Camp opposite Matanzas. May 26th 1846.

Dearest father, mother, brothers & sisters— For I want so much to write to you all that I cannot address one alone. I read father's letter and enclosing one from mother, and notwithstanding the sad news they contained of my dear friend Roy, they were welcome with delight— God knows I love no friends like the members of my own dear family, and to hear of your health & happiness must afford pleasure under the most painful circumstances. You my rights, my dear mother, I must regret the loss of my friend but cannot grieve at it— I have known him for 6 yrs. during most of which time we were on terms of intimacy; and perhaps I have told you how much I am indebted morally, intellectually, & above all religiously. I do not now feel his loss as really as I ought to do, as when related to a quiet life I shall do; for the sad news reached me during moments of such strange excitement that the violent death of the standing by my side might scarcely call for a sigh. I can feel too that if he was one rather to be envied than pitied, for he had a pure heart
And a soul devoted to his Maker’s service.

I will write to you but a short letter to day as
I am not very well, and to make up what I
do more of that “Executive Journal” which you
are welcome to laugh at to your hearts content.

For as writing it seems to amuse me, if reading
it over the same for you, “also well,”

Snr. Smith has arrived with two volunteers, but he
begin to suspect that it may not be possible to
continue operations during the summer– the heat
is excessive, on a March of 15 miles two soldiers
dropped dead, a number of our regulars
have alsoumbled over. The future known
is still uncertain. But now what do you
think of the “Universal Yankee Nation” only
think you! great big high pressure steamboat
puffing up the Rio Grande to the utter astonishment
of the natives. The officers of the army have
condemned so peremptorily the thing impracticable. Mr.
Sec. Taylor gave his orders “sink or swim go on.”

And on she did go, the old boat. It now she has
safety in the river near the fort. And indeed
enough has now surprised one at all as
she wrote to me on the subject before the
bargain was struck, i.e. while I was at Mt. Berend
and indeed spoke it 18 months ago. So congratulate
me for me to say that I inter writing so soon
in matters here become a little more certain.
I have rec'd. within a week a great compliment—a great disappointment. I was lying in bed last night (my ear can do not be alarmed) when I rec'd. from Head Quarters a note to their effect. "The Commanding General desires that you will suspect all the Hospitals of Matamoras, " I report on several occasions to you, and now comes a long letter about the condition of the buildings of the city, concluding with an order for me to state what in my opinion is necessary to place the sick in number about 100 in a comfortable condition. 

Surely to select one of my age well for this duty was gratifying. As I was obliged to report Connolly sick, the senior Surgeon with the Army was assigned to the duty.

For all the above, dear Mother, to give you some account of my accommodations—well within a week they are much improved. Being for a time settled, I have had my tent pitched to begin with. On one side of it 6 stakes with stakes on top are driven in the ground; on these are laid two poles, a crosswise over the poles, the slates of a firk barrel—then you see my bedstead—I no longer sleep on the ground. With a lay, my cotton mattress on this, my two blankets on the mattress—sheets of course could be put in place. As my trunk is too large to carry in the field, I pack a few things in a box, which seems me very little for a seat, also makes part of my table. Our market is now tolerably good, except that the
My dear father,

I think I owe it to the world to tell you that the world are those fine looking, tender beef in Texas, because beef can and be kept 20 years. I feel very bad about the size of a cherry. Better make the purchase cost about $18 a month. If you paint me for April, I am sure you all prefer somewhere in the country the same. I am, of course, at your disposal — how could not to be to your benefit. All. But you all? Ely somewhere. I am anywhere next to hear from Washington, but although on that account I send you mine. Money immediately, you depend on what you spend. I hope for one of each such beauty, occasionally among the rest. At home for Ali, I think early in April. Sam Lewis Henry's fine prospects. Will not Charles and Catherine spare me a little time in letters? As of course to you. On my mind. Letters are to the rest, but although you happen to have not time to write to me. I hope to write Emma & Eugene &

Write presently for their letters. By the way I had nearly