Correspondencia PARTICULAR
DELSRMINISTRO DE ESTADO
Y DEL DESPACHO DE JUSTICIA Y NEGOCIOS ECCOS.
Palacio nacional de Mexico February 13, 1848

My Dear Sir,

I have a very long and very

welcome letter of yours the date of which does
not just now occur to me but you may
remember it since it contains a quiet proof
for some of the duty of duties and of
promises--I can make no other defenses than the
plea of not guilty for I dare write to you very
soon after our entrance into the city. Notably
the half my letters do not reach their destination,
but this is the fault of the times not mine.

What now shall I say to you about this
great city--Beautiful certainly is and this
city is a tribute majesty in its own to this its day
of Misfortune--The magnificence of the shrine
has been vanished here with wonderful somnolency
and the nation Mexican when he looks upon it
notwithstanding has many defeats, that he belongs
to a great extent. That the glory of the Church has departed forever.

We are bound to take from our own records of our territory, and it
would be true for her that she took it all. This people is totally
incapable of self-government. Corruption has undermined every
sentiment of morality, and every idea of virtue is obsolete. The
influence of the Church alone has kept the people from their
independence, in the form of a despotism, and the Church is more
more correct than the state. If I believed that Providence
care interposed directly in the affairs of nations, I could not help
concluding that its hand has been in this case. Cortes, the tiger
of a host age, the great human butcher, dragged in the name
of the Cross and in the name of God, as an act of friendship
die no friend, in the full belief that he would go straight
to Abraham's bosom. He planted the Cross and with it all its attendant abuses, or the crimes and persuasions
of the days of the Inquisition. It was only necessary then to
worship the Cross to obtain a license for the commission of the
most deplorable deeds. That was the doctrine which accompanied
the victories of the Cross in Mexico, and it is still the biggest
tenets in the Mexicans faith. If he murders the offending
traveller he erects a rude cross on the spot and goes home
with the full conviction that he has obtained absolution. If
he robs one he obtains for him a note from the nearest priest
by disposing with him theSpain. All manner of misdeeds
are swept from the conscience by the act in form of absolution:
and it may here be largely set down as a matter that the
greater the villain the greater is his devotion. Crime accordingly makes no impression only upon the fear of the conscience. I simply believe that the Mexican Indians are as a rule, the most numerous infliction on any people. The revolting stories I have heard of them are too gross for repetition—The highest families, both in rank and wealth, are distinguished by them (with hardly a single exception) and there is no disgrace where a priest is a party. He makes love at the same time to mother and daughters and generally succeeds without the expense of many lives. Without citing examples I have said enough to show you that the Mexican Nation has in the decaying scale reached a point from which of itself it can never recede; and if we withdraw, and leave the people to themselves they will write or negotiate the coming of another master. The war we have waged, while just or not in a political sense has thus far been a blessing to the people; and a vast majority of the intelligent population are anxious that our Army should remain in the country. May I say, that they earnestly wish that we may hold the country forever?

The sympathy that is felt at home is, I assure you, gratifying. The Mexican people have an apprehension of a foreign than a domestic enemy.

Well, they say that we have made peace, nevertheless, such a document has been signed and has gone to Washington without but I have not doubt yet whether anxiety will come out of it. At worst notification here and at home. President Pichile can unquestionably accept the terms offered, but will not the Mexican

President Pichile will unquestionably accept the terms offered, but will not the Mexican
laid here that the Mexican Congress will ratify the act of their Presi-
dent, but it perfectly well understood that the land would have
to be bought - it is known that they will have to be bought, that
they are waiting for the screams of their patriotism. The hundred
thousand dollars have already been sent to them but like twice twist
they ask for more - John Bull I spake has a hand in this piece &
he will buy the Mexican Congress of our debt - I tell you my dear
friend that there will be no such thing as an "enormous sum" made
with this people - I fear me much that it will of it help
for at all be this grateful to both parties.

But I am writing you of politics only; I began by asking
what I should tell you of the city of Mexico. Well, it is vast
populous and noisy, a mighty whole of many races of brutes
and serpents, hovering in the centre of the great basin. The bottom
like an ancient lake, and looking very Spanish - the noble buildings
are grand. The churches magnificent, the houses of the rich fur-
ished with Oriental splendor. Look out upon the Grand
Plaza and you will see it thronged, not by gentlemen and
ladies in grand attire but by poor Indians, strangers, beggars and
thieves. There is none of the bustle and bother which a city's bustle
makes at home. Motion alone conveys an idea of animation, and
the essence of the nations that bolsters wealth. The rich
come out late in the afternoon in their carriages and tend to
as the Plaza and pay in review to each other, the señoritas sallying
their ladies and blandishing their charms. These young ladies are pretty,
very pretty with languishing black eyes, but alas! "quiero saber"
literally which is very convenient to me. I drive out every Sunday to the hacienda Morales with a carriage and four and an escort of my retinues; (Hector Esteban, a guide named Mr. Esteban B.C.V.)—This is the most beautiful estate in the valley and is owned by a very wealthy Spanish who has taken a great fancy to me and who drives me with the parade of a prince— I like the man because his friendship has no reference to the heavy amounts of money I disburse, and in this particular case feel that I am a great man in my own account. The hacienda Morales is three leagues from town and overlooks the city and valley. No more lovely spot exists in the face of the earth. A few leagues beyond it is seen on a conspicuous eminence a temple erected on the spot where Cortes first halted after his expulsion from the ancient city and where he found himself on the morning following “Mohe Pichile”.

If the peace now in anticipation be shortly satisfied the Army may get out of the country before the season of the comito at Vera Cruz but if the proposition is long debated we will be obliged to remain until fall—I will have to abide the going of the troops—Gen Scott will not listen to my application for a leave of absence.

I am glad to have notice of the arrival in Chihuahua of Mr. Bechamis, who recently resided in the
fiscal with me and left just in time to escape detention

To his Army in New Orleans, and cut his fare without

dreaming of emigration. I shall send him to Louisiana and from

there to New Orleans in a few days, but it is somewhat troublesome

if he ever reaches Maine.

I am very sorry to hear of your misfortunes. I have be-

fore written that I desired you to take as your own the little

furniture which was preserved by my late brother. Should you

go to householding again you will find some articles which will

be of service to you. Something remains stored at Governor Stone.

I do not remember what it is.

Remember me most affectionately to my good brother whose

letters were to be the place of one. That near the most dear to many.

To your father, to Helen & Bessie & all my kindest regards

Not forgetting John and your own children - say to Ella

that I will try at some future day to send or bring her

something more appreciable than a note.

Keep dear little Robie many times for me.

Be your always affectionately

Your brother

Robert Armstrong

Her last letter is dated October 2d

Order to Gen. Scott

Capt. Occupation of

Mexico