

3 May 1847

Camp Taylor Opposite Monterey

Dear Mat. Yours of the 29<sup>th</sup> of March come duly to hand a few days since. And I must assure you it afforded me no little pleasure from and old friend and acquaintance with whom I have enjoyed so many happy hours. And also to hear from a portion of Country which I love so much. I received a letter at the same time from Bob Sprinkle that I received your being the first I have heard from home, save one letter from my ~~father~~ Father which I received at Camanche and you may be assured that your letters afford me much pleasure not only to hear of your well fare and happiness, tho' to hear from the Old hills and Valley ~~with~~ <sup>which</sup> I have enjoyed so many happy years. And sir I must assure it requires a very stern heart, that does not beat to return there again when it reflects seriously of the many ties that it has left behind the couch of this, for as you are all war men in that country and as nothing but best such news will interest you I will try to give you a detail as near as I can tho' believe me when I tell <sup>you</sup> it is with difficulty that we can get news there correctly. as every one has news to suit himself. And again you have a much better chance of hearing the news there than here, and perhaps as soon ~~as~~ <sup>as we</sup> are now situated. Tho' I do you have heard all concerning the Battle of Vera Cruz. There has nothing occurred of importance since. Save Gen Scotts advancements upon Santa Anna. in which he succeeded in Rallying him taking all of his artillery and arms, even in taking the cartridges out of the Boxes



and we have received confirmed reports that  
the Mexican army was completely cut up taking a  
vast number of prisoners. And old (Santa) Barley  
made his escape with his own life guards. Tho  
it is of no use for me to go into a detail of this battle  
as you will hear all about it before you receive  
my letter. As for the Virginia (Regiments) you will  
discover they is one Battalion here and the other  
at China, 75 miles below here. we have bin in  
this situation for last month. Tho they is orders  
now issued for the 2nd Battalion to proceed to this  
place, and then the Regiments to move off to  
~~Saltillo~~ <sup>Saltillo</sup> 60 miles west of this. and that move will  
place us as the advance guard of the American  
troops on this Route. Santa Anna has gone back  
to San Louis and there they Mexicans say he will  
make his deadly stand. Gen Taylor has only about  
five thousand troops under his command, and  
my opinion is that as soon as our troops concentrate  
here from other quarters of garrison they will be  
ordered to Saltillo, and from there to take up a  
line of march for San Louis, where Gen Scott  
and Gen Taylor's troops will meet and give them  
another hell, which it appears they are bound  
to get, under any and very circumstance, and  
~~as~~ for cutting the matter short we are bound  
to whip them so long, as we fight them  
and they is no chance for us to get into a fight  
until we advance on San Louis, unless an accident  
which I think we will do about the first of  
June. It is here said (San Louis) is their strong hold.



and very strongly fortified. Tho' what matters that  
with Volunteers as Gen Taylor says they can do any  
thing and every thing. That I guess you will think  
this a devil of a letter from the way it is written  
tho' I cannot help it as I have bin called off ~~at~~  
~~twenty times~~ since I commenced writing, and the  
worst news in the Kingdom. And Mr. Carly  
has walked out and I have stolen his which  
is not much better. I now this letter does  
not contain one sentence that I thought of  
writing when I commenced. Tho' I <sup>was</sup> first called  
out to guard mounting then to attend the Hospi-  
tal Report. Then to see Col Hamtrance and so on  
tho' you ~~will excuse~~ excuse me for the present. I can  
only add I am as yet well pleased and glad  
I made or attempted the adventure. I have enjoyed  
good health ever since I left Va. And the Regiment  
Generally I no of nothing more of importance to  
write. Young Smith from Harrison Bay are here  
well. Cole is with the 2nd Battalion at China  
he was well and well pleased the last I heard of  
him. I will bring this scrawl to a close by asking  
you to be kind enough to write to me often  
as your letters are of great worth to me I will  
write when ever any thing occurs of importance  
Tell Bob Sprinkle I would have written to him  
tho' I am out of paper and will write soon  
Tell tho' that will be no excuse for him. And as you  
say you feel for a soldier then be certain to write  
My Respects to Mrs Brown & your family also to all



inquiring friends. and for heavens sake do not  
forget me to the women; I am well I hope  
we may soon have chance to see what the Virgin-  
ians are made of; adieu  
J. P. Brock,  
No. 110 Brocken.

10

MAY 29 1860

Mr. Madison Brown, P.M.  
Hartford, P.A.  
Rockingham  
County Virginia  
U.S.A.

P.S. Col. Hamtrunk has bin very ill ever  
since he has bin in in Mexico. Tho is now  
recovering rapidly. we have not lost a man  
out of the Regmt since we landed in Mexico