

Chinchia islands May 24th 1861

Dear Mother

I should have wrote by the last mail but I put it off till the night before it went and then I had to go in the boat so I had no chance but to be shure I will write two days before this time. I am in first rate health and am very glad to hear that you will enjoy the same blessing at home. Uncle Charles arrived in Callao last week. Father had <sup>promised</sup> him last Tuesday. he is I believe very well pleased with his ship. we commenced loading a fortnight ago and only have in about 250 tons of guano now we cant get any at all hardly and we shall not get it so fast next week we shall be here two months longer I think it is an awful place to lay two months in I will tell as well as I can what sort of a place it is it is three little islands about one quarter as big as cusins island on one is about a dozen wooden houses they are called and a hundred bamboo shantes where the chinamen lives who work the guano so you know what sort of a place the chinchia

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and shoot every man he sees that is in  
favor of the secession of the southern states  
no matter if it is murder it is no harm  
in my way thinking I wish we were out of this  
place I want to get home to see little Bertha  
I wish you and she were with us. I have  
wrote you everything I know of so I must close.

frome your affectionate son  
J M Dillingham

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