Sier, Mexico, August 12

My dear Father,

You desired me some time ago to procure you a Spanish map of this country, and a thing I regret to say is not to be obtained, but I now send you the best substitute, in a copy of a copy of the Prata's Map of the Rio Rio Grande. The country is, however, very badly surveyed; the distances are uncertain, and the exact relation of the different routes not well ascertained.

We were all invited to a Tancango, a Mexican ball, by companions accepted, but it afforded me a deeper pleasure, to turn the midnight lamp for your gratification — two copies are the result of my industry, one of which is enclosed for your use. Whenever inquiring among the inhabitants I can obtain any further information, and this I am constantly on deavouring to do, you shall benefit by it. The true distance from Monterey from Sier is about 45 Mex. leiguas less than the result obtained by comparing the scale with the digit on the map — error n°1. Coming to Monterey about 50 leiguas. The Mex. leigue is equal to 2 1/8 of our Miles. It appears that Gen. Taylor hasn't yet determined upon the road to be taken by the Army. Some say that it will come by this.
Dear Sir,

This is only a late return, but allows me some confirmation from the fact that, the Quarter Master here has received directions to purchase all the corn that can possibly be obtained in the neighborhood, i.e., 20 or 30 miles. The policy pursued by Gen. Taylor in the conduct of the war thus far offers an enigma not to be solved without the aid of political Whose heard before of a war proving immediately highly beneficial to the enemies people yet brisk in the case. A town is occupied by our troops the inhabitants are protected from Indians, and an excellent market for their corn & other produce, receive an exorbitant rent for the houses required for the public stores and are employed at unreasonably high wages by the public dept. We are more occupying a fine building hired belonging to the town, used until our arrival as a school, and after this, we are paying monthly rent to the public authority!! The same system is pursued in the other towns also for the Academy of some Uncle Sam. Now if it is the intention of Government to extend our National boundary to the Mountains in our territory, nothing can be more proper than to encourage by all
proper means the minds of the inhabitants, but I cannot think that ever in this case, it is right to leave public buildings, nor that the effect of a contribution of corn to be collected by the local authorities, would be bad. On the other hand, if it is the intention of the rulers to continue the limit their conquests by the Rio Grande, it must be poor policy to make the war beneficial to a people whom you wish to force into a peace. Fancy for a moment an English Army in possession of Philadelphia, paying rent for the use of Independence Hall, or Guard Bank! By some it is thought that the Gen. means to advance by two routes one Montoya—one from Car najwięks one from Mier, but it does not yet appear that the roads are near enough together, or can communicate by cross roads often enough, for to enable the Colony to afford mutual support from the Map it would likewise appear that the Rio San Juan runs between. These remarks are all a random, by diligent reading I hope to learn more of the nature, directions, distances, respective advantages of the different roads as regards water, grazing.

An opportunity occurs fortunately of sending this letter this afternoon to Camargo; the messenger we know nothing about but asks alleged to trust. Please let
know whether you got my map, for although incomplete, and in some respects incorrect, in the best to be do, it will give a very good general idea of relative situations of the towns and rivers—No time for anything more now as I must visit a patient весьма ill. You know that I have never yet rec’d any pay check. The Dept. for Jan. to Feb. 10, which I will send my accounts for shortly. The also pay for April, May, & June. No opportunity yet of sending anything as Paymasters are scarce about here.

Andrew A. Pennell
Philadelphia PA

August 22

My love to-- My dear for a long time to come your affection.

[Signature]