

(L21)

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June 14th/58

My dear friends

The express which brought the news of war leaves this morning & no more mail leaves this month so I hasten to finish this. Without much doubt a war will ensue & then what will become of our mission I know not. God only knows. The war will fall most heavily upon those Indians who wish peace & we feel very sorry. they never seemed more friendly than now, but what can be done. if these murderers & depredators are allowed to go unpunished they will take more ~~liberties~~ liberties & committ more depredations. Things are certainly in a very bad state. If a war is commenced it will so exaspurate these friendly rich chiefs, that difficulties will not soon be healed. They have large flocks & herds & fields of corn. A number of chiefs are here now & while I write one is standing near me & looking over. I told him I was writing to my "The Mah" (~~the~~ mother) 'ah-oo' (yes) he says (sounds some like a hogs grunt, The documents from Headquarters are to be read to them & an order is to be ~~issued~~ issued this morning that none shall go half a mile from the Garrison, rather close quarters you will think for us & so we shall for I have just got a little pony & M ~~and~~ ^{& I were} I were going to ride on horseback every day, but there will be no safety away from the post, without a strong force. The Indians will doubtless drive their flocks & herds to a place of safety among the mountains where no Am--could ever find them & to catch an Indian in these rocky wilds would be next to impossible. Maj K returned yesterday, got some

of the sheep, & 14 horses & the remainder they promised to make up & said they would get the murderer as soon as they could catch him & I hope they will & thus prevent a war. If they are brought in by the time the troops are concentrated here I hope it will prevent it, but what is in the future we know not. You will probably hear great accounts of it in the states but you will get more correct information from us, do not worry in the least, we are perfectly safe here & shall not expose ourselves to danger. In case of any emergency we have 2 excellent Indian horses, but I do not apprehend any danger here. I may all amount to nothing, yet we do not know, do write as soon as you get this & remember that if you answer my letters soon as you get them I shall get an answer a month sooner. If letters should fail to reach you you need not be alarmed but I think our mail will go as usual & I shall write every month. A report went to the valley that Capt Dodge & Milton were killed by the Indians & expressions of sympathy were sent me. Instead of being killed they were treated very kindly, & we are yet a happy unbroken family, thanks to our Heavenly Father.

If a war ensues, the Indians must steal or starve---
 they will be driven to desperation & will be obliged
 to plunder

I feel sorry for them

(L22) #1

Ft Defiance N. M. July 10th/53

My dear friends

Once more I sit down to resume my monthly correspondence with you although feeling somewhat disappointed that the last mail brought me no letter from home so you see I am left in doubt & suspense as to your welfare. but I know you have written although it has failed to reach me. It may have been overlooked in Santa Fe & I still hope it may reach me. From the tenor of my last if it has reached you I know you feel anxious to hear from me again. well we are all in good health & spirits. Although rumors of war have somewhat disturbed us of late yet for the present all is still, & what is to occur next we know not. We expected the combined forces of the department here soon but late news from the valley bring the intelligence that they are not coming & Col. Sumner gone to the States. What the Indians will think now I know not. The conditions were that the murderer & stolen property must be given up by the first of July or war would ensue & now Col. S. has left matters in this fix & gone to the States. One of the principal chiefs went in pursuit of the murderer & said if he could not take him alive he would bring his body, but has returned not being able to do either, as the murderer had fled to the Utah nation. The friendly Indians say that the Utahs

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wish the Navajoes to unite with them & drive the Am-- out of the country & the last news was that the friendly Navajoes would join the Am- & the bad ones join the Utahs, in case of war, but Indians are so treacherous we thought they might join them as long as suited their purpose & then turn against them when a good opportunity offered, but as affairs are now, we are in a state of peace & no war talked of. What the result will be we know not. Maj Kendrick is afraid if this affair is thus overlooked that the Indians will take more liberties & be troublesome the coming winter. Preparations have been made here for war but it has blown over at least for the present & the future we know not. More cannon have been brought here so there are now ten in all & I think no Indians would dare attack this post. In my last I gave you all the information I could in regard to it, but now no Nav- war is talked of but there are rumors of another rub with Old Mexico so you see it is "wars & rumors of wars" in this region. Under the New Administration there is a change in nearly all the offices of New Mexico. Gen Garland succeeds Col Sumner in the Military department(?)-Merriwether of Kentucky is to be Gov. in place of Gov Lane removed & many other changes. Head Quarters will doubtless be removed from Albuquerque

Good point!

to Santa Fe. if so, our mails will be more sure. The Meeting house in Santa Fe will probably be dedicated in Sept, it is small but will contain all that wish to hear. Br Smith has a small school in Santa Fe, school in Albuquerque given up "on account of Mrs Reads health," hem,!!! her health is much better that it was last winter, & they have an assistant a nephew of Mrs Reads' but they talk of returning to the States on account of her health, & I know of no other way they can get out of it. School in Laguna given up also, well this looks like progress dont it. We have no school yet to give up, & my health is so good that we cant come home this year. O I forgot, we have a school, that is we have one little boy who comes every day to learn to read here is a specimen of his spelling. C N A, can. Isn't he an interesting pupil? well he does make some progress. he is about 10 yrs old, ~~an~~ & has had no advantages, so we make allowance. In regard to ourselves we are well & enjoy the warm weather very much though I have not taken off my flannel except once or twice in the middle of the day. The mornings & evenings are quite cool, things in the garden grow finely. The post garden consists of several acres, & a good prospect of a large supply of cabbage, beets, turnips, green corn, & beans, pumpkins etc. We have had an abundance of radishes, some lettuce & ~~now~~ I am now feasting on purslain.?) Our potatoes look finely. We have a right to the post garden as well as other officers & also have a garden of our own.

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We have beets, carrots parsneps, veg, oysters, melons, cucumbers squash, beans corn turneps, etc & two roots of peas in our garden. The peas squash & oyster seeds are some I brought from home. I saw peas in the post garden large enough to eat the last of June since things commenced growing they have grown remarkably there are only a few peas in the garden, but I intend to have a share, if it is only one mess. We expect Lieut. Steens with his wife here next month so there will be two of us, but I get along very well without female society. Little Georgie is our plaything, he is healthy & fat, & as happy as the day is long, goes to sleep at dark & sleeps all night, wakes up bright & happy & ready for another days play his happy joyous face & lively prattle renders our home such a home as it would not be without him, but while we love him dearly we know he is only lent us for a season but our home would be indeed desolate without him. O how much I want to bring him home, that you may see for yourselves the lovely little creature. Milton calls him a little lump of happiness for he is always so good natured. M is trying hard to acquire the jaw-breaking Navajoe language & is making very good progress Sometimes I get lonely & go out & sit down alone on these hills & have a hearty cry, feeling as though I had no friend in the world but I do not

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get the blues as often as I did before joyous summer came. We have some wild flowers here on these barren rocky hills. 4 o'clocks, grow wild here also fish(?) geranium & evening primrose & others which I do not know the seeds I sent you in my apr letter were cactus & Spanish bayonet (sometimes called soap weed) the Mex. use the root instead of soap). it has beautiful large flowers like the white lily, in large clusters, it would well pay for cultivation. In this I send a few flowers which I have collected. Two kinds of geranium one the fish, a 4 o'clock, and ether I dont know. the red flower is very pretty, but we think more of eatables here than flowers. The soldiers bring me flowers often--

July 11th Our mail leaves tomorrow so I write early this month from necessity do answer as soon as you get my letters. I went to the garden yesterday & behold all the peas had been picked so I must content myself without any. Dont forget to send me the seeds I have written for, I shall not write Darwin this mail. I have written month after month & hear nothing ~~from~~ from him. do you know what he is doing or where he is. guess he has absconded. When the great railroad passes here you may expect us on the first train. I dont know as I have any more to write so I will stop. we have no news here of ~~im~~ importance. I wish Cornelia was here, but good bye. your aff daughter & sister
Harriett

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Where is Stillman. all of you write. what is Cornelia doing & how do you all get along & what prospects are before you & what is going on there & how is your garden & how do you manage to get along & every thing. I want to know all Write me longer letters & tell me every thing about everybody love to all. ~~wish~~ wish I could get into a Sabbath school one more.

Do turkies lay more than one litter a summer. we have only 3 young turkies about 30 chickens & 3 hens setting. about 40 of the ~~hen~~ hen tribe in all.

here is a piece of Georgies dress given him by Mrs Baird she has a little daughter a few weeks old.

(423)

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Ft Defiance Nov 20th 1853

Very Dear Mother & Sister

Harriett says I must write a few lines to let you know, that She could not write this mail; Owing to her feeble state of health- for four or six days she has not ~~been~~ been able to be about house; was taken with pain in the stomach and side; Doctor gave her an Emetic which made her quite weak, and then Colomil till her mouth was sore. So I think She will not want to be sick again right away. She is much better and now comes to the table again. She had had no fever but a part of the time a severe distress in the stomach; a Blister also was among the remedies; which of course was not very comfortable to bear, but we are thankful she is so much better; think she will be able to ride out in a day or two when I returned from Santa Fe I brought a carriage with me; drawn by two Navajo horses rather risky business but they came very well excep a little flouncing and pitching. I was a little afraid in crossing the River as the water was quite deep but no accident happened I had one good horse, stolen; but he has since been found. they were both ~~se~~ stolen but I found one before I returned, ^{bought} and/~~brought~~- another to drive home. I also brought a good stout Mexican girl who has since married the Mexican that lived

Margaret

with us. Sister Luker the young lady that was with the Mission family at Laguna-also came home with me to spend the winter so that we get along very well for help, and she is a great deal of company for Harriett. Georgie is well and hearty and a great boy he is too: So we think- We had a very pleasant association at Santa Fe though we had no Deacons or Delegates from churches the Missionaries were all together except the "Female Brethern" I was absent from home just a month. I reckon you Vermonters would think that six hundred miles was some ways to travel on horse back and sleep on the ground to attend an association of four ministers, and that when it was cold enough to freeze the Lunchon, for you know there are no houses on the road except one or two small settlements. but I must now think what to say last for I am in an awful hurry. The Pacific Rail road surveying party arrived last night and proceed in a day or two for California. We expect the Road to pass near us and then you may look for us the first Train "no mistake" Cornelia must recollect my promise that whenever she wants to come and see us I will send her the money to come with: and now if you will come I will give you some of the finest largest pink eyed potatoes that you ever saw of my own raising. I have raised sixty dollars worth from a pick of seed, now if

you can beat that in vermont let us see you do it. I have sold thirty five dollars worth and could sell the rest but we prefer eating them to selling them at five dollars pr bushel. We have cabbage, turnips, beets, carrots, parsnips, pickles, and ~~evrything~~ everything else good, oysters & vegetable oysters & other vegetables innumerable I can raise any thing here you can in Vermont/Wheat, corn, etc the Indians bring in now to sell, so that you see we are in the garden of the world tell Stillman I will send him twenty five dollars, as soon as I can get a draft of that amount to send. He can depend upon it before long. I intend to give him at least that every year He is in study; If He really is in want He must let me know it. Do not tell any one that I give so much. Others may be inclined to give him less. I want him to have this over and above what he gets otherwise. there are a great many little expenses that people do not think of and which embarrass the student in his course. He must not think of cutting short his studies for want of money. I will write to Deac, if He has not a scholarship that covers expense of Board & tuition. tell him to write whether his scholarship pays for his board & tuition. I do not want him sawing wood to pay his way, but I must close as ever yours

J. M Shaw

Enclosed find 30letter stamps

(L24)
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Ft Defiance Jan 12th/54

My dear Mother & sister

I know you feel anxious to see my handwriting again & that you may be assured I am able to write I take the pen again to tell you how I am getting along. My babe is just one month old and I am able to walk about the room by taking hold of things. I suffered nothing in comparison to what I did with Georgie. I was not very well all day but did not commence ~~any~~ preparations for confinement till five oclock or after & the babe was ~~born~~ at half past eight. I suffered harder/~~from~~^{pains} for 6 or 7 hours before ~~it~~ was born than any I had this ~~time~~. I had the same difficulty afterwards with the afterbirth but did not suffer as much & did not flood as before. Indeed I have great reason to be thankful to God for preserving my life through two such trials & giving us two such sweet babes, a boy & girl. I should have borne this confinement much better if I had not been so nervous, but the dread of that suffering again & the thought of leaving my little ones to the

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cold charities of the world rendered me very nervous so that I had but little courage or strength to bear it I had a good physician(a young man as usual) & notwithstanding all my fears I got along well & am gaining strength though I have not yet left my room. I have done some little jobs of sewing. very little indeed. I was dressed on New Years day & sat up an hour & can now sit up more than half the time & have an excellent appetite & we have plenty to eat too. have just bought 2 wild turkies of the Indians on which I intend to ~~eat~~ ^{feast.} On ~~Chris-~~ Christmas Mrs Steen, the only officers wife here, sent me pound cake, sponge cake ice cream etc & of course I tasted them all. I am now taking carbonate of iron, given me by the physician which he says will give tone(?) & strength to my system. he says my blood needs iron-- but I must stop & rest awhile--

Georgie is trotting all over the house & the greatest mimic you ever saw jabbbers constantly & talks some. he gets ^a wolf skin & navajoe blanket & pillow & makes him a bed & takes his bottle & goes to sleep. is very little trouble. stays with "papa" & the Indians a good deal of the time. is trotting from "papa's to "Mama" room constantly but is no trouble to me comes to my bed & says "mama" then puts off to find "papa"--at first he did not know what to make

of the baby, but now he kisses her & says "oh," "baby"- he is as fat & hard as a pig. the babe is also healthy & good natured sleeps all night & not half as cross as I expected she would be, however she may be cross yet, the the present indications are favorable for good nature. your Oct & Nov. letters both came by the Dec mail. your Oct letter was written the 30th & therefore could not come sooner which accounts for my not getting one by the Nov mail. you say in that that you were waiting for mine to reach you but I think I did not write as no express left the Fort, for that mail but do not worry about us we are safe & no/~~trouble~~^{trouble} anticipated from Indians we laugh at your fears about us. Georgie has a spree with the Navajoes every day. Capt Gunnisons party or part of it, have been cut off by the Utahs. they were surveying the Pacific railroad north of, but we are safe here

Jan 13th

I think he with 10 men had left the main party & were thus suprised & cut off. Indians are very treacherous & I would not like to trust myself even with the Navajoes though they appear very kind & friendly & say they have adopted us as their people. Yesterday afternoon I with Ms help went into the front room to see a Nav.- friend one of their great war chiefs who has been very sick & not able to visit us for a long time. M has noen Indian boy here constantly, boards & clothes him on his own expense this boy is a half

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Moqui, & learns quite fast. the woman rule among the Nav---
& we cannot cant a scholar from the men unless the mother
gives her consent the women own all the sheep also & they
have to be bought of them. the boy we have has no mother
& we hope by taking him to get an influence with others, but
they cannot see what motive we can have in wishing to educate
them. M is making good progress in the language, but it requires
severe study & constant application, it is no small ^{task} ~~task~~ to
^{reduce} ~~reduce~~ such an uncouth language to a written form but he
thinks in a year more he shall master it. We had 2 letters from
Asia last mail one from Allen for the present at Maulmain(?)
& one from Rose at Akyak. they seem in good spirits. Sr Nisket
died on the 30th July after a severe confinement. Br Allen
writes, "The child never saw light was taken from her &
probably died in the operation"--

Br M is deranged & will soon return. what great reason of
gratitude have I that my life has been preserved in two scenes
of trial & the difficulty I had both times--
Mrs ~~Knapp~~ Knapp(?), Mrs Whitaker & one or two others were expecting
soon to be confined, so you see babies are born there as well
as here. Mrs Maj Carlton recently gave birth to a eleven pounder.
Mrs Sturges another, soon, has one some over a year old, Mrs
Mrs Baird has another Mrs Sibley, of Rochester was out here two
years & gone back with two children four have been born at this
post in the last 6 months you must think this a fruitful country
& so it seems to be. I think I shall get out of it as soon
as possible, but I will let the baby subject alone for the present.
Send me word how your fur tippet is cut & made also the size of

I have identified
all of these

it & the wristlets. We get wild-cat skins of the Indians & I want to make some, be particular. When we come home you may expect to see me dressed in wildcat skin & M in Buckskin. also a muff & Buffalo robe of them, or rather a wild cat robe. Mother will you tell me when would be the best time to wean Georgie from his bottle. I think I shall in the spring. Our cow has a ^{daughter} ~~such~~ also born in Dec. so we have new milk. I am not a very profitable one myself, for I do not have milk enough though I drink ~~of~~ abundance of chocolate. O I wish you could step in here [&] ~~te-~~ see us, babies [&] ~~and~~ bottles all over the house. M says every chair is full & every corner & says when the next comes, we shall see him putting off through the cornfields as did the man in Ohio when his wife had 3 at a time, but I must close & eat my dinner which happens to be turkey to day, call & eat with us, but good bye for this time, your aff. Harriett.

I have just been out to take dinner with the family, Jan 13th. Your Oct letter in which was the lawn was paid 3 cts & printed on it, a "Due 10 cts" To much for postmasters Dont forget to send me some squash seeds, summer & winter & tell me which is summer & which winter

I wrote to S. by this mail also

I think your lawn very pretty

I got a letter from S last mail one from D. the mail before Our flour costs at the rate of 16 doll a barrel, other things state prices meats 6 cts a pd

Ft Defiance N.M. May 14th/54

My dear Mother. I take my pen once more to scribble a few lines but I must write in haste as I have ~~but~~ but a few moments & Georgie is at my elbow calling "supper mama" "supper mama" which he does every time he sees the table set. Our mail arrived yesterday & brought me your letters of Feb. & March which I was rejoiced to get, also one from Stillman of March 4th . I am always so glad to get a letter from home, & more ~~es~~pecially at this time & it contained news of Cornelias affairs, which I was glad to hear. Was sorry to hear of your sickness but you are always getting better when you write. Now I don't want you to deceive me if it is not really so, but I think it is or you would not tell me so. As for ourselves we are all well but my little sweet babe. She is quite sick with something of influenza I think. I called the Dr this morning & hope she will soon be better she has been sick several days but I thought she would get along with what I could do for her but thought best this morn to call the Dr. Never did I know till I I had little ones of my mown how closely the little tendrils will wind themselves around their mothers heart or the depth of a mothers affection, but I know now & my sweet ones are my treasures. M expects to leave to morrow to carry Sr

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Luker to Laguna. she also has this hard cold or influenza which is prevalent all over the garrison. he will be gone about two weeks. One cannot go every day in a country like this. the big train is now here with the Summer supply of provisions & leaves tomorrow & they must avail themselves of the chance. I hardly know what to write as I have to write a few lines & then jump up for something else. My little babe clings to me & worries when any one else takes her & I feel so bad to see her sick. We have not much news different from what I wrote in my last. the Indian war is still progressing Gen Garland says he will pursue the Jicarilla(Hicareas)
(pronounced)

Apaches still there is not one left. he is determined to extirminate them. they are one tribe of the Apache nation & constantly troublesome. he says they are reduced to about 80 men & there are 300 troops after them. the Americans have had a fight with the Utahs; killed quite a number & recovered the horses & baggage of those 40 or more they so barbarously killed. we have no fears of being molested here. the Nav are peaceable & want to go & fight the Apaches they owe the Aph. a grudge because 4 years ago they killed a Nav ago. they would probably have fought them, ere this but for the restraining influence of this post. we have some fears for the mail which crosses the plains but hope it may go safe. Some changes expected here, Both companies of Infantry ordered to the valley of the Rio Grande & what gives us most pleasure it takes nearly every catholic from the post & if they are not replaced with others we hope to

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enjoy life here ~~very~~ much better. we know not yet who is coming to fill their places. Mrs. Stearn goes & perhaps I shall be the only lady here again but I don't much care for she is a bigoted underhanded Catholic & I cannot love her. Monday Morn I have to write by piecemeal when I can get my babe out of my arms. she is now asleep, seems a little better this morn but is weak & pale hope she will soon be well. Our Mex. boy leaves & I shall be alone with my 2 babes & Mex. woman but she has improved much since living here & does every thing I want of her. takes good care of Georgie & takes care of things very well. You ask what James did when I was there. I hardly recollect the particular thing but something Cornelia wanted of him which he refused & seemed so cross & jawed her. she cried & I told him she was weak & could not bear it. he said he "didn't care, she need not act so". another time he was cross when he carried her out & laid her on the bed by the stove & several times I saw his ill-nature. O I wish I had prevented her marriage with him I never felt satisfied about it, had I known her feelings too about it I should have said "don't marry him" I tried to love him because he was my sisters husband, but may she enjoy more peace [&] ~~and~~ happiness than ever before. I must close, do write before ^{the} ~~ta~~ 15 of every month so I can get a letter every mail. M has got none from his folks for 2 or 3 months & they write every mail

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We have more potatoes planted than last year have potatoes every
morn for breakfast have some beets will write more in my next

Harriett

Love to every body

Cant I get cured of the poison I feel bad about it
(I indulge in tears sometimes) how I do want to see him
& all of you but I turn to my dear babes & cling to them
& my dear husband they are all I have here

I love Eld Howard more for his kindness to Cornelia
I have got a gold piece of 250 which I want to send but
dare not trust in a letter
thank you for squash & veg oys seeds

Cornelia your letters did me much good

(I cant write more
I wrote S & D last mail

Fb Defiance N. Mexico July 4th/54

(L26)

My dear Sister

This is the anniversary of our national independence but oh how different here from the dear loved home where my youthful years were spent. 'Tis true we have been reminded that it is "Independence day," the national salute has been given & echoed & re-echoed from these rocky mountain sides & now all is still & quiet again. No work is going on as it is a holiday for every one, but how different from the busy bustling scenes of your region. there all is life ~~an~~ & animation & I cannot but feel sad & lonely while I am so forcibly reminded of the difference. In imagination I can hear the roaring of the cannon & see the countless multitudes as they throng the busy streets & each seeking the pleasure to which they have looked forward with so much anticipation. alas how many will return to their homes vexed & disappointed And you my sister, where are you on this celebrated day. ah! Methinks I see a sabbath school celebration where scores & scores of children, with their bright merry faces & happy hearts, are collected, each desirous of adding to the enjoyment of the occasion, & there are the teachers too, each with a class in perfect order & striving to add to the happiness of the loved ones under their charge & there too is my sister, a shade of sadness on her face in remembrance of the past & perchance a thought now & then straying to a far-off secluded valley where dwells an absent sister yet still striving to be happy & joyous

she looks upon the dear happy faces of her little pupils whose
 bright smiles serve to chase away the sadness that occasionally
 gathers upon her brow then too are tables beneath the green tree
 spread with every luxury of the land & ornamented with vases of
 rare choice flowers such as have not greeted my eyes for long
 years. Many happy hearts are there among those children & they
 dream not that life has aught but roses. I feel a great anxiety
 to be with you to day & share in your enjoyments, & dearly would
 I love to look upon such a collection of sabbath school children once
 more. I have allowed my thoughts to wander much to day & when
 I reflect that here I have no female friend with whom I to
 associate & seem to be doing so little good, the loneliness
 of my situation seems still more lonely, & I feel as though
 I must see you, but when that time will arrive is as yet
 uncertain. M says I may go now if I wish, but how could I
 cross the plains with my two little ones alone, & how could he
 be separated from them for so long a time _____

15th

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Again I take my pen to write a few lines but cannot write
much. I am not well myself & Georgie has has one large boil on ~~his~~
his arm between the elbow & wrist which is not yet well & another
very large one is now nearly ready to break just forward of the
arm but it is swollen as large as a large hens egg & quite
painful at times, both on the right arm he thinks no one but
"Mama" can do any thing for him & cries much for me. will hardly
allow me to be out of his sight. he cries to sit in my lap & I
hold him as much as I can but I am not strong enough to do it. he
is so heavy & for two days past I have been quite unwell myself.
the warm weather wilts me down & I feel as though I was completely
worn out. perhaps a change might recruit me some but that is out
of the question. I can scarcely leave the house, & there is
nothing here to cheer ones drooping spirits. I am very low
spirited & at times ready to sink in despair. no friends here
to speak an encouraging word, none to care whether I am saved
or lost I take no comfort in any thing, & at times care not how
soon my days are ended, then a better person can take take my
place & do for my husband & little ones better than I can. I
have not taken much comfort for nearly a year past & my mind is
nearly broken down as well as my body & my head is nearly crazy.
I cannot endure this state of mind better that my days be ended
at once am not worth your notice, but my little ones ones you
will love

20th

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again I take my pen to drop a few more lines. I have to write as I can get a chance. I do not feel as though I could write at all but you want to hear from us. Georgie boils are not well yet though much better the one under his _____ was opened & discharged about half a tea cup full the first time it was very painful & he looks as though he had been quite sick, pale & puny. sis also is not very hearty so you see we are a dumpish set. I am weaning sis for I cant nurse her this hot weather. thermometer 96 in the shade, but quite cool nights. I have no strength to endure any thing, cant endure more than half I could last summer. I wish you could be with me for M is again going to the valley to be gone about three weeks. he goes to get men to work for him making adobes to build our house at Zunia, for we expect to go there this fall. M resigns the first of Oct. I am glad to get away from this place, & not be cramped under officers any longer. as I wrote in another letter all of the officers that ~~x~~ were here when we came are gone except Maj Kendrick & he will not probably be here long. Life is too short to be thrown away ~~ixtix~~ in this manner, tis true we could lay up money here, but to spend ones life in such a way for the sake of a little money is too bad I shall be alone much of the time till we move as M will necessarily have to be absent to oversee his house building which will probably cost 10 or 15 hundred dollars. he builds Mission premises, & will have the corn contract ~~for~~ for Government at ²Junia with which he expects to make enough to pay all the expenses of building them. we expect our assistant & wife are on the road, thus I shall have one female to associate with. Mrs Steen has ~~gone~~ gone & no one here but myself & some low wash women. Do you wonder I feel lonely separated from every thing that renders life pleasant. It looks like

is a mountain task to build such premises as a mission family needs at Zunia, but we hope to be prospered & also hope to see you in 2 yrs if we live. I do hope my little ones may be spared to see you. I feel very lonely when they are unwell & I dont know what to do for them. You know I am no doctor ought Georgie to take physic after such boils or not. O I wish I could have you here to tell me what to do for my children. Br Read has got back from California as big as life, written a book found interesting fields for Missionaries & people anxious for for a teacher (probably about as anxious as they were in N Mexico) So you may expect flaming pieces in the Record, so get ready to cry. When asked why he did not go, his reply was . O he was not the man. No he is not the man to bone into it himself but find promising fields for others, then if they do not find them so, they are not the right kind of persons. O such gas he aspires to an Agency in the States where he can go about & swell as the pioneer missionary, & dupe the churches into the belief that he only can do wonders, but enough. Georgie is worrying for me & I must go. July 23. husband leaves very early tomorrow morning in company with two Indians for Santa Fe perhaps you may think this dangerous but I think he will return safe. I cured the family of one of them of sore eyes & he is very grateful is now going with M to Santa Fe to protect him. An Indian never forgets a kindness or injury. I bought a pretty basket of one the other day, but Indian like he must trade back again. I was sorry as I wanted to bring it to the States as a curiosity. It was the size & shape of the butter bowl I gave mother & would hold water. I shall probably have a chance to get another but I had my heart set on that & felt disappointed

very thing nearly perished up here for want of rain but we have had several good showers this month & things are coming on. the last shower we had the rain poured in streams off our house with spouts but did not leak so you see we can build houses of mud & keep dry

I would like to bring a mud house to the states as a curiosity
love to all

I have got some large garnets lately
but they are scarce

Sorry to hear Mother is sick again. I got your letter of Apr 8th this month none later

I cannot write D or S this mail

I am not well my lungs are very weak & trouble me some last night I could hardly turn over such hurting across my breast it seemed as though the bones were breaking, but I hope I shall soon get over it & feel well again. I have but little appetite. can you tell me any thing to do. When my health fails my heart clings closer to my little }
ones who seem to think their "mama" is their all. }

how I wish I could be with you & assist you but I cant now. I sometimes think I would come home now if I had a good opportunity.

I will send more seed if I can find any

I have scarcely seen a flower this season it is so dry

if you have not sent that oiled silk you need not.

(L27) 140
Ft Defiance Aug 11th/54

My dear Mother & Sister

Day before yesterday our mail arrived containing the oiled silk & buttons (here let me say before I forget it I do not want any buttons I merely asked the price in the states. I sold eleven dozen at 12½ cts a doz. because I did not want them. am sorry you paid out your money for them when I have more than enough now) the oiled silk I wanted to keep Sis from wetting herself so much. I will send you double pay soon as I can. Wa also got a letter from S.- & two from M's friends from whom we had not heard for four or five months (suppose the letters have miscarried.) also several others & two from my dear husband who has now been absent about nearly three weeks. I need not say I had a feast of letters & more than all this I have (to tell you) some good news to tell you. Our assistant Rev. - Frederick Tolhurst has arrived in Santa Fe with his ^{family} wife & wife's sister, the sister to live with us to do housework. it seems almost too great a blessing to think I am to have an American girl to take the heavy care from me. Br Tolhurst wrote husband (not knowing he was in the valley) & he says she is "a good working girl & an excellent christian", Only think Mother

after living here a year & a half without hardly seeing a decent female much less a christian one. to have two christian females to assoicate with in our own house. Oh it is a blessing greater than I deserve. they will probably return with husband & how will my heart rejoice to see them all. I can hardly wait. We shall all go to Zunia as soon as our house is built, probably they will go immediately & oversee the building of it. Husband feels much animated with the thought that he is going to be at liberty once more & not be confined under military rules. I too rejoice. I think we shall enjoy ourselves much better. I am nearly worn down with care anxiety & taking care of my children,

& trying to live with Mexican help, but I shall soon be rid of her. she is just about as good help & knows about as much as the Irish girl that Darwin had who put the meat to fry & not a bit of soup came out of it, but enough of her for I have had enough

When I wrote you last I was very low spirited. My health poor, & I almost in despair in regard to my spiritual state. My despondency, anxiety, care of my children & other cares almost too much for me to bear were wearing my health & life away & I almost felt that I could not live so any longer, & had it not been for my children who cling to their "Mama"; so much I should have had little desire to live any longer My health is not much

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found empty head
better, but my mind is not in such great darkness, & gloom.

I think I have been enabled to look away to Christ who is able to save to the uttermost all that call upon him. I have been reading "Habels Redemption" & I think God has blessed it to my soul also the life of "Isabella Graham", I have long been trying to builp up my own righteousness of Christ I was conscious of being far from God, of living in a cold indifferent state, no, not indifferent for I took no comfort feeling that I was an alien from God. this state continued till I could endure it no longer. I was almost in despair every thing looked dark. I thought my husband did not & could not love me, & that nobody cared for my soul, but now I see I was trying to make myself better & do something of myself to merit Gods favor instead of looking entirely to Jesus. O how wicked I have been, & why was I not cut off when murmuring against God. Surely he is a merciful God slow to anger & ready to forgive else I should not now hope in his mercy. I know I do wrong to look so much on the dark side & see no blessings, when I am surrounded with them but may God forgive me & give me strength to do his will. Cornelia I see you are getting to be like me, always looking on the dark side but do not my sister allow yourself, in it, strive to overcome it in the beginning, much better had it been for me had I done it years ago it would have saved me much needless suffering.

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Strive to look on the bright side & think of Gods mercies. do not fret about an education so much. You do not know what God has in store for you & much is learned by observation. I worried much about my education but it is good enough for the situation I am in, & God will give you as much as is necessary. I also strove to lay up money for a support but this too did me no good. It made no difference as to my present situation. I have abundance & now wish I had done more for mother but I mean to do all I can for her, & you, although it be but a mite. now do not sister give way to dark feelings. I know them too well, & they will impair your health, & leave their impress on your countenance as they have mine. O do not worry at all, it will make no difference. Strive to leave all with God & believe he will do all things well. I do believe there is peace & happiness in store for you yet though God has tried you sore in the furnace of affliction. what would you do if you had to live a year & a half without hardly having a female to speak to. Do you wonder that I too get lowspirited, but I mean to strive against it. my chest is quite weak, but I think if I could go to the valley & see some company that the change would recruit me. I have but little appetite especially when husband is gone. the fore part of the season here was very dry but for nearly three weeks we have had most heavy rains every day. water pour in streams off the house yet they have leaked very little. You speak of the eclipse I did not even think of it, so I lost it. the garden here looks very well & Ms potatoes also. We pay for flour 8 doll. a hundred(flour is

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bought in this country now) other things at states prices.

We have a good supply of things beforehand as we expect to leave Uncle Sams provision house soon. I have put down 25 pds butter for winter. We have 75 pds Rice on hand several hams, candles, soap, sugar, pork, coffee dried apples & peaches etc. We sponge them from Uncle Sam. dont know as we do right as he is so very poor, but keep dark(?)

I must leave the other page till M gets home.

M sent for an assistant requesting a single man (as we expected then to stay here & he/board us) but this man was engaged to be married & M wrote afterward by all means bring his wife & also wrote to bring us a good girl to do housework & he has brought his wifes sister they came in the mail safely. I wonder at it as it is very dangerous for females especially. no Indian troubles near us M went from here alone. the Indian who promised did not come & I felt very anxious about him till I heard of his safe arrival at Zunia. I feared treachery & told M so but he thought the Indian would overtake him. by a report I heard that he was in Zunia & day before yesterday when the mail came it brought me letters from him of his safe arrival in the valley. You know I must have had some anxiety about him not knowing what might befall him but I felt a peace in seeking Gods protection for him & committing him to His care. Saturday Aug 12th. The Gov of Zunia has just been here & says husband went from there alone, had I not

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heard of his safe arrival in the valley I should feel very anxious about him. **Q** how anxious I am for his return. Sis is quite sick but no mother can be here to tell me how to take care of her & not a solitary female to come & look upon me in my loneliness.

Sunday. Sis a little better, called a physician last night, slept little. I thought of mother & sister when ^{rr}ca~~y~~ing my sick babe in my arms in the night, all alone, yes all alone for my dear husband my only friend here is far away, & I know not what may befall him but commit him to the care of a covenant keeping **God**. In your favored land congregations in assembling to worship God & sabbath schools are gathering to learn of Him who is meek & lowly in heart, but here oh how different, nothing to remind you it is the Sabbath except the weekly inspection of the troops which is always on Sabbath morning. How gladly would I take my little ones & fly to my dear old home, but it may not be. When I think of all the blessed privileges of a christian land I think we have made sacrifices & when I see with how many mercies & blessings we are surrounded I feel that we have done **nothing**. Br Allen writes us from Asia that his field is nothing compared to ours, but could I see a little church gathered in the wilderness I should **feel** amply repaid for all we have suffered. Monday Sis stupid from opium. I knew the Dr would give her calomel & opium & waited as long as I dared before I called him. She had a watery diarrhoea(hrea?) for

some time then yellow & green with some blood. Dr Langworthy is all calomel & opium

(Faken?) (plenty?) (?)
 Tuesday, Sis in much pain takin oil & twenty ~~mer~~^{no} mercury powder to give.

Georgies bowels quite loose, no friend here & I dont like the physician. wednesday-slime [&]~~red~~-blood passed

Georgies bowels this morning which alarmed me & I dare not wait but told the Dr. & he said I~~had~~ must give him a powder every hour, the same Sis is taking, mercury opium chalk etc. I dont

like to give mercury but what can I do. Thursday Georgie passed

much blood & slime but some less this evening. I know the Dr is

salivating him but what shall I doo off in this land of wretchedness alone & no other physician I have questioned duty much to day

as to staying in this land with my children, both sick with the

dysentry & husband gone & no female to speak to my mind is so

worried about husband & children that I cannot sleep & am up

every hour in the night, slept little for 3 nights. Why M

does not come I cannot tell. Sis some better you my dear mother know how I feel with sick children Friday, last night 2 mex.

came in just from California, said a party of Am. coming from

~~Cal~~ Cal- had had a fight with the Nav. they were behind the party & were robbed so they say. I dont know if/~~it is true~~
 if it is true

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May God protect my dear husband I feel very anxious about him,
nearly a week has elapsed since I expected home Georgies
bowels better although I have not given him the mercury powders
which the Dr said give him every hour. sis is very thin no better
I am afraid the Dr is giving her too powerful medicines for her
little stomach. Instead of mercury I have given Georgie some
fluid medicine, we brought with us on my own risk. I could not
stuff him with mercury.

I have been taking throughout, am now taking gentian. My
stomach & head trouble ~~me~~ & I have some considerable pain
under my left shoulder blade

I have grown quite thin in flesh ^{what is the name of paper?}
am sorry you take the Rutland papers on purpose for me
I only wished to see one occasionally, do not be at any
expense for me at all, you have hard time enough
have you ever got a Santa Fe paper from me

you have never told me

I wish you would get an extra copy of the record & send us
every month we seldom get any, but no I will write Stillman
to send them.

Will send more Spanish bayonet when I can get them I have one
quite large gained about ~~3~~ 3 3/4 of an inch large several
others nearly as large

Georgies bowels are well & he so full of witchcraft that I
can hardly live with him
sis has a watery diarrrhoia with much wind
what shall I do for it

Send me some catnip seed

could you send me any thing in a letter to cleanse my blood.
would burdock seeds do or dandelion chills

I got the oiled silk also the ribbon dont know as I want
any more oiled silk

Mother I wrote you a long time ago to know what it was about the
signs about weaning children you have never told me & I have
been obliged to wean sis without knowing perhaps I have weaned
her at the wrong time & that makes her sick it is about 3 weeks
since I commenced to wean her. It was such hot weather I
could not nurse her I was so unwell had ~~myrix~~ very little milk
Is it a whim or do the signs make a difference do tell me
or send me a leaf of old Abels Almanack with the signs

*Can you tell any thing about
this?*

(L28)

Ft Defiance Oct 10th

[1854] 7/20 1854

My dear Mother & Sister,

I have just received your letter of July 11th containing the cat nip & am informed the mail leaves tomorrow so I have no time to write only this evening & as I have had a nervous headache all day you must not expect much, but I cannot run the risk of not having another opportunity to send this month. The mail arrived/~~teddy~~^{to day} about one oclock & as usual found us anxiously awaiting it. I felt some disappointed in not receiving your Aug. letter, but have learned to have patience knowing if it does not reach me this month next month I shall get two. I received Cornelia's July letter last mail. I also got one from Stillman to day. I get his letter regularly every month & I feel guilty sometimes that I do not answer them every month, but my cares are many, especially the care of little ones, & if I write only one letter that one must be to Mother, & she will distribute the news, but I must write fast & be brief. Mother I feel very amxious to see you again but sometimes fear I shall not. do be careful as possible of your health, & perhaps you may be spared till I return which will probably be a year from next summer at the longest perhaps next summer. but about ourselves. Mitlon is not well just

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now though about. he has not got over the effects of his hard tramp to the valley & I fear will not soon be as well as before. I am about as usual. much more happy & cheerful than I have been for months. We enjoy the society of dear Br & Sr Tolhurst very much & our sabbath evening prayer meetings are very pleasant. five of us can unite our voices in prayer & frairn(?) & we often feel that our prayers ascend to the throne of grace with those of ~~THE~~ dear christian friends far away but not forgotten. It is a season of refreshing to our souls & we enjoy them much. About our mission. I hardly know what to say, at times we feel much encouraged, & then clouds of darkness overspread our sky, but it is in the hands of the Lord & he is able to direct all our steps. at present we are at a stand. an unfavorable event has occurred & what is in the future we know not. last Saturday a soldier was killed by an Indian within a short distance about half or 3/4 of a mile of the garrison. The Indians were in with peaches & I bought peaches of this one that morning. after leaving the fort he went up to this soldier who was loading hay, & asked him for his pants which of course the soldier refused whereupon the Indian drew his bow & shot him near the heart with an arrow then ran jumped upon a horse & fled. The poor soldier lingered till Sabbath afternoon & died. it has caused a great excitement here & what the result will be know not. I was a daring piece of boldness, a cold blooded murder but it has learned me a lesson, to keep within the fort or at least not go out of

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sight of it, & I shall not venture far away from it I assure you. Only the day before Sr Tolhurst & I took a long walk over the hills on the cart to the valley beyond & far out of sight of the garrison about a mile off. We were very imprudent to go so far, but our husbands were off cutting hay & we were expecting them & went to see if we could see them coming. I shall not do it again. Husband & Br Tolhurst were off three days for hay ten miles off alone & slept on the ground. a chief came to them & told them the Indians would come down & shoot them they told him very well let them come & he went away laughing. he came again the next day & told them he would come with his family & sleep a short distance off, & he did. They thought he wanted to scare them, & see what courage they had, but they were not disturbed. I think there was some truth in it & he being friendly wanted to put them on their guard, but Indians are so treacherous. All is commotion & excitement here now, & what will result from it I know not but in all probability, a war unless the murderer is given up. we deeply regret it as it will necessarily put a stop to our missionary labors for the present, & Br & Br T. were intending to do much for them this winter, but do not let this cause you anxiety for our safety. if war occurs we shall be safe here & you need not apprehend

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we shall stray far from the fort in future. The Apaches are still hostile but the troops are after them, & I do sincerely hope they may soon be exterminated for they are a blood thirsty race & no hope of ever ~~more~~ civilizing them & they are constantly killing all they can, but I must tell you something besides war news A Pueblo Indian at Laguna has been baptised gives good evidence of being a sincere christian. his wife constantly oppressed him till his baptism since then she had taken sides with him & defends his course. Br G. writes us that the candidate before leaving the water addressed his people & tears were seen rolling down their cheeks. O May the Lord bless them & many more follow his example.

Cornelia keep up good spirits, perhaps I may come home next summer

You need not send any more papers, at present we have so many papers from the states that I dont read half of them...

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You see I have mispaged this, but no matter, you will want to hear of my little ones. Well they are well & fat as pigs. Georgie full of mischief & Hattie trying to grow fast enough to catch up with him.

Oct 13th Dear Mother & sister

I have just finished a ^{hasten} letter to Still & now ~~hastened~~ to finish this as the mail leaves soon. I defered it to learn more about the Indian affiars. Several chiefs have been in to settle it by ~~paying~~ paying sheep & horses, but the murderer has been demanded of the tribe & the result we do not know. A large council of Indians is to be held in a few day to determine what they shall do & I may not know the result in time for the mail.

if he is not given up a war will inevitably ensue which will materially affect our labors here & possibly we may visit you next summer, but know we know not yet. We may go to Santa Fe if this Mission is broken up for the present. We know ~~we~~ not what is in the future for us. Our hearts are saddened by this occurrence. Perhaps Br & Sr T. may go to Santa Fe this winter if there is no prospect of doing good here & I shall be left alone again, but all is uncertain. We are safe here but dare not venture far from the fort. We are all as well as usual. husband has not got over the effects of his hard trip to the valley yet. Georgie & Hattie are well & fat as pigs. she sits alone but does not creep yet, has no teeth, is small of her age. Our meetings are small, most of the

officers attend-I play the Melodeon, as our former player is in the guard house husband says he will finish so I will stop

This is a rather a small corner to writé a letter, but I will not spin yarns as she does; we are getting along first rate. Indians dont want my scalp, if they do they cant have it, think if we live we will come home and make a visit in a year or two. hope you are getting along well.

(L 29.)

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Ft Defiance Nov. 12th/54
Half past 2 oclock

My dearest Mother & Sister

I have just been informed that the mail will leave early tomorrow morning & as the commanding officer is about to make a trip to the Moqui Indians west of us. probably no other mail party will leave this month, so hasten to write you a few lines, knowing your anxiety from what I have previously written to hear from us, & first I will say for your gratification that we are all enjoying our usual health for which we ought to be thankful & second, what will rejoice you much, the anticipated difficulties with our Navajoes are all settled amicably. This has taken a load of anxiety from our hearts & no doubt will from yours. O what cause of gratitude to God have we that He has thus dispersed the dark clouds which hung over us & may we not hope that He yet designs the conversion of these poor Indians? I put in a slip of paper in my last after it was sealed to say that the Indians had decided to give up the murderer but none of us believed they would. We were mistaken for after waiting about 2 weeks for them to bring him in, another party with the Indian agent was sent to know why he had not been

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brought ~~and~~ & this party brought him back with them the 7th of this month about noon & (Lynch law like) the poor fellow was hung before night--all the trial he had was--the soldiers were called in to say if he was the one. Of course ~~yes~~ they all said 'yes', though not a person was within a hundred yards of the soldier~~s~~ when killed, 'so they say". The poor Indian~~s~~ has no sympathy from the white man, all wish them extirminated, but as we wish them converted/^{to}God--The murderer was hunted in the mountains by a party of Indians who said he fought much & they had to shoot him in the side with an arrow before he could be taken & then would not go & they tied him to a horse & they dragged him along. When brought here, he was brought on a litter by the soldiers who were sent with the Indian Agent & officer, was badly wounded in the side ~~and~~ & the skin was nearly all rubbed off his back but his sufferings here were of short duration. A gallows was erected just back of the buildings on the south side of the garrison & all the officers but two & a large number of ~~siers~~ soldiers & Navajoes went to see him hung. I could hardly control my feelings when I saw the poor Indian brought in here bound ~~feet~~ hand & foot with long ropes knowing he was in the hands of his enemies who would show him no mercy, but his being hung here affected me less than I had supposed it would. The idea of a fellow creature being sent

into eternity without ever having heard of a Savior was something I had never before experienced but we hope & pray that the way will soon be opened for the spread of the gospel among them & they ~~savingly~~- become savingly acquainted with Jesus. This is the first instance ever known of their voluntarily giving up one of their tribe. They said he was a devil & killed somebody wherever he went, & said he had no friends. Had he been a person of any account among them or had friends to revenge his death, I am sure they would never have given him up. The Nav-men did not want war. said if there was war they should have to have to go without fires this winter as the smoke would reveal where their hiding places were. I think this speaks well for our Indians. their upright conduct in this affair makes us more attached to them.

I cannot but feel that they are descendants of the lost tribes of Israel & that God has designs of mercy upon them. for several days ~~our~~ house was crowded with them & we visited them at their camp fires on the hills & all seemed friendly & kind offering us what they had to eat. we gave them many presents, and all seemed perfectly satisfied with what had been done, but it is such a long tedious task to get their language what would you say, mother, should I become so much attached to savages, that it would be painful for me to live with civilized people? - but I have not exactly become a savage yet or lost my desire to visit ~~my~~ my dear friends, but were it not for our own dear family there is

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little to attract me to the States. A very friendly chief was in here a few days ago with his little daughter four or five yrs old & I loved the little girl so much that I wanted to take her as my own. She should share my affections with my own loved little ones. We made her presents & he promised to bring her again. O that I could have her as my own, & educate her for a missionary among her tribe, but how could I ask a parent to part with his child. He is an old man & seems to dote on her, & she is as pretty a child as I ever saw in the states except her filth. O I did love her so much.

Nov. 16th. The mail did not leave & so I did not finish I received your letter of Aug. 2nd this month suppose there are 2 or 3 more on the way. I get all your letters but not always in season (some gooseberries seeds in it). was sorry to hear of your illness though it is what I expected to hear in every letter & sometimes I feel afraid that I shall never see you again which I very much long to do & crave your blessing on my little ones I know you want to see them & I want you should very much Georgie talks much about going to the ~~X~~ "Gates" see ganma" & "Aunt Neely" & little Hattie tries so hard to tell what she wants. O I wish I could step in with them this afternoon. They are both asleep & I improve the time to finish my letter. Our front room is full of Indians, as it is much of the time. M. expects to start in a day or two to visit the Moqui (Mokee) Indians west of us. He goes in company with ~~Major~~ Maj Kendrick, Capt Dodge the Indian agent, & other officers with an escort of soldiers. There are

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said to be 7 villages of them near to each other & they raise a good deal of corn. Maj. wishes to see if he can get a wagon road there to draw corn. It is about a hundred miles distant. They are drawing now from Laguna 160 miles distant. You wished to know how my babies look well they look like babies. for all look nearly alike to me & mine have a peculiar look like themselves. That is the most I can say Though some say Georgie looks like his Father & Hattie like me. We have a good girl to do housework & it takes a load of care from me. It is as much as I know how to do to take care of my children, do all the sewing & the other various duties that devolve on me, & my health is not good. I have had a good deal of distress in my stomach & across my breast, - but am better of it now. I think perhaps it is humour (human?). I am now taking that bottle of Whitons anti scrofulous syrup, it being the first chance of taking it that I have had since being here. My whole system seems out of order & I feel like a broken down horse; - horse, good for nothing, but husband says I am better than 2 dead wives now. I need a change to recruit me, & in little more than a year I hope to my dear loved friends, & perhaps the journey will restore me to health again, but good bye my dear mother, as ever your aff daughter Harriett

I got the Herald but no other papers from C.

{ Br Tolhurst is on the way to babyland. probably reach their 1st of July.

Quinn
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Some evil Americans - The Vicario & the Devil have conspired
to do down Br Gorman but I guess they wont make it out. "If
God be for us who can be against us"-

Cornelia keep up good spirits--

It tires me much to write I am so nervous

Cornelia dont send me things when you have so hard a time.
I want to send you some money but dare not risk it in a
letter. I have some of my own which I shall keep for you
Georgie is all Shaw & Sis looks just like a baby exactly
though some say like me. 7 months old, weighs 12 pds
You have sent Birendock(?), Dandelion, Veg oys, squash,
lettuce, parsley & cammomile. Direct to Ft Defiance till
we order otherwise.

thank you Sis for the ribbon but allow me to say it is too
young for such an old woman as I am have worn it once however
I send you one in this. one I brought from the states
I shall send need nothing among the Indians
I got the Herald's 8 of them

send one occasionally

dont care for many

I shall probably go to Laguna & stay at Br ~~Gormans~~ a month or so
before we go to Zunia. think some of going next month as I
will be obliged to be at Zunia to oversee the building & I should
be here alone , but it is uncertain. I think a change would do
me good.

Georgie is much better of his boils

good bye my dear loved friends

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Ft Defiance Dec. 15th, 1854(?)

My dear Mother & Sister

after waiting with all the patience we could command, our mail arrived this week bringing me your Sept. Oct. letters which rejoiced my heart much It seems as though they were the best letters you ever sent me, & Cornelia too found time to write me a whole fools cap & Stillman was at home eating apples & the South room was described & I could see you all so plainly. it brought home before my mind so fresh that I could hardly believe 3,000 miles separated us, but after awhile I caught a glimpse of our own mud walls & logs, & was forcibly reminded that I was still an inhabitant of Ft Defiance but I am not unhappy here though at times I feel lonely. We are all usually well now, but all have had severe colds & sis has not got over hers but is better. is quite hoarse yet & coughs a good deal nights, but though we have such hard colds here we have no symptoms of fever & is very seldom a person has a fever in this country. Indeed it is quite a country after all. Cholera that awful scourge which has desolated so many of your cities has never visited this clime, unless as reports says a few cases occurred in Santa Fe last summer. I should think it would be visited by cholera on account of its wickedness, but here comes

my little boy saying "Georgie wanty ity" as I told him I was writing to Grandma & aunt Neely. away he goes with his whip to play in the portal & I to my writing again. I think when I wrote you last month husband was just leaving on a trip to the Moqui Indians. had a cold but pleasant trip. were four days without wood. found the Moquis like all others a most filthy degraded set of beings. large boys & girls entirely naked. they have seven villages one hundred miles west of us & are probably the remnants of the ancient inhabitants of this land. O that I had the gift of tongues to make known to all this peoples the story of Calvary, but God will in his own good time open the way. the Nav are very friendly & peaceable now & throng us continually We are somewhat cramped for room as we have Br & Sr Tolhurst here but we all have to be peacable & get along the best way we can. We need a mission house very much but what the Board are going to do, or how they are going to support their missionary we know not. I think if they had more to do they would find less time to quarrel about rooms, but I am glad we do not receive our support from them. We are safe under "Uncle Sams"wing. I have more of the comforts of life than we ever expected in the land of darkness, but I forgot to say husband returned in safety & health from Moqui a few days after he returned a little Mex. captive girl about 10 or 11 yrs old was brought in by the Indian agent a most miserable object

of pity. She had been most shockingly burnt. they said she had
a fit & fell in the fire half of her leg from the knee to the ankle
was one raw sore filled with proud flesh & maggots. The other
leg was also badly burned also her foot, hand, back shoulders, &
all of the toes on one foot had been frozen off. We took her,
washed her & cleaned her sores & gave her clothes & made her
a little bed in our kitchen (for we had no other place) & the
Dr took charge of her burns. So filthy an object I never
saw. The room was so scented all the time that after a
few days we were compelled to have her removed to another
room across the garrison where we took care of her & carried
her food. She is now much better & has walked over to see us
several times. She was stolen when a very small child but
efforts are being made to find her relatives _____ & new
and now another sad story. You recollect Fanny the orphan
girl whom I had awhile, & whom could not keep in my situation
with her bad conduct. I thought Br Gormans folks could
manage her much better than I could & placed her there as
it is no place to bring up such a girl here among soldiers,
but they have failed & she threatens to chop their heads
off & all manner of ugliness Br G. is distressed about her,
fears she will leave them & ruin herself, has written in
several times & lately another letter came begging husband to
come down & see what could be done with her She shuts herself
up in her room & wont do any thing & runs out with Mexicans
and Indians. I think on purpose with plague them (sr Gorman
expects soon to be confined ~~and~~ & cant do any thing). I
am very sorry but we shall do all we can for her & perhaps

take her here again which I ~~have~~ had rather not if we keep Emmeline for she too is a girl of bad temper & she & Fanny would quarrel like cats & dogs, & we have so little room, but I shall undertake it rather than see her ruined. we wrote her a short time ago & she said she would throw the letter in the fire, but when it was read to her she wept & wished to go to the states with us. perhaps we have yet influence enough over her to save her from ruin. I would exchange Emmeline ~~and-a~~ & get ~~along~~ with Fanny, but Emmeline dont want to go although she threatens constantly when she gets mad that she wont stay here. Emmeline is a good cook & housekeeper & I have no care about it, but her temper flies occasionally. And now Sis a few words especially to you. You dont know how your letter cheered me & brought my old home back to my fond remembrance every nook and corner of it. I feel very sorry that you have so hard a time to get along & had ~~such~~ luck with your garden but as my dear mother says, "Trust in God" you will be provided for." but He uses means & he has put it into our hearts to assist you a little. For a several months I have been getting money of my own efforts to help you pay for your bill, & have now 15 doll. laid away for that purpose & when I asked husband if ~~he~~ was willing I should send it to you, he said "Certainly & I will add 10 more to it" & send it in a draft with Stillmans, twenty five ". Like the woman whose husband lived through Feb. he says "He always noticed it" that when he give -the Lord always paid him back double. Now dont begin to "boo hoo" for we shall never feel it nor ever be any poorer. It makes my heart glad to send it to you for I think after how hard it is for you ~~and-mother~~ & mother to get along, & this will help you some. I sometimes fear mother will not live till

I see her again. I feel so anxious about it. It is not impossible but we may come next summer but not very probable. If I had no children to bring I could come & see mother alone but now I do not like to start with my 2 children alone. C you wrote me the most cheerful letter I have had from you in a long time hope you will continue to be cheerful. I will stop now and write a few lines to your Sabbath scholars.

Husband has just said to me "how would it do to go in next summer & collect money to build a mission house & you stay there while I come back & superintend the building" he dont know what to do but you may look for us any time within two years. I expect to have about two hours notice. first you will know we with all the family will burst in upon you when you least expect it, so keep the tea kettle hot.

How I wish I could send Mother some of our nice beef & mutton which we have so abundantly. we have potatoes also every day. Emmeline is a good cook & I think of you when we are sit down to our good fares.

I think I should have pretty good health if I was not so nervous I tire easily.

cant get anything here for syrups, nothing here but pine scrub oak & scrub cedar no nothing such as we have in the states. this country was not made for sick folks or grunty folks

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If I play the Melodion for church now, dont you think I am gaining confidence to play before officers?

Send me the address of Chloe also of Mr Rockwood

I thought I would write to your ~~xxix~~ sabeth scholars but concluded to send it to the Record that all sabeth school children might read it.

While husband was gone to the valley last summer I sold a good many pounds of butter & some milk we had ~~2xx~~ two cows & it was such hot weather it would not keep good. butter 75 cts a pd & milk 25 ~~xxx~~ a qt. I got some money in that way, & I sold some things too which I did not need. !!

Now dont grumble I feel a greater pleasure ~~xx~~ in sending it to help my dear Mother & sister than I should in receiving a hundred myself if I could not give it to them. ~~Thix~~

~~Think~~

I Think humors have caused much of us poor health I have taken part of Whatons Syrup & I break out and feel much better

cant get any thing here to cleanse the blood

Dec 14

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Husband & Br T have just left for Laguna & perhaps further.
we know not how long they will be gone. If the bretheren in the valley think best for husband to go to the states & collect funds for building misson houses, we shall probably come in next summer perhaps in the spring .

Our minds are all uncertain if he can get a leave for 6 months he will keep the chaplaincy & I shall have to stay & let him come back alone & superintend the building or come back with him in 6 months.

Quien Sabe" which I will do you will see husbands account of his Mokee trip in the next record & a ~~piece~~ ^{a piece} from me to sabbath school children, most probably- I intend to send/next mail. in answer to the piece in the Oct number "To the wives of Missonaries & give them some of the "Shady Sides" I can give about as much as any one in this country.

(L31)

Ft Defiance Feb., 17th/55

My dear Mother & Sister

In haste I

take up my pen to write as the mail leaves in the morning & first, as the moth says, I have some news for you & that which will probably take you by suprise. Well we are making our preparations to pop in upon you about the first of July. Now this may seem like a dream to you, but I guess it would not if you had been here to day & seen the buyers that have thronged our house. I have sold nearly 70 doll. worth of things to day & we intend to leave this place soon as we can, probably the last of March, and visit our friends in the valley & be ready to start across the plains at least by the 1st of May. Now is this not news & good news too? Can it be possible that I shall again visit the dear home of my childhood? but Oh my mind is busy in fancying the ravages which death may make ere that time arrives.

It is February & in imagination I can see my dear mother laïd upon a sick bed again & perhaps about breathing her last, but oh I hope & pray this is not the case. I do so much want to see her & place my little ones in her arms. I received no letter from you this mail

The Rutland paper might tell of her return

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but merely a note from Stillman of date Nov 29th, sent in a letter to Br. Tolhurst. In this I learn that mother had had another sickness. I expect every letter to hear of her death, but mother you promised to try & live till I come & now I am coming a year sooner I do hope to see you. My health is not good & I feel that I must change locations for awhile if I ever recruit in health & for the sake of my little ones I feel that I ought to try to preserve my health if I can. My blood is very bad & erysiselas? troubles me severely. Can you make me a syrup this spring that I can have ready to take when I come? I will bear all the expense. hire boys to dig the roots you want, & make a good deal & buy such spirits as you think is best to keep it & I will pay for all when I come. O I do want it so much. I fear the effect of the change of climate on my health especially as my blood is so bad. husband thinks it will be better for me to come this spring rather than wait till fall. he thinks the effect of the cold storms in the fall on my lungs would be worse than to be there & get somewhat acclimated before they come on. perhaps it would. I sometimes fear the effect of the hot weather in July & Aug. on my children, especially as

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Sis will probably be teething. she has only one tooth now. I hesitate about coming now on that account as there is so much cholera then but if we wait till fall after cholera time is over it will be so late & cold storms. I hardly know which is best. Sis is happy, & playful, does not yet walk alone but tries to talk & makes very good headway at it. Georgie knows about half his letters & will learn them in spite of us. finds them on the knives at the table & on every piece of paper he finds, "Whats that Mama" he is constantly saying. husband has not been as well since his tramp alone in the mountains, he feels the effects of it yet. Now dont get nervous because I am coming home. death may lay us low before that time. be it life is spared we shall be there within five months, but I must close & drop a line to Stillman & Darwin.

good bye. love to all

aff ly yours H L Shaw

husband is tied here now teaching a little school & can get no time for the Mission & he cant think of spending his life in this way.

he will probably stay a year in the states
Georgie says he is going to the States in papas ("codgee")
says he is going to heaven in Maj Kendricks codgee

guess if he does he wont get there very soon
if he goes in any of Maj Kendricks conveyances

(L32)

Socorro Nov. 3d/57

Dear Mother sisters & brothers

I expect

the Southern mail will be down tomorrow & this evening before laying my weary bones to rest, I will drop you a few lines to let you know of our welfare. We arrived here after a long & tedious journey in safety & soon found a house which M bought for a hundred dollars. It consists of my room dining room, kitchen & storeroom all in one long row. It is too late to make adobes this fall, but we expect next summer to put on 3 more rooms, which will make us very comfortable. I feel more contented here than in any other place in the valley. We have the pleasantest view I have seen in this country & when my room is altered & Americanized will be the pleasantest I have ever seen in this country. We have a large place for a garden with a wall around. two large peach trees in front of my room & I think the place adjoining ours has 18 peach trees with a vineyard. this is on our left. in front across the road is another vineyard surrounded with peach trees the largest & best in the place. these

two places M is very anxious to attach to ours. if he does we shall have an abundance of fruit & we wish to keep our own place for a large garden farther on is grass land & the rio grande with cottonwood trees in abundance & beyond rises high romantic hills. Such a pleasant view as this I have never before seen in this country. We are going to have two fronts to our house as the other side is on the plaza or facing the town where we have a view of high rocky mountains beyond, but I choose the side looking toward the river. M is now gone to Santa Fe & will probably go to Taos before he returns. will be gone 3 weeks. so much for his staying at home when he got his family here, but it was necessary for him to go. We could not bring all our things when we came, but we hope in time to get settled Our dear wife & daughter sleep here nights & days I stay alone. They are very kind & see to every thing I want. It is pleasant & warm & the children play out doors without any thing over them, have no fire except a little nights & mornings & notwithstanding all my efforts to the contrary I am still living & doing my own work & within two weeks have washed twelve dozen pieces, done the most of them in the last few days. I thought I was nearly dead when our journey ended but it seems I have revived & the old bones shaken up better than ever but I do not intend to work so all the time

but I dont want a Mex. about till we get settled & our things out of the way of their slippery fingers. My washbowl was broken, one of my white candlesticks, & our stove nearly ruined so broken that we cannot use it now. ^{Thomas} Br Logan had one which he lent us & he thinks he can mend ours so we can use it. the bottom was broken in several pieces, also other places all the things I packed came safe M says all he packed were broken a jug of varnish broke in the box where our bedsteads little carriage etc were & made fine work with some of my bed clothes. one leg of our table was also broken, but Forncooks cement has mended my wash bowl & candlestick & glue & a screw has mended the table leg & when the stove is mended we shall be straight again We found Miss Ratz(?) without a school had quarrelled with several, school all _____ out. found she could not make every body bow to her dignity. when I met her went up to shake hands, when she turned round with the most freezing dignity & said "no Mrs Shaw I cant shake hands with you" I was taken all aback & knew not what to make of it, but soon recovered sufficient to ask her what I had ever done that she should receive me thus. When she began to pour on to me such abusive language that I finally told her I did not wish to talk with her at all, "she felt herself degraded she said to associate with such people. she was brought out to be a servant to the

missionaries, & the man who brought her out ought to be shot down, & went on with such abusive language that I told her if she couldnt talk reason I wouldnt talk with her. I told her she need not associate with us that she would never have an opportunity to call herself my servant or do any thing for me. gave her plainly to understand she wouldnt find a home with us, after such treatment. she cooled down when she found she could not frighten me into obedience. she said I "ought to have staid in Santa Fe, provided her a home & school instead of going to Socorro. I told her I had nothing to do with her coming & felt under no obligation to leave my husband to provide her a home. I was told afterwards that she said "there would be a devil of a fuss when we came" & I thought the devil did have a share in it. she received Mr Shaw in the same way but finally sent out for him to come to her room & after he talked to her awhile she cooled down & tried to be very cosey with us but I couldnt be so with her. I bid her good afternoon & left her to her own sweet meditations. Perhaps she expected to be President of a Womans rights convention, but has found herself sadly disappointed. she has very few friends here & no one will send to her. She had a good opportunity to go to the states but would not go is determined to stay here two years, school or no school she is ashamed to go back sooner I think

is now going to try her skill in santa Fe. she cant
write or direct a letter without a dictionary & in
her letters to Gov ~~Wade~~^{Blade}(?) has exposed her ignorance
so that he finds fault with her as a miserable teacher
but adios miss Dotz(?) *Doty*

*We found
teachers
to come
out most*

we have had one shock of an earthquake here since we
came but I was so busy with my housework that I did not
know it shocks are frequent here the children are im-
proving in health. Frankie does not walk alone much
yet, poor baby every time we stopped at a house he would
cry to go "home" the carriage was his home they talk
about Grandma & "Aunt Ne" We have a few little potatoes,
have bought some beets \$ two dollars a bushel, carrots are 3
doll. a bushel & cabbage 50 cts a head butter 75 cts a pd,
but if prospered another year we will have a garden of our
own. no peaches this year but good night, it is late & I must to
bed

affly. yours

Harriett

You need not make public what I have written about Miss
Doty

Milton baptized three at Peralta a short time since two of
of them Theophilus brothers

I found no letters here from you. heard from you only
once since we left. had one letter at Westport I know
you have written

My second painting was nearly ruined being without a
frame

(L23)
Socorro, Dec. 20th/57

Dear friends

I received by last mail a letter from Mother & Darwin, & one from Cornelia at Fleming & you may be assured I was glad to hear from you once more, being the first letters we have received from the states since we left. I began to think I should never hear from you again. where have you spent the time & how since we left. You do not say You spoke of going to Missouri. Milton says you had better keep away from that unhealthy place (& I do not want you to have any thing to do with the Dotys. If you have got my letter of Nov. you will know why, but dont say any thing there.) Miss Doty is now teaching in Santa Fe with 25 pledged scholars, some at two & some at three dollars a month, but I dont think she will succeed in keeping them any more than she did in Albuquerque I like living in Socorro very well. What would you think to see us to day with fire in the fire place to be sure but with doors open half the time We havent thought of shutting up for winter yet & to morrow the carpenter is going to cut a place & put an outside door & large window in my room. Dont you think I too am smart doing my own work as I have ever since we came here, & now have two men ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ besides husband to work for but they will not be here long. I am going to have a large Am. outside door & window put in one inside door into the dining room, a fire place in one end of the room with a cupboard each side from the floor to the top of the room with one or two drawers at the bottom, or rather a cupbhard one side & close press ~~in~~ the other ~~there~~, then I think I shall have a little more room for things. how I

wish you could see our home. I think it quite pleasant the people here are are very kind constantly bringing us something & all the Protestants are from the best(?) families. husband has baptized 7 since he came back & more are expected before long from the first families. Protestantism here is getting a strong hold. One very intelligent converted Mexican says he thinks in ten years the Roman religion will be overthrown but says there will be great many infidels for the religion of the Bible requires such a pure holy life that the mass of the people will not conform to it & yet will throw off the Roman yoke. the people here are far more intelligent than those I have formerly seen, & I like them much we have had presents to the amt of 25 or 30 doll since we came. they say the minister cares for their spiritual wants & it is for them to care for his temporal. ~~XXXXX~~ Not all in the States are thus thoughtful. they remind us of our friends in Fleming, but you said, Elmira thanked me for remembering her. how have I remembered her thus to require her thanks. You did not say & I dont know. I & you do not say you have got any of my letters since we left. why dont you tell me if you get my letters. I have written every two & 4 weeks since we left, & I wrote all the particulars of our perilous journey & rescue from the Indians on the plains & yet I dont know as you have got any of them. I wish you would tell me what letters you get we now have a semi-monthly mail northern & southern route & I think every mail that I will write to all our friends but I find so much to do that I have written to none yet except you, ~~XXX~~ not even to Mother Shaw from whom we have not heard since we left except a few words in mothers letter. Sorry to hear Darwin & family were sick & mother so lonely. ~~XXXX~~

Never have
been able to
find his
first name

EW

D wrote he wanted the money. if ~~MEXXK~~ M had known it ~~sex~~ sooner he would have tried hard to sent it all now, but as it is he will try to get half of it to him in Jan. & the rest the first of Apr. he has borrowed till I am ashamed to live on borrow(?) any longer, & X will do my own work as long as I can. I want to see him clear of debt. he owes ~~one~~^{over} a thousand dollars, but I must stop. have not been to meeting since I came here. We cant paster our house on the outside yet & I have no one to take care of the children. Georgie goes with papa he reads in 3(?) letters & H is learning her letters. they talk much about you & pray for you all ~~x~~ evry night. little Frankie talks about as much spanish as English. he always has "Mamas kiss" calls Mrs Logan "Aunt Neely he chases G & H. all over the house to "soot Inny" (shoot Indians) when he finds them he says, "hang" & points his little stick at them, then they run to another place & he after them. he wants to "see 'em Dordy" & "see 'em Hattie" if they are out of sight. But good night.

Harriet

Do write

Call in & I will give you a mince pie

We buy milk 3½ qts for 25 cts. brought 3 miles to us.

Very rich milk & I set it for cream & make some butter

I had a very nice De laune(?) dress sent me a short time ago cost not less than 5 doll here

We are all in usual health

Margaret
Lukie
meunier
Thomas
Logan

(L34)

Socorro N Mexico
March 22d/58

Dear Mother, brothers & Sisters

I sit down once more to drop you a line to let you know how we get along. to day my sweet little babe is three weeks old & I am all over the house & out doors some but is so windy & cold I do not venture out much but I never got along so well. husband was physician & nurse. Surely God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb husband was unexpectedly & necessarily called away last wednesday to go up the country on affairs connected with our protestant cause & I could only say "go". he may be obliged to go to Santa Fe before he returns. Our cause is gaining ground notwithstanding much bitter opposition but I write chiefly to tell you about ourselves now. the Mexican woman staid a few days & left as her house & all her things were in water. When my babe was 6 days old we had a grand snow storm. snow 6 inches deep it melted on the house & leaked in every room my room was very wet & that night & the next night I had a hard regular fever & ague chill, but thanks to Ayers pills with Gods blessing I had no more. I sew considerable every day. the babe is first rate, no sore mouth, sore

eyes or any thing but a little colic occasionally & you will be surprised when I tell you I have so much milk that I am leaving Hattie to draw my breasts. What name do you think is good enough for our little angel we have none yet.

We think "Lillian Rosette" is about as good as we can afford. How do you like it. Margaret you had better follow suit. I think "Hattie Cornelia" & "Lillian Rosette" are good enough for our little ones. Cornelia, do you remember the little bird that knocked at our window in Ellridge & stopped over night with us? but I hope the little bird that came to our dwelling on the 1st of March "And folded oh! so lovingly

Its tiny wings upon my breast"

will remain to cheer & bless us for a long time. the children are delighted with a little sister. Hattie cant love it too much. Frankie is so fat & "big boy" as he says he is, that you would not recognize him. he hold meetings, preaches, prays & sings. says "Gentle Jesus" as regular as Georgie & Hattie when he has sung he calls "Dordy, Hattie, all pay now & down he gets on his knees & prays. Sometimes he says he is, "Grandma Biddles boy" he is heavier than Hattie. Georgie & Hattie talk constantly about you all, & tell a great many things which took place there. Frankie was the best little boy

you ever saw when I was sick, trotted after papa all the
time, - but I must close. M is going to send for Munroe ^{Shaw}
& his family to come here. give my love to all our friends ^{his}
the Worsters Johnsons, but I wont name-for names come ^{brother}
thicker & faster & I have no more room. peach trees are
in full bloom here & we have some potatoes planted. but
I must stop for I have 4 children & 18 chickens to take
care of. O I forgot, we have a Mexican Man & his wife-
(peons) to work here & they are the best I ever saw. are
so kind pleasant to me since husband left. We give them
both 15½ dollars a month & they board themselves. She
has time to cook for themselves

I wrote a long letter to Mrs Veeder(?) & Mother Shaw the
particulars of our journey before we reached socorro
but they say they have not had a line from us I write
every month to some of you will write S next month have
you got all my letters I wrote every two weeks on the
plains every particular of our journey did you get them
or not.

Send me some pretty patterns to work

Will some of you send us an almanack in season every year

We got our letter when Mother went to Martville one

also from Mrs Veeder one from Cary

(Here is some of our sweet little Lillies hair.)

(L 35)
Socorro, July 26th/58

Dear Sister--

I received your letter from Baldwinsville a short time ago was glad you had so good a place there & feel anxious to hear how you are prospering, also how Mother & all the rest are & Darwins little Hattie I have been thinking a good about & also all of you. I am alone again for husband has gone to Laguna to preach the dedication sermon for the new church there & will go to Santa Fe before he returns, but I do not feel much lonely for my health is better though not very good. I am able to work all the time but sissy lugs me down. she is fat as butter & the sweetest little creature you ever saw. O how I wish you could see her & give her a shaking She is so happy & always greets you with a smile, is now nearly 5 months old & never have been up a night with her would not know there was a baby in the house at night if she did not want to nurse, she is as fair as the lily whose name she bears. Frankie says, "I does love lickle sister" "I want to kiss lickle arm" "I want to kiss lickle feet" They all love her dearly. the children are troubled some with diarrhea but are all able to do their full share of mischief. Hattie as usual is rather thin this summer but grows tall. Frankie is a perfect tub of fat, & Georgie is a regular mason at adobes. has just completed an Mexican oven Our house & the church are not completed yet for want of lumber. Our garden does very well & peaches & grapes in abundance await us & I am anxiously waiting for them to get ripe. Tis very warm weather her

now but we have showers frequently. I have no ague now though I think the remains of it are in my system but I guess I will stop writing for I am confused I cant write with so many babies.

Well now again I will try but I am in no writing mood so you must not expect much Monroe family packed & sent on their things to St Louis or Kansas & then found the U. States draft which M sent them was protected in St Louis & he could not raise the money to come with sent the draft back here & was waiting ~~xxx~~ to hear again was boarding as all their things were packed & gone I never saw husband so disappointed in any thing in my life. he had made all calculation for them to be here in July & had arranged all his carpenter work for him but he immediately sent on H. Misson drafts & he will probably be here in Oct. I do not wonder Dr Weeders family feel bad about going west I dare say Mother Chas feels very bad but I write nobody there for receive no letters. It seems almost impossible to exert myself enough to write you I have so many cares & perhaps the climate affects me some. There are more sudden changes of weather here than in other parts & I have been had one shock of earthquake last winter. Margaret says they were so frequent when she first came here th t she hardly dare go to sleep at night. the dishes would rattle. she says they had a severe shock about a month after her little boy was born & the earth did not stand still for six months. she took her babe in the night & went to a neighbors. One shock throw down a wall in Mr Winslows back yard in Albuquerque Hilton was there at the time. when I was in the states husband says the earth stands only two feet above the great lake. I have never suffered any fear yet I was

about my work last winter & did not notice the shock which visited us then, but Margaret was at a neighbors. she heard the rumbling & sprung up from her chair saying, "an earthquake is coming. she says they always come with a rumbling from the west. Tell Stillman not to be angry because I do not write to him in particular more. I feel so worn out I cant write. 'tis a great effort to do any thing I have not been out to a neighbors or any where since Lillie was born I have no where to go & very little desire to go & the children worry me from morning till night. they feel uneasy there is no where for them to go & I dont want them to get out with these filthy Mexicans. I have a little girl 10 yrs old for help. she is a smart little girl & much stronger than I am but I expect to have another soon & then I mean to take the children out to walk every day. Miltons health is poor. I frequently tell him I shall sent him to the States. he complains of nothing. "dont feel very well" is all, but he is thin & old & people here remark "how fast Mr Shaw fails; if he does not recruit I shall insist on his leaving but he thinks he must stay & die on his field I know how he feels, some as I do, as though he could never exert himself to preach in the States & I ~~hardly~~ hardly think he could & therefore could not support his family there. He says sometimes he shall send his family back but I dont think I shall come without him. I thing he needs the change as much as his family but I dont see how he can leave at present

Wish you could step in, I want to see you all.

I will come to see her before long if I live write me particularly about mother tell her

I feel guilty that I have never written to Ellridge I ought to do you know what becomex of our bedstead? if you do tell me, also our stove & so much pipe we left there How is old Mr Stevens & are all the people there as usual What does Mrs Wright call her babe.

do all the colors in oriental painting look that deep rich look

^r
Georgie, Hattie, & Grankie are playing mules in the yard & little sweet is sleeping in the little carriage

Yesterday I got Georgie & Hattie a little willow basket each for their sewing.

Hattie is delighted with her work basket but here comes Frankie straddles a cane with a whip in his hand & Georgie has got Hattie for his mule & away they go. I asked Georgie just now why he was not so happy here as in the states. He says because this is a nasty place He wants a whole lot of children to play with

I sometimes wish I was in the states with my children no one to teach them here Monroes folks may bring a young lady with them Milton is very nervous

(Miss Dot)

Big, caterpillars & lice are devouring our garden

Justly

father here MK

(L36)

Socorro Aug. 25th/58

Dear Mother

I sent my last to Cornelia at Baldwinsville & this I will send to you though when I write I intend it for all & hope none will feel neglected because I do not write to every one in particular. I received your letter in which you speak of the revival in Hannibal. I hope in your next to hear that Darwin Margaret & family are included in the number of those rejoicing in Christ. They are not forgotten here, but others prayers will not save them if they do not pray earnestly for themselves. I hope the good work which is spreading all over our beloved land will reach this dark land. Our prospects here are encouraging but I want to see the spirit of God poured out here as there. I have often wished that I could be there that I might get my own spirit refreshed, though I know God is able to answer prayer & will according to our earnestness in asking. My own health is much better now than when I last wrote. the weather is becoming a little cooler. the hottest part of the season has passed though it is hot enough now, but we have cool nights & mornings. Milton is not well, though he says nothing ails him & perhaps you would not have much charity for him if you should see the quantities of fruit that he devours, peaches

grapes & plums. I think he eats enough for the whole family. According to his own estimate it is about a peak at a time, but then we have such delicious peaches & grapes. We are feasting on them & they never tasted so good before, probably because they do not taste so strong of money We eat of our own vines & peach trees. the trees are so loaded with fruit that the branches are breaking & we are feeding them by bushels to the hogs, & I am drying as fast as they ripen all I can. We often wish we could send you some. The children eat till they want no more Frankie can hardly eat enough of grapes & peaches I have made some beautiful green grape jell & I made some tarts the other day Frankie climbed up to see me & he says, "Mama are you make some tarts for all your little chillens?" I asked him who was Manas little children, & he says "Me & Hattie & Dordy" He loves little sister very much & she is just as sweet a little creature as you ever saw How I wish you could see her & I am sure Cornelia would almost ~~xx~~ shake her in pieces ~~xx~~ but the deal little one has a hard cold, the first sickness she has ever had. I vomited(?) her with pine syrup this morning & this afternoon she is much better. Hattie also is not very well though playing about but I think when the hot weather is over we shall all feel better. I have been out once since the babe was born now nearly six month old. Our newhouse is not yet done for want of lumber & we have not been very comfortably situated for a hot summer, but hope cheers us on. I make some butter & we get along very well. Our garden is as good as others & much better than we expected the first year beets in

abundance carrots parsnips turnips cabbage cucumbers potatoes tomatoes pear &c. We are now eating of our second crop of peas this season. I planted the first in May & in June had green peas. In July seeds were ripe & planted again & now have green peas again. they are the (Early Washingtons) We have no sage or mustard a good many of our seeds did not come up. Georgie is busy all the time making adobes building houses, & when unemployed generally busies himself in hectoring Hattie & Frankie. Hattie says "Dont you know, when I was in the states I was sitting on Grandmas bed to sew?" They remember & ~~back~~ Georgie says "Mama what did we come here for." We have a weekly mail now across the plains so I hope to receive more letters, & a semi-monthly mail from Santa Fe. I get your letter now more regular & I feel lonely if I do not. I have my little Mexican girl 10 yrs old for help. she is the smartest girl I ever saw of her age does our washing, ironing & all. I wrote you I was going to have another girl. I had her a week & sent her back. get along much better without her. a worthless thing, more trouble than help, but I must close. Write me all about everybody & every thing I want to know.

Affty your daughter

Harriett

Love to all Ds family a kiss in particular for little Hattie

Here are some black eyed peas for Darwin. they are excellent.

Dr Ferrins & wife at the fort are very kind to us supply
us with all the medicines we want, gratis

Dont fail to write constantly

Socorro Apr 20th 1859

Dear Mother

Your letter of March 1st containing the pills came ~~xx~~ safely & I was very glad of them, for I feel quite unwell this spring. My head troubles me a good deal I have had ~~written~~ within a week two distressing nervous headaches & am very billious(?) bones ache & feel remarkably stupid & dull. I know I have exerted myself too much through the winter, but with so many little ones to care for & so much to look after I cant very well help it I feel bad that they cant be in school. I have tried to teach them some but when worn down with other cares tis a task to try to ~~x~~ teach & drill on A, B, C, so I suppose they will have to grow up as others do here. Milton Cant bear teaching & in very unwell also. The children are all well, but Georgie runs so much he is poor as a crow Hattie is quite plump & runs out door so much she is quite ~~x~~ black but health before looks & Frankie is as fat & black as a Mexican Our little flower Lillie is the only white one she is as fair as the flower whose name she bears with very deep blue eyes & her hair very light, looks more like Georgie than any of the rest. she eats some but prefers Mamamas Milk I want her to eat ~~x~~ now as she nurses so much nights that it makes me so faint in the morning She does not walk but tries to say every thing, constantly calling her "papa" whom she loves very dearly & he thinks she is about right. Georgie & Hattie talk constantly that they are going to the states. G say papa is going to send him in to school next spring.

We have a good home here & I feel very well contented, but feel the loss of friends & society very much. Every thing here is quiet now, but Rome is not changed at heart but there is a spirit of free inquiry among the people & Gods cause will prosper the romanists are making desperate efforts but only ~~xxxxx~~ enlighten the people more & more. One man here (a romanist) who has refused to pay the accustomed offering to a certain saint. lost his only child a few month ago when the priest charged him 25 dollars to bury it. he would not give it but buried it themselves thus the priest is daily loosing power his name is Augustine Truchard (a frenchman) he subscribes for the "Home Mission record" so Br Hill writes us, but I guess he wont hear any good of himself in that. Br Romaldo Chaves is well prebably never get up again. he has been feeble a long time, but is a faithful christian Our fruit is probably all cut off by the cold weather. has been very cold all the spring now for a few days has been warmer. We probably all feel the effects of the x singular weather we have had We are so stupid sleepy & dull but I hope Mother that as you have lived through Feb. you will live all the year & often write us. tis the little oasis in our lives to hear from our friends. hope C will write often. We got a letter from S same time with yours. how are you all & D & M. & family. I can in imagination see you all. Much love to D.s children. tell them to pray constantly that God would give them their father & Mother in answer to prayer I cannot give them up. Will they let their children go alone to meet the dear sweet Josephine in heaven. O how I loved her, but ~~xxx~~

they loved her too. but I must close

your aff daughter

H L Shaw

A piece of Hatties dress which Br Tolhurst gave her
she sends to grandma

send me some White English Mustard

had I better wean Lillie this spring or not, & when is
the sign right, how can I tell?

how has C got along through the winter & what are her
prospects

Socorro June 15th/59

(L 38)

My dear Mother

I have written Cornelia two letters since I wrote you so I suppose you have heard from me. I have been somewhat unwell this spring & it seems a task to try to write a letter, & I do not write to any one hardly I have just finished a letter to Stillman & now sit down to write ~~to~~ you a few lines We are all in usual health & Frankie at my elbow. "Yes" he says "write to Grandma" he says he is going to write Grandma a letter Georgie & Hattie are on the hop all day but never forget to pray for Grandman at night. They all had a fine time the other day I stripped them & put on a loose dress & sent them out in the water as it was running in our garden Lille & all they all enjoyed it very much & told papa as soon as he came. they had all been in a swimming. tis very hot here now, almost melting in the middle of the day, but every day a breeze comes up at noon or we should nearly perish with heat. it affects me very much to be over the hot stove as much as I am obliged to. We had some green peas for dinner & a berry cake the last of the dried berries I brought from Ellridge. I wish you could have been here. I make some butter & we have a good flouring mill here in Socorro now, good Am. hogs & if prospered shall have abundance of potatoes on some land M has bought, about a mile & half from here so I think we shall fare quite well for eatables Milton sent Darwin a check of \$150. dollars & an order on br Hill for the balance, but we have not heard whether he got it or not. do let us know M feels anxious about it D said he got

Logan's

the land warrants how much did they amount to Or how did
he dispose of them M wants to hear how the affair stands
hope D will write him. C wrote me you had been sick but I
hope you have regained your usual health would like to ~~xxx~~
come & see you if I could I have not been very well this
spring, & the hot weather affects me especially being over
the hot stove so much but I favor my self all I can at
present my left breast troubles me some it cokes on the
upper part & pains me, perhaps from cold. What shall I
do for it. All is quiet here now. No outbreaks, but I
keep fast door after dark when M is gone. I do not feel
afraid to stay alone now. people still come for bibles
& books to read. the priest has not frightened all of
them. How are you all ther & how is D & M & all their
family & little Hattie & all the good people of Hannibal.
May & Almon & Sarah~~h~~ how do they get along. have they
been baptized yet. May & Almon pray for you father &
Mother that God would give them new hearts never give
up praying for them. God will hear your prayers for them.
pray for us also & may God give you strength to live a
christian life. Mother if you are able write to me often
if only a little. Cant Almon & May write me a little. D
& M. wont you write me, but good bye

from Harriett

July 25th/59

(L 39)

Dear Sr Cornelia

I wrote Mother last mail & will drop a word or two to you in this though it wont be much for I have a severe headache We are all in usual health & the children full of activity & mischief. Lillie is walking & the rest are driving at something constantly, & tis a task for me to ~~xxx~~ become a schoolteacher again with all the rest I have to do, & I do not half teach them How are you getting along. I want to hear from you all. I know I ought not to expect a letter every week but I cant help looking. Write me particularly about Mother. I wish I could see her but suppose I never shall, ~~E~~ & perhaps none of you, but ~~xxx~~ hope for the best. I cant write so good bye

Munroes folks are well

Your Sr

Harriett

Love to Aunt Cornelia from a host of little mouths

Socorry Aug. 8th/59

L40

My dear Mother

Your letter of June 23d I got by last weeks mail & hasten to answer it, but it is so long before a letter reaches me & then a long time must elapse ~~x~~ before you can get an answer though I ought not to grumble as we have a weekly mail but I feel anxious that a weekly mail should bring me a letter every week & also to carry one every week but this I know cannot be. I am so glad to hear from you & see your loved handwriting my first exclamation on receiving your last was "I guess Mother has been to a x writing school." it was written so well & free from blots much as you used to write years ago. I can hardly realize that such a great distance separates us. I do so much want to see you & all my dear friends there, & I never wanted to see my old home in Vt so much since I left it, as I have this season. All the sweet remembrances of home rush upon me while writing & the tears fall fast. Georgie says "Mama why ~~and~~ do you cry," & I have told him as well as I could. He says, "But Mama Jesus is going to take Grandma to Heaven Shant we see her there?" He always comes to sympathize with me if he sees me in trouble. I feel very anxious for his early conversion Those verses you sent are beautiful Georgie wanted me to read them to him he says "Grandma can rest when she gets to Heaven" The children all speak of you often & pray for you every night Nattie says she was away up in a room

& sewed on Grandmas bed, & then she tells of another room where Aunt Cornelia was, & Frankie tries to tell what he knows. He is a perfect wad of fat, so heavy I can hardly lift him, but his little bill is often held up for a kiss & Lillie she tries to imitate all the rest do. She is a sweet little curly headed creature & if "Mama" is out of sight she goes all over the house looking for me & will put her little fat arms around my neck & hug & kiss me so lovingly. I do wish you could see her. She is Miltons pet, & runs after "papa" constantly. The children are all very well & constantly on the move, Hattie hopping & running in doors & out. All in good health & my own is very good indeed this summer & Milton is much better this summer than he was through the winter & spring. I expect him home in a few days from Albuquerque (you see he is on the move again. I stay alone but fear nothing. Many of the obstinate Romanists are now among our friends. Husband has turned Physician also & had good success & won the friendship of many in that way, & since he has been gone I had the honor of giving a dose of salts to the Alcalde (Justice of Peace) with good effect which brought forth profuse expressions of gratitude from himself & wife. Thus little by little we are winning them in our favor. some of our most inveterate enemies are now friendly & neighborly, & we are daily encouraged. Though harassed on every side by some, we are continually gaining ground & overcoming opposition & were it not for the little French priest here who stirs up the people to hostilities we should soon overcome all ~~opposition~~

opposition I was glad to hear from Mother Shaw Monroes
folks are all well, live about as far from us as from our
house in Vt to Ruel Parkers. I was glad to hear from our
friends in VT. I often think I will write them but keep
delaying. hope you will be able to go ther give my love
to them all. I wish they would write me I do want to
see Vt. very much. Is Mrs Brown yet alive? If you go
there pick a sprig of Syrinza or lilac or something to
send me. Does Syrinza or lilac have seeds? or woodbine,
but I must close. May God bless you abundantly is the
prayer of your far absent

Harriett

I got a letter also from Cornelia written June 26
day before yours (crossed out)

Write as often as you can if short

✓ I shall not wean sissy till fall, as I have plenty of milk
yet & she loves it so dearly

Will Mary or Almon send me some berry seeds red & black
raspberry & blackberry