Chicago, Feb. 17th, 1876.

My dear parents,

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude for your kind and generous support. In all my letters, I have always mentioned the importance of your patience and understanding. I hope you will find this letter to be a reflection of my true feelings.

I must admit that the recent events have been quite trying, and I have not had the opportunity to write as frequently as I would have liked. However, I hope that this letter will provide you with an update of my current situation.

One of the most recent events that I would like to discuss is the promotion of some of our fellow officers. I believe that this is an excellent opportunity for us to show our appreciation and support. I hope that you will be able to attend this event and support our officers.

I must also address the recent remarks made regarding the character of my friend Robert. I must assure you that I hold a high regard for his character and have always admired his integrity. I believe that he has always been honest and straightforward. I hope that you will be able to keep this in mind as you consider his actions.

I have been thinking about the recent events and I believe that there may be a different cause for his inactivity in his duties. I hope that you will be able to understand this and give him the time and support that he needs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and encouragement. I hope that you will be able to attend the upcoming event and show your support.

Perhaps the most important thing that I would like to say is that I love you both very much and I hope that you will be able to share this letter with Robert.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
love, that his feelings are really fallen asleep, and are slow to move at any time; yet not the least trace in the end.

This account, although Robert has liked many people he has loved very few, (notably his former excepted), and in the business has he been separated from all relatives, so little sympathy have any of them exhibited for his dependant situation, that he may be considered, so far as they are concerned, entirely alone in the world and I have known him to declare to me, that his affection for me exceeded that for any other; and it is to me that he has always confided his thoughts, plans, and feelings. While from this knowledge of his character I can assure of his grateful attachment to you all, I regard your kindness to him, my dear parents, in a most delicate and gratifying instance of your affection to me.

I wrote a letter to Robert a few days since, but he is probably on his way here already if Dr. Bapell has reached it. I left no reply, for some time back, any excursion, has, since the battle, gone crazy, and in consequence left the country. It is supposed that he also will resign, probably not to take effect until the end of the year.

Dispatches arrived a week since from Washington, in the greatest haste. The instructions of the President are that, the Army must go to Tampa, to be brought to Gen. Taylor's, whether by land or to embark, it is said that
he is resided upon the former!!! It has been a constant source of vexation to me, that I am obliged to be so engaged in the appropriate. Of my opinions on military operations, not that any speculations could have any interest for you, but they might, perhaps, at some future day, afford a topic for fireside conversation. You will remember that the first letter (I think) written by me after arriving opposite Matamoros, I recorded my strong protest against the operation with the Red Brigade as a base: the Bexar City of St. Juan B. deUrra to be impregnable to the attack of our navy. Thought Bexar would probably be the best leaping point, and would answer very well as a base. From there to the City of Mexico is exactly 300 miles. I do not know what kind of road. There is from Bexar to Mexico, but it ought to be practicable, if it is not perhaps there are other snags. Also, General Scott and others could land there, a road runs directly into the main road from Vera Cruz to Mexico, along which an army might advance, if things enough to leave a large detachment to watch the garrison of St. Juan B. deUrra, for this service a regiment of Regulars with 300 volunteers would be enough, a three main army of 15 to 18,000 men march on the capital. Their numbers would be readily raised by uniting the regiments Gen. Wool, now engaged in a respectable military
Indeed the whole war has been carried on, not according to any exploded political principles, but through the occupation of territory. That the country which we mean to retain at the end of the war, must be occupied during the war; just as if Italian territories had never been gained by war on the Danube, or German States by battles on the Po.

The distance from Monterey to Sámpier, by St. Louis, must be 500 miles. It is 600 to Mexico, according to the map you sent me, which is very useful indeed for future reference on a large scale, though inaccurate in the details, e.g. Camargo is on the river side the 35º latitude, not on the Atlantic. At St. Louis River we are 150 m. from Sámpier, 200 from the capital. What there is to be done? If we come more beyond St. Louis, let it be by all means direct to Mexico. If we aim to establish a seaport, why much more 500 miles? Very few places excepting dry regions, exposed them to the attacks of guerrillas, and obliged them to bear the heavy burden when all this could be avoided amy early? Do we expect in this way to preserve our present conquests? It is folly to desire it, and it would be cruel to leave small garrisons exposed to the horrors of a revolt, and would endanger the ultimate success of the enterprise. If at this moment I had to direct the future movements of the Navy, and after satisfying information had been obtained (and such a thing is never provided for now) replace all the conquests we have made, preserving only our laundries,
and would speedily embark all my troops at
The Brazos, sail for Tampico (of the road from it was
reported practicable) and having fortified it established
there my Depot, would March on Mexico. Such an
in my day dreams, and, whatever may be the success
of the plan now entertained, I shall always attribute
it solely to the superiority of our troops on the
battlefield. — As I am so much in the
annals of this egotistical chaiteney this morning just
for me to let off a little more of my superabundant
fate — the whole success of the battle at
Monterey was due, in my opinion, to See Hart &
yet his command is accountable for only 80 killed
wounded out of S 61 — what a triumph for Croix!!!
The road as I told your approaches Monterey, running in
a long. Monterey desert is entering it on the right
side of the town are commanded by height
which Hart immediately attacks & occupies, and
here the battle should have ended. Why did they not?
Why were so many men cruelly slaughtered on the
left of the town? In the first place the large team
excepting two guns came on, was left behind !!!!!!!!
As to 9:05 let it remain
And now dear parents, that I have done with this,
I feel decidedly better, and as I am conscious
that I have by speaking oracularly given well
founded suspicion of vanity, let me beg you to
be indulgent, and to believe one that I have not
written from a desire to make a display of my
vain military sense, but because the
being a subject of such alarming interest to me, I must talk on it occasionally to you, who will judge my ideas more favorably than others might feel disposed to.

Dr. Temple has gone up to Monterey, and has encouraged me to expect an order to join the forces there. If I join any regiment, I should like much to again with the 1st Battn.

My health continues good, and I hope, in the course of the summer, to hear and collect from you some news of the country. My dear M{"a}de and friends, I remain, as ever, yours affectionately,

[Signature]

[Date] 8th July, 1846.