

April 24th 1847.

Walnut Springs Opposite Monterey

Dear Parents. You no doubt, will soon be a looking for letter from as it has bin some three weeks since I wrote to you last. I Received your letter yesterday, giving me the first news from home since I left Virginia. And must assure you it afforded me no little pleasure to hear from you all whom I love and esteem so much and more especially to find that you all still possess a feeling of sympathy for me. After my many insignificant actions, I am willing to acknowledge that your letters had great weight on my feelings. And it was with difficulty I could read them owing to the manner in which you all appeared to be distressed about my leaving, and must confess had I known it would have distressed you so much I should have bin far from leaving. I knew it would distress you all ~~for~~ at first tho I thought it would only be a momentary thing, as you no we cannot always expect to be together. Tho it was wrong in me to leave you who has done more for me than any one else could do, or ever would ~~to~~ and distress you. Tho I hope you will pardon me for what I have done. I am fearful you have taken a wrong view of my present step. As I consider it one of the noblest positions of man. I have no doubt but your principal objections to my being here is owing to the many bad habits which is supposed to enslave one in and army and all I can say in this respect is that I hope I may have presence of mind enough, never to be entrapped again. I would at worst tell you it never should be the case again, tho it appears my pledges will not last. as I had made one before. I was determined never should be broken and was then entrapped in the same snare. And all I can now promise you is to hope and try to do better, which I will do. Ma - You told me in your letter that Senale told my Father, that you new all about my leaving home, and the difficulties under which I was placed. Surely he new better for I never told him any one new any such thing. And I no you did not no it.

the Government enjoy their health better than any other
from their lives. I do not see how it will be
through this war and we have and look of coming
And Seneca must have known, it was extremely wrong to tell
Father that when he new it would excite him under such
Circumstances. And bring you into difficulties, who every one
must see who ever new you, that you would be far from know-
ing any thing, that you would not at worst make void if it
was for the better. Yes, My dear Mother it has more than
wont been the case that, my eyes has been bathed in tear
owing to the situation I have left home. Not on my own
account tho on yours who I left, I see that I acted very
imprudent in the course I pursued before I left. And why I
did so it was my own fault and I am at a loss to see,
tho for heavens sake, pardon me, and do not think because
I have latterly acted so imprudent that it will always
be the case, for if there be honour in the Race of being
I here make a pledge before God, that should I ever
act so again, it will be breaking all the promises that
one can combine within his own bosom. And I have
but one Request to make, that is be satisfied with this
promise and do not let me absence distress you, do not
I ask of you think I have come here to throw myself away
because I have not, I have come to do the duty of a soldier
and try to have my name enrolled with the many who now
stand as omnipotence above us, And for my course here you
may depend upon it it shall be a prudent brave and
subordinate one, tho it cost me my life, Mother I see I am
bound to you by all the ties this world could possess, and
believe me when I tell you that I do not believe there
is any being who lives that love and have more feeling
for their parents than I, and all I do now hope for is
that I may complete this trip with honour and Credit
and then return to your own dear home, to comfort and
assist you in your old days, which I hope I may be able to do.
And now let me ask you to be satisfied until you hear I am
dissatisfied or until I return, My dear Father I Received your
very good letter, it gave me great consolation and

Was well and in good spirits. My Brother & our new horse
I left to look at China with Brown's Commission for
happy rep. to find you had not forgotten your un-
fortunate child and to find you still possessed a feeling
of love and sympathy for me, which perhaps is more than
I deserve. You write me you have settled all my business
and will keep what I have left until I return. I wish that
I shall never be able to repay you for the one half you
have done for me, and as for having any thing taken care
of you take it and use it to pay what I owe you.
I have left nothing behind save my connections and
parents that I am not willing to part with to settle
my business. It is true, my horse I always valued
extremely high and I thought perhaps more of him
than I should. I would be glad if you could keep him
in your own possession or in the family. Tho I am no
doubt asking too much. I can only add that I intend
to do my duty in this campaign, as a soldier and an
officer, and should kind heaven favour me with the
liberty of returning, my whole life shall then be devoted
to your happy rep. and my mother and sister which
will be the only plan to repay you for what you have
done for me. Tho believe me when I tell you I enjoy this
trip very much, and would enjoy it much more
it was not for you all at home which frequently
disturbs me. Thinking perhaps you need me for some
assistance. Tho I ask of you to be contented about
me as I will not always be from you unless it should
be my doom to die upon the battle field should
be the case it will be paying a debt a few years sooner
which we must all pay, and no one can escape. You
will discover we are now at Monterey 168 miles from
Camargo where I wrote to you last, I gave you all the
news up to that time, we left Camargo 16 days ago and
landed here yesterday, we come by the way of China
where we had great anticipations of a fight, as
Urea had made that his head quarters, we cut our
way through three a portion of country that was never

explored by the Va- Troops. Tho when Alena heard we was
coming with the Va- Regiment he fled to the Chapultepec and
left the place free for our Reception. we took possession
it is a pretty place number about 1500 inhabitants, we left
six companies there to garrison that and fortify it. and
come on to Gen Taylor's Camp with the other six. Landed
here yesterday with 190 wagons and every thing in order
making one of the best trips ever made and general Taylor
gives us great praise. Monterey is a most beautiful
place and this camp is one of the prettiest places my
eyes ever beheld. our troops are in good health and
fine spirits. I am well satisfied as yet and never enjoyed
better health in my life. I hope this will find you all
enjoying the same & dear friends & broods.

10
Archibald Broock Esqr.
Wasatapolis P.A.
Rockingham
Virginia
Via New Orleans

P.S. Gen. Taylor looks precisely like an old dutch farmer
and every body likes him he is perfectly sociable. we
all took supper with him yesterday and enjoyed it very
much. I do not know when we will go next, tho I gess our next
march will be to San Louis Potosi, or old Santa Anna. I would
say something about Scott's fight at Vera Cruz tho you I gess have
heard all the particulars before now. Scott's loss was 40 killed and
20 wounded. Mexican 2000. Forward L.P.B.