Jalapa Mexico.
April 24th 1847.

My Dear Wife,

We arrived here on yesterday having had quite a fatiguing march from Vera Cruz. When night would come we found it sweet to rest our wearied limbs. I often, however, would forget, for a time, the wearisomeness of the march, by being lost in admiration of the beauty and splendour of the scenery which was presented to our gaze. This is by far the loveliest place I have ever beheld. The atmosphere here is pure and balmy - just the temperature to be pleasant. Last night we found it rather cold, but it would not have been if we had been better protected from the weather. This City is the largest we have yet seen in Mexico. Its population is variously estimated at from 20 to 30 thousand inhabitants. The inhabitants are far superior to any we have ever before met with in this republic. At least their appearance is better and they are said to be far superior in intelligence. I noticed here more handsome women than I have ever before seen in Mexico. Some indeed are surpassingly beautiful.

Just the day after we left Vera Cruz a great battle was fought at a Mountain pass between here & there called Sierra Gorda. We were not over 25 or 30 miles from the scene while the two armies were engaged. Had we started a day or two sooner we should have come a part in the splendid victory. We passed all over the battle field. Dead bodies were lying in heaps around on every side. Many were slain and hundreds were wounded. I had a number of acquaintances both among the killed and wounded. The Tennesseans suffered more than any other volunteers. They were encamped with us all last summer on the Rio Grande at Camargo. I knew all the Officers of that regiment & a number I saw suffering with severe wounds while some whom I esteemed most, upon enquiry, I learned were sleeping among the silent dead. Lt Nelson, whom I had known in Alabama, years ago and a gallant young fellow was among this number. The Tennessean were ordered to charge a battery, but were repulsed — not however without showing great courage. No one attaches any blame to them, on the contrary they have been praised for their courage. Genl Pillow, who commanded them, is cursed by them and by all others who were acquainted with his conduct on that occasion. I wish you would inform

my friend Dr Davis that his cousin Lt Davis who commanded his company in that charge escaped unhurt altho a ball passed through his clothes between his shirt & skin and another knocked his sword so far off that he could not then & never could recover it — He acted as brave as a lion and when his regiment was repulsed & fell back he was nearer the batteries than any other man. We had a long conversation that night, we encamped near the battle-ground and from him I learned many particulars of the fight. The place where this battle was fought was one of the strongest in Mexico. It was a great victory on our side. A number of officers & some 400 or 500 men were taken prisoners. Among the officers taken were La Vega & Gen'l Herrera. We met a number of them going down to Vera Cruz to be sent to N. Orleans. Santa Anna came near being taken. He fled, but his carriage was taken with 30,000 of in silver. When he arrived here he told the people that he had gained a great victory over Scott. You will read a full account of this victory in the papers before this letter is rec'd so I need not dwell more on it. For some distance before we reached here we could see the top of the Orizaba mountain covered with snow. It would be worth going hundreds of miles to see it. I could gaze on it for days together I never grew tired viewing so novel & beautiful a sight. Even while I write it is in full view. You can see the snow as plain as if it was only a few miles off — the top rises up from amid the clouds

and while the sun sends its ~~[illegible]~~ rays to warm us, from this snow-capped mountain the air seems to come to cool & refresh us. If I did but have you with me, Mamma, to enjoy all this cooliness, how happy I should be. The water here is as cold as ice water. Many are of the opinion that the war will soon be at an end. This is Genl Scott's opinion. He is expecting daily to receive overtures for making peace. In the meantime he is making arrangements to continue on to the Capital as soon as he can collect provisions enough. Genl Worth has gone as far as Perote and has taken possession of that town. If we go farther, which some doubt, it will be ten days first. The mount air here has improved my general health greatly and I never felt better with the single exception of very slight pains in my limbs, which is supposed to be rheumatic. Have you gone over to Eutaw yet? I hope you will find it convenient to meet me in Mobile, if not you must be in Eutaw, as I will probably go up the Warrior, to Finches ferry, if the river is navigable when we return. Our time is out on the 4th day of June next — I owe it to you — to my children & to my own feelings to hasten home then as soon as possible. No matter where I may then be my steps shall be turned towards home — This too is the intention of every one in the company. Lt Murphy is in good health. Capt Pickens was too sick to leave Vera Cruz. The Hospital was crowded with sick soldiers when I left there — Nov 1500 — I will write to you again in a few days. May Heaven bless you, my sweet wife and also my dear children and grant us a speedy meeting. Yours unchanged & unchangeable Husband. Sydenham Moore