

Very important
copy or length

Copied

Fort Smith Aug: 27th 1858

My Dear Co.

I arrived at this place two weeks ago to day - since which ~~since~~ I have been confined most of my time with the "infernal Rheumatic pains" - but am glad to say to you to day that I am much better, how long I will stay, so I can't tell, I need say nothing to you about the disease as you have ^{had} it so long that you understand it in all its variations - & can fully sympathize with me in my afflictions.

I should of written to you immediately on my arrival here but could ^{get} ~~nothing~~ definite from our Camp, or the condition of the Country or in the vicinity of the 100° W. L. until the present moment - at least such news as I looked upon as reliable, and even the news that I have received I

reason report so ambiguous - he says they are staying in Texas
your camp after Mr. arrived from he was in Texas
look upon as being magnified
about "four fold" though you know
what a humbug they can make of small
matters in this part of the world when
they set out to do it.

The intelligence is from Mr. Jones
at Fort Arbuckle dated 17th inst -
at which place he had just arrived -
after completing the Creek & Seminole
boundary - & was at the ^{time} awaiting the
arrival of the Leams & party at the
Fort - which ^{he} expected on the 21st inst. The
98th is also completed - satisfactorily
to the Commissioners. Mr. J. says in
his letter from the best information
he can get that there is some four
or five thousand Comanches & Apaches
in the vicinity of the "Autlope Hill",
& that the friendly Indians say they are
hostile, & intend to make war generally
on the frontier, & more particularly
on the Texas Frontier - Of this report
I am disposed to look upon with

God bless you - he looked upon most of
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doubt - for this reason - That I have
not with all my acquaintance with the
Comanches, ever known them to form
a league with any other band of Indians,
for any purpose whatever - Secondly -
that their numbers are over-rated -
As they never go in so large parties or
bands - at least I have never known
them to do so - for you know that
it would be impossible for them
to subsist themselves unless they re-
-orted to their Carneyards, if they traveled
in parties so large - & they could not
last them long - thus the necessity
of smaller bands - so they can subsist
themselves as game - Mr Comanche
don't like to kill a domesticated ^{animal}, any
more than we do ^{if} he can avoid it.
thus you remain without further com-
-ent - Mr J. will be here about Sunday
next - 29th - & then we will prepare for
The survey of 100° - It will ^{say} ^{you} to that we
will see it, or you will hear of us

having some pretty little Comanche
fights - in attempting to do so.

I would like to hear from
you relative to the Surveys that the
Choctaw & Chickasaw people wish done,
as it is important us that we should
learn at the earliest possible ^{time} - If we
could go at it now we would draw
up our party until we could learn
or find out something about these Comanche
hostilities - look into this matter as we
shall soon be ready to go at your
work if you wish it done.

There is one Company of Infantry
at Fort Arbuckle Comanded by Capt
French - this makes the people feel
secure in that neighbourhood - Genl
Cooper was here a few days ago - he was
with our party on the 9th - he saw no wild
Indians - & all that he knows of matters further
west is report - such ^{as} I have gave you. Jones
writes me that he has not lost an animal, or
seen a hostile Indian - "this" "big luck".
I will write you again when Jones comes in - Hoping
this will reach you in good health - I am very Respectfully
A mile known

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