

Fort Davis, Texas.

July 29, 1878.

My dear Father,

I am again at Fort Davis having arrived yesterday at 10 P. M. after a 15 days' scout. I have been out in the Guadalupe Mountains. My diary written in pencil, on the March packet I forward herewith, is as detailed an account of my experiences ~~as~~ as you will care to read. It appears that I was sent out on a false report. I found no fresh trail.

On the 26 we reached Victoria, having marched about 40 miles. We had to

FORT STOCKTON, July 8th, 1878.

Editors San Antonio EXPRESS:

SIRS—On the 27th of June a telegraphic communication, signed "Subscriber," was forwarded to the San Antonio *Herald* and published in that paper of the 28th, in reference to the late attack on the stage coach.

The scurrilous dispatch contained some very severe strictures on the conduct of the officers, and of such a nature as to seriously damage their well earned reputation as soldiers and men of honor.

For the last six months scouts have been continually in the field, and no pains have been spared by the military authorities of this district to keep the frontier clear of Indians and to repress lawlessness generally.

The Lieutenant referred to as being encamped at the Adobe Walls is a young man who has worked heart and soul since his coming to Fort Stockton to secure this desirable end, and at the time referred to in "Subscriber's" dispatch, was making a forced march, in order to intercept the Indians who had wounded the cow boy and the man on Torre's Ranche, and had just made camp after a hard ride of 50 miles.

We, the undersigned citizens of Pecos County, desire therefore to express our sincere regret that such an unwarranted and vicious attack has been made on the military authorities and also to assure the military authorities and the public generally that it is our firm conviction that no citizen of Pecos county has made, or possibly could make, such untrue and utterly false statements in reference to the very men whom we personally respect and to whom we owe our peace and prosperity on this frontier. In conclusion we cannot but express our surprise and regret that the *Herald* should have thought fit to publish such false and injurious statements from an anonymous correspondent.

Yours truly

M. F. CORBETT,
FRANCIS ROONEY,
G. M. FRAZER,
CESARIO TORRES,
JAMES JOHNSON,
JOHN M. GANDY.

The Pestiferous Reds.

A letter from Fort Davis to a gentleman of this city says:

"Indians are so infernally bad around here that it is dangerous to send any money to San Antonio. Yesterday there was a man brought in from a coal camp killed by the Indians. McIntire lost two horses by them. Indians are seen almost every day around the post."

Murders in the West.

Mr. O. M. Keesey, of Fort Davis, now in this city, has received a letter from Davis dated the 7th inst., which gives an account of two murders. One is the killing of Tom Howard, a discharged soldier, at Louis Latham's dance house on the night of the fourth by a soldier. Another the killing of a Mexican on the evening of the fifth, by Indians, about four miles from Davis.

make that distance to get water.

Being unable to get provisions at Victoria
I had to come into Davis for them
last night. The roads were very bad
~~in account~~ in consequence of late rains
which made the trip to this post
a hard and a long one. The distance is
3.5 miles.

I am living, now, with Lieut.
Wilson of the 25th Infantry, the Post
Adjutant and taking my meals with
Col. Andrews & family. On the day
after tomorrow I shall start out for
Stockton and get there on the 31st.

Good bye

More later, love to all
Your affectionate Son
John Bigelow

P.S. As no mail went East yesterday from
this post, I kept this letter to add a
few words to it today. The rumor is
afloat again that we, the 10th Cav., are
going to Fort Sill in Indian Territory.
The 8th Cav. it is said, will take our
place. Col. Grierson would like the change
and so would I. There is said to be
chills & fever at Fort Sill, which is the
only objection to ~~the post~~ ^{that station} that I know of.
It is ^a much more civilized, more attractive,
~~and~~ better provisioned and larger post
than Stockton.

I send you a few clippings from
the San Antonio Express.

The letter is a reply to an anonymous communication about which I wrote to Gsa. It accused me, although not by name, of having been idle at Adobe Walls while ~~my~~ duty was calling me ^{to} action. I shall try to get it & send it to you.

Part of it I have seen in the New York Herald but, ^{not} that which referred to me.

It looks very much as if one of the signers of the denial were the writer of the scurrilous dispatch. The pressure of public opinion ^{forced} ~~forced~~ him to choose between signing his name to a lie and leaving the place. I am led to suppose this from a comment made by the San Antonio Herald upon the reply. I have not yet seen it. The Herald, no doubt, knows who "Subscriber" is so the latter is ~~not~~ properly called an anonymous correspondent. I have been thinking of suing the paper for libel.