



NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans April 15th 1846

Dear Sister

Your kind and affectionate return of our former letter, was duly received by me upon my return and a business time is preferable.

I am somewhat affected by this, for your long absence, and hope for the future you will keep out of our minds balance.

I was greatly grieved to learn of brother Saml. Smith's death so unexpectable to me. She was a good hearted, virtuous and true wife of all their family, a worthy brother. She had gone I thought to be a better world and it was happy.

I can only give what money seemed to you for day and sleep as the money by changing it into bank bills for good quality to mind. Upon the receipt of this instructively mind I put on the same badge of mourning as I should have ^{and} I had it home. I shall always remember such of me who loved me as a sister. They are all known her faithfulness and imitate her good qualities.

Your letter pleased me much and had it not sufficient time I would reply to it in a long and perhaps to you interesting manner. I am now business very busy and only take a few moments from my rest to write you. I am not well and hope to see you all during the ensuing summer. I will be able to give something of an idea of New Orleans from the description at the head of my letter. The large building you see

OKLAHOMA
APR
16

PAID

This copy of the
Genl. C. S. W. M. & Co.
Rochester
New York

Hope on, my little love, our Captain has just told
me he has not the slightest doubt but that will be

H^Q U. S. Army of Occupation
Monterey Mex. 13. Dec 1847

Orders
No 5. *copy*

It having been reported that serviceable
Ordnance and Ordnance Stores, are frequently turned over
to the Ordnance Depots without sufficient cause, in
future, Officers having charge of Ordnance supplies, when
they may deem unserviceable, will apply to the Com-
manding Officer, to have them examined by a Board
of Survey.

Such as the Board may condemn, and
others, will be received by the Ordnance Officer.

A copy of the proceedings, which must specify
in all cases, the reasons for condemning the stores
will be sent to the Officer who is to receive them.

By Command of Brig Genl Wood
Iris Moore
I. M.

Col Webb. furnished direct

U. S. Store Ship Fridonia

(No 17) July 5th 1847 - Off Anton Lizardo

My own precious little wife. I wrote a hasty - a very
hasty line the day before yesterday by an Officer who left
the same day for New Orleans, - I was hurried to, and obliged
to break off so soon, that I am sure I must have left unsaid
many things which I might have said, and perhaps, said
^{some} many things which I ought not to have said, at least,
without something further in explanation of the things that
I did say. Today, a vessel leaves for Pensacola and
I hasten to dispatch by her another hasty line, my sweetest
love, in which I will make sure to repeat, whilst I have
time to explain, my request that you will direct letters here-
after, and until you have further instructions, to

U. S. Store Ship Fridonia

Gulf Squadron

Vera Cruz

Via New Orleans -

(Postage Paid)

As often as once in ten days, and continue at the same
time. My dearest Jimmy, to write to Pensacola quite as often
as usual, or, my little darling, you can arrange it so as
to have a letter written as often as once a week, and direct
first to Vera Cruz, and then to Pensacola, Alternately -

Dearest, sweetest Jimmy, don't fail to write as often as once
a week, for you must bear in mind, always, it is my only
source of happiness whilst we are thus separated -

I regret very much that this arrangement was not made

WFO SHEET 5114-031W AN-11

WFO SHEET PRODUCTION M-12

SCOTT'S ARMY OF INVASION LANDS
AND LAYS SIEGE TO VERA CRUZ

General Winfield Scott arrived at Anton Lizardo on Mar. 4, 1847 and on the 9th he landed 8,600 troops on Collado Beach before Vera Cruz. The following seven letters were written by George M. Ransom onboard the U. S. S. FREDONIA, except for one written onboard the Prize Schooner MAHONESE. Ransom gives an eye witness account of the siege and bombardment of Vera Cruz and the Castle of San Juan d'Ulloa. The following extracts are from the letters.



"Fredonia Saturday Feby 20th 1847/Off Anton Lizardo.....To all apperances, things here are rapidly approaching to a Crisis....Sunday 21st Yesterday the Sloop of War "Albany" from a cruise and my friend Tom Corssan who is attached to her as Master, came on board and dined with me.... Since we arrived a number of vessels - bringing several Prizes too, lately taken - have returned here, having been recalled from their Crusing by the Commodore [David Conner] - A great event is coming off soon, without doubt - Genl. Scott, with about ten thousand troops, is expected here daily - He was only about one hundred & fifty miles from here, with an ample fleet of transports, and to sail in a day or two, when the "Albany" left him [Scott arrived at Lobos Island the day this letter was written - Feb. 21st.] - It is expected he, himself & Suit, will come in the Sloop of War "St. Marys" - Upon the arrival of his fleet, it is said, his troops will land under cover of the arms of our squadron and proceed immediately to attack the City of Vera Cruz - The City taken, the Castle must soon fall, and it is probable more than probable the war will then soon terminate - unless there is an immediate negotiation for peace, which we have good reason to suspect has already been, or is about to be started by the Mexicans, this will be a scene of terrible fighting during a part, at least, of next month - We are so situated here that we can watch a great many of their motions now on shore. See their watch fires all along the coast, and away back into the country, by which they convey intelligence of the arrival of Ships, &, to those who are far in the interior - perhaps to Genl. Santa Anna, at San Luis Potosi - Mexican boats sometimes venture out in the midst of our shipping, and attempts have been made to seize a quantity of Stores belonging to our government, on a small Island here in possession of the Squadron - It is said also that attempts have been made to set fire to some of our Shipping - The consequence is that boats of the Squadron are now kept constantly rowing guard amongst the Ships and around the Island, during the night, and each officer of the deck of every vessel required to be armed with a couple of Pistols, or a "Revolver", and to keep a certain number of men ready to seize muskets at a moments warning - It is supposed - it is certain in fact - the Commodore contemplates the fitting out of some grand expedition soon for boats, though, what it is to be we are as yet unable to discover - George"

THE WESTERN MAILS

"U. S. Store Ship Fredonia
[No. 3] Off Anton Lizardo. Saturday. Feby. 27th, 1847

"It has been blowing a tremendous "Norther" here since yesterday, and we were all astonished this afternoon by the arrival of three large Ships (Transports) which stood in boldly through passes, among dangerous reefs that extend all along the coast - These Ships are swarmed with soldiers - a part of Genl Scott's Army - and the rest of the Fleet, said to consist of something between Sixty & Seventy vessels, will doubtless be in very soon after the gale abates - It was a most exciting scene, to behold those Ships - particularly one, which, it seemed for a time, must inevitably be dashed to pieces - Surrounded, as they were by rocks, in the height of the gale - dangers, the most appalling a sailor can imagine - Had either of them struck, every soul must have perished ere assistance could have been rendered - One of them on coming to anchor, being anxious, no doubt, to communicate with the Commd. as soon as possible, despatched a boat with a strong crew to pull for the Flag Ship ("Raritan"), but the poor fellows were soon carried away to leeward, out of sight, and it is probable they have perished - , , , , , March 3d - The vessel [Raritan] sailed (28th) and, as you see, I had no chance to get it aboard - For some reason best known, doubtless, to the Surly old fool who commands the Squadron, no boats were permitted to go alongside, except the one that took the "Raritan's" letter-bag - March 5th Nearly the whole of Genl. Scotts force has arrived, and vessels are still heaving in sight, swarmed with troops. . . . I wish it was possible for me to convey to you some idea of the beautiful - the intensely exciting scene presented to us here, by the arrival of this immense fleet of transports, amounting to upwards of Sixty, with decks thronged - Four large Steamers, also, have arrived this morning, one of which has on board Genl. Scott [Steam Transport Massachusetts], another, Genl. Worth, another, Genl. Twiggs, and the other, Genl. Patterson - The whole force to be landed, now, very soon, amounts to something over twelve thousand; six thousand of which are regulars - It depends now, somewhat, upon the success of Genl. Scott, how soon we may sail for Pensacola - We will not leave probably, until Vera Cruz is taken - It may be a month or more. . . . March 9th - I steal a moment from duty, to tell you that the Army landed this morning under cover of the guns of the Squadron, within two or three miles of the Castle, and already the fight has commenced - Oh, it is a grand scene! Heavens! what a deafening roar of great guns! [Scott landed 8,600 the first day without the loss of one man] Friday, March 12th - Our Army has surrounded the City, and it is impossible that they can hold out much longer against the heavy bombardment that is kept up from all sides - Oh, it is a grand sight to behold those tall spires crumble and fall, with a thundering crash, through house tops to the earth! This is the fourth day since the attack was commenced [On the 21st of March, Matthew Calbraith Perry relieved David Conner and took over command of Naval operations in the Gulf and on the 22nd Scott demanded that Vera Cruz surrender in two hours. This was refused and Scott opened fire upon the city with his siege guns late the same afternoon.] - The number killed on our side, as yet, is but small in comparison to what has evidently been the loss of the Mexicans - Yesterday morning a large body of Mexican cavalry were seen, from our shipping, to make a furious charge upon the New York regiment of Volunteers, who without forming in any particular order received them with a tremendous volley that sent them scampering back with a most incalculable speed, with a difference that a number of horses were seen returning without riders, and a number seemed also lying, quietly, upon the field - Twas thus their carriers had ended - One of our Squadron, the U. S. Steamer "Spitfire", ran in close and fired upwards of forty shells into the city, with terrible effect: having, in the mean time, her "Figure head" & bowsprit shot away by the Castle. The Commd. ordered her to withdraw.
george"

U. S. Store Ship *Fredonia*.

(No. 3) Off Anton Lizardo, Saturday, Feb. 27th 1847

My sweet little wife, the Supply arrived three days ago and brought me yours of the 12th ult. Since then I have been comparatively happy: it was such a wonderful relief to my heart, dearest love, to find you bearing up so well, and resolved not to give way to grief in my absence - And what you told me, too, My Jimmy, of our precious little Franny, delighted me exceedingly - Oh, how beautiful, how vivid is the picture, in my fancy drawn, of that darling baby caressing its M.

It is

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Dangers
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the gale.
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time, mu

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L.A.

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Mrs. J. M. Ransom
Richfield Springs
Otsego Co.
New York

as yesterday,
& three large
among
the Ships
Army -
between
after
Jimmy.
for a

...so pieces - surrounded, as they
were, by rocks, in the height of the gale - dangers, the most
appalling a sailor can imagine - Had either of them
struck, every soul must have perished or assistance
could have been rendered - One of them on coming to anchor,
being anxious, no doubt, to communicate with the Comm^d as
soon as possible, despatched a boat with a strong crew to pull
for the Flag Ship ("Raritan"); but the poor fellows were soon carried
away to leeward, out of sight, and it is probable they have perished -

THE WESTERN MAILS



" U.S. Ship "Fredonia" - Off Anton Lizardo

No. 4 Thursday March 18th 1847 - SEE note below.

"...The Army is blazing away at the City, though the weather has been so rough for some days past that they have not yet been able to land but a few pieces of ordnance [Several large naval guns were brought on shore and set up to help the army reduce Vera Cruz] - It has moderated at last, and it is thought that everything will be landed and in full operation to-day [23rd - See note below regarding date of this letter] - The City must be taken, now, very soon - Genl. Scott intends to blow up the Castle, and leave "not one stone upon another" - On Sunday last [21st], during a heavy "Norther", a fine large ship from Brazos, having on board Col. [William S.] Harney & suit with a portion of his regiment of dragoons, and one hundred & twenty good horses, was wrecked on a "reef"Notwithstanding the heavy gale and a most tremendous sea, we succeeded in saving every soul on board of her, but not, however, without losing three men from one of the [rescue] boats - It was a dangerous business for the boats, truly, and it is a wonder that we got off without losing many more lives - At one time, I was the commanding officer, in charge of several boats, and I was the first one on board the wreck - After taking off several boat-loads of dragoons to a steamer, that came out within $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile of her, I went back with my boat to the wreck, and remained there all night - We were in hopes of being able to save the horses, if the gale abated and she continued to hold together till morning - The gale did abate, somewhat, but she went to pieces early in the morning, and all the horses were lost except eleven - It was a sad sight, to see upwards of a hundred fine horses perish in such a manner: some dashed upon the reef of rugged rocks, and others seen struggling in the heavy seas a long time, until exhausted & drowned - A most melancholy sight indeed & - I have to go on deck now.....George".

This letter was apparently started on March 18th, before Scott's batteries began firing on Vera Cruz. From the writing it appears that he continued the letter on the 23rd - the day after Scott began operations. The above is quoted from the last part of the letter.

*This may have been the Steamer HUNTER, chartered at New Orleans in 1846 and wrecked at Isla Verde near Vera Cruz on Sunday, March 21, 1847.

THE WESTERN MAILS



"U.S. (Prize) Schooner "Mahonese"
No. 5 Off Anton Lizardo, March 22d 1847 -

"I'm Captain ! I was ordered this morning to take charge of this Schooner - pro-tem - a beautiful vessel - taken a short time since from the Mexicans - I have a Passd, Midn. - Mr. J. S. Day [Joseph - to Lieut. 1854 - died 1856] - and twenty men under my command - I shall retain the Command, however, but a short time - only a few days - when she will be given to the charge of a Lieut., and then I will return again to the Fredonia - The Steam Frigate Mississippi - Commo. Perry - arrived here on Saturday, and Commo. P. has relieved Commo. Conner from Command of the Squadron - The latter is to sail this afternoon, they say, in the Princeton for home - I hasten to drop you a line by her..... A part of our Squadron, and the Army on shore, are still firing with terrible Effect upon the City, which, it is understood, has already offered to capitulate : but Genl. Scott is determined that the Castle shall surrender at the same time - It is impossible that they can hold out much longer, though they return our fire with great effect, and have killed a considerable number -The Ohio - Ship of the line - has just arrived and since Commo. Perry has assumed the command, we are in hopes - in fact we are sure the Squadron will do something of importance at once - ... The Princeton will get underway very soon I have this moment discovered that I have held on too long: the Princeton is underway..... but I still have hope she will "come to" for a couple of hours off Sacrificios, and, as there is a vessel going up there very soon, I may yet be able to get it on board in time - .. The Steamers Mississippi, Spitfire & Vixen, and all the Schooners, have already hauled in close under the walls of the City and the firing is now tremendous - Before these vessels of the Squadron opened their fire, the City & Castle were summoned to surrender - The Castle, however, is determined to hold out to the last, and it is possible they may suffer the City to be completely demolished, ere the former will yield and haul down its "flag" - Last Friday, seventeen of our men were killed by the explosion of a single shell thrown from one of the immense guns of the Castle - A mere chance shot it was George".

According to the letter it may have been carried to New Orleans by the U.S.S. Princeton, where it entered the mail on April 6th. The MAHONESE was a Schooner of 100 tons, captured at Tampico on Nov. 14, 1846 and sold at Norfolk on Oct. 15, 1848.

THE WESTERN MAILS

" U.S.Store Ship Fredonia
No.10 Saturday May 1st 1847 - Off Anton Lizardo

"I have just come off watch: the Relief has gone. . . . I am amidst all these busy scenes of War & Victories, and all the manouverings of this immense Squadron The St. Mary's is to sail early tomorrow morning for Norfolk - What a pity she cannot wait a day or two, just to give me time to write you a long letter! There is no knowing when we will sail. . . . no one can find out anything with regard to the intended movements of the Squadron, or any vessel belonging to it, except when the Commo. chooses to "let the cat out" himself, and he seems to delight in keeping all things shady - . . . we cannot be kept here much longer, for the Squadron must soon take all our stores - Some say we are to sail in a few days; others say we are to wait until the Relief returns from Pensacola. . . . one thing is certain: the number of vessels upon this station will be considerably reduced in the course of a month - Another expedition is to come off, though, in the meantime, in which, it is said, the Squadron will land two thousand & five hundred men, and they are to have a grand fight probably - [Perry's capture of Tabasco two weeks after this letter was written] I was never in better health, and finding myself, for a time at least, the Second in Command, and the Executive officer of a fine large ship, I am in good spirits - I believe I mentioned to you sometime ago, that Kennard, Gibbon, Edwards & myself had written to Mr. Maury [Matthew Fontaine] requesting him to get us ordered back to the Observatory* - I would not be surprised if orders were brought for each of us by the Relief. . . It is, however, more probable that Gibbon & myself will go home in this ship - We expect that she will stop not more than eight or ten days at Pensacola, and then sail direct for New York or Boston - Tuesday evening - May 4th '47 - I know not what, has detained the St. Marys: She is not to sail till tomorrow: Our [mail] bag had been sent on board, closed, but I brought it back, just now, to give opportunity, for those who wish yet, besides myself, to add a postscript - I am glad it has so happened, because I want to tell you, that Commo. has sent Lieut. Raphael Semmes * to the City of Mexico, to inform the Government that if they do not treat with every respect, as a prisoner of War, Passd. Midn. R.C. Rogers, we will retaliate ten-fold upon such officers of theirs as we now hold prisoners in the Castle, amongst whom are Genl. La Vega and several Colonels - He is also to demand him in exchange immediately, for one of their officers, of equal rank - . . . Geo."

- *M.F. Maury 1806-1873, was the first superintendent of U.S. Naval Observatory, which was established in 1854. His study of the winds and currents of the seas resulted in one of the greatest scientific books ever written - THE PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE SEA, published in 1855. It is the first text book of modern oceanography. Ransom's friend, Passed Midshipman Lardner Gibbon, along with Wm. L. Herndon, made an exploration of the Amazon River, from its head to its mouth in 1853, for Maury and the Navy.
- *Raphael Semmes 1809-1877, entered the Navy in 1826. On Oct. 23, 1846 he was given command of the U.S. Brig Somers, of mutiny fame, while chasing a blockade runner on Dec. 8, 1846, the Somers capsized in a "Norther" and sank with a loss of half the crew. SEE Mutiny of the Somers in this collection. As stated in the letter, Semmes accompanied Scott's Army of invasion to Mexico, but Rogers had escaped before he got there.
- *Robert Clay Rogers and Surgeon John N. Wright landed on the beach in an attempt to blow up a Mexican powder magazine. Wright escaped, but Rogers was taken to Mexico City where the Mexicans threatened to execute him as a spy, although he was in military dress and should have been treated as a prisoner of war. General R. Diaz de La Vega was captured at the battle of Cerro Gordo on April 18th, 1847.

THE WESTERN MAILS

U. S. Store Ship *Frederica*
(No. 10) (Saturday) May 1st 1847 - Off Anton Liguada.

My dearest love, I have just come off watch: The Relief has gone: My letter (No. 9) so short and unsatisfactory, was sent, but, for the life of me, I can scarcely remember now what was in it - so much was I hurried this morning, dear Junny, and such was my delight, too, on having just received your two letters, (30th March & 8th April) almost, to - indeed, I could not

impossible, I thought I was trusting
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a new paper

Mrs. G. M. Ransom
Richfield Springs
Otsego Co.
New York

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for

deprives me of all my
des, or, at least, the power of concentra-
ing my thoughts in a manner to be expressed intelligibly
a new paper

Raphael Semmes resigned from the Navy Feb. 15, 1861 and joined the Confederate Navy. His most notable achievement during the Civil War was his command of the C.S. Steamer ALABAMA. From Aug. of 1862 to June of 1864 he raided U.S. merchant shipping around the world. During that period the Alabama captured 82 merchantmen valued at 6 million dollars. It all ended on June 19, 1864, off Cherbourg, France when the Alabama was sunk by the U.S.S. KEARSARGE. Semmes survived and became a Rear-Admiral.

*General R. Diaz de La Vega was captured at the battle of Cerro Gordo on April 18th, 1847.

THE WESTERN MAILS U.S. Ship Fredonia
No.13 June 4th 1847 - Off Anton Lizardo

"...I have ten minutes allowed me to write by the Steam - Revenue - Cutter "Mc Lane", now about to get underway for New Orleans -Nearly the whole Squadron is lying here ready to sail at a moments notice for Tabasco - A great fight is expected and it will come off in a few days [Perry captured Tabasco June 16th] - The U.S. Schooner "Flirt" is daily expected with important despatches to the Commo. from Pensacola - We are in hopes that our ship will get away from here in the course of two weeks, at most -George".

U.S. Ship Fredonia
No.17 July 5th 1847 - Off Anton Lizardo

"...The Frigates "Potomac" & "Raritan" have both sailed for home, some days ago but we had no opportunity of writing by them, as the former sailed from Sacrificios & the latter from Tabasco - You will doubtless have heard long ere you receive this all about the taking of Tabasco- The whole coast is now in our possession, and there remains not the slightest chance of any more fighting for the Squadron -Gibbon, Edwards, Kennard & myself have received an answer from Mr. Maury, respecting our application for the Observatory - He says he is anxious to have us all back again, and that he would that day (22d of April) go to see the Honl. Secretary and try to get us ordered: but he said he had but faint hopes of success, for it was known, at the same time, at the Dept., that we were very short of officers in this Squadron - Yesterday the 4th - we had Turtle soup, Roast Turkey, and other "fixins" for dinner, with excellent Champagne, and my friends Tom Crossan, G.H. Hare and several others dined with us - July 7th The vessel by which I am to send this will sail this afternoon or early in the morning -Georgey".

George Ransom was a Passed Midshipman at the time he wrote the letters. He had entered the Navy in 1839 and rose to the rank of Commodore in 1877.



THE WESTERN MAILS



MEXICAN WAR EXPRESS

This was a private mail express organized by James L. Frearner of the New Orleans Daily Delta. The Mexican War was the first war to be comprehensively reported in the daily newspapers of the nation and rivalry was keen among the war correspondents. Because the mails were slow and irregular, Frearner hired his own couriers to carry his war dispatches to his newspaper in New Orleans. As a courtesy he offered to carry private mail for officer friends who wished to send letters home. On the arrival of the courier the newspaper applied the handstamp *Forward by the N.O. "DELTA" Courier* and placed the letter in the New Orleans Post Office on January 14, 1848. The letter is headed "City of Mexico Dec. 19, 1847" and refers to a resignation sent in by the writer, Captain Henry Pope, wishing to have it withdrawn. Docket note on back of letter indicates it is too late — that the resignation had been accepted Dec. 31, 1847. Henry Pope was killed in a duel in May of 1848.

THE WESTERN MAILS

THE SIEGE OF VERA CRUZ 1846

On March 9, 1847, General Winfield Scott, in a remarkable amphibious operation, landed almost 12,000 men on the beach before Vera Cruz. He immediately set up siege guns, including six powerful naval cannon, brought on land from the ships. Scott demanded the surrender of the city which was refused. On the 22nd he began the reduction of Vera Cruz, which surrendered on March 29th.

The letter below was written four days before the final surrender by a participant who signs his name "Rbt.A." It is dated "Camp before Vera Cruz March 25, 1847 - We have been ashore in cannon shot range of Vera Cruz for more than ten days. Two days since the city was summoned to surrender, the invitation being accompanied by an assurance, that we had a sufficient number of batteries in position to destroy the place. The answer was spirited and patriotic; - in passport, that they were prepared to defend themselves and would fight whatever might be the sacrifice. Ten batteries (mortars) were immediately opened upon them from our entrenchments, and although the bombardment has been incessant for more than forty-eight hours - The Mexican flag still waves over the city. They have thus far returned us ball for ball and shell for shell, but the relative damage is not yet ascertained. We have lost two Captains; Capt [John Rogers] Vinton (formerly stationed at Fort Preble) and Capt [William] Alburtis of the [2nd] Infantry, and five or six privates. We have no intelligence from the city, but we can see that the houses are gradually crumbling beneath our fire. The defence thus far, has been much more animated and affective than had been anticipated, and it will cost us more than we stipulated for to get possession of the habitable portion of the city. And then there is the castle [San Juan d'Ulloa] bellowing at us, spitting fire and thunder, and defying besieging army even after it has razed the houses of the city to their foundations. It is the belief (probably) that the castle is invulnerable that inspires the defenders of the city. We have yet only begun the fight, and I write you while the air is full of destructive missiles. I violate a recent order of Capt Polk [Maj. Wm. H., president Polk's brother], by writing at all - that is one word of what is doing in the way of killing poor Mexicans - Dont tell any body that there is an Army of 17,000 men investing the City of Vera Cruz!

Rbt.A."



BOMBARDMENT OF VERA CRUZ AND CASTLE.

Camp before Vera Cruz March 25. 1847

My Dear William

I have at last a letter from you of Feb. 9th and for it I thank you heartily. I do not wish to be understood as reproaching any one for not visiting me, I quarrel, only, with my ill fortune in receiving so few letters that are sent.

We have been ashore in Cañon that range of Vera Cruz for more than ten days. Two days since the city was summoned to surrender, the invitation being accompanied by an assurance, that we had a sufficient number of batteries in position to destroy the place. The answer was "spiritual and patriotic" — in parol, that they were prepared to defend themselves and would fight whatever might be the sacrifice. Ten batteries (Moles) were immediately opened upon them from our outposts, and although the bombardment has been ineffectual for more than forty-eight hours the Mexican flag still waves over the city. They have thus far returned no ball for ball and shell for shell, but the relative damage is not yet ascertained. We have lost two Captains; Capt Victoria (formerly stationed at Fort Pulley) and Capt Alburquerque of the Infantry, and five or six Privates. We



SIEGE OF VERA CRUZ.

From the original painting by Powell in the possession of the publisher.

LA VERDAD

DEMOSTRADA.

Periódico nacional, dedicado à la instruccion y moralidad del pueblo.

Procura adquirir à toda costa la verdad:
Y nunca te desprendas de la sabiduría y de la doctrina.
Proverbios, cap. 23 v. 23.

NÚMERO 24.

Se publica los sábados de cada semana, y cada ejemplar vale medio real.

PUEBLA, MAYO 1.º DE 1847.

LA VERDAD DEMOSTRADA.

Puebla. Mayo 1 de 1847.

Omitimos hoy nuestro artículo de fondo, para dar lugar al interesante documento que à continuacion insertamos, y que hemos debido al favor de un amigo. Con objeto de que salga íntegro hoy mismo, y en obsequio de nuestros suscritores, aumentamos gratis con un pliego mas, el presente número. Pronto tendremos la satisfacción de publicar la verdad de los desagraciados hechos de Cerro Gordo, y entonces la nacion fallará: ya es llegado el tiempo de ir aclarando los misterios.—EE.

Rápida ojeada sobre la campaña que hizo el Sr. general Santa Anna en el estado de Coahuila el mes de Febrero próximo pasado, por G. A. y N.

PARRAFO I.

Situacion de las fuerzas beligerantes antes de emprender la expedicion.

El ejército americano se hallaba situado en mediados de Enero próximo pasado bajo el órden siguiente.

El 29 de Diciembre de 46 habian llegado à Victoria de Tamaulipas las divisiones americanas Tivigs, Poterson y Quitman, fuertes en seis mil hombre con su dotacion de artillería saliendo para Tampico el 15 de Enero. En dicha ciudad habia dos mil hombres entre tropas y comerciantes armados, y cien cañones de plaza.

El general Taylor, en virtud de la llegada del general americano Scott con el mando superior, fué destinado à obrar por Monterey y el Sábulo: salió de Victoria el dia 15 del referido Enero con una bateria de 8 piezas de grueso calibre y doscientos hombres. [1]

[1] Noticia oficial que comunica el Defensor de Tamaulipas en el número 4 del dia 18 de Enero de 47 con el título *Interesantísimo*.

La division de Woll cubria Parras, y la del general Worth el Sábulo y Monterey; ambas debia mandarlas el general Taylor, siendo su fuerza de unos seis mil hombres con numerosas artillería.

Las plazas de Matamoros y Camargo, asi como el camino militar ó linea de comunicacion con Monterey, eran defendidos por dos mil hombres poco mas ó menos.

En suma, el ejército de los Estados Unidos estendido en un pais todo contrario, ocupaba un terreno inmenso, en proporcion à su número, que se reducía aproximadamente à diez y seis mil hombres, sin hacer mérito de los que operan por California, Nuevo-México y Chihuahua, y sin la fuerza maritima de ambos mares.

El general Scott nombrado generalísimo habia llegado à Matamoros el 1.º de Enero, y esperaba de Nueva-York cosa de ocho mil hombres. Asegurábase que este general haria una variacion en el plan de campaña del ejército de los Estados Unidos, dirigiéndose por punto objetivo hacia Veracruz y à todo el litoral de la costa del seno mexicano.

Examinéese el plan general de la república, y véase la distancia à que se encontraban las divisiones americanas; calcúlese que habitaban un pais de comunicaciones difíciles, y entre mexicanos que no han dado el menor indicio de serles adictos.

Volviendo ahora de otro lado, indicaremos la situacion del ejército mexicano à las órdenes del Sr. general Santa Anna. En mediados de Enero se hallaban en Tula de Tamaulipas cosa de tres mil hombres à las órdenes del Sr. general Valencia [1]. Una brigada de infantería y casi toda la caballería, observaba la Sierra Madre desde el Cedral hasta el Venado. El resto del ejército se hallaba reunido en S. Luis: segun datos, su total era aproximadamente de veinticinco mil hombres, sin contar la fuerza que en Huejutla, Tuxpan y Veracruz mandaban los generales Garay, Cos

[1] El general Valencia fué relevado del mando, y dejó à Tula el 22 de Enero próximo pasado.

efectivos, para merecer los títulos con que se engalana, y que los necios le tributan ahora por el engaño en que se hallan de lo verdaderamente ocurrido.

El Sr. Santa-Anna debe sin cuidado dar sus descargos; porque los que esto escribimos no lo aborrecemos sino que deseamos que las realidades y no las ilusiones acaben de darnos la certeza de si existiremos, ó seremos irremediables víctimas de la rapiña y desmesurada ambición de los infames norte-americanos.

G. A. y N.

SATISFACCION.

Por un olvido involuntario del Sr. Rivera dueño de esta imprenta, no nos han sido entregados los documentos que el Sr. ex-secretario Vinas nos remitió de órden del ex-gobernador Ibarra, hasta el día 27; y aunque nosotros deseábamos vivamente darles publicidad en el presente número, para demostrar nuestra sinceridad y buena fé, con sentimiento la omitimos por estrechez de nuestras columnas, ocupadas con el documento que antecede.



PATRIOTISMO DEL GENERAL D. JUAN ALVAREZ.

El ciudadano Florentino Alday procedente de Aytla, á 25 leguas del puerto de Acapulco, que salió de aquel pueblo el 19 del corriente y llegó á esta capital el día 26, declara en toda forma: Que no hay ni un buque americano sobre aquellas costas, y que si el general Alvarez da cuenta al gobierno de aparición de muchas velas, y aun con frecuencia hace acuartelar las tropas de su mando, es para que no se le pidan auxilios de ninguna clase para salvar la independencia y patria agonizante. ¡Que el anatema nacional pese sobre los malos mexicanos, que como el Sr. Alvarez se olvidan de su origen, y de lo que deben al país en que nacieron!

Se ha recibido del gobierno del Estado el Exmo. Sr. D. Rafael Isonza; celebramos este suceso conforme á nuestros votos, y tenemos la satisfacción de que el actual gobernador haya sido uno de los candidatos que propusimos al soberano congreso.

REPUBLICANO.

A la brevedad posible, y si Scott nos lo permitiese tendríamos el gusto de refutar el artículo que los Sres. Redactores de ese periódico nos dedican en su número 119.

A NUESTROS SUSCRITORES.

Agradecidos hasta el extremo, tenemos el sentimiento de anunciar á nuestros favorecedores, que si como es de temerse, el bárbaro agresor que hasta el momento en que esto escribimos está en Tepeyahualco, avanzare sobre esta capital y la ocupase, nos veríamos en la precisión de suspender nuestro periódico, porque no queriendo hablar mas que de la guerra contra tan infame enemigo, no lo podremos hacer con libertad siendo dentro de algunos dias sus desgraciados cautivos.

Concluimos, sin embargo, con el placer de haber trabajado continuamente por el orden, de haber defendido la constitucion y los principios, y de haber procurado de cuantos modos nos ha sido posible, instruir al pueblo revelándole la Verdad de cuanto le convenia saber. Ahora le inculcamos, quizá por la vez última, que mantenga y conserve ileso el honor nacional; que no sea indolente espectador de la esclavitud de la patria, y que de cuantos modos pueda, en grande ó pequeño, haga la guerra al enemigo. Que éste no descanse tranquilo mientras respire un solo mexicano. Es mejor morir, que vivir esclavo y extranjero en la patria. ¡Que no escuche las mentirosas proposiciones de los viles cobardes que desean la paz; que desprecie igualmente las vias de lenidad y prudencia de escritores pacíficos y bien-aventurados, son los votos continuos de los Editores!

THE WESTERN MAILS



OCCUPATION OF TAMPICO 1846

TAMPICO is located on the Gulf of Mexico about 270 miles south of the mouth of the Rio Grande River. With the outbreak of the war, with Mexico, Santa Anna withdrew the garrison, from the port city of Tampico, on October 28th, 1846. On November 14th Commodore David Conner with two Naval steamers, four schooner gunboats and a landing party of 300 men seized the port and placed it under military occupation.

The two covers shown, were used during this occupation, on January 12 and May 8, 1847. The postmarks are U.S. Military provisional markings. They were carried to New Orleans by Naval transports where they entered the regular mails.



THE WESTERN MAILS

"Camp U.S.A. near Monterey/28th May 1847

Dear Major.....It is hard for us to get news here & when it arrives, it is quite old in the U.S. It takes at a fair calculation 20 days for letters to reach this place from N.O. [New Orleans].....The papers keep you informed of all that is going on, & you get the news of Genl Scotts operations much before we do owing to the management of mails. Our news from his army comes thro' the N.O. papers. It is rumoured here that he [Scott] is in Mexico [Scott arrived at Puebla the day after this letter - May 29th] - if that be the case & peace does not follow soon, I fear we shall have to hold the Military Command of all Mexico & Call it a conquest. This will be bad for us & oblige the U.S. to keep up a very large Military Command (establishment) here. My own opinion is that Congress should without hesitation annex upper California & New Mexico as Territories & call it a part of the U.S. defining the 32 or 32½ degree of latitude as the Southern Boundary till it strikes the Rio Grande & then follow that river to the mouth: And this too without consulting Mexico further. And then hold our Troops at the foot of the Sierra Madres from Monterey &c to Tampico and also all the Sea Coast till such time as might please these people to make peace. These people are a disorganized mass of population of inferior blood. The characteristics of the Negro & Indian particularly as to color are prominent in them. Now & Then you see a little of the pure Castillian blood. But to our affairs - Genl Taylor has not been in a condition to advance since the battle of Buena Vista. And at the present time the Volunteers of the past year are on the March homeward. Genl Wool is at Saltillo with but a small force now. The 2d Mississippi passed up to him a few days since. The Virginia Reg is here & the Massachusetts daily expected. But it will take till fall to get again, as many men as we discharge at the present time. The Government will decide if they can move towards Mexico [City] with both columns, or with one (Genl Scott's). Genl S. at present appears most wanting men & and I presume from his easy line of communications only 250 miles from a Sea-port that he could keep his army supplied vastly better than we can. If we attempt to advance from Saltillo we shall have to overcome one hundred miles, almost a desert, with waterings a whole days march apart, before we could strike into a country that would afford supplies. In such an event in all probability, the line of communications with our base would have to be broken at Saltillo. And the advance launched off into an enemy's country to sustain itself after a short period by foraging &c &c in the enemy [country] & running after we know not what. This war is getting with me to be an old story & I should be glad to see it ended. I have with me Capt Frazer [Wm. Davidson, died July 27, 1856] & Lt Benham [Henry W., Maj. Genl. Civil War, died June 1, 1884] of our Corps. We have the Citadel of Monterey in a good & efficient condition. For a field work it approaches a permanency: being a square bastioned around a large square stone unfinished Cathedral whose walls are 6 feet thick. It will require in case of attack 1500 men to protect it: altho' a much smaller force may have to do the work. This country is nothing at all for want of suitable seasons. We have hardly felt rain from last Sept to the middle of this month. All the operations of farming are carried on near small streams where irrigation can be practiced. Hence there are vast tracks of good soil a perfect waste. We have the orange, lemon, & pomegranate in great perfection & the fig too with other fruits not so luxuriant. But there is no place like home. Their buildings too are most remarkable. Where stone is abundant the walls are thick & strong & would answer well for jails. But where there is no stone, they are of adobys or sun dried brick, ready to dissolve, as did the City of Camargo freshet of last July. The roofs are mostly thatched except in the heart of the Cities where they are flat & covered with concrete on a strong platform.....

Major Richard Delafield/Corps of Engineers

Jos. K. F. Mansfield."

THE WESTERN MAILS

Joseph King Fenno Mansfield graduated 2nd in the class of 1817 at West Point. At the time of this letter he was a Colonel in the Engineer Corps. Thence to Maj. Genl. in 1862. He was killed at the bloody battle of Antietam Sept. 17/18, 1862 after 45 years service in the U.S. Army.

This letter shows the problems of communication with the states, and points out the short terms of the 6 month and 12 months volunteers. Much of Taylor's army had been sent south to join Scott's army of invasion, leaving Taylor in a holding position with his little army of occupation. It is interesting that Mansfield mentions the possibility of the two armies converging on Mexico City. Also his commentary on the conquest and final boundaries between the U.S. and Mexico. SEE letters of Stephen F. Austin and Robert E. Lee on the same question in this collection. Taylor remained in a holding pattern and Winfield Scott was on his way down the road of invasion to the conquest of Mexico.

See opposite page for transcript of the letter.



Folded letter above is stamped "BRAZOS/JUNE 15 1847" with the type II postmark of that office and rated "10".

THE WESTERN MAILS



Folded letter was written by Captain U.S. Wilbur commanding the transport ship MEDFORD, anchored at Brazos Santiago, Texas, on Jan. 25th, 1847. According to the letter it was carried to New Orleans by the Steamer McKIM and placed in the mails as per "STEAM 10". The McKIM must have been under contract to the U.S. Post Office Department and designated as a mail steamer or mail agent to have been rated 10 cents for a local letter. Had it not been under contract the rate would have been 10¢ plus 2¢ ship fee for a total of 12¢.

The letter points out the problems of transporting horses and mules, "alive and well", for Scott's Army of Invasion. SEE the transcript of the letter on opposite page.

"Capt. Danl. L. Winson.

Brazos Santiago Jan'y 25/'47

I have just this moment heard that the steamer "McKim" leaves this day for New Orleans and the steamer which is taking off the horses is now alongside and will be away in five minutes so I have no time to write hardly a word but will inform you that we arrived here after a passage of three days with the loss of seven horses, three of which died before we left the river [Mississippi?]. Since our arrival they are dying fast..... If you will inform me on what terms you are willing for me to close a charter please inform me the first opportunity. A word for Capt. Allen--he requests me to inform you that he has done nothing but discharge his mules and they also want his ship for Tampico but have not made any direct offer. If our ships are not chartered to the government I do not think that we shall get away from this place for three months to come - unless we are blown away - The Alabama is now in sight and when she leaves I will write you more particularly.

U.S. Wilbur"

THE WESTERN MAILS



Capt. Danl. L. Winson,

Off Brasos St. Iago,
March 2nd, 1847
On board Ship "Medford"

Dear Sir,

Hereinunder I send you an order whereby you are at liberty to receive of the United States Quarter Master at New Orleans the amount of Ship MEDFORD'S first months charter, say \$7,500.00, the particulars of which I wrote you under the date of 24th Feby.

I have recived nothing on said charter otherwise than having receipted for a whaleboat which I shall have to deliver back or pay for. If the weather continues moderate for 24 hours I shall be all ready for sea.

\$7,500.

The United States Quartermaster at New Orleans will please pay to Danl. L. Winson the sum of seven thousand five hundred dollars as per agreement entered into between the U.S. Quarter Master at Brasos Island and U.S. Wilbur, master of Ship "Medford". It being the amount due said ship for first month's charter and oblige.

Your Humble Servt.

U.S. Wilbur

Brasos St. Iago, March 2nd, 1847

THE WESTERN MAILS



MEXICAN PLOT TO RETAKE SANTA FE FROM THE AMERICANS 1846

Lieut. John Hinton writes to his brother, from "Santa Fe N.M. 28th Dec 1846", requesting him to write to various influential persons regarding a captaincy in the cavalry. He states that he is a 1st Lieut. in the 1st Regt. of Mo. M. (mounted) Volunteers & now in New Mexico!....My regiment has moved to El Passo where they will await my arrival with a battery of artillery & a provision train; & then march to Chihauhau. Rumour reports from 700 to 1000 Mexican troops at the Pass to oppose Col. Doniphan's advance, if true they must have a fight before I can come up, as I cannot leave here before the 1st prox. & it will take me fully 20 days to reach the Pass. I cannot but hope that no fight will come off without me, it looks a little selfish, but I calculate largely on winning a brevit or Two in my first fight. We had quite a stir here for the last ten days owing to the discovery of a plot to recapture this Territory. The Mexicans had laid their plans very well & completed their organization; but having sufficiently early information, Col. Price was enabled to take such steps as to lead to the arrest of most of the ringleaders - but the Chief & 2nd in Command are still uncaptured; they are smart, well educated, poor & ambitious men & consequently dangerous. Those now in custody will be tried as soon as practicable & it is the general opinion that they will pull hemp(hang). Col. Price is a firm & decisive man well calculated to be in command at the present time.....John Hinton."

Write to "Lieut. John Hinton/Compy "G" 1st Regt. Mo. M Vols./Genl. Wool's Command/ Chihauhau/Care Quartermaster U.S.A./San Antonio de Bexar/Texas".

Hinton arrived at El Passo on February 1st, too late to join Doniphan who had defeated the Mexicans at the battle of Brazito, on December 25th. Doniphan then occupied El Paso on December 28th, the same day that Hinton wrote his letter. He did take part in the battle of the Sacramento on February 28, 1847. SEE his letter from Chihauhau on the opposite page. The plot to overthrow the Americans was led by Gen. Diego Archuleta and Tomas Ortiz and a group of Mexicans. However, they were never tried because the U.S. Government still considered them Mexican citizens until formal exchanges had been made with Mexico. The failure of the takeover led to the massacre at Taos and the assassination of Governor Charles Bent. SEE ARMY OF THE WEST NEWS PAPER below.

cities and towns occupied by the American army, a Mexican police shall be established and duly harmonized with the military police of the said forces.

15. This splendid capital—its churches and religious worship; its convents and monasteries; its inhabitants and property, are, moreover, placed under the special safe-guard of the faith and honor of the American army.

16. In consideration of the foregoing protection, a contribution of \$150,000 is imposed on this capital, to be paid in four weekly instalments of thirty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$37,500) each, beginning on Monday next, the 20th instant, and terminating on Monday the 11th of October.

17. The Ayuntamiento, or corporate authority of the city, is specially charged with the collection and payment of the several instalments.

18. Of the whole contribution to be paid over to this army, twenty thousand dollars shall be appropriated to the purchase of *extra* comforts for the wounded and sick in hospital;—ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) to the purchase of blankets and shoes for gratuitous distribution among the rank and file of the army; and forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) reserved for other necessary military purposes.

19. This order will be read at the head of every company of the United States forces, serving in Mexico, and translated into Spanish for the information of Mexicans.

By command of Major General Scott.

M. J. Scott
A. A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
NATIONAL PALACE OF MEXICO, Sept. 17, 1847.

GENERAL ORDERS—No. 287.

The Generals-Chief republicans, with important additions, his General Order, No. 20, of February 19, 1847, (declaring Martial Law,) to govern all who may be concerned.

1. It is still to be apprehended that many grave offences not provided for in the act of Congress establishing rules and articles for the government of the armies of the United States,* approved April 10, 1806, may be again committed—by, or upon, individuals of those armies, in Mexico, pending the existing war between the two Republics. Allusion is here made to offences, any one of which, if committed within the United States or their organized territories, would, of course, be tried and severely punished by the ordinary or civil courts of the land.

2. Assassination, murder, poisoning, rape, or the attempt to commit either; malicious slaying or maiming; malicious assault and battery; robbery; theft; the wanton desecration of churches, cemeteries or other religious edifices and fixtures; the interruption of religious ceremonies, and the destruction, except by order of a superior officer, of public or private property, are such offences.

3. The good of the service, the honor of the United States and the interests of humanity, imperiously demand that every crime, enumerated above, should be severely punished.

4. But the written code, as above, commonly called the *rules and articles of war*, does not provide for the punishment of one of those crimes, even when committed by individuals of the army upon the persons or property of other individuals of the same, except in the very restricted case in the 9th of those articles; nor for the outrages, committed by the same class of individuals, upon the persons or property of a hostile country, except very partially, in the 51st, 52d, and 55th articles; and the same code is absolutely silent as to all injuries which may be inflicted upon

THE WESTERN MAILS



WINFIELD SCOTT

" Head Qrs. &c / New York, Jan. 17, 1849"

"Sir: I have just received your letter of the day before yesterday, telling me of a report that has reached you, to the effect, that you had left the army, in Mexico, then under my command, "under charges of misconduct before the enemy" & That I "had [on account of those charges] extorted or required [your] resignation". All this is new to me. I have never, until the receipt of your letter, before me, heard of any such charge, or thought there were grounds for such charge. But I remember that towards the beginning of November 1847, you intimated a wish to return to the U. States, & then to resign your commission. Under the general rule that I had laid down, applicable to all like cases, I declined giving a leave of absence or permitting your return home, without the previous tender of the resignation. In common with many other gallant officers, you complied with that rule; for, at that time, the prospect of a renewal of field operations, or of battles was quite remote. In the same conversation you spoke in the most liberal terms of the high soldiership & gallantry of your second in command - Lieut. Colonel Johnston & in the way of comparison, very modestly, of your own military acquirements & experience. This you did,

THE WESTERN MAILS

in my official report, partly on the information of others, & partly upon personal observation, spoken highly of your conduct in the storming & capture of Chapultepec. I have had no reason to doubt the correctness of that praise; but you were the first, by your minute commendations of Lieut. Colonel Johnston, for his part in the same great event, who caused me to doubt, whether, without retracting any thing I had said in yours, I had done full justice to that gallant officer. Your own merits, were, in my opinion, greatly embraced by your habitual manner of speaking of him. In haste, yours truly,
Winfield Scott.
Col. T. P. Andrews

Dear Sir, New York, Jan 17, 1849.
I have just received your letter of the day before yesterday, telling me of a report that has reached you to the effect, that you had left the army, in Mexico, then under my command, under charge of misconduct before the enemy & that I had [on account of those charges] extracted or resigned [your] resignation. All this is new to me. I have never, until the receipt of your letter before me, heard of any such charge, or that you were grounds for such charge.
Yours truly
P. B.

from habit, & to convince me, that your regiment (the Voltigeurs), would be better commanded by him than you. On those points, your language, as on several previous occasions, was most liberal & modest. I had, previously, in my official report, partly on the information of others, & partly upon personal observation, spoken highly of your conduct in the storming & capture of Chapultepec. I have no reason to doubt the correctness of that praise, but you were the first, by your minute commendations of Lieut. Colonel Johnston [Joseph E.], for his part in the same great event, who caused me to doubt, whether, without retracting any thing I said in yours. I had done full justice to that gallant officer. Your own merits, were, in my opinion greatly embraced by your habitual manner of speaking of him. In haste / yours truly / Winfield Scott."

Col. T. P. Andrews"

TIMOTHY PATRICK ANDREWS was born in Ireland. On May 22, 1822 he entered the U. S. Army as Major Paymaster. He was promoted to Colonel of the Voltigeur regiment on February 16, 1847. Andrews retired as a Colonel November 29, 1864. Later he was promoted to Bvt. Brigadier General for "gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Chapultepec, Mexico." He died March 11, 1868.

Head on Sept 17th 1862

13 17th 1862

Return of the Arrival of troops since last report to the 25 July

Day	Name of Officer	Rank of Officer	Company	Remarks
25 February	W. H. Shreve	Captain	Co. pr. 7th & 10th 100	1st Lieut Beckwith
"	"	"	Co. pr. 7th & 10th 100	1st Lieut Knicker Reg. Co.
55	John Chester	Lieut	Detach. 4th Cavalry	8805
6 March	S. W. Allen	1st Colonel	2nd U.S. Infantry	2nd Lieut Adams
"	"	"	11th U.S. Infantry	2nd Lieut Green, 1st Lieut French
"	"	"	15th U.S. Infantry	2nd Lieut Frost, 1st Lieut Kellgren
"	"	"	3rd U.S. Artillery	2nd Lieut Reynolds, 1st Lieut Shaw
11 March	La Motte	1st Major	8th U.S. Cavalry	1st Lieut Adams, 2nd Lieut Kellgren
"	S. Williams	2nd Colonel	3rd U.S. Cavalry	1st Lieut Adams, 2nd Lieut Kellgren
"	"	"	4th U.S. Cavalry	1st Lieut Adams, 2nd Lieut Kellgren
"	"	"	5th U.S. Cavalry	1st Lieut Adams, 2nd Lieut Kellgren
Grand total				9420
9 February	Joseph Kennedy	1st Lieut	Salvado's Regt.	1st Lieut Adams
"	"	"	Volunteers	1st Lieut Adams
11 Feb	C. B. Commodore	Captain	1st U.S. Cavalry	1st Lieut Adams
"	"	"	2nd U.S. Cavalry	1st Lieut Adams
"	"	"	3rd U.S. Cavalry	1st Lieut Adams
"	"	"	4th U.S. Cavalry	1st Lieut Adams
16 Feb	C. S. Campbell	Captain	11th U.S. Infantry	1st Lieut Adams
"	"	"	Volunteer Regiment	1st Lieut Adams
"	"	"	1st U.S. Cavalry	1st Lieut Adams
Total				10300

Recapitulation

Total 1852 Aggregate 1893

Household 120 " 121

Depot 75 " 78

Total 1847 Aggregate 1892

D. J. Gray
1 Br. Col. Coy.

The above does not include the
surrender of Vera Cruz.

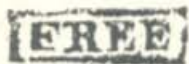
N.B. I will stand with the Michigan
troops in Company of Mounted Rangers etc
releasing the Mexican accounts at once
D. J. Gray

THE WESTERN MAILS



MEXICAN WAR SOLDIERS MAIL

By an act of Congress March 3, 1847, letters, newspapers and small packets, not exceeding one ounce in weight, could be sent to officers and privates "belonging to the army" post "free". The covers should be so endorsed or the address should indicate the free privilege. However, letters from the army had to be prepaid or postage collect.



Sept 20th - 1844

PAID

10

M. P. A. Shaw

{Care of John Tyler}

Boston
Mass

ST. PAUL
FEB. 4 1847

10

M. P. Hatch Esq.

ST. PAUL
FEB. 4 1847

10

Mrs. M. H. Peirway

Cincinnati

Montgomery
Jan. 1847

Ohio

VERA CRUZ,
MEX JUNE 17.

W. M. B. B. Hoag
M. B. B. Hoag
Mill Branch
New Orleans

VERA CRUZ
MEXO, FEB 19

10

M. S. S. Wilkinson, Cashier.

VERA CRUZ

NOV 5

Per Charles Wilkerson

Middletown Pemb

Monmouth County

N. J.

Address
correct?

New Orleans.

VERA CRUZ

MEXICO APRIL 12

10

Mrs Jane A. Wilkerson

Middletown Pemb

Monmouth County

New Jersey

1848

DONA ANA, NEW MEXICO 1849

Captain Enoch Steen writes to James W. Denver on the merits of a railroad to the Pacific via the southern route. He also reports a fight, with Apache Indians, at San Diego crossing of the Rio Grande, near Dona Ana, New Mexico on August 16th. This was one of only seven engagements by regular Army troops with Indians in 1849.

"Dona Ana New Mexico Sept. 28, 1849

A few words on the subject of the Great Rail Road to the Pacific Ocean - It will be of great National interest - therefore the interest of a state as a starting point. Should be no obstacle as a starting point etc - Now as fare as my information on traveling over a quarter part of the route. I would say, start at some point on the Mississippi River near the mouth of Red River or at some point on Red River as high up as good & safe Steam Boats navigation - thence up said River to near its head - thence west to the southern boundary of New Mexico to the Rio Gila - thence down said stream to the Colorado of the West (river). Thence West to San Diego on the Pacific Ocean This route I have been over as fare as the Rio Gila - its all most a level plain and four degrees of Longitude shorter than the route from St. Louis by the South Pass. You leave Red River on the Parellel of 32 North and dont vary thirty miles from a direct line West and this route will never be interfeared with by Snow and settel as fast as the road is made nearly the whole route and I am of the opinion a good road can be made on this route for Twenty millions less money than the route from St Louis or any other a cross the continent - I have traveled all the routs spoken of as fare West as the highest Peaks of the Rocky Mountains and so fare as my judgement goes I would say as a great National work no other route than Red River on the paralel of North latitude 32 Degrees should be thought of. I am still suffering conciderable from a wound I received in a battle I had with the Apachys Indians on the 16th of August. I had 26 Dragoons of my company H. 1st. Dragoons with me - We fought about 200 Indians and for a few minutes it was allmost a hand to hand fight. The Indians gave way - we persued them driving them from point to point keeping up a summery fight about five miles where we took their camp - a number of their horses & mules and destroyed all their provisions pots kettles &c &c, we kild about 12 & wounded 20 - As darke set in I had my 1st Seargt mortally wounded - one corporal kild and 2 others Privats slightley wounded. We now returned with the wounded about 10 miles to water where we arived at 11 oclock at night. I recd a ball about 2 inches below the navel - the ball lodged near the spine where it still remains and strang to say the wound is nearly healed up and I am again going about attending to my company duty. My recovery is nearly as (miraculous) a one as Genl. Shields (James Shields seriously wounded in the head at Cerro Gordo, Mexico, but recovered, while leading his troops in battle) when I tell you that I recd the shot about 5 P.M. and was in the saddle until 11 P M and the next day rode near 40 miles and the next (day) 30 and in the hottest days in August and without any medical aid and 30 miles without water - not very agreeable I assure you my friend Capt. Denver. I had also a small brush with them on the 21st July - *(Heitman dates it July 18th at Canyon del Peno (Sierra Sacramento), N. Mexico, Co. G & H 1st Dragoons) - we had the best of the fight, but was without any thing to eat and could not follow them, and unless the Gov. send more mounted troops in New Mexico, we will have plenty of fighting with the different tribes for two or three years yet, but one well mounted Regt. could settle the matter with them in ten or twelve months - Then the county would be quite but as it is no man is safe one mile from his House, and in my opinion the Gov ought to rais another Regt. of mounted Troops this Congress - tho I will say no more on this subject, and if you think any of this is worthy a place in your paper (news) you can put it in good English and use it. My kindest regards to all our friends in Platte City (Missouri) & county -
 Capt J.W. Denver Yours in hast E. Steen Capt 1st. Drags. "

Don Ana

New Mexicoth

Sept. 28, 1849

Dr Sir

A few words on the subject of the Great Rail Road to the Pacific Ocean it will be of great national interest therefore the interest of a State as a starting point should be no obstacle as a starting point. - Now as far as my information from traveling over a greater part of the route. I would say. Start at some point on the Mississippi River ~~near~~ the mouth of Red River or at some point on Red River as high up as good & safe Steam Boats navigation thence up said River to nearity head thence west to the Southern boundary of New Mexico to the Rio Gilla thence down said Stream to the Colored of the West. thence west to San Diego on the Pacific Ocean this route I have been over as far as the Rio Gilla its all most a level plain and four degrees of Longitude shorter than the route from St. Louis by the South pas. you leave Red River on the Pacific

THE WESTERN MAILS



MUTINY ON U. S. S. BRIG SOMERS

Folded letter to S.W. Jones in reply to an inquiry regarding the case of the mutiny under date of January 20, 1843 - 19 days after the conclusion of the Naval Court of Inquiry into the matter. Postmarked at TARRYTOWN N. Y. JAN 24 (1843).

Alexander and John were brother-in-laws to Commodore Matthew C. Perry. In September of 1842 Alexander was sent to Africa in command of the SOMERS with dispatches for the African Naval Squadron. On the return voyage, plans for a mutiny were discovered, which resulted in the court martial and execution of Midshipman Philip Spencer, the son of the Secretary of War, and two seamen, Cromwell and Small.

The following day they were swung aloft and their bodies buried at sea. At that time mutiny or the very thought of mutiny on the high seas was punishable by death. The affair was exploited by the press, resulting in a court of naval inquiry, which upheld MacKenzie's actions. This was followed by a court-martial, demanded by MacKenzie, in order to keep it out of the civil courts. The result was about the same - that MacKenzie did just what the situation called for.

In 1846 MacKenzie, who spoke Spanish fluently, was sent to Cuba by President Polk to interview Santa Anna, who was then in exile. At the interview on July 7th, MacKenzie suggested that if Santa Anna were to regain power and announce a willingness to negotiate a peace, the U. S. would suspend operations except the blockade. That the United States would settle all spoliation claims and purchase the disputed territory and New Mexico. Santa Anna agreed in a letter to Polk, to negotiate a treaty along those terms. He was given safe passage on a British vessel through the blockade. On his return he became Commander of the Army and President of Mexico, but he then reneged on his agreement with MacKenzie and Polk. Later he acted as interpreter at the surrender of Vera Cruz. The Brig of War Somers capsized on December 8, 1846 with the loss of 32 out of a crew of 76.

THE WESTERN MAILS

"Tarrytown. 20 January 1843

"I trust you will not estimate the very high value I place on your obliging favor of the 9 instant by the length of time I have allowed to elapse without answering it. Though another benevolent correspondent, personally as unknown to me as yourself, has quite recently invited my attention to this case I am indebted to your kindness for first suggesting it. It is thought by everyone to have a more decided bearing on the case of the Somers than any other instance of the summary punishment to quell mutiny which has been cited: and the high sanction of the name of Washington [George] consecrates the act. It is said however that the execution of the three mutineers of the New Jersey Line had the advantage over the case of the Somers, that the drumhead court martial held over them was strictly legal. But their execution took place after the mutiny was entirely quelled. It had for object the future advantage rather than the present safety of the country, and was an act of policy more than of indispensable necessity. Though the execution of those soldiers was more strictly legal than that of the mutineers of the Somers, it was preceded by fewer formalities, a less elaborate investigation, and a much shorter space of time to ascertain the innocence or guilt of the accused. Though every moment of delay was fraught with peril for us, a much longer time was given to the condemned for preparation. You are aware that mutiny or attempt to create mutiny in the naval service is punishable with death. All that the course pursued on board the Somers in the execution of the mutineers wanted to be completely legal was that I should have been a flag officer, and the individuals composing the counsel of officers, should all of them have been commissioned: three out of the four were so. You will have perceived by the evidence given before the Court of Enquiry that there was undoubted proof of the guilty participation in the meeting of at least two others; namely Wilson and McKinley. For determined courage and reckless hardihood I consider these two to have been more formidable than the others. But they could not have navigated and sailed the vessel. Mr. Spencer [Philip], Cromwell [Samuel] and Small [Elijah] being disposed of, their execution was unnecessary. The act was therefore not one of vengeance, not done to vindicate violated laws, but the strict necessity, and was carefully kept even at some risk within the bounds of necessity. The kind interest you have taken in the painful position in which I find myself placed, and the desire to justify myself still further in your opinion, induced me to trouble you with these details. You may also be interested in hearing, that, whatever opinion the Court of Enquiry may report, I have asked for a Court Martial, in order to protect me from all future process in the civil courts, although the prevailing opinion seems to be that they cannot take cognizance of my case. Believe me my dear Sir very truly /Your obliged and most obedient/
S.W. Jones Esq. " Alex, Slidell MacKenzie /
New York "

Alexander Slidell MacKenzie - 1803-1848 - was a commander in the U.S. Navy and a popular author of travel and naval biographies of John Paul Jones, Oliver H. Perry and Stephen Decatur. He had changed his given name by adding MacKenzie for a brother of his mother. His brother John Slidell became a Confederate diplomatic agent who was involved in the TRENT affair, in which a British steamer, with Slidell onboard, was stopped and Slidell was siezed and imprisoned in Fort Warren. This caused a tense diplomatic situation with Great Britain until he was released. Previous to this he had been the U.S. Commissioner to Mexico to adjust the Texan boundary and purchase New Mexico in 1845 previous to the Mexican War. SEE below.

INQUIRY
INTO
THE SOMERS MUTINY.



WITH A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE EXECUTION OF
SPENCER, CROMWELL AND SMALL.

NEW-YORK:

GREELEY & McELRATH, TRIBUNE BUILDINGS.

PHILADELPHIA: BURGESS & ZIEGLER.

BOSTON: REDDING & CO.

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163 Nassau-st.

CASE
OF THE
SOMERS' MUTINY.

DEFENCE

ALEXANDER SLIDELL MACKENZIE,

COMMANDER OF THE U. S. BRIG SOMERS,

BEFORE THE

COURT MARTIAL HELD AT THE NAVY YARD, BROOKLYN.

NEW YORK:
TRIBUNE OFFICE, 160 NASSAU STREET.

1843.