General Hospital
Saltillo, Aug. 18, 1847

My dear sister,

Same still, thank a kind Providence, enabled to date my letters from town instead of camp. My triumph, to be sure, may be only temporary, nor those who have endeavored to displace me, and it has moreover made me at least our determined enemy; and nevertheless for the present, I am safe & contented. Contented I mean, so far as that matter is concerned, though anxious enough in other respects.

Mrs. White started for Zacatecas a week ago. She will write me a full & reliable account of the project for private practice in that place. Mr. Sproul will write me soon, giving me a like account of Durango & Chihuahua. Dr. Francisco Cepeda will endeavor to do the same of Guadalajara.

My future, as I imagine it at least, full of dangers, sacrifices, and destitution for all classes. If the pleasures of the affections, is one which it requires no common fortitude to look at, so are the anticipations of which may fill one with enthusiasm, but cannot banish sadness, even occasional gloom, if I keep home with a determination to dedicate my life to the advancement of civilization and true religion, and the suppression of Popery. If I do this ignorantly, comparatively, speaking of the true nature of Romanism.
What misgivings could actual acquaintance and contact with the damned system have over my feelings & purposes? This, this, that it seems to me I cannot forget not to look out my own happiness, mercy, while so many millions of my race are in a state of spiritual slavery from which I might be instrumental in releasing them—Pendence seems thus far to have hitherto directed me—to the fulfillment of my plans two things were essential—first—military experience—security—merits—the first I have already profited by as much as possible. The second, even this year I have done much more than was to have been expected, and have a fine prospect if my energy & determination be sufficient to make a rapid fortune—Do not let this reference to which I have been unintentionally drawn, to make matter or yourselves unhappy; remember always that, my plans remain subject to my parents' approval before they can be executed. That I speak upon this subject at all is in fact merely in compliance with your own request to speak more of my own design thinking as to my doing, and still employing my leisure time profitably in private practice, and amable writing—You may readily guess where my interests are most frequently paid. As to my thinking, you have just had a compendium of them, I suppose.
that, with my head in your lap, while your count
smothed my hair, and a long while time to
time clamed my sadness into pleasure, I could
talk on, as I used to do, feeling that even when
far far apart, I should always be present in
your thoughts, affections, should always carry
with me your prayers & sympathies to suppor
me through trials, and dangers, and sacrifices.
And they have sustained me. A Merciful God
has heard yr. intercessions. Thro' of my dear parents, I
placed the benefit of always delivered from tempest
as a great bar to evil. Think you that,
the pride which you so kindly feel for me, has
not strengthened me when I was weak, and
filled me with overflowing satisfaction when I have
triumphed?

At the above point Evans interrupted, and
on reading over the last lines begin to fear
that I have not been writing in a very
cheerful strain. This is how pretty letter
writ, so I will write what little more.
Father wished to know how high I am on the
list of Assistant Surgeons—about 40 odd from
the top, i.e. some ten or twelve yrs. at least, in the
ordinary course of things. Tell him also that,
I have attained to the sublime degree of Master
Mason—Gen. Mool has returned to Monterey.
We have no peace & war rumours. The former
I disbelieve, holding the opinion that, even if
The present Government will not make a treaty, for the people of the latter I have got a lot of shoulder straps on my coat that I may go to the battle like
no matter which is higher in rank. It being stripped by the way. If
there is no danger, how then is the same case for to tell the truth,
When I was home little injury nation both for want of confidence in me and evident want of appro-
I cannot say that this is like a mother to me, but she is as much as it is at all possible for any
ne to be, and actually hearing that relation. If I
not, or worried, she has her care read.
I have justified her too is ready with a little part
of intimate friends to make the evening pleasantly
For this I shall always love her, and think too
I have received from them never failing
injuries when I receive letters. Their never failing
messages when I write deserve an occasional