Island of Brasos Santiago July 27th 1846

Mr Blackstone

Sir/father I am still in the enjoyment of good health & disposed to be thankful for it. as I informed Doddridge in my last letter of the 25th left new Orleans the evening of 18th & reached the the gulf the morning of 19th at 9 o'clock A.M. We made the voyage in a little over four days that is from the mouth of the river We reached our point of distination the 23rd at 12 o'clock but to our our great astonishment & dispatisfaction we were compelled to lay on the vepell until the evening of the 26th as they are in the habit of serving first those that come first & several other vepells loaded with Volunteers & Regulars & Consequently were first to be set ashore by the Steamboats.

Nevertheless we got ashore & marched the men up to the place of encampment on the island while Mike & MC. staid & attended to the bagage we marched one mile & a comportable place to pitch our tents & got them up about 9 o'clock that night. I will endeavor to give a short description of the Island of Brasos it is perfectly sandy level & about 9 miles long & there is not a tree to be seen nor any thing green except some little grass & some of the prid of China which grows in abundance here. There is at all times a cool breeze from the gulf surmounting us so closely & the best place to bathe I ever saw as on the the south east side of the Island about half a mile from

our quarters the waves roll from two to sixe feet high & the water is from one foot up to the neck as we wish. I have been here once & intend to go on it up, ruibing myself dry with my sponge on coming out, there is not much sickness here the chief diseas being dysentary & sun stroke, I have not been opressed with heat, although the sun is warmer than in Ohio, the sea breeze Counteracts it & makes it very Comfortable indeed, although we are thirteen degrees south of Matamoras Brasos being situated 26th degs. Latitude & the Longitude go
And what is most astonishing we have very good water the best I have had since I left Camp Washington, We obtain it by just digging down two or three feet in the sand & sinking a barrel. the only difficulty is in digging to deep you will get salt water, We have not been here long enough to be naturalized yet, although I guess we can stand it, although some our men Continue to be dispatisfied, & swear the next time they volunteer they will stay at home. There seven thousand encamped here now, & about sixteen hundred acros at Port Isabel in sight about three miles distant. One Regiment marches from here every other day to opposite Barytа eighteen miles above on the Rio Grande, the 1st Regiment have left & the 2nd will march to morow & our turn will come in eight or ten days
There are about sixety vesels lying at anchor along the shore plenty of bagage wagons mustangs mules & oxen here. I Counted fifty waggons each with five mustangs all in a row going to & from the landing, employed in hauling up the bagage to the encampment & twelve hundred were taken from the mexicans.
We have not Commenced drilling yet nor will not for a few days as we are all very much fatigued

We had no Physician in our vessell Coming Over except M^c^Lean. & had he known ever so much the stock of medicines given him by Drever was so poor he could have done nothing. had it been necessary. but as good luck would have it there was not much sickness. nothing in fact except sea sickness. & a few cases of Cholic. but I helped him to a little opium. & he consequently got along very well. I have a very poor opinion of Doctor Drever indeed. in the 1st place I dont think he is a skillful Physician & if he is I think him beter Calculated to attend on the aristocracy of Columbus than on the poor volunteers. from the maner I have noticed & heard of his putting off at different times when he would be taken with some of the officers. the other M^r^ is as fine a felow as there is in the world but I think a poorly qualified physician. The officers all apear well satisfied. Capt Mclean was very much frightened crossing the Gulf for fear the ship would upset in a perfect Calm. I dont think Capt. M^c^Lean very well Caculated for a military man, as he is inclined to be rather Cowardly I think. as I intend writing immediately to mother I will close this to a close. give my respects to all friends.

Your affectionate son John K Blackstone 2^d^ Lieut

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Your affectionate son John R. Blackstone, Lieut.