

Forte Ohio. Opposite Camargo. March 21st 147.

Dear Parents, I this morning

find a moment to drop you a line of my well fare. I can only inform you. I have enjoyed good health ever since my departure from Virginia. I wrote you a letter from Barras St. Ago. informing you of our safe arrival at that ^{place} from sea. which I suppose you have received. I have nothing of very important interest to write you more than our safe arrival at that place. We come from Barras St. Ago. After remaining there a few days to Matamoros by the transportation of Steam Boats up the Rio Grande. They was nothing occurred of importance during our trip to Matamoros. The Rio Grande is a beautiful river more than of all the crooked things it is the crookedest. it is quite narrow and deep and in many places it is so entirely crooked that one boat running down the River and other up may run in the same direction for five miles and not be one mile apart at any time. The land from the mouth of the Rio Grande to Matamoros has the appearance of a good soil and appearance of a fine country. if it was cultivated. The timber is rather indifferent. Save the Locust which to any I suppose in the world. their fences are made entirely of this timber which they say lasts for ever. The Country abounds in game of every description almost. And one load of ammunition is sufficient for to make any good marksman a good ration such as turkeys geese deer or anything of that kind. Matamoros is a pleasant Village or town. And did prior to the late Captains contain about 15000. inhabitants. The water is good. The houses are low one story high made entirely of brick. floors not excepted. And the tops are fortified with brick walls which make a strong breast work almost equal to Fort St. Marco

our detachment remained at Matamoros three days to refresh themselves and exercise and then proceeded to this place 100 miles west by land 400 by water. The steam boat brought up the troops J. C. Fowler of Jefferson County Dr. Master Sergeant. and myself come on horse back by land to report the detachment. Make preparations for their comfort. It was rather a reckless notion for us to undertake it not being acquainted with Road and Country. And being great danger of the lancers, cutting us off. Tho we come through in 20 hours safe. Having no difficulty we come on Mexican horses. Tho. The horses here for bottom and power for their size are equal to any in the United States, And should I be able to save funds, I and have the luck to return I will bring one with me. You can buy a good horse here for \$15 dollars. I have a wild one caught for one dollar and broke to ride. Wild ~~Cattle~~ horses and mules are as plenty here as they are on farms in the heart of Texas. The cattle are generally very fine and fat. This place Comargo was a place of 5,000 inhabitants. Tho only about 2,000 now as they have left with Santa Anna for the big army and interior of the Country. This point is very sickly in the fall after the Rainy season sets in. The water here is tolerable good. River water. (Sto Juan) There is about 2,000 troops here now. we have been expecting and attack here for several days by the Mexicans. Tho I guess it will all be a hoax. I do not no how long we will remain here tho I guess a few months any way. Our last detachment has not yet arrived I haven't heard from them since I left (Fort Munroe). The last detachment is made of the Petersburg Beckford and Montgomery Companies. Young Smith is with them. We made three

quickest trip to this point on record. There is but few white
people or Americans here save the troops, entirely Mexican
almost. tho they is a great many settlers at Com. Matamoros
goods is exceedingly high here. This sheet of paper cost me
10 cents, tobacco two dollars per pound. Common cotton cloth
from 50 cents to 1.00 shoes \$5.00 boots common \$10.00. Yes.
If you want a dinner occasionally Price will one dollar,
and not good at that as they do not no how to cook here
tho the wages are high with the Rancheros, and sutlers
And American settlers here this morning offered me \$5 per
month to clerk for him, or any ^{other} good clerk, per month. The
Mexicans in this country do not think of working more
than their mines, live by fishing, hunting Yes. And in
short remind more of what I have read in natural
history of Indians than any thing else. (You are interested
in what is about the ~~land~~ of the Mexicans, they are as large
as any other Race of people I have ever seen, and possess
as much muscular power, tho to be plain they like for
good nature and moral sense. The females are generally
hand some, and dress quite costly. Tho they are two dark
their color is much like that of your little negroes more
like bill than any one else. They are fine dancers and
sing and play on different instruments splendidly.
The Guitar is their principal music. They have fandango
(goes) or dancing parties every night, where I enjoy myself very
much. Had I the time I would say something about Taylor's late
Victory. Tho you will be able to receive all the official news. Tho
it is certainly one of the ^{the} greatest on record, it is currently reported here
now that Santa Anna, is defeated in his election, and they have elected
a president in favour of peace. Tho it is not official.
Fare well adieu I not Brock

N.B Do not forget to write direct your letters to J.P.B.
~~Pleasant~~ Sergeant Major of the 1st Regiment of Va
 volunteers Leamings. P.O. or elsewhere Mexico, tell
 Amanda not to forget to play my tunes, my love to all
 and all inquiring friends. I am as yet well satisfied
 Yours truly
 J.P.B.

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BRAS'S
 APR 8 1862

P.S. F. Cole is well and in good spirits he stands high
 in the company and they officers respects him highly
 he was out yesterday on Pickett and come in with
 a fine saddle of mutton, which we feasted on last night
 Our boys are all anxious for a fight. you please excuse
 this scrawl as it is no place here to write and but little time
 Bro P Brock do write to me