

Feb 26h.1861

Dear Mother & Sister & all

I confidently

expect a letter from you this week but will just drop you a line now to say we are all well. have not heard from husband since 28th Jan. but look for him every day. I have had a good deal of trouble with the wretch of a girl we have She stole that little silvery mug & the pocket book that Alvah Spencer gave me at Elbridge & 44 doll. in money from my cupboard while I turned around to read a few lines from Milton but I soon(?) missed it & have had her under lock & key more than a week. she cant go out about/<sup>?</sup>the house or speak to any one I have succeeded in bringing her under. Lock her in a room every night after ten thousand lies(or less) she has at last confessed & I have got back the little mug & over 23 doll in money & am on the track of the other. I am as good as an officer of Justice after them, but such liars I never saw. I feel very anxious to hear from you You have our daily prayers, & I feel that it was in answer to prayer that I have succeeded in finding that little mug & bringing this evil to light. I dreamed where my mug was & sure enough it came from there, but I write more particulars another time. Love to all with an abundance for yourselves

Harriett

Socorro March 14th/61

Dear Mother & Sister & brother

Again I sit down after three weeks silence to write you I have written you every one, two, & 3 weeks all winter, but as yet have received no letter later than date of Dec 20th, though I am sure you have written & I feel very anxious to hear how you are. I keep up good spirits yet, though I have at times had the blues & thought you might all die & I never know it. I want to hear if C has got about again, but the mail on the northern route has been so irregular & so much trouble in the States is I suppose the reason why we have received so few letters. I imagine a great many reasons why your letters have not reached me this winter & fondly hope this coming mail will bring some I feel very anxious to hear if C will be able to come back with Milton if he goes in this spring which he is talking about. he is very anxious to see his Mother once more & how gladly would I go with him if I could but I cannot leave my children alone in this land & I could not bring four on a visit in our present embarrassed circumstances. I feel much more contented here now than I have ever done.

there is so much trouble in the States & it is so healthy for us here, no dread of the prevailing diseases of the States, such a dry mild climate. Our children are all so healthy here that I should fear to bring them to the States, and I never had so strong confidence & faith in God in regard to this people as now. the great man of the leading, most influential men are fully convinced of the truth of our

doctrines & this people are like a flock of sheep. When one starts the whole flock follow. Last Sunday was a day long to be remembered. It was the occasion of the funeral of one of our members her (she flooded to death with her first child) father is a member (& nearly all of the family) & an influential lawyer, & so large a funeral has never been seen in Socorro, with the exception of Gen. Armijo. several hundred were present & for once our church though not finished was crowded & also outside near every window. One half of it was so jammed that there was no passing through & all listened attentively. nearly every one of the leading men of Limitar where that mob was two years ago were present & for the first time heard the gospel in its purity, & said if the religion of the Protestants was not true there was no religion on earth. said also that if the Priest tried to get up another mob here he would lose the whole of his crew. Poor crest-fallen priest, he feel badly about this but our brethren are all rejoicing. *Teylles - He is the father of J. M. Shaw's 3rd wife* (Br Santos) says he cant sleep for joy. The leaven is working over all the land & Popery is destined to fall. I could not feel it duty to leave this mission now if I wanted to. I know you will rejoice with us & thank God for his blessing on our efforts to enlighten this priest-bound people. God has been with us is searching out evil & bringing to light the hidden things of darkness. We knew that a good deal of stealing was going on in connection with our girl who lives here but never could find out much about it, till about the middle of Feb. she stole that beautiful little silver tinted mug, my pocket book that Alvah Shonen gave me in Elbridge & 44 doll. in

money. I kept her locked in the house nearly two weeks & whenever she went I followed like a dog at her heels. I had friends here to assist me & had witnesses to hear her statements who confronted her with those whom she accused, & for awhile it was almost too much for my nervous system but amid ten thousand lies I found the golden thread of truth, & got back the little mug with 23 doll., yet still held fast. till M came home--hunting the truth among this people is like looking for a needle in a haymow--yet with the blessing of God I found it. I prayed daily & earnestly that I might be directed aright & while all was dark in regard to it I dreamed where it was & God put it into their hearts to return the little mug with the money in it she stole it & her little brother carried it to his sisters & he also brought it back & put it under the the stone(?) the next day after I told my dream. they surely God was telling me as I told them He was. When M came home there was still missing the pocket book & a 20 doll gold piece We got all the evidence & hauled them at once before the Alcalde & the jury 6 in number, and all relatives except one brought him in guilty The boy confessed he carried it & gave it to his sisters husband the guilty mans mother lives very near us & our girl has nearly supported them for 3 yrs. they have nothing, wont work & always live well. Miltons says our girl ought to have a diploma for being the most expert thief in the country, but I think this nest of thieves will sing a different song hereafter I though I wached every thing but I give up now. the money she stole from my cupboard in a moment when I turned my back in my room. all were surprised that the jury brought him in guilty being relatives & catholics, but it was of God & we

& confidence. people say if that funeral had been here  
20 yrs ago there would not have been a vestige of the  
romish church left, say it was a searching sermon, that  
the Minister didnt leave a corner untouched He dwelt  
at length on the insufficiency of our own works to merit  
salvation & the necessity of trusting alone in the blood  
of christ, that if we are saved tis alone through the blood  
of christ. We are all well & children racing out doors  
happy as kittens Monroe is here & all in health. he made  
a poor trip, lost 11 yoke of oxen expenses eat up all  
the profits, but good bye I hope to hear from you soon  
as ever

Harriett

if C should be able to come, she will want a good supply of  
           shoes but dont try to sew & get sick to get  
ready I will help do all the sewing when you get here. I  
will send word what you will need. any old things for the  
plains no matter what & plenty of Ayers pills

I sent you a gold dollar Feb 5th - *This letter missing*

If M comes he will probably be there about the first of June

if I get a letter this mail I will write you agian next week

A piece of my dress a present two yrs ago from a South  
Carolina lady

I got D.s almanack last week but no letter

(462)  
Socorro Apr 17th/61

Dear Mother & Sister

Your letters of dates Feb 6th & Feb 28th, reached me last week being the only ones I have received since Date Dec 20th. I have lived in suspense for nearly 3 months which you know is worse than reality. I have imagined a thousand things but I thought if C was dead somebody would write & let me know if Mother was not able, but these letters have at last reached me & relieved my anxiety though I had hoped to hear that Cornelia was about again. How I wish I could go & see you or you could be here. I sometimes feel as if I must but I know I cannot & try to reconcile myself & commit you all to the care of our Heavenly Father. I remember you daily at the throne of grace & feel a satisfaction in leaving you in the care of One who is able & willing to do all things that is best for his children. I feel bad that I cant be nearer to help you more. I have picked up 20 doll & saved for you but dont know when I can get it to you as M has borrowed drafts of others here to pay the 7 or 8 hundred which he owed & get rid of that nuisance Miss Doty-- *dont know anything about her* how much he has drawn ahead I dont know but I shall plead for some for you, as soon as possible. He has just borrowed one thousand to save our place which was mortgaged. Nonces had trip last fall was a great disappointment but if he had been here with the cattle the Indians might have taken them so we think perhaps it was not so bad after all. He brought freight to the amount of 1800 doll & if he had only got cattle enough before he started he might have come through but he had to run in debt at Bents(?) Ft 1500 doll for

cattle ~~lest~~ 500 doll worth of cattle died, & with boarding & paying from 16 to 40 doll a month for 8 or 10 men you can judge how he came out. He got here the fore part of March safe, but he has so little energy & calculation that he will never move the world much. he takes his ease Milton would never have been in this fix if he had let Monroe staid in the States, but now he has got them here he must provide for them & all the care and trouble comes on Milton. this is no country for one without means to live We have lost 3 fine Am cows(died) for which M paid 45 doll each, & several of less price. M has not got home yet has been gone almost 4 weeks but I hear he is on the road & probably will be home to day. I hear the wagons are near & heavily loaded for the Mesilla or forts down below. Monroe goes with them freighting for Gov. I think & if the trip proves good will make a good round sum & relieve from them embarrassments. I think the calculation is to go to the States after he comes back from below if they can get freight, if not to sell the train which is worth som 5000. doll & square up all debts, this I hope will be done & then I shall take a long breath again. husband wants to go to the States this summer, but want of money may prevent him he is not here so I dont know yet what he intends to do. if C is not able to come perhaps he had better wait. I would be willing to stay here alone for him to go, if C could come back with him, but I fear she will not be able, at present, the hardest part of the

journey would be on the cars to St Louis. The journey across the plains, travelling slowly in an easy carriage would do her good, but I hope to hear from you again soon that she is better. I need not tell you how much I want to see you all again & were it possible I would come & see you. You say you have received all my letters. I have written a great many through the winter. how many have you got. I will write you every two weeks Now see if you get a letter every two weeks. I dont know why Stillman dont answer my letters. We are all in usual health but have had the hardest colds this spring. My lungs seemed glued together but are getting over it as the March winds stop. Hattie has coughed till she has grown poor & I feared she would tear her lungs in pieces coughing, but she kept about & played all day & coughed nights. she is more peevish & fretful this spring & dont feel well but I hope will get over it when settled warm weather comes. Lillie was the sickest of all & had so much fever that I sat up with her one night. G L(?) F would not give up to a cold. I guess the influenza travelled westward till it reached here. I hear there are some cases of small pox in town & only Georgie has been vaccinated. The Mex. are all being vaccinated but their blood is so impure that I cant think of taking theirs. I wish you would send me some in a letter. get it from the Doctor I want pure. The Mex. vaccinate & shave all the hair off their heads & think I am very foolish not to do the same. I think we will have peaches again this season there are some on the trees as large as a small bean. they did not blossom as early this season & I think tis



too late for frost now. I have an abundance of dried peaches on hand & wish I could send you some. I am glad friends remember you Tis beautiful & pleasant to day, I wish you could enjoy it My tomatoes are coming up, & my teeth are coming out. I will write more particulars about our Mission next time. We are more & more encouraged. Lillie wants to see Aunt Neel, as she calls her when pining(?) all want to see you all. the children talk of you constantly & have nearly learned the verses C sent.

yours aff tly

Harriett

I sent you a dollar in a letter Feb 5th did you get it, & have you get five dollars from me in letters during the past year do tell me

We are without milk & butter at present

Cornelia I thank you for your kindness in remembering us

I think your silk dress very pretty but hope your life will long

How I wish I could send you some of my nice plum jell

(L64)  
Socorro May 7th/60(2)

My dear Mother

I have received your letters of Feb 8th , March 1st. & March 15th & April 2d & am always glad when I get letters often, for I feel alone almost in the world being so far from my own family of Mother brothers & sisters, & at this time especially I am very anxious to hear from home. I was glad to hear all the particulars of Cs removal & hope it will do her good. I feel very anxious to hear from her often. I think of you all constantly & commend you to our Heavenly Fathers care & protection for I am so far away that I cannot do for you as I would if there but God is able & willing to care for all his children & I feel a satisfaction in committing you all to his care & I hope C will recruit among the kind friends who have taken charge of her. May God reward them. I feel much for her, but am so far away that I can do but little besides commending her to God. I am glad you are going to get out of Hannibal & be where you can attend meeting & have the society of Christian people. I think you will enjoy it much & your health may be better. We are all well here

but Milton looks more like a man of sixty than one of  
38 trouble & care & toil tell on his looks & it makes  
my heart ache to look at him & I do wish he would have  
nothing more to do with Monroe in the shape of business.  
He thought he could help Monroe into a good business,  
finish the church & in a short time relieve the society  
of the burden of his support & get something to educate  
the children, but it seems God orders otherwise for mis-  
fortunes have followed close in their track. Monroe was  
5 months on the trip to the states last summer, & was  
so long before he got fairly started on the second that  
the men for whom he was to bring freight would not run  
the risk of its being snowed in on the plains & counter-  
manded their orders. thus he was obliged to hunt freight  
after to get there(& he dont hurry himself but takes the  
world easy) & did not leave the states till near the time  
he ought to been near N Mexico then started with too few  
cattle & before he got half way they gave out, it caused  
Milton a hard journy out on the plains as far as Raton  
Mount(?) some 300 miles, thus spending all the winter  
besides feeding & paying about a dozen men, & now they took  
freight for Government to the amount of 2000, doll, to

freight in this country & the Indians have taken off about 10 or 12 yoke of the best cattle they had & many others have died & the distant forts are out of provisions. Milton has been so troubled that he knew not which way to turn for no cattle were to be found to help them on, but now a Gov. train is near & will take it on except 4 loads which Monroe takes, but they will lose much on this trip & make nothing, & where trouble is to end I know not. If the Society discontinue this mission M will probably go into some business to support his family for he never can preach in the States he is so broken down. I tell him we shall never prosper till he obeys his calling & trusts God for support, or if it is necessary to go into business let it be with some person of more energy & calculation than Monroe. I do not know how they will come out. the debt is paid for which our place was mortgaged & I feel somewhat relieved & if Milton could be placed back where he was 3 yrs ago I should rejoice, but all he had and all his salary has gone in the common stock & no accounts kept of any thing & they blaming us for every thing. I told him long ago he would get no thanks for all he did for them, & so it is. Sarah says, she "guesses Monroe had more ready money when he came here than people thought he had" & I would like to know

why he wrote Cary that he should have to apply to the town  
for help if he didnt get it from/<sup>some</sup>source. Why allow M to  
bear his expenses & find him every thing after he got here  
if he had plenty of ready money. but I know he hadnt, if  
he had, he was a rascal to so deceive others. You cant  
think how important his family are & how vain, people here  
remark it, but enough of this. I cant enjoy their  
society we shall have peaches again this season I have  
beets tomatoes turneps peas & lettuce & cucumbers up,  
& if we can have water shall have some veg to eat.  
Our mission slowly advancing advancing but I must stop  
or not send

good bye

Harriett

Love to all

mail closes mon(?) May 8th

Burn this  
Stillman write  
no letters sent by Southern route

Is Fort Sumpter  
destroyed  
Stillman write

(LL5)

Socorro May 21st/61.

Dear Mother & brother

I have but little time to write now as we are white-washing & housecleaning, but I will drop you a few lines, that you need not worry about us. We are all in usual health except our little Lillie. she has been quite peevish & fretful this spring & has had two very sick turns, which I think is caused by worms. she is now around the house, but looks puny & sallow. I gave her peach twig tea which stopped her vomiting she vomited every thing she took & complained constantly of pain in her stomach. I think if she does not get her usual health soon I shall give her an option of calomel. The other children are all well, & we are all getting along as well as we can. I am as well as usual but very thin in flesh & cant endure much. have had so much anxiety of mind that it tells upon my looks & feelings. I dont know what M is going to do next. the freighting for Gov. this summer has proved a failure & will not cover expenses & lones. The Indians took about 20 head of their best cattle others died, & other so poor they could not work, so after getting to the Ft. about 50 miles below here they turned over the freight. If misfortune had not followed close upon their heels, they would have cleared at least fifteen hundred dollars. how they are to get along & pay the debts they owe I know not nor am I going to worry myself over it as I have done. I am willing every thing should go except our place & yet not quite willing either, for I think M

ought to have as least as much as he had 3 yrs ago. if  
I will quit every thing but preaching & let Monroe go to work  
alone & take care of his own family I shall be glad, even  
if we lose a thousand dollars, but I suppose his salary  
will have to go as long as he has any, & I dont know  
how long this Mission will be continued in such a state of  
things as exists in the States We have news from there  
up to Apr, 19th & our hearts bleed & the thought of our  
dear land being involved in war, but are the prophecies  
of the bible being fulfilled. The Northern part of N.  
Mex. is mostly for the Union while the Southern is for  
secession. How it will affect this county I know not,  
but we are so secluded in position that we are not worth  
much either side. An express has just been sent, post  
haste from Texas to Albuquerque but what its business is,  
at present ~~is-at-present-is-~~ not known. Very little business  
will be done here now. merchants will not send for goods  
to any amount & we may be cut off from all communication  
with the States, if so we shall support ourselves here  
as best we can, but the Northern mail comes more regularly  
now it has panned into other hand it comes through to Santa  
Fe from Westport in 11 & 12 days. the quickest time ever  
made across the plains, & now before I forget it I wish  
you would get half a yd of sky blue lining silk to line  
Hatties & Lillies flats(?) & send it to me in a letter &  
I will send you postage stamps to pay for it I cant find  
any thing to line them in this country will you get it &  
send immediately. Monroes folks are all well, but I must  
close & go to bed, for I have so much to do.

Corn is 4 doll a bushel, beans 7 doll. & wheat also  
4 dollars, butter 75 cts a pd. lard 50 cts rice 25, dried

fruit 25, sugar 37½, coffee 50, candles 50 cts a pd. tea  
2 doll. a pd. & so on I make plenty of butter for our  
family but not to sell as I did last year. shall prob-  
ably make no cheese. We have two cheeses on hand yet 2  
they are very good eating. Southern officers are leaving  
N H. to join their countrymen, & take leave of their  
Northern br. officers in these words, "Good bye. When we  
meet again you will be my prisoner or I shall be yours"-  
they all get drunk over it. but again good night. May  
God bless & protect you all is the wish & prayer of your  
aff daughter & Sister

Harriett

I wrote Cornelia last week & you week before last  
directed to Pen Yan I want to hear often from you I  
pray God to bless S. & N in their labors. hope they  
also remember us. Children all send love

I feel very anxious to hear from Cornelia



RECORDED MAY 20 1861  
May 28, 1861 (L66)

Dear Mother, brother, & sisters,

Last week I received your letter of Apr. 20th, & was as you may well imagine very glad to hear from you again & take the first opportunity to answer it for we know not how soon our mails may be discontinued & we deprived the privilege of hearing from our friends & country, which would be a trial almost beyond our powers of endurance. I hope it may not be but in this distracted state of our dear land we know not what may happen. I fear every letter I receive may be the last & know not that mine will ever reach you. I strive to commit all these things into the hands of our Heavenly Father & rejoice that He ruleth & reigneth over all, but our hearts are saddened at the news we receive from our dear country. Must it be distracted by the horrors of civil wars, boasted freedom, boasted union sink into oblivion & brothers hands be imbrued in brothers blood May God avert it & restore peace & happiness again to our beloved land, is my daily & constant prayer. The Lord reigneth let the earth rejoice---

We are all well & little ones in particular quite active. Georgie & Frankie are playing the military this afternoon. Georgie personates Maj. Anderson & has his cannon mounted on Ft. Sumpter, while Frankie commands Ft. Moultrie & thus a big battle on a small scale is being acted in our front room Hattie is in the kitchen getting out quite a respectable washing, & Lillie is busily employed in stowing away a large piece of bread and butter, & amid the roar of mimic(?) cannon & the din of washing with a spice of "Mamma" now & then, I am trying to write. Milton

as usual is "not at home" he is gone to Albuquerque but  
probably will not be gone over a week. He is about worn  
out jaunting about so much. felt as though he could not  
go again but was obliged to. Last Sunday one of our In-  
dian brethren from Laguna arrived here with a letter from  
a native preacher at Laguna an Indian  
br. Jose Senun, the first Indian baptized there & who was  
br Gormans interpreter for a long time. He wrote an ex-  
Samuel missionary to Pueblo Indians  
cellent letter full of faith in the gospel of Christ &  
closed by asking us if we had it to do him the favor to  
send him a little bran or shorts to eat. he was living  
on herbs. The tears fell so fast that I could scarcely  
read the letter. this poor Indian br living on herbs

~~reading to me to go for a little bran~~  
without any other food & sending 50 miles to ask us for  
a little bran he said he was a poor Indian but he be-  
lieved in the words of the living God. He has been sick  
a long time & now can only walk about some with the help  
of a cane. notwithstanding his former persecution he has  
been unanimously chosen governor of Laguna. Remember him  
in your prayers that in his present situation he may by  
his example & influence lead the pueblo to Christ I sent  
him flour-meal, coffe, sugar, & dried peaches to supply  
his present wants, & felt that it was more blessed to  
give than to receive. Christ says Inasmuch as ye do it  
unto one of the least of these my brethren ye do it unto  
me. The Indians of all the Pueblos are nearly starving &  
the towns are full of them seeking something to eat. they  
are in here some days two or 3 times Provisions are very  
scarce & dear, beans 7 doll a bushel, flour 12 to 15 a  
hundred, coffee 50 cts a pd, & sugar from 50 to 75 a pd,  
corn 1.25 a peck, but we cannot turn a deaf ear to the

a prospect of some vegetables. How I wish we could see  
potatoes again. If you are in a farming country I know  
some of the good sisters will give you garden seeds to  
send to me, that is if we have any mail facilities. I  
hope you will write as often as possible. Why dont D.  
write, also N. I cannot write C this mail I wrote her  
^ & directed to Wolkoth a short time ago. send her this  
letter to read How are you all getting along. glad to  
hear C is gaining some. May God reward those friends  
who are so kind to her.

aff ly  
good bye

H. L. Shaw

Thinking it may be interesting to you I will translate &  
send you a copy of our Indians brothers letter. It was  
written in Spanish-- I know it will touch a sympathizing  
chord in your hearts.

"Laguna May 20th/61

Rev J. M. Shaw brother in Christ,

My much esteemed & beloved br in the Gospel, I send  
to you many compliments also to all the family of your  
amiable house & say to you that in my affections I have  
had much trouble, but now I have a little more strength  
& ~~can~~ walk about with a cane in my hand like an old  
person. I am suffering much in this sickness, but I also  
say this to you with great joy giving these my short  
salutations to all the brethren at your right hand & in  
your congregation, that ask our Savior Jesus in prayer  
that He would give us clean hearts & just to love our

Savior for He is the only Lord, & we can prove that He came to the world in flesh, not as Rome says, but the Lord whom we adore lives in the celestial mansions at the right hand of His Father, like brothers we should follow our redeemer Jesus with all the heart. You know my brethren that this brother who writes this letter, he is an Indian who believes in the words of the living God. He is preaching the gospel to his countrymen but he has many persecutors, but he says he has a good armor, for he has the Sacred Bible. this is the talent that I have in my heart--and no more I am with respects to you & all the brethren

Jose Senun, your br in christ & Gov.

^ of the Pueblo of Laguna

I send my br. Lorenzo, if he comes to your house, do me the favor to give me a little bran or shorts if you have <sup>any</sup> hay in your house, for I have nothing to eat no more than ^ eating herbs, but if the Minister Gorman our brother was not so far away I should not pass the troubles that I am now passing.

I am your br in Christ,

Jose Senun"

Milton cannot go to the States at present. Monroe is at home all well & taking the world easy

do write often.

if you send me seeds send them by little in letters

Socorro July 2d/61

(267)

Dear Mother

I know you want to hear from us often & therefore sit down again to write you although I have received no letter as yet from you of later date than April 22d, although I feel almost sure this mail will bring me some. if it does not I shall begin to think there is foul play somewhere, & if there is my letters will not reach you but do not worry about us. the Same God who has hitherto been our Protector will care for us still, & you can commit us to no better hands than to Him who has so faithfully watched over us in all our wanderings & shown Himself in ever-present help in every hour of danger & of trial. Then do not distrust Him now, though all communication should be cut off (which is not probable as yet) but remember that God is just as near us here as there, & will not suffer us to be tried above what we are able to bear. Then let us try to exercise unwavering faith in Him. We are all well at present. Small pox has raged all around us but only a few cases in Socorro. the children have all been vaccinated. Frankies is just working now after being put in three times he cant keep still enough to let it work. The children are all romping & racing full of life & energy. yesterday had a grand battle in my room with their forts as strong as boards chairs & pillows could make them. Georgie is now raising a mud edifice in our front yard & I suppose when it is done I shall have to furnish a flag, Stars & Stripes of course, for he wouldnot think any thing else was a flag, I should be loth to see any thing else floating on our premises, but we see no flags of any description about here, & presume we shall not unless they

in upon us from Texas, which is not very probable. We are getting along at about the usual rate, nothing very encouraging in our Mission just now. We seem to be tied hand & foot & on account of the troubles in the States our future prospects are dark if compelled to leave the Mission for want of support. We may be compelled to remain & dig our living out of Mother Earth

I know not what we shall do but leave all with God to direct as he pleases. We do nothing with our garden this year for want of water. Every thing here has to be irrigated & a few of the "ruling order" Monopolize as they please & it is almost impossible for Protestants to get any water so we gave up planting our garden. We have a few veg. in our front yard had green peas sent to us two weeks ago from br Rinaldo Chavess who lives about 15 miles below here. he is well off & remembers us occasionally by sending us a fat sheep, bag of meal or flour which is very acceptable in these hard & scarce times when provisions are so high. Poor br. he is I fear on his death bed is very low & cannot to appearance survive long husband spends a good deal of time with him & now is there, sent a line yesterday that he was much worse & wanted him to make all possible haste to come.

The weather is very hot here now almost impossible to go out in the middle of the day. June & July are our hottest months. We have had but one shower of rain since last fall, till last Sunday when we had an old fashioned

Thunder shower & the roof being so dry & the wind blown so much dirt off the roof that it came pouring into our rooms instead of running off at the spouts as a considerate rain ought to have done & on looking at other houses we found all were in the same predicament with ourselves judging from the appearance of men on the houses with shovels & hoes, so we went to work & reluctantly gave Mr rain leave to pour into our houses & run over our floors (inasmuch as we couldnt help ourselves) bringing with him as much mud as he could conveniently. We caught 2 or 3 large wash tubs full of water in our kitchen & the floor was a perfect mud hole & yesterday we had a hard days work plastering up the walls & spreading over the floors which are quite wet yet, but those little inconveniences I was willing to put up with as the rain was so much needed for vegetation but it gave Hilton the horrors to see such a house. The Indians are very troublesome nothing is safe from them in the way of horses cattle or sheep. last week a party of Nav. attacked a few Mex. who were taking care of their sheep about 20 miles below here & wounded 3 persons & took about 12 horses the sheep belonged to one of our near neighbors here in Socorro & his son was shot through the upper part of the shoulder, also 2 or 3 Indians came into a little town about 6 miles below here in the night & took out 11 head of cattle. 10 men pursued them about 20 miles into the mountain, when about 200 Indians surrounded them & killed all as they supposed but afterward 2 of them revived & crawled away & got back into the settlement. 4 out of one family were killed. The 8 bodies were brought here in carts & buried last sunday in the Catholic

graves about here, & presume we shall not unless they

burying ground about 50 armed men went after the bodies.  
I hope the troops will have no mercy on them, but I must  
close hoping you will write soon.

Your aff ate daughter

Harriett

did you get a letter requesting you to send me  $\frac{1}{2}$  yd of sky  
blue lining silk for H. & L flats  
*Wats*

I send you some Mex. clover & seed

how is C & all of you

Love to all



- Socorro July 24th, /61 (L 48)

Dear Mother

I take my pen again to write you but as I get no letters from you I fear that mine do not reach you. I fear the war will soon deprive us of communication by mail with regularity but I hope not entirely. We are all well & getting along well & long to hear the same of you. I feel very lonely to be deprived of your letters as they afford consolation in many a lonely hour but the war may deprive one even of that, but if you do not hear from us leave us in the hands of God, who heareth & answereth prayer. there we can meet & it is a consolation to me to feel that though I am deprived the pleasure of being near you & now perhaps may be deprived of hearing from you but do not worry about us. Has not God ever protected us in every hour of danger & why should we doubt Him now! Were it not for the belief in His overruling Providence in all the affairs of life I should sometimes almost sink but whatever occurs let us trust in Him. I write almost despondingly fearing this may never reach you, but if it does I shall have the satisfaction of relieving some of your anxiety. The children are all well active & learning some but it is so excessively hot that I do not hurry them  
^ much now. Thermometer ranges from 90 to 108, & we cant go out much in the middle of the day. flies in abundance & some fleas, but these are small annoyances The priest is trying to annoy us on a larger scale but I rather think he will get the worst of the bargain. Br Romaldo Chaves died & was buried a little more than a week ago. The priest went several times to try to change his faith but could make no impression. Br R  
^ told him in reply to the priests question he had never been

sorry he became a Protestant that he never enjoyed such peace of mind before that he trusted alone in Christ. The Priest then said something about the power of the priest to exclude from Heaven. Br R told him none but God could exclude from heaven told him he was too weak for an argument but trusted alone in the merits of Christ for salvation. While we were in the burying ground The Priest sent a boy with a letter to Milton. I suppose he couldnt contain himself any longer the tolling of the bell exasperated him. He wanted to know why the Protestants in N Mexico were tolling the bell so much on the death of a person.. that the catholics tolled for the people to say prayers for the soul in Purgatory but as the Prot. believed their was no Purgatory why did they toll the bell,-said some few had joined the Prots for salary & some for worse Motives but they were a sect of yesterday, ~~Lc.~~ M sent him a line saying that he would hold no private correspondence with him for he had no confidence in him, that he would only use it to deceive the people but that he would answer his letter through the public press. & he has answered & it will soon be printed on an extra sheet & scattered throughout the territory. all the influential Protestants here took it as an insult & are bound to expose the lies of romanism as well as the ignorance of the priest & will pay all expenses of printing The Priest is thus assisting us unconsciously Such a good chance to expose the doctrine of purgatory, masses for the dead Lc. The Curas letter is to be printed

with M answer under it & the people will read it. some of the catholics are trying to stop the matter but it is too late. No doubt the Priest is sorry he sent the letter thus giving such advantage to enlighten the people. M has not handled romanism with gloves in his answer, & I imagine the Cura will writhe some under it. He probably expected M would answer his letter privately & he could use it as he pleased against us but M was a little too knowing for that, & the Priest has got himself in hot water.

The Indians are very hostile running off all the stock & ~~committing~~ <sup>committing</sup> ~~committing~~ their depredations all over the territory. Attached the last weeks mail about 20 miles below here & wounded 4 men two of whom have since died surrounded 10 men in the Mountains & killed 8 of them, have not molested any towns, our cattle are left yet but I know not at what moment they may be taken. Texans are coming in the south to take the Forts & Comanches are hostile on the plains. Texans also are gone on the plains to cut off the trains & troops are sent out to protect the road for the trains to come in safely. in short we know not what is to become of this territory. sand works are being thrown up to defend the forts & all news is about war & Indians but God rules & reigns over all--in Him let us all trust. Monroes folks are all well. he is at home but expects to furnish the Ft with wood. I think he & M have the contract for wood, if Mr Indian does not veto it, but good bye

with love to all

H L S.

How is C how I want to hear from you all

Why dont S write me, also Nettie - Stillman's wife

Part of another letter not yet determined

L-6211

July 31st-- a report has just arrived in town that the Texans have come into the Southern part of the Territory, had a battle at Ft Fillmore but had been driven out with a loss of 40 killed Federal loss, 2 officers killed & one Lt. wounded & 8 or 9 soldiers killed. also that after driving out the Texans They burnt Ft Fillmore & marched to Ft Stanton where there were only a few troops & Wher the next attack was expected. how true it is we have yet to learn. I did hope N M. would have been left in peace but Indians wont let us alone no more than Texans. a short time ago they killed 8 men that belonged to a little town about 3 miles from here, & we have constant alarms in/fear<sup>?</sup> they will take off all our cattle, but hope for the best. no one leaves sight of town without being armed. Men watching cattle are all armed. what a miserable country the mountains are full of Indians continually pouncing upon herds M has just directed \$100, to be sent to D. & \$25 to you. the letter goes this mail

Socorro  
Aug 1st  
1861

Mrs Suf(s)anna Bidwell

Penn Yan

Yates Co N Y.

(669)

Socorro Aug 8th/61

Dear Mother

If you get my letter of last week you will probably feel very anxious to hear again so I will just drop you a few lines before the stage gets along. We are all well & if the war is really coming up here shall leave at once ^ but an express went down day before yesterday & said all the troop in the Territory were to go below & that they were going to drive out the Texans & liberate those taken prisoners from Ft Fillmore & hang the old scoundrel who surrendered them. He had 10 companies. 3 companies of cavalry got away & he surrendered 7 compainis(?) to three hundred & fifty Texans. All the Texans had to eat with them was half a sock of corn meal & a little bacon & old jaded out horses. Capt Lyon of Ft Fillmore is said to be a Vermonter(I blush to say it) but I dont think he can be a relative of the Lyon of Missouri---- All the officers are so indignant at his conduct that they say if they can get hold of him they will hang him. Capt Lyon was encamped at the only water within 12 miles & surrendered without firing a gun. Capt Gilbs of the cavalry after calling Capt L by every had name which an indignant officer is capable of, put out with his three companies of Cavalry & woe to Capt L if he falls into the hands of the loyal officers. The army here has been pretty well purged of southern officers, the son of William H. Seward is paymaster to the army here & called on us on his way down some time ago he is now on his way back from Tucson a fort in the Apache country & an express has been sent to

meet them with the news with the news of doings of the Texans  
& should they come in contact with the Texans there will be some  
fighting for the troops are returning from Tucson some 250 in  
number. Should Maj Seward fall into the hands of the Texans,  
their will be some stir(X) in Washington I imagine, but it  
is not expected the Texans will come up this side the  
Jornather(?) if they do their advance will be hotly contested,  
unless they send an immense army. We are safe but I shall  
not consent to stay here if the troops are ordered out of the  
country We dont know what will come but all the troops  
are concentrating to march to the Mesilla to fight  
the Texans & unless the troops are overpowered their part  
of the country will not be molested. We have news from the  
States up to July 11th, A big report from Missouri came  
here last week of July(?) 12 saying that Gen. Pattersons  
forces had been cut to pieces at Martinsburg, but we see  
from the papers how little foundation it had. reports are  
constantly coming of the defeat of the Federal forces while  
the papers bring news of their success. Nothing new here  
more than I now write & all is calmer than last week. Write  
as often as you can, & I will keep you informed of what is  
going on here, that is if my letters reach you. tis ex-  
cessively hot here

Grape begin to ripen also peaches

Come & eat some

Milton is quite unwell just now

Noon

I open this letter to say a Sergeant has just arrived, who brings the news that Capt Gilbs returned with his companies of cavalry after escaping having no provisions & no water & his men suffering for want of them. Went  
A back he says to fight that, they sent him a flag of truce & when he got among them Capt Lyon ordered him to surrender so the Texans got them all after all, & also all their fine Am horses about 200 in number. Tis a curious affair the whole of it. this Sergeant was one of the prisoners & a <sup>a</sup> large part of them are coming up on parole of honor. Capt Lyon is also coming with them & Lt Mc Neilly who was shot through the chest in a skirmish in the Mesilla he wants some butter & he shall have it freely but I wouldnt give a mouthful to the old scamp who betrayed his trust. the Sergeant says the men & officers were all eager to fight but the old scamp wouldnt let them. Capt Lyon was yesterday introduced to the commanding officer of Ft Craig below here, but  
A that officer looked at him a moment says "ah ha" put his hands behind him turned on his heel & walked off, wouldnt speak to him & if he gets out of N M with his head on his shoulders he will do well they threaten to hang him in Santa Fe. they will pase here to morrow. 500 Tex. with 2 cannon have also gone out to meet & capture the troops from Tucson. I hope Maj Seward will not fall into their hands, he is a fine young man very prepossing in appearance

Loronado?

Texan spies have also crossed the Jornada/ & are scouting below Ft Craig. the probability is that all the troops will leave the country & if so we may too. the troops were under orders to leave before this occurred & it may be countermanded & may not. There are a thousand or 12 hundred Texans in the Mesilla & mexicans are joining/<sup>?</sup>thm there. What is to come next we dont know

will write you every week as long as this state of thing remain.

this Sergeant says they could as well as not have taken all those Texans as-~~not~~ if the Com officer had permitted them

Mrs Suf(s)anna Bidwell

Penn Yan.

Yates Co NY.



69  
70

Socorro Sept 10th/61

My dear Mother

*Mattie*

The mail has just arrived & brought me your letter of Aug 8th with Stillmans & (Genettes) card, syringn & piece of Cs dress. I am so glad to hear from you & it is a pleasure to see the mail arrive & pass on unmolested for it assures us that Uncle Sams dominion here is not yet at an end. We are all well, for which blessing we have great reason to be thankful to our Heavenly Father. Small pox is raging now in Socorro but our children have all been vaccinated. 2 deaths have occurred very near us, one a child of one our nearest neighbors. children are running the streets completely covered with it, & no more attention is paid to it than to any common sickness. In Limitar 10 miles north about 30 children have died with it. I got your vaccine matter & think I will have the children vaccinated again. I also got the blue silk, but dont know how I can pay you till the new postage stamps get here-unless you take it out of what I sent Cornelia. I am glad to hear she is in such a good place, but I want to see her & all of you more than I can tell. I have been trying to have M let me & the children go the States & stay till these troubcles are over but I dont see either how we can go alone, & it is

impossible for him to leave, & how could I leave him here alone not knowing what might befall him. No, I must stay & share his fortunes. God is my refuge & trust & He has never yet failed us, & daily I commit you all to His care & protection & know you remember us also. All is quiet here at present. a large force is being concentrated at Ft Craig about 35 or 40 miles below here & scarcely a day passes that we do not see soldiers pass one way or the other. An express goes every day between Albuquerque & Ft Craig in seventeen hours, distance nearly 150 miles. Dr Connelly, who assisted us in our first school in Teralta, is now Gov. & we hope this country will not be seriously involved in the war, though our fate will depend upon the result in Missouri. We look with some anxiety to that quarter for our destinies are so nearly allied to those of that state. We have New York papers of date Aug 15th & St Louis of Aug 19th. I regret to hear of Gen. Lyons death but some must fall. Gen. McClellan seems to have the good will of every body & even New Orleans papers say he is worthy of being defeated by Beauregard. May God bless him & make him eminently useful in delivering our country in this hour of peril. he is a christian which makes his name doubly dear. Our little folks are all active as usual. Making forts, flags cannon &c. Georgie has had the stars & stripes floating over the house several times, but in this land tis hardly safe I think for we know not how many

Monroe's  
boy

^ Texan spies may be around. He & his cousin George fight a good many battles with Frankie who is always put in as secessionist, but "nobody hurt" as Frankie says he always has to surrender. Georgie had build quite a nice little house of mud with windows & doors all in Mexican style, & I found them the other day George & Georgie on the house with the flag & Frankie below near Georgies little mud house which they had had entirely demolished. Frankie said they knocked down his fort & he had to surrender, but he hung his head as if he was a little ashamed of it. I asked Georgie why he destroyed his little house, "Twas a secession fort", he said/so there the matter ended. Milton is now in Santa Fe/ but expect him home in a few days. Monroe <sup>is getting</sup> wood for the Fort. five Am women here & no husbands. one lady just returned from St Louis is here & cant get home She went to visit her friends in apr & has got back so far but no means of conveyance as the mail goes no further than Ft Craig & she lives in Las Cruses below the Jornath which is full of spies both Texan & Union. She has a pass & has sent word for her husband to meet her but knows not if it reached him. M says I would be in the same fix should I start to go to the states, but I would not cross the plains without good protection. I hope our mail will not be cut off. In one mail 60 letters for the army were missing from the number on the way bill, but ours/ come safe yet but I must go to bed or be sick tomorrow(?)

I have been reading papers till my eyes & head aches  
& I hardly know what I have written.

Wish you had some of our peaches. would exchange  
them for potatoes

Love to all

Harriett

you need have no fear of our starving  
to death

Socorro N M

Sep 11 '61

Mrs Sufanna Bidwell

Penn Yan

Yates Co N Y.

Socorro Feb. 6th/62

My dear Sister Cornelia

I have just received a letter from you in a long time. the last I think was of date Nov. 7th, but I will still keep on writing hoping that now the communication is opened again in Missouri I shall soon receive the letters which I still believe are on the road for me. I have written twice to Milo & requested them after reading to send the letters to you. We are all well & have had most beautiful all winter sunshining & pleasant & so warm that the children could play out all day if we chose. door open with a little fire. We have seen no snow this winter till a few days ago. the ground was whitened a very little & this morning Feb 7th it was snowing beautifully when we got up but now (10 oclock) there is scarcely any to be seen. We have plenty of Indians depredations. they are taking off all the stock, horses, mules, cattle sheep & goats, every thing they can find. they are so thick as ants all over though they do not enter the towns much but they may yet come in the night & take animals from the corals. Since I wrote last they have taken 50 head of oxen from Monroes Camp where he was getting wood for Government. Milton happened to be there & he with 15 or 20 men & an officer of the Ft set off in pursuit but the officer in command made a fire at night to get their supper & so the Indians scattered

in every direction with them so it was impossible to track them further. The cattle were run off after midnight & the soldiers & husband started at noon next day, & followed their track till dark when the officers turned off to a spring to get supper. next morning they found they had got ahead of the Indians who had all scattered & hid in the mountains so that it was impossible to find them. had it not been for the fire they would in all probability have recovered the cattle but it might have been attended with bloodshed I felt very uneasy when the news came that M had gone after the Indians. some have been killed in fighting to recover their cattle. sometimes they succeed in recovering cattle but very seldom night before last a herd was taken about a mile & a half from here over the other side of the Rio Grande we had a noble cow(a present to us) among them. a party left in pursuit yesterday morning & have not yet returned. We are in daily expectation of losing all our cows which would be a heavy loss to us. Milton has had a little touch of the blues since they lost the oxen.

A He says he dont know what he shall do with these Indians they were getting along so well & hoping to pay up all their heavy debts by spring. If you read Harpers Weekly you will see "Sad news from New Mexico" They say "Col. Canby has retaken Fts. Craig(there is no fort Clay(Cray) here) & Stanton & was on his way to Ft Fillmore—driving the rebel Texans before him & intended to press on into Arizona Lc," Now it affords us much amusement to get this good news from the states, for here in Ft Craig 35 miles below us, & it has

always been in possession of Col. Canby, as to Ft Stanton it was deserted & burned last summer & has not been occupied since either by Texans or Union troops. I wonder what idea people then have of localities in N Mex. we hear so many different stories as to where we are situated that I am afraid we shall lose ourselves some of these days. Ft Fillmore is in Arizona about 40 miles north of El Paso. Col. Canby has not been after the Texans yet, but N Mexico is under martial law & there has been a good lookout for Texans & traitors. For the last three months there has been such a cry of Wolf Wolf that we begin to think no wolf is near. Such a cry of Texans, & when scouting parties have gone out, could not find even their tracks, & spies have been down to the Mesilla & reported very few Texans there. the story is now that they have gone for reinforcements, but now there is something on foot. there has been the most active military preparations for a short time past, & within a week past about 3000 troops have passed south for Ft Craig with cannon flags Lc, about 2000 passed at one time. all the militia in the Territory also have been ordered out, & scarcely a day passes that troops & not going by. an order has just come to (~~to Socorro~~) for all the militia of Socorro to be ready to leave by noon to day. The militia have orders to take every horse, mule, Lc that is serviceable & any thing which is necessary for their subsistence. giving receipts for the same. Col. Canby, Gov. Connelly also the Indian agent & all the big

men passed a few days ago. There are several miles of troops below us & some great move is on foot. Tis said they are going on to Texas & that 7000 from California are coming to meet them. should not wonder if Col Canby did retake Ft Fillmore before long. They are all anxious to wipe out the disgrace of Ft Fillmore being surrendered by that traitor Maj Lynde a Vermonter. My northern blood almost boiled when the old grey headed traitor passed here last summer. None of the officers at Ft Craig would speak to him, & he travelled through here with a guard for fear his own men would shoot him as they threatened to do. I am glad he has been dismissed the service, but I fear you cant read this.

Since I commenced this letter the old cry of 40000 Texans coming has been started by somebody

Mattie went out one day when Am. troops were passing & raised the stars & stripes & such a cheer went up for the Union as almost frightened her.



7 oclock evening

One of our Am.

neighbors has just come from the Ft & says all is quiet, & that the Texans have retired a little farther off. perhaps they found a little more force at the Ft than they expected, but Col. Canbys eye is upon them & I dont think they will be allowed to get away if that is their object. Says the Texan force is only 2,300 including teamsters and all, & only five good companies they probably did not expect to find six or seven thousand to oppose them so I think we need have no fears of their driving us home yet-

Sunday afternoon An officer from the Ft has just passed & told M. they learned from one of the spies they had taken that the Texans called for volunteers in the Mesille but none came & none would assist them. that they took by force all the flour they could find that they had no coffee or sugar but toasted corn, with plenty of flour & beef for the present. said they were bringing 12 cannon & that Gen. Sibley told them they would take rations in Ft Craig on the 20th in Alburquerque the 25th in Santa Fe the 1st of March & at Ft Union on the 5th. I think their prediction will turn out some like sigfalls wintering in Philadelphia Some 15 or 20 of the Kex. Militia blunderheads having a curisoisty to see the Texans went out on their own hook on poor horses & mules & got their curiosity

satisfied for the Texans put after them & captured nearly  
all---17th

the battle began yesterday  
& is now raging some killed **on**  
both sides. May God give us  
the victory. the mail is here  
~~our~~ hearts rise in constant prayer

good bye

Dear Aunt

I would like to tell you something  
the snow is very deep it is an inch deep  
& would like to see you very much indeed,  
I would like to have you teach here the  
snow is all gone now

georgie M. Shaw

This is Georgies letter to Aunt

Cornelia

I sent it just as he wrote it