My dear Sister

I fear that you have all been somewhat uneasy at my long absence, but I am about to write to you the many calls upon my time, which have prevented my returning an earlier answer to your delightful letter of the 14th ult. The sickness I mortally fear to see among the volunteers had rapidly increased up to about the 8th or 9th of this month; when it began to augment to rapidity. That Gen. McD. sent me an order to inspect all the hospitals at Buena Vista Encantada, & to report upon their condition. This required me to ride about 12 miles to make a final inspection & investigation; consequently it was necessary to draw up a report of the condition of things, & to subjoin to it an opinion of the measures which should be taken to make the sick more comfortable, & prevent a further augmentation of their numbers.

A letter of this kind, with its heavy responsibility, you may the more bear not easily performed by one of my years, comparative inexperience, yet I had reason to believe that I have acquitted myself to the satisfaction of the General Commanding. It was to comfort to that of the volunteer brigade, several of whom thanking me must have
felt called upon, by the remarks I had occasion to make concerning their total want of organization.

The day before, I went to the General, a Protestant against my Report, & to which, however, no importance whatever was attached.

During the past week I have had imposed upon me a still more disagreeable duty—

Sgt. Neale, Brother of Capt. Elisha Neale of our friends, was on furlough in Nassau, for sickness—At the expiration of his term he sent in an application for an extended one, grounded upon a certificate of ill health given him by Dr. Bell, the General, in his [illegible]—At the expiration of his term he sent in an application for an extended leave, grounded upon a certificate of ill health given him by Dr. Bell, the General. The General ordered me to examine his case critically & report upon it. After doing so, with every disposition to oblige on account of the [illegible] friendship, & in fact for his benefit, I was unable, notwithstanding an appeal of Dr. Bell's certificate, to report anything.

Sgt. Neale reported near, therefore, ordered to Camp before. At first he pretended to obey the order, but endeavored to make a personal affair of it with me, but I firmly reiterated my opinion & had him taken back from him—an order was, & kept in to carry him out by force if he refused to go. After seeing Col. [illegible] & the General, who is disposed to be my friend, finding me after all of the same disposition, told me that...
I meant to order one to examine all officers on leave of absence for sickness, if there were some so as to recall— I replied that, I was at all times ready to take after any illness or responsibility which he judged proper, but that it would be much more agreeable to have others associated with me to share it. In this he consented, leaving me to nominate the members of the Board.

To tell the truth all this kind of work is a little too heavy for young shoulders, while I shall never shield from the strict discharge of my duties, I care not how soon the arrival of the proper rank eije, to control, without difficulty, the ill disciplined men but when we are associated— My health preserving me from an ailing spirit and with luck in any act. My little friend Gregorio has just interrupted me. His father had an attack of the gout in both legs. Although threatened with it in the head he is improving— I don't think I should be under yet to content the Mary by writing. Better Composita as their just went 11 yrs old, doubtstep I should be regarded at home as a Mohomedan— Doubtstep, she has all the warm charter feeling of an American 15 yrs. I then as long as sweetly clings to memory. I expect never to feel it, that I sometimes resolve almost to cause my death.
But may I be permitted to love her so, and say, "I love you like the way to Heaven, to be her help and her hand with so much modesty and respect, may Heaven protect this poor oldfield to purify the world of its folly, instead of being falsely bowed up, labelled, and warranted to cure diseases of the heart. To tell the truth, Mexico is the worst place in the world for a Medico who wishes to keep out of trouble. The profession is so highly esteemed here that the people cannot bear to have a physician — even a dry paper without men being treated with some little presents, newgall, et cetera, as preserved fruits, etc. From the great advantages she offered to some of the principal towns I have entertained serious thoughts of setting here after the war. But in this place, the Grecians, the Spaniards, the Mexicans, the Indians, the Chinese, etc., may be made. Should she happen to advance to any of these places, I will establish in them for as long as time, as we have been idle here, I shall be able to form a nucleus for practice as to start me with certainty. For nothing but a sound mind I am willing to give up my commission — in that alone trust after the first year in practice would...
Make from 5 to 25,000 dollars annually. Then here I should make more 3000, but that would be no reason to expatriate myself. I have merely mentioned this idea in passing, as one of which I have occasionally thought. I therefore do not think the first cordial act of the Mexicans, those of my former friends who have been a long time away there, who are endeavoring to persuade me to it.

Maria Jesus, the two Muchachas, hejiones, Compositor, send to you many expressions of regard.

We have no public intelligence of importance. This announced that, Gen. Scott will retire Gen. Taylor in command of the Army, which I most ardently hope may be true. When it happens I will write further a letter of advice to withdraw her support from Taylor, and hope to convince her that I am right.

I thank you kindly for your confidence, our dear listener, and feel the more gratified by it, as the subject on which we have freely interchanged our ideas, is one too rarely introduced between bothersome listeners. For my own part I wish to have some from you as perfect candor on any occasion of this kind, as the best proof of your esteem and affection.

Remember, my affection, to the Harris. Benedicts to my colonel at Alexandria, to come.

May Service, I am very sorry to hear that...
she was so artful that her Yogurt Spirits...