

Headquarters Mexico

Camp Buena Vista. November 27th 1847.

My Dear Friends

I this morning find myself seated in the same tent. Surrounded with the same mountains and valleys. I were when I wrote you last. No news. And no change. The same duties to perform to day as I did yesterday and the same expectations for to morrow. Last evening we received intelligence the mail which we had been so anxiously waiting for. was cut off between Chamarago. and Monterey. and again our hopes are all blighted. in that respect. Last week we received news they were great prospects for peace. And our last express. come in and say there is no possible chance for peace. And that Mexico swear she will never enter into a peace until every North American leaves the Country. And again we find our selves no better off and when we first come to the Country. And now we find no hopes for peace and no chance for a fight. Such is the outline of a soldiers life. Connected with a thousand other disappointments and misfortunes. Tho under all this I am happy to inform you. I enjoy good health. And bear up under it all better than any one could expect. And altho the time has long since expired. when I expected to have been with you. And an other new year has almost made its appearance. I bear up under all this. And still live in hopes of seeing a brighter day to come. It is an

old Maxim, and a true one, it is a long hand that
has no twin, And indeed woud I to exprese the true
Sentiments of my heart. After so many disappoint
ments. I woud almost say, as the fox when he was
traped, I am caught for woust. Tho I am proude to say
when I entered into the service of our country, I determined
to discharge all the duties of the Soldier. and happy to
say I have never failed to do so. And now altho almost
every hope, has been blighted. I am determined I should
Kind heaven screen me from death, and the sword
of the enemy to have my name enrolled with those
who will receive an honourable discharge of their
country. after the War shall be no more.

It is of no use for me to enter into a long history
of the War here. As it woud only prove uninteresting
to you and tedious to me. And for me to attempt
to give you the many reports that are in circulation
it woud require a ream of fool caps to contain
them. And after you had wread them. You woud be
no more enlightened, than you now are. As there is
no Confidence to be placed in them. I sometimes
think the war has continued nearly as long as it can
tho again, I am forced to believe without different
steps by taken by our government, the war may yet be
continued one or two years or longer. Something must
be done to make the enemy feel the effect of our
force. and then and not until then, can have an
honourable peace, and believe me should our Congress
not take different steps of settling the war, the time

is far in the distance when we will have peace. Tho
I must say ^{to} I am yet satisfied. I begin very sensibly to feel
my situation I begin to find. I am spending much of the
period of my life, in doing nothing for myself. And
should the war continue beyond common expectations my
sacrifice must prove to be considerable. There is no chance
for any one to make a dime here. Situated as I am, when
every thing we buy cost four pence. And the amount received
not sufficient to defray the expences in the State. Some may
think there are many making fortune. Tho my word for it
if they are their Comrades are superior in rank to any
in the Va. Regt. (To day is pay day for wages in three months)
and if you were here to see with what eager the soldiers
receive their few dimes. And hear the calculations they make
what they intend doing with it, would you not be struck with
astonishment and regret. You would be diverted at the scene.
Now for a week to come every one will be living a little better than
usual, which will cost him three pence. or purchasing some little
relics to send to some friends or relatives at home. Tho in two
weeks to come the money has all disappeared. And again two
long months to look forward to without receiving a cent.
A company has just passed my tent door, ^{to} and paid off
and in fact so different are their countenances, from
those on other occasions, would you not were acquainted with
them. You would swear they were an other parcel of beings
We have many things here to amuse us, that were they looked
at right, would punish us. there is but one cover for a soldier
to pursue, that looks upon every thing for the best, and
let nothing distress him, for should he ever yield, he is that
moment. Ruined in happiness

On Tuesday last we had a great Stampede in Camp. Intelligence
came to head quarters, at 12 o'clock at night, that the Coman-
chee Indians had fell in upon the Mexicans thirty miles
above here. Killing and robbing every thing before them. Four
of our Company with a like number of Missippians were
immediately ordered to proceed to where they were. In a few
minutes we were off with a hope of having a skirmish
tho before we could possibly arrive at the scene of action the
Texas Rangers had found them come in contact with them
which ended after a Skirmish of fifteen Indians killed and
one American. The Indians left all their plunder, horses and
every thing they had and fled to the mountains which ended
the riot. These Indians had several thousand horses, with they
had stolen from the Mexicans. And some Mexican children
and some women with they had stolen. They were taken by
us. and the women & children brought to camp and fed, and
handed over to the Mexican authorities also the horses. I do
not think I ever was more fatigued than I was during the
tramp, and returned to camp mad enough. It was not the inter-
tion of the Indians to interfere with us. tho I suppose as we
had unarm'd those Mexicans. we were had to defend them
I do not think I ever saw things worse reared than the Mexican
them at present. and I took possession of his horse, and
rode him to camp. The horse I have turned out, and the
saddle I have got. had I chanced I would send it to you
for a curiosity. I must bring this scrawl to a close, hoping
you will excuse it, its many imperfections. So, as I
have been in much haste, tell uncle Hugh, I received
his letter also a P. S. from Seneca. I was happy to hear
from them. and will write to them soon, do not fail
to write often. I will keep you informed of the terms
here. Give my regards to all inquiring friends. I hope
er long things may take a change, and we may
all meet again. Adieu
J. P. M. etc.

P.S. I will write to Amanda, next week, also to uncle Hugh
Good by, J. P. B.,
E. D.