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Western Union Telegraph Expedition, Papers from William H. Dall to Robert Kennicott

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Copy of telegram.

To Col. Chas. S. B. Washington June 30. 1866.

Despatch rec'd, The following is a copy of circular from Dr. Stimpson. The Chicago Academy of Sciences was burned at one o'clock the morning of June 7th. The losses are great but by no means such as to affect the utility of the institution the regular operations of which will be resumed as soon as possible It is impracticable at the present time to estimate with any degree of accuracy the damage caused by the fire to the collections and other property of the Institution. As near as can now be ascertained, the present condition is as follows. About half the animals and birds nearly all the skulls &c will be saved. Insects all destroyed with the exception of the Lepidoptera Dried Crustacea and Echinodermata destroyed Shells and fossils in great part saved. Very singularly and fortunately the alcoholic collection contained in about 2000 jars, has escaped. The herbarium with the exception of the series of plants of the N. Pacific Exploring Expedition has been saved. The library is greatly damaged by water, but most of the books will be saved by careful drying and rebinding. The plates of the forthcoming volume of the transactions, twenty in number, were much injured and some of the edition may have to be reprinted The publication of the volume will not however be greatly delayed.

Spencer F. Baird
Asst Secy. S. I.

Rec'd July 10. 1866

Copy correct,
W. H. Doll.

San Francisco June 8, 1866

Geo. C. Walker, Esq.
President Chicago Acad. of Sciences

Dear Sir. I present for your consideration and for the information of the members of the academy, a rough draft; all that is safe to venture upon; of my plans for the Scientific work of the Expedition in the future. We leave San Francisco for the Far North in a few days. I have attached to the Sci. Corps, a young man Mr Robert Caldwell, who will I hope be of much benefit to Science during the coming season. I regret to say that the disbanding and consequent breaking up of the Fraser River Exploring Party from the incompetency of its commander, has retained in the wilderness beyond the possibility of doing much for Natural History, Messrs Rothrock and Elliott. F. Bishoff is still at Sitka and Bannister at Michaelovski. Major Kennicott with Pease in the interior of Russian America. We have rec'd no intelligence from any of them, since our departure. Mr. Caldwell and myself leave on the flagship probably for the mouth of the Yankon and Norton Sound, where we hope to find news of Major Kennicott and party. If there should be any doubt as to their safety, I demanded and rec'd permission to accompany

any party which may be sent to their assistance. If as we hope all is well, future projects will depend on Major Kennicotts plans. My own were to continue on the vessel till she shall arrive at Petropavlovsk where I proposed to remain all winter and probably during the ensuing spring. Letters can be sent to us through Mr. Hubbard of the P. M. S. S. Co. and will be forwarded by occasional vessels. Hoping for interest and sympathy in our work, as lively during the coming year as in the past

I remain with respect

Your ob't serv't

Wm H Dall

Acting Director Sci. Corps

14 Copy of letter
to Geo. Walker
& academy
Just before
leaving —
WHD.

List of Papers included in this package addressed to Major Robert Kennicott
St Michaels. R. Am.

1 Historical Notice &c of Chicago Academy.
2 Proceedings Chicago Acad. 3 signatures.
3 Paper, on a new subfamily of fluviatile Mollusca
4 Copy of orders, for 1866, for Lieut. W. H. Wall.
5 Memorandum of crews and Passengers. 1866.
6 Copy of orders for captains and directions for collecting.
7. Outfit Sci. Corps for 1866.
8. List of outfit furnished each vessel.
✓ 9; Gala Acad. directions for collecting
10 Edwards " " " diatoms.
11 Copy of my report to Gen. B for 1865.
12 " " Bairds last telegram about Chi-acad. Sci.
13 Copy of circular letter to Scientific men.
14 " " letter to Chi. Acad. Sci on leaving.
15 Report to Major Kennicott up to July 1866.
16. Copy of Memorandum for Mr. Mumford.
Copy of Circular letter announcing death and letter to Bischoff.

List of papers enclosed
or accompanying
this envelope —

W. H. Dall

Copy.

Head quarters West. Un. Tel. Exp.
San Francisco May 28. 1866.

Special Order
No. 45.

I. 1st Lieut. W. H. Dall, Assistant Surgeon in charge of Scientific Corps will be permitted to stop at any station of the Company visited by the Flag ship which he may select.

II. The officer in charge of the station which Lieut Dall may select, will furnish him with the necessary quarters and rations.

III Should it be necessary to send a party to the relief of Maj. Kennicott, Lieut Dall has permission to accompany such party, if he wishes.

By order of Col. Chas S. Bulkley
Eng. in chief
Geo. M. Wright
Adjutant -

Note. I drew the above up, myself and it was approved and issued by the Col. W.H.D.

Copy of orders for
1866.

Wm H Dall

Strength of the Expedition for 1866

Memorandum of Ships Company and accomodations for Passengers on Board W. U. Tel: Company.

Bark "Golden Gate"

			Total
Ships Company incl: A. Q. M.	17		
Passengers Steerage	17		
Fore Castle	2	19	36

Bark "Onward"

Ships Company incl: A. Q. M.		15	
Passengers - Cabin	22		
Forward House	10	32	47

Bark "H. L. Rutgers"

Ships Company incl. A. Q. M.		17	
Passengers Cabin	3		
House aft	4		
Steerage	51		
Fore Castle	3	61	78

Bark "Palmetto"

Ships Company incl. A. Q. M		15	
Passengers Forward house	12		
Fore Castle	3	16	31
Cabin	1		
Carry over			192

Brot forward 192

Flag Ship "Nightingale"

Ships Company			56	
Passengers	Cabin	4		
	Ward room	8		
	Steerage	76	88	144

Stm: "Geo. S. Wright"

Ships Company	30	
Passengers	5	35

Bark "Clara Bell"

Ships Company incl. A.Q.M.			15	
Passengers	Cabin	1		
	Forward	3	4	19

Total 390

2.

Captain Patterson
Commanding Steamer Geo S Wright

Sir

By authority of the Engineer in Chief I am directed to furnish you with a copy of the enclosed directions with regard to the collection of specimens of Natural History, and the following instructions.

Such collection of objects of interest will be made as can be, without detriment to the service, and all specimens collected, will, at the termination of the voyage be turned over to the Director of the Scientific Corps.

The Marine Quartermaster, will take charge of specimens and equipment till such time, as they can be turned over, and account for the same.

Due credit will be given on the books of the Smithsonian Institution and in the Annual Report to the Engineer in Chief, for any and all specimens collected.

A list of outfit accompanies this paper.

Wishing you a pleasant voyage and as much success in Scientific as in Marine Operations.

I remain

Very respectfully

Wm H Dall

Act. Director Sci. Corps U.M.T. Exp.

By authority of the Engineer in Chief

Approved.

C. M. Scammon

Chief of Marine

6 Copy of orders for Captains of vessels — 1866

Wm H Dall

—Directions for Collecting—

Hard matters, such as bones, horns, shells rocks or specimens of minerals, should be packed, so as not to chafe, a small barrel is the best casing for them, paper hay or straw, is much better than sawdust or sand,

Alcoholic specimens, particularly insects, [not caterpillars, worms or grubs] such as beetles, flies bugs and centipedes; Shells particularly small ones, from rocks or kelp, fish of small size and wild mice or rats or squirrels of all kinds, should be put in bottles and packed in oakum or paper, in a box;

Mud from the edges of pools or lakes, above all where it is scummy and green, should be dried and put in paper with careful note of the locality, Fine threadlike, green or brown seaweeds should be dried without washing and put up in the same way, These things often contain the most beautiful microscopic, organisms, called Diatoms—

Birdskins are particularly valuable, and should be made by a small opening in the skin only, of the belly, skinning down a little, cutting off the legs wings, and neck under the skin, and getting the body out first, and each limb and the head separately Plenty of arsenic should be dusted on with a little ball of oakum, particularly around the head, and the back of the skull sliced off enough to take out the brains, the skull thus cleaned should remain attached to the skin, and the oakum dust ball stuffed into it. The skin should have a little

oakum stuffed into it to keep it about the same size as in life, but care should be taken not to stretch it. It should be put in a dry place. Animals the same but they are much easier to skin, the skull should be kept and numbered the same as the skin.

Butterflies should be put into a piece of paper folded to make a three cornered bag. laid flat they will not chafe much and will be of value.

Dragonflies or devils darning needles the same. Rocks should be obtained from the bed rock when possible, and about the size of an orange, or or two specimens of each kind. Those containing fossils or petrifactions should be collected in large quantities, and particularly those containing small round or oval concretions within, generally of a different color from the rest of the rock, and looking like plums in a pudding, These are known as Zeolites, Peculiar Earths, white, buff or chalky, of smooth texture to the hands, should be obtained in small quantities as before recommended for Diatoms.

Lice and crabs may be observed on Cod and other large fish used for food, They should be preserved with note of kind of fish and season –

Desirable Objects

First in value – Skulls of animals, birds, and fish of every kind, whole and broken and also their bones, They may be separated from their flesh by long continued soaking in water, boiling or scraping when fresh, Beetles in alcohol. Fossils

minerals and shells in alcohol, or if large if dry. The horns of deer, skulls of walruses, seals and bears, are particularly valuable together with beetles and fossils, Many beetles may be obtained where none are to be seen by turning over stones or logs, or beating the grass along the waterside, with the cap into which they will drop; and among the piles of kelp etc on the shore,

Second in value skins of birds animals and reptiles. Mud, clay, seaweeds and shells generally, agates, bright pebbles &c, Fish butterflies and other insects,

Flowers may be collected by simply laying the bunch in a dry place till dry, and doing it up in paper marked with the date and locality. If possible however to press each on flat by putting into a press with paper it is preferable—

The following things should

Never be Omitted

Write on or label every specimen with date locality and collector's name Fossils with the character of the beds of rock, or earth, from which they are taken, and if possible a diagram to shew the position of fossils, and beds of rock visible above and below the bed from which they were taken, and the dip or inclination of the beds to any point of the compass and the angle—

6a

Copy of directions for collecting given with Edwards Diatom paper and Smithsonian or Cala Acad. printed directions, to the captain of each vessel with outfit -
1866.

Wm H Dall

Furnished each vessel

viz Palmetto, Clara Bell, Onward, Golden Gate, Rutgers.

6 quires botanical paper.
2 lbs arsenic in cans.
1 notebook 100. Labels.
16 pill boxes.
25 fishbags.
Six bottles asst sizes corked & filled with alcohol pure.

Furnished Capt Wright.

1 Empty Keg. 10 gals alcohol.
1 notebook. 100 labels.
16 Pillboxes. 25 fishbags.
1 doz 12 oz bottles corked
" " 8 " " "
19 One & two oz " "
2 lbs arsenic in Cans
Lot Bot. Paper.

8

The within mentioned stores (see orders to Captains) are in charge of Marine Q. Master, and may be used by any one, but must be accounted for at the end of the voyage in some way — by the M. Q. M. to me (or you)

W A Dale

2 Gross 12 Oz. W. M. Vials	15.	30	00	
2 " 8 " "	9.	18	00	
1 " 4 " "	10.	10	00	
2 " 1 " "	5,50	11	00	
2 " 1/2 " "	4,50	9	00	
Corks for Above		13	50	
1 " 1 Dr. Hom. Pat. Vials		2	50	
1 " 3 " " " "		4	00	
1/2 " 4 " " " "		2	50	
1 32 6 " " " "		5	50	
Corks for Above		4	38	
1/2 lb. Lamp Black			50	

Lock & Montague

2 Botanical Collecting Boxes		18	00	
2 Leather Straps		3	50	
6 Geological Hammers		16	50	
6 Beating Net Frames		6	00	
1 Dredge		30	00	!!!
2 Seines (for dredgings.)		6	00	
Leather for Dredge		4	00	
Nets " "		3	50	
1 Spade		1	50	
2 Dredge Weights		1	00	
Wire for Dredge		2	25	
1 Iron Cane		1	00	
6 Geological Chisels & 1 Axe		3	75	
2 Seines		2	50	
2 Padlocks for Botanical Boxes		2	00	
omit — Copper & Labor on frames		6	50	

Towne & Bacon

300 lbs. Botanical Paper		51	00
omit (Printing) 12,000 Labels		12	00

Russell & Erwin Manuf. Co.

6 Oneida Traps. assted Sizes		3	63

Correct W H Dall

Outfit 1866.

950 Fishbags asst sizes
12 Butterfly or trawl nets } $35.00
6 Beating nets

1 light gun, 130 lbs asst'd shot, flasks &c $46.00
2 barometers, 2 thermometers, one clinometer compass
1 Flag.
Necessary lines and ropes for dredging—

20 lbs. Powdered Alum	.15	3 00
225 Tin Cans (for arsenic)	.20	22 50
3 Gross Gunnam Pill Box es large	3.50	10 50
1 " " " " "	5.00	5 00
24 " English " " small	1.50	36 00
2 lbs. Corrosive Sublimate	1.50	3 00
2 " Chloroform	2.50	5 00
100 Cork Soles	.12½	12 50
1 Doz. Forceps	1.00	12 00
1 Pr. Bone Forceps		4 00
1 Doz. Bird Skinning Knives		15 00
1 " Mouse Traps		2 00
1 Ball 50 lbs. Tow		12 50
12 Bats Cotton wadding	.25	8 00
Punch for Labels		1 50
½ bbl. (in Cases) Plaster Paris		5 00
1 Doz. Scissors		7 00
10 lbs. Saltpetre	.40	4 00
6 Balls Twine	.50	3 00
5 lbs. Tartar Emetic		7 50
14 Nests Wooden Boxes	1.00	14 00
200 Galls. Alcohol (5 gal. tins, 2 in case)	1.30	260 00
219 lbs Arsenic	.06½	14 24
6 Doz. Segar Boxes		3 00
2 Ten Gallon Kegs		4 00
6 Five " "		12 00
6 Trawl rings		6 00
12 Note Books		7 00
12,000 Labels		15 50
2 lbs. Linen Thread		4 00
1 bottle Writing Ink		1 00
1 " Mucilage		75
1 Scrap Book		2 00
3 Gross Assorted Corks		4 50
Stencil Plates + Brushes		1.75

San Francisco June 10. 1866

Dear Sir

The Expedition starts again for the north in a few days. The prospect for the success of the scientific work is good. To the liberality of Col. Chas. S. Bulkley, and Capt C. M. Scammon U. S. R. M. we as well as the scientific world at large are deeply indebted. To them we owe constant kindness and assistance even to personal collecting for the objects in view; and also a liberal outfit for making and preserving collections. We hope to find Messrs Kennicott, Bannister, Pease and Bischoff in good spirits, and successful in their undertakings. Since they were left in the North no word has been recd from any of them and will not be, till we return. I may ~~pony~~ possibly if the prospect for making collections is good, remain during the coming winter in the far North. Hoping for your continued interest & sympathy in our work while absent I remain &c

13.

Circular letter to scientific friends —

W. H. Dall

At sea July 28th 1866

Dear Robert,

Although I shall probably see you, and hope to deliver this in person, yet a few systematic notes will convey more than a great deal of talking and pave the way to a clearer understanding of the subject. This is my "Report."

We left you at St Michaels, sailed to Plover Bay, where we found the steamer; remained a few days, sailed and arrived safely at Petropavlovsk; where the steamer and Col. B. soon joined us, having visited Anadyr Gulf and River and left some additional supplies with Macrae's party who were well; but had a very deficient outfit. if outfit it might be named. The Russians treated us with great kindness while we remained. We sailed three days after the steamer and arrived at San Francisco the afternoon of the same day, the 30th of November 1865.

The collections were good though not extraordinary in number. They amounted to some ten thousand specimens of various kinds very few birds, and no eggs. and were mostly of my own personal collection. My Report to Col. Bulkley embodies the particulars —

For some little time after our arrival I was occupied in repacking and despatching the specimens collected, and letters to those persons whom were mentioned in our last conversation. Very long and full (25 pps) to Prof Baird, Dr. Torrey, Mr. Walker and Stimpson embodying all facts relative to your experience with the Expedition, your plans, and outfit. Other letters (some 25 in number) as suggested. (see letter book.)

Bridges, the naturalist, died of typhoid fever on his way back from Nicaragua; I wrote a short memorial of him, otherwise assisted his widow, and secured his very valuable though somewhat injured, collection of plants, (Chilian and Bolivian) and grasses (Nicaraguan) for the Institution, as a gift.

I started in, in good earnest, with Stearns to rejuvenate the Cala. Academy. The time has not yet come for moving outside of the members, and no salvation will ever arise from among them. Prof. Whitney, Stearns & I however, got the Academy into new and pleasant rooms, and paid the expenses among us of moving and fitting up the new rooms. Stearns and I did most of the work ourselves. Stearns is a diamond of the first water. I will give you the details by word of mouth

Getting a breathing spell, and finding that political reasons would probably prevent the proposed trip down the coast in the Revenue Cutter; I went down to Monterey, paying all expenses out of my own pocket, and remained three weeks; I worked like a horse and roused all the town to picking up shells on the beach. I was able to collect on the beach only, but succeeded in making a better collection by far than had ever been done by any one else; not excepting Cooper who dredged. I obtained some twelve or fifteen new species

On my return I worked over them for some time, making a very valuable paper on them, which I forwarded with most of the shells to Carpenter, via the S.I.

After much scolding and the intercession of Prof. Baird I got a copy of Carpenter's old Reports on the West Coast Shells, for which I sent him ten dollars in gold.

I prepared several small papers for the Cala. Academy's Proceedings.

I started in to get a good outfit, which had to be done slowly and cautiously; and I got it. Details must be deferred till we meet.

Dr. Fisher having gone East, I proceeded by order of the Colonel to superintend the fitting out of the medical part of the Expedition now numbering seven vessels.

This was a long and tedious job but I put it through to the complete satisfaction of every body; getting through on a Saturday and the Doctor getting back the following Monday. Of course the generous temperate christian gentleman, was delighted! The bills were all paid on my approval, and he didn't make his percentage on them

About this time I was promoted as assistant Surgeon with rank of First Lieutenant.

After this work was finished I put every thing in order for sea and waited till the 10th of July as we did last year. on which day we sailed direct for Plover Bay; the Colonel having started two weeks before on the Wright for Petropavlovsk to meet us at Plover Bay.

The Badger was swapped off for the bark Onward; the bark Rutgers and the ship Nightingale were purchased. The steamer Saginaw was ordered to report to us by the Naval Department.

So much for what I have been doing now for what happened outside and at home so far as I can write it out for you. Particulars by word of mouth

As I previously mentioned, I wrote fully to Prof. Baird and to Chicago, and also a pleasant letter to your mother and have written to her from time to time, since.

There was no reply or acknowledgement of letters from Chicago at all, till March 7th a short note was rec'd from Stimpson nearly four months from the posting of my letter.

As arranged with you at St. Michaels, I opened your business letters; otherwise I should be in the dark today as to the state of things at Chicago. I rec'd papers and letters from Mr. Colliger and others which revealed the fact that a proposition was on foot to remove the academy seven miles from the business center of the town, by the University and Douglas' grave; the consideration being, a small lot on a back street.

In the papers Mr. Walker was represented as favoring the removal. In my letters and from Prof. Marcy afterwards (he coming out as geologist to an Idaho wagon road Survey,) I learned that the University was endeavoring to consolidate everything around it that would be useful to it; and that the movement found favor among horse railroad and town lot speculators. Somewhat nettled at Mr. Walker's neglect

not the less so, because I had asked him to write and ask others to write as a personal favor; I thought that it might perhaps do something to prevent the removal, if I wrote stating the opinion you had expressed to me about such a removal. I wrote; a copy of my letter is enclosed in one to you, from him. Soon after I rec'd a letter dated March 18th, very pleasant but finding fault because I had not written since my first letter, as if I was his private amanuensis, and not worth the trouble of an acknowledgement.

Since then, however that nothing should be wanting on my part I have written frequently and however irritated I may have been, have been carefully polite and explicit in all that could interest him. I have written to him nine letters including the first long one.

By return of mail I rec'd a letter from Walker which with my answer to it will be found enclosed in one of his to you.

I have heard nothing from him since and have only one other letter from Simpson.

S. is busy but in a man of Walker's habit it is simply "airs"; this dignity which cannot stoop to an act of common politeness.

I appreciate fully Mr. Walker's value to the academy and to you as a friend, his excell

ent business facilities and what he has done and doubtless will do for Science; but I see quite as clearly that his opinion of me is such a one as is incompatible with any further friendly feeling than is exhibited in the usual forms of politeness. He thinks that he can patronise one, who has always moved when at home, in a society which would hardly be open today, to Mr. Walker, and one who by birth and breeding is at least his equal. I have however as I said before been carefully polite in all my letters to him.

The Academy was not removed. A Historical notice of it by Dr. Andrews concluding with a Report on the condition of the Museum at date by Dr. Stimpson; was issued as an opening publication, by the Academy, and was followed by Proceedings the only objection to which was the small size of type and paper and a lack of Scientific matter. They are small octavo, Brevier type; but large octavo and Burgeois type, would have been every way better. I infer that the plates and part of the presswork of the first volume of the Transactions were on hand when we left but have no definite knowledge of it.

The Historical notice with which the proceedings should have commenced and the signatures already recd accompany this Report

About this time Mr. Walker with his usual sagacity raised the insurance to $10,000.00

Stimpson was going right on to Washington, to take the Academy's shares of the years collections, but I wrote to Prof. Baird protesting against it, and all the collections will be reserved intact till the Natural History work connected with the Expedition is finished. I have written by every steamer mail to Prof. Baird and must make my acknowledgements for his prompt replies and hearty co-operation and sympathy from the first.

Hom returned from Arizona and has gone East with one hundred thousand bugs. Cones has done the same and adds ten or twelve new species of birds to the U.S. fauna. The collection made by me at Grey town afforded one new sp. of bird, and Holland, Dr. Frantzius and Nicke a dozen or two more.

Marcy has gone to Montana as geologist to a wagon road survey through an unknown region. He returns this fall. Prof. Dana writes to me that the Brazilian party have broken up almost entirely the great "I Am" has treated his fellow workers very badly.

They are said to have spent one hundred thousand dollars already, and have secured two thousand new species of fresh water fishes in the Amazon River.

Old Anthony came back sick from Rio. and did not do much. King has been measuring mountains in Arizona and is back on the survey again. Whitneys two first volumes of the Cala Survey Report are out, I have them with me. Also some other new books by Clarke, Agassiz and others.

And among general news by the way, Andy Johnson has followed Tyler in truckling to the South, but Congress has passed a Civil Rights Bill over his veto and an amendment to the Constitution. The Fenians a secret Irish Society of great Power, have invaded Canada, beaten the Canadians in three battles but were subdued by U.S. Troops sent by Andy. A general war has broken out in Europe. Prussia (backed by neutral France) and Italy have attacked Austria and most of the small German States about a quarrel for the stolen Danish Duchies. It is likely to change the map of Europe. Russia has conquered Central Asia nearly to Northern India, greatly to the disgust of England. Max is nearly driven out of Mexico.

and the pope is shaky in Rome.

Now for bad news about the Academy. First there was a robbery there, and Meek lost several hundred dollars while Thompson was at the S.I. Second a week or two before we left, Baird telegraphed that there had been a fire there and half the collections lost. I telegraped for particulars for you, and as the line was down it was not until the day before we sailed that the reply came, showing it was not quite so bad as that, but bad enough. You will get the telegram from Chappell or the Colonel. Nothing was said as to the origin of the fire.

The Lyceum of Natural History of New-York was burned up a day or two after and a fire occurred in Salem occasioning some loss to the Essex Institute which is rapidly rising in importance. Nothing new at the S.I. No students at the Mus. Comp. Zoology, Agassiz says he will have no more. Cope is working at mammals and Cetaceans. I got Ayres to send all his fishes (Cala'n) to Gill for the Survey Rep. Cala gold Rocks proved Jurassic. This is all the scientific news I know.

Now for U.S. & Co matters on which I must be brief for prudence's sake till I see you

most of us were quartered on the vessels during the winter. Everything was lovely for a while. The first part of the season resembled last years style very much. All the bummers and rumsuckers imaginable were "on the Expedition". The disregard of discipline, rule or order in the Land Service was much the same. Wright & Chappel were made Majors. Lewis a Captain, and a host of new officers enjoyed the sweets of brass buttons and shoulderstraps for the first time; the Company uniform adorned the brothel, the street, and not unfrequently the ditch – Hyde was dismissed, but believe me others easier spared than even he were left. Fisher went home on leave. A man (Conlin) was dismissed and sent home for drunkenness, and returned by the next steamer, with orders to reinstate him, from New York. Ships were bought. Capt. Scammon recd further leave of absence. The work of fitting out the vessels and purchasing the marine stores was taken from him. Davidson and Glover faithful and devoted officers were refused further leave of absence by the Dept, partly through the machinations of Wright and Fisher. A new second in command arrived from New York named Frank N. Wicker, Lieut. Col. in rank. He is a

pleasant but inefficient officer, whose chief point is his conceit and jealousy of any doubt or question with regard to his rank and authority. He is considered the handsome man of the Expedition. He acted as purchasing agent, in connection with Wright and Chappel. The steamer was rebuilt almost, under the superintendance of Covert and the Col, not in accordance with Capt Scammons plans, at an outlay of some fifty thousand dollars –!
The Colonels brother-in-law, Mr Palmer came out. I do not know what his office will be.
J. W. Knox, correspondent of the N. Y. Herald came out to go over to Siberia with us and so round to St Petersburgh. A "gentleman of the bedchamber" of Russia was sent out as commissioner by the Russian Government. His name is Anassof and he is intended to report every thing done by the Company directly to the government. He is very pleasant and gentlemanly, but too nervous, frank and excitable to be a good spy. He will not visit the American side this year. Lastly one of the directors mr. Mumford, an excellent business man, very energetic, perhaps a little too much so for comfort, but well disposed toward the Scientific work, and superior

to every one in authority on this coast.

No important changes were made however as it was too late to do anything except hurry off the Expedition. I have good reason to believe that there will be an examination into the previous conduction of the Expedition on their return this fall, and that the result will be materially affected by the success or failure of this season's work. The Clara Bell, sailed for Petropavlovsk early in May, in charge of Capt Sutton, Sands having been discharged for disobedience of orders. She put into Honolulu leaky and was sold again. The Rodgers (a large bark) sailed for Plover Bay soon afterward in charge of Capt Anderson, the Palmetto Capt Arthur, for Puget Sound and Plover Bay. The Steamer, with the Colonel, Knox, Anassof, Lewis & others under Capt Patterson (Marston having resigned) for Petropavlovsk Lastly July 10, Golden Gate Capt Harding with Wicker and a lot of constructors for Plover Bay, and the Nightingale, Capt Seamman with Mrs. Seamman Wright Chappel, myself and a host of others, and two river stern wheel steamers aboard, for Plover Bay. The refitting of Col. Wickers state room on the Gate (Col's last year) cost six hundred dollars!!!

That red haired Walker, the man whose carelessness ruined half your outfit last year, was going on the Nightingale for first officer; but he brought two whores on board the vessel, took them into his room, and afterwards went up the dock, all three drunk and smoking; Mrs Cammon being on board at the time; I took the necessary measures, and he was discharged. The Col. assigned a young man to assist me, named ~~[illegible]~~ Caldwell, a very good fellow, but Fisher, ma plea of necessity put him on board the Gate by Wickers authority, after the Col had gone as Acting Surgeon, he being a medical student. I entered a written protest against this as <u>unauthorized</u>, which brought down on me the whole force of W's mighty indignation; however I still survive. I am in hopes of regaining Caldwell when I see the Colonel at Plover Bay, if the Gate is there. I find Wright to be your and my worst enemy. He is only worthy of notice and watching, because he is utterly without principle. And an adept in double meanings and deceit, while professing great friendship. Watch him sharp!

P.S. Chappel. My plans for the season, dependant on you, a good deal are as follows.

Having secured a good outfit, a small one, together with orders and instructions approved by the Col. and countersigned by the Captain; was put aboard every vessel of the fleet. though I dont if we get much in return except perhaps from the Yale where Caldwell is. The outfit is receipted for, and can be called for at any time; or must be accounted for, if not there.

I go up on the Nightingale to Plover Bay shall then endeavor to see you by going to St. Michaels, if I do not see you or if I cannot get there I shall go the rounds and winter at Petropaulovsk, the vessels returning to Frisco. Petrop. is a good place for botany, birds, and mammals, and there are three american merchants there.

I have outfit enough for two seasons (200 gals alcohol & 250 lbs arsenic) with economy and it is of no use to return to San Francisco for the whole Spring is lost.

No ship has come down or gone up to Sitka, except one which went to the Sandwich Ids: therefore I have no news from Bischoff and none of our ships will touch there so that I am puzzled what to do about him. He ought to have written by the Honolulu ship but did not.

Maynard funked and went home. Elliott

was promised to me by the Colonel this year but refused, and has given up the idea of doing any scientific work. Rothrock is in the interior and has made no sign of collecting. Popes party was a total failure, but Pope himself and one other went alone to the Stickeen and back and report favorable. most of the party have returned. Elliott is, he says Conways adjutant, and Conway is very jealous of you.

In conclusion I have to say that in all I have attempted I have met with a reasonable degree of success The Col. has been liberal and kind Col. Wicker has been accomodating except when I trod on the toes of his dignity, and Capt. Scammon has been, as ever, a trump card.

In hopes of soon meeting you face to face my dear friend and finding you well and success fut I remain ever

truly yours

Wm H Dall

Maj. R. Kennicott

Rus. Am.

Western Union Telegraph Company,

RUSSIAN EXTENSION.

No. 16.
Memorandum for
Mr Mumford
July. 1866.
W.H.D.

Copy.

Dear Sir. San Francisco July 1 1866.

As director of the operations on this coast, a succinct account of the past and present operations of the Scientific Corps, may not be uninteresting. Robt. Kennicott, J. T. Rothrock, W. H. Dall, H. M. Bannister, H. W. Elliott and F. Bischoff, left New York in the spring of 1865, under circumstances with which you are doubtless already familiar. Upon our arrival in San Francisco all were diligently employed in preparations for the coming season. Mr Rothrock, Elliott, and Bannister, were assigned to Major Frank Popes exploring party in Brit. Columbia. With the exception of Bannister the exigencies of the service have so far prevented them from doing any natural history work of moment. They have, however been energetic and successful in the prosecution of their duties as Explorers; So much so, that when it was proposed to detach Mr. Elliott for service, during the coming season on the main Expedition, in hopes that his leisure would afford material aid to the Scientific work; Major Conway refused to comply with the orders of the Engineer-in-chief, saying that he could not be spared. Major Kennicott on the Wright as Chief of the Russian Am. Exploring party Mr. Bischoff on the Golden Gate as Explorer, and my self as Acting Surgeon, with rank of Second Lieut. started July 14th from Drakes Bay for the North. Upon our arrival at Sitka Dr. Fisher at once took charge of the medical Dept. and I was transferred to the Marine Corps, as purser to the Golden Gate. Mr. Bischoff, being dangerously ill was left at Sitka in Hospital since which we have had no news from him. It would

be highly desirable if arrangements could be entered into, by which he might be taken to some one of the Northern stations where our vessels touch, by the annual Expedition or tour of the Governor from Sitka. I mention this as I understand that none of the company's vessels will touch at Sitka. Mr. Bannister was brought from New Westminster by the Milton Badger, having been transferred from Major Popes command. He was left as assistant storekeeper to Mr. Bean at St. Michaels; and was supplied with instruments to make meteorological observations; which his previous experience at the Smithsonian Institution will render very valuable. Mr. Kennicott with his party were left on the eve of departure for the Russian post of Nulato on the great bend below the rapids on the Youkon River. It is very doubtful if the exigencies of the service have allowed them to do any Natural History work so far. On the completion of the voyage by our arrival at San Francisco, some fifteen large boxes were forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution. They contained some ten thousand specimens of all descriptions, many of them unique or nearly so and of great value to naturalists. At my own expense, with the permission of Col. Bulkley, I made a visit to Monterey Cal. for the purpose of collecting and succeeded beyond expectations, surpassing all previous collectors in the number and variety of specimens obtained. They have been forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution. Through the far sighted liberality of Col. Bulkley an excellent but not extravagant outfit, for the future has been obtained. The liberal and enlightened policy of the

directors at home and the commanders of the Expedition on this coast will be appreciated by naturalists in all parts of the world and its results will keep their memory green when some cheaper and faster mode of communication has supplanted the Telegraph! The prospective plans ~~of~~ in relation to the Nat. Hist work depend much upon the news to be rec'd from Major Kennicott the director. But at present they include my remaining at some Northern post during the winter, in the capacity of Quartermaster or Surgeon which will allow of my leisure being appropriated to Natural History. This will include Meteorological and trigonometrical Surveys of the adjacent region, as far as circumstances will admit. Mr. Anassof has promised me the aid of the Russian authorities which will greatly facilitate the work. I have taken the liberty of making this communication that the operations of the Sci. Corps should be definitely and clearly understood. I would request that it be kept as private as the interests of the Service will allow. I remain respectfully Wm H Dall

Asst Surgeon in charge Sci. Corps

Mr. G. H. Mumford
Director W. U. Tel. Co.
San Francisco

N.B. I made this communication to Mr. Mumford in view of pending investigations next fall, when I may be away, and no one to deny that the Sci. Corps were a set of fellows who did nothing but catch bugs in brass buttons on high salaries — W.H.D.

Leave Blank Fort St Michaels Sept - 26 - 1866 -

~~Dear Sir~~, write on Half sheets - front ones

It is my melancholy duty to inform you of the sudden and untimely death of Major Robert Kennicott, ~~of~~ Director of the Chicago Academy of Sciences ~~and~~ of the Scientific Corps of the W. U. Tel. Exp. and Chief of Explorations in Russian America.

His death occurred May 31. 1866, at the Russian post of Nulato in Russian America, of heart disease superinduced by excessive anxiety and care in relation to the success of his party and the Explorations of which he had charge -

A more honest, true and energetic gentleman never lived. Devoted to Natural History he died while seeking to advance it; the annals of American science will bear witness to his success, ~~and the hearts of all who knew him will feel a~~ No one knew him but to love him and his death leaves to his friends a ~~[illegible]~~ void never to be filled.

The work which he contemplated and left unfinished, I have pledged myself to carry out, ~~as~~ to the utmost extent of possibility. If life and health are spared, the Natural History work notwithstanding this heavy loss

shall yet be a success - as far as I am competent to make it so.

I remain in the country this winter, and shall endeavor to penetrate to the interior so as to reach the most northern points by Spring -

The work of the past season interrupted as it has been, is however under the circumstances ~~very~~ satisfactory -

With deep regret - I sign myself

W. H. Dall

Chief of Scientific Corps W. U. Tel. Ex -

~~Surgeon of the Yankee~~

20 copies -