

General Hospital
Sattillo August 15th 47.

My dear Parents.

I have not expressed to you the regret I felt at the omission of my name from Gen. Wool's Report, though you may readily ~~feel~~ suppose that with the consciousness of having done my duty it was no little mortification to be overlooked. A few days since I had a conversation with the General to whom others had spoken on the subject, and had the opportunity of bringing to his mind some of the most important movements at B. Vista in which I (at the time unknown to him) had born a part. Remembering then these circumstances which his tremendous excitement at the time had prevented his recollecting, he immediately recalled my ~~conduct~~ conduct and has made me in the enclosed letter ample reparation.

This letter is a copy of one addressed to the Adjutant General of the United States Army and is to be followed by another requesting it to be appended as a Supplement to his General Report to be read to Congress.

the With the copy which I send you, you have
the General's own signature, which he
insisted on affixing, I presume for your
satisfaction, as I told him that, I meant
to send it to you. My conversation
with him when he read his letter to my was
as gratifying as possible, but I need not
repeat to you his expressions of satisfaction
with my conduct. At last then I have,
after many disappointments, taken one important
step - I have been in battle, & have
won the favourable notice of my Commander,
and when I return, you will no longer regard
me as a visionary boy, but as one who in
the opinion of a good judge has proved
himself to be a soldier - This sounds
to you like very vain talk: it is so, but my
Candour, ^(in expressing myself) does not proceed from the tickled
weakness of a child, but from my wish to
convince you that I have some capacity
for such ^{an} undertakings as I have always
contemplated in my dreams of Eastern countries,
& for which you must necessarily have
considered me incapable. ~~For this reason~~
You will, therefore, pardon a vanity which
displays itself, not to attract your admiration,
but merely your confidence.

Some of my friends & acquaintances who have granted me their esteem, will probably be gratified to learn that I deserve it, & it is this which affords me so much satisfaction —

We probably feel some curiosity concerning the General who has treated me so handsomely. He is a very rigid disciplinarian, & so unpopular. I believe, however, that he acts as he conscientiously believes to be for the good of the service, & though often running to unjustifiable extremes, has, yet, organized the best volunteer force that we have ever had. As a tactician & administrative officer, he has talent superior to Gen. Taylor, beyond these few generalities I know little of him —

The General requested from me a Report of the charges on our left, with which I handed him & with which he is said to be highly pleased. For the same report I have been much complimented by those officers to whom I have shown it. Here you see I have written nearly three pages about myself, which is pretty nearly enough —

The prospect of an advance is very uncertain. Some believe that negotiations are now going on; others that a battle has been fought &c. — The truth is however that no one knows anything.

Mr. Magoffin, a wealthy Santa Fe trader, advises
me strongly to go to Guantico after the war.
(after the Army retires.)
If I can get a leave, I will probably take an
~~short~~ exploring trip to several of the chief
towns, & if they present sufficient inducements,
i.e. \$10,000 per annum. after returning home, I
will probably leave you again for two or three
years with the hopes of gaining ~~at~~ a comfortable
independence for us all — May Heaven
keep the plan — I must be close for
the present with abundance of love to you
& my dear brother & sisters & friends —

Yr. affectionate son
Hayden