

Richard Baxter Foster Letters to his Wife

[All indentions are meant to reflect those found in the original letter.]

Brownsville Texas

June 2

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 [] get. 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 consequences 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

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Barrets 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 do better. If I had been any where else but in Texas I would have been on the [] before now but we are in the presence of the enemy and our army cannot be disorganized by the officers having tell [] is true to make arrangements.

I was [] in Matamosos yesterday & bought a pair of fine boots \$6.00 a blouse \$7.50 & 2 nice flannel shirts \$5.00 all of which came at about half the price they would cost in New Orleans. There are large stacks of goods in Matamosos 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 [] energetically to a thorough cleaning of Brownsville in order to avoid sickness It was the dirtiest town I ever saw

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when one came here.

The carcasses of dead animals in the [] 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 [] the streets under the influence of bayonets proudly & faithfully carried by colored soldiers.

Capt Dubois has charge of this [] and a big bully & powpow air in some old slaveholder [] do any good with him.

The river is about 150 yards [] here and since I have been writing a crowd of Mexican men & woman have been in swimming just across.

Still I am faithfully

Your

Baxter