

Mount Vernon Feb 12th 1851
Hon Alphiuu Felch

In answer to your favor of the 25th ult I sent you a message by telegraph to this affect " I cannot go to Oregon, but three practical young men with Solar Compasses will go if the terms suit them, more by mail.

I will now state more particularly, that the three young men referred to are practical surveyors with the Solar Compass, and have learned there business of me and my sons they are well qualified to execute good work and would pledge them selves to instruct other deputy surveyors in the practical use of the Solar Compass. These young men are of good moral character and worthy I think of implicit confidence they will be found able to execute any linear survey. that may be required of them in a satisfactory manner and also to collect geological specimens if required of them. The eldest of these men has had eight years of practical experience in the public surveys, with the Solar Compass. the other two about three each. These two are without means to go to Oregon without water, but could go by the overland route with horses and a suitable wagon which would probably be of use to them when they should arrive there. if it would not make too much delay. They would also want the incur-agreement of being employed during Mr. Preston's Official term on conditions of giving good satisfaction I think they would need a small advance after they arrive in Oregon to make their first outfit for the field. – Should this proposition meet the views of Mr. Preston, please reply by telegraph to Mr. William Ives at Detroit. and write me fully by mail

Your Obt. Servent
Wm. A. Burt

PS I cannot find any Solar Compasses for sale here they are all in the hands of surveyors who have use for them. My son William Burt has just said to me that if his services were wanted, and the inducements such that he could afford to leave the surveys here. he would go & run the base and Meridian lines

in Oregon and would go out with Mr. Preston on
the 13th of March next

W. A. B