

Camp on the Rio Grande opposite
Matamoros April 26th 1846

My dear Brother
Having just heard of an opportunity of sending to Austin Shastin to drop you a few lines to inform you of the state of things in this Quarter. We have now been in our present position four weeks. During that time the Mexicans have looked upon us as invaders & considered that the two nations were in a state of war. However both Armies have gone on with their works without being disturbed by any attack. Two of our Officers Col. Cross Asst. W. Master General & Capt. Porter & Trigg have been murdered by the banditti who infect this Country. Yesterday a Squadron of Dragoons consisting of about fifty men commanded by Capt. Thornton who were out on a reconnaissance were surrounded by about two thousand Mexican Cavalry & Infantry & captured with the loss of one Officer (St. Lane) & ten men. Two wounded men were sent into our Camp by the Mexican Commander who stated in a letter to Genl. Taylor that he did so as an act of humanity having no means of taking care of them himself. You see by this that the war has fairly commenced. Mexico has struck the blow that will cause her downfall & I hope to see the Star Spangled banner waving over the city of Mexico. Anista is now in command at Matamoros. He arrived there two or three days since & succeeded Ampudia. The bearer of this Mr. Catlett, can tell you every thing in relation to the Army here that you desire to know. I intend to write to you again as soon as I find leisure &

give you a more detailed account of our operations—

I have been anticipating a great deal of pleasure from your promised visit to our Camp & I hope matters will be in such a state that you ^{will} be able to come. If you do, of course you will come by water to Point Isabel & from there you will be able to join some party bound here. It is now considered unsafe to go far into the Country without being well armed & in numbers—

The enemy have a large force at Matamoros & Mr. Cottle is bearer of dispatches from Genl. Taylor asking for volunteers & I trust the state of Texas will be able to turn out a few thousand—

I received a letter from Maria little more than a week ago. All well at Hartford. She says "I do not think Father will go west this spring— In my last belief I stated that he had determined to do so. She also said that he intended to write to you that day after finishing his letter to me—

Let me hear from you often. Hoping we shall be able to meet soon
Yours affectionately
Robt. R.

C. M. Pease Esq.

Austin

Handwritten notes in the top left corner, including the number '20' and several lines of illegible cursive text.

Vertical handwritten text in the center of the page, possibly a list or a series of entries, including the number '11' at the bottom.

Handwritten numbers '10/10' and '10/10' located in the upper right quadrant of the page.



Merrill

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AUSTIN
MAY 17
TEXAS

C. M. Pease Esq.
(St. of Rep.)

Brazoria Austin
via Galveston Texas (postpaid)

For
Mr. Cattel



John Robinson
Houston
April 20 1846