

Bald 13 Dec 1857  
Sunday

I did not see Mrs Simons - Dr Palmer has got back  
and gives an interesting account of his cruise in the Niagara.  
D.D. 16 December - With want to get to bed this morning

Dear George  
Your letter of 29<sup>th</sup> ulto  
arrived two days ago, and gave us  
a great pleasure. - We were  
writing to your sister at the  
time, and Doc gave her in  
his letter a full account of you.  
Col Johnston arrived  
the same day in Washington, &  
expect to hear by Jim Malone  
who has gone to spend this day  
with his sister and the Colonel)  
how you were when Johnston  
left Leavenworth -

Charley May arrived in town  
today from New York, and I paid  
him a visit at Belvicks, but  
did not find him at home - His  
brother Henry told me of their  
meeting in New York a few  
days ago -

I called on Lambert Gettings  
and he and his daughter, Mrs  
Henry both send you their congra-  
tulations - Dr Simons had left  
Belknap, and was stationed at  
Kovda, not far from San Antonio.

I think we informed you that Nannie Donnell is engaged  
to be married to Mr. Fleming of New York - An excellent man  
our Donnell's old House, Washington is in the State of Virginia  
2/ Gettings read a letter from Sibley  
from Laramie - He did not see  
Mrs Sibley when he was in New  
York a few days ago - He heard  
from some army officers that she  
had gone to Boston -  
Your Aunt Sprigg told me this  
morning that Col Lee was at  
Arlington - But Luster's will is not  
at all to her taste - and I confess  
it surprises me - He has given  
very little to his daughter Mrs  
Lee, and some lots of but little  
value in Washington to the Colonel  
Arlington with all the precious  
relics of Washington are bequeath  
ed to Luster Lee - other valuable  
lands to the other two boys, and  
\$10,000 to each of the four girls.  
This appears to be without much  
consideration for two such worth  
heads of the family as Colonel and  
Mrs Lee, but perhaps the old  
man thought that the large  
estate of Ravensworth which  
will fall to Mrs L at the death

Received a letter from Mr. Cooper a few days ago

of her sister in law Mrs Fitzhugh<sup>3</sup>  
will be an ample provision for her  
and at the same time will enable  
her to equalise the fortunes of her  
children if she thinks proper to do so.

We buried Col Davies last Wednes-  
day with an appropriate escort -

Your uncle Richard says he  
saw Mrs Hazard a few days ago and  
the spoke of a letter just received  
from her husband at Leavenworth in  
which he mentions your engagement  
and your good fortune in obtaining  
so fine a girl for a wife -

Mr Anthony Kennedy has gone to  
reside in Washington, and has  
rented his house (ready furnished) to  
your uncle for one year - He has  
been in possession since the first  
of this month, and the family was  
expected last evening, but did not  
come -

Tom Meece's wife has a son  
and Dick's wife a daughter, born  
about the same time - I believe  
Mrs McCall also expects to be  
confined very soon, and I have no  
doubt Willy's wife will follow suit -

Robert Oliver has bought a cargo in Balligonne County 800 acres  
for 40000 by his brother James has purchased in the same  
county near Col. Lloyd at 390 per acre

I saw Willy lately and found him  
so much improved that I really  
feel interested for him and regret  
more than ever the impudence  
which led to his being dropped.  
It is supposed that about one  
fourth of the officers who appealed  
from the action of the Retiring  
Board, will obtain some relief,  
but if it be true that only one  
half of the whole number of  
retired, furloughed, and dropped  
officers have appealed, then  
not more than one out of  
eight will be rescued from  
the condition to which they  
were reduced.

I understand that Miss <sup>no</sup> Mason  
is now at St Augustine and  
I am surprised we have not heard  
this in a more direct way. Her  
husband's family reside there but  
no mention of her going to Florida  
has been made to us from Newport.

Your Aunt Speegs note reminding me of my subscription to the  
Aged Women's Home. has a reference to a lady which I will not  
omit to mention to you.

Your sister has been enjoying <sup>(5)</sup>  
herself at New York for three  
weeks and Willy will go tomorrow  
or the next day to bring her home.  
We shall expect them in a week  
or ten days so as to be with us  
at Christmas - Your Aunt Edgar  
had a party at her house last  
Wednesday, and Mary has been  
treated with the greatest kindness  
and consideration. I need not tell you  
how worthy she is of it, and how  
little visits there is of her being  
spoiled -  
Beckie spent the evening lately  
at Miss Coker's, and met Colonel  
Taylor there - He spoke of you  
kindly and also of your intended.  
Miss C. said she now thought  
there was a probability of Mrs B  
marrying Dandridge - for when she  
made inquiry on that subject very  
recently, her friend Miss W. W.  
remarked that she "was afraid there  
was some truth in it". Now I am  
sure you will agree with me that  
it was not very discreet in Miss W.  
to make this speech, or in Miss C.  
to repeat it - Therefore mean

Ms. 14. Dec 14. Governor Walker has got back to Washington from Norfolk where he has been making arrangements to sustain himself.

6  
We agree there is to be an increase of the Army and vigorous efforts are being made already for the promotion of Officers - Among others Major B. Buchanan of our State will be run for a Lt Colonel - His brother in Law Capt Charles Winder has just got back from Newfort Barracks where he escorted a Sister and I found out today from Lambert getting who is a cousin of Buchanan that the friends of the latter would work hard for him - The family influence you know is powerful & The Lloyds Keys - Newways - <sup>Gettysburg</sup> Runners and Howards will all be active on the occasion - but others will be equally active for other Officers I understood from Mrs Johnston that her husband was a relative of Mr Lloyd, and I should not be surprised if something grew out of that relationship for the advantage of our friend - Lee and he, are certainly the strongest claimants for the command of a new Cavalry Regiment and I ought perhaps to say that they have the strongest claims. fast

I have seen Charles Ellet who speaks in the highest terms of  
Manning as well as his wife.

I do not think it would be very prudent for either of them, so near as they are to promotion in the present Cavalry Arm to abandon that position for a less secure one in a new corps which may be disbanded as soon as the Mormon difficulty is settled. - The same reasoning applies to Sacket and Wood, Coffman in your regiment and Vandoren and Smith of the 2 Cavalry who would certainly have some wish by taking promotion in a new Corps which may not be permanent. Of course I shall be on the alert and look after your interests - but you must not allow your aspirations to get the better of your calm judgment, and considering how much was done for you by the last administration, I do not see much chance of your being again pushed above the heads of your seniors - I have no doubt you will get your brevet if any brevets are given, and I believe they will be given.

8) The plastering will all be finished at Harlem before the 25<sup>th</sup> Inst and the painting and papering in a week afterwards, but I find the rooms so damp, that I will not venture to move for a month, and not then, unless it is safe to do so - I have made it my mind to have the library in the long room next to the stable and to use the old library as a drawing room - I will carry out the details satisfactorily - We shall place the Elk Floors in the hall over the back door so as to be seen on entering the house - The skins, and Indian weapons and ornaments will be arranged in the library - Tell Maria we shall have a nice apartment for her, next to the one in which you were born, almost thirty years ago - With kind regards to her and to Major & Mrs Hunter, I remain very truly Yours  
Capt G. H. Stewart  
Cavalry  
Fort Leavenworth

If your letter was written on my birth day, and you will see by the envelope that I did not forget you