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Mr. Wm. C. Chamberlain  
Sacramento City  
Cal

Fort Sumner July 24<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Cousins

I have seen two letters from you with  
to Col. they came in by the last Pony, as we call it, in other  
words by the Express. We were both pleased to hear of all enjoying us-  
ual good health, and hope you may always be able to say the same  
in your letters while we are in the army. I presume you will be  
pleased to hear that our Company <sup>the 5<sup>th</sup> Lt.</sup> Co. and in fact the  
entire Regt have been fortunate enough to get rid of a Public En-  
emy which was personified in Capt. Cooper. he has fallen, or rather  
been compelled to resign, knowing as he did that were he to stand a  
court-martial nothing would prevent him from being cashiered.

I made up my mind long long ago that if one does not look out for  
himself in this little world of ours, none will look after him, and if one  
person should endeavor to injure, or ruin the reputation of another it  
is best for them at least to endeavor to live a life by which they will not be  
brought forth before the world with stigmas upon themselves far more ignominious  
than the falsehoods they wished to heap upon others. I did not make known  
one half of what Cooper had both said and done, and yet he was well aware  
that enough had already been made known to break him of his commission  
so he sent in his resignation upon the charges, hoping those in command would pre-  
ferencing it that he be longer perplexed with him. I learn from those who  
have come down with prisoners from Tucson that has been a general opinion in the  
1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Regts over his down-fall. he would often represent Col. Brown as one totally  
unfit for the position, when there is in fact no person in the state who could  
command greater respect than does Col. Brown by his men, we all look upon him  
as one of the few who feel interested in the general welfare of us all.

The report is current that we will all soon move ahead Capt Whitlock with Com Fess the 5<sup>th</sup> and Capt Green with G. of the first line both left within a short time they are moving Eastward. I am of the opinion we will be at this post at least for two or three weeks yet, but have nothing reliable to judge from. We have been having fine weather for a few days past, had quite a refreshing shower last week I would like to spend a few days in your city and see the changes that must have taken place within a few months. I should not say in the East continue to meet with success we may be back before three years have expired nothing would please me better than to hear of Gees but if that cannot be then I want to go on and be in the contest where others more dear to me than life itself are engaged for the good of our Land. I feel proud of them as well as of the cause in which they are engaged. . . . There are some few prisoners of war at this post and several political ones who have been sent down from Tucson and that nation.

I have had some fine sails on the Colorado in a small boat a few days ago three of Gees' came down and invited me to go out with them which invitation I at first declined as one of our Gees was in camp and I thought it would look rather more military for him to be with them than for a Sergeant. but they insisted on my going, saying I was the one they had come after and so away we went over to Arizona Territory. I enjoyed the sail very much for by knowing what a little ~~and~~ I knew about boating to myself, had none of the work to do.

I have found no difficulty in getting along with any of the Officers but the one and he is placed out. We do not yet know who will be our Capt but expect it will be Chapman or a colonel by as they are the two Senior 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeants of the Regt. still we would not be surprised to have the Gen send some greenhorn from the City of Sacramento or San Francisco that would somewhat be in accordance with his last appointment. Ed has been talking of writing to you but I do not know how he will succeed, the weather is quite warm now - more so today than usual but the oldest citizens say the worst of the warm weather is over I hope so.

I can think of nothing of interest to write you this evening  
have been trying to persuade Ed to finish this page but he  
says he does not feel like writing this evening - as he is to sleep  
he gets along with his duties very well.

We cannot get any of the many papers sent us as there is no way  
of bringing them from Camp Leather when they say there are wagon  
loads buying for the command. I would like to have you send  
some of the most important dispatches in a letter for that is the  
only way we can ever get them at this post or beyond should we  
move on. I find the Officers are no better provided for in the  
line of news than we are save with the exception of some few papers  
sent to the Col and Adj.

Ed has just told me to say for him that he will write next  
week. I would like to have you send us some three cent postage & at for  
as there are none to be had at this Post I offered to give 25 cents for  
one some days since but could not obtain it.

Ed sends love to you all. I do the same and remain

Yours truly

J. H. Burton

W. E. Humboldt

P.S. Let us hear from you as often as you can without  
infringing too much on your time, for I know you all have  
enough to do this warm weather. Ed just this moment asked me for  
the candle to find a large Geopua that was in the blankets, we  
have finished him now all since I started on the P.S.

Yours -- J. H.

J. H.