

August the 15<sup>th</sup>

My dear Miss Harriet.

Your very kind note has just been rec'd, and I hasten to tell you I am in favor of the Montreal & Quebec route, or indeed taking the whole of Canada - for annexation is my watch word – I have written to Laura on the subject, and asked for her answer without delay – that we may not be hurried by the cold weather, but avail ourselves of any route or pleasure fancy may dictate \_

I have just rec'd a letter from Clemmie giving some very explicit directions about planting spinach, water cresses, lettuce & etc, also insisting upon my borrowing a fork & spoon from Mrs. Trumbull.

Tis very funny but how astonished she will be when I tell her that I had two gentlemen to breakfast the other morning & did it capitally – we had but two spoons but one of the party did not take sugar in his coffee so that my Lammermoor housekeeping was not observed –

A soldier's life is one of expedients.

General Harney's married daughter & son-in-law are here, just from France, & not withstanding the alliance he cannot speak a word of English.

She is a fat dumpy chubby little thing, looks for all the world like a french [sic] doll, but seems very good natured he is what you may imagine a young French midshipman might be \_ They are en route to Saint Louis, she having a large property in her own right \_ & I judge from his phiz [physiognomy ?], he is going to look after it \_

15 Aug /56 at Pleasanton

I saw Colonel Geary the new Governor of Kansas yesterday, he seems to be well advised, & if he carries out his present intentions – there will be no more trouble in that quarter.

I shall leave this as soon as I possibly can after congress adjourns – may be next Wednesday or Thursday –

Tell your Uncle we will all work for him when we return, if he consents to your going –

I was told yesterday that the black republicans in Congress would finally recede from their position insisting upon the removal of the troops from Kansas.

Yours with great regard

Alfred

