

\*\*\* Date: February 20, 1845 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Author: Mrs. Narcissa Whitman \*\*\*

\*\*\* Recipient: Mrs. Laura Brewer \*\*\*

\*\*\* Source for this document: Transactions – 21st reunion, 1893, p. 182 \*\*\*

\*\*\* The original document starts below this line \*\*\*

Wailatpu, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1845.

*My Dear Mrs. Brewer:* – I do not recollect that I am indebted to you, but having a favourable opportunity of sending, and feeling desirous of a social chat with you, I have seated myself to write, although my baby is whining and the children are busy about me like so many bees.

I am anticipating very much enjoyment from your contemplated visit to us this season. I hope you will not disappoint us. Please let me know about the time when you will probably come.

I have had a very happy winter in labouring for my family of orphans, and other reasons. The Lord so mercifully provided me with a fellow labourer that I feel I never can be sufficiently thankful. I think I mentioned when I wrote last that we had an excellent school, and that our children were improving rapidly; and perhaps I spoke, too, of the conversion of the teacher to God. A kind Providence brought him to our door, and he had not been here many days before, like the prodigal in a far country, he came to himself, and remembering the many prayers and admonitions of parental love, his former convictions and strivings of the Spirit, together with the long suffering patience and

loving kindness of his Heavenly Father, he resolved to return, and in deep contrition, consecrated himself to his divine Master. Now he contemplates studying for the ministry, and with this view remains with us for a season and will teach school, or, at least, give one lesson a day through the summer, and next winter keep a regular one.

Since his conversion, Mr. Hinman has labored indefatigably in Sabbath-school and otherwise for the benefit of the youths and children that have been with us the winter past, and much good seed has been sown which we doubt not will be felt here-after.

I write in so much confusion that I shall be obliged to stop before I have said what I wish to.

Husband is so much engaged in fitting out and settling with the immigrants that he wishes me to apologize to your husband for him. He would write, if possible. He sends some corn as Mr. B. requested. He has none that has been particularly saved for seed; but will, next fall, if desired, save and send some New York corn, which we find to be very suitable for the country. Some beets and acorn squash seeds are in the bag with the corn. The others you requested, we have none.

Please give my love to Brother and Sister Waller, to your husband and self and all the dear children, and believe me, in haste,

Yours affectionately,

N. W.

Mrs. L. L. Brewer,

Wascopum.

\*\*\* End of the original document from February 20, 1845 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Date: April 8, 1845 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Author: Mrs. Narcissa Whitman \*\*\*

\*\*\* Recipient: Mrs. Clarissa Prentiss

Honorable Stephen Prentiss \*\*\*

\*\*\* Source for this document: Transactions – 21st reunion, 1893, p. 70 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Comments: Mrs. Whitman did not include a date in this letter. However, Dr. Drury believed that the following document was written on April 8, 1845 (Drury, Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, Vol. 2, p. 371). In addition, the document immediately follows Dr. Whitman's letter from that date in the "Transactions." \*\*\*

\*\*\* The original document starts below this line \*\*\*

*My Dear Parents:* – I have now a family of eleven children. This makes me feel as if I could not write a letter, not even to my dearest friends, much as I desire to. I get along very well with them; they have been to school most of the time; we have had an excellent teacher, a young man from New York. He became hopefully converted soon after entering our family, and mother, I wish you could see me now in the midst of such a group of little ones; there are two girls of nine years, one of seven, a girl and boy of six, another girl of five, another of three and the baby, she is now ten months. I often think of mother when she had the care of Henry Martin Curtis.

It would make me indescribably happy, to have father and mother and some of the children come to Oregon; but it is such a journey I fear mother would be sorry she undertook it, if she should conclude to come, but if once here I think there would be no cause of regret. Families can come quite comfortable and easy in wagons all the way.

But why should I wish thus? It cannot be possible that I shall see my beloved parents again – is it? – until I meet them in heaven. The Lord only knows; I will leave it with Him to direct all these things. We have had some serious trials this spring with the Indians. Two important Indians have died and they have ventured to say and intimate that the doctor has killed them by his magical power, in the same way they accuse their own sorcerers and kill them for it. Also an important young man has been killed in California by Americans; he was the son of the Walla Walla chief and went there to get cattle, with a few others. This has produced much excitement also. We are in the midst of excitement and prejudice on all sides, both from Indians and passing immigrants, but the Lord has preserved us hitherto and will continue to, if we trust Him. Love to all, as ever and forever.

Your affectionate daughter,

Narcissa.

Miss Jane A. Prentiss,

Cuba, New York.

\*\*\* End of the original document from April 8, 1845 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Date: May 19, 1845 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Author: Mrs. Narcissa Whitman \*\*\*

\*\*\* Recipient: Mrs. Laura Brewer \*\*\*

\*\*\* Source for this document: Transactions – 21st reunion, 1893, p. 184 \*\*\*

\*\*\* The original document starts below this line \*\*\*

Waiilatpu, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1845.

*My Dear Mrs. Brewer:* – My husband and our dear Brother Hinman are about to visit you, and I wish very much I could enjoy it with them. I have been looking for a visit from you and Brother Brewer, and regret very much that you have not been here at the time you mentioned, for both Mr. Walker's and Mr. Eells' families have been here. Why did you not come? I am afraid now you will not let me see you this summer; do come if you can when the doctor returns. How I should like to converse with you about your and our trials, hopes, fears and prospects in the missionary work. I cannot write much now, but hope you will enjoy the company of those who go from here and be of mutual benefit to each other. We were permitted while the mission was here to receive Brother Hinman into our church. It was an interesting time not soon to be forgotten. Please give my love to Brother and Sister Waller, your dear husband, and kiss the dear children for me. Have you heard from Brother Perkins lately? and also, Mr. J. Lee, is he coming back?

Yours in love,

Narcissa Whitman.

Mrs. L. L. Brewer,

Wascopum.

Favour of Mr. Hinman.

\*\*\* End of the original document from May 19, 1845 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Date: August 9, 1845 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Author: Mrs. Narcissa Whitman \*\*\*

\*\*\* Recipient: Mrs. Laura Brewer \*\*\*

\*\*\* Source for this document: Transactions – 21st reunion, 1893, p. 184 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Comments: Mrs. Whitman does not list the intended recipient in this letter.

However, Dr. Drury believed that it was intended for Mrs. Brewer (Drury, Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, Vol. 2, p. 131 & 371). \*\*\*

\*\*\* The original document starts below this line \*\*\*

Waiilatpu, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1845.

*My Dear Sister:* – Your sympathizing letter came in just the time to do me much good. I thank you for it, and for the information it contained concerning Francisco, and the feelings of the party with whom he traveled, about the orphan children with us. I read your letter to John; he seemed quite hurt about Mr. P.'s charge, and said that he (Mr. P.) asked him several times if he did not wish to go to the Willamette. I saw nothing to make me think that John wished to have his brother go; but, on the contrary, he and all the sisters tried to keep him and appeared to feel very bad about his going. If it were otherwise, his actions deceive me very much.

You are right in saying that I “feel indifferent to what is said about me, so far as I am concerned individually.” I endeavour in all things to act towards the children as if they were my own. My sincere, ardent and abiding wish is to train them up for God and eternity, and not for their transient existence in this life. I try to study my duty towards

them in every respect, both carefully and prayerfully. We felt it our duty to have them baptized, as many as were willing to be, and accordingly we did so, the girls only consenting. I felt it a great privilege to do so still, and am greatly strengthened in spirit to labour for them.

I do not think them difficult children to manage, neither do I have occasion often to use the rod. The little one, as all other little children do, manifested a stubborn disposition at first, which required subduing; since she has appeared well – obeys promptly when spoken to. I have no reason to regret the course I have pursued with her, when I consider the effects upon her disposition, naturally very obstinate, as well as all the others. Doubtless this is what has occasioned the remarks, for it took place about the time Francisco went away. Louise, the next older, I have not been able to subdue so completely; but she is much better than when she first came. They were said to be very bad children when they were left; but there was a reason for that. Left without restraint in such a journey, it could not be expected otherwise. Putting them all in school immediately under such a good and faithful disciplinarian as Mr. Hinman, I was entirely relieved of the difficult and hard task of breaking them in to habits of obedience and order. I feel that I never can be too thankful for the mercies of the Lord in placing such a good young man in our family to do this work for us when my health was so inadequate to the work, and the doctor so entirely taken up with other duties with emigrants and Indians. He has also, accomplished the tedious task of starting them all in a, b, c, and ba, be, etc. They are so well advanced and have been trained to such good habits of study, that my labour is comparatively easy, and I am now taking new delight every day in teaching. All except Louise read and spell well. She is in words of three letters. Some,

or all of the older ones, are showing considerable mind and rather seriously inclined. Our Sabbath-school is always an interesting season with us – increasingly so. I am desirous to see them Christians. What I do I feel that I ought to do immediately; and will you pray for me, my dear sister, that our instructions may not be lost upon them? I could write much more upon this subject, but have not time. I wish I could see you, then we could open our hearts freely to each other. Do come if you can and see us.

I do feel, as I have every reason to believe you do, that the receipt of our Mother's Magazine is an unspeakable favour. Situated as we are, away from other help, what a blessing to possess such a pleasing auxiliary in our labours as mothers. I hope and pray that its introduction into this country will be the means of much good. Husband sent the one that came to Mrs. Perkins to Mrs. Willson. Perhaps Mrs. Waller would have preferred to have had it continued to her in the room of Mrs. Perkins. I do not know as Mrs. Willson wishes to become responsible for it; if not, and Mrs. W. would, it can be sent to her. Other numbers can be ordered if desired.

I received from the editor receipts for each subscriber. Yours I will enclose and forward at this time. If husband had opened my package, he would have been able to have distributed them to all. You will see that it is given for a little more than the doctor settled for, the bound volume being twenty-five cents more than the unbound ones. Mrs. McKinlay has all the back bound volumes sent to her order.

But I must close. If you can read this poorly written letter, I shall be glad. It would be no more than justice to your good sense to copy it, but inability from poor health and numerous cares, pleads to be excused. Please give my love to Brother and Sister Waller and your husband in which husband unites. Please accept of our united

thanks for your kindness to him in passing. He enjoyed his visit with you and in the Willamette very much.

Affectionately yours,

Narcissa Whitman

P. S. – John sends an invitation to his brother, and a horse to have him come back. I hope it will have the effect to prevail on him to do so. I feel much for him and wish him to return, as all of us do, and pray the Lord to restore the wanderer to our arms again.

\*\*\* End of the original document from August 9, 1845 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Date: November 28, 1845 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Author: Mrs. Narcissa Whitman \*\*\*

\*\*\* Recipient: Mrs. Laura Brewer \*\*\*

\*\*\* Source for this document: Transactions – 21st reunion, 1893, p. 187 \*\*\*

\*\*\* The original document starts below this line \*\*\*

Waiilatpu, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1845.

*My Dear Mrs. Brewer:* – I seize a moment this morning to write you, although it is in the midst of bustle and Indian excitement. Mr. Rinearson will hand you this. He has been engaged by us in teaching an Indian school. He is a very agreeable and good young man in every respect, except he lacks the one thing needful. He will be our living epistle to you concerning the state of things with us. It may be that we shall be obliged to leave here in the spring. The state of things looks now very much as though we should be required to.

We have long been anxious to hear from you. From Indian reports, we fear that you have been through a season of trial and distress the season past before unknown. If so, I hope the strength and grace of God has been your support and consolation through all your afflictions.

I feel greatly worn out, both physically and mentally, so that I scarcely feel strength enough of mind left to dictate any thing that will be worth reading. But I felt that I could not let this opportunity pass without just saying to you that we often think and speak of you both, and Brother and Sister Waller, too; love and sympathize with you

as fellow sharers in the same labour, trials, faith and patience, in the work of our Divine Master.

For the poor Indians' sake and the relief of future travelers to this country, I could wish to stay here longer if we could do it in peace. We fear, sometimes, as if our quietness was past for this country, at least for a season. It may be that you are suffering under the same commotions that affect us, and perhaps more so. If so, you will understand me. Mr. Rinearson has a full view of the subjects agitated, takes a deep interest in our situation and prospects, as well as the interest of the Indians and country.

I received your letter by Mr. Spalding and was much refreshed by it, and I believe I have not written you since.

Please give my love to Brother and Sister Waller, and accept for yourself and husband our assurances of continued esteem and affection.

Your sister in Christ,

N. Whitman.

Mrs. L. L. Brewer,

Wascopum.

Favour of Mr. Rinearson.

\*\*\* End of the original document from November 28, 1845 \*\*\*