

Personal

Port Wrangell Alaska
May 14th 1871-

My dear General

I addressed a communication to you, per English Steamer, via Victoria some two days since, on a subject purely personal to myself & being in doubt if the letter reached its destination, I again take the liberty (at the risk of proving troublesome) of repeating my story -

I wish if it were possible, that the question of my being put to the expense of passage money for my large family consisting of my wife, five children & two servants, may be definitely settled at the starting point, which would be in the event of an expected change of station, with the Department Quartermaster at your Head Quarters - Could it not be made a condition of the contract for transportation of troops & stores, that the families of Officers shall be carried free of charge? I do not anticipate any trouble with the officers of the Ocean Ship company on this score, as I have never experienced at their hands, other than the kindest treatment on board of their vessels - but would be well pleased to have the positive information from your Head Quartermaster, that I should not be compelled to feel under any obligations in favor of stipulations with the Master of the Boat, to grant or withhold according to his caprice -

The Rev^d Mr. Crosby of Port Simpson paid us a flying

Answer my last
May 2nd 1871.

S. A. Brewster
May 14th 1871.

visit on the 9th inst. Remaining in town only a few hours - but improves his short allowance of time so well as to have two meetings, both very well attended - fully three hundred persons being present - He expressed his satisfaction at the evident earnest spirit of the Indian congregation & agrees perfectly with myself that no better field exists anywhere for sowing good seeds than is found here - and that if one earnest man can be sustained at this post as a Missionary, a proper person who would throw his whole soul into the work - a vast deal of good can be accomplished - the Indians are quite as much to be relied on as the white population, in continuing the support of a Mission, but both together under the direction of one good evangelical individual, would accomplish wonders -

You will no doubt be gratified to know, that the manufacture & sale of "Horch-e-nor" has been entirely suppressed on this island, but I am informed that the Indians within two days last are still engaged in its distillation - none of this however is brought here -

I have shipped by this Boat, all surplus serviceable Company Property to Fort Townsend - H. T. Artillery Stores (except powder) to Vancouver Arsenal Quartermaster Stores to Vancouver Depot and Medical Stores to Medical Director of the Department.

Mrs. Bancroft desire to transmit her respects to Mrs. Howard and yourself, in which I beg to join -

With kind regards I remain Dear General

Respectfully & truly Yours

E. A. Bancroft

Capt 4th U.S.

Major Genl P. D. Howard Esq

Conf Department of the Columbia

Portland Oregon -

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Camp Harvey Oregon
May 15th 1877.

General O. O. Howard
Dear Sir.

Having received official information from your Ass't. Adj't. General, that my application for a change of station would probably be favorably considered during the coming summer, I take the liberty of addressing you personally on the subject. I desire to tell you frankly and candidly, my real reason for making the application for a change which I could not have done very well officially. I made it more to obtain a change of commanding officers, than

file.

for anything else, my heart desires under Col. Brown, is quite
enough for me and my Lieutenant. Our ranks and involvements
generally, are greatly different, and I fully believe that Col. Brown
would like just as well to go with me and my Company, as I
am willing to leave under some one else. I will be perfectly satis-
fied General, to go to any place to which you may choose for
send me, and although Camp Harvey is a very suitable place
I would prefer to remain here under a different commanding
officer, than to go to a new station under Col. Brown.
On writing this letter I express the wishes of my Company
as well as my own. Hoping that you may be able

To grant my request, without conflicting
with the best interests of the Service

I remain yours

Very respectfully
Chas. D. Morris
Capt. 1st Cav.

to trade with the Clilcat chief at his village and that he will take me along and turn me over to the chief and talk to him for me and maybe go up the river with me. In any case if this barbarian Clilcat monarch will send me up the river I would like very much to go. I will map his country for him roughly with compass notes - it is the only instrument I have - and I will take Louis Myers the Vancouver prospector who came up with us and have him explore the minerals.

He, Myers, was with Mr Taylor and found lead with silver at our last camp, but we left the same day so he had no time to investigate. He wished very much to return to that section as it seemed to be if

Sitka Alaska
May 16th 1877

My dear General.

I want to give you a hasty sketch of my doings so that you may reflect whether to give your approval or disapproval of them. Mr. Taylor and I left here on the 24th of last month and taking the inside passage through Peril Straits to Chatham Straits and up the latter strait to Cross Sound we proceeded in one of the medium sized canoes, in charge of four Indians, as far as the inner bay of Cape Spencer; and there the Indians made a stand and refused to go farther, saying no canoe could live in the open sea through a voyage of five or seven days; that no canoe ever had done it and plainly

intimating that that particular canoe never would. The passage to this point had been inside the straits and narrow of the archipelago and was as safe as river travel. The Indians had come this far with us owing to a misunderstanding; Believing that Mr. Fairweather was the "Big Mountain" we wished to climb and the "Sakitah" Bay we had spoken of was the bay running close in to this mountain.

Mr. Taylor finding we could go no further turned immediatey and we raced to catch the May steamer, which we did, arriving on the same day as she - the 9th. Inst.

Owing to our hasty travel both ways I could see nothing and do nothing and upon my second arrival at this place Sitka Jack having returned (He and Skineah were absent at the time I left.) I went to

see him and ask if I could get up the Clilcat river into the interior of the country. He said in substance that the Clilcat chief, his brother-in-law had received a visit from General Howard the one armed Big Tyhee who had promised two years ago to send an officer to see him and that the Clilcat chief wanted to see an officer, that he would give him traps and send him up the river that he (the chief) wanted his country explored, wanted the mines opened, wanted maps made and would help any one to do this who did not trade nor shoot his game and fur animals. That the chief would like to see me.

Mr. Phillipson says his schooner will return about the 15th of June and that he is going

G. T. Moore

May 16, 1877.

S. L. Knobell

June 25, 1877.

I am still bound and have been ready for the past three days to leave the instant the weather changes. Can't tell me that poor Knapp is dead, it is very sad, a peculiarly sad death I think; and he says too that Smith of the 21st killed himself. This brings Boyle the Captaincy for which he has so patiently waited. Please to tell him that I am glad he has reached such a good resting place as now-a-days a captaincy is. Will you remember me kindly to Milliken and the other officers as you may see them, not forgetting Gen. Eaton and Babbitt. I will keep what else I have to tell you, for another time, I have written in great haste but the letter is much too long.

I am very sincerely Your friend.

Geo. T. Moore

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good mineral character in all its general appearances and the Indians told great yarns of coal silver, lead, copper &c so on the permission you gave me to stay behind Mr. Taylor to collect any information of value or complete any notes on the country, hearing nothing new from Wallowa or Vancouver I have taken the liberty of staying over a steamer to hear from you about my going to the Clulcat country and as I do not wish to loaf about Sitka I have fitted out a small expedition of my own to take Myers and go up to Cape Spencer and around Mt. Fairweather and take a look at the country, its resources and inhabitants, really there is nothing known of this country, the ignorance of the traders and

stockkeepers who live here is
simply gross and marvellous.
They can tell you nothing or if
they do venture on a bit of information
and you follow it up it is sure to
be found false. I have no hesitation
in pronouncing my trip a perfectly
safe one. I would do nothing rash
or anything to annoy you but I
have carefully considered it, have
asked advice upon it and have
already been once in the same
country and I know there is no
more danger than there is right
in Vancouver. You know the Indians
and know also that the route is all
inland and I think you will
agree with me. I would like to
do a little something before I come
down. There will be three whites
of us and two Indians. I have
put all my money in it because
the Chilcat trip will cost me
little or nothing. Phillipson will

take me up and bring me back
free of charge and if the Chilcat
chief will not send me up in
royal state in a dead-head canoe I
will not go, or at most only go
a day or two up the river.

I shall use every effort to
return from the Cape Spences country
in time for the June steamer so
I can return on that if your
judgement is against sending
me to the Chilcat chief, but,
subject always to your wishes in
the matter, I should like very much
to go. I will be prudent and I think
I can return on the July steamer.

I wish it were only possible
that I could get some orders to
give me all summer up in the
Chilcat country so that I could
explore the head waters of the Yukon.

Maj. Canty and his
party are here but it has been wet
and disagreeable weather. In fact

Table of our Lord -

I do not know if you have
ever heard of the triumphant profession
of my beloved husband during his last long
illness. Dr. Schenck our Minister who was with
him told me he had never heard such a confession
of faith - was not this a rich reward for all my
years of prayerfulness for him -

If your wife is with you, remember her
most kindly to him and with feelings of sympathy
regard him in your friends

Mary A. Morris -

I have been sure Will wrote to me that
Arthur would be in the dep't. of the Columbia
over winter where he addresed him, and it has just
occurred to me that by enclosing a note
to you, if you will be kind enough to put the
directions in post on it - he will get it
with less delay than if I send one of his
brother in San Francisco -

Mrs. Mary A. Morris.

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May 16. 1877.

Ft. McHenry, Md.

Ft. McHenry Maryland
near Baltimore May 16th 1877

My dear Gen. Howard

When we received the
order for the withdrawal of the military
from Alaska they were ordered to the Harbor
of San Francisco, but my son who writes
thus informs me they have been changed
to your dep't., and I hasten to tell you that
the Cap^t. Arthur Morris of the 4th Artillery
is my son, and in telling you this to ask your
influence in him for my sake until you fit
it for his own. So far as regards his lo-
cal it is that will probably be made by you
the reader you, and I trust will be some
place he can go to with safety and be helped
in the cure of Rheumatism from which
he has suffered so terribly, and to this end

I shall ask God with honeste faith & have
it directed. Meantime if you find that he
does not improve, and you find it impossible
for you to put him in my way to do so tell
me do it - I will write to him and request
that he will let you know if he still suffers
as bad - so much that he could not use his pen
and could scarcely clasp his fingers round
the pencil with which he wrote a few almost
unintelligible lines to let me know how he
was.

This is the son to whom while you
were in the Army of the Potomac I gave a letter
of introduction and commendation to you.
You were wounded and had left before
it reached him, but I remember well his
impatience in regard to it. "Oh Mother how
brave he was in the actions." but well he
may be, he is such a Christian. Arthur
is the child of many prayers but he is not
on himself yet, he has a truly devout
Christian life whose health is probably the
best we can to attempt to follow him in
his distant service, but I trust in his influence
and God's goodness, when they can be together again.

It is long General since I have met you
but you have over so lost the hold you used
on my affection at the post of Tampa during
the last war in Florida and will document
one last musing at the Monday prayer
Meeting in Washington, when I heard you
little dreaming that one who sat so near
you was then at the time, told of the event
that called you to the service of your Maker.

And at that time you also told of your
little son, whose religious feelings had
not been made known to you, standing up
among them at a meeting when all who
were anxious to be prayed for should do so.

I hope you will have time to answer
this letter, and then tell me if God inspired
the work in his young heart - What it is
then so dear to a parents, and to yours I know
so filled with tender affection. I remember
as if it were yesterday when Olaford
writing to me from Fort Point of the deep
emotion on your face as you wife,
stricken by your sickness for the first time to the

me to the Guard house, would
not listen to a word in defense,
had me buckled & gagged.
treated with every indignity, &
has probably, though I know not
for certain, accused me of
having broken the pledge given
I had my case come to trial.
I shall have much evidence
to offer concerning my treatment
here. I will not now enter into it.
I am in feeble health, men-
-tally & bodily, the result of
past excesses, and of former
bad habits. My chief desire

ROYAL
MILLS

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Fab. Turned. N. S.
May 20. 1877

Genl. O. O. Howard -

re re.

Portland, Oregon -
General -

Having to-day
made application, officially,
to the Division Commander, for
discharge under the recent
order for the reduction of the Army,
I take the liberty of writing to
you privately, as, under the
circumstances, it would be
badly proper to address such

a letter as this through the regular channels, so thank you for your great kindness to me, in the recent Court martial Case, and to say that I fully appreciate it. I did not accept the Pledge offered, till after 2 days consideration.

2 days spent in the solitude of a prison cell, days during which I smoked the air of a higher grade than my own weak and feeble mind. I finally decided to break it, and did so with the intention of trying to keep it

through Fifty Thousand officers and men were to swear that I had broken it. I would still maintain my innocence. The night previous to my re-confinement, and the morning of the same, I took copious doses of opium, a drug which I have used at different times to great excess. It made me drowsy, very naturally; and the perfect of a dirty gun was made use of to him the from Guard-mounting. Lieut Williams then accused me of being drunk, hoisted

Travis, Robt.

May 20, 1877.
Fort Townsend, W.T. }

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2.

ROYAL
MILLS

is to get away and by
tech and use congenial
surroundings, strive to strengthen
the good resolution I have made.

I shall, if discharged, go to
a Sanitarium in New Lab,
(at Clayton Springs) where I
have relatives, and remain
here a year. Meanwhile,
I have written to General
Schwarz & others in San Francisco,
requesting them to effect my
discharge from the Service.

I am worn out with labor
and hardships of all kinds,
and I think my mind is
becoming affected.

But the principal object of
this letter is to tender you
my heart-felt thanks for
your kindness, and to
assure you that, under whatever
circumstances I may be
placed, it shall never be
forgotten - I can never know
enough for the past, can never
be what I once might have
been; but I can try to

make the best of what
remains to me of life, and
to refrain from squandering
it, like what has gone before.

Very respectfully, General,
Your obedient servant

Robert Loais.