Off Vera Cruz.
March 12th 1847

My dear Sister:

Your good letter of the 5th Ult° was handed to me by Capt. Hagner yesterday, while I was busied among haversacks, ammunition, guns and other interesting little trifles, so that I had barely time to thank him, open it & see that all was well at home: but to-day we have a norther preventing our movements and I have carefully reread & will answer what you have written.

The army under Genl Scott having assembled at Anton Lizardo, a few miles south of Vera Cruz, all set steam and sail on Tuesday morning the 9th March, and proceeded to the anchorage under Sacrificios. Never did an American army prepare for attacking an Enemy under so favourable circumstances of organization & equipment &c. The advance was composed entirely of regulars, under the command of General Worth. The 2d line also of regulars, under a regular Genl. The third was composed of volunteers and the new rifle regiment.

The navy had assisted as far as possible, and it was a beautiful sight to see a fleet of 70 sail under way in perfect order, proceeding to the point of landing.

The large men of war carried from 2000 to 2500 soldiers besides their own crews: while those vessels which carried steam were made to not only carry their proportion, but also to drag in tow the large boats provided for throwing the troops on shore - The fleet arrived within about four miles of the castle, at a good anchorage under Sacrificios early in the afternoon, and preparations for landing were immediately made.

The sun was getting low in the west when two lines of boats were seen stretching from the steamship Princeton to more than half a mile in her rear, each boat crowded with human beings & glittering with muskets: this was the first division under Gen.l Worth, who, having thus prepared his troops, swept alongside the "Massachusetts," where stood Gen. Scott; as the boat rested a moment beside the Commander-in-chief's ship, he stepped to the side & said - "You have your orders sir - you will land and commence the investment" - Gen Worth pulled to his command, & just as he reached it, a gun from Gen S's ship & the flags at the mainmast, told that the time had come - Instantly the line of boats was broken, & in ten minutes the men were seen leaping through the water to the beach, where the companies were formed as steadily as if on parade at West Point - Then the light companies (under the command of our old comdt of Cadets, Capt C.F. Smith) were seen covering the neighboring hillocks, and the landing was effected without the loss of a life on our side - The castle bellowed, but with no success, so did the town batteries: but until yesterday noon the only man killed on our side, was one of the 3d Infantry, who was killed by the blunder of a Volunteer.

The landing was well and beautifully done — it was done by regular troops under officers in whom they had confidence. There were several foreign ships of war in the fleet, and I am told the landing drew a cheer from the french crews, which were filling the rigging up to the top-gallant masts —

Yesterday, Commodore Conner received letters from the English & French consuls in Vera Cruz. The latter begged him to use his influence to protect him "from that species of troops called volunteers!" The lines are now extending around the city. Of course the first of these are undertaken out of the range of common cannon, but the castle seems determined to burn up all her powder as soon as possible, and by using her heavy howitzers she sometimes manages to burst a shell near some of our men — About half a dozen old soldiers had collected to discuss matters while off duty yesterday, when they were suddenly & unceremoniously interrupted by a shell in their midst: fortunately it touched no one, and by falling flat on their faces b[illegible] the bursting, they received no other injury, than a burying in the sand — Capt. Albertus of the 2d Infantry was killed yesterday while near the town. His head was taken off by a cannon shot: the same shot wounding his lieutenant —

The norther will not allow us to get out our heavy guns to-day, but to-morrow we expect to advance to a line below from which our mortars will be able to play upon both town & castle — Until that takes place I shall not participate in the fight, as you know I am attached to the Siege train.

Kendrick is here, and desires to be always remembered when I write home — Mr. Scamman, also is here, and I must

him now nearly every day. — He has not heard from Mrs. S. since last January 16th and is very anxious about her & the children — I hope he has heard by the mail which came in yesterday.

You must do your best now Fanny, to make Mrs. Sage's stay in Greenfield as pleasant as possible. I heard from her yesterday, and need a very serviceable present of a camp knife & fork. It is almost to good to eat with out here —

In my last letter to mother, I mentioned a new regulation concerning the publication of military proceedings &c — It is not intended, I find, to prevent writing to friends full accounts: but the letter themselves, must not be published. Any information may be made as public as you please: but no "extracts" should be published.

I was not aware that you corresponded with Miss Abbott. She is a nice lady. Please remember me in your next.

Much love to all the family, & regard for my friends

Ever your affectionate brother

Charles.

Miss. Fanny C. Stone.

Greenfield

Mass.tts

KCLL 1010 #3758 161120

March 14th 47

Ordered on Shaw yesterday — saw Kendrick Scammon Wilkins & plenty of friends as well as enemies — The crisis is now approaching, two of our heavy pieces having come ashore with shells, and the rest being all ready and waiting for this weather to pass off — Well —

Love to all —

L. P. S.

Near Vera Cruz,
March 18th 1847.

The mortars have all been got ashore with powder, shells &c. &c. To-morrow I hope we shall commence replying to the numerous noisy communications from the mexicanos. A man cannot show his head within a mile of the town without their sending an 8 inch shell after him — yet we have lost by the enemy only one officer killed & one wounded while the volunteers have killed a sergeant & private "by mistake" in the 3d & 8th regts. of infantry.

The news of Gen. Taylor's splendid victory was announced in order yesterday & cheered by the navy with salutes from all the vessels.

The health of the army & navy seems to be perfect: I am sure I am perfectly well.

This letter would have been sent several days since: but the norther prevented our boarding the mail vessel.

Your affectionate brother
Charles

Off Vera Cruz March 12th 1847

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The navy had assisted as far as possible, and it was a beautiful sight to see, a fleet of 70 sail under way in perfect order, proceeding to the point of loading. The large men of war carried from 2000 to 2500 soldiers besides their own crews while those vessels which carried steam were made to not only carry their proportion, but also to drag in tow the large boats provided for throwing the troops on shore. The fleet aarived within about four miles of the castle, at a good anchorage under Sacrificios early in the afternoon, and preparations for landing were immediately made.

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Miss Fanny E. Stone
Greenfield, Mass

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Your aff Brother Charles