

Forest Grove, Nov. 23rd

My dear Father,
We have not heard from you for over two weeks, though the last Gazette contained some allusion to you.

I wish you would give some full and interesting account of all your doings and of the various matters and things in the east in which you think I would be interested.
I suppose you

will go to Williamstown
some time during
the winter and you
will doubtless see
Prof. Pratt among
the other professors,
and I would ^{like} to
be especially remembered
to him. I sent
him a West Shore
containing my Mt.
Adams article.

I have
pretty much made
up my mind that
it will be unwise
for me to teach any
more, in this climate
at least. My cataract
which I had become

almost free of during
the summer and fall,
came on again with
the first rain in
Oct. and since then
has troubled me even
more than usual.
If I get through
this year without
falling into some
^{fatal} serious disorder, I
don't believe that I
shall dare to tempt
Providence with staying
here any more.

I am learning
photography. With it,
I may be able to
travel through the
mountains, taking views

which may accompany
magazine articles in
some future time.

But this is a
kind of a vagabond and
uncertain prospect.

Hence I think
the Umatilla plan is
to be my dependence.

I can't endure the
prospect of a vague
and random existence,
and since my health
seems likely to make
professional plans a
failure, I want to
make a substantial
start in the fruit.

business, this coming year. Now we haven't means to do this ourselves.

But if we could unite with Cousin Horace, George Harvey, and perhaps Uncle Lauren and others whom we might find here, as Jake Stevenson, for instance, into a joint stock company, our united resources would be enough to purchase a large and valuable tract of land, and

erect large buildings for the use of the whole company, which would be very much cheaper than to build half a dozen small houses.

If six families united and raised \$4,000 apiece, which with perhaps a little borrowing would, I think, be possible, the capital stock would be \$24,000.

When the Umatilla Reservation is sold off at auction, although it will go high, yet from what I know of the country, I think

\$12, per acre would be a very liberal estimate for the best lands, and for such an enterprise we would want the best.

Of course we could get excellent land on the Res. or this side of it for \$3. or \$4., but it would not be so favorably located.

If we bought a thousand acres, that would amount to \$12,000. The remaining \$12,000 would suffice to equip the farm enough at least to go into wheat-raising for two

or three years, until the
fruit trees should have
become large enough
to begin with the canning
business. Peaches and
tomatoes would furnish
the staples for ^{canned} fruit,
though the various kinds
of berries would do well.

At the same
time, I presume, that
with such a union
arrangement as I have
suggested, wheat-raising
would be very profitable.

Those lands around
Weston that I saw

~~around Nestor~~ last
winter were then con-
sidered worth ~~from~~
\$40. ^{This shows the value of wheat land} to \$60 per acre.

The railroad
from ~~Idaho~~ ^{Idaho} to Wallula
is to be built ~~to~~ before
the next harvest. They
are already getting ties for
it.

The Northern
Pacific is being rapidly
pushed toward Coeur
D'Alene, and within
a year will have
passed the Idaho
line. This, you
see, is going to make
things boom up there.

Within 25 years
Umatilla will be the

centre of the greatest
wheat country of the
world. But the
northern half of this
great belt is too cold
for fruit. Hence
if we can seize the
present moment and
then all the fruit
we can (pun) we
shall — have a sure
income for ourselves
and posterity. I
think this is the
golden moment for
making the strike.

Hence I feel very
much interested in
your pushing the matter
among our friends in

the East. Unless Henry
expects to go to college,
it is folly for him
to anchor himself
on that bleak New
England hillside where
he can never do more
at any rate than
make a narrow
subsistence. If Uncle
Lauren would sell entirely
out ~~and~~ he would
be able after paying his
debts to invest several
thousand dollars.

I should think
Horace might be able to
do the same. Then
you might perhaps be
able find others in these

who could join such
an enterprise. Now
is the time to go into the
business. The Res. will
probably be sold soon, but
if it is not there are other
lands adjoining it nearly
or quite as good which
could be had at any
time. Things are
going on here with an
average degree of satisfac-
toriness. Capt. W. is
just beginning his building
for the Indian pupils.

Write a little more
and push this business
that I have written of.
Yours W.