



Santa Fe New Mexico

Tuesday Aug 29th 1876

Dear Mother.

Your Postal announcing the
Palmer's start for Baraboga^{and} Lake George,
but without date, and I could not dis-
cern any date on P.O. mark, came to hand
on my arrival here - you don't know how strange
and odd it feels for me to be sitting in
a comfortably and cozily fitted room, with
every appurtenance of civilization at hand,
penning you these lines - why how odd
seems the use of the pen and ink, and
it really ~~tries~~ my hand - but it so
happens that a gentleman, Fitz Patrick,
by name, residing here, attached to the
Government service, was originally from
Albany N.Y. and one of our party being
very well acquainted with some of his
relations there, hearing he was here, called
on him, and the consequence was, we
must change our Camping Ground to

right opposite his room, that is in a large open place - put all things of any value in his room - which room he has thrown open to us, at all and any time. put paper, pens, and ink at our disposal etc etc and now - three out of the four are around his table, he being away at his business - scratching away at a much livelier gait, than that acquired by a mule-trail - this is more ease and comfort, than camp life calls for, and our managing man, or as the article I sent you designated him "Majo Lomo" - thought it tried him very much, last evening when we called on ~~the~~ Juanita and he sat in an easy rocking chair for about a half hour, for we, like the Mexicans, are used to squatting down on the ground, and now while the boys of the party, are sitting around this table, we can look out upon the tent, waggon, etc and there sits the Majo - on a pail, with his back propped up against one of the

front wheels, with a piece of cracker box cover, as a desk - penning a letter to his wife ^{and} children, who left for Albany but a few days before we started out - expecting to return this Fall to Denver.

Aug 19th we broke camp at Del Norte ~~and rode on~~ - not leaving town until nearly 12 P.M. and rode on to the only camping place between there and Conejos - at an American Ranch, and where there was ^{water} - 20 miles - ride over prairie - dreary and uninteresting & no water - it was cold enough for an overcoat - and when we went into camp, as well as an hour ^{before} a cold rain set in - we had some ^{little} difficulty in making a fire, and getting supper ready - the night was rainy and although our tent was a grand (and always is) protection, still we and our blankets, were somewhat moistened - but with the "Fitter" come the "Dewets", and the sun once more gained the day and like the Grasshopper, after we had got

a little warmed up - we started on our journey again - Sunday, though it was only making 20 miles - and going into camp in a pouring hard rain at 2 P.M. - but our camp was right in front or opposite, an Irishman, whose acquaintance we formed on our way over the road, on our way to Del Norte Mts. and we were allowed all the privileges of himself - but it soon cleared away, and we spent the rest of the day quietly and pleasantly "Welch" bringing out his violin about 5 or 6 down, and treating us to some music - you will find, that we very seldom or only have once before, when it was really necessary traveled on Sunday's - it so happens at some times, we are obliged to travel, distances between places, water and grass being such, that we must get up and get. The party are all very much against traveling on that day -

Monday Aug 21st. Break camp and on to Conejo, about 15 miles - made it about noon - in passing the young fellows ^{burial} place, whom was buried, one of our party - when here last, I saw the grave was buried, we learned the body had been taken home by his two Brothers - who had come about a week before this time - and had to relate the oldest was very ill & had to remain at "Fort Garland" where there is a Hospital, and was not expected to live - the younger Brother, who came with us on our trip as far as Colorado Springs, having made a trip home - had to return, and take the body home alone -

Tuesday Aug 22nd. Break camp - leave town about 9³⁰ A.M. - will now take about a hard Country - Stony, hard road and for miles & miles, not a spear of

grass to be seen - a strange, barren waste
of undisturbed prairie land - nothing but
cactus, a weed, and stones - 30 miles and
not a drop of water, coming upon a
grove of trees, then way down in a
bottom piece of land - good grass -
a stock man's - "Sheep" Ranch or Corral,
and in the center, a well of muddy
water - well we camped here - after our
dry and tiresome ride - of course we
had some water with us - here we
found some Mexicans - who had some
fruit - melons - we invested and had
a treat before breakfast, this was our
first - a Mexican generally ^{or it} is the
customary way - to convey goods, on an
animal called a "Burro" - about 3 feet
high is this noble beast - a little pack
saddle on his, or her back - and boxes
bags - trunks, or anything it may
be strapped on this saddle, on each
side, so that the bundles hang on
each side - the pack is larger than the

animal - they carry from two to three
hundred pounds - I'll try and get a
picture of one of them - to make it more
plain an animal of the species of an
ass - "only a Dwarf" - the sandy roads of
this country makes this way of trans-
porting cheap and quick - these trains
go with from twenty to fifty such ^{Animals}
packed with goods, such as would make
or stock a General ^{or it} store - follow ^{right}
along the road, with a Mexican or two
behind them - comes right or down
they unpack these little Dwarfs - let
them run loose - they live on nothing
hardly, and cost but little - they, the
Mexicans - a rough, dirty half dressed
people - sleep right on the ground, and
live on about the same as the Burro's
Wednesday Aug 23rd a repetition of the
previous day - only more sandy - now if
anything is trying or driving mules
next to deep mud - it is sand - they
try & pull - try & pull - then stop -

day warmer - 30 miles and not a drop
of water - found water, and a fair camping
ground - with but little grass - (Ojo-Coliente)

Thursday Aug 24th - about a mile from
~~the~~ Ojo-Coliente - at Hot Sulphur Springs
water came - here we stopped for a
little while, eat melons, and plums -
quite a Hotel, and American spoke -
travel from 12 M until 4³⁰ P.M. - nothing
but a Desert - on we lugged - & only
made 12 miles - camped in low, damp
ground - and we had lots of fun
for we had about a dozen - natives
about half-dressed visit us, and when
we commenced talking about buying
a "Goro" - we had about a half dozen
of the little devils brought to us - we
shot off our fire-arms etc and they
must have had a regular "festival"
but we put off the buying until the
morning - Aug 25th Before Sun - rise

3
the Goro's and the Mexican were about
and I am the owner of a little rascal
(or at least the owner) that of only 3 years
of age, and when I got on his back
I can stretch my toes to the ground
can and has carried Mac - who is of
my height and weight and myself on
his back - we have had lots of fun
with him, but he is troublesome
and we talk of disposing of him - as
we have to look after him - the road
was sandy and we made very slow
progress - I pushing mules - coming to
the "Rio Grande" river quite late, we were
unable to find the Ford, and camped
Saturday Aug 26th clear & cool - found
river very high, and got a Mexican
to pilot us over - a short way on and
stop at an Indian "Pueblo" - village
civilized and raising large & fine
crops - Valley land - visited some of the

Houses, or Huts, having to climb up a ladder
to get in the Houses as from a scuttle
in the roof - neat clean, but odd, with
a small window only, and filled with
Indian oddities - saw some very fine
looking Indian girls - remained about
2 hours - finding some people who
spoke English - our road was on ^{through}
a good, fair valley, the road being
very fair - only traveled 5 miles to
"Santa Cruz" here we were well taken
care of by the Father whose card I
enclose you - you know two of our party
our Catholics - Romanists - one having letters
generally written, but including any of
the church he may come in contact
and it serves us grandly - we were
well taken care of by the Father, our
Horses put in his Pasture, and we
^{were} furnished with delicacies from his
Garden, shown every attention, and
our stay made very pleasant
Monday Aug 28th Pleasant - up ^{and} off

at 9 AM. Road sandy in places, and
country a little better - nothing of any
interest - only pass a good many
"Boro" pack trains, made Santa Fe
25 miles - about 4 P.M. have to buy wood
and grass here - a very pleasantly situated
city - with a few modern built houses
of wood and handsome grounds, most
rough hard looking mud huts - Military
Post here - about seven thousand people
business men - all Jews, with but one
or two exceptions - The country, as far
as we have seen it, is poor and
uninteresting, the people - especially
the poorer class live in nothing but
mud huts, with mud roofs, and ^{are} ~~but~~
a low dirty appearing people - have
treated us generally with rudeness
and attention, but they have the
name of being thieves, and will
steal - we never leave our lamp
alone - Some one always remaining
at lamp, to watch things - But we

have had a pleasant trip of it - despite
the sandy roads and rough country -
what a greater portion of the people
subsist on, and how some of them
live on nothing, it's hard to accede -
I hardly think ^{we} will go further South
as we can hardly find anything
to benefit us - I will write you of
our trip from here - well Fitzpatrick
who is an old Soldier - has been
back a short time and is talking ^{over}
old times - besides I have about
spent my year - with lots of love to
all - Remembrance to Aunt Mary & all
her folks - have not rec'd any letter
from you in some time, but it's, or
they are somewhere, and I will get
them surely from time to time - with
love to Father - tall and a double
share for yourself - from your son

Alfred

Rev'd John Joseph Lucian Remuzon.

Santa Cruz - New Mexico