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MC200: Folder 12: Mother [Francis Carr Fowler], July 29, 1898

*This transcription from the original letter contains language contemporaneous of the time and is being presented as part of a historical record.*

Santiago July 29 /98

Dear Mother:

I received the letter May and the girls sent me and as it was the first word I have had from home since I have been in Cuba it was very welcome.

I am glad that you went to the country and know that you must have enjoyed it very much.

Everything is quiet here since the surrender and our work consists of guarding the prisoners which number about 15000. We have them in a valley just outside of Santiago and as our government is feeding them better than they have been fed in some time they cause us very little trouble.

The country around this part of the island is mountainous and is the most beautiful place I was ever in. Everything that grows would thrive here as the soil is very fertile and if cultivated would be very valuable land.

The city of Santiago is very old and is several centuries behind the times. The streets are about 12 ft. wide and the stores along the business part have windows with heavy iron bars and no glass and look like prisons. The only places that are open are a few café's and a hardware store. Our fleet did considerable damage in the town in one place a danymite [dynamite] shell wiped out an entire block of stores.

There is a great deal of sickness in the Spanish camp and several deaths occur daily from fever. If it was not for the heat and fever in this country it would be an ideal place to live it.

We expect to have the Spanish out of here inside of the next 10 days and as soon as we get rid of them we will get on the transports and from the talk at present will be landed somewhere in Maine.

There is very little serious sickness in our regiment but about half of the men are under the weather and have a touch of malaria fever. I however have been fortunate so far and feel fine and if I continue in my present good health will have no kick [illegible].

Every thing is so different here from any thing that I ever saw before that I could keep writing all day and not tell you very much so I will close and tell you all about the country when I get home.

Your loving Son,  
Herb

P.S. just received yours of the 12th [illegible]  
address in the field