

Palmer, Christian Co. Ill Jan 27, 1874

To Suzzelina Hamilton dear Nephew I just now venture to write a few lines to let you know that I am as well as usual & safely at home again. I left Portland Oregon on the 25th day of Nov last on the Steamship Oreplan & arrived in San Francisco Cal on the 2 day of Dec & made the trip across the mountains in eleven days arriving at home in Palmer on the 16th day of Dec having been gone from home a little less than five months. I had no sickness while out. I had a hard struggle while in the City of Portland between going home or going to see you. I did want to go to see you very much and knowing as I did that it was late in the season to take a trip by sea or cross the mountains in the snowy season & more I was very short of funds & it placed me in very perplexing circumstances. I had went out there to near Puget Sound on purpose to look after a quarter section of land which I had bought from one of my neighbors here in Palmer & thought I should sell. I had only \$250 when I started from home & when I got back to Portland I had but \$99.⁰⁰ when I met your friend (Davis) from