

Valley May 12th 1862

Dearest Ann

I received yours of the 2^d inst yesterday and was glad to hear that you were all well. This leaves me quite well and getting along finely. I expect to start to Portland day after tomorrow for more goods. I have been enlarging my tent and will soon have a very respectable store.

You need not be uneasy about me and the tent arrangement on Grand Ronde either; it's all a humbug about the massacre in Grand Ronde. It was gotten up by the Walla Walla & Lewiston folks to turn the Powder River prospectors back and bring them through these places and on to Salmon. They are afraid of the Grand Ronde route and of course are doing all they can to prevent prospectors from going there for fear they will find a route from Grand Ronde to Salmon and

make it a rival road to the great
Injury of Walla Walla & Lewiston
A good many have returning from
Powder river and pronouncing it a
humbug) The fact is they have
rushed up there into the snow and
not being able to prospect the bars
on account of high water nor the
hills & ravines for snow & cold weather
They have got out of grub and some
of them are turning back but
they all acknowledge that they
could not prospect much
of course one half of them will
return without working much be
the mines ever so rich

If the Powder River mines turn out
bad I dont wish to go to Grand
Ronde but I want to get a hold
up here some where and I in-
tend to stick to the tent and do
the best I can until I see an
opening and then I will take
a good hold and hang on
I hope you will keep up spirits
and have confidence in my plans
I dont know what better I can

do than what I am doing until
I get acquainted with the Port-
land merchants and see an open-
ing to get a house to sell goods in
or a partner

I have had the horses out on
the range until yesterday I let
a Yreka man have them on the
shares he got a load to Dischuttos
this morning of miners baggage
and I think will be able to make
them bring in something for us
both

Our Wittmill and George are
here they have a Monte bank in
company with two Yreka spaniards
I got them both a little down on
me because I would not keep
George at big wages and let
Our lag round and eat apples
and cheese and tobacco & drink cider
they dont bother me much now
so change has taken place yet in
anything here no news from your
pa or George Hoping to hear from
you every week I remain as ever
your affectionate Husband
P. M. Wade

May 15th 1862

P.S. I did not send this as you will see
as soon as I expected I was writing
until I started to Portland I am going
to morrow morning I will take what
money I have down with me and leave
the tent and goods & 3 horses and wagon
here but I dont suppose any thing
will happen to me any way

The river here is getting pretty high
some of our big merchants have been
driven out of their ^{by the water} stores, and are now
stuck up on the bluff in tents no better
off than me I want to get as many
goods up as possible before the big rise
comes as I think the Dalles will all
be washed away and the chance to
make something will be pretty good
Glorious news from the East New Orleans
taken and Yorktown abandoned by the rebels
and followed by the Federals besides
other important and successful advances
into the southern states

Write often and dont let Walter
forget me kiss the baby for me
four little fellows I would give
all I have made here if I could only
have you & them here your

Robert