

Camp on the Ne-Hoy-~~Mal~~-pit-qu

British Columbia

30th Oct. 1859

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 ~~0000~~ ~~0000~~ 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 K 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~~ ~~Harney~~ (Harney's adjutant) who has done it all . I

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 ~~Okanakane~~ ~~valley~~ ~~valley~~ ~~valley~~ 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 ride 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

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 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 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 ~~xxxx~~ had 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 Col ~~Wright~~ 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 Lugenbeil

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 ^{liquidate} 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

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 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, r turned to a participation in sublimary interests--but that time seems now passed and no nun shourouded 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 bt 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 diwposition 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 whe 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 hntted 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 enterprising quartermaster would not allow that to 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 ^{mule} mail train 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 in good condition except only my sleeve 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.G. 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 ~~except~~ 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 ~~a~~ll 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 betw en 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 thre e 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 b last mail dated Paris. He is greatly enjoying hïs trip.

Affectionately

J.G. 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 andand 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.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 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, there must be no more apologies for egotism-- if the reverse 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. Lougenbeil 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 snow shoes, and 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--now

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 reindeer skin. I was surprised 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
J.C. Archer

Fort Colville, W.T.

27th January, 1860

My dear mother:

The result of the presidential is just received here. Why have you never written me anything of the most important subject that has occurred in our lifetime especially in ~~the present~~ odd is it important to us whose homes and whose people and whose interest are on the borders. Why has not Maryland like other and more wisely governed states placed herself in a condition to meet all emergencies by organizing her people. Why is it she stands like a quaker in time of war crying peace, peace ~~acceptance~~ when there is no peace except in his proposal for war?

In the conflict which appears so threatening she cannot hope to remain neutral. She must take one side or the other. She must unite either with the dominant sectional majority on one side or with the minority on the other-- perhaps she is afraid to show arms least it might be called into a provocation for a fight...but if this is to be a fight the fight will come nevertheless--then why not be prepared for it. The great question of state rights which the framers of the constitution erroneously thought they had secured ??? is now about to be determined. It has become apparent that there exists a permanent sectional hostile majority on the one side, a permanent sectional minority on the other--the majority is daily and hourly increasing its strength--it will soon have both houses of congress under its control and be able to exact whatever it pleases--it will soon control supreme judiciary by means of the apportionment of its members to the bench (judge Marshall of Balt. is one for instance) and thus be able to pass its enactments constitutionally-- it has already and will maintain the control of the executive to carry its enactments into effect. What security then has the minority or what ----- what then becomes of any state right--the great aim of the framers of the constitution was to

make a government sufficiently strong to be effective for the necessary purposes, and at the same time guard against the possibility of any combination of incidents to control the minority without their consent-- it was though the object was secured when each state was made equal in the federal senate --the south has no refuge except in the right of secession ..that the south is completely at the mercy and forbearance of the North--in other words enslaved although not yet oppressed--she has the choice now of asserting her rights and of demanding some guarantee for that reservation--if she waits until Lincoln is elected it will be too late--her morale will be gone, her place of strength seized, the her officers in the federal army ~~will be threatened~~ threatened with the rope for treason if they refuse and compelled to fight against her and yet at the last she will be goaded into what would now be a constitutional act, but will then be -- -- let her states now secede and the result will be the peaceful establishment of a purposeful Southern confederacy , an effectual attempt in the passing the north to force those back, or else after the---a reunion with a new and perfected constitution capable of effecting what the old constitution sought to effect.

I anxiously await the action of Maryland when she succeeds I desire her to consider my services at her disposal --I will thus come home to her.

with love

Your affectionate brother

J. G. Archer

addresses to my dear brothers)not mother)

R.H. Archer.

Colville Depot, 21st Feb.

(Mrs. A.A. Archer)

My dear mother:

Nannie's letter of 18th, 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 ~~Winnipeg~~ Simcoe and the winter has
passed very pleasantly.

I have just finished reading Carlisle's Frederick the Great which ~~I think~~
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 H ?? It is written with great
beauty and 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
with Maryland. We look with much anxiety ~~would~~ for news from
congress.

All well

Affectionately yours

J.G. Archer.

Fort Colville, W.T.

27th January, 1860

My dear ~~mother~~ *Brother*.

The result of the presidential is just received here. Why have you never written me anything of the most important subject that has occurred in our lifetime especially in reference to it is it important to us whose homes and whose people and whose interest are on the borders. Why has not Maryland like other and more wisely governed states placed herself in a condition to meet all emergencies by organizing her people. Why is it she stands like a quaker in time of war crying peace, peace except when there is no peace except in his proposal for war?

In the conflict which appears so threatening she cannot hope to remain neutral. She must take one side or the other. She must unite either with the dominant sectional majority on one side or with the minority on the other-- perhaps she is afraid to show arms least it might be carried into a provocation for a fight...but if this is to be a fight the fight will come nevertheless--then why not be prepared for it. The great question of state rights which the framers of the constitution erroneously thought they had secured ??? is now about to be determined. It has become apparent that there exists a permanent sectional hostile majority on the one side, a permanent sectional minority on the other--the majority is daily and hourly increasing its strength--it will soon have both houses of congress under its control and be able to exact whatever it pleases--it will soon control supreme judiciary by ~~means~~ *means* of the apportionment of its members to the bench (judge Marshall of Balt. is one for instance) and thus be able to pass its enactments constitutionally-- it has already and will maintain the control of the executive to carry its enactments into effect. What security then has the minority or what ----- what then becomes of any state right--the great aim of the framers of the constitution was to

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 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 very particularly after Nannie.

We were disappointed at Walla Walla to find the steam boat, 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 (of 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 ~~10000~~ 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 ~~000~~ 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 gground ??? 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 ~~e000~~ excuse for (politics..difficult to read.. double written over erasures)

Harney Depot,

1st May, 1860

My dear mother:

When I last wrote you I was at Walla Walla waiting for my horses to be brought up ~~to~~ from the herd---I started from this place (late called Colville depot, since changed ~~by~~ our great general to Harney Depot) the next afternoon and rode 20 miles to the Touchet creek-- Capt. and Mrs. Dent escorted me ten miles on my way.

The next day I reached Snake river, 25 miles further, early in the day when I was detained until late the next day. The evening of the third day went only 12 miles to the Palouse river, fourth day made 48 miles, fifth day 42 miles to the Spokane river where I met the master's agent with a span of horses which I took ~~in~~ exchange for my own stumbling hacks and ~~having~~ ^{leaving} my servant with the baggage to come on at his leisure, started alone to travel 66 miles in one day--I would have arrived quite early in the afternoon but after riding 25 miles in a brisk canter I fell in with Dr. Bessien and Lt. Harker who had lost their way returning from a party of the boundary survey on the Pend O'Reille lake. They had not the least idea where they were and were of course delighted to see me. I had to slacken my pace on account of their tired animals and did not get in until ten o'clock at night although they were very agreeable and I had no one to talk to since leaving the Dents, I would much rather have had my own speed than their slow company.

I see in the N.Y. paper that Carr is coming across the Rocky Mountains and over the plains with recruits for our regiment--we want them badly, fifty of my company including all my own commissioned officers will be discharged this summer --few of them will reenlist, wages and prospects of agriculture and grazing are so high that the soldiers all think they can make fortunes--many of them originally enlisted for the sake of getting their transportation to this country or California.

We are rather dull here at present, most of the officers having

been sent out on detached service but we are all well and I rather enjoy the quiet. With love to all

Affectionately yours

J.G. Archer

Harney Depot W.T.

4th June 1860

My dear mother:

Our last ~~xx~~ regular expressman disappointed us bringing only letters from Walla Walla, Dalles and Vancouver, but although we have no certain news from the east, a -- which we believe has come up, that the Charleston convention has adjourned without doing anything. I regret???? the southern members had good reason for disagreeing, it appears that the Northern men of both parties are bent on driving them out of the union.

The climate here is very different from that of Simcoe, ever since the breaking up of winter we have been visited by frequent rains and for the last month no two days have passed without a thunder shower. There is promise of an abundant harvest--many acres have been put in wheat, oats and barley for which a military post with four companies the English and American boundary commissions, with their employes and mules and horses, will furnish an ample market. Wheat has never since I have been here sold for less than four dollars per bushel, salt pork at from 40 to 50 cents per pound, oats and everything else in proportion.

The country is covered with strawberry vines which are now in full blossom, and give assurance of a plenty of that delicious fruit. If you pity my --- in strawberry time at home, I can in return feel most commiserative for you when your strawberries are all gone. Yours are just in perfection. The weather has been and is perfectly delightful

affectionately yours J.G. Archer