Monterey Mexico July 23. 1847

Dear Warner

Since I last had the pleasure from San antonio de Bexar, Texas, many have been the stirring & exciting scenes. Hardships & privations. Sensations pleasant & unpleasant. through which I have passed — & experienced —

We (that is our company) did not take the Route, I wrote to you, that we would, but came off by the way of Goliad, San Patricio on the Nueces — down to Corpus Christi across the Laguna del Madre onto Padre Island & down that to Brazos St. Jago — thence to the Rio Grande up the West Bank to Monterey. Reynoso, Carmargo, Mier, Cerralvo, Papagaya, Ramos, Marin. Agua — Xxxx — Hijo. to Monterey. Our Company, reduced by sickness &c to only 44 effective men — Guarded a Waggon train of 120. Waggons & several hundred Pack Mules — from Camargo to Monterey without being attacked

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although trains have bin attacked & cut of
with a much greater Sort —
until we passed the place when the last
train of 135 Waggons & several pack
Mules were taken & Burnt & one hundred
& eleven defenceless Waggons & mas
sacred after they offered to surrender. I
felt that I could not stir up quite an —
imosity enough against these Calmucs
to kill them even in Battle & deeply sym
-pathized with them. but after I saw the
Bones & remains of those unfortunate Sufferers
Bleaching on the road side. I verily believe
I could have Killed them in cold Blood
Mind you. I do not Blame for taking
the train but for Massacreing the
men in cold Blood — & taking the
entire Sport. prisoners. with hutting on
of them so far as they can hear from
them — I have been expecting a letter from
you for some time & sometimes fear
that you did not receive my letter
Our Company is literally worn down with
fatigue — as we are often compelled
to Camp in the woods or Chaparal
in which consists 9/10 of the Mexican forest.
I have not received a line from home
since April — or my departure for
this Country. —

I have often visited the point where my old friend & class mate fell fighting brave as a Caesar — Ye it was that decided me on coming here & his name shall be a watch word with me — until I shall have paid for him — I am watching every opportunity to Pink some of the infernal Mexican Rascals — God has read to Many abler descriptions of Monterey than I can give & that consequently supersedes the necessity of a description from me — from here to Saltillo is a much more picturesque & fertile country & desirable places to live than any place between here & Matamoros — Ceralvo is a delightful little place. finely watered & plenty of fine fruits. they are likewise finely dressed but they are a great deal finer at Saltillo than any place this side — It is two days ride from here to Saltillo & Buena Vista. 6 miles beyond Saltillo — I have some tall rides to make here. some 60 or 8 a day. some times fifty. just as we are ordered. Spying & Scouting through the Chaparal in small parties of some only 3 & some times 10 or the whole Company long ways from any larger force is not the thing it is cracked up to be — If we are taken no mercy will be shown us —

4 If we are taken it will be after some hard fighting & then some of the tallest stunning that ever you witnessed a fishing "— I at least I can speak for myself — We are all well mounted. I have the same beautiful swift animal I purchased in New Orleans. who is home in a chase — particularly in a retreat. The Mexican horses are hardy little devils but not near so swift as ours — I wish you & Sino Welch were out here I had often formed some idea of the camp life but it is far superior to any that I had formed — I can not now tell you when to direct your answers to me — as I do not know when we will be ordered west — our movements are very uncertain — I visited General Arista's palace & fine Garden & grounds I really believe I could live here & become a citizen of this country if Arista would make me a present in toto, of his whole Palace Grounds & Gardens I did not like the looks of the Black Fort & Bishops Palace — Particularly

When I thought of the number of our brave country men who fell in taking those places I do not see how Gay lor ever took it with so small a loss. It seems to me that if americans had the natural fortifications to improve on that they could render the city impregnable. Look in what direction you will & you see tall Mountains. It seems completely surrounded with Mountains —

My health has not been good out here though much better than when I got my first water as I ever saw — Frank Patterson is still out here with me but he is going to quit the spy company as he has rec'd a commission in the regular service — he will leave before many weeks & return to Philada. My Frank is in good health & seems to like to be a Soldier — I expect to get home between this & January if I am spared to return. I have a long way to ride & I am determined to go home by land when discharged & have to go through the whole Comanche country

& I find this country very interesting from a contrast with our own beautiful country — Give My best respects to your Mother & Sister & to Sam Meldo & family to Mrs Lucas & family — & all My acquaintances in Philada whose names are to Numerous to mention. I expected to come on then, but learning the death of My old Class Mate has changed My destination — Then is some contrast between last Summer & this — Then are a great many hardships & privations to undergo in Camp yet Then are several pleasures peculiar to the Camp life. that you could not experience in any other department of life — I hope these lines may be so fortunate as to go through safely & not fall into the hands of Canadas. These lines are written on a Mexican being was board on a Powder Keg — & such a pen & bustle that I ask Sam that you would not criticise them if you could but see me writing them I do not let any one see this letter. that is the Ladies for they may think that I turn out to be a bloodthirsty Devil — but you would talk & feel as I do if you were to ride a long the road & see 100

mamed nun inhumanly butchered by 500 of this
Damned ——— & Sick him an entire Skeleton
staring you in the face with a ghastly grin too.
Little Particles on the Back & Ribs & Ribs
& Legs & arms scattered in every direction
for some distance along the road —
Some were buried Shallow & some not at all —
& the Wolves scratched them up & devoured
them — The train was taken by Gen. Canales
3 or 4 months ago — 195 Wagons were
burnt — you must have seen the account
some time ago — I will write to
you again as Opportunities
occur which is very seldom.
One more My regards to
all enquiring friends — Adieu
Your Sincere friend
W M Smith

In Haste

Monterey Mexico July 23rd 1847

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ON BACK SHEET
Letter from Washington M. Smith Monterey Mexico date July 25th 1847 Rec Aug 20th 1847

