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Dear Mother -

Dear Mother - your letter dated 7th inst in answer to mine from Pueblo - came to hand on our return here from a limited trip to the San Juan Country - taking up a little hurried Synopsis of our trip from my last letter at Conejos will perhaps be about the best & most interesting way - Aug-2^d Broke camp about noon - out of town about 2 miles & a very heavy rain - but that's nothing - we stopped the wagon as the rain was beating directly from the front & siding around to the storm. the side curtains protecting the wagon or the goods from rain - we boys on Horseback huddled our horses as close up to the wagon as possible - a little damp, but the rain soon stopped, & we were on our way again - the sun coming out bright, we were soon dried off made about 15 miles, having to calculate on good water, grass & camping ground - got into camp early - by a pleasant stream of water & but a short distance

the wagon a few ³ feet to the right
thick outside the trees. with a
water keg. a saddle or two - some
saddle blankets & a few scattered
articles lay closely by. on blankets
buffalo robes our hands and near
by the tent to our - near by the
tent, lying on top of little boxes
lays our silver box - we are carrying
systematic - containing - the plates -
the cups - forks - knives - carrying
three large spoons with a few etc
they have been washed & are put
away until needed - on one tree
hangs a coat, three hump a duck
cloak - three lays three pairs of
boots - belonging to the whole party
your correspondent - my dress
consists of a band about 3 feet
long - a piece of pret nailed to a
tree - as a reel on ^{the} end - a box for
a seat, lined on one end - a pillow
blanket as an acorn - with the
other end of beaver resting on one
tree - and fire away - now one
of our party is sitting facing ^{another}
tree, having himself in my patent
desk - writing to his fire - major
domo, as he calls himself, or himself -

(4)

the messenger man of the party, has
just come up from the water -
which is only about 8 feet off
& later the hot water - he is
giving his stockings, hats & some
pieces a new setting, wash day
with him - laugh has some to turn
& everything at this moment is
quiet on the ottoman - soon the
trubbling trifling of the water -
but, how I have some seeing from
the corner of my lute standing
you back again to the water
around the I will try & find
the time between then there -
August 14th Reached at the north
with the late Indian broke camp
about 10 a.m. leaving camp
road good & sunny down about 9³⁰
hours of the the ground - along the
& sparkling - with camp about 8 p.m.
wagon wheel gap - a pass - made
in by mountains
Tuesday Aug 15th start about 9 a.m.
up thorow - rough & good road at
times - still ascending - sunny
ground - mountains & clouds of clouds
and a white - snow capped hills & clouds

(2)
from an American's Ranch, where
we got milk & butter - Aug. 3 - broke
camp at 10^{am} - 20 miles without
water - dry & uninteresting country
cactus & sand - took lunch alongside
a rippling brook - American Ranch
milk & crackers - reaching Del Norte
about 6 P.M. making 37 miles ^{this day}
Del Norte - quite a lively town sup-
ported by mining towns population
about 900 - our camp situated on
the banks of the Rio Grande about
as clear & fine a body of water
as flows through any of the Western
Country - rocky bottom & inhabited
by mountain or speckled trout -
a sort of hollow square surrounded
on all sides by a grove of trees - the
opening - answering for pasture
for the horses &c. - being about
two acres large - our tent set within
six feet of the bank of the river -
breakfast is over about two hours - the stove
set under, or in the midst of the
trees - with a large pan of hot
water on - the skillet & coffee pot
lay near by - a large tin pail -
dipper & the two tin plates belonging
to the cook lay near by the stove