

**Auburn, July 1st, 1866**

S.C. Gray, Esq.

Up to this time of our late Spring rains the crops on your ranch promised finely. The early grain as I have before informed you was nearly all thrown down by the rain, and I believe I said to you that I was fearful of the rust—my apprehensions have proved true; all of the early wheat is more or less affected. Some of it very badly, so much so as to make it worthless. When I became aware of the Early Wheat being so badly damaged my hope was, that the late, which was very heavy would escape all accidents; but alas, for my calculations that also has taken the rust; and is likely to prove a worse failure than the early.

In addition to all this the orchard is comparatively speaking unproductive—not producing more than one fourth of a crop.

I am very sorry. I was in hopes that from the abundant promise of this year that you might be partially reimbursed for your losses in previous years. I have farmed here fifteen seasons, and, I know of no way in which I could have prevented the rust, unless I could have got in with the Clerk of the weather. Though if I could have done that. Instead of farming I should have gone into the Almanac business. Being less laborious and probably more profitable.

With great regret for this unforeseen calamity which will deprive you of all but a meagre percentage on your investment I subscribe myself, your respectfully,

**H. G. Wetmore**

P.S. I hope that Lucy is well and hearty by this time and that the little daughter Will be the joy of your hearts and the light of your Eyes.

**H.G. Wetmore**

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