Rio Grande — Camp Alabama.
18th Augt 1846.

My Dear Wife,

If I should write nothing except what I have written before to you I suppose you will overlook and excuse it; wont you Mary? I will be very apt to do this as our life here is a very monotonous one — Nothing new or strange is occuring. The camp is filled with reports every hour, almost, but I have been out long enough now, not to pay the least attention to them. It is amusing to hear the boys telling what they just heard from some source or other, as to the operations of the army under Genl Taylor or in relation to ourselves. Yesterday for instance a report came that one entire company had been taken prisoners by the Mexicans and that a large body was marching on to Matamoras under Paredes — I had heard so many such reports that I paid no attention to it whatever, tho' many seemed disposed to believe every word. It is just the same case in relation to our return home. We hear very often that it is certain that we are to be discharged in a few months; that peace will certainly be declared soon. As to these things, I consider them extremely doubtful. No one can tell how long the war will last —

I had but little idea when I left home that I should be so long kept in camp unemployed. I expected to have some fighting to do and to have my mind so much occupied with the anticipations of battles and the hope of winning fame & renown, that I could half forget home and the dearness I left behind me. But would you believe it, with all the efforts I make, I can't divert my mind and thoughts from my wife and children. I think now a drop of the water from the river Lethe, would be a good remedy for me. I would not wish a full draught, but just a drop to enable me to bear with more composure my separation from those I love. My opinion is that it is the duty of a good soldier to bear with patience all the ills and hardships to which the service may subject him and consequently I do not repine or murmur at this dull inactivity. It may too, (I console myself by thinking) be best for us— We are pleasantly situated in our present encampment, almost if we were on long marches, every day, we might have much sun sickness, as the sun, in this climate, comes down with burning rays and would no doubt cause many to fall by the way side, who can stand it very well in the shade.

Notwithstanding this may be so, nothing should hesitate a moment if an opportunity was offered for us to take up the line of march far into the interior of Mexico. It is natural that we should be restless lying so long in Camp. There is a report here that we will be stationed at Camargo or some other point in the river— If true it will cause great dissatisfaction. I am more inclined to believe it, from the known fact, that our Regiment is looked upon with little favor by Gen'l Taylor, owing to the incompetency & inefficiency of our Col & Lt Col. Should it prove true, I shall deeply regret it, as all chance will thereby be lost, for us to be engaged in a battle or to do any [illegible] during the Campaign. There is considerable complaint in this Regiment now on account of the scarcity of provisions. No sugar or coffee has been furnished them for the last 20 days. They get hard sea biscuit and pickled pork. The last is the fattest meddling you ever saw; but we all eat it and for myself I am growing fond of it— The negroes at home could not be hired to eat some which we get— I have sent down to day to Pt Isabel to purchase sugar & Coffee for my company. Hale, McD Mysell purchase

our own provisions instead of drawing them as the rest of the Company does. The supplies we brot from Mobile lasted but little time and we find it very often difficult to get even the necessaries here. We esteem ourselves lucky when we can get fresh beef and have beef soup for dinner. Our standing dish is fried pickled pork. Morning, noon & night that is sure to come before us. One thing we have here in great abundance — the small Cayenne pepper, growing wild. We put it in bottles with vinegar & have excellent pepper sauce — The next chance I get I will send you some of it to sow the seed.

Dr Anderson has resigned his appointment of Surgeon — Col Coffey had not treated him gentlemanly he thought. His health is not good for the last few days — Nor is Mc — or Charly G[illegible] — My health is pretty good, so [illegible]

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Miss & Lowell
Mrs Amanda M. Moore
Care of M. Hobson
Greensboro
Ala

GALVESVILLE AUG 30

My

In conclusion I wish you my dear wife, to keep me constantly advised of your state of health and also of my dear children. I am filled with constant anxiety and uneasiness on your account as well as theirs — What if some evil should befall you or them while I am absent? It would embitter my whole existence. I hope, however, to hear of your safe delivery and of your speedy recovery and also that my dear children are both well. I have had a strong inclination to get off & be with you, but it is impossible.