Camp, September 27, 1846.

My dear Father,

It is now nearly 12 o'clock midnight, but I have been writing all day by lamplight, and I am now sending this letter to you. I have been a long time preparing this letter, and I cannot delay a moment longer. I have just received a letter from Captain Smith, who has just arrived here in a dispatch from Washington. My information is derived from him.

The Army having arrived at Wallace's Springs within three miles of Monterey, encamped there, and advanced with a Regiment of Cavalry (chiefly Texas Rangers) for the purpose of making a reconnaissance of the fortifications of the town.Having arrived within Cannon shot, a ball fired from one of the Magazine batteries passed a few feet above his head, and I ordered him to retire.

The following information was obtained.

The road approached Monterey in a small hollow, and the streets of the city running east and west. The Chief defended a portion of the Bishop's Palace, situated on an elevation on the left, to the right of the town.

The Cathedral Fort, also to the right of the town, also to the right of the town; but more easterly. The fire of this fort, playing upon the road for the distance of more than half a mile, rendered the passage of troops along it exceedingly dangerous.
of three batteries on the left of the town, one a little distance, the other nearer the Cemetery situated some distance in the town. This included (if I remember rightly) about one acre of ground and surrounded by a strong and high stone wall, pierced with loopholes and embrasures in a small chapel probably from proof. Behind the Bishop's Palace are some heights composed of old masonry and rising within it a

street. The map I sent you must be on the wrong side of the Heights. These facts were not of course ascertained at the first reconnaissance so distinctly as they are here stated, but I think it best to bring you well acquainted with the ground. On the 29th Gen. Wirt's Brann Consisting of the Artillery Protection (at first) of the 5th Infantry were detailed from the main Army to reinforce the position to the right of the Bishop's Palace. Some resistance was made by the enemy's cavalry, but the division was placed securely on the required spot. On the 30th the Battle commenced on both sides of the town. Capt. Lake of the 3rd Artillery (my commissary at the time)
was ordered to Sunday. The first three columns, led by Capt. Smith supported by 45 of Capt. Kennedy’s men on the opposite side of the river. The movement was successfully performed. Capt. Butler with but little loss dispersed the three hundred men (a very inadequate force) from the heights commanded Bishop’s Palace, and recovering the garrison of this place to be in Rome Captain Webb skillfully obtained himself of this advantage and prepared the way of their way itself to the present as it was found to command the strong fortified Cemetery in the town. Meanwhile the troops in the left were active. The 3 P.M., Capt. Butler with the Volunteers advanced up the road under a heavy fire and advanced towards the left. The 3 P.M. the fire from the town on the flank of the valley and their heavy fire killed a drove of our men, nearly all of its defenders. The Mississippi and Tennessee Volunteers then having entered it under a heavy enfilade fire. At 12 P.M. was taken in the rear when battery was being put under Ogilvy of Capt. Butler’s men. In the town. The enemy appeared attempted to abandon the streets of the city and I believe made a lodgment in the suburbs. On the 22nd much was done, at least at close quarters. The Cemetery being exposed to a plunging fire, from my position of our troops, was evacuated by our troops and occupied by our soldiers. A mortar battery was immediately
established here for the purpose of throwing the
shells into the Plaza, to which place the
chief force of the enemy was collected. This was placed under
the charge of Lieut. Lyon, and was very handsomely
designed. The 23rd the fight had carried on more
violently, and the gallantry of our
troops cannot be too highly commended.
The streets were barricaded in many places
by solid masonry, which was often skillfully
flanked from other streets. During this day
the enemy was driven in from all directions
and confined to the immediate neighborhood
of the Plaza, but at what a cost to our
forces! The mortars, taken being
now vigorously brought into play, did immense
damage, and soon brought Gen. A. P. Stansfield
to the conclusion that the Mexican Army retired from the place
with all the honors of war—this mark
of respect was due to their brave defense.
They were permitted to take with them 6 field
pieces, 24 rounds of ammunition, all
the remaining munitions of war were
surrendered to Gen. Taylor. A truce
of 8 weeks was concluded, during which time
Neither Army can pass beyond a line drawn through Rio \nConchos and some other names. The terms where names I cannot recall at the \nmoment. These terms were highly honorable to the Mexican Army and indeed somewhat \nmore favorable than they had reason to expect, since their \ntroops have thus escaped being made prisoners of war. \nGen. Taylor has acted as levelable manner of humanity for blood enough had already \nbeen spilled, as you will now perceive. \nThe loss in killed and wounded is about 500. \nThe 3rd. I am nearly cut to pieces particularly \nover the proportion of officers very large. Of \n11 officers 5 are killed, one wounded perhaps \nmortally, another slightly. At one time \na lecture charge 75 men were all that could be collected. The rest four fellows \nwere bleeding where they fell. The 45th. killed all the \nofficers. \nThe 3rd. Capt. Morris, Capt. Great America 3rd. Capt. Barlow \nField also 3rd. Foul? Primm Haight 3rd. \nLtc. Hooper Wodd 4th. Capt. Bell. \nLtc. Graham. 4th. pointy wounded. Major Gurne 3rd. dangerously wounded. \nSeveral others of Volunteers were also killed \nand wounded but having no acquaintance with \nthem. I do not remember the name of any but Gen. Butler who was wounded in the leg.
My dear father, I have no time to say a word more. It is quite possible that my account of the battle is not altogether free from errors (for which hold me responsible not Capt. Eaton), but it will give you a better idea of the nature of the operations at Manassas than most of the accounts you will be likely to meet with some time.

To conclude, I have particular reasons for desiring the publication of this letter if you can profit model it into a fit form for public criticism. I will write you again.

I remain,

F. A. M.

It is a couple of hours since I wrote the above lines, before the excitement under which I am laboring has fairly cleared up. From the high ground occupied by Capt. Mansfield of the Engineer Corps, one of the highest I had almost said the most gallant, officer in the army, those before was occasion to express my admiration of his coolness during the defense of Fort Brown. But I am informed that during the latter hours struggle he displayed even more folly his fire voluntary assistance. Capt. Williams of the Engineer Corps had been posted among the killed. On coming through the lines I was requested to speak to the wife of one of the officers of the 3d, badly killed. She was a very devoted wife marrying him after a few months, and had many pleasant letters to send to her absent soldier—how dreadful to hear will be the news of his death.