Mexican prisoners and accordingly ordered the Colonel Fourth Maryland Volunteers, stationed at Harrisburgh to furnish me with 25 Mexicans, and about 10 or 12 days thereafter, I received 21 of the most miserable cadaverous looking wretches that ever graced the earth, one third of whom were actually sick; one third had been sick, and the other third small and weak and not all efficient. Major Lawrence also lent an Engineer to repair and run the Engine. I immediately put all the well Mexicans to work to chop wood and log, when in the course of two weeks I had not a well Mexican on the premises, except the cook. I administered medicine to them and succeeded in breaking the fever for a while, but their strength returned not, and they were occasionally subject to relapses and always after became unfit for service: Ten of them died, and 3 ran away, and have not been seen or heard of since: the balance I was compelled to send down to the island to the inhabitants from whom they had been taken, refused to receive them back again. I have been taken ill of the fever myself in the month of August, and during my family, my wife which confined her bed with the disease of which she died. I have had chills and fevers off and on ever since, not escaping them more than 3 or 4

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