Chapultipec Nov 23th 1847

Dear Brother I embrace this opportunity to write another letter to you tho I have riten time and again without ever geting an answer from you or any friend on earth I have had two from Iowa since I have been in mexico and one from you but I have not heard from home since I left home I that very strange the other day when the male came in that nothing for me all the rest of them got two or three but nothing for me I was not worth writing to I care nothing for him any how he is not worth writing to any how let him go for what he will fetch he is in a foreign land let him go now my dear brother I am your brother near and dear to you as any brother ever was to another we are flesh and blood of the same mother should I care the last letter tha you rote to me you almost said that you was ashame of me well if you are a shamed of me I will not come back for you to be ashamed of me you cant be ashamed of me in an other country that is certain so I will not bother you write me letters any more soon Oh my dear brother you cant think what ye was about or you could not have riten what you did that I was your brother that you wa actually ashamed of me not what I have I am so glad I did not have to leave my native land I can return to any part I choose to go to & shall return to Iowa if I return to the united states but I think it matter mist about that sir what should wont to return to any place where they are a shame of me why If they are ashamed I am to sir

now my dear brother I feel as independant as you can be about it I feel to go where I choose to go but I cant call on you till you change your mind to a diferant way from what it is or was when you rote last to me the leter I whill I was in the city of Pueblo on the 5th of august last since that time I have not herd through the wars in fact I have had my health beter since I have been in the army than I ever had in my life I must come to a close for I cant find any thing to write that will entertain you I am in the ospital yet but my health is beter than it has been for years past this contry agrees with me fine sir

I must close by giving my last long & good fare well and I remain your affectionate brother til death

Elijah P Gillespie

James H Gillespie

[MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] [POLITICS] U. S. soldier's letter written from atop Chapultepec Hill in Mexico City as the Mexican-American War wound to a close. By Elijah Gillespie to his brother. Mexico City, Mexico, 1847.

This stampless folded Letter is datelined "Chapultepec Nov 23th 1847". It was sent by Elijah Gillespie to his brother James in Millford Center, Ohio. It is annotated "From the army in Mexico" in the lower right corner. It bears a New Orleans circular date stamp (Dec 30) and a bold "10' rate mark, both in black. Some minor soiling with tape reinforcement at two folds, otherwise in very nice shape.

In this letter, Elijah fixates upon an earlier letter he received during the Siege of Pueblo in which James apparently wrote that was he ashamed to have Elijah as a brother to which Elijah defensively, but proudly, responds that

> "I went through the war . . . I have my health beter since I have been in the Army . . . I been in the ospital yet my health is beter that it has bin for years past. . . ."

By the time of this letter, Gillespie's unit, the 15th Infantry, was on occupation duty in Mexico City after fighting in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco, and climactically storming the walls of Chapultepec.

Two Ohioans, Senator Thomas Corwin and Representative Joshua Giddens led the fight against the Mexican-American War which they decried as no more than an attempt by Southerners to seize more territory for the creation of additional slave states. As well, most of those living in northern Ohio (Millford Center is between Columbus and Cleveland) were adamantly opposed to the war for the same reason. It is likely that James embarrassment about his brother stemmed from his service in the "army in Mexico" and its then recent victories on all fronts of the war from Vera Cruz to the Pacific Coast.

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