

to Mexico. I must tell you about Mr  
Brown I expect that there is a good deal  
of talk about him in Logan but I will  
tell you that he has proved himself a friend  
to me indeed and he has done more for  
our company than any man in it you  
mentioned in one of your letters that Buckingham  
said that they were a living on the best while  
we were a starving this I say is not so  
for they eat crackers and so did we I will  
admit that theirs was the best but what  
is that they draw better ones from the Government  
and they are right in keeping them as they had  
not more than they wanted. If any of  
them were sick and wanted money when  
did they buy something nice to eat where  
did they go for it almost all of them  
to Brown and did he refuse them when he  
thought they needed it and he had it No  
He wanted to drill us and learn us  
something but he was a little too petulant  
and cross which made the boys dislike him.  
Our Captain was sick a good deal and  
Brown had the management of the company  
and he often had to be harsh to get  
some the men to do their duty and that  
was another cause for their disliking him  
I believe that he has the interest of the company  
at heart

Matamoros Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 45  
Dear Mother & Brothers  
I received Davids letter some time  
ago and waited till I had something to tell you  
before I answered it. I was glad to learn  
that you were all well and hearing so much  
fun. Will you get to see that part of his letter  
about Nancy and the boys laughed at me  
considerable her being so fat. I know that you  
must have had fine times Christmas and  
New Year but you did not see so many  
curious things as I did. We are now  
quartered in Matamoros in houses and we  
enjoy ourselves better than we have since we  
have been in Mexico. We have good dry  
houses and good bunks to sleep on and we  
would be very comfortable if it were not  
for the heat but there is no pleasure  
without its pain. We have two men to cook  
for us all and we pay them seventy five cents  
a month they are Nathan Hines and docke Keef.  
The boys are all well the only complaint is  
that they cant get enough to eat Ben Russell  
is well. He returned from the mouth where he  
had been to see Capt Gifter who is there now  
I dont believe Bens own letter would know him  
if he were to see him he is so fat

2  
Col. Drake is now comendant of this post  
and this is a very important station we have  
to be a good deal more strict than we have been  
and we have more duty to do as there are  
about 60 men detailed for guard every day  
For a few days past we have been engaged in  
making fortifications at the Plaza or public  
square - the fortifications will be finished to day  
and the boys are glad of for they had to  
work and dig pretty hard. It is rumored  
that we are to be attacked and in fact  
we have had several alarms but they  
proved to be false, Last Thursday night  
we were all asleep not thinking of danger  
when we were startled from our sleep by the  
report of the sentinals gun breaking upon  
the stillness of the night an order of evil  
instantly every man was upon his feet  
and busily engaged in putting on his accoutrements  
and seeing that his gun was in good order  
we waited anxiously to hear more about it  
from the sentinal - and there was not a  
man but what wished we might have  
a little brush of nothing more, presently  
Tucker ~~had~~ returned, he had been out to see  
what was the matter he told us that the  
sentinal had seen a party of men coming up  
the street he ordered them to halt but  
they paid no attention to him whereupon he

3  
fired upon them and they turned round and  
ran off he said he thought he heard swords  
jingle as they ran some of the companies  
turned out and formed but we did not we  
stood up awhile but hearing nothing we went to  
bed again, we had orders from the Colonel to  
lay on our arms; we had been in bed about  
two hours when we were again aroused by the firing of  
a gun which we thought came from the Jekit guard but  
we were mistaken. It has been reported that there  
are several thousand Mexican Cavalry in the  
neighborhood of this place but I dont believe  
that the report is true; In my last letter I told  
you that was with Alex Wilson and expected  
to stay with him but it turned different from  
what I expected, there is very little to do in  
the store and a great deal to do as a soldier  
so I thought it best to do my duty as a  
soldier and let the rest go. The boys tell  
me that I am fat and so I am and I  
feel very well I think that we will remain  
here the balance of our time which is four  
months we may possibly come home before  
the year is out I shall be very glad to get  
home and when I do get there I think I shall  
settle down and finish the coopers trade and try  
and do something for myself you must write  
often and give me all the news I have written  
three letters where I received but one since I came

Captain Lapelle is well. also Greaves  
 Dunn & Blakemore. I like Captain  
 Lapelle very well but he is not much of  
 a Captain. I like <sup>him</sup> better on one account  
 than any of our officers that is that he is  
 the only officer we have who having volunteered  
 as a private would have come along as such  
 of an now in a ship with Harvey Tucker  
 who is our orderly and John Grover or the  
 little French gentleman as we call him  
 Harvey is a good fellow as ever was and  
 as for John I should be lost without him  
 to quarrel with because we can quarrel  
 and make up in five minutes at least once  
 a week John is a picturesque looking bird  
 you know how red his hair is well he has  
 an enormous pair of whiskers and one of  
 Montchies twice as red as his hair and  
 they are as bulky <sup>such</sup> as things generally get to be  
 this description will suit a good many of  
 the boys all but the red part. ~~My~~ Emerson  
 has got to be as slim as a bear pole and  
 looks twice as tall he ~~has~~ <sup>was</sup> sick a  
 long time down at the mouth and he was  
 very much reduced he is now quite  
 well I expect that you will never see  
 him again as he intends going

B.B. 107

200

200

W. L. G. 18  
 Mr. David Taylor Esq  
 Logansport  
 Indiana

Yours

APR 17 1851  
 FILED  
 MAR 18 1851

