperity will again prevail but be assured if I was ready

To come back the war would not deter me one moment
not because such a thing as conscription I can hardly
believe will be resorted to because there certainly must
be enough that are willing to enlist voluntarily
to clean out the blood thirsty rebels you may be sure
that I have no sympathy for secesh or any person that
advocates it either. I thank fortune we do not feel
any of the effects of it here as every person tends
to their own business but enough of this well if
the Lord let me live and nothing any more than
I expect occurs I will see you all ere more next
summer. I think Bridget is bound to make her
word good about not writing to me for four years.
tell her I feel highly honored by my namesake
give him my best respects remember me to cousin
John and family and to all my friends and
receive for yourself my most sincere love from
your ever affectionate and loving brother
James Mallan

Please write soon