Clarksville, Texas
Aug 25th 1874.

Foster, Sudlow & Co

Gents. I have had, sometime, a communication from Mr Valentine, who desires that I should establish his identity & writes facts to convince me.

But there are two difficulties. I do not recollect Mr Valentine, as I fail to recollect many of a Battalion of 183 men. He recites such incidents as induce me to believe he was one of them; still those incidents might have been obtained from the recital of some one else.

But these difficulties being overcome, I do not perceive how I can certify that this gentleman, who is in California, is the Mr Valentine who may have been a member of that expedition, as I have not seen this gentleman in California. It is not