

~~1856-57~~

January or February

1857

39. Original

Part of the letter beginning is missing and with no date.

for the whole Community. But now that Will has you altogether to himself, I fear he will cover you with his eyes. There will be some at Fort Hamilton to shield you. Sedge has gone: I am away. Seosin (?) is married. Send him riding up the river road. Perhaps he may be attacked by his former thirst. That will be some respite. Our old friend Col Church is also gone. You must remember me very kindly to all the Stantons, & our former friends. I shall think of you & them very often this summer & wish to be with you. I can tell you nothing of the officers here perhaps, but what you already know. Capts Hills & Dawson Compy 1st Arty compose the garrison. Col: Frank Taylor in command. They all seem to be much pleased with (page 2) with their station & to be very happy. All the ladies, Miss Sallie & Mary Taylor, Mrs Dawson & Mrs Minis have their ponies & ride nearly every day. The gentlemen have theirs also & they form a gay party. A cloud of sorrow now rests over the garrison which I hope time will soon dissipate. Col: Taylors two boys, Alfred & Sydney, whom you may know, were out riding the other evg when Alfreds horse ran away. He maintained his self-possession & succeeded in stopping him, & had turned back to meet Syd_ following with his Cafs (?). His horse suddenly dashed off again & in turning a corner of a street in B_ threw him. The back of his head struck a wooden curb of the pavement. His father was walking in B_ & saw him fall. The Dr soon reached him & he was brought into the garrison. In four hours he breathed (page 3) his last! I was said of old, "whom the Gods love, die early," & in this instance I believe it so. I had seen much of him, & admired his amiability, intelligence & rectitude. He was not quite 14. The early part of life was just opening. He has been saved the care labours & Sorrow, that would have grown as it advanced, & only terminated with its night. But it is a severe blow to his father & sisters, with whom it seems he was the favorite. Lt Graham too, son of Col: James Graham, of the Topos (?) has heard of the death of his brother. I cannot boast myself of great buoyancy of spirits, as our cares seem to increase with years, & mine are at this time unecessarily aggravated by the indisposition of my good dame, & my inability to relieve her. She has been suffering with rheumatism. Has (page 4) recd no relief from the usual remedies, & her malady gave no sign of amelioration at the last accounts. I shall return to Camp Cooper, if this Court ever adjourns, & enjoy its solitude. I hear during my absence, my young Lts: have been very successful in their scouts against the Indians. Capt Bradfute, Capt Johnson, Lt Wetherll & Lt Genifer, have each at different times chastised them well, captured their camps, animals etc. More than a dozen were altogether killed, & others wounded. Only two of our men were killed, & three wounded. It is a sad state of society I admit, but at present there is no remedy. Please present me very kindly to your daughters, Mother, the Captain & for yourself accept my best wishes for your health & happiness

Sincerely & truly yours

R E Lee

Mrs H. W. Barry