

Natchitoches Dec. 13th 1835-

My Dear Martha

About 20. Minutes ago I landed at this place safely after considerable toil. About 20 men from Tennessee joined our squad at Memphis who all landed safely at the mouth of Red River. Majr Eaton & Lady were on board the Pacific to whom I suppose I was favourably introduced by Mr. Childers. from that however or from some other reason Gov. Eaton paid me the most friendly & assiduous attention. Mrs. Eaton is moderately intelligent extremely affable in her manners & never could have been overly handsome. I have not met with a more amiable & agreeable man than the Governor. By his persuasion a Majr. Arnold from Tennessee (a copy of Genl. Arnold) & myself left the rest of our company at the mouth of Red river & went down to Orleans for the purpose of learning the true state of things in Texas as well as which would be the best probable route. The result was that the war is still going on favourably to the Union, but it is thought that Santa Ana will make a descent with his whole forces in the Spring. but there will be soldiers enough of the real grit in Texas by that time to overrun all Mexico. The only danger is in starvation for the impulse to Texas both as

to soldiers & moving families exceeds any thing I have
ever known. I have little doubt but that the Army will
receive ample supplies from Orleans both of provisions
& munitions of war as the people of Texas have found
themselves into something like a government which will
give them credit in Orleans. I have had many glowing
descriptions of the Country by those who have been there.

Be of good cheer my Dear Martha I am determined
to provide a home in this delightful climate or perish
in the pursuit. We have between 400. & 500. miles to
foot it to the seat of war for we can not get horses
but we have sworn allegiance to each other & will
get along some how. Bodily sufferings I regard
not they seem indeed rather to alleviate than
augment my sorrows. For instance the Steam
Boat Caspian one of the most splendid & swiftest
boats in the western trade which we took from
Orleans up the Red River ran against a tree
at the dead hour of the night & the shock shivered
the side on which I was lying in my berth into
splinters & while others were screaming in frantic terror
I was as cool & undismayed as I ever was at any
moment of my life. The truth is I am desperate
but not mad. The best condition one can be in
for the enterprise I have undertaken. The small pox
has recently broke out here very bad but I fear the
Tavern like a great deal worse. such charges never
were heard of & we have to stay here probably
several days before we can procure a conveyance
for our baggage I suppose we shall join & buy a wagon

Write to me to this place all the letters you send
by mail. perhaps the general intercourse from here
to Texas will enable me to get them conveniently.
Write me in Texas by every private opportunity & I will
do the same. Tell Mr Smith & brother Jack to write
me. I send this by Mr Sevier who promises to put
it in the post office at Bolivar or Middleburg. Oh how
it makes my heart sink to write those names. but enough
farewell my Dearest Martha kiss my precious children
for me & give my tender love to Amelia & Mr Smith

M. A. F. T. W.

P.S. The company of young men that left
Jackson before I did passed through here
about 30 days ago. Charles Haskell got into
a fracas with a man & killed him in this
town. stood his trial was acquitted &
they have all gone on to St. Antonio the
seat of war. Charles was not in fault I
learn

M. A.

3
Mrs. Martha M. Astor
Middleburg
Warren County
Tennessee