The last two or three days I have felt stronger and have more nurse for my darling babe.

Well, go and do your duty and visit the stake you mentioned and I pray God to bless you, preserve your health and give you success in that labor.

With Love,
Mattie.

[Letter 85: Avery to Owen]

[*no letterhead, handwritten*]

Colonia Juarez
June 1, 1904.

Dear Ivan÷

We just got the dreadful news that you have the small-pox. I am quite ill but will endeavor to write. You will likely all have them wont you ~~are~~ is the whole company exposed? I am so sorry it happened, it will no doubt keep you there a month longer. If there is any possible way let us know how you are often, and we can write to you all the time. Little Rhoda is almost sure to have them after nursing her mother, what a horrible thing.

I have been sick and nervous. The day you say Helen took sick I was my worst and was feeling badly too. Elder Duffin came in and talked to me a long time and accounted for your not writing.

The children are perfectly well and tell Helen not to worry about them one bit. We haven't much to do but take care of ourselves and we ought to do that well I should think. And don't worry about me, I am up and around and am stronger now than when you left.

The stove draws better since we cleaned it out. I sent all your mail to Cuidad Juarez.

May the Lord hear and answer our prayers at this time and heal dear Helen and keep the rest of you from having it. I do hope dear that you don't take sick and little Rhoda.

May God bless you, O may He be mindful of you all in that affliction.

With love to you and Helen
Avery.

P.S. Is it the black small-pox?