

Three forks of Willamette July 29 1851

Dear parents I have just concluded the reading of Mother's letter of May last – I have also been favored with one from Lewelyn to David Colver – What a host of recollections are called up by the perusal of these letters ! We are all well \_\_ Sam and I have located our sections in the south end of Willamet valley. It seems from the tone of your letters, that what you began in utter folly three years ago you intend to consummate in ruin and destruction! I duly warned you of the unhappiness which I knew and felt would overtake you when you broke up all those dear associations cemented by love and time while you were all cheerful in contemplation of the change I alone was sad for I knew to well the laws of mind and secret workings of my ? heart to be deceived \_\_\_ Three years have now elapsed since I bade a last farewell to the scenes of my childhood – scenes never to be forgotten \_\_ It was with a tearful eye and reluctant footsteps that I then turned away from all things endeared to me by association. I felt then that the Earth did not contain the place that would please me and this apprehension has been fully realized. Although I may have written in fanciful terms of Oregon, yet a longer and more familiar acquaintance has serve to convince me that I shall never like this country although I expect from necessity to remain here. I warn you now as a dutiful son never to attempt the journey across the plains – what can you hope? \_\_ what expect to gain by this last change of external condition \_\_ you can gain nothing but probably loose all – A grave perhaps in the desert! Or perhaps a home (not half as happy as your present one, beyond the mountains, what then? Are you more happy? No The naked truth when told is you wish to renew society with kindred this is the final consummation. Well what does all this amount to? Are you sure your children and grandchildren would fill up the void and supply what is now wanting to complete the sum of your enjoyment. For my part, I am not satisfied and feel my self discontented, the country though fine in some respects does not fill the bill, The country in summer is dry and parched no growth of grass in summer yet grass grows all winter and the country is deluged in raid and mud no hay to cut or feeding to do. In a country so dry and arid as this is in summer adjacent to the vast ocean, you may well suppose that fever and ague do not exist here. Sickness is almost unknown except imported sickness – when you enter a house here the usual questions are “where are you bound” how do you like the country? Etc not like it was near Paris and Grandview “How did George rest last night? Is little Jane alive this morning? Etc Tell Lewellyn that he is looking at Oregon through the glasses of imagination. I saw it once through the same glass I have since seen it with the natural eye – have weighted it compared it traveled all over it and do not recommend it to any dearest friends. Orchard only grows well where irrigated grapes I do not believe will ripen here I think some of moving some day to the coast of upper California which is said to e more congenial to fruit Oregon is unparalleled for its fine wheat, oats, rye barley and small grains. Potatoes grow fine upon low sandy bottoms Corn will not grow at all, nor melons – Claims are rising in value fast, the one adjacent to mine held at two thousand dollars, and one mile from me is a claim with a town laid off upon it at the head of steam boat navigation held at \$10,000 dollars. I hold mine much lower All the god claims are now taken which are worth taking. In expectation of taking a claim that a decent white man would live upon after this date is visionary in the extreme tell Lewelyn to get him a good wife (as no young man who intends to be anything in the world is safe without a confiding wife) I am not joking; he

cannot find one out here If he defers that matter too long he will be capable only of respecting a woman but utterly barren of Love There is no cold weather here, I lay out all last winter and was not uncomfortable There being no food to prepare for stock men liver here without much effort. If I had 100 cows I could feel independent. The money Miller owes me I shall never return for at least for many years. Samuel has abandoned the Idea of ever returning to Ohio or Illinois at least until the Pacific Railroad is completed. The children all send their love to you all Maria and I have concluded that five children are enough

Sam'l Colver

Hiram Colver

Letter addressed to:

Ms Samuel Colver  
Paris Edgar County  
Illinois

Return Address  
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2 Augt 1851

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