Methow Mo.
Aug. 30th 1861

Dear Father:

I have written to you once from this place and received no answer, but as Uncle wrote to me that you expressed great anxiety to hear from me often I will try and put time to drop you a line twice a month, and oftener when anything of special interest occurs.

The papers keep you posted as to army movements and as you are already informed of my notions on secession nothing more is wanted in that point. So far here however a different state of feeling prevails from what I expected existing in any part of the South. The majority in this part of the flat are Democrats, as we would term them, but deplore the present state of affairs. They would make almost any sacrifice to have the Union restored but regard it as dissolved and nothing is left for them but to choose between two evils. Many too seem to be entirely ignorant of the object of present hostilities. You can
Convince them but what the ultimate object is to extirpate by force slavery. Then too they feel that the Southern Confederacy will never consent to give up their state and as they are the strong party it is prudent to favor them from the start. There is never a movement of troops made that the newspapers journals though the country do not give a startling account of their almost annihilation at the hands of the States troops, whilst the facts are that there are no engagements. My report has been reported out to pieces one that I know of, and I don't know but often, whilst a gun has not been fired at us. These reports go uncontradicted here and give confirmation to the conviction already entertained that our Southern is equal to five Northerners. We believe they are dilatory and know that if they are not we are.

Since I have been in command of this military district (two weeks) I have received the greatest hospitality and attention from the citizens about here. I have had every opportunity of conversing with them freely and learning their sentiments and although I have confined myself strictly to the truth as to what has been the result of the
different engagements, the relative strength of the objects of the Administration, and the North generally; yet they don’t believe a word I don’t think.

I see from the papers that my name has been sent in for Brigadier Gen. This is certainly very complimentary to me in particular as I have never asked a friend to intercede in my behalf. My only acquaintance with men of influence in the State was whilst on duty at Springfield, and I there saw a great deal of Judge and Hon. for favors that I determined never to ask for anything, and never have, until even a Senator, wrote a letter to Washington tendering my services but that declined.

My service with the Army I am now with have been highly satisfactory to me. I took it in a very disorganized, demoralized and insubordinate condition and have worked it up to a reputation equal to the best and I believe with the good will of all the officers and all the men. Knowing that I was likely to be promoted the officers, with great unanimity, have requested to be attached to my command. This I don’t want you to read to others for I very much dislike speaking of myself.
We are now breaking up Camp here gradually. In a few days the last of us will be on our way for the Mo. River, at what point? Cannot be definitely determined, wind & water being a consideration as well as a healthy place with a large encampment. A letter addressed to me at Selma will probably find me there. If I get my promotion I shall expect to go there for a few days.

Remember me to all at home and write to me.

Yours Truly,
U. S. Grant.

March 19, 1865
T.M.