Camp at Reynosa 11th M.
July 11th

My dear Parents,

I have not seen anything more beautiful than the appearance of our present camp during this lovely moonlight evening. I cannot even for my present employment, let alone the fear of my tent, and shut out from the wide extended prairie my view and, separating us, without a light, we have put hardship and dangers but are not discontent our pleasures and the enjoyment of a scene like this is cheaply purchased by man a privation and danger—danger which adds to the romance of our situation and the delightful ease of our feelings. The situation of Reynosa is beautiful. It stands on a hill in the midst of a rolling country over which the view extends to the Sandwich of the Rio Grande apparently separated from each other and resembling therefore a succession of lakes. The view of this hill as from the camp of our little detachment is pitch; behind as in the town, Matamoros, owing to the number of fires now lighted, it, and to the constant communication of the citizens with the Steamer,
affords to the means a correct specimen of a Mexican town, as its inhabitants. The most favorable example of the Mexican people. Repu is built of white basalt, each block of which is the walls of the house is about 2 feet. In each district, the buildings are thus rendered impervious to the soaking rains of the time, and are exposed only at all times.

The officer remarks that this place may appropriately be named 'The City of the Dead.' The houses resemble the white monuments of a cemetery, and the stillness of the streets except when echoed by the Martial music seems like the deathlike silence of a town depopulated by some mortal epidemic. The appearance of desolation is further increased by the number of unroofed and ruined buildings. Perhaps it is not exaggerated to state that about one-third of the whole town is in that state. The walls of dwellings may be partly or entirely finished, and the edifice remain without roof, down or foundation. On the other hands, some long neglected, the half-completed building is falling into ruins, and the labor of many months is burdened with the fallen blocks for the streets are strewn with the fallings.
for visiting skeletons; both of the kind just mentioned, and others were pleasing in reality if not in picture. The Church, some Greek or private buildings with an image front, and the wells, singular to one who has been in his own country, seem much more latter to render them demonstrative as well as helpful. The people seem very friendly to us, giving always a smiling introduction to their houses, of which, however, I never avail myself. The women are quite pretty, particularly their feet, and are very graceful; the most admiration of our ladies might make a. happy example of her style, and artificial movement for the easy and beautiful figure of one of their Mexican women.

The rest of our regiment arriving today, I will go to Corunna in a boat. We are ordered to march to immediately. I shall then have few hours to-night merely to inform you of my good health, to warn you against its fallacy. Oh! the much better way to close with you in your thoughts, for all the time to come.