Monterey Mexico. Saturday evening
December 12th 46

Dear Mother

We have Commenced (Sunday) for Victoria the order is for us to move 7 daylight and I presume it will be punctually obyed. I am in good health and spirits rather pleased than otherwise at the idea of moving. it is my intention of walking most of the journey notwithstanding I have a horse, it encourages the men so much for the Officers to endure the same hardships as themselves. however it is the practice of most of the Officers marching and I having seen but little of the hardships of this campaign ought to be the last to ride. Victoria lies on the road to Tampico and in nearly a due south direction from Monterey the distance I believe is about two hundred miles. making it a march of some fifteen or twenty days. the Country that we have to pass through is represented as being very fertile. abounding in all kinds of Tropical fruits, and furnishing the necessaries of life in abundance. we pass through several towns and a large number

of Ranches. the two principal towns are Linares and Montemorelos at the latter place we already have some three hundred men under command of Col Riley and from there we expect to get additional supplies. although we have a large train of waggons well filled with provisions. still it would be almost impossible to take with us an amount sufficient to supply so large a force for so long a time as is necessary. We will in future receive our provisions by the way of Tampico it being only about ~~the~~ one hundred and twenty miles from Victoria. I shall be so near the Gulf that I shall feel as if we were on our way to the United States and I hope we are. although not anxious to avoid this campaign, still I have seen enough of the Mexicans. I should like to join in a Battle could I be assured that I could see it out without the loss of any limbs or something more serious. but the idea of being maimed for life is to me sickening. the few examples I have seen in Monterey has almost put me out of the idea of fighting. We do not anticipate any fighting at Victoria although it is reported that a large force is in readiness to meet us we will be more certain when we reach Montemorelos. then if no

confidence to be placed in any of the Mexican reports the General goes with us but afterwards returns and makes Goliath his head Qrs.
I expected to receive some two or three letters from my friends this evening (being the usual arival of the mail) but there were no letters from the United States at all. I hope that I may get them on the march the General being with us. they will dispatch an express with the mail as soon as it comes. it would be fine to have something so interesting to read on so tedious a trip. thus far I have received but one letter from any one, it was from Gis dated Nov. 3rd. there must be others on the way if there is not I think it a poor show. I have written at least twenty.
I hope that Nel has actualy received and with Gis is enjoying herself in the City. Your health I pray is good. I fear that it may be otherwise. Charley has condescended to send me a paper. I wish you would ask him if he wishes me to answer it, as a paper it is welcome and I am thankful for it. but I dont like any such answers for so long an epistle as I gave him. I wish you would send me all the letters you can pick up and in addition all the novels and pamphlets you can find. anything is interesting here.
Ours will be the leading Division consisting of the 7th and 1st Infantries and two companies of Rifles it is commanded by General Smith. one of the lots of pecularities he is a fine Officer and one whose opinion is entitled to great respect. Give my love to all the family and say that I wish to

how from them all. I give Gis the direction I wish you would direct wherein viz

7th Infantry
Army of Occupation

If you direct to any town I may leave before the letters reach me. I suppose that Gis will send you the letter I directed to [illegible] in New York

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Mrs Henry Hyde Jones
Youth's Friend
Queens County
Long Island
N. York

Monterey Mexico
December 12th 46

FT ISABEL

DEC 27 1846

J.W.M.

Toping it for granted that she was staying with
colly. With every prayer for your health I remain
your affect son H H Jones.

You can tell the Godies that I have not left
my heart in Monterey notwithstanding I have met with several
quite pretty Senoritas.

Monterey, Mexico Saturday evening
December 12th, 46

Dear Mother,

We leave tomorrow (Sunday) for Victoria. The order is for us to move by daylight and I presume it will be punctually obeyed. I am in good health and spirits rather pleased than otherwise at the idea of moving. It is my intention of walking most of the journey notwithstanding I have a horse. It encourages the men so much for the officers to endure the same hardships as themselves. Moreover it is the practice of most of the officers marching and I have seen but little of the hardships of this campaign and ought to be the last to ride. Victoria lies on the road to Tampico and in nearly a due South direction from Monterey. The distance I believe is about two hundred miles making it a march of some fifteen or twenty days. The country that we have to pass through is represented as being very fertile, abounding in all kinds of tropical fruits and furnishing the necessaries of life in abundance. We pass through several towns and a large number of ranches. The two principal towns are Linares and Montmoralos. At the latter place we already have some three hundred men under command of Col. Riley and from there we expect to get additional supplies although we have a large train of wagons well filled with provisions. Still it would be almost impossible to take with us an amount sufficient to supply so large a force for so long a time as is necessary. We will in future receive our provisions by way of Tampico, it being only about one hundred and twenty miles from Victoria. I shall be so near the Gulf that I shall feel as if we were on our way to the United States and I hope we are although not anxious to avoid this campaign. Still I have fear enough of the Mexicans. I should like to join in a battle could I be assured that I could see it out without the loss of any limbs or something more serious, but the idea of being maimed for life is to me sickening. The few examples I have seen in Monterey has almost put me out of the idea of fighting. We do not anticipate any fighting at Victoria although it is reported that a large force is in readiness to meet us. We will be more certain when we reach Montmoralos. There is no confidence to be placed in any of the Mexican reports. The General goes with us but afterwards returns and makes Saltillo his Head Quarters. I expected to receive some two or three letters from my friends this evening (being the usual arrival of the mail) but there were no letters from the United States at all. I hope that I may get them on the march. The General being with us they will dispatch an express with the mail as soon as it arrives.....
Ours will be the leading Division consisting of the 7th and 1st Infantries and two companies of rifles. It is commanded by General Smith, one of the late appointees. He is a fine officers and one whose opinion is entitled to great respect.....
.....Direct your letters to
7th Infantry
Army of Occupation
I remain your affectionate Son, F. Y. Jones