City of Mexico
January 2nd 1848.

My dear Sister:

New year's day has passed very pleasantly with us, as well as Christmas: very unlike any other New Years day or Christmas that I have passed before.

It was something new to get on the shady side of the streets to avoid the heat on Christmas day— To eat fresh water melon for dessert and sit at dinner with no fire in the dining room. But to walk through the market on New Year's day and see hundreds of bushels of fresh fruits exposed on the ground, in more danger from heat than cold, did "beat all" as Mr Newton would say.

The ceremonies of the Mexican Church at this season are very numerous and grand: but this year much less so than usual on account of our presence in the city.

For a week before Christmas all the young ladies were very busy in decorating their houses with evergreens and tapestry, and preparing wax figures for the show on Christmas eve. Then every house of respectability had a more or less beautiful representation in figures of wax of the Holy Family in different situations. The flight, the abode in Egypt &c. &c.

In ordinary seasons, their pageants are celebrated by the Churches with great pomp, with figures, paintings, processions &c. but they would not allow the northern barbarians an opportunity of either Enjoying or criticising their ceremonies: and it seems for the sake of annoying the conquerors, it was allowable to neglect at least the outward demonstrations of joy—

We had the Church Service in the palace, and have every Sunday had the same, Mr Mc Carty officiating. Is it not some reflection upon the chaplains of our country, that while there are more than a dozen chaplains allowed, there is but one in this army? That one is a man who does his duty well & fearlessly, wherever it may lead him.

No late news from home have come in, but the President's message has been received and published—

We hope to have a mail this week — An expedition will soon leave for Tolucca, and probably another for San Luis — Gn. Valencia was captured and brought into town to-day — I am afraid he will be claiming his house in which we live—

The 9th Infantry and a detachment of Artillery left last week for the mining district of Real del Monte, where they will collect the duties and protect the trains.

Did John ever receive the release of the mortgage — which I sent him from Puebla?, I sent two copies at two different times

Much love to all at home and kind remembrances to all my friends — Ever Your affec. brother

U. S. S

City of Mexico January 2nd 1848

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Your affec brother C P.S.

Letter addressed Miss Fanny C. Stone, Greenfield, Franklin County, Massachusetts

Postmark VERA CRUZ MEXO JAN 10, 10