

Camp, near Mex, Mexico.
Feb 3^d 1848

My Dear Mother

There is nothing that affords me so much pleasure, as to keep you informed of where I am, the state of my health, and how I am pleased with my present condition of life; for I well know you are ever anxious to hear from me, if it is only three words, viz, "I am well". It has been some time since I last wrote you, nevertheless you must have heard from me, as I have endeavoured to keep some one of the family informed of my "whereabouts," and the state of my health, thinking that would be of as much gratification, as any information that I could communicate, to those who are so nearly and dearly related, and those too whom I know take such a deep and lively interest in my prosperity and future wellfare through life.

I wrote Father a letter, eight or ten days ago, when in Camargo, and since that time I have, also, written Brewster one. I returned from Camargo two days ago, after an absence of some thirty days, having been detached to sit upon a Court Martial convened at that place, to try such offenders as should be brought before said Court. I was much delighted when we finished our business and the Court adjourned, for I would prefer any other duty before that of acting as

of the wolves are howling around my tent at a most distressing rate, and seem as if they would not care to make an attack upon our Camp.

a member of a court, for really it is und-
oubtedly the most tedious of all the duties
that devolves upon an officer to perform -
Most of the prisoners who came before the court
were for desertion from the Army, the most
serious offence that a soldier can be guilty of
in time of war. Martial law is looked upon
by many individuals as being severe to the
extreme, yet it is not one iota too much so.
Discipline is the most important thing in an
army, where there are so many perverse char-
acters to be dealt with. It is undoubtedly the
best of all schools to teach a man his duty -
altho' there are not many soldiers ready to
admit the assertion.

On my return to Camp, I found
that the Small-pox had been prevailing to a
most alarming extent in the camp - many
men had died with it, and a large number
is now afflicted with the horrible disease.
I was vaccinated immediately, which has taken
effect and is doing quite well, but my
arm is very sore, as a natural consequence.
My health is remarkably good, and has been
since I left the city of Monterey - my weight
is only one hundred and sixty, and am still
gaining in flesh, so you see, that Soldiering,
and living in this warm country agrees with
me most admirably both in health and spirits;
notwithstanding, I am necessarily deprived
of many of the enjoyments of a more civilized
life, and the society of relations and friends.
There is nothing like society or refinement in this
part of the world, and it does not deserve the

name of a civilized land, as the inhabitants have never been taught to recognize either the laws of God or man. The principal amusements with the natives are horse-racing and cock-fighting, which invariably takes place on Sundays, and the Priests are the individuals who participate most freely in those amusements.

We have had a little rain within the few last days which has done no harm, but of any consequence for four or five months. I think from all present appearances the rainy season is about to commence.

I do not know how long we are to remain here. I am of the opinion that all the hard fighting is over, but when peace is to be made is extremely doubtful. It is said that Canales has given himself up to General Wool, and another leader of the guerrilla's, whose name I do not recollect at present.

There are a good many robbers, yet, between here and Montezuma, who occasionally make an attack on our trains, but invariably get the worst of their bargain.

I understand the people in Charlotte are actually running mad about a little railroad they are going to build. as much as as a certain race of people, of older times, ^{was} about a Golden Calf.

I have now written all the news I can gather from a camp life, therefore, must stop. Accept the love of your affectionate son
E. C. Davidson

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NEW YORK
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ALEXANDRIA

(From the Army)