

Camp at Agua Nueva 20 miles  
in front of Saltillo July 12-47

Dear Father

I have not received a letter from you for many weeks. The last was written before you left Ky. I have heard indirectly since that you are in New Orleans and in good health.

By a letter received from Mr. Smith and from other sources I learned that unfavorable reports in regard to me prevailed in Ky. I replied to his letter in Monterey and sent it under an envelope to you in New Orleans. I hope you received it. The prevalence of such reports did not surprise me. You will remember that in July last I wrote you from the camp on the Rio Grande near Burreata informing you of certain facts connected with the command of the Regt which argued nothing but evil. From that source these things have issued. The public rarely discriminates justly. A Regt may be likened to a limited monarchy. Every thing depends upon the head. The commander of this one is a good fellow but slow in his conclusions with no capacity for organization and unfortunately addicted to excesses in a very dangerous fault. As to myself I assure you upon my honor that my own habits have not for years been so good as during this campaign and I have not for a single moment been incapacitated for my duties except by sickness and the