

Buena Vista, July 22nd 1847.

Dear old friends, John G.

As this is one of the most beautiful mornings I ever seen, and as I have rather more time than usual, I will take the liberty of dropping you a line, to give you an idea of things here. I wrote you a long some-thing some four weeks hence giving you all the news up to the time we left Monterey. And I am sorry to tell you now, that there is nothing transpired since I wrote you last, that will be of any interest to you. More than the good health of our troops. Yes, together with your acquaintances, I am sorry to inform you that we have been in Mexico for nearly six months, and have never had the pleasure of one single blow from the enemy. Altho we have seen their Lancers and troops, yet the clouds from our sight, and gave us no chance, to try our hands. Tho I am glad to inform you the first Virginian is yet to be found, absent from his duty, at any of our Stampede. Altho we have had sorrow, and often induced to believe, the enemy was upon us. I am also glad to inform you we have the finest Regiment, that has ever been in Mexico, and is the pride of General Taylor & Woob's troops. And well may they be proud of such a Regiment. And with safety may Virginia say she has but one ~~and~~ Regiment & a Battalion here. Yet she has as many men for duty, as many good soldiers & men, as any two now, or ever has been in Mexico. Gen Taylor says it is the finest Regiment he ever seen. Gen. Woob said, we surpassed his expectations, in appearance & good behaviour. And as to military discipline, we were not surpassed by any Regiment. So if we should never have a fight, we will claim a compliment from good judges which cannot be surpassed.

God will discover us and now situated upon the very spot, upon which
the battle of Buena Vista was fought. A battle which will long be
remembered by every American bosom. I wish I could give you a dis-
cription of this plain. tho you will have to excuse me until we
shall meet again. Should we ever be granted that liberty. However
I took a walk a few days since, upon the field, thinking per-
haps I could find some relics, to return to Virginia, in remem-
berance of this celebrated place. I had walked but a short dis-
tance, struck with astonishment, to find hundreds of dead
Mexicans, lying upon the field, lying in the same positions
they were when they fell before the points of the bayonette. It
is the most interesting, tho the most solemn sight, I ever witnessed
to see them lying, intirely dried with the sun, as they fell upon
the field. Some with their heads blown off, others, with arms
legs &c. intirely blown from them, by our artillery. And then to
see the many positions, our batteries had during the day, to find
the banks of the ravine, yet stained with blood which gushed
from the bodies of dead which is now lying around it. And in
short this view alone is worth all the hardstip, that I have
encountered, of a soldiers life. And I am sorry, my old friend
that you are not with me. As I no you would be pleased with
this Campaign. Tho enough of this. For I should like to
have you with me to visit the Cenotaph, oh my friend here
is the beauty of this trip. I wish to be avenged I could have you
with me at one fandango. I no you would not give it for all
the balls you ever saw in the States. Then to see them bathing by
fiftye, in the cristal stream of the Cordillera, then to visit them
at their own private dwellings. where you will find every accom-
modation that you could request, if this is not true happiness

all day, with comfort. And I detest you and your...

Prayer. Under your hundred with their own ears on. Now I suppose
Prof. You in the latter place I am sure, and they in our manner
where shall we find it. persons in the state may think they have
some idea of the doings we have here, tho it is not the case, and indeed
I am at a loss to describe them to you. And believe me, if ever any one
enjoyed a trip, I enjoy this altho we had some rough times, when
compared, with our pleasure, the former is sunk into contempt
tho I must close this subject, at the present, and await a verbal
conversation to give you all the particulars. As to what is to be done
I am at a loss to tell you. Genl. Wool is here with 25,000 troops
Gen Taylor is still at Monterey with some five hundred, not
enough to garrison Monterey. Scott is giving them the devil
near the capital. Tho you hear as much and as soon from
him as we do. And what is to be done is a question at a loss to
us, whether they mean to come to a general battle, whether Gen
Taylor is to be left in this desperate situation without troops
and try to crowd Gen Scott with glory and honour, or whether Gen
Taylor is to be reinforced, and march on San Louis we cannot
say, tho they is some thing in the wind and some thing soon
must and will be done. And altho I should be highly pleased
to have a fight before us here, yet I should be much at a loss
to leave Mattillo. And some of its inhabitants, I had almost
forgot to say anything about Mattillo, it is a small little mountain
number many more inhabitants, has the third finest church
in Mexico. And a church worth a visit from a person here to see
I cannot give you and idea of it here, my paper is nearly exhausted and
I must come to a close. do not forget me to all who you believe to my
friends. My respects to James Henney, tell him he has missed the
greatest opportunity of his life. Remember me kindly to all the
Lady & write often and give me all the news tell you to write
to me. I expect to eat my christmast dinner in Harrisonburg

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Call V Bill Smith and well and mightly pleased look
 also. and am sure for a fight. And you would be ~~not~~
~~forced to~~ diverted to see them. more especially acting the
 old soldier. we had some hard times V. Giger. is well and
 perfectly at home. left Harper. is also much improved
 in health. Harman. the same. now old friend when you
 recid this do not forget your old friend at home with
 and ever believe me to be your friend. Adieu
 Yours & Harrie Esq.

I no more

BRAZOS
 JUN 9.

From the army
 Reception

Mr John J Harney
 my
 Harmanburg, Va.

P referring hands by
 the same name of Virginia Water

~~The sum of money many
 have shown (shown) what
 selling money the money
 of money
 To purchase
 any good once upon which
 our lives have been~~

a long black
 catalogue of officers
 are reported of you

For President. Gen Taylor. who dare say he is not
 worthy. I had forgotten to tell you. this is the d-d coldest
 country I ever was in. instead of burning to death. we and nearly
 froze every night. I sleep cold under the blanket and wear a coat
 all day. with comfort.

to
 leg
 air
 when
 them