

Austin

Aug. 12th 1854

Dear Sterling

I have been waiting to have something definite to write you. On yesterday at 12 o'clock the parties signed the contract for building the Pacific Road. The terms are nearly set forth in the lang. The additional provisions you will see in the paper. The editorial was examined and approved by all parties, so you may put that down as semi-official at least.

Oldham has bought out Scurry.

I anticipate taking service with the rangers.

I can give no information of the places the Road will cross the Trinity, Brazos and Colorado rivers, though, I think, near the 32nd degree of latitude. You must watch the surveyor for that.

I have no other news.

Your friend

John S. Ford

Col. E. S. C. Robertson

Mr. S. Ford
Aug 12/54

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]