

Fort Polk – Point Isabel
Texas 14th May 1846

My Dear Sir,

As the news from the seat of war must interest you, I write to you, not as a soldier or a politician but as an old friend.

General Taylor has been with us in this camp for two days, and I have been constantly with him, acting as interpreter to his prisoner General LaVega who, left here yesterday for New Orleans.

General Taylor with his officers and soldiers are all in the greatest spirits after their victories on the 8th and 9th called here, the battles of Palo Alto and Rio Grande. Genl. T has had a consultation with Commodore Conner, who came on shore to meet him for that purpose. A plan of joint operations has been decided upon. Our sailors and seaman are re-embarked, their services being no longer required here. Volunteers are arriving rapidly from Texas - Louisiana & Alabama.

This morning General Taylor returned to his camp opposite Matamores [sic]. He left with 700 men all mounted upon the horses of his baggage train and the mules captured from the enemy at the battle of Rio Grande. They included however 100 excellent mounted Texans just arrived. Early in the morning our squadron of 3 Frigates 3 Corvettes & 2 brigs will get under way and anchor off the mouth of the Rio Grande. At that point two steamers will join us with 500 troops of the line where the marines and sailors will unite with them and proceed up the river towards Matamoros.

Your friend Captain Sanders of the Engineers is with us and will select a cite [sic] for a ferry or light bridge to transport the troops on the south side of the river below Matamoros.

General Taylor with the main army will cross the river tomorrow about 8 miles above the town and establish himself in breastworks on the road between Matamoros and the City of Mexico, so as to cut off all communication between the enemy and their Government - General Taylor told me that he would not attempt an attack upon M- until he felt confident of success, but as he is very enthusiastic; the time will soon arrive. The enemy in M- number near 10,000 and are very short of provisions- There are many deserters daily and every day will weaken their force

Captain Sanders will commence operations with his 500 men to entrench to protect the bridge or ferry, which will be established- These plans of operations were given to me confidentially by General Taylor himself, and I have not even mentioned them to my Captain. I have rarely met with a man with whom I have been so much pleased as with Genl. T. and I feel assured our Army is, when in his command in safe hands. The President will not be disappointed in the confidence which he has placed him.

I enclose a rude sketch of the grounds of operations. They may assist you in getting some idea of the position of all parties.

We are all well, the wounded 86 in number are doing well and you may be assured that for 5 days & nights I have not been idle.

Your old fd[friend] & obt[obedient] servt[servant]
J.M. Foltz

Hon. James Buchanan
Secretary of State



LancasterHistory

On Reverse:

14 May 46. Dr. Foltz—with a plan of the battle ground

