

Missouri River
May 30. 1881

My dear Father,

Large
Stamp
We hope to reach Benton day after tomorrow, & so, as our long voyage draws to a close it is time to write a few lines to be ready to mail on arrival. We have had a fairly good voyage up the river, having been stuck but one whole day on a sand bank, & occasionally for an hour or so. The water has been rising, & has enabled us to get our way through the shoals in the upper part of the river without much trouble. Since leaving Bismarck on the 16th we have seen no newspapers nor heard any news, & except that we are in the Centre of a Continent & often have time for a run ashore while the boats are wooding, one might as well be on the ocean. When the night is dark the steamer has to tie up, as there are many snags

in the rivers as well as shoals. We might reach Benton tomorrow, but have to stop at a place called Coal Banks, about 70 miles below to put off freight for the U.S. post Ste. Louis boat. The rate of passage from Bismarck to Benton is \$40⁰⁰ & taking into consideration the length of time occupied by the trip, it is really better more expensive than staying at a hotel, & though the arrangements are rough the food is good. — I send with this a copy of the printed table of Curt. formations to accompany my forthcoming report, with some remarks on it, & the Classification of the Curt, Tert, & Drift of the Western Country. These are intended as an answer to request in Circular of Geol. Congress & if you think well of them please have them ^(to his) copied at my expense & send with note to Hall. If you find anything you think should be altered please change, or if you think the notes not what required by circular don't send at all. I shall be equally pleased either way. There is no hurry. I think the papers are not asked for till 1st Aug. yours affectionately
 George