

Elizabethtown New Jersey
September the 13th 1857

Dear Parents

I received your letter of August the nineteenth on the seventh of this month and was glad to find that you were all well. I am well at present and I hope that these few lines will find you in the same state of health.

In answer to your question as to Nicaragua and its products I am not so well informed as I could wish. It has as many different kind of soils as can be found in any country but is mostly a rich black sandy soil and in some places very rocky and hilly. Almost everything grows there that grows in the tropics and cotton grows as heavy there as in Louisiana, the only cotton I saw however was in a wild state but was very large and fine figs of which you were particular grow there in the greatest abundance the trees putting fourth successive crops for nine months in the year I have seen plenty in Louisiana figs will grow as for north as Natches Mississippi Corn Sugar Cane in its greatest perfection. Coffee Indigo Mangroves fine apples, oranges, apples, lemons, citrous, grapes peaches, currants, punkins, melons, Tobacco, India Rubber, Plantains, Bananas, yams, cacao nuts, oats, wheat, barley, rice &c. &c. all gro and a thousand other productions that I never saw or heard of before all grow to the greatest perfection.

I saw any amount of monkeys and baboons and as to game the woods as full of wild tiger cats and catamounts Ichumens, Armaidillos and around the lake there are plenty of deer the Ichumen is almost like a lizard and grows to the length of three and a half feet and is as good to eat as any thing I ever tasted. There are some enormous snaix in Nicaragua I saw one sixteen feet long and eight inches thick and some of the men saw one at least twenty five feet long. There is a kind of parrot called the macaw which grows as large as a large hen which is very good to eat. It is the Carrosow of south America snd there is Toucans and a dozen other spices of parrots &c.

There is not expedition on foot that I know of and I can say that I am not going back until another onset is made under favorable auspices.

As to my "care" in my first battle. I felt quite uncomfortable until the firing commenced and then I cooled down.

As to the Greaser I almost run against at Castillo, he did not see me till he got directly opposite and the hill was so steep that he could not slope and my rifle would not go off and I "let him miss" and cleared out myself.

I do not think Titus was bribed by Col. Cauty for he had no chance for communication and he was so badly seared after the retreat that once could easily see that there was no mixed work in it I do not believe though that he is to good to be bribed. I cannot describe general Walker and I never conversed with him. He acts as though every body were his equals though he knows that they are not and you know this gives him a lofty dignity.

I can scarcely tell how I felt in the hard storm between Greytown and Santiago. I was just getting well from my burns and was in an unsociable mode for the infernal british sailors jeered me so for being a filibuster and for having to give up the river and I could not reply for I did not wish to show them bad and disgusting manners by hinting of certain times and places when they had to knock under from very different circumstances. So I kept close in my berth and I had an easy time generally and did not care whether the schooner kept on top of the water or on top of the bottom.

As to your last question I have not drank any yet and as to gambling I cannot risk my judgement on cards but I can play cards in two games and can chew tobacco which is the worst things I have learned.

Mother is right in saying that I have not got her feelings and I would be sorry if had just asked her how I would be able to face the sterne realities of the world if I want not made of sterner stuff than she is.

Your son,

E. S. Baker

E. S. Baker Collection, Manuscripts and Folklife Archives, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY.