

6-2-1865

Richard Baxter Foster Letter to his wife June 2 1865

Richard Baxter Foster

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Brownsville Texas

June 2 1863-

My Dearest,

A mail is going out from here in an hour or two. to Brazos. and I will send you a word.

I suppose there is a mail for us at Brazos but it has not got up yet.

The mail for the General's Headquarters came in today by some officer who came up from Brazos I did not think the mail of other folks was of sufficient consequence for him to bring it.

My health is perfectly good. We are camped on high dry smooth ground and the men are at work today fixing shades. We are right on the bank of the Rio Grande.

I have not a very good place to work having a shade but no wind breaker or dust breaker. & having my hands full of writing the details from Col

Barrett's Headquarters coming thick and fast - it is not so pleasant as it might be, but I am doing very well and thinking all the time of the time when I will go home and so better. If I had been any where else but in Texas I would have been on the way before now but we are in the presence of an enemy and our army cannot be discouraged by the officers having till this is time to make arrangements.

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I was over in Matamoros yesterday & bought a pair of fine boots \$6.00 above \$7.50 & 3 nice flannel shirts for \$5.00 all of which came at about half the price they would cost in New Orleans. There are large stocks of goods in Matamoros brought there to sell into Texas for cotton & that door is now shut. Affairs also in Mexico are not so stable as they might be.

Col Barrett is applying himself very energetically to a thorough cleaning of Brownsville in order to avoid sickness. It was the dirtiest town I ever saw

when we came here.

The car cases of dead animals in the very streets a little to the edge of town but within smelling distance of the heart of the village were allowed to lie on the ground and decay.

Southern aristocrats, well dressed, and in once one case still keeping his dandy cane in his hands. as well as all other classes & shades can now be seen daily at work cleaning the streets under the influence of bayonets proudly & faithfully carried by colored soldiers.

Capt Dubois has charge of this work and a big belly & pompous air in some old slaveholder don't do any good with him.

The river is about 100 yards wide here and since I have been writing a crowd of Mexican men & women have been swimming just across.

Still I am faithfully

Yours
Baxter