

Know nothing fear nothing. I have pretty good evidence of knowing nothing for I have not as yet feared any danger, and yet I believe I do know that appearances are not only suspicious but even threatening.

The friendly Indians tell us we should not under any circumstances be out after sundown, or early in the morning, nor at any distance from a place of safety alone during the day. Though as I said I have no ~~personal~~ fears as to my personal safety, I feel best to write these things to you, as the future is veiled, that you may not be unprepared for any news you might receive from this land. There is no doubt that the Cheyennes and the Comanches are determined on bloodshed, and very likely the same may be said of part of the Kiowas but not all.

And we know that there is a power which rules the whole earth and can control the actions even of these heathen savages, and I can but hope - I had almost said believe - that these bloodthirsty designs will yet be thwarted and overruled. But should they not be, I have no design of leaving the post of duty assigned me before the time that I am looking towards as probably the time of my release, I hope it may be, but hardly dare to hope it as yet. Still I am not looking to an immediate return to this country after going home this time. Though I may sometime. I know not so I cannot write now. I fully expect to start for home the fore part of next month but still I do not look towards it with such feelings as I once did, yet would rejoice to rest at home with my most precious wife and family and feel my poor mind released from its exercise on account of this poor deluded people. It seemed ~~that~~ as though my visit home last summer did me but little good on account of the almost constant exercise of my mind on their account, and now if my health would permit I would rather remain in the field until my mind felt fully clear than to come home loaded with exercise which would cling to me if I come before the time.

But in view weak state of health my friends recommend my not being here during the hottest part of the summer,. Jonathan Richards, J, D, Hoag and both the Doctors of this and the Wichita Agency think I had better go home as soon as satisfactory arrangements can be made to effect it, which will be pretty soon after the close of this month. Now I have writing right along a little of this and a little of that until my sheet is nearly full and I do not feel as though I had written anything worth sending away or paying postage on, yet as tomorrow morning is time for the mail to leave and it has to be got to the office tonight I shall send it along rather than miss sending anything,. With my love to you all, Charley and Ruth, my dear Parents on both sides, brothers sisters etc. I remain as ever your father and thy husband, Thomas C, Battey. Would Richards or Fathers like for me to bring them a good robe or two? if so I will procure them, but will not bring any on uncertainties.

No. 38

6Th Mo. 22nd, 1874

My ever Dear and Most Precious Wife and Children:-

For some cause my mails come very irregular, seldom getting your letters under ten or twelve days from date of mailing. I have received none since No. 37 mailed the 9th inst. which came to hand a day or two since. I am still in at the Agency. Health much as when I wrote last. I have no news of importance to write but knowing that you would be uneasy about me if I do not write often I have taken my pen for the purpose of keeping you informed as to my whereabouts. The weather is very hot, night and day. I do not sleep in the house at all, and have not for a long time.

The Indians about here are quiet, but yet the sky is far from clear. The Kiowas are having or about to have their great Medicine Dance about one half as far away as they had it last year, and you may see by this that I am not there, and am not likely to be. They report the Cheyennes gone farther Northwest, and we learn by the papers that depredations are being committed by the