

Camp Buena, Vista Mexico,
Saturday Decm. 11th, 1847,

My very Dear Parents,

I again seize the opportunity of assuring you of my kindest regards. Yes, I received a letter from you this morning also one from Amanda Demare, Mary and some others of my acquaintance, and be assured they were hailed with an undecipherable pleasure. I am truly sorry I have nothing to write you that would equal the value of your own. I am truly happy to hear you all continue to enjoy the blessings of a free and plentiful Country. I have enjoyed continued good health ever since I arrived in the Country and I have almost been induced to believe kind Heaven has smiled upon me, in that respect. I have had many ups and downs since I left you, I have seen some happy hours, & some sad ones, I have continued to try to look upon everything for the best, and not to let any thing disturb me, and I must now thank kind Providence for what little pleasure I have been able to see here. My feelings have frequently been shaken at past events. My very blood has been made to curdle in my veins at the fall of some dear friends, or something else, I have met with many friends here, that one now no more, they have gone some by death some by discharge and an other, yet I have born all this and still looked ahead for better things. You speak a great deal of my, and express through out your letter all the kind feelings and love a parent could possess for a child. I must assure ^{you} I feel happy when I read your letters, and

to find I have such Parents, I am apprised of the
feelings you possess for me, I no I am bound to you by
many ties, I no my feelings is equally the same for
you, I no that I have done wrong in some things
and you feel fearful of my future actions, I have
said I would make no promises thro my conduct
for the future should speak for its self, and now
I ask of you never fear me, as I have determined
nothing but the sword of the enemy or death shall
keep me from you, I no that I am bound to you by my
many ties, and should kind fortune smile upon ^{me} dur-
ing the dangers of this Campaign my next effort
shall be to return to my connections and friends
to try to repay them for what they have done for me,
you appear to be anxious for my return, and think I
am doing but little here, happy would be to witness the
day when we shall have no more war, I frequently picture
to my self the happy meetings of my friends tho I see
no chance for me ever to return until the war shall
be no more, such a thing as acting deceitful, and get
out of the service I cannot think of, such a thing as getting
a discharge before the war closes, is of no use to think
unless it be for sickness, I would be willing to return
now, as for your own sake could I do it honourably
tho I am not dissatisfied, I am willing to remain longer
if they will give us active service, I am tired of doing
nothing, and passing over the same monotonous duties
of a camp life, tho I am in hope a change will soon
take place, and we may either be able to conquer a peace

or fall in the attempt. I do not fear my own life and never
have, and all I ask for is a chance to sell it at its Value
We have had thousands of reports here in relation
to the termination of this War, we have frequently been
induced to believe them, tho it appears, no one knows,
what is to be the result, tho surely something will soon
be done, this kind of work cannot last much longer,
I have no news of interest to write you, concerning us
we are still at Buena Vista, two weeks ago we had a
small skirmish with the indians, tho they was but
one american killed and five wounded, & about fifty in-
dians killed. the snow fell here last week one inch
deep, more than they had here all last winter, the
weather is pleasant here now, tho very dully and dry
Coln Hamtramck thinks we will soon advance, prob-
ably before Newyears, tho I dont think so, the prospect
for peace appears more dull nowd than I have ever
seen it, no one can tell what will follow.

Ma, you tell me, you want to know how I fare, I would
write you, all about our fare here if I could, tho I do not
nowd where or how to commence, our provision consist
of Bread, salt pork, or bacon, coffee, and sugar, any
thing else we may want we have to buy from the mex-
icans. And at high prices, strictly speakin the fare
is very rough, tho one can get use to any thing we have
all our own cooking to do, there are many objections to
soldiering here, to the state as (it is most impossible to
buy any thing you may want, at fair prices, tho all
this is no more than we can expect as soldiers.

You ask me to tell you my wages here, they are
seventeen dollars, a month. You state General Sage my
wage is seven hundred dollars a year, he is intirely
mistaken, if you look in any of the army regulations
you can find my pay laid down, at what I tell you
our pay is but a poor thing here. The price of every thing
being so high it soon goes, and we dont no what for,
if it does not matter much, as we can do since we
have, but nearly as well without it as with it, our
clothing is the principal thing. You state Gen. Sage
General fifty dollars for my uniform, I do not no what
it cost as I had to write to him for it, from Fortrop
Munroe and did not receive it until I landed in
Mexico, tho it might have cost that amount, I am
sorry to inform you it, become very much milled
in crossing the Atlantic, no one paying attention to
it, and has been of very little use to me. The Service
is very hard on clothing, and it has cost me nearly
all my wages to keep myself decent, Tell Gen. Sage I want
him to keep an account of all our affairs, should I
ever return I feel bound to him for them. I wrote to
General Sage some months ago, that I would be pleased to
get a Commission in the regular army, for several
reasons, first the pay would be five times as
much, next we would be far better, and lastly if I
become tired I could resign, and come home, and
would undoubtedly be a more honowable situation
I would have written sooner tho I still thought peace
would be made. I would be glad if my friends would
assist him, I received a letter from him yesterday
which stated he would do all he could for me, I am
confident if he would get Gov. Smiths assistance I would
succeed, I would be happy to receive such a Commission
then when ever I thought proper I could resign and
return home, I must close this hasty scrawl, will
you excuse it, I have written in great haste, and
have not the time to weave it over to day in our
muttering in day, and we all are bound to be
present, my love to all, and ever believe me
to be with much regard yours truly
Adams, J. P. Brocks