Green Baya, 4 miles from Mexico
August 26th, 1847

My Dear Wife & Son,

I am without letters, I almost without post from home or near it; since the 13th of June. The communication between Puebla and Vera Cruz has been entirely interrupted for ordinary letters, but I hope I have succeeded in getting two to you by messenger, even if they arrived at great cost and risk. There is no doubt however that you have had such personal accounts as to inform you of the situation of the Army at Puebla. I continued Governor there till the last day. When I joined my regiment (four companies) I marched with the division on the 10th from Puebla, 1st March to San Martin, 22 to Rio Frio, passing the Barranca de Jannua, 3rd to Cholula, I can undertake to describe the sublimity of the scenery in passing the Sierra, among snow capped volcanos, I saw a few hundred feet below the line of perpetual snow. The view of the Valley of Lakes of Mexico was rather limited, yet seen a few miles on the descent from Jannua. High hills swelled and interrupted the view of the city of the famous Puebla. This was an opportunity the Engineers recommended a direct attack to take the hill by the horse, but Gen. S. decided to take the city by Cholula.

Our division left Cholula on Sunday afternoon in the advance (the 18th) after a late skirmishing at Guadalupe Nahuapa, on the night of the 19th moved to the Volcan de Los Dots, within range of their batteries at San Antonio, from which we were cannonaded two days. On the morning of the 20th marched 9 miles to the left to support the attack on San Angel, which was
Successful before we got up - returned our position before San Antonio. About noon a company of the 3rd was sent forward to draw the enemy's fire. Supported by my remaining three companies the 2nd Oty. we found the works evacuated. The enemy in full retreat, weal breast cannon were taken - among them a 24 pr. inscribed "Matan los Yankees." I was going on to describe the operations & battle, but Edmund V. Kirby [note is illegible] have just come in. I find I have to shorten any letter to half a sheet; to get it in a package from Head Quarters.

The great battle of Mexico, was fought on the 26th. I have reason to think I have earned a brevet. I led the storming party which attacked the works at Columbus, & thank my God, I am unscathed. Have a slight bruise on the right thigh. My battalion suffered severely. 137 rank & file, 9 officers went into battle, [one company was left at San Antonio] 49 were killed, 137 wounded, 46 out of 137. Maj. Wade is wounded in the calf of the leg. Young Lendrum is safe, & behaved very gallantly. You will see full accounts of praise the little 3rd. My officers think I have led them well. I can dwell on this no longer.

The battle was followed by an armistice for negotiations. I am the Commissioner on the American side, & Col. Palacios on the Mexican side to carry out that armistice in its details and regulate the intercourse [which was confined to official persons only] with the City. Santa Anna is in power; we have his manifesto after the battle, he talks yet in a high tone, but it is important to us to sustain him, make the proffered peace, which God grant. Our loss has been very severe, and I believe all had to fight like the devil, perhaps it was the very toughest thing of the kind. Lines of batteries had...
land, ditch, grove of rock, cave, volcanic rim. Magendie's
own carriages were broken once the places the attempted. Of course
before you ask this, you will have the particulars better than I
can give them. Perhaps the main thing you care for is insularity
and honor for both. I most humbly thank my God. Such things
my life for nine months past, have made my prayer book
my beloved companion. Many a prayer I have put up
for you. My dearest, cherished one. I have however deemed
I would hope, no small reputation as a soldier. In full con-
fidence of my superiors, I fear the official accounts will be
meagre. I have been ordered to shorten mine at Belphegar, to join
me, I think. I must that it is so short as to be unjust.
What Norton others will be I shall not know till I see them
published. I am in pretty good quarters, living at a French
table. My business will be lighter. I hope after awhile. Certainly
if peace is made, I am in a position many would envy.
The army besides its losses is much disman-tilled in want
of short clothing. Our first train goes into the City to day to
bring out supplies among. I do not know when I shall get in
but hope soon as Santa Anna has declared that he has
orders to make a peace, to say so openly to the people he has
the doubt found that he will be supported in it.
My health is pretty good, passes a little delicate—but my habit
is very calm. I am very thin. So much the better. I trust
that if peace indues, I shall soon be with you, as my regiment
is so small I can be transferred to Knute's Wade.
My dearest love to Mrs. Rebecca. Of course I hear
nothing from you or about you. Let this be to you.
We will see you soon. My best regards to all and particularly to Nsa. Stuart, S. London, W. & Co. Ever truly affectionately hoping God’s favor may soon bring us together.

(Signed) J. S. Belton

P.S.

Affectuation remembrance to all - Belton was personally distinguished in the battle of Mexico - the most brilliant victory that graced the annals of the country.

(Signed) E. B.

This letter was captured by the Mexicans with Gen. Scott’s despatches – but forwarded again