

Camp Riley, September 25<sup>th</sup> 1849.

Dear Alida,

Your letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> June came to hand on the 5<sup>th</sup> of this month, I thought you had almost forgotten you ever had a brother to write to, for I think if you look over the letters you have received you will find a great number from <sup>me</sup> to which you have never made any reply, but perhaps you were too much engaged in your studies, so we will let all of them pass and commence over again.

I think I will have to turn and give you a little news from the states myself, for it seems you tell me of nothing but what I have heard, and not all of that. Why what kind of a place is Patapasco that all the news comes out here before it goes there, perhaps it is on account of the rail roads, telegraphs, steam boats &c which you have in the states, which always tell what is not true, and does not tell what is true; you mention that you have sent Frank a piece which you cut out of a paper telling him how to "pop the question", you don't seem to know that he has already "popped the question", and has every thing fixed so as get married next fall. Why I think you are behind the times entirely, you must have been asleep, ah! that accounts for my not receiving answers to my numerous letters, you have been sleeping away time, then wake up and write me a letter of two pages and a half thinking it to be a long letter, why out here a letter is not thought to be of moderate size without it covers all sides of a sheet of paper, but then some news is better than none so write short ones rather than none at all. I suppose your vacation has passed by this time and you are back again at school, enjoying the pleasant hum of the school room, I have often been told that school days would be the most pleasant time of my life, and now I find it so, although I must say I



admire much a camp life in the wilds of California, we are situated not far from San Diego and a party of us can go up there at any time and get up bayle and return the next morning, after dancing all night; it is quite pleasant to have a dance once in a while, it keeps up the remembrances of former days while at home. There are quite a number of very pretty girls out here, although I don't think they can be compared with the American ladies in appearances, and are sure no one would attempt to compare them in any other respect for they can neither read or write their own language, much less any other. I suppose you have seen these little paper cigars, well they all smoke them but they have found out that American ladies never smoke so they try to hide it as much as possible, but if you notice their thumb and fore finger you will find it to be of a yellow tint from being burnt with the stump. I remember at one of the bayle's there was quite a good looking young lady smoking behind the back of an other, and one of the young men went up to ask her to dance so she handed her cigar to her companion, it put me in mind of a piece I have seen in an Almanac, "here Sal hold my tater while I take a trot with  $\frac{1}{2}$  or horse", only it was a cigar instead of a tater. I have never seen any of them at their homes yet, ~~but~~ of course can tell you nothing more than what I have heard about their manner of living, I have understood that they do nothing but eat and sleep all the time, they get up about 9 or ten in the morning to take their coffee, then they commence to eat and smoke, which they do until the middle of the day then, take a siesta until about 3 or 4 o'clock, then get up and commence eating and smoking again until about 9, when they retire for the night, the young ladies never do any thing for themselves except roll up little cigars for them to smoke, that duty I believe falls on the youngest daughter, I know a family now living about 10 miles south of this, the Squallies <sup>who</sup> live in this manner there are 21 children and the parents do not look older than mother and father, in fact if you were to see them <sup>you</sup> would think them to be about 35 years



old and they have great grand children, I think this is the greatest climate for the ladies that I ever seen, for it appears they can never get to be old women and I have not heard of any deaths since I have been here, I wonder how they get rid of such old people; but I forgot to tell you of my ride to town with that family, I got in the ambulance as it passed here and on the way up the old gentleman asked me to take a cigar - that is one of these little cigarritos, which I did but found some difficulty in lighting it so one of the young ladies offered to light it for me, which she did and after smoking it a little while handed it to me, what do you think of that? and she was the best looking one in the wagon I tell you what the way she and I did dance that <sup>night</sup> was a sin, for we were going up to a baile.

Now I think dear Alida I will have to bring this escarabajos, as you would say in Spanish, to an end for my mail was large last time and will take some time to reply to them all and I am in great hurry so as to do it before I am sent to the mountains, which will be soon for we have to be there by the time the other party get to the mouth of the Gila and they have already started, our camp is quite deserted and will be much more so as soon as we get off to the mountains, so I bid you adieu hoping soon to receive any other letter from you.

Remember me to all the young ladies of my acquaintance at your school, I suppose Miss Julia Hobbs is with you now, so give my best respects to her and believe as ever your affectionate  
brother Clint

Please excuse all mistakes, as I write in great haste.

A. T. G.

P.S. Sept 20<sup>th</sup> I am off to the mountains to morrow morning early. C. T. G.

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MYERSON  
M21-T-60  
allida

(C. Austin Barber)

Received November 13th 1849  
Sherman Bennett - amount



San Diego, Cal }  
Oct, 4<sup>th</sup> }  
1849 }

July A. D. Gardner  
Ollie's Mills near  
Baltimore Md.  
United States

2006-

1849 - Bond Letter

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