31
459

Puebla March 13th 1848

My Dear Mary.

I am again with my Regiment among the Mountains, after a sojourn of nearly a month in the Capital. and I assure you it was no slight relief to escape from the tiresome wearing of a City life, even though that City was the Splendid Capital of the Aztec's, & return once more to the discharge of my proper duties. If any thing could have added to my satisfaction it was the warm welcome extended to me by the Regiment.

I am not much in the habit of speaking of myself, but I can imagine no impropriety in writing to my own wife of the estimation in which I am held by those with whom I am associated. I had scarcely alighted from my horse before every Officer in the Regiment was about me expressing in the warmest terms their high gratification at my return, Yesterday I went up to inspect the company quarters, I had scarcely passed the Sentries before the Soldiers crowded around me, inquiring after my "honor's" health and hoping that I might never be separated from them again. Each one seemed to think that he had in me a protector from any injustice or oppression, & I could hear on all sides such expressions as these "Every thing will go on right now, the Colonel's come back". You can scarcely imagine the strong feelings of personal attachment entertained for me by the Soldiers of my command, & yet there

is no Offic^r in the Service who has been more rigid in exacting the performance of my duty – The simple solution of the matter is that I have been just to them. I neither I neither oppress them, or permit others to do it. I attend personally to all their complaints, visit their Quarters frequently & see that they are comfortably situated. I inspect myself the rations issued by the Quartermaster, & see that the quantity is sufficient, & the quality good – These & similar things have served to win for me a degree of affection & respect but rarely enjoyed by an Offic^r of the Regular Army.

We are looking every day for news of Peace – Scarcely any of us doubt but that our Congress will ratify the Treaty made by Trist. What the Mexican Congress, if it can ever be got together, will do, is not quite so certain. My own opinion is, that whatever may becom of the Treaty, a good deal more blood must yet be shed before a permanent peace can be made. The Mexicans will get the advantage of us in diplomacy as they have ever done, & when they have succeeded in getting our Troops removed from the strong positions they have won at the expense of so much toil & so much blood, they will not hesitate to break faith with us & renew hostilities. Only a few days since Padre Jurantes was at a village within 17 miles of our encampment pressing soldiers for the Mexican army. The fact was reported to Col

Withers by one of the men who had been pursued made his escape. I requested permission to take 50 dragoons & go in pursuit of the Reverend Robber, but the Colonel refused it, on the ground that it would be a violation of the Armistice.

I see that we have been reported in the Newspapers at home as having been cut to pieces, & I suppose you suffered great uneasiness on account of it. Never distrust all such reports. If anything serious should happen, it will be certain to reach you in a more authentic form than a Newspaper rumor. There is not more than a third of my Regiment now left. Disease and the battlefield have made fearful havoc in its ranks; but the few that remain are veterans who have been so often, and so severely tried, that in any engagement with Mexican troops where the odds was not more than 4 or 5 to one, I would not entertain a moments doubt of obtaining the victory.

I go to El Chico with a body of dragoons on Sunday next: mostly for the purpose of seeing the country, which is represented as being the most romantic in Mexico, but I suppose I shall also receive orders to ferret out a band of Robbers said to be in that neighborhood. While the Armistice lasts we have no other occupation. I will write as soon as I get back — Adieu my dear Mary — Do not fail to write at least every week.

Sincerely Yours

Jno. E Edwards

Mexican War

Pachuca March 13th 1848

My Dear Mary

I am again with my Regiment among the Mountains, after a sojourn of nearly a month in the Capital and I assure you it was no slight relief to escape from the tiresome weariness of a City life, even though that City was the splendid Capital of the Aztec's, and return once more to the discharge of my proper duties. If anything could have added to my satisfaction it was the warm welcome extended to me by the Regiment.

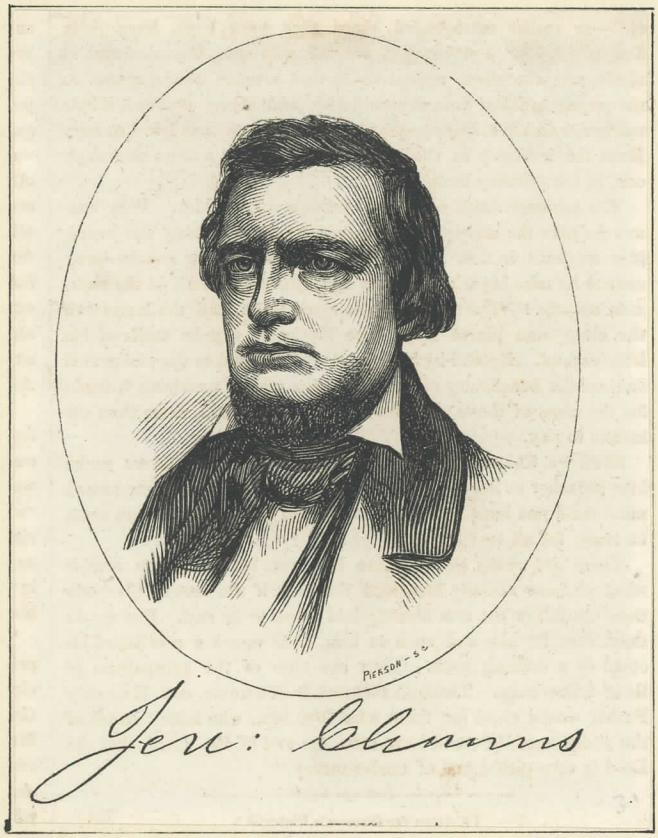
I am not much in the habit of speaking of myself, but I can imagine no impropriety in writing to my own wife of the estimation in which I am held by those with whom I am associated. I had scarcely alighted from my horse before every officer in the Regiment was about me expressing in the warmest terms their high gratification at my return, Yesterday I went up to inspect the company quarters, I had scarcely passed the sentries before the soldiers crowded around me, inquiring after my "honor's" health and hoping that I might never be separated from them again. Each one seemed to think that he had in me a protector from any injustice or opposion and I could hear on all sides such expressions as these "Every thing will go on right now, the Colonel's come back". You can scarcely imagine the strong feelings of personal attachment entertained for me by the soldiers of my command, and yet there is no officer in the service who has been more rigid in exacting the performance of every duty. The simple solution of the matter is that I have been <u>just</u> to them. I neither opprese them, or permit others to do it. I attend personally to all their comforts, visit their Quarters frequently to see that they are comfortably situated. I inspect myself the rations issued by the Quartermaster, and see that the quantity if sufficient, and the quality good. These and similar things have served to win for me a degree of affection and respect but rarely enjoyed by an officer of the Regular Army.

We are looking every day for news of Peace. Scarcely any of us doubt but that our Congress will ratify the Treaty made by Trist. What the Mexican Congress, if it can ever be got together, will do, is not quite so certain. My own opinion is, that whatever may become of the Treaty, a good deal more blood must yet be shed before a permanent peace can be made. The Mexicans will get the advantage of us in diplomacy as they have ever done, and when they have succeeded in getting our troops removed from the strong positions they have won at the expense of so much toil and so much blood, they will not hesitate to break faith with us & renew hostilities. Only a few days since Padre Jarauta was at a village within 17 miles of our encampment passing soldiers for the Mexican Army. The fact was reported to Col Withers by one of the men who had been prisoned and made his escape.

I requested permission to take 50 Dragoons to go in pursuit of the Reverend Robber, but the Colonel refused it, on the ground that it would be a violation of the Armistice.

I see that we have been reported in the Newspapers at home as having been cut to pieces, and I suppose you suffered great uneasiness on account of it. Hereafter distrust all such reports. If anything serious should happen, it will be certain to reach you in a more authentic form than a newspaper rumor. There is not more than a third of my Regiment now left. Disease and the battlefield have made fearful havoc in its ranks: but the few that remain are veterans who have been so often, and so severely tried, that in any engagement with Mexican troops where the odds are not more than 4 or 5 to one, I would not entertain a moment's doubt of obtaining the victory. I go to El Chico with a body of Dragoons on Tuesday next. Mostly for the purpose of seeing the country, which is represented as being the most romantic in Mexico, but I suppose I shall also receive orders to ferret out a band of Robbers said to be in that neighbourhood. While the armistice lasts we have no other occupation. I will write as soon as I get back. Adieu my Dear Mary. Do not fail to write at least every week.

Sincerely yours,
Jeri: Clemens


PEARSON - Sc
Jere: Clemens

American (Alabama) Born 1814

Jeremiah Clemens.

Senator.

ALS admitted to the bar 1834
Mar 13 appointed U S Marshall 1839
1848 Elected to the State
With portrait
legislature 1841. In 1842 he went to Texas as lieutenant-colonel. Again served in the legislature 1843-4 in the latter year as presidental elector. Appointed major US Infantry 1847 March made. Lieut-colonel July 1847. Made
US. Senator 1849
Became editor of Memphis Eagle and Enquirer 1859. He was a member of the secession convention in Alabama and at first protested but subsequently accepted office under the confederacy. He was the author of several novels. Died 1865.