February 3rd, 1847

Dear Mr. John,

I suppose I ought not to write until I am almost ashamed to do it at all, but you know the old adage says, "better late than never," and after you hear all my reasons for not writing sooner, I hope you will excuse me. Your letter to Father came by Christmas day, and to Robert, dated Dec. 30th, both came to hand on Monday last, being February 1st.

None of us had received a letter from you for some time and we concluded you meant to keep your promise and not write to us any more, if this letter should fortunately come to hand; believe me when I say that hardly a week has passed without some of the family writing to you since you left New Orleans, and judging from your letters, you have not received one in five of the letters sent you. Apologies for my not writing sooner to the rest of the family 'writing so often and John what do you think? Why the truth is we have a little "gal" at our house, it's just like other children, only a great deal unladylike and smarter, and if you could only hear Sarah Helen Johnson (for that's her name) roaring [for breakfast] dinner or supper as the case may be; you would agree with me, that the young ladies are beginning to make a great noise in the house. And when you get back John and Mary I'll give Robert a buzz when you sent your special respects by Robert, and find yourself in my situation with a little "low head" and blind eye, noisy girl I know that when you see it fully appreciate your condition, and excuse me for not writing any sooner. Excuse my nonsense now. I will now tell you all the news I can think of: in the first place I will say the family and friends are all well so far as I can learn, and are very anxious for you,
day to arrive when you all will be discharged and return home, for it is now rendered certain that you will have no chance for a fight until the Americans attack you. It is the intention of Major or rather Gen. Scott to station your regiment at Valley's under Gen. Worth. George McCormic has got home safe, he says of all the pleasures that he ever took that one is the damniest. His sweetheart promised him where he came back that one bed should hold them both if according to promise he brought for a little gold, gold and silver pieces. But as he did not bring them, he is still an old Bachelor, if you promised your any thing you can better bring it or you will be served the same way. Perclated. The money on the constable's receipt you left with me, and went to see parent and Jenkins twice, without getting any money, but when I settle up with Carter he took in his order, and also them two notes, so you may say I have by money on them or at least their equivalent. Old am I Matthew Davidson has not fancied up a cent yet he has had about 6 hundred dollars to pay lately, and had to sell a piece of land to check friends, the piece you wanted and engaged himself every that as he had to sell it that he did not let you have it. He says I shall have the money in March. Jennings is using your horse and will do so until you come back, he wanted to buy him but is not willing to give a $100 for him, he will be taken good care of until you come back.

I bought a Negro woman and Child the 6th day of October last for 575 dollars and in two months to a day she had the second one, but the misfortune is they are both girls. I bought from a fellow in Woodford by the name of Dickey.
Father now has my note for 250 dollars bearing 10 percent. Take care of all your money. John for when you come home it will bring you a good percent. Bob has bought out a part of Walker's paper, and is now associate editor with John L. Walker. You told growing. He now goes by the name of the Junior editor of the "Western Baptist Review."

Tell Tom Gudge, that his Brother and wife Mary Gains was married yesterday evening Feb. 2nd. Congress has passed a law to raise ten more regiments to serve 5 years or during the war and will give you boys that stay twelve months 160 acres of land in addition to your pay. I have not told you half the news but must close or I will not be in time in time for the mail. Give my respects to Wm. Lillo, Mrs. Railroad, Bittersworth, and to all the boys. John take good care of your self, suffer no bad example to lead you astray from the path of duty or of virtue. In haste I subscribe myself your brother

C. M. Lillard.
Saginaw River
Feb 25th

Lieutenant J. H. Fillmore
2nd Regiment Nineteenth Volunteers
Monterey, Mexico

Care of Colonel McKeen.

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