

Yours affectionately

Lt J.J. Archer

I received a letter from Winder and the box of apples and carrots which are appreciated. I was glad to get them. Tell Belle I am very much pleased with the likeness she sent me and that I set great stock by it. I think it is excellent.

Camp Osoyoos, W.T.

22 August, 1859

My dear mother:

Although the two last mail have brought me nothing from home I do not feel at all uneasy or neglected. I know that Nannie and Mary never fail me and that my letters are somewhere on their winding way. Capt. Frazer's letters from the east are also missing, so that I feel pretty soon our letters will come here, having gone to Puget Sound. In the future please direct Via Ft. Dalles, Oregon.

On the 11th Inst. Lt. Parke of the Top-Eng in charge of the advanced party of the boundary commission came into camp ~~on~~ and staid two days. They had come on in advance of their work to reconnoiter and went back to examine it. They will be here again about the last of the month. The commission expects to get to Colville this fall and to finish up the work to the summit of the Rock Mountains in 1860. Mr. Campbell is hurrying along, hoping to get his commission extended to the Lake of the Woods and finding that if he is slow another commissioner will be given to run the line from the lake of the Woods West, simultaneously with the survey from the Pacific to the Rocky mts. Should Campbell's comm. be extended my command will probably continue as its escort in that event I shall be somewhere in the neighborhood of the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers in the autumn of 1861 when it will be an easy and pleasant journey and I will assuredly

avail myself of it.

I think I have also said that escort duty was very little to my liking but as we are to go through the whole of this miserable country to the Rocky Mts. I should rather than turn back for the ground is fertile and abounds in deer, elk, buffalo and small game and not least is within reach of home.

I would not be very much surprised if Maj. Garnett who after all did not go to Europe but returns here to the command of Ft. Dalles (now a one company post) should apply for the com and of the Escort when it begins to descend the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains.

Received a note from Wickliffe, saying that he is going home by next steamer and offering his services to execute commissions. Capt. Fletcher has come back. I manage to get through with all the days pretty well by riding and hunting every day. I accompanied Parke on his return 20 miles up the Similkameen and returned to camp by moonlight. Yesterday I went out hunting with Capt. Frazer, found plenty of grouse and a chain of five small mountain lakes. There are lakes in every direction high among the mountains.

The report that Capt. Black had gone to Camp Taylor on Snake river was not true, I have just received a letter from him. He is at Ft. Dalles and expects to remain there. With love to all.

Yours affectionately

J. J. Archer

Camp Osoyoos W T

29th Aug, 1859

My dear mother:

There has been so much useless delay on the express route between Colville and Dalles that I have determined to send off an express of my own to the latter place by which arrangement you



receive this as early as the letter of 25th inst via Cobville and I will secure my eastern mail from ten to 12 days sooner.

Although I retain the same name, Osoyoos for my camp I am not in exactly the same place finding that the herd, 208 public and 25 private animals were not thriving well on the alkaline water of the lake and the dry grass pasture near my old camp.

I moved up here in the mountains on the 24th, six miles from the lake and about 1,000 feet above it where the pasture is fresh and the water cold and pure as the springs higher up on the bank run all in the same stream on which I had my second encampment near the lake Osoyoos and which dried up so that I was obliged to leave it. I could not previously come here on account of the swarms of gnats which infested the high lands as the mosquitoes infested the low and was obliged to keep the middle ground. I would however have moved my camps as often as I have had not both these plagues existed as in the course of two weeks the camp grounds become very dusty and disagreeable for ~~us~~ us as for the animals. This is a very beautiful and delightful place, far enough up the mountain to be di ?? with open pasture and forests of larch, pine and fir--during the day it is not too warm and at night only a  
end

Camp Osoyoos

10th October

My dear mother

When I wrote it was the day I was just starting on a ride to Camp Similkameen where Lt. Camp and one of the parties of the boundary commission are stationed. On my way I passed by the gold bar of which I wrote you. The men were getting out from ten to thirty dollars a man per day. The gold is however confined to a small locality.

The expressman and miners with me say that a dozen men will work it out in a week.

I have had the properties for several miles above and below but without finding gold in ~~great~~ quantities that will pay anyone.

Yesterd<sup>ay</sup> Mr. Campbell the commissioner and several of his assistants ~~dined~~ with me. They left this morning on their way to Colville.

I do not expect to leave Osoyoos before 23rd.

Capt. Frazer went to Portland 1st inst ~~to~~ and will not be back before the 20th so that I have no ~~surplus~~ surplus of officers-- otherwise I would have gone to Colville with the commissioner where I have business connected with the escort. I hope you saw Wickliffe on his way home but it is most likely he took the ? and New Orleans route south.

Love to all

J. G. Archer

Camp Osoyoos, W.T.

21st Oct, 1859

My dear Mary:

After sending my letter to Nannie I thought of some communications I have the moment before forgotten. I will thank you to go to Flints ? and Taylor or some other establishment of that kind and subscribe for the Edinburg Quarterly, London, North British ~~Magazine~~ Westminster Reviews and two copies of Blackwoods magazine, Harper's Monthly, Harper's Weekly, 2 London Illustrated News, (N.Y. Herald, New Orleans Picayune, Baltimore Exchange, National Intelligencer --Calif. editions ) to be directed as follows, viz:

One copy of Blackwood to Nannie.

One copy of London Illustrated News to Willis Smitton?

One copy of Blackwood, the Baltimore Exchange and the National Intelligencer to me. All the other reviews and newspapers to the commanding officer 1 company 9th Infantry.

In getting so many papers I suppose you will be entitled to a reduction



in price on all similar to that advertised on Blackwood and the reviews--  
the subscription for a year commencing with 1st Jan.

I enclose Major A.B. Pagan's drafts Nos 35,36 and 37 dated August 2  
for \$50, \$100.00 and \$55.00 and Archibald Campbell's draft No.  
226 Sept. 30 for \$40 which after paying for the magazines apply to  
payment of my note to Henry on leaving Balt. last spring a year---  
when I get within reach of a paymaster I will send the balance.

Camp Osoyoos, W.T.

21st October, 1859

My dear Nannie:

Your letter of the middle of August has not yet come  
but yesterday I received Mary's of 1st Sept giving a pretty good  
account of you all at home. I can sympathize with you and Mary in the loss  
of your winter clothing. The same mail brought me a letter from  
Priest's Rapids with the interesting information that my trunks which  
together with our company property had been left at Fort Simcoe  
to be forwarded via Dalles and Walla Walla to Ft. Colville had been  
stolen en transit and when found were found broken open and rifled of their  
contents. I will make rather a distinguished figure on parade  
at Colville next winter with my hiking shirts, buckskin trousers and  
cowhide boots. Some of the stolen articles, I have been told have  
been recovered--in what condition I don't know, although nothing was  
specified but a uniform overcoat and a merschaum pipe.

The transportation of the baggage and the supplies for Colville  
instead of coming down by the quartermaster trains was let out by  
contract to a transportation company at Dalles and from what I have  
learned of the manner in which it has suffered, by the QM dept.,  
I expect to hear of great losses of our company property.

Ten days ago I broke up my camp in the mountains and came down here within the forks of the Okanakane and Similkameen rivers, where I am waiting for the last party of the boundary to finish its work in this valley. Next Monday I will march with the main body of the command toward Colville Depot, leaving two detachments of 15 each at the astronomical stations on the Ne-hoi-al-pit-ya river within 50 and 25 miles of Colville-- I expect to get in by 1st Nov.

The day before I broke up my mountain camp I had quite a dinner party consisting of Mr. Campbell, the commissioner, and five other gentlemen and officers of the survey who stopped on route at our camp for a day and night.

Capt. Frazer and I clubbed together our mess furniture for the occasion and with the help of grouse, wild ducks and mountain trout managed to set out a table. I was by no means ashamed of, if we did take soup out of tin cups. I enjoyed last Saturday more than any other day I have spent for some time. Generally some one or other of the officers accompany me in my rides but Saturday was such a delightful autumn day that I determined to spend it with you--

It was just one of the days we used to ramble over the high hills at Rock Run--I crossed the Similkameen rode down the Okanakane valley five or six miles, then struck off over a gap of the mountains taking you with me all the time --when I had ascended to the summit of the gap some 1,200 feet I turned to look at the valley and if it was not beautiful in detail, the vastness of the scene was a heart in itself and then the actual scene passed away and I saw the Susquahanna with its islands and brooks and the ~~broken bridge~~ broken bridge? and the valley of Rock Run with its woods and fields in their richest autumn dress --we were standing there Nannie on the hill when the locusts used to be and when with God's blessing I ~~could~~ trust we will often stand again.



We did not stop long, but going a little further struck into an Indian trail that led through a fairy land still and secluded, around high steep rocks, along grassy plains, along the banks of high mountain lakes without outlet or inlet but fresh, cold and deep--I saw within three fourths of a mile from each other, but not one from the other, four of these lakes varying from one to two miles in length. I spent the whole day with you Nannie in this quite hoss-back ramble and got back to camp just as the bugler was sounding the retreat. The next day was Sunday and immediately after inspection I started off on a visit to ~~the~~ Gardner's astronomical station ten miles further up the Similkameen where Lt. Camp has a detachment of 15 men--staid all night and had a very good time--next morning it commenced snowing about 10 o'clock--came home through a snow storm, eight inches of snow on the Colville trail, began to think winter was closing in on us but the second day came a warm rain followed yesterday and today by a bright warm sun and all the snow has gone.

This evening Gardner called for to go home with him but as I had not yet written to you I declined. I will side over tomorrow with Dr.

Pension ? (Capt. Frazer is still absent on leave and will hardly join us before I go to Colville.

I wrote you that Wickliffe would probably be calling on you soon. I am sorry to say he has been disappointed in the certainty of feeling of getting a leave. He packed up his baggage and went to Vancouver to take his leave of Gen Harney and take his passage in the steamer - It was refused him and he returns to Colville for which doubtless he has to thank Miss Betzey (as Capt. Pleasanton, Harney's adjutant is called) He is the same Pleasanton of whom Bob Can tell you. I once, at Ft. McHenry sent a message to , which he is not likely to have forgotten and will I suppose take pains to remember when I ask for some indulgence at Hd-qts.

affectionately

Camp on the Ne-Hoy-Mal-pit-qu  
British Columbia  
30th Oct. 1850

My dear mother:

The 21st inst. I broke up my camp on the Similkameen (sic) and proceeded toward winter quarters at Colville depot, marched only eight miles the first day and encamped at my old camp 2200 feet above the ~~level of~~ level of Lake Osoyoos--next day 14 miles to Ne-Hoy-Al-Pit-qu river along the banks of which with 12 fordings of the river, the remainder of my route to Colville, 77 measured miles to the Hudson Bay Company's post on the Columbia and 16 miles further to Major Lugenbeil's post (Colville depot)--25th arrived at Mr. Harri's astronomical station--halted there one day to await information from the commissioner -not then finished--had to camp out at first, that was my last night in a tent since then I have been occupying a room at Lugenbeil's and tomorrow will be in my own quarters--have had some cool weather--two weeks ago at 8 o'clock a.m. the thermometer stood at 10 below zero--went sleigh riding and snow balling and had a good bracing time generally. The weather has since become quite mild and the snow has melted off the low lands--we are likely to have a pleasant winter We can muster two ladies, Mrs. Lugenbeil and E Fletcher, eight officers of 9th Infantry and Lt. Parke of Top. Engs and several other very agreeable gentlemen of the commission.

Lt. Wickcliffe is occupying the room next to me and we have both rooms in common. Both of us sitting in . He failed in getting his leave and had to return here--a great disappointment to him his anxiety to leave being on account of the illness of his uncle and brothers who have since died.

He is justly very bitter and resentful toward Miss (sic) Pleasanton ~~(Harney's adjutant)~~ (Harney's adjutant) who has done it all . I



would be sorry to be in Pleasanton's shoes when Wickcliffe next meets him. Wickcliffe is my most esteemed friend in the army. He reminds me in every way of Oliver Thomas whom he also resembles in appearance.

I send either enclosed with this or in a separate envelope a pay a/c and draft for \$263 which please apply to the payment of my note to Henry of April, 1858. My other indebtedness to him I will <sup>liquidate</sup> ~~pay~~ as soon as I think he will require it of me.

I would not have sent this as ???????? in order to make something out of my discovery of the rich gold diggings on the Similkameen--but he did not answer my letter of last spring in which I expressed a hope that the amount would not inconvenience him and I therefore conclude that it is wanted but that he did not like to trouble me by saying so

Ever affectionately

J. G. Archer

Colville depot, W.T.

7th December, 1859

My dear mother:

I have been waiting to the last moment anxiously, for the mail, unwilling to write until I received the letters due from home but our express, which should have arrived a week ago has not yet come in and we must send one off tomorrow morning to be in time for the steamer east. I <sup>can</sup>~~can~~ only account for the delay of the express by the supposition of some accident between this and Walla Walla, or the Columbia river below that point having frozen over before the mail arrived at Portland where it was due the 20th ulto.

The weather has been quite cold lately. From the first lat the thermometer has ranged from <sup>m</sup>four degrees above to 22 degrees below zero, cold certainly but not near so cold as in the same latitude on the eastern coast. We have not as yet <sup>had</sup>~~seen~~ any deep snows but plenty for sleighing. This morning I went out with Dr. Hammond to break a new horse to the sleigh--had a very pleasant drive up fire or six miles, came back with my moustache frozen to beard and had to thaw out before I could open my mouth. An hour spent in the open air so frosts the beard that it looks as if it were woven of silver threads.

Our quarters seem very comfortable after living in tents but are only comparatively warm, being built of logs, the floors of rough green planks, open and opening wider at the seams and the partitions only lath not yet plastered. I have felt the cold however less than many a winter I have spent in Maryland and look forward to a very agreeable time during the next two or three months.

It is understood that General Harney will go home 1st February in which event Colonel Wright will, I suppose, succeed to the command of the department and I be relieved from further escort duty. I think the latter probable because I believe that one company will be enough to escort the commission to the Rocky Mountains and Major Lugenbe<sup>el</sup>



having two companies of his regulars garrison here, will be able to furnish all the necessary escort and mine and Frazer's company's can be spared to go with the expected summer campaign amongst the Snake Indians south of Walla Walla-- possibly one of our companies will be ordered to re-occupy Ft. Simcoe.

The gold mines discovered on the Similkameen have turned out to be much more extensive than was at first supposed--next spring there will be a great rush of miners to that country.

I have no doubt but that rich diggings will be found at various points all along ~~the~~ from the Wenache to the 49th parallel--miners also on the Pend O'Reille where it empties into the Columbia (near 49thN\*) and above are getting from three to 12 dollars a day. Provisions however are so high owing to the great cost of their transportation that they do not realize much more than ordinary wages and rich mines of cinnabar (quicksilver) has been found not far from the mouth of the Yakima; so that this country which appeared to be God forsaken promises to be compensated for its sterility by great mineral wealth.

With love to all

Affectionately yours

J. J. Archer

Colville Depot

23 Dec 1859

My dear mother:

The last two mails from the east have failed and I feel but little inclined to write until I hear from you again.

Nothing new has come to our knowledge for the last month -it is bad enough to be when reaching over oceans but when in addition to that you are in a place so remote that not even the echo of a sound from the outside ever ~~can~~ reaches it, the case is for words ??? I felt at Simcoe that I had practically lost my ~~connections~~ connections and interest with the world like one who had "taken the white veil," but who might after the period of probation, had he pleased, returned to a participation in sublimary interests--but that time seems now passed and no nun shrouded in her black veil appears to be more completely isolated from the world than I do now, with 700 miles of deep snows and frozen rivers and thosands of miles of sea intersperced between me and all I love--for all that however the time passes rapidly By clubbing together our little supplies we have plenty of reading matter to last through the winter and with 11 officers, including Lt. Parke the chief astronomer of the commission and a half dozen gentlemen of the commission all of a disposition to be as agreeable to each other as possible I think we will be able to get through the winter very satisfactory.

Tell Mary when she writes me to send a bill of the papers and magazine with the price of cash as I have to make mention in my returns of Company fund the amount expended on company account.

Many of my discharged packers have gone back to Lake Osoyoos where they have hutted themselves and are engaged in mining with gre t success -- all accounts from there iddicate that gold deposit is extensive as well as rich

affectionately yours

J. G. Archer



Colville Depot W.T.

6 6th January 1860

My dear mother:

No mail since 19th November and no explanation of its failure-We have been regularly sending off our mails ever since and will send another expressman to Walla Walla tomorrow. I do not know that any of our mails have gone beyond that point. We know that the river has been closed between Walla Walla and Vancouver but an enterprisizing quartermaster would not allow that <sup>to</sup> isolate him, However deep the snow might be.

Here we have two feet of snow but we have kept open the trail to Walla Walla and just one week ago a ~~train~~<sup>mule</sup> arrived--it brought my trunk and a box containing all my clothes which I had been informed had been stolen. My trunk had been broken open but all its contents were ~~discovered~~<sup>in</sup> good condition except only my ~~sleeve~~<sup>button</sup> buttons.

Christmas and New Years day have been duly honored by us with the usual observances, sleighing has gotten to be an old thing and lost somewhat of its flavor but I by no means allow the deep snow to debar me from my accustomed outdoors exercises--consequently my health and spirits remain amidst this low temperature, far above zero and if I could only receive occasionally a cheering word from home I would make very light of the isolation from all else. I take very little interest in writing this as I do not expect you to receive it until you receive other letters from me of later dates, perhaps even up to the middle of next month. I write now to show you that I never forget or neglect to write by every possible chance and in the hope that by this persistent continuing to present myself, I may keep my memory green amongst you.

Ever affectionately yours

J. J. Archer.

Fort Colville,

6th Jan. 1860

My dear Mother:

My friend, Dr. Bessin has kindly offered to call on you and give verbal testimony to my well being. He is to mail this letter in New York or Baltimore with a note from himself saying on what day he will call so as to be sure of finding you at home. Dr. Bessin is a Georgian and as the present letter states of sectional parties is exciting a great deal of talk, I will probably be touched upon during his visit,

I hope you will abstain from denouncing the evil of showing to him all of his people and .....and the constant attacks of northern people upon the institution---how the Southern people--more--

Bessin leaves for the east at a bad time. Yesterday ~~was~~ there was a heavy snow storm which left a foot of snow on the ground. As I have no time left to write and as Bessin can give you more satisfactory information I close this note with my best love.

Ever dear mother,  
affectionately yours

J. J. Archer.



Colville Depot, W.T.

22nd January 1860

My dear mother:

Two days after the departure of our last mail I secured Nannie's letter of 17th inst and Mary's of 2nd Nov. ~~there are~~ ~~there are~~ still due me letters of 15th Nov and 1st Dec which I have no doubt will come in the course of human event. I have put off writing from day to day in the hope that the mail would come in time for me to answer your letters. It is now 9 o'clock at night and the mail closes at 12.

Everything remains ~~about~~ as at the date of my last letter except that the weather has greatly moderated and the snow has been slowly thawing for the last week.

The sleighing continues excellent and I ride out nearly every day. I don't think I have yet told you that we are situated 15 miles south east from the Hudson Bay Company's post, (Ft Colville) on a stream a little larger than the Elbow Branch and about two and a half miles from Mill Creek valley, or as it is known throughout Oregon, the Colville valley. Colville valley is from two to three miles wide--the most of it covered with water during the months of May and June but all the land high enough to keep above the water is under cultivation.

It is inhabited chiefly by French Cacoles (sic although not too distinct) and half breeds who came into the country as employes of the Hudson Bay company. It has always been the policy of the company to encourage the intermarriage of their agents and employes with the Indians--all of them have Indian wives and by means of this alliance with the tribes they have been able to maintain themselves at their isolated trading posts without requiring troops for their protection.

Ft. Colville was established about twenty-five years ago and the mill in Colville valley, with its numerous old log houses and old looking worm fences presents about as ancient an appearance

as the "gravelly " hills between the "forest " and "neck" lands of Hartford.

Our depot is on a level terrace three--fourths a mile wide between steep hills 1500 feet high with the view open for a distance of five miles which is bounded by a mountain ridge. The vallies of nearly all the streams north and east of the Wenacha river , instead of sloping in conformity with the fall of the water, are successions of perfectly level terraces of various length and width and not only are the vallies of the streams ascended in this manner but often for many miles along the Columbia river, during our last summer's march, I have seen its mountain banks rising in one broad level terrace above another, to the right of two or three thousand feet--this is the distinctive feature of the face of the country lying between the Cascades and the Rocky Mountains.

I received a long letter from Carr by last mail dated Paris. He is greatly enjoying his trip.

Affection tely

J. G. Archer



Colville Depot, W.T.

Sunday, 5th Feb, 1860

My dear mother:

A few days after the departure of our last express I received letters from home, one from Nannie and Mary of 18th Nov., one from Nannie of 1st December and one from Albert with a note from Lester H of 12th and 22nd Nov. Another eastern mail is now due and I hope yet it will come in time for your letters to be answered in this.

..I am not grateful enough however to Nannie to abstain from criticizing her last<sup>t</sup> letter, but I only do it for my own good-- I find she is ignorant enough of the first principles of letter writing to apologize for writing about herself. Without the great authority of Sydney Smith, to the effect that egotism is the seal of a letter between friends, common sense I think ought to teach every one that we only write frequently to those who we are confident take sufficient interest in us to want to be told, not merely the beautiful things we have seen, the important things we have done and the great people we have met, but all the little concerns that make up our daily life and especially, all that concerns our own health or pleasure. Nothing personal(egotistical) can ever be thought trifling or uninteresting by correspondents who really love each other--it should not be necessary even to ask a question on the subject and I seldom do, being confident that sensible correspondence will always answer each question without their being asked. Suppose I were to fill up a long letter with asking how is such a one of you; I hope she is so and so and how is such another and so on through the letter and never say a word about myself. No, ~~so~~ there must be no more ~~apologies~~ apologies for egotism-- if there are I will think I have been very wrong to mention all the little things I have been in the constant habit of telling, all the little incidents of my uneventful marches which could have no possible

interest anywhere but at home.

Lt. Hughes received a letter from Walla Walla stating that the Northerner was wrecked between San Francisco and Vancouver and 38 passengers lost but no further accounts given--the mails were not lost however for Nannie's letter of 1st Dec was aboard it had evidently had a thorough soaking.

Wickcliffe is again disappointed about his leave. He had expected it by each mail since I have been here ..the sleighing is as good as ever--we occasionally drive out with Mrs. Lougenbeal and Mrs. Fletcher--a week ago I drove down to the Hudson Bay post with Dr. Hammond to get some masks and foils for fencing and intended to stay all night but Mr. McDonald was not at home and we returned the same evening. Besides our (small sword) fencing lessons which we are giving to each other from the book, our sleighing and walking on shoe shoes, ~~we~~ we are engaged in instructing the companies to use a new drill fencing with the rifle and bayonet. I most commonly spend the day after this manner.

I rise at 7 o'clock, bathe in my room and dress at 8 1-2 drill the company in the bayonet exercise, at 9 3-4 breakfast then read until 1 p.m when I have the non commissioned officers up to recite in tactics for the next day's drill, take a walk on snow shoes or a sleigh ride, dine at sunset and spend the evening as happens to be most agreeable, never though is anything pleasanter than the recollections and associations that my present immediate occupations never fail to bring around me--~~the~~

My snow shoes are a foot wide by 2 1-2 feet long, very light, being made of a light wooden rim like sleigh runners joined together in front and rear and wound with a strong net work of thongs made of rein deer skin. I was surprized to find that I can walk as fast and as easily with them, up steep hills and on level snow, as without them on solid ground

6th Feb 1860

Mail not in yet. I have been postponing all day my correspondence for it and now am too much hurried to write ~~to you~~ ever affectionately



Colville Depot, 21st Feb.

(Mrs. A.A. Archer)

My dear mother:

Nannie's <sup>letter</sup> of 16th, and Henry's of 18th Dec. were received the next day after the date of my last letter

The winter I think is well nigh over--today I believe I saw the last of good sleighing--yesterday nearly all the officers of the garrison and of the commission went to a party given at the Hudson Bay company post by Mr. McDonald--they returned today and say (I did not go) they had a most jolly time.

For some considerable time past our quarters have been just as comfortable as they were at ~~Simcoe~~ Simcoe and the winter has passed very pleasantly.

I have just finished reading Carlisle's Frederick the Great which ~~was~~ I did with much pleasure and am at present engaged with Motly's Dutch Republic which has at once properly assumed a place among the classics alongside of Prescott and ~~It~~ ?? It is written with great beauty and ~~eloquence~~ eloquence and if you can take the time to read so big a book I know of no one who would enjoy it more than you

To us in this "isolation" the signs of the times seem to bode the rupture of the union. When that happens, I of course cast my ~~lot~~ lot with Maryland. We look with much anxiety ~~we~~ for news from congress.

All well

Affectionately yours

J. A. Archer.

Columbia River,

30th April, 60

My dear mother:

I have moved here without writing to you but before you have finished reading this you will understand why.

I am now on my return from San Francisco--on the 7th of last month I left Colville with Wickliffe for the distance, 100 miles over snow ~~then~~ then emerged out winter into spring at Walla Walla in 7 days (210 miles) we traveled so slowly on account of having to take pack mules with us to carry provisions and forage.

Col. Wright and Capt. Dent's families inquired<sup>R</sup> very particularly after Nannie.

We were disappointed at Walla Walla to find the steamboat, Col. Wright laid up for repair and would have to continue our journey on horseback to the Dalles but Col. Wright very graciously ordered out a carriage and four and sent us on to Dalles, 200 miles which we traveled in five days, Finding that I could spare the time and that it would not cost anything to travel by steamer from Dalles to California I went on with Wickliffe to help him get married to Miss Allen of San Francisco. The wedding was in Oakland, opposite San Francisco at the residence of Gen. Neath, a very gay affair, very much after our Maryland country weddings, dancing kept up until 2 o'clock in the morning. I served as groomsman with the party consisting of four bridesmaids, Miss Kate Coffee--I was at several larger parties and several smaller ones in San Francisco before the wedding came off. One of them was given by Mrs. Col. Lewis (or Lewrocks) on board the steamer Shuasick ??

which was placed at her disposal for the day by the commander, Capt. Boggs of the navy. Another of the most interesting I can mention was at Mrs. Kipp's (bishop of California)

I met in San Francisco many officers of the army and navy, among



General Sidney ?? and Commander ~~James~~ Tatnal?? and ladies of the military posts, one of them seen there for the first time, Miss Casey with whom I had a half hour chat on ~~the~~ on the Steilacoom wharf .

The very bad reason I had for not writing was that I had too many opportunities the mail coming to San Francisco twice a week and so I kept postponing it

I send this pen pony express.

I am on board the steamboat "N south"?? from Vancouver to Dalles, will go on without delay to Colville--the jouncing of the boat makes it almost impossible to write

Wickcliffe and his wife left Cal for N. Y on the 20 April--said he would call on you as he passes through Baltimore.

I was ~~gnound~~?? to see Henry mentioned in the Black Republican Baltimore Clipper as one of that party of obsolete politicians called the Union party which if not going to // with Republicanism is only an ~~excuse~~ excuse for (politics..difficult to read.. double written over erasures)