

just before
Mexican War
etc.

U.S. Ship *La Marys*
Off Puerto Cruz Oct 9th 1845

My Dear Sister

A long time has elapsed since you have favored me with a letter, and sup-
posing some negligence on my part has been
the cause, I have determined to write you a
few lines, not so much by way of apology,
as to show I have the disposition, if not the
time, to answer your letters. I really have
no news, save such as properly belongs to
naval matters, to communicate. Indeed, the
thing here is ever fondly still, and the only
way we all have to kill time, is to assemble
in the afternoon on a small island, called
in the Spanish tongue "Sacrificio", and talk
over the affairs of the Squadron, and the proba-
bilities of sailing for Pensacola, or any other
calculated place. Of course we are not permitted
to visit the town, although the authorities have
kindly offered to render us every assistance in
watching and provisioning the vessels. It appears
to me that there is decidedly a great alteration
in the feelings of the Mexicans toward us, which
I attribute to the fact, that some negotiations
are on foot for an amicable adjustment of our disputes.

One of our officers received a letter a short
time since from his Uncle (Mr. Buchanan) now
Secretary of State, who told him, he might
rest assured, that, as soon as the difficulties
were settled here, that this ship would go to
the Mediterranean - letters received from Wash-
ington per steamer Princeton confirm this, and
it appears to be the general impression now,
that we will leave this station in the course
of two or three months - I have no doubt that
the Squadron will remain here until some deci-
sive answer is received from the City of Mexico
in regard to the dispatches, which have lately
been forwarded there - dispatches, which will
no doubt probably settle the matter one way or
the other - Mexico is in no condition for war
and would be willing to submit to any terms
which would give her a pretext for relinquishing
Texas - they have never been able to conquer
that country alone and it would be madness
in them to suppose they could do so now, when
she properly belongs to the United States -
I saw Mr. Hays a few days since, he
sent his respects to all of you - I believe he
is not particularly pleased with the whole
affair, and is very anxious to get on board

this vessel I wish he was able to do so,
I wrote to Mother a few days since, and in-
tended to have sent the letter by the Schooner
Cecilia via New Orleans, but within a day, the
Commodore has determined to send the
Somers to Pensacola, I will therefore send
both letters per same conveyance. We have
just received orders to send some condemned
bread to Pensacola by the Somers, and that
vessel will bring good bread when she
returns, by which I argue that we will
stay here a long time. Indeed I have
no prospect of leaving here for six or eight
weeks, the only thing which makes our
laying here bearable is the prospect we
all have, in a few months, of bidding
farewell to these cruises for this cruise.
I hope you will not fail writing to
me soon, and give me all the news
you can collect. I told you when I
commenced this letter, there was no news
to communicate, and you will see per-
ceive, I have endeavored to fill the paper
with what in truth amounts to nothing. Love
to all as ever and believe me
Yr aff. Mother F. D. S.

P.S. Jay to Mother, I should like to
to have the shirts finished as soon as
possible and send them to Providence
per your opportunity, I will write
as soon as possible and tell you in
what way to direct the packages,

P.S.