

George Fearing Hollis Papers

1852 - 1903

MSS.471

Hollis, Eliza A. (aka Lizzie) (nee Simmons) (wife)



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but we'd very soon
when we finally had
I felt so badly I could
not conceal our elation
I am losing all of
my flesh & can't eat
too bad, I haven't any
appetite I hope I'll
am not going to
dick as I most look
spring. Please take
what you care of
yourself. I do hope
you will be able
to come home soon
I desire of you very
often and I feel
so full of love in the
moment to write
and think it over
put a stream. It is
late so I will bid you
good night with much
love & affection

Wednesday evening, Charlie and Nellie rode
out here and I returned to Chelsea with them
it was miserable sleighing and we did not
arrive at 8 - until half past eleven, a week ago
today (Friday) I went to Roxbury with a few
folks John, Henry & Carrie Holms went, we
had a fine time, they spoke of you a number
of times and wished you were there, I should
have been so happy George, if you had been with
me, we had a very nice supper, staid until
eleven o'clock, ~~we had a grand party~~, we filled
a coach, and did not get home until half past
twelve. I was very disappointed while I was at your
house went to bed very late and did not get
up until late (I forgot to inform you I
returned from to Brighton this afternoon)

^{Cousin} consequently I am ^{Bill} very nervous ^{Bill} and ^{Bill} my hand
^{Bill} tumbles so I can hardly write. I must write
you about the ^{Bill} Spand ^{Bill} Bell ^{Bill} Star and I had
last evening, Bell and Star exchanged their
wearing apparel, and I dressed in Turkish
costume, I had a yellow cambric suit ~~and~~
trimmell with blue stars, very full pants
short sack, and a large turban made of
blue and yellow, I took my net off and
let my hair fall over my shoulders, I looked
wild enough I can assure you William said
I looked very sane, Mary Holmes told me
I looked like a merry D — wasn't that a
compliment? I felt grandly in that rig it
was so loose, I sat on the backs of the chairs
instead of the seat, Nellie made a grand
boy as she always does, Esther said she look-
ed like a green boy that had been smitten
with an actress and had ran away with her.
You would have laughed to have seen Tom
suck a tall ornamental girl, he was very excited.

you have
 received
 your
 goods
 Charles
 Madras
 is with
 packed
 and
 Davis
 with
 from his
 last week
 and he
 picked
 to be
~~from~~
 from
 remembrance
 to you
 when
 I have
 about
 Callist
 I will
 take you
 from
 word
 my
 money

Father asked him if he would sit near
 the register and get warm, his answer was
 "No, I am hot enough" a very lady like answer
 Mr Leonard came home with your mother and
 came very near catching one dressed up, he
 went in the sitting room and I started in
 the parlor and ran up stairs. I got so excited
 and laughed so much, I have had a head
 ache all day. I had a letter from Mother last
 week, Father is no better, and brother Will
 had had another ill turn. I fear he will not
 his health, I am sorry for him, he needs some
 outdoor employment where he can have a plenty
 of fresh air and exercise. John Gardner Son has
 a little son a week old tomorrow I was down
 to George Blakes two or three hours last Sunday
 afternoon had a fine time with the children,
 he has a nice smart boy. fast as cunning as
 he can be. I received two letters from you to
 day one dated Feb 24th the other March
 5th they were both mailed March 10th one

from Dalton on the other from Philadelphia
I cannot inform you in this from many
letters I have received from you for most
of them are up to my Uncle in my trunk
I will count them and let you know the
next time I write I have had your picture
framed in a black ~~maple~~ walnut frame
I think they are prettier than gilt ones, don't
you? William had ~~for~~ a gilt frame, but he liketh
mine the best, I carried it down to Mrs
Dacey's she thought it excellent, she said
she wished she had one just like it, she
wished me to send her one to you. I thought
you took Elizabeth City and it was occupied
by Federal Troops, I think you write in one
of your Mother's letters that you landed at the
city; did you not, the papers state that there is
a large rebel force there now. Please explain
I don't understand it. I was at your house
when your Mother sent you that sheet of
paper, she said she thought I should get a
little mitten on it and if I did she was
going to read it. The other day I called to
see Mr Leonard with you Mother, I think we
were talking about you he turned to me and
said, "Lizzie, I am going to marry you, when
you are married" I told him I was willing
what do you think of that? It was a great deal
harder to part with you this time, it was because
I loved you more, yes, I do love and respect you
more for giving up all for your country although
it was very, very hard to part with you dear George.
If you had left it with me Mother you should go
or stay I would have said so. I know I did

Chelsea July 28th 1861

My Dearest George

I have been to church and to Sunday School today; after Sunday School I called at Mr Dixey, and found them all packed up, ready for a start, they are going to pack their furniture, Mr Dixey and Tommy are going visiting, Annie & ^{her} girl will stay in Chelsea, and board with Carrie Thayer, I hope she will enjoy it. They were very much surprised to hear you had gone, said they were very sorry they could see you before you left. Mrs D has nothing to do at yet, she says if he get any employment they shall come back to Chelsea. I hope you had a pleasant journey and enjoyed yourself. shall expect to hear from you tomorrow. hope I shall not be disappointed;

George; did you think it unkind in me, to give away to my feelings

as I did Friday; but I know you will
forgive me, won't you; if I hadn't felt
so tired and weak, I ~~it~~ could have contacted
my feelings better. I have hemmed nine
handkerchiefs and Stanley hemmed three for
you, tomorrow I will wash and iron them.

Mrs Seefler has ~~it~~ made two ~~it~~ shirts and
has got a pair of drawers to make for you,
I shall remain here until I hear from you
and then I shall return to Brighton.

With your Mother's permission I took that
little trunk you ~~it~~ left on the table,
to keep for you, I wanted it to put
some things in, have you any objections?
Clarice Gillson just came in and told me
to send her love and a kiss, I will send
the love, but not the kiss, I don't like to
mix them. You forgot to take the beautiful
Pink your Mother picked for you, I
pressed it and will send it in this
letter. Rev Henry Leonard preached for
us to day he is going as Chaplain in the
Maine Regiment.

Fae and Bannie have gone to walk
Father is down to John's, Moll is there too
and Stanley is going down and I am
left all alone, I think it too bad. I have
for the last three or four years had
something to worry and trouble me, and
always expect to leave, if I don't get work
next fall I shall have to go to the Poor
House, Mrs Abundia will not need me
when she returns from Augusta, and I
will not live on any of my relations,
they have done too much already, for
my Father's family, and I do not think
it right to stay unless they have enough
for me to do, to pay my board, I am not
strong enough to do hard work, and it will
kill me if I have to sit and sew, as I
have for the last year past, I felt quite
encouraged when I heard Father was so
much better, if he had gone to the war, I
should have gone home and staid with
Mother, for she needs me, but his being

sick again, puts an end to that, do
not blame me for feeling so blue ~~and~~
~~it~~ for I cannot help it, for I feel that I have
no home. Brother William has at most at
he can do to support the family ~~and~~ at home,
and I do not feel that I can go there
and live one him. Pardon me for
writing as I have, but it is just as I feel
I am in a strange mood tonight, my
brain is in a complete whirl.

If I thought
you had any things to trouble you I
should not write in such a strain but as
yours troubles are over, I will let you have
your ~~part~~ of mine though I do not think
it will trouble you much for you will
have something else to think of.
Yours

Father says he sure and call on Mr
Coldwell. I went to ride with
Charlie last night, enjoyed it very much
Please excuse my many mistakes, for I
am so nervous to read this over. Write a
long letter as soon as you can, ~~but~~ and
write all of the news. be sure and send me
a letter every chance you have. Don't forget
the miniature, It is getting dark
and I must close, so good night.
With much love your sad Seppie

Be sure and destroy this as soon as
you read it, don't forget. Se —

showe you
now. I
wish you
could see
my baby
I have forgot
how to write
if you offer
me your hand
the will put
heart out, to
shope
most
Doughty you.
It is late
and I must
close, am
all my regards
when you
write
I will
Good night
With much
love you
Hester

My Dear George I received your letter last
Thursday, and was much pleased with it, all but one sentence,
that grieved me, it was this "I hope I never shall be guilty
of the ungenerosity of holding a woman against her will" what
did you mean? I should think you had been acquainted with
Miss Lloyd long enough, and had heard enough about her,
not to believe all she says, it is not the first time she
has talked about me to you. she does not like me, nor I her, she
is too deceitful for me, and I think if she could say anything
to ~~prograndise~~ lower me in your estimation, she would do so, ~~now~~
As for my trying to get Charles Medbury I don't want him,
and don't suppose I could get him, if I did, He is a perfect
gentleman, and has always been a kind friend to me, and I
always shall like him, unless something occurs to convince me
that he is unworthy of my friendship. Why didn't you tell
me what Miss Lloyd said before you went away? I wish
you had, I cannot write all I wish to on the subject,
but will tell you when I see you.

I should have answered your letter last week if I had
got it in season, but you write you were to sail ^{the} that
week, and it would have been impossible for you to receive
a letter from Drington in a day and a half. Were your
clothes all right? did you find the letter I sent? Wren's
John kind to give you his slipper, I paid him for
you, gave him three pence (when you come back
you can pay me) he said he was more than paid.
Don't worry about that cough, it never troubles me, only
when I am at Chelsea, and I expect it is the East
winds, that make me cough, Sister Ellen will go home
next Friday, and Aunt and the babies will go in
about three weeks, I expect I shall feel very lonely then,
shall miss busy very much, I take ~~no~~ care of her most
of the time. I have sent for Sarah to come and make me
a visit when Aunt goes, Esther & Nellie have promised to
come and see me, writes you Mother. Sunday August 11th
I received your kind and long letter yesterday, and I need
not write you how delighted I was to get it, I was not expecting
it, for I thought you was off on the ocean, I don't wonder
you have got tired waiting. I think it real provoking
they hurried you back so soon. If you make fun of my

writing I would write you again, If you had felt as
sad and lonely as I did you would not ^{have wrote} ~~written~~ as well as I did
I don't think you can say much, what were you thinking about when
you wrote the last page of that letter you sent me, Did you think
I was deaf? You have told me a number of times you did not want
that amblyope of mine, and gave me to understand that you cared
nothing about it. If you had told me before you left you wished for it,
I would have sent it, What is the picture you promised me?

George, don't write again as you did concerning yourself, I was
as nervous as a wildcat, after I read what you wrote, do I pray you be
careful, and not put yourself in danger, August 15th

I was very much surprised to night, to find a letter from you,
and very glad too, I can assure you, I have been home keeper
today, Aunt Ellen started for Stone at six o'clock this morning.

The Cooleth (Aunt Nancy's husband) died last Tuesday
and was buried today; he had a cancer in the lower part
of his stomach, he was a great sufferer, I feel very sorry
for Nancy, she has been so happy since she was married.

Yesterday was my birthday (did you think of it?) it was very
silly, I had made up my mind to go to L. Boston, and
mend, The girls in the store treated me on candy; I did
not get a pinch on sleep during the day.

Mrs Allen (Mary Blair, that tended in Mr Bosson's) had got a little boy three weeks old, they have been married about three months, he told Addis Hainkley he had got a fine little boy, and invited her to ~~come~~^{call} and see ~~this~~ wife and baby. I have not been to Chelsea since you left, and shall not be able to go very soon, I shall be very busy until Aunt goes away, and after she goes, I shall stay at home to look after all of the boys. I heard from Mother last week, she writes that Father was drilling a regiment at Augsburg, she did not write whether he thought of going or not, but I do not think he is able to go.

You forgot to address your letter, please remember it the next time, I had a great mind to pay you back in your own coin but fearing you might feel badly, I concluded not to. I should feel very much disappointed if you did not write me, when you sent home, They tell me I am growing fleshy and I think it must be so, for all of my dresses are getting tight, sleeve bands as well as the waist Aunt Ellen has just returned from Storn, she says Mr Collett, did not ~~take~~ swallow a monthful for four days and a half before he died, the cancer had filled him all up. I wish the machinery would get out of repair, if by that means you could get a leave of absence. How long, of shall you stay where you are? The folks are all well and wish to be remembered, how I wish you could somehow see me, I feel so lonely Sundays, I do not know what to do, I think it too bad, you could come to see me once a week, I shall not ask you to excuse this writing but you may excuse all mistakes if you please if there has been someone talking to me ever since I commenced to write. Be sure and write every



I intended
to go home
in the
spring as
soon as
the boat
went I
hope I shall
hear good
news from
you very
soon
much
love I
best you
good night
yours
D...ci

that the Louisiana was burnt, that came
from scuse, I think they are as bad as the
Lish, and never tell the truth & truth when
a falsehood will answer, I am very sorry to hear you
are on the sick. list still, why didn't you answer
my question, and ^{write} tell me the reason of your long
illness, and what it is, I feel quite anxious you
have been unwell so long, don't neglect to write me
about it in your next letter. If I am not very much
mistaken I write as often as you do, before you
left the Porters I wrote once a week, I should
have sent this the first part of this before but
I did not think you would get it if I did
so I thought I would wait until I heard from
you, You need not try the cure you proposed, I fear
it would do more hurt than good. Do you wish
me to let your Mother have the dark photographs
do you think I was selfish to take it? I did
not receive the photograph for three or four

after I was in Chelsea, so it wasn't that
that "jogged my memory and reminded
me that I had friends in Chelsea, I
begin to think it doubtful whether I have or
not, for I have not heard a word from them
for four or five weeks, and they all promised
to write, your Mother is very excusable, she has so
much to attend to, but I think if the others
felt very much interested, they might write
once a month at least, when I was in Chelsea
last November Esther and Mellicie said they
would commence the day after I left, and
write a little every day, ~~but to keep me posted~~
untill they had a letter written, and then
would send it, I called once a month afterwards
and they had not commenced it, when I
receive it I will inform you Mary and
Mark, promised to write their letters are a long
coming, I have almost made up my mind
not to visit Chelsea untill you get home.
Do not scold me for writing so, for if you

Know how lonely I am, and how
homesick I get you would not blame me
I do wish they would write once in a while
a letter would be so welcome, and give me so
much pleasure. I am getting to be a real
home body hardly ever think of such a
thing as going out in the day time and
wish that there is no skating, I seldom
go out in the evening, I don't think I have
been out in the day time more than four
or five times since the first of Jan'y, the
day I went to Chelsea, I have no where to go
there is nothing going on here, the only
lecture they have had here this winter was
a free lecture delivered by a Mr Nobody
it was not much of a lecture. You write I
must do all the going to church; I have not
been but once in two months, and then
"Phemie" coaxed me to go to the Orthodox
with her, it was a very cold day and I
thought I should freeze before I got

home, I have not been since I don't
like to go to the meetings they have here
If you will come home and go with me
I will go to hear ~~at~~ Mr Leonard every
Sunday. I am sorry to hear you are feeling
so badly. You did not invite me to go to
the City Hall with you when Helen came. I
think you were very busy that evening and
did not go yourself until late. Mrs Collins
and Thonie both send their kindest
regards, I haven't been in Chelsea but twice
since you left, the first time I was
there I called at George Sabok's twice
Addie was not at home the last time
I did not stay more than an hour and
had no time to call, so she has no
reason to feel slighted, when I go to C-
to sleep I shall certainly call on her.
You must not trouble me if I do feel
anxious and sorry about you, how can
I help it? If you were only here with me
I should be so happy! but this anxious
suspense, it is dreadful, I hardly dare to
read the paper for fear I shall find bad
news, when will this end? Can one hope for
brighter days, when this heavy cloud shall
be lifted, and dear Fathers, Husbands, and
Brothers return to their homes, and to the
loved ones who await there to greet them
This subject is too sad to dwell upon.

you were
going a
captain's
wrote a
good
long
letter
you
write
much
love
L...

Brighton August 18th / 61

My Dear George

This is a lovely day, the sky is clear, a little breeze, and every thing looks beautiful, the trees and grass are look fresh and green after the rain, I wish you were here to enjoy this beautiful day with me, I have not been to church, had rather stay at home and take care of the baby, have not been but twice since I come to Brighton I take care of the baby Sunday forenoon, and read and write in the afternoon. When night comes I feel very lonely, then I miss you the most, I generally retire at nine o'clock. It is much better for me to go to bed early, you don't know how much better I look, a gentleman told me a short time ago, that I looked three or four younger than I did last spring. I received a very pretty birthday present from Charlie Medbury last week, it was a Snopkin Ring, just like the one he gave Sarah. Don't it was marked let's do. Aug 14th 1861, wouldn't he kind? I was much pleased with it. Sister Ellen started for Augusta last Friday, I went in Boston with her, and soon her start, she has not been home for three years, I have just written a long letter to Sarah, I expect we shall have a grand time when she comes to see me. I wish you could see my baby, she is so cunning and pretty, she walks alone, and says a few words, she will not be a year old, until next month, isn't she smart? takes after her cousin.

Sunday August 25th I don't feel like writing today, had

rather talk with you. I am so lonely & lonely I don't
know what to do, I spend them so differently than I did
in Chelsea, then I need to wish for Sunday to come.

I was much pleased to receive your letter last Friday night.
I read the daily papers very carefully, but see nothing about
the steamer you are ⁱⁿ what is the reason? isn't she worth
noticing? I am very sorry John's slippers did not fit, when
I see him I will thank him & give you these kisses back.

When I can settle your debt with kisses I will do so, provided
you are indebted to good looking young gentlemen. When I
can afford to get the materials I will make you a pair of slippers.

I heard from Mother last week, she writes they were all
well, except sister Ellen, she took cold going down on the boat
and was threatened with a fever. The day after she arrived
she was much better when Mother wrote. Charles Gilman

is down East spending his vacation. The regiment Luther
was drilling left Aug. 20th last Friday he was not
able to go with them, I expect he was very much disap-
pointed. I have got a little cold, and my ~~teeth~~ teeth ache

just enough to make me feel cross. I have not seen any
of your folks (except William, no sarkin in the state)
since you went away, they promised to come to see
me, but I have not seen them yet. I told Esther and
Mellic if they would come I would treat them our
milk and ~~molasses~~ molasses (we have got a barrel)
I thought that would be a great inducement.

I don't know what to write. Langton is the
dullest place I ever saw, there is nothing going
on, every one seems to be asleep. I have not had a letter
since I have been here, except Mary's from Dublin.
The people here are not at all social. Mrs Chandler
has but a very few ~~old~~ acquaintances, she is not
acquainted with one of her neighbours. I have been with
so many pleasant friends for the last two years, it
~~now~~ makes me feel sad and lonely not to have
one, now, I have a few acquaintances here, but not one that
I would be intimate with.

I don't know as you ever found
fault with Charlie, but you have found fault with me
for going with him, I of course, would not associate ~~not~~
with him, if I did not know him to be perfectly
honorable, you need not feel afraid of his being too attentive
to me for he has a lady, down home, he has me for a sister
have you any objections? The way you explained that
sentence ~~did~~ did not satisfy me. I want a plain
answer. I have not seen any of those letters you sent
home, I should like very much to read them, but if
they do not care enough about my reading, to send
them, I shall not send for them. If you are
so "hard up" you had better ~~do~~ borrow of me, I have
done so much work lately, I have plenty money.
You said nothing about your amblyopia is gone

second letter, if you were not able to get it, I have
nothing to say, although I should have been much
pleased to have had it, I shall expect one as soon
as you feel able to get it. as for mine it isn't a
good one, I will have a better one taken some time for
you. What I did for you was no trouble at all, I was
very glad I was able to help fix you nothing, you
know you are perfectly welcome for all I did.

I have told you as much as twenty times what
day of the month my birthday come and how
old I am, but you did not care enough about
it to remember, isn't that so? 22 or 24 I think that
real insulting, and to pay you for it, I will not
write you how old I am. As a general thing those
that go in the Navy are not considered as smart
as those that go in the Army, I guess you would
grow fleshy if you lived on bumblebeaduckleberries
and milk went to bed at nine and got up at six.
If you will come and see me and live as I
do, you will grow fleshy too, and there is need enough
of it. If you don't come home pretty soon, you
won't see me, for I am going off. Please excuse
this cross letter, and I will write a pleasant one
the next time don't you follow my example and
write a cross letter if you do I shall have the
blues for a month. When are all of the prizes

I hope your
brother William
will derive some
lasting benefit
from his visit
to Boston.

Glad to hear that
your father con-
tinues to improve
in health.

Please remember
me to all at
home when you
write.

I should like to be
at home instead
of writing
to you
for of
that we
must
not stop
write soon
and write
often
I guess
with me
soon
George

U.S. Steamer Louisiana
Chincoteague Island
Friday evening Oct. 11. 1861

Dear Sister - I learned this morning that one of our
prize schooners was to be taken to the Fort this
this morning, and I hurried up a letter to mother
that I had undersung, and told her to send
it to you, as I did not think I should have
time to write. The vessel did not sail today
as intended, as the wind was not fair, but
she will probably sail tomorrow morning.
I shall take advantage of this delay, and
write you a few lines. You must be content
with a short letter as it is now after
seven o'clock, and as I have to turn out
at twelve to-night and stand water till
four, I think it best to turn in and get
a bit of sleep. This is the worst water
of the series. You can't get to sleep before

nine o'clock, and just after our turn in
at four o'clock they commenced washing
down decks, though I have become so
accustomed to that noise that it has
but but little effect on me now.

When I was in the merchant service this
was considered the best water; for on
the other water, all the ship was laid
between twelve and four.

You have sixty a dozen schooners here
waiting to hear from the Commodore to decide
what shall be done with them. I should
should adjudge them to be lawful prizes
I may give a chance to see home or, at
least some Christian city, whose Christian
exports I am certain to appreciate.

I only wish I was as certain of having
an opportunity of enjoying the pleasure
of home for a few days. Our ship was not
benefited at all by going ashore the other

day, at this place. (You will find the particulars
in Mr. Foster's letter.) She looks some, and is
evidently considerably strained. The "Locusts"
had a good chance while she was ashore
to try their hand at taking her; but they
did not make the attempt, very considerate
in them not to intrude at such an impor-
tant time when we had other things
to attend to, and did not wish to be
inconvenienced by their presence.

We have learned that the schooner that we
burned the other day was being fitted out
as a privateer, and that there were two
broad guns ashore ready for mounting.
So we did a good thing when we stopped
her career before it commenced.

One of my musketeers has commenced to growl,
and says it is time to "down the gim," but
I tell him I can't possibly accommodate
at present, on account of this letter.

If you have that old cough come in again, you must take better care of yourself, dress more comfortably in flannel underclothing, take plenty of good fresh air and exercise, and take medical advice, and all other advice which is good; and after taking advice, take some care to follow it. I have a bad cough in me at the present time, but I hope to get clear of it soon, for I don't like the idea of barking about doctors. You know the old adage — "a barking dog never bites."

Our wounded man is getting along very well and will soon be able to come on deck again. I am heartily glad of this as he is one of the finest men in the ship, and he and I get along finely together. You ought not to say that you guess our ship is not worth noticing. She is noticed occasionally in the New York and Philadelphia papers. It gives me pleasure to learn that you have such nice times now. I don't suppose they would last should I return home, Eh!

Brighton Oct 27th

Dear Honey

~~we~~ received your letter
a week ago y^e last night, it was very nice & I
can assure you. I should have felt badly, if you
had not written to rise. I have read the paper
very carefully hoping to see that you had been
sent in with those schusses you captured. I do
wish you could come home, first thank you have
been gone three months. I went to Boston
last Monday the first time for three weeks.
I am getting so old and steady that I do
not go out but a very little. When I was
in the city I called in the Store, I carried
the girls a bag of Chesnuts. week before last
I was out every pleasant morning before six

relock gathering chesnuts, it gave me a fine
appetite for breakfast. We have had very mild
pleasant weather until last week, then we
had one or two cold days. I thought I should
freeze (does that sound natural) it is quite
cool today and I am melting in a cold room
and my hand trembles, so I cannot write
very well. A week or two ago I carried Lizzie
and baby to a ~~place~~ an Ambrotype Saloon to
have their pictures taken. Lizzie had a very good
one taken, but we could not keep baby still.
The artist sat her in a chair and told me to
get behind the chair and take hold of her dress
to keep her from falling, he then tried to
attract her attention with a bell. She
would look at the bell a second and then
she would turn round and laugh at me
we tried everything to keep her quiet but it
was impossible and at last she got so
tired she commenced to cry, I shall take
her again soon. I wish you could see her
she keeps us laughing most of the

Trine, she imitates every thing she see
I have ~~teach~~ taught her to blow her nose and
scratch her head, two very important things
for her to learn. You needn't have gone to the
trouble and expense of getting a cough if you
had seen her I would have let you had mine
for nothing, and should be very glad to
get rid of it. Was it the doctor that was
minded of "on the strength of his commission"
(is you note) that was wounded? I think
~~the man~~ as you were very fortunate, in
keeping our nose hard. I had a letter from
Mother last week she note Father had
had two sick spells lately he says if he
had another he shall have to give up his
situation. It is so dark I can not see
to write.

Sunday Evening

It is quite cool tonight, and the wind blows very
hard. I feel very lonely Sunday Evening. I told
Aunt Nancy tonight I wished I was at Chelsea.
I have not been over yet. I have got considerable

sewing to do, and I thought I would stay
here and do it, so if I am fortunate to get home
my clothing will be in order, and I shall not have
to sit up evenings and sew this winter.

I received the letter you sent home and one from
your Mother last week. She thought it very
strange that I had not been to Chelsea. I think
now I shall go over in about three weeks, if
nothing happens. Did you receive a letter I sent
you dated Oct 13th? you had not received it
when you wrote. I know of no news to write
every thing is so still here. Sarah has left Mr
Fay's and is at home. Mary Chandler Chamberlain
will be a Mother soon. Write every chance
you have, if you haven't time to write a long
letter without one is much better than none.
Last week Sister Ellen was quizzing with
my thumb-bills and jammed two of her fingers
she took the nail off from one.
It is getting late and I will close this
stupid letter. Bidding you good night. I
remain with much love

Lizzie

Brighton Nov 17th 1861.

Your letter was gladly received, I had not heard from you for one or four weeks, and began to feel rather nervous. So is not my fault if you have not received a letter from me for months. I have wrote you three or four within the past seven weeks, I should have written last Sunday but was sick, about a fortnight ago I took a very severe cold, first I had a stiff neck, after that a sore throat, and an ^{addition} ~~addition~~ to my cough as some of my throat got better. The cold went to my ~~ears~~ ^{ears} with, I was sick a bed two or three days with it. my face was very much swollen, and both sides were blistered, when I but persisted on. I suffered a great deal, I send you Mother word that I should be in Chelsea yesterday, but my face is

Looked so badly I thought I would postpone
my visit until this week. I wish you were here
to spend Thanks giving with me, do not know
just when I shall be, but expect to be in Chelsea

George Chamberlain is very sick with a Lung
fever, he has had a cough for a long time and his
lungs are very weak, I feel very sorry for Mary.
I heard from Mother last week. She wrote that
Father had been quite sensible lately, so much
so, he had to give up his situation I don't
think he will ever be better. William has not had
an ill turn for seven weeks, Mother writes she feels
anxious about him all of the time.

We are having quite cool weather now, had
a small snow storm yesterday, the first
one we have had this season. What glorious news
we had from the Arval Expedition? don't you wish
you could have gone with them?

Grandmother will return to Chelsea next Tuesday.
she has been gone five months, I shall be delighted
to see her. Aunt Emma Mother is very sick
they do not think she will recover.

I have been to Church and to Sunday
School today, aren't I getting good?

I should think it would be very dull when you
are now, why don't you get weary of absence and come
home? If you stay then all winter, don't don't
you want me to call down and see you?

I have not heard a word from your folks
for a month, don't know whether they are
all dead or not. We are having glorious
moonlight evenings now, but I can't go out
and enjoy them, for I take cold if I even look
out of doors now. I don't know what the
reason is, unless it is that I stay in the house
so much. Last week I did not step out
of the door. Aunt Nancy is here yet. We have only
seven females in the family including Fannie
and baby. I expect to leave in three or four
weeks. you can direct your letters to Brighton
until I write how often do you receive letters?
It is almost impossible to write for baby
is at my side every other minute pulling

my class. She come and kissed me, and
such a sweet one I have not one so sweet
since you went away. Do not wait
four weeks before you write again.

I saw Loney Wellmans marriage
in ~~the~~ yesterday's paper. How I wish if
she is any thing like her sister Cassie
I pity him. I must close for it
is getting dark, and baby is crying
for one to take her up. So good bye
yours with love Lc. —

Pardon all mistakes and write
soon —



Brighton Dec 12th

My Dear George

Yours of the 13th I received last Monday, I was very happy to hear from you, but was so much disappointed to learn that you were not coming to me, I had thought so much about your coming, I think it is to doad, after I read your letter I went up stairs and cried all of the evening, do you think I was silly? George; I have had the blues ever since, I am now stopping with Mrs Collins (she was a cousin to Uncle Olijha let's first wife) she has a young babe, and wanted me to come and stay with her, to help her take care of it, I like pretty well, but there are six children besides the baby (the oldest 15) and some times we have a great deal of noise, which makes me feel rather nervous, she wants me to stay all winter, with her, could know whether I shall or not, she has a nice house.

heated by a furnace, and a very nice
piano, ~~As~~ I am so nervous I can barely
write, I have been very nervous and tem-
peramental for a month past, I feel pretty well at times
and I don't see why I should love the blues
so much, if you could come home I think
you could drive them away.

We are having beautiful weather it seems more
like spring than winter, it was warm enough
to sit by an open window this noon, the ice
has all melted out of the pond, and there
are no signs of skating, we are having
beautiful moon light evenings now, I do wish
you were here, to enjoy them with me.

Have you received two letters from me lately
one dated Dec 8th the other Dec 1st, you
did not mention them in your last letter.
The one dated Dec 1st had Leon's Photograph
in it, I shall be delighted to receive your
photograph, I hope it will look better than
the one you left at home. I had a letter

from Mother last she wrote they
were all well, it is almost impossible for
me to ~~not~~ write for my pen and ink are
miserable, and there are two or three talking
to me most of the time, please excuse this
and I will write again in two or three
days, and try and do better.

Yours with much love
your blue L. M.

When you write, please write something
to cheer me up, L.

had an ill
turn, I hope
you were
fully
recovered. I
have got a
real cunning
baby to take
care of, only
three months
old, and
bright as a
button. I
wash and
dress her
every morning
Am getting
my hands
ful I am
going to buy
it on Friday
get money
enough

My Dear George

Your long letter I
received today, please accept many thanks
for it, how did you spend yesterday & Christ-
mas) pleasantly I hope, I make you in
my best, that I was stopping with
Mrs Collins, her eldest child is a young
lady 12 years old, we soon together, the
night before Christmas we hung our
stockings on our room door, under
them we put a slip of paper, with
"Smallest favours gratefully received"
written on it. we laid awake about an hour
long, waiting for P & M to go to
sleep, then I got up as quiet as I could
and took the stockings in. Phoebe

found a comb in bed, and I found
a bottle of Col. Mc Collins told us
he would get us some presents New
Years, isn't he kind; they treat me as
a daughter. Yesterday morning Phemie
and I arose at nine o'clock, after I
had washed and dressed the baby, we
went down to Uncle, there I found a
Christmas present from one of his
men, it was a little basket, with a
looking glass in the bottom, it looks
like silver, it is very pretty, after dinner
we went skating, I couldn't skate very
well, for the ice was very rough. I got
one fall and liked to broke my knee.
In the evening I kept house and took
care of the baby, the rest of the family.
passed the evening with Mc Collins's
brother, one of the neighbours, a young

Mary
Schwartz

Chamberlain

has a little

quit a week

ago, I had

a letter from

Sarah's parents

she is well

I hope I

shall hear

from you

soon.

Yours

Mother

much

love

L. M.

A best to stay, I shall certainly go
home and make a visit as soon as I
feel able. It must have been very
pleasant to meet so many old
friends, perhaps I would have come
on, if I had known you were going
to stop in Baltimore. Should you
like to have seen me? I guess you
found old news in my letters, did
you find Leonard's photograph in one
of them? "By the way" mayn't I burn
those old letters I have of yours, I
mean those I wrote, please say, "yes"
that is a good honey. Addie Field
has no business to write to you if she
wants to write to any one, she can
write to her Eddie, that puts me in

mind of something Addie said when
I was in Blacka Lake, one evening ^{she} ~~me~~
was up to your house, and we got
talking about misting letters. Addie
said she did not write to Eddie
very often as she had no time, I asked
her how often she wrote (thinking
her answer would be ~~at~~ about once
in three weeks) she put on a very
sober face and said she couldn't find
time to write more than twice a
week. I was highly amused at her
answer. I guess I won't send you my
letters before I read them if you will
come and see me I will let you
read them with me. I am very glad
to hear you are getting over your cross
fits for they used to make me feel
very badly. I am very sorry to hear you

man about 17 years old (that calls to
see sister Ellen very often) came in and
spent the evening. I thought of you
and wished you were with me. Don't
you wish you had been here? Today I
feel very lame and tired. Oh! I forgot
this noon I received a very pretty present
from Charlie Medbury, a gold belt Pin
he sent Sarah one just like it, isn't
he kind? I have not received your
photograph as yet, have been expecting it
for a week past, hope I shall get it
soon for I am very ~~interested~~ anxious
to see it. Why didn't you call to see my
folks when you were in Baltimore I
have two Uncles, two Aunts, and three
Cousins, living in the city, if I had known
it in season, I would have sent you an
letter of introduction.

I received a letter from Mother last
week, and am very sorry to write
that Father is not better, he is not
near as well as he was last summer
he has his ill turns quite often now
Poor Mother, his sickness and Millicent
is killing her, she fell anxious about
Millicent all of the time. She writes
that she had rather he would be taken
away now, than live and have fits, &
and I don't know but I had had
It seems very hard now he got old
enough to help himself and Mother.

You write that you should think I
would like to go home and see
Mother, I do want to go very much
and should have gone long ago
if I could, but I have got to support
myself, and I can get employment
up here much easier than I can
at home, Mother wrote me if I could
get nothing to do I had better come
home, but as Aunt told me I was
welcome to my board as long as I
wished to stay, with her I thought

Brighton Jan 16th 1862

My Dear George

Seeing a notice in tonight's paper, that all letters for the officers and men of Gen. Burnside's Expedition would be ~~properly~~ sent to them directly if mailed to Col Frank Howe by Saturday, I thought I would write you a few lines not knowing when I should be able to send a letter directly to you. I saw by the papers, the Louisiana left Fort Monroe Monday, why didn't you write Sunday? I have looked for a letter all this week but have been disappointed, and as you have left the Fort and gone ~~now~~ "nobody knows where" I shall not know when to expect one, I think you would have written if you had known how much pleasure it would have given me, to have heard

from you this week. I wrote you a letter last Sunday, think it very doubtful whether you get it before you leave.

We are having splendid moonlight evenings now, Tuesday night it ~~was~~ ~~again~~ commenced to snow and snowed until Wednesday noon when it turned to rain and continued most all night, when it cleared a cold and freeze, so now the ground is covered with ice, I went out with L'Honnie to night and in some places it was so icy we had to sit down and slide, she slipped down three times and like to broke her head, I was more fortunate did not fall down once. It is excellent sleighing the road was full of sleighs. I went skating Tuesday night and had a fine time. Quella got the ice all marked to cut, but the snow storm Tuesday night prevented him.

Little Lois has been quite sick, she is
much better now. Ella Collins (11 years old)
has been sick two or three days with a sore throat
I have been nurse, and sleep with her, so as to
take care of her, I am Cook, nurse, nursery maid
and seamstress, in fact I do a little of every thing
Mrs B- does not tell me what to do, I do
just as I should as if I was at home. Today
I thought I would sweep and dust the
parlour, it took me all of the fore noon, for
I had to move all of the furniture twice
and cover it over. I am getting to be a first-
rate house keeper, don't you want to come home
and keep bachelor's hall and get me to
keep house for ~~me~~ you? I will make
you as many custard pies as you wish,
and will make them in deep tin pans, if
~~you~~ I hope we shall hear good news from
the expedition soon, for I am in a state

anxiety, I don't know what I shall do if
I don't hear soon, I hope you will write
the first opportunity. I am so anxious to
hear from you. So George I pray you
be careful of yourself and do not expose
yourself needlessly, do not think me
silly for writing so, but if you know how
badly I feel to have you go where there is
so much danger, I fear we shall have
some hard fighting soon, and a great
many lives have got to be sacrificed. I pray
God that you may not be one of that
number. Good night, Yours with much love
Levi

I met George
Chambliss
at Uncle's
last evening
he looked
quite well
and is very
fond of his
baby. I have
been visiting
this apartment
in my
room and
Mrs Collins
has just
called for me
to come and
to get over
for it is time to
go to bed.

My Dear George

Feeling rather sad and lonely
I thought I would commence a letter to you. We are
having such strange weather, five or six days out of a
week it storms, it commenced snowing, Friday and has
snowed until this noon, when it commenced to rain, and
it raining now (eight o'clock in the evening) I have got
such a cold I can hardly speak aloud, colds are very
fashionable just now, we have only five sick with colds
and sore throats, I have to be much part of the time, I
wish I could have been with you, and nursed you, when
you were sick; I am getting to be a substitute cook, done all
the cooking for the family ^{and} Family consists of ten
persons, and done it well to, I must lay this aside
and go to bed, so as to get up early in the morning

Sunday Evening Jan 26th

Just think, George, it is almost three weeks since
I have heard from you, and not a word from

we heard from the expedition, I have ~~to~~ ^{used} ~~to~~ ~~read~~
the paper very carefully every evening hoping to find
some news from the expedition, but there has been
none as yet, I have to console myself that "no news is
better than bad news", I had the first sleigh ride I
have had this winter, last Thursday, Charlie was
going to Gayville to see Sarah, and invited me
to go with him, I was very happy to go, but I
have staid in the house most of the time for a
month past and ~~had~~ got very bronchitied, I
think the ride, and seeing Sarah done me good.
Gayville is twenty miles from Brighton
Charlie got a team in Boston, which made
the distance twenty five miles for the horse
the horse was so tired coming back I thought
we never should get home. Sarah was delighted
to see me, she isn't very well this winter, she
inquired for you, and said she should like to
see you. Gayville is a real country place, only
one store, and one meeting house, it is a part
of Southboro'

If it did not cost so much I would spend
my Sundays in Ahluu, we have more noise
here Sunday, than any other day in the week. The
children are all at home, and they are so noisy it
is almost impossible to read or write, how to do any
writing in the evening after they have gone to bed
I have done nothing to day but tend the baby a
little while, but I feel more tired than I do, when
I have worked all day, I have not heard a word from
your folks since John and Eben were out here, some
three or four weeks ago, they all promised to write me
but their letters are a long time coming, I wish they
would a letter would be very acceptable. I made Mother
about your photograph and I praised it up so she
wants me to send it to her, I think I shall have
to refuse I can't part with it now, but when I
have the original to look at, perhaps I will lend
it to her a little while, with your consent. I will
lay this aside until I hear from the expedition, and
then I will finish it

Monday Evening Feb 3rd

I went up to Amelia yesterday afternoon, and found your letter, I need not write how happy I was to receive it, for it almost four long weeks since I heard from you last, you were very kind to write me such a long letter

You did not write any thing about the Louisiana getting on the sand bar, I saw a short account of it in the paper, why didn't you mention it? You must excuse this letter if it is stupid, for I got up very early this morning and have been on my feet most all day, we have a young green Irish girl and I think she makes more work than she does, I can't bear to sit down, and see so much work to be done, so I help do it, and we do not get through untill night, washing days.

There is a report in tonight's paper, that heavy firing had been heard at Norfolk for two days past, it come from the rebels, so it is doubted
There was a report in last weeks paper

Please
excuse
(the paper
and the
ink &c)

Chelsea Feb 17th / 56

My Dear George

Last Wednesday evening
about nine o'clock, the door bell rang,
Mr Collins went to the door, and I
heard someone inquire for me, who
do you think it was? it was Johnny Holmes
with your Father's large over coat on, he
said there were two heavy loads out in the
road, waiting to know if I had a steam
tugge enough to haul them all, there
were eleven of them, Mary Pratt was one of
the number, I was delighted to see them,
they came in took their things and staid
about an hour, they invited me to return
with them, Charlie said if I would he
would bring me back Sunday, so I
accepted, I had a grand ride, it was

a beautiful evening, the weather was very mild, and clear, with a full moon, I rode in Mr Holm's sledge, on the back seat, between Mat and Eveline, they kept me nice and warm, John sat in the bottom of the other sledge, he said if I would ride with him he would let me have half of his coat, but I was afraid you would be jealous if you heard of it.

Carrie & Henry H. Mat, Co, and I sang all the way home, I guess we made some noise, I believe it was about half-past eleven when we got home, your mother was very much surprised to see me. Last evening we all went down to Mr Holm's, we felt very tired and sleepy and were very stupid the first part of the evening, about half-past nine we got on the ice, and

About a fortnight ago I went to see
 Mary Chamberlain, she has a very pretty
 little baby, and she seemed so happy
 with it, I almost wished I had one.

She inquired very particularly about
 you, and wanted you to call and see
 her when you get home, if you have time
 I had a letter from Mother last week
 and am very sorry to write that Father
 is quite sick again, he has two and
 three sick days a week regularly.

Million has not had an illness for
 five weeks. The note there had been
 a good many sick soldiers in Augusta
 this winter, some of them were taken in
 private families and taken care of, but
 a good many of them suffered for
 want of care, I think it seems very

hard for the poor fellows to suffer
when there are are ~~so~~ so many that
might help them if they had a mind
to. Mother writes that a great many of
them have dined with her this
winter. I now think I shall love
Mrs Collins in a week or two. She is
sick part of the time, and the children
are so noisy it is enough to set one
crazy, and Sunday is worse than any
other day. There are seven of them under
the oldest but sixteen. The younger
ones saucy and ugly, they dont pretend
to mind, and she is not strong enough
to govern the, she is completely run down
she is but 39 years old and has had
eleven children, enough to kill any
woman, and then she has a little
Irish girl, and she is so black and
dirty, she is enough to try the patience

of a saint, we do not have
breakfast until eight or nine
o'clock, and the girl hardly gets the
breakfast dishes washed in season to
set the table for dinner, ~~and~~ the
~~time~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~house~~ is in confusion
all of the time I do not like
living so. I wrote you a long letter
about a week ago, I suppose you have
received by this time, your mother wrote
you yesterday, "by the way" yesterday
was your birth day, did you think of
it? If I had come see here Wednesday
night I was coming yesterday morning
to celebrate the day. I thought of you
a great many times during the day
and wished you were here. This morning
Mary, Priddy, Carter, Spellicy, Berline, and I
eat our breakfast at the early hour of
ten, wasn't we smart? We have been

are very late for two nights past
and we needed the sleep.

I hope I shall hear from you very
soon, May God keep you safe from
harm is the earnest wish of your
Loving
Linn

such actions, we had two or three
mild Irish dances, I got started
to go to Boston this morning, and got
as far as Grandmother (where I am
now) when it commenced to rain and
I had to give it up, I received your
letter last Monday, I also received
the long one, please accept many
thanks for them, I will take back all
I wrote, about your not visiting me
before you left the Quarter, I did
not know there was more than one
Louisiana in the expedition we had.
A glorious news from the expedition this
week but it made me feel sad when
I read it, to think how many precious
lives had to be sacrificed to gain it
I am very anxious to hear the official
report, I was so anxious and nervous
last week it made me about sick

I shall be so glad and thankful
when I hear that you are well and
safe. Why, George, I didn't know how
much I loved you, until you left
me, and was in danger. I will commence
the slippers as soon as I have time, while
I stay with Mrs Collins my time is
short, and my eyes will not allow me
to do such work in the evening! If
I am well you shall have them before
three years. I called to see Mrs Silley

this morning, Frank is a noble great
boy. she said Sarah was in Chelsea
a fortnight ago, Sarah is quite unwell
this winter, she is boarding with Mrs
Gay now, Mrs Gay was in Chelsea two
or three weeks ago, she rode over to
Boston with your Mother, she told
your Mother she was very sorry she
did not see me, when I was in
Fayville, ~~she was the first to see me~~



Newbern, N. C.
March, 19th 1862.

My Dear Digger:—

I somehow or other, feel that I must write a few more words to you, though I know that by so doing I run the risk of incurring your anger. That, however, does not frighten me in the least; indeed, I hardly think I should have the least fear if I saw you making your way towards me with a gun aimed. Even if your arms should close around me in a close embrace, I shouldn't even order "hands off!" Possibly I might adopt offensive measures of the same kind, and meet you with a counter embrace. Hi, ho! here I am, and you—well, I don't ~~know~~

where you may be, whether in Brighton
or Chelsea; All is, I wish I could
be where you are, wherever it
may be, I know I should be better
pleas'd than I possibly can be
here this evening, listening to the
rain as it drips, drips, with a
weary sound on the roof of our
cabin, now heavy, now light, as
war fall on mankind.

We expect to start for Washington
to-morrow. It is situated on Pamlico
river, in this state, about 120 miles
from here. The place is reported to
be evacuated, and no resistance is
apprehended. One other gunboat
accompanies us, also the 24th Mas.
regt. I shall send this before I
leave if there is any chance of a
mail leaving before we could get
back. We shall not probably
remain away more than two or three
days, and will return here at once.

Our pleasant weather gave
place to a heavy rain to day, and
now it is raining heavily. This
is one of our April showers,
although we are somewhat
ahead of you in point of season.
The frogs are croaking melodiously,
and I never hear them but I think
of home, and long to visit that
dear spot, among whose asso-
ciation you are inseparably
connected. I think it rather
hard that I can't hear from
you oftener than I do.

My last letter from you bears
the date of March, 4th more
than two weeks ago. I don't charge
you with neglect, for I think
you write oftener and the letters
fail to reach me. It isn't pleasant
to think of and I will close
for the night, although it is
still early. Good night!

Washington. N. C. P. M.

March 26th I can't express to you how horribly dull it is this afternoon, nor how gladly I would exchange it for a few days at home with you, dearest. It is raining hard, and the outside gloom only serves to increase the inner feeling of discontent as being so long cooped up. I know it is very wrong to indulge in such feelings, but it is almost impossible to close the door of the heart against them, and submit without murmuring at hard-hearted fate. And I have been so long without a letter from you, that it really seems almost an age. Your last from the date of the 4th inst. Your negligence, or that of the post seems in a fair way to be repaid, though unintentionally, believe me. I had my letters all ready just a week ago to-day, - that was the day before we left New Bern - and I told the

Sarah that
was a
gentleman
wrote to her
you got it
great many
compliments
from my
sister &
I shall not
when I
hear they
will
make
you
swim

Augusta May 21st 1862

My Dear George

It is but seven o'clock, quite
an easy hour for me to write a letter, but Father is asleep,
and as I have to sit with him I could not employ
the time more profitably than writing to you.
I left Chelsea a week ago this morning, I took a
sudden start a week ago yesterday morning (I was
in Brighton). I received a letter from Mother saying
Father was very sick, and she wished me to come
home immediately. I left Brighton Friday night
passed the night at your house, left in the six
o'clock car, started from Boston at half past seven and
arrived home at five P. M. I got very tired riding
in the car so long. I found Father more comfortable
when I reached home, he was very glad to see me
he had been wishing I would come. Sunday he
was worse and suffered he great deal, he continued
to grow more unwell Wednesday then he seemed a
little easier, from Sunday until Wednesday he

knocked incessantly one thought they would kill
him he was so weak. he has not been troubled
with them since Wednesday, one thinks he grows
weaker every day. he seems to ~~be~~ be in worse mood
of the time when he is awake his mind wanders.
he takes nothing but liquors. We do not think he
will last a short time. his eyesight is failing. he woke
up the other afternoon about three o'clock and asked me,
why I did not light a lamp, he thought it was mid-
night. His wife's sister is here and takes care of him
nights. Mother and I tend to him during the day.
Mother is about sick as well, she had had so much
care and anxiety lately. It will be a fortnight
Monday since I received your last letter, there have
been two or three mails from Providence since then
I was very much disappointed at not receiving one
the last mail, but I will not complain, & I do
not think it was your fault. A mail from
Providence arrived at New York Thursday I hope
I shall get a letter tonight, want it to be a good
one, for I need something to cheer me up. I have
another picture taken for you yesterday, but it

will suit you, ~~but~~ I showed it to
number of my friends they all pronounced it
excellent. I think it is good, it may not look natural
to you, I am so much fatter than I was when you
went away. Do you think you will be able to get
home by the 1st month of July? I hope you will, you
must make your arrangements to come down coast
and make me a visit. Mother just came she
told me to send her love and tell you she is
making blanc-mange and if she could, would send
you a glass, My friends tell me I look not young
old a bit since I went away, they say I look as young
as ever, Ben George, don't you wonder if your dog
will take you for my Lister when they see us
together. You can't imagine what cool weather we
are having, while you are suffering with the heat
I am suffering with cold, I have felt the cold
more for a week past than I did any week during
the winter, I believe one had a frost here might
before last, when I left. I brought the ~~new~~ ^{new} ~~new~~
my name, I brought a fuchsia home with me
you gave to me, it is growing finely, at I can

not send this until Monday, I will lay it
aside until tomorrow. Sunday Morning

I did not receive a letter from you last
night and was very much disappointed, it
seems an age since I received one, but I will
try and be patient. Father is no better, we think
he is weaker, he is failing very fast, I should
not be surprised if he drops away any time, he has
suffered so much he wants to die, he said
yesterday he wished he could sleep his last sleep
George if you can do not hear from me for sometime
do not feel anxious I will write as often as I can
but I do not have much time, and Father is so
feeble I do not feel like writing. When you write
please direct my letters to Augusta Care of William
C. Simmons, Excuse this my hand trembles so I can
hardly hold my pen, I hope by this time you
have reclaimed all of my late letters, I have sent
one every week until last week. Please write
one how you take the picture, with some love
I remain your Son

I should a closing with your photo & hope, the

U.S. Steamer Louisiana,

Dear Libbie:— Washington D.C. Jun. 16th 62

It is but a short time since I wrote you, and no new letter from you has come to hand. I hope that my last letter was fortunate enough to meet the mail going north, and that there was no delay in its reaching you. It is possible that you received two at once, but I had rather have them come at short intervals than come in a body. Yesterday (Sunday) afternoon a steamer came up, bringing the new Gen Stanley. We all expected she would bring a mail, but were told that the "Pilot Boy" would be up today with a mail for us. The Gen. was received by the regiment, and a salute fired. He is a very insignificant looking man at the first sight, but he may improve upon acquaintance. He is said to be a very smart man, and what is more rare in these days of

doubt and uncertainty, a good and honest
man. It is expected that he will accom-
plish much good in this state, and bring
many wandering sheep back to the fold.
I hope all their anticipations will be
realized, and that we shall soon see the
end of this contest.

We have again had a taste of warm weather
for two or three days. Yesterday the mercury
indicated only 79° in the shade. I went
to walk with Henry Blake and Arbuckle,
the second leader of the band - a fine fellow.
We walked the length of the town, and Ar-
buckle could wring the perspiration from
his coat. We can come out in white, so
we have an advantage over the soldiers.
Gilman, Arbuckle, Blake and I usually
spend the afternoons together, and have
a pleasant, quiet time together. There is
a pretty, abandoned cottage here, with grounds
beautifully laid out, and here we frequent-
ly sit and partake of blackberries
and milk, and we sleep as comfortably as

possible under the circumstances.

Yesterday forenoon, His Mr. Mellin held a service in one of the churches. I was unable to go as I was on duty. The soldiers attended, also a squad of our sailors marched with them, contrasting well in their white frocks and caps with the dark dresses of the soldiers. Late in the afternoon the wind changed to the north east and blew hard with heavy rain. The mercury went down to 66° and it felt very chilly. So you see that even here we are not exempt from sudden changes in the weather. Word has come in that the pickets of the enemy are again within five or six miles of us. At the last skirmish I wrote you about, the rebel Col. in command was killed. I suppose there will soon be another brush with them. I saw a comical sight the other day, about 100 negroes with a drummer and piper at their head, were marched out to the outskirts of the town and set to

work felling trees so as to give a good sweep
to our artillery. The darkies seem to be
as happy as kings while on the march.
I believe I have written you all the news
and will now lay this aside till the
mail arrives, trusting it will bring me
a letter from you.

June 17th This is the anniversary of the
battle of Bunker Hill, and you will see
by the following that we did not forget
it, although, to tell the truth, I did, until
reminded of it ashore. We celebrated
the day by a grand parade to the music
of Gilmor's band. The 24th was out, all
the Cavalry and artillery, and in the Centre
the jolly tars of the Louisiana, with
your humble servant. Our men wore their
white frocks and blue pants, and loaded
first rate. Our Company bore muskets,
and our rifles. At the dismissal of the
parade, Col. Osborne rode up to us,
and paid my men a high compliment
on their fine appearance, and invited
me to head quarters, where a beautiful
collation was served out. Just at this
time Gen. Foster arrived, or rather he
arrived in Baton to see the parade,
and my men were again complimented
by him when I was introduced to him.
Our little squad of 40, attracted more
attention than all the rest. We had
a glorious time and every thing passed
off smoothly. The Gov. (Stanly) arrived and
made a speech. The mail arrived this
morning - no letter for me.

I am now when shall we be able to do
away with this style of communication
and converse in a way more agreeable to both
Give my love to your Mother and all, and
accept much, my darling, from your own
happ.

Weymouth Nov 12 1881

Dear Mother & Father, I feel I ought to write you

something sooner I have been away, the last of the

last night I did sleep, when there is no pain in my

side the better I was you last Sunday I told you

how very sick and was waiting for the surgeon

and by Monday I was better, I did not sleep any

longer, seeing the doctor again, he said he could

not help him, and that we had better give him

conscience to keep him quiet & comfortable while

he lies here. He had some bad nights and one a little

more, he laid in a sofa all day Wednesday and the

night following, his eyes and mouth were well open

his breath very short, he wanted every time he breathed

George, it was so hard to see him lying in such

distress and know we could not help him. Thursday

morning I was sitting in the dining room, Mother

called I me and said, Father was dying, I ran to

him and could see him no other times, but he was



notice of me, Mother sent me for one of the
 neighbours, when I returned he had gone, he died very
 easily he did not move a muscle. I saw my daughter, and
 his spirit had departed. We buried him yesterday afternoon
 at five o'clock, It had been cloudy all day and fog as
 we reached the grave it commenced to rain. We were
 obliged to have a Methodist minister attend the funeral
 The Unitarian and Unitarianist ministers were both out
 of town. I send you my love to comfort and strengthen
 me in my sorrow. ~~and take care of it~~

I received a very kind letter from your Mother, with
 the last one you sent her, last Wednesday, she was very
 kind to answer my letter so soon. I shall write to
 her as soon as I feel able. I received the letters from
 you last Tuesday, I was very happy to get them for I
 had not heard from you for a fortnight or more.
 To me, I pay you in my grief on my account, I am
 better than I was, I am taking Quinine Syrup. I
 think it helps me. I sent you a letter last week with
 my likeness. Pardon me for sending you such a card
 with Bob. I do not feel like writing. I will be better

The next time, Hoping to hear from you very
soon I remain with much love
Your sincere

Till then, may God keep you from
sickness and danger, and in His own
good time may He be permitted to send
Bidding you good night, I remain with
much love Your Belov'd Son
James June 25th 1802

My Dear George

I don't feel a bit like
writing, I had much rather talk with you, but as
I cannot have that pleasure, I must do the best I
can, and make pen and ink do the talking. I
went to church and S. school this morning, I have
had a distressing head-ache all of the afternoon, at
tea time I drank a cup of strong tea, and it feels
much better. We are having very changeable weather,
yesterday it was an uncomfortable warm, and to day
it is quite cool. We have had considerable rain lately
and every thing looks fresh and green, if you will
only see we could have some fine muck. Don't you
wish you were? I send you rather a letter now a three
weeks ago, I have not received an answer as yet,
perhaps I shall get one soon, just think next
Friday will be Fourth of July; It does not seem
possible that a whole year has passed since we
passed such a pleasant day in the woods. I

wonder if they will have a picnic this year?
How I should enjoy spending the day with your
folks, that is, if you were one of the number!

I have been nurse for a week past, there is an
Irish woman in one neighbourhood very sick. I
have been in to see her once or twice a day and
her grand. She has a babe six months old, yesterday
morning I washed and dressed it. Mrs Lynch
(the Roman name) told one of the neighbours, "that
little Simmons girl, was a real good little girl"

I am very sorry to write, that William has been
quite sick again, he went nine weeks without
having an ill turn, a week ago last Sunday
night he had one, it did not make him feel
very bad, he went to the store the next day, Last

Friday night about ten o'clock he had a bad
fit, he then went to sleep and slept untill four
o'clock he then he had another, and soon after
he had two more making four in all, his head
ached badly all the forenoon, and he was very
stupid after dinner he laid down and slept
all the afternoon, and slept soundly all

night, he feels better today, he says his
head will not feel well for a week.

It is so dark I cannot see the lines, I will
lay this aside and finish it when I light a
lamp. Now look out for mistakes, for we have a
caller, and there are two or three brigades running
as fast as they can go. I had a letter from Sarah
last Monday, she is well, she says she has to work
very hard. She inquired about you. I expect she has
got a bean, please send mention it in any of your
letters home, I have not heard particulars yet.

George I want you to send me Addie Childs
picture, you have had it a good while, and now I
want to see Addie's face! I have your picture
hanging over the mantel, and your Mother's picture,
and Nellie's on the mantel. I believe there are
about five hundred men here the 16th regiment.

The other day some of them were examined and
one of the men proved to be a woman, she begged
hard to go, but the cruel man would not let
her. It is not some rebel and Mother, William
and Tommy have gone to bed, Mother generally

retire at nine, and as I do not like
to sit up alone I ~~go with~~ follow her ~~own~~
example, If you will come and see me, we
will sit up as late as we wish, and not get
a scolding the next morning. Do thou any
prospect of your getting home this summer?
Mother may possibly go to Chelsea in August
or September, if she does I shall have to keep
house I will give you an invitation to come
and see what a nice house keeper I make.
Will you accept? We expect Grandmother down
here this week to pass the summer with us.
Lannie Davis was here last Friday, she
inquired very particularly about you and ~~wanted~~
asked me to give her your photograph.
Just think of it, I wouldn't part with it for
———. I often wish I lived a little nearer
Chelsea so I could call and see your folks
once in a while, I wish Mother would move
to Mass, and ~~perhaps~~ perhaps she would if it
was not for William, she will not leave him
and she does not wish him to give up his
situation. Don't find fault with the writing
for I ~~will~~ wrote most of this with my finger
in my lap. Are you perfectly well now?
I hope the time is near when I can talk to you

P.S.
I will send
Caldwell's will
as you desire

U.S. Steamer Louisiana
Washington D.C. Aug 15th 1862

Dear Lizzy:

I received yours of the 4th yesterday afternoon, but doubt whether my reply will be able to go in the return boat, which leaves tomorrow morning. I have less time than usual, as one of our officers is sick, and we have now three instead of four watch officers. I also have rather more extra duty to do now than formerly. I must tell you what the Capt. told me this morning. He had been looking over the new Navy regulations, and remarked to me that my chance for a Master's Commission was very good. The pay is more than a thousand dollars better than I now get per year. I shall soon know my fate, and will inform you at the earliest notice. The regulation says the Master must have served at least three months as Master's mate and be recommended by the Comd'g officer

I have served a year, and have recom-
mendations from two County officers.

I think the prospect very good.

There was one remark in your letter that
did not please me at all. You said you
had no objection to my taking ladies to
sail provided I did not take toll. Now
you know, (or at least ought to know by this
time) that I am no lover of such pro-
miscuous salutations. If I love a friend, I
cherish him kiss; but I think the man
who asks or expects a kiss for escorting
a lady away, where is as much degraded as
she who gives it. I have some few friends
I would kiss as naturally as I would my
mother; but this union is neither ^{by} nor
every body, as you would seem to intimate
by your remark. I have kissed but one
in this State since I have been here, and
that was a little "three year old", whose kiss
was like — most any thing good. I wish
you could test a few of my kisses and in-
form me whether they are as good as for-

merely. It is a long while to do with-
out such luxuries, especially to one who
had, through your love, been so addicted to
tasting the sweets, and I would much like to
know whether my lips "have forgot their even-
ing," or my nerves so hardened that it would
send no thrill. But I am afraid I shall have
to defer the solution of the question till my
return home, as of course, I am not vain
enough to suppose I could get a kiss if I
asked for it; though, to tell the truth, I
should like to try just one little one.

Mary Pratt wrote me a long letter detailing
events of the wedding, from which it seems
that Joe is really married, he hasn't been
married long enough yet to report, but that
comes in time, doesn't it? Mary wrote
that much regret was expressed at our
absence. Miss, I am sure was uncom-
fortable. It was too bad that Gen. Blake did
not know you were at Augusta; he would
have been pleased to see you. I wonder
whether I shall return before he goes again!

This Trask has come on the carpet again.
I didn't know what had become of her.
Give her my love, as usual.

I am happy to hear of your visiting
our poor, sick boys at the hospital.
They need attention, and it is the ladies
who can give it best. Only don't over-
do the thing. Don't persiate in washing
a fellow's face after the skin has
already scrubbed off. I received
no letter from Mother by this mail,
as the wedding gave her plenty to
do. Volunteers now seem to be
coming in and some of the Rebel
papers look blue in consequence.
Secret Candidate for Governor was
defeated here, and it is reported on
the streets here that the new Gov.
promised to recall the North Carolina
army, which made his popularity.
I hope it is true. At any rate, every-
thing looks bright, and will continue
to look brighter if we only set to
with a will and "polish off" the
Rebels. I have given you so many
long letters that you may complain
of this. So, dear, and I will stop your
complaints with a kiss - in pro-
spectum. Love to your Mother and
all, Adieu, with much love,
Your George.

Carri. sent
down to
Chelsea the
last week
the mill
return home
next week
We are all
well
Grandmother
& Mother
send their
love.
P. D. doing
you good
night I
remain
with
much
love
Yours
Geo.

My Dear George

I was made very
happy last week by receiving two kind letters
one Monday, the other Thursday night. I am
you received my letter, you ought to get one
every week, for I write regularly, only a week
God need not be afraid of sending one to
many letters, I shall not be receiving until
you return. I do not average but one a week
Send as many as you wish, I shall not be
offended with you, but shall love you all the
more. I received a very kind letter from
your good Mother, and one from Stanley
last week, they were very acceptable, I can
assure you. I have visited the hospital a great
deal for a week past, my patients I am
happy to say is improving, he has his disch-
arge and will go home this week. There are
a great many sick now, they cannot tend


or closer than today, from the 60th regiment.
They all complain bitterly the food they
have, the meat is tainted, and the bread
sour and mouldy, some of them have not
even a blanket to put under them when
they lie down; and I believe some of the tents
have no floors, I do not wonder that the
poor men are sick. I think it is wicked
to treat them so, The regiment leaves Tuesday
morning. The weather has been very cool for
a day or two past. I saw Augusta Smith
the other night and gave your love to her
as you requested me, she thanked me and
sent her to you, Jennie Locket was with
me, she did not like it, because you sent
none to her, Please send her some the next
time you write. I had a fine ride tonight
with a second cousin of mine from Chelsea
I was certainly very fortunate you will not
be home when Mr Pitts calls. Can you
realize you have a married brother? Your
Mother wrote me they had a very pleasant


wedding, she is saving a piece of cake
for me! You wish to read some of my
thoughts on matrimony, I had much rather
talk than write on such a subject, for I
cannot put my thoughts on paper. You know
it was my wish we should be united before
you went, but ~~thinking~~ ^{thinking} you knew best, I
of course, did not urge the matter. Lord H
Thursday was my death day, I think I remained
at home until five o'clock, then I went over
to the hospital. How kind you were to send
me such a nice long letter, six pages, you
shall be amply repaid when you return.
How I wish you could come home if only for
a short time. I don't feel like writing about
the war, I hear so much about it, I wish
it could be brought to a close, but I fear a great
many precious lives are yet to be sacrificed
before such an end is gained. I will take the
pains off. You shall have as much remembrance
as you wish if you will only come home. I
will be so good will not ~~forget~~ bother you a bit.

Did I ever make a promise, or do what I
fulfilled? I think not. Yes I think you
are very exacting sometimes. I can look
"stern and disapproving" when I wish. If you are
very good I still will look to all you.

Why don't you send one Abner's Field's "visit"?
I am very careful now-a-days, you would be
astonished to see what a change has taken place

I was weighed last week, and weighed but
10 1/2 more the weather is cooler I think I shall
gain. I feel perfectly well and have a good
appetite. I live on cabbages and string beans.

The next time you leave me I am going to
be brave, and I shall shed a tear until you are
out of sight. I should like very much to
have the photographs of the "little dears" as you
call them. Why didn't you show the little sick
fellow my picture? were you afraid it would
frighten him? I don't blame him for crying
when you missed calling on him. I should
have done the same. I do not charge extra
for illustrated letters. 

You know I always thought you uncommonly
smart. I intended to have answered your
Mother's letter tonight but it is ten o'clock
and tomorrow morning I have got to get
up early and wash, so I must just time
it. If you were here I would not go to bed
until  O'cause that mark I was talking
with William and did not make my
fun was on the paper

Chelsea Friday aft

My dear Lizzy

I have just returned from the P.O. where I found two letters from you. I have not been out of the house for 48 hours, for I took cold and it settled in my eyes and could hardly see, much less read or write.

I can't really blame you for getting "real mad," as you call it, though I think the last letter ought to have explained it away. How good you are at stretching! I have not been home four weeks yet & you say four or five.

If you are going to leave Augusta tomorrow I can't detain you by force, though I would if I could. I shall start from Boston on Monday evening and shall reach Augusta (wind & weather permitting) Tuesday.

If I find that you have acted in your throat,
and have actually gone — it will be my
loss. I hardly know whether you are
serious or not — if you are, I think
it very hard, especially as I wrote you
that I would give you full and ample
explanations that would clear me from
all blame. God knows I should have
been in Augusta long, long ago if I could
have got them, but this is no fighting an
impossibility. I hurried home from the
P.O. to write this and must carry it
down before supper so it can go this
evening. I, therefore, pray you to have patience
it must be exercised on your side as
well as mine. Now dear Fyie, be angry
with me no longer; we have waited a
year and a half and can wait a day or
two longer when needful. Yours as ever
Geyser.
P.S. Carrie Wellman was married a few days
ago.

Take the
 best care of
 the care of
 your health
 for my sake
 You can't
 imagine how
 my affection
 all depend
 of your health
 affects me.
 It is bad
 enough to be
 separated
 from you,
 but makes
 my heart
 it is no
 more.
 write
 to me
 every
 week
 if you
 can.
 Lovingly,
 I bid
 you good
 bye for
 a long time.
 I bid
 you
 your
 U.S. Steamer "Octorara"
 Norfolk, Sept. 24th 1862.

My own dear Wife:

I received your long and loving letter of
 the 20th yesterday; and, I will tell you, though it may be
 needless, that it's perusal gave me a vast amount of
 pleasure. It was so entirely unexpected too, for I did
 not look for one till to-day (Wednesday) thinking you would
 write Sunday. Now I know I was a little too premature
 in giving direction to William, and through him to you,
 where to send your next letter, as we will not be able
 to sail till Saturday or Sunday. It was a pity that I made
 such haste to send direction, for it has cost me at
 least one good letter which you would have probably
 sent towards the latter part of the week. Now I must
 wait till I arrive at Havana before I shall have the
 pleasure of reading another letter from my dear little
 wife. (I think that ever I looks much better in writing
 than husband; don't you?) Well, I have one consolation
 I can read the one I rec'd yesterday over as many times
 as I please. That I have; and with care I think it will last
 till I get the next - that is, it will not wear to pieces.
 I hope the next one will be as good, that's all.

addressed to Mrs. Liza in your loving
 letters
 P.S. How do you make your
 to Mrs Geo. A. Hallis.

We came up here yesterday to do some repairs, and grounded her. A certain valve wanted repairing, and we concluded we could do it here. To-day we have had a diver over the side with his submarine armor on. He looked odd enough in his queer dress. Our repairs will probably be completed by to-morrow, when we sail for Hampton Roads. It was thought at first that we would be obliged to go to Baltimore; and we would have done so had it not been that we found this diver. I wish he had been further north or south, I shouldn't much care which. Had we gone to Baltimore, we would have remained there a week. What a pleasant time we (that is you and I) might have had! I should have telegraphed to you as soon as we arrived to hasten on as soon as possible. I had written to Esther to tell you not to go home until it had been decided what we would do.

At one time we all thought that our going to Baltimore was an event of certain occurrence. But see how we were disappointed! It was a great, a very great, disappointment to me. I had thought of it so much, and counted upon it with so much certainty, had looked forward to the expected pleasure with so much eagerness, that my disappointment was grievous to bear. Now you, like an affectionate and dutiful wife, ought to help me bear it; and the only way you can do it, will be to share it with me.

Sept. 20th P.M. I have a few spare moments before
dark which I will devote to you. I have been at
work all day superintending the work on the Kingston valve,
and watching the operations of the amphibious monster
clad in his submarine armor. Just before dinner he came
up and said he thought it a bad case, and very much doubted
his ability to finish the work. How my heart jumped when
he said this! I thought it was a case demanding Baltimorean
treatment, and that we would certainly go there. In which case
you and I would have met again after a very short but
not at all pleasing separation. I turned, in a few moments, many
fields of pleasure. But how soon were my pleasant anticipa-
tions blighted! And partly by my own means, too. I suggested
a staging, which was adapted, and the work was carried on
and is now just finished.

Upon looking over my collection of photographs just now, I
found only one, which I wish you would please give to Cecelia
with my love. I can't conceive how it was that I overlooked her
when I sent home. She has a great claim on me, and I had, more-
over, promised her one long ago. She came in among the first
in my list, and it is very strange I sent her none. I seek per-
don of her highness, which you may demand on your knees or
not, as you please. I had twenty, seven of which I sent to the
"Louisiana", one I gave Fernias, and two others were given out
of me by officers in the Navy. I wish I had a few more.

My particular friends will not make out very well in case they should discern any. I think, though, that most of them are already supplied. I would like very much to send one to your Sarah, but she must wait till the next time, unless you want to give her one of your old ones, which I think little probable. You don't think my photographs flatter me then. Well, I think it about time that I should get some in some degree truthful. All that I have had heretofore have been dreadful flatterers, and it was very unpleasant to hear people remark that they were fine pictures, but I wasn't half as handsome. Poor cousin Mary Pratt! She couldn't see as married! If you can arrange it with Mr. Leonard we might have a repetition, a "last appearance", as they say in theatrical phraseology, in purpose to allow those who could not be present to have the pleasure of seeing us married. Some of them might not believe it unless they saw with their own eyes, and heard with their own ears. Speaking of Mr. Leonard reminds me of your suggestion. I would like very much for you to make him a present, but I would inform myself whether or no he is the possessor of an album. If he has, I would substitute some standard book which he had not in his library. Something of the kind would please me. What a nice thing it would be could you board with Mrs. Eaton. She is such a good, kind hearted lady that you would not regret it could she have taken you. And George, her husband, is such a man, so gentle and refined, that you could not fail to like him.

I have just sent my baggage.

Sat. Sept. 27th I have yet a few more words to say to you, dearest, before I leave you. How say you want very much to visit Baltimore this winter, and hope I will give you permission to go soon. Certainly I will give you permission to go; but then I would much rather have some one accompany you. Suppose you ask your Uncle and Aunt for their advice. If you go, I would like your visit to occur in early Spring - say in March and April. By so doing you would escape our very harsh, unpleasant Spring weather, and might possibly see me, if I have good

luck. Don't you think that it would be the best
time for you to go?

We finished coaling ship last evening, and
are now on our way down the James river
to the Fortnes, where we will remain till
tomorrow when we shall certainly sail.

I wish I had not written so hastily to have
my "next letter" sent South, and I might
have had the happiness of receiving one
to-day. I must wait patiently. Keep a cheerful
heart, dearest, and you will hear from me as
soon as possible. Your husband in love,
George

I hope you will not tell Mrs Dixey because I kissed her
first as you say. The fact is that I neither know who it was
that I kissed in the vestibule until you informed me. I was too
much occupied with my happiness to think of any thing else.
Don't tell Mrs Dixey, however. I don't know what you thought of
my kissing your hand, but I could not resist doing so. I hope
"Mrs Grundy" will say nothing against it. If you did not get
the first kiss in the lips, you got enough afterwards to more
than satisfy you. Upon the whole I think I got the greatest
number of sweet kisses while I was at home. I haven't lost a
single one. Did you see Matt Holmes take my pipe from my
mouth and kiss me? Did you ever come enough for my
kisses to do so? Just remember the promise you gave in your
last letter to pay me for the letters I have written you in
good wifely kisses. You are famous for making such sweet
promises, but when the day of payment arrives, you repudiate
like our Southern friends. If you continue to do so, I shall call
you a little rebel, and shall try Uncle Sam's "coercive measures".
But such kisses would not be worth much. I like them warm
from the heart, and not mere cold pressure of the lips.

What a strange wish of yours, that I would "come and sleep with you"!
What would our Aunt Nancy say to such a wish? They would
be horrified. Whether they would be or not, I would do so if "Uncle"
wasn't so hard on his boys. He makes our beds just large enough
for one so that we may get accustomed to sleeping alone.

Don't it seem strange that we are to occupy one bed together in the future? When you go to see your Sarah Jane tell her that if you drop her I will pick her up. Give her my love, and my regrets both at her inability to be present at our wedding, and mine to see her. I should to see her much, for I like her. You had better not "forget" you are married till after your allotment papers are made out, else something might happen. It is so dark that I must close this for the present.

Sept. 26th P.M. I must close my letter to-day, for to-morrow we sail. It seems almost like a new parting with you to coast off from shore here, because it will be so long before I can receive a letter from you. I shall have a letter ready to send by the first opportunity, and I will try to make it a good one. We are now in the James river coating, having left Norfolk this morning. I have had my time pretty well occupied, having to stand "watch and watch" that is, four hours on and four off. Your mother must have had a presentiment of our marriage when she advised you to do up your sewing. I think you did better however, in caring for the soldiers. I liked the idea of your mending that poor fellow's coat. That you spoke of in a former letter. I shall never find fault for doing such kind and sensible acts.

Let Joe and Corie take all the happiness together that they can. Remember that however long I may be absent, we will still continue to be a "nearly married" couple, and have our honeymoon yet to pass. When I get home, if it is God's good pleasure that I shall return, they shall we be all the happier for our long separation, and shall bless God, with thankful hearts, that we were preserved to each other. Many times will your dear image be called up to accompany me in the lone watches of the night, and in the hour of danger, in tempest's roar of the crash of battle your true love will cheer and comfort me. May your love be to me a shield and a protection, not from physical, but from moral, danger. May each succeeding day see us grow dearer one to another, and better in the sight of Him who rules all things. Love to Mother and a kiss, and to all my brothers and sisters. Give my love to your mother and family.

Still, you can't feel the full force of it because, not being ware of our expectations in that quarter, your mind could not dwell on it ~~as~~ mine has. I suppose I ought not to have mentioned to you any thing about it. But you know how selfish men are in general, and how exceedingly selfish your husband is in particular; and you will not be at all surpris'd that I let you into the misery. I haven't been ashore here since our arrival, nor do I intend to unless oblig'd to do so on duty. When I come up to report to the Admiral, on my arrival in the Roads I went ashore for a short time, but every thing and body look'd so dull and mournful that I have no desire to revisit the place. It is raining heavily now; but I am snugly ensconced in my little room; and if I can't see my love I can talk with her. What a blessing is pen and paper, and the ability to use them! What would become of us if we were suddenly forc'd to do without them! We should suffer all the torments of purgatory.

I am sorry to hear that you have suffer'd so much with your teeth. Why are you not more careful of yourself, and guard yourself more effectually when you are expos'd to the cold? Think of the many lectures I have given you on the subject; of the many hours they have cost me in their composition; to say nothing about the immense amount of paper, and ink consumed; and above all, think of your own suffering, and then — why don't you take more care of yourself?

Before I forget it, let me tell you that letters sent to me at Havana had better be prepaid, that is, the whole postage. And if you write very long letters, that is letters of twelve or more pages, you had better use French corresponding paper. I don't believe, though, that your letters will be so weighty that you can't afford to pay for them.

William writes that he has \$32.50 to my credit. My last allotment will come due on the last of this month, which will make \$62.50 to my credit. I shall have new allotment papers made out for \$30. per month. When I speak to you, before leaving, of our practising economy, I hope you appreciated my motives. One of these days I may return home, and it would not increase our mutual happiness to be short of funds. Who knows but I may get home by next spring! I shall keep clear from all dissipation, and dissipating companions, lest I fall into it. I felt comparatively satisfied with my old pay of \$40. per month; and now it is \$100. I am always wishing it more. For myself I have always cared but little for money; but now your fortunes are linked with mine I shall always want to better it.

Your letter is scented with love and geranium; but the odor of love will remain when the earthly odor has long passed away. I shall prize the leaf you sent me, and shall frequently look at it, and shall also, at the same time, see you as you stood by my side in your white dress and airy veil. May the memory of that night live till death closes my eyes in my last sleep. May it stand between you and every unkind thought or word, a barrier through which no harshness can break. See! I have chanced my mouth of the offensive article sometimes found there, in order to kiss the leaf, for I would not kiss it with it in.

If you have so many teeth extracted you will look "old" before my return. I would have them out if they gave me pain were I in your place. An aching tooth is a bad companion, and does not improve the temper; and I wish the temper of my wife to remain good. It is so dark I can hardly see, and will close with my love. George.

all yet, and think
I will send to Wash-
ington for a new
lot unless I have
an opportunity to
suit myself better.
You say that I have
never received a
Thanksgiving with you
What do you call
some day, Monday or
Tuesday but then
days of quinine
thanksgiving, especially
the two former
days I might but
you as had in that
as you did in in
No. 16.
Some of your letters
but I will be gone
and and perhaps
I don't get home
again. I will have
more than 30 hours
of Thanksgiving -
with know the se-
son why. When
we go home again
I will go to the de-
partments for a
fund along with
such a letter as
will, I think bring
it. I will clear
for the day, and em-
mend a letter to
all of Pratt to whom I
clear letters, and remain
at least a month of yours.

My darling Miji: As I have just mailed a letter to you I will
commence another, knowing I shall have plenty of time to finish it, for the
Lord knows when I shall ever have an opportunity to send it.

We got under weigh this morning at daylight, and started to go out. It was blowing
quite hard, and as we met what sailors call a "rasty chop sea" we turned about
and ran back to our anchorage. We rolled about very heavily while outside about
breakfast time, and I will confess my breakfast was uncommonly light.

As we were going out we passed the "Sonoma" coming in, just as we did when
we were coming out of Hoosana. There are two Chelera men among the officers of the
"Sonoma": Smith and Very. The way I came across Very was in this wise. When I took
the mail from my boat, I noticed a small package with a Chelera postmark,
directed to David Very, of the "Gemstock". The first time I went ashore here I met
a pleasant officer who told me he was at present on the "Massachusetts", but had just
left the "Gemstock" to join the "Sonoma". I asked if he knew Very, and lo! he was the
man. Then we commenced talking Chelera, and in the course of his conversation he

mentioned your uncle Chiphart in terms of high praise and asked if I knew him.
I told him that my first and present command happened to be that gentleman's niece.
He said he would ask his wife to mention to your uncle that he had sent our well, and if
his letters should arrive before mine you may hear that I am still alive.

It is real pleasant to meet with good people abroad that are acquainted with one's
friends at home; it has a pleasure intimately allied to that of going home.

Then, I must light my pipe as seven bells have gone and I go on watch in half
an hour to remain till midnight. I know when I should be pleased to remain on
watch till that, or even a much longer time, only someone would have to stand it with me.

Have not written in a long time. I will clear for the day, and emmend a letter to all of Pratt to whom I clear letters, and remain at least a month of yours.

If I remember aright, I did not say much about Matanzas when I wrote you
last. By the way, it is a great pity that you can't receive that letter in better season
than you will get it. It will not reach Havana till the 15th. This place is much smaller
than Havana, and much more pleasant, at least for me. One becomes acquaint-
ed much more readily, and your acquaintances do not float away as at Havana, where
people are continually going and coming. The natural scenery of this place is quite
striking. You enter from the sea, by quite a wide arm of the sea, with high land
on each side. At the end of the harbor stands the city, rising gently from the water,
with the green background of the hills rising several hundred feet. The houses are,
like all Spanish and Portuguese buildings, built of stone, plastered and colored,
mostly yellow, some blue and yellow. All the houses are provided with very high
windows reaching from the ground to the ceiling, fortified with heavy iron bars.
They mostly live on the ground floor, and while walking along the sidewalk one can
look into the rooms without violating any rule of politeness. They have no glass to
the windows, but heavy wooden shutters on the inside, and a cloth screen to hang
up when the sun is too powerful. When a gala day makes its appearance, these
common screens give way to beautiful crimson damask curtains which make
a beautiful appearance. Now for an interesting point. When a young man would,
like the frog in the fable, "a wooing go," he does not enter into the house of the fair
object of his flame, neither can he accompany her out until he is betrothed, but
he can stand on the walk and make love in the best way he can, with all the
passers brushing past and interrupting him, perhaps when he is most romantic.
Ask Aunt Nancy how that style would suit her. I am glad that my courting days
were not passed in any such place that would tolerate barbarism like this.
There is a pretty little square here called the "Plaza de Armas", which has a fine
marble statue of Calanibus in the centre, with garden seats and a fine paved
promenade. Here all the beauty of the City congregates in the evening, and the band
of fifty pieces performs from eight till nine. All the single ladies can be seen
walking about by themselves, with black lace veils thrown over their heads.

Sat. Dec. 13th A.D. We left Havana Matanzas on the morning after
the writing of the foregoing. The sea was still quite high
and we went through our customary motions. Our ship is very
gymnastically inclined; and if anyone believes in the movement
ever as illustrated by Dr. Lewis, he had better apply for admission
aboard this ship. It is some comfort to know that we have never rolled
over. Montalvo's old ship, "with all thy faults I love the still."
We have had quite pleasant weather since coming out of Matanzas
varied occasionally with rain squalls. We are now skirting the
southern edge of the "Great Bahama Bank" and to-morrow will
pass San Salvador where Columbus first landed.

Yesterday morning I was started from a sound sleep at daylight by
a call to general quarters, as a steamer looking like the "290" was reported.
Now, having turned in at four that morning, I didn't feel much like
blessing the man who roused me, but concluded to bottle up my
wrath till I saw whether she was indeed the rebel pirate. As we
neared her, she looked more than ever like the "290." (You may
not know that we study ship names a days as a boy studies his
books; and we know nearly as much about the famous rebel as
her own men.) All hands were at quarters, guns were all loaded
and run out, the men stood ready - captains of guns with lock
strings in their hands ready at a seconds notice to send a
shower of iron hail and bursting shells into the stouge
craft, decks all sandied to catch up the blocks which would
otherwise make the deck too slippery to stand upon - and still
she had shown no colors. When we got within musket shot of her,
up went the "Cross of St. George" and a boat put off from her.
She was on the lookout for steamers. We met off an island called
Anguilla Key, you can see it in Collin's large Atlas.

On the afternoon of the day when we first started out from Matanzas, an invitation was sent from shore, inviting all the officers of the fleet to attend a grand ball to be given in their honor that evening. The officers of the Flag ship, however, sent invitations limiting it to Ward-room officers. We immediately sent back word that we could accept of no such invitation unless the steering officers were included. A short time after we were informed that the ball was to be postponed to the next evening, at which time we were dancing over the waars. It was to be a grand affair and I would have much liked to see it; but I would not go in such an incite. You ask if I think we will return in the Spring? I, of course, can't say certainly in the Spring, as we are public servants, and remain out as long as "Hidion" sees fit to keep us out. And when he says "Go you may go home," we never wait for any intreaty, nor "stand in the order of going," but off we start and make the coal burn some. Now I have strong hopes that we will go home sometime during the Spring but when, that we don't know. Still, I would not have you consider our return by that time as a thing of certainty, for the disappointed dearest, would be very cruel. Before you go to Baltimore I may have something definite, or perhaps before you leave, as I presume you will make quite a lengthy visit there.

How say you would not have sent my visits to Miss Pugh if you had known I had no more. My gracious! you have enough now to cover the walls of a respectably sized room and are yet not satisfied! And then you try to aggravate me by refusing to tell what your lady friends said of it. O! you wretch! you want me to offer you another one if you will tell. I see through your feminine manoeuvre, but I shan't promise you one yet awhile. I promised so many that I have never fulfilled them

1st page.

I have been a slave
of the Island all day
getting shells. You shall
be aware of any thing
more miserable than
the state in which the
people live. They are
all blacks, and a lot of
them quite intelligent
They depend mostly on
wicks for their sub-
sistence; and now
that the war has
broken out we can
never, it has already
brought them from
wicks and they
they know that
wicks. (Follow the
wicks). (align)
I wish I knew when
I could get this
letter in its way.
I think it will be
acceptable when
it does reach you.
What very symmetrical
was our dinner,
two years ago, while
the birds were in
spring, though I
believe you were
sick, and of the
time. I put my hints
apart of light me to
clear your mind.
I have one letter all ready to mail to you, and
have taken it into my head to commence another. Both may go together.

Now, what am I to do in that case, put them both under number
No; I don't think I will do that, for I have already given you one more
letter than I have numbers, and this will be a sort of an offer.

Since I last wrote you, we have cruised up the windward channel, to
the southward of Nassau, and have come across the bank, passing
Nassau last evening, and arrived here this forenoon. We met our
usual luck; for when we arrived, we learned that the "Toga" and the
"St. Leger de Cuba" left yesterday. As they both have numerous letters
for us, we had much rather have had them remain.

We arrived in the midst of a strong norther which is quite agreeable
after so much warm weather. It is not yet cold, by any manner of means
for the thermometer indicates 70° to-day. Yesterday it was 99°.

I have just written to Cousin Mary, informing her that you had a card
de visite, subject to her order. So, you may expect, any day after the
reception of this, that she will demand payment.

I have just been looking over one of your letters, no. 8. What a
stupid Charley was not to accept the delightful offer you made
him of taking a hand, and making you house-keeper. What
pleasant evenings he would have passed with you to pull his
hair, and eat up other pleasant cakes too numerous to men-
tion! And then, you know, you could get Cary and Nell to assist!

your mother and accept an immense quantity
for yourself. Mind that I could wish you a "merry Christmas".

you in my arms! I am afraid that I would give you more kisses than you
that I will have to set up evenings, when I return, and devote myself to it every

Sunday, Dec. 21st. I am somewhere on the Great Bahama bank, but
exactly where I don't know. There are ice at any rate, and I have
thrown off my coat and vest and opened both my windows, and have
sat down to write you a giant page or two. Magnificent morning!
wish I could go to ride, horseback. Unfortunately we haven't any
of those animals; we have horses, but they will not go.

On the previous page I wrote you we arrived at St. Thomas Key, an
old rendezvous, in a strong weather. It blew a gale for nearly
three days. Friday the "Toga" came packing along, and every body
had smiling faces, all expecting plenty of letters. Alas! that
I must record it! What a letter did she have, but brought us the
circulating intelligence that our Key Mail letters had been sent
to New Orleans through mistake. You see this ship was on the
Mississippi last Spring, and though our letters were to the West
India Squadron, the Postmaster thought he knew more of the
matter than any one else, and so he sent them to the old desti-
nation. Whichever, S. Geo. F. H. being of a sanguinary disposition
would like to undertake the job of hanging S. M., I finding the
paper, and doing the thing up at my own expense. I have been
so much since, that I have nearly bitten through a coffee cup
each morning, but am happy to say that the disease has taken
a milder form this morning, thanks to the day. Oh! Lindy! how
I would like to spend it with you; and I rather think that it would
give mutual satisfaction.

Well, yesterday forenoon, while cruising in the bank in company with
the "Toga", we, that is, our ship, captured a small schooner with
three bales of cotton. She was a little boat, formerly a ship's launch,
and was dicker'd over for the trip. There was only one man in her.

would care to receive. I shall get ~~scarcely~~ out of practice in holding you
self. But I must bid you good night and retire. God bless and keep you!
Ever your loving husband, George.

She came from Indian River, Florida, with two men, one of whom was
lost overboard in the gale which we met. They must have had a ter-
rible time. The survivor was left alone from Tuesday night till yes-
terday morning, without sleep. The three bales are worth about \$1200.
Last evening, just at sundown, we steamed up to the "Fogo", which
was at anchor, and made fast to her, intending to get some of her
coal. Before we made fast, we cast off our little prize, for fear
of injuring her while backing, leaving two men in her. They drifted
down two miles to leeward, and about dark we sent two boats after
her, with two officers. At 8 o'clock, it came up squally and we
lost sight of all of them, and ran down to where we supposed them
to be, and about 10. picked two of them up but not the prize. They had
found the prize, and one of the officers had got into her to sail up.
At daylight I saw the prize about three miles from us, with a blue
shirt at the fore. We ran down to her and found her full of water,
and the men sitting in a bale of cotton lashed in deck, with the sea
breaking over them, having been upset last evening in the squall.
They passed a very unpleasant night of it, and were glad to get aboard.
So you have taken to early hours, and retire now at nine o'clock, after
which early hour you warn me you dislike being disturbed. I wonder
whether you would scold very hard if I should happen along some
evening about ten or eleven o'clock, and whether you would admit me
I really believe I should rick your anger and annoy you.
What an observing young man William is becoming to notice that your
humour has decreased since you were married. I wonder whether he
noticed any change in the other significant (disposition). If you have
to wait till the little ones take it away, you will require some patience
unless you prove your body friend to be correct in his remarks.

What the dickens put it into Williams' head to have the chills and fever?
Has he been subject to it before? I hope he is on his feet again.
I would very much like to buy that new thicket dress of yours, provided
that it was suitably filled. I believe I could afford a twenty dollar gold
piece - and gold pieces are very scarce now - for the privilege.
Ugh! how you make me shudder when you speak of putting your
cold feet on me! You must remember that I am very sensitive to
cold, and may a row Eb. Charley, and I used to have when a cold foot
accidentally came in contact with me or the other. If you can't offer
any better inducement for me to return, I shall remain till warm weather.
You must never ask indiscreet questions. You asked me one - which
I think the most of, my wife or my pipe? I don't believe I am bound
to answer that question. You see I am getting practice in law. We have
had a large list of courts martial since leaving Matanzas. On two
of them I was Counsel for the accused, and if my chilly speech
to the jury (intelligent, of course) should be reported in the papers,
I might be made a Brig. General! I wish I could have a nice evening
skating with you this winter. Wouldn't we enjoy it? You must make
Charley do the honors. Give him; tell him I will get him another rifle.
We frequently get together of an evening and discuss the delight of skating.
I believe I wound up to being a confounded fool for being angry when you
went to skate with Charley Medtray, so don't poke it at me again.
South West Point of Grand Bahama Island is where I am
at the present moment. We left Stropas Key yesterday after-
noon with a strong breeze and a heavy sea. During the night
the ship rolled very heavily, and it was utterly impossible to sleep.
Those who could keep themselves in their beds were fortunate.
I was up most of the night, but got two hours' sleep this morning.

P.S. Don't
you think you
got the value
of two good
letters this
time? We
will sail
to-morrow
for our
station,
Stamps
Key,
Key



U.S. Steamer "Octorina"
Ft. Th. Harbor, Dec. 27/82

My dear Lou, My Wife:

Still my letters hang as if
though they were loath to part company with
me. You would, no doubt, be as rejoiced to
receive them as I would be to send them.
There is one consolation - the longer you have
to wait, the larger package you will get.

We arrived here this forenoon to sail
ship, and met with a great disappoint-
ment. The "Sioza" left here last evening,
carrying away with her a large mail which
had been left here for us. And she knew
that we would be here in a day or two, as
we parted company a few days ago with
that understanding. Now we may not meet
her for a month. We sent a schooner
to intercept her at Key West, whither she
has gone. If they do not meet, she will
also take all our letters that are at Key West,
which will be piling up the wrong.

We spun Christmas off the South west
point of the Great Bahama. At daybreak
I reported a sail to the Capt, and at noon
we had her. She is a small schooner
of 10 tons, with 80 bags of salt, and
had cleared for Port Royal. Of course
we were not fools enough to believe
that such a cargo would be profitable
at that port, so we took her in charge.
I had her last night coming across
the gulf, and to-day another took her
to Key West.

We have kept a sharp lookout for
the "290". Several times we thought
we had fallen in with her, even
we were near so far as to sound
the clock, but each time they proved
to be English steamers.

Probably we shall sail for Key West
on Monday, where I hope to find
many letters. Only think, I have not
received one letter from home since
we have been out here!

My Mat, Dec. 30th I must now hurry
as this is a closer, as I must go on watch soon
and the mail will leave in the morning.
We arrived here this forenoon, having
left Turtle Harbor last evening. We did
have a slight hope that the "Santiago de Cuba"
would intercept the "Lizga" and have our
mail here on our arrival. But they passed
each other in the night, the former going
in and the latter out, without seeing
each other. The "Lizga" not only took our
mail from Turtle Harbor, but also got a
large mail that was awaiting us here, and
has gone to Havana. We may not meet
her again for a month; and in the
meantime I can hear nothing from
home. You never saw a more provoked
set of fellows than those of the two vessels
just now. I believe the Capt. of the "Lizga"
has been caused in at least a dozen
different languages.

We have just heard of the capture of
the "Ursula" by the "290." I also heard that

the Admiral was giving a ball in
Havana at the same time. We hear
only dubious news from every quarter,
first Burnside defeated, then Foster.
You don't know how often I think of
you, and what a strong yearning to
see you takes possession of me while
travelling the lonely night watches.
I used often to have strong desires to
see home while in North Carolina;
but now, they are ten fold stronger.
I hope some letters will come to relieve
me soon, if not I shall be very
miserable. I shall write to Mother
and Cousin Mary by this mail. Hope
the "290" will not trouble any of them.
Give my love to your Mother and
family, and remember me with
love to all our good friends in C.
Don't get low spirited on any account.
Have a good time skating, and see how
strong you can grow before I return.
Write often, and trust to luck.
And now, my chariot wiper, I will bid
you good night. Heaven preserve and keep
you! Ever your affectionate husband,
George.

July 29th

Seamar

Monday evening: We have been hard at work all day, and have thrown 100 shells from our 100 pdr. Parrot towards rebeldom. The fort replied very spiritedly all the forenoon, but was mostly silent this afternoon, as the shells were raining so thickly upon them to work their guns.

The Jackson burst her Sawyer rifle early this forenoon, wounding five men.

This is the second one of the same kind she has burst since we commenced work.

We fired away all our powder and shell in action today.

The Griffiths was pierced by one shot. The rebels have one fine Whitworth gun with which they made excellent

shots. Those which were thrown
at us went about ten feet
over our heads.

I write this hurriedly in anti-
cipation of the Jackson going
to Ship Island this evening,
and I know you will feel
a little anxious to know whether
I am dead or alive.

I was up early this morning,
and must go on watch in
a few minutes to remain
till midnight.

And now, Charles, with the
sweetest of all imaginary
kisses and hats of love,
I remain, as ever,

Your loving husband,
George.



Uncle &
 heard from
 James last
 week. He was
 quite well
 he is still
 at Sharnham
 and says
 the people
 are well
 they have
 no more
 of the
 Henry. My
 so don't
 you see
 much
 change
 in your
 letter
 wife
 1863

My own loving Husband

Now I wish you were here
 to talk with me tonight for I do not feel like writing.
 I feel very tired and a little nervous. If anything
 happens I shall take the early train for Chelsea. I
 have been very busy for a week past getting ready
 for a start Friday morning I was at five o'clock
 and rushed all the forenoon, and soon steadily
 all the afternoon. Yesterday I did not find of the
 day packed in the afternoon and sent in the
 evening. I did not go to sleep until after eleven, and
 awake very early this morning. I shall have to rise
 at four o'clock tomorrow morning and I think by
 the time I reach Chelsea I shall feel pretty tired.
 What happiness would be mine, and I expect to meet
 my husband in Chelsea. If that pleasure be in store
 for me I do not think I should feel tired. The thought
 of meeting my dear one so soon, and in all our
 way. Believe me your affectionate wife
 Anne. You will say that happy time will come
 sooner or later. I wrote to Mother a week or two ago, and

asked me if he could raise me during my stay
in Chelsea. I declined a letter from Aunt's next
week, saying that she would be very happy to receive
me if I could with her accommodations. You may
think it strange I do not wish to stop at Uncle E -
I wish I could, but Aunt Emma has so much
company, I do not think it would be convenient for
me to remain there, any length of time. Still I have
rather stop at your house. But Emma is very kind,
but she does not seem as near to me as your dear
Mother. I shall not be in Chelsea more than two or
three weeks, I shall return by the last of next month
and shall make a visit to Brighton during my stay
in Mass. William was quite sick last morning, he had
three fits during the day. Mother said they were very
bad ones, he appears quite well now. Yesterday we
had quite a little snow storm. Fannie Harwood sends
her love to you. I think I will lay this aside and finish
it, in a day or two. I must good night Lizzie

Chelsea April 29th You will not be ready for our half-
hour, so I will spend the time writing to you dearest.
Let me see, I will commence where I left off. Sunday
evening, I went to bed about ten o'clock I was a little nervous
and did not go to sleep until twelve, I awoke a little
after two, and could not get asleep again, I arose at four

threatened to do so. I think one more making
considerable noise indeed I think one awake again and
you were highly indignant. Do you remember it, Cousin
I called to see Francis Keelby yesterday and he told
me he expected to be married the 20th of May.

Last evening was very light and pleasant, and Alice
and I walked down to Uncle C - told there was no more
home but Camie, some did not stop. It is fashionable
for ladies to wear their hair crimped. Last night Camie
and I braided ours up tight so it would not
run. The new beauties after we got it braided in small
braids. This morning I washed and dressed the baby. Then Camie
and I went down to the meeting. I left Camie
and Nell down to the meeting, and took the baby down to
Aunt Emma's. I told Grandmother I did not
expect to see me with a baby quite so soon. Although
if I had been as smart as some of my dearest neigh-
bours thought I was I should have one of my own in about a
month. Alice Jones called to see me yesterday. I believe
Alice has been promoted to Captain. He is now at home
at Orleans and if he remains there any length of time, Alice
is going out to him. She now thinks she shall go in Sept.
There is going to be a Fair at the meeting tonight and to-
morrow night, and Mother is so busy. of course you
know she always has to be the head one. The next
down to the meeting early this morning, and will next

return home until late this evening. I hope she
will not make herself sick. She wishes me to
attend the fair, but I do not care to go. If you
were here to go with me, I should feel differently
about it. But I think I am, we will affairs.

I met Mrs Geo Dice down to the meeting this morning
she felt quite anxious about her husband. He is still
a prisoner, and she does not think there is much prospect
of his being exchanged. Now I think it is high time to
answer your kind letter. You commence by saying
"How poorly, shamefully I have treated you in the
way of letters lately!" Now my dear if I do not complain
you ought not to censure yourself so harshly. You write
me you have not felt well, and have been very busy.

Your excuse is very good, and I freely forgive you. Short
letters are much better than no letters, and I am always
glad to receive them, although if I could have my choice
I should prefer the long ones. And I know George you
always write long ones, when you can. If you had
as hope you will pardon so many mistakes, I don't
know why it is, but I am continually making the wrong
letter, I would copy this, but I fear the copy would not
look much better. Nothing happens you can make a
pilgrimage to Chelsea soon, but I shall not consent to
have the tips of my fingers kissed, I want use of your

smell kisses on my lips. Am I exacting? It gives
me much pleasure to hear my letters did you so
much good. I gladly would, if I could send such
letters always. But oft times when I write I feel ~~so~~ tired
and perhaps a little blue, and then I cannot write a
cheerful letter. I write as I feel. You shall not have any
more cool letters. I shall be so happy now, I cannot write
sad letters. I am glad you have received Nos 2 and 4
at last. I did not know but I should receive them
again. I think I sent you No 5 the next month. If you
are coming home the middle of June, I shall not
send any letters after next month. I guess many of
Mother's friends think her "big netts" look much older
than she but I do not. Have you just found out that
I am a "kind little boy"? That is strange. I thought you
deserved the best picture, and I wanted you to have the
one you liked best. I hope because you have decided to
wear flannels all summer, you will not expect me to
do so. — That is the baby mark. Carrie just brought her
to me, and she wanted to write to Uncle George. Baby
has a very handsome carriage, a little chair. Perhaps
I may want you to purchase one like it sometime.
I am wondering the sun tamer that sufficed me.
God grant that I may do naught to diminish the love
you bear for me may it always have a holy influence

over you, and keep you true to your principles. Mary
Kellie like the looks of your friend, with a "nose of
a monstucki" and wants him to send her his
visits. Mother says he does not look near as well
as you do and of course I agree with her.

Carrie Holmes said Henry would be glad to receive
your letter and was much pleased to hear from
you. I think they expect Henry and John home
in July. I saw Mary Pratt yesterday, she said
she received your kind letter. And she had
answered it long ago, had she not been so busy.
She says she has no time to write in the morning
and when she gets home at night she does not
feel like writing. She said she had written but
one letter for two weeks. Esther is much better, but
she is far from being well. I must tell you another
piece of news. Dorcas is to be married very soon, she
leaves the store this week I believe. Uncle Chandler
is going to move to Denton very soon. I shall go
out there next week to make them a visit. I am
very anxious to see little Lois. I think I shall go
to see Dr. Johnson this week, and ask him if he can
cure this horrible some humor in my face.

I must now bring this lengthy epistle to a close for
I want to write to Mother tonight. I shall tell her
she may expect me the last of June. I hope she
will not be disappointed. Six weeks will soon
pass away and then good-bye to letter writing
for a while. O if I am away from home I shall
be able to write to Mother. I have had a very few correspondents
now. I wrote to Sarah three or four weeks ago, but
she has not answered my letter.

I hope ere this you have recovered from your cold
and are feeling perfectly well and happy.
With much love my dear husband, I will now
bid you good-bye. Your loving and happy wife

and left home about five. It was a very pleasant
day. And I had as pleasant a journey as I expected
you know it always makes me feel sick to ride any
distance in the cars. I arrived here about two in the
afternoon, they were all surprised to see me, they said
they did not expect me until tomorrow night. I was
obliged to go down to Uncle E - soon after I got here saw an
envelope for Mother, and by the time I got back I felt
pretty tired, I can assure you. I had two or three calls to
make coming home, so I walked. I called at Carrie Hobbs
and told her how pleased you were with her and Benny's
photographs, she said she was very glad she sent ^{them} it. She
wished me to send her love when I wrote. You tell
just my love to Esther had called on me, so good bye for a
short time. Mine about Wednesday afternoon.

I will try and finish this letter now. Yesterday morning
Esther, Matt Holmes, and I went over to Boston stopping one
day and got home about four o'clock. I went in the store
when I first went over, and William has all one of our letters.
I cannot tell you how much pleasure it gave me. I have
been so happy since I received it. Is it possible dearest, that
in six short weeks, I shall again be clasped to your hands.
I can hardly realize that I am you will be with me in
a short time. How much we shall enjoy it. I did not
intend to remain here longer than the next last of next

month, Paul I have ~~ceased~~ changed my mind since I receive your letter, and shall stay here until you come. Since then dearest, you can go down east with me and make Mother a visit, will you not?

I showed the last picture you sent me to your family and they do not like it. They say it looks too old and stony and they do not like the style of your whiskers. And I do not think them as becoming as they are last fall when you were at home. I had up about shame your chin, and raise side whiskers. Paul don't on any account, all the mustache hairs are smother that come from mustached lips. And I shall want a great many when you go home. Do you think you can satisfy me? While I was in Millbrook some Mrs Leonard came in, she passed by Esther and Martha and said he was going to speak to me first, she appeared very glad to see me. I told him you were coming home soon, and he said "that is good" I want some at the store George Blake is in to get a bonnet. Let me here tell you before I forget it, that Nellie presented him with a daughter last Saturday night. He said she was very comfortable yesterday. I shall call and see her as soon as it is proper. Miss Robbins is nursing her. Annie & Nellie B - were in the here she other night, I asked them what they called the baby and they said she had been named "Battie Robbins" if he poor little boy has not got a name yet. When you see him I expect you will take pity on him and give him one. And oh how I am missing that baby. I don't want to forget my little niece. She is just as cunning as she can be, and very good. She said for me to take her yesterday. This spinning Carrie took her and came in my room to with my ankle. We had a fine time. The baby was full of fun. After she had been with us about an half hour Esther wanted her to lie with her. So Carrie sent her in. When Carrie said she was going to "play she was Gorge" and began to hug me. I told her she was her a very poor substitute. and I did not want to play longer. Then she commenced to tickle me. And whenever she had a good opportunity she would bring her hand down freely. I suppose if you had a bit near you would have called to see to stop our infernal noise, or you would throw us out of the window. I remember one night when you

M.H.H.

17th Mass, Aug 10th 1863.

I send with this a short and hastily-written letter to your Mother, though mailed to you, as I do not know her address. I have not felt like writing for a long time; and I heartily wish some of your later letters would come along and stir me up a little. There is nothing doing here; and I feel so badly about not going home that I can think of nothing else. My mind dwells constantly on you; and if there was any definite time - any sure point when I might know that we would meet - I should feel more satisfied in my mind. But this "hope deferred" is what makes me the most miserable.

I have a very pretty shell frame - at least, I think it so, which I wish to send to you, together with the picture of those "side whiskers" that trouble your repose so much. I don't suppose you care for anything but the whiskers, so I had better give you nothing but them. I shall speak to Jennie Kalluck's cousin and try to get him to take charge of it, and bear it safe home. I hope the frame will please you if the picture does not.

The express a mail here on the 15th, and I shall not feel angry if I find half a dozen of your letters to read. Not a word of scolding will it occasion.

The Hindrick Hudson will go home for repairs this week, I presume, after which I don't know how long you may be obliged to wait for a letter.

I will receive a good space here, as long as possible, but anything can happen. In the meantime, adieu.

Aug. 11th. Your letters of the 27th and 28th including Carrie's, had just reached me, causing me much grief. For some time I have known that Esther's health was rapidly failing; but I did not expect she would so soon break down.

O! that I could go home even if become too late! Too late! How many times we have to write it, in many a humid hope! I have striven desperately for leave to go home for a short time, whether successfully or not, this week will show. But I dare not hope. I have hoped so long and so vainly, that I am nearly discouraged.

How trouble seems to accumulate around Mother! I thought she had enough to bear with sickness at home. But, now, comes the news of Eli's sickness in camp. I do hope he will be able to go home - it will be one care more, but the anxiety will not be near as great. The same mail brought me letters from Mother and William, and they both seem to have given up all hope, and only think now of mending her situation as easy as possible.

I believe I could be of some little service if I were at home. 'Tis almost maddening that I can't go when there is nothing in the world to prevent but the permission of the Department. We have affairs enough to span me; but we are bound slaves. I wish I could answer your kind, loving letters as they desired; but must wait for another opportunity. There will be plenty of time to talk of coming this way; so I will now say nothing about it.

Hoping to hear from you again soon, I remain,

with much love to you and all at home,
your loving husband,

George.

1821.

I in answer
 Praying for
 God's will
 more comfort
 you in your
 home in Boston
 I remain your
 loving wife
 Anne

I recd my
 for a baby
 this morning
 the top of it
 is so large
 this is I feel
 certainly
 for a while
 time

My dear Aunt Hannah
 Augusta August 2nd 1821

It is so very warm this
 afternoon I thought I would not go out. It is
 usual to walk to visit and I am so tired
 and sleepy I can hardly hold my head up
 (But I wish you were here to see it for
 me) So you must not expect a very brilliant
 circle. Yesterday morning I arose at five
 and worked all the forenoon after I got
 through working, I had to get some on
 my hands and knees and work up these
 pins. I work hard all day, did not have
 time to comb my hair or even scrub
 in the evening. I think I will write too
 much, for I feel miserable today. I send
 you a letter last Tuesday enclosing our
 from Ann. I received a letter from Mother
 yesterday. When she was, she was in Quincy
 Uncle John and family returned to Boston
 last Tuesday. Aunt Emma went to Salem
 with her mother, and was taken sick

most fine means ^{to} visit the Gypsies
pen. She is receiving what is able to sit
up two or three hours a day. Jim is at Lancaster
visiting Engine Guy, as soon as he returns
he and Carrie are coming down here.

I am receiving Agnes of Toronto by Post. B.
Tom, and you ever send it? I am so lonely
since Mother went away. Will ever see
get home until tomorrow in the evening.
How if you are not so far away I should
wish for you to come and spend evening
with me. I think I mentioned in my
last, that I intended to do. Not sure if you
certainly have not neglected me, in regards
to letters. I have had more than my share
for no weeks past, but they are all very
dear, and I should not complain if I
received more as many for two weeks to
come. It is so pleasant to hear from you so
often. Do not cut off your side either
to write to me, I feel much better now
the less which they appear. I am in hopes
something will happen to send you home
soon. If it were not for hope the best would

break". And now I must blame you
for my disappointment. I should certainly
be an affectionate wife, if I will so. I
think you have suffered enough without
my complaining. It was a bitter disappoint-
ment as I think was harder for you to learn
than me. I have so many friends near
me to sympathize and comfort me, but
you my poor little husband away from
friends and home. "would that I had wings"
How long as you think, it would take me
to reach you and clasp my arms around
your neck and comfort you & I will now
lay this aside and get tea.

Sunday Evening

My husband, how can I write and tell you
we are coming. There is no more. She has gone home.
It is a hard blow to us all. I will help us to
bear it. I received a ~~comfortable~~ telegram from
Charles this morning saying Esther died
this morning and requesting me to come with
to see if possible to attend her funeral
service tomorrow. I am very sorry I am
not able to leave, but Esther is away, and

I cannot blame. Poor Father I will
think when I kiss his dear image only
five weeks ago that I should never meet
her on this earth again. I would be well but
this case runs near to heavily on you. How
she is with it and we have one small thought
to cheer us he knew that now she is a
happy angel, in the bright world above.
She is free from all pain and sorrow.

It is very very hard to part with her
but we do not wish her back to this
world again. She suffered so much
I don't think we realized how much
she suffered, or how sick she was. I
cannot realize she is indeed gone. we shall
I fully feel her loss until I return to
Chelsea. I should wish to see her and feel
once know that our dear Annie had so
kindly greeted me when I last visited
C - & her husband forever. Your Father sent
me a letter Saturday telling me he
was failing very fast, and requesting me
to come to C - immediately, and I could
not receive the letter until a night. It
grieves me much to think I could not see
her again. She passed away. When I could
have gone to her so quickly had I known

No. 50.

U.S. Steamer Octovara
At Sea, Sept. 20th 1863.

My darling Wife;

It is just one year ago since I joined this ship at Hampton Roads. I had little expectation then that I should remain so long away from you. But when once we put on the harness, we know not when we can leave it.

I trust our time will soon run out, and orders will come for us to homeward steer.

My last letter that I expected to send by the Tigra still remains on my hands, sealed and directed. I dislike to have letters hang on so; would you relieve me of it? How long it is since I have heard a word of your dear self! Only that, it is a month and a week since the date of your last letter. Praise Heaven be praised! we are no bound to stay that, and the Lord willing, I shall in three or four days be feasting on your loving letters, drinking in every loving word that you spare on your absent husband. What a pleasant feast it will be; and how many of us will enjoy it.

awaits me as your hands ^{will} extended, or fall short
of, the truth. Or ~~shall~~ you greet me so long
by that imagination will fall all behind the
reality and return disappointed?

Since I last wrote you we have been over a good
many miles of water. We left Nagti on the 11th
inst., and took a severe gale of Eleuthera on
the night of the 14th. Luckily, we could run
before it to make a lee of Stimp Key, which
we made at daylight the next morning.

I thought the old ship would lose everything
from deck, but she went along very well, and
no damage was done, beside parting a few ropes.
This was the hardest gale we have experienced.

From Stimp Key we went round the western
end of Great Bahama Island, and came outside
skirting along the upper shore of Abaco, down
by Eleuthera again, by San Salvador into the
Sound, where we are now. We are now going
to Abaco again, thence to Key West, where we
hope to arrive in three days.

We have had quite disagreeable weather since we have
been out on this cruise, having had a succession
of squalls, both wind and rain. One can stand on

drizzle nearly every day, and see a dozen rain squalls flying about. But when they pass over us, the water comes down with little stint.

It has been quite cool compared with the weather we experienced in Key West and Cape Sable, though even at night, we never have the thermometer fall below 80°. That is not very freezing weather.

Speaking of that kind of weather, I wonder if I am to have an opportunity to skate with you any time this coming winter! How would you like me for an escort and companion for that amusement? You have tried me in that line and know what my capabilities are; and can speak from actual knowledge. But wouldn't it be nice if we could try the sport together! What pleasant times we used to have the last skating season I spent at home, although you did abscond with a young gentleman one evening. I remember a certain private lesson I gave you on a pond near our house, one very cold evening. I didn't feel the cold much, though, I would be willing to press a little if I could pass my arm around your waist and sail over the ice.

Don't you believe you could throw me out - if I gave you time?

But I must bring this to a close, if it is my Sunday forenoon work and pleasure. Excuse all dullness, for I only slept three hours last night. Give my love to your mother and all at home, and believe me to be your loving husband, George.

No 51

L12218

Chelsea Sept 9th 63

One year ago tonight since you left
me my dear husband. Little did I
think then that a long weary year
would pass, without seeing your dear
face. How many, many times did I
think of you yesterday, and wish you
were with me. Perhaps it would interest
you to know how I spent the day. In
the morning Canice and I had Charlie's
team, and went down to the beach in
bathtub. I had a fine time, and it
did not tire me, as it did the day
before. Directly after dinner I went over
to the city with Mary H- to get a
Gull cape. I got back about six, took
tea at Henry H- and Mat and I went
over to Millie B- and spent the evening.
When I got home I told William it
was the anniversary of my wedding.
He said he brought some peaches

home, and told ~~me~~ me to go down
stairs and celebrate with them. He also
gave me a kiss, which I appreciated.

Didn't I feel sad and lonely, one year
ago at this time. I no sooner got a
husband than I lost him; the next
time I get him I shall not let him
go, unless he takes me with him. I
have written two letters tonight, and it is
late, so I will lay this aside and retire,
hoping to have sweet dreams you'll see.

Sunday Afternoon. This is a dull dreary
day. It has rained ~~most~~ most all day.
This morning I was reading very quietly
sitting down in my morning dress, when
William came up stairs, and since Charles
was going to take Mother down to church,
and there would be room for me, I asked
him how much time I had to get
ready in, and he said 15 minutes, I
started for my room, and in less than
15 minutes I was all ready for church.
Wasn't I smart? To be sure my hair

did not get much combing, and
Nellie visited me, last Friday. Well
Emma, Carrie, Maude, and I went out
to Roxbury to spend the day. Charlie &
Joseph came out in the evening. We
had a very pleasant time, did not
get home until after eleven. Yesterday
afternoon I spent with Dorcas.
Mannah C - Addie K - and Lizzie
L - were there, I enjoyed myself very
much. I should think Dorcas might
be perfectly happy. She has a nice
little house, furnished neatly, and
every thing to make her comfortable,
and last but not least, she has a husband
to live with her. I believe I have a
husband roaming over the world some
where. I wish he would come home
then I should be sure I had one. I
received your short letter No 48 last
Thursday. It was very welcome if it
was not as lengthy as some letters
you have favoured me with.

It sounds strange here in this cold
country to hear you talk about shivering
to death. Last Thursday night my
feet were so cold all night I could
not sleep, and I had three blankets
on the bed, if you had been with
me, I should have warmed them over
for you. You have no idea, how I dread
the cold winter coming, if I were not
such a cold - I should not mind
it. I saw by the papers that the "Genl.
Cobb" arrived in N York the 2^d of
this month, but Pillsbury has not yet
received the package and we think
it very strange. I do hope they it is
not lost. Monday Morning. Oh dear
I have had such a time getting
Maudie to sleep. Carrie has gone to
Boston, and left Maudie with
me, she was very sleepy, but determined
she would not go to sleep in my arms.
And she screamed and kicked for
some time, but I did not give up
to her, so at last she got tired and
went to sleep. Thursday evening

hater it will do you
some little good.
Take good care
of your health,
darling, for my
sake. If you
should make your-
self sick, I don't
know what do
private things
I might do.
Give my love to
all. And, in my
anxiety, I put my
arms around your
neck and embrace
and kiss
you.
With much
love, I am
as ever,
your loving
husband,
Mary

U. S. Steamer Octovara,
N.Y. Mar, Sept, 22nd 1865.

My darling Mepi:
He arrived here late this afternoon,
and my heart was made glad (and sad at the same
time) by the perusal of nos. 47 and 48. Glad, to read
such loving words from your dear self; and sad to
think that I could not be with you. But I thank
you very much for your dear letters, especially for
no. 47, which made me almost feel that I was at
home again. How fortune smiles on us again in that
way, will you love me as well, and will you tell me
so with your own dear lips, putting the seal upon
your words to make it official? It has been so long
since I was last told that I was loved, that, were
it not for such dear letters, I might almost begin
to think it all a ^(dream.) ~~dream~~.

I am much obliged to Mill for his photograph, and think
it very good, though it is long since I have seen him.
And I am also very thankful for Camie's brief epistle;
and you must assure her of that fact, and that I
do not think her at all bold to write to her cousin

who never yet received too many letters. Indeed, I think
so highly of her and her production, that I shall
answer it at my earliest opportunity, although
she does close with Poi's melancholy refrain
of "never more". I shall not pretend to answer
your sweet letter at this time, as I have only a
half hour to devote to this, and must go on watch
till midnight, in a few moments. I think I will
have made a good use of my half hour in this.
I write so hurriedly as there is a probability of
a mail being sent out to-morrow forenoon to
intercept the New Orleans steamer bound North.
In regard to the furniture spoken of, as I shall
probably have some considerable expense atten-
dant on Esther's death, you had best consult
with him. Aside from that I have no possible
objection. Don't feel any false delicacy in doing
so. There goes eight bells, calling me to my
four hours promenade, so I must take leave
of you, leaving you, for company, much love and
many blessings. Give my love to Mother and all,
and believe me to be ever your loving husband,
George A. H.

Sept. 23^d. No mail went to-day, so behold me at work
again on this wail. You will receive quite a packet
by this mail, which I hope will give you pleasure.
There has been no very regular mail communication
on account of the fear of fever. But, fortunately, we
have had none this summer. It will be more regular
during the winter. In regard to your coming down here.
As matters now stand I cannot permit it. It is doubt-
ful whether we will be much in here during this winter.
I'll not be in for two months when we leave this time,
as we will coal at Cape Haytien. How it will be in
fortune, I can not, at present, tell. Another reason:
there is no steamer now touching here but a man-of-war.
Capt. Collins will endeavor to get me home.

Write your regular number of letters to this place,
but send me a couple of letters to Cape Haytien, to the
care of Admiral Landner. You need not feel obliged
to make them long, so that they are sweet. Otherwise, I
will not hear from you for two long months.

Had I been within range on your last birthday, I would
have given you whole broadsides of kisses, of twenty-
three each. As it is, I will owe them to you. Just think,
I haven't touched a pair of lips for over a year! O! how
sweet the contact will be when the time comes!

I forgot to mention, when writing of the chamber set last evening, that, if we went to housekeeping in Chelsea, the cost of transportation would about equal the price of the furniture, not to mention the breakage. Mather writes she wishes me to purchase a lot near her. I wonder when I shall be able to do so!

I thank you very much for your compliments of my always keeping. I shall always try to keep the reputation.

One of these days you may show a happy face from your window. I hope you will not make other wives too envious. I am sure that I sent a letter by the Eagle. I sent No. 40 on the 18th and 41. on the 24th.

What do you mean by saying that the marquis did not trouble you because you had enough trouble? Is it a reflection on me? If so, I ask for forgiveness.

I never read "Bag Path." Is it by the author of "Gold Tail"? What would you have done if you had not been married, when the handsome man called? Did it make you regret that you ever said yes? Mather was too sanguine about my coming home. But I hope something will soon turn it.

When my wife has the kindness to present me with a baby, you can ask her whether she will intrust it to you.

You must not work yourself too hard, for I will not allow it. There is no particular need of your killing yourself just as presents, when you have no husband to look out for you. Thus, I think I have written your quite long letter, and

P.S. Of
course
you will
send Adeline
per Mr.
I am good
boy. G.

No. 3.

U.S. Steamer Octorara

off Mobile Bar.

Dec, 25th 1863.

My darling Mimi—

If you do not consider it too late I will wish you a "Merry Christmas". I hope you have passed the day more pleasantly than I have; and that your thoughts have occasionally wandered towards me who, though unable to join in your festivities, still sympathize in all your joys and sorrows. I suppose I shall soon learn how you have passed the day. Probably Capt. Catr has called to see you to-day. I wish he had had the ordering of me, I would have helped entertain him to-day.

We have been tossed on the briny rather lively to-day. Had the Arkansas been here, there would have been a fine exhibition of "ground and lofty tumbling." Quite a smart gale set in last night from the E^{SE}; and the sea has been quite high. We got under weigh this forenoon and stood out for a better opening. She has stood the sea well; while the frigate Richmond has appeared to be on the point of overturning. Last night we had a Christmas, which went off very well, considering our limited supply.

This is the third successive Christmas that I have spent away from you. I hope it will be the last. What a miserable life our fellows lead who spend the greater portion of our time on the water. We have no fires in our rooms, and in cold and bad weather visits us, we are not so uncomfortable as we wish. Our bad weather will soon be over, as the wind is subsiding. Soon we shall be on our way to Pensacola, how long to remain there I can't say. We will try to do some repairs there, but will not be very successful as there are no conveniences. There may be a survey called, which may send us either home or to New Orleans.

A steamer came in from N. O. two days ago, bringing a mail from your city, bringing me only one letter, that was from Tom, post-marked the 19th, in which he mentions that you had received a letter from home for me, and had sent it to me. I haven't seen it yet, neither have I received a word from you. I don't know where the fault lies, either with the P. O. department or with the mail agent at the Pensacola.

Perhaps the Arkansas will soon come this way, then I shall be sure of a letter. Now, darling, I wish you good night, and happy dreams. George

Sat. Dec. 26th The gale has abated, and we are all lazily
rolling in the trough of the sea. The poor old Rich-
mond looks as if she was on the point of going
over all a once.

Word has just been passed that a steamer will
soon leave for Ship Island, and a mail will
go in her. So I will give you what I can for a
letter. It is doubtful whether I receive one from
you this year; still, I live in hopes.

We are continually putting off going to Pensacola;
but must go very soon. I hope we will be
ordered to N. A. to do our repairs, as we can't
do them properly at the present place.

How earnestly I do long to return to the city!
More than ever do I feel dissatisfied at remaining
away from you. Now that you are so near me,
I am possessed with a stronger desire to be with
you than if you were away.

Love to Stan and the Mills. Remember me to the Dr.,
and to Mrs. & the Misses B. and the family.

Hoping soon to hold you in my arms, I am, as
ever,

Your loving husband
George.

Mr Peers and I
took a walk
it is a delightful
place. The chest
one piece of
crumpled soldier
we left the
Steamer about
eight, but the
ferry boat, and
embark over
last night to
the city, and
we had to
cross the
river in
a row boat.
The Arkansas
will sail
the first of
July next
and then
I shall and
will have
the last

My own dear Husband. Capt Gate told
me last Saturday, he thought there was a
Steamer going to Mobile, so I finished my
cup in a hurry, and sent it down to the Steamer
by time, but, alas, the Steamer was going down
the coast, so I still have the letter. I wish I
could get it to you for I know surely you
would be very happy to receive it. Last Sunday
morning, a man came here, with two boxes of
cigars, and enquired for you. He said he had
sold you some before, and you requested him
to bring you two boxes. As you did not tell
me anything about them, I did not know
what to do. He charged \$2, for the last, and
I had not that amount. Mr Peers was
here and took one box, gave him \$6.00, he told
me if I would take the other box I might
have it for \$2.00, Mr B. said they were very
reasonable, so I took the box, do you want

them; if you do not, I can sell them.

Last Sunday Capt, Addis, Mr Biers and I took a ride down to The Lake, Pa and Addis was feeling very well, went in a hack. but Mr B- got a splendid team, top buggy and a Walter. You ought to have seen that little horse go, I had a grand ride. Monday evening we intended to go to the Theatre, but there was some misunderstanding about the seat, and Pa did not feel very well, so he and Addis remained at home, I went with Mr B- and enjoyed myself very much. The play was "Leak, The forsaken". Capt says it is more than he can do to take care of two girls, so he one of his officers to assist him. Tuesday we had quite a little excitement here in the house.

If you remember when you were here Ella went to the Theatre on night, with a ^{master} ~~gay~~ named Painto, and she remarked that he had invited her to go a number times, but she told him she would not go with him if he wore his uniform, so he doffed it, to please her. She told Capt the same story, and then

Told him what this "Painter" said
to Paymaster Parishap (of the Arkansas)
when he wished him to take my own
pives, that with the insult she threw at
Mr B - made Capt vexed, so when he
went on the Steamer, he with the Dr and
Paymaster, composed the price I send
in this. The moment the Boarders saw it,
they knew who it referred to, and there was
a great laugh. Shortly after breakfast
"Painter" rises up highly indignant, he
said he had been to the Era office, and
they would not tell him who wrote the
price, but the lady refused to say Miss
Brandenburg. P - said he did not care
on his own account, but he thought it was
an insult to the lady, especially as they
styled her a female, instead of a lady, and
that is what makes Ella so mad. Yesterday
Nadie and I went down to the Steamer
with Pa. When he got there he found a
letter from Painter, saying he had learned
Capt Cook was the author of the price.

Life is still
with us and
he may not
live about
the last of
the week.
Addie is
still improving
leaves I
hope I shall
hear from
you very
soon. Mr
with much
love and
many
kisses
to you
giving
your loving
wife
L.H.C.

and Mr Peers, have been very kind to us,
and have done every thing in their power, to
make us enjoy ourselves. I shall never forget
their kindness, Addie is very much better, and
is really growing fat. she has a too double
chin, I wish I could say the same about
myself. I received letters from home last
Monday. They were all well. They are having
very cold weather, and splendid skating,
it makes me wish I was there to hear about
it, and if you it were mad for you darling, I
should say, I should like to go. Do not think
dearest, I am discontented, for it is not so,
but as it is near the last of the month, I do
not feel very well, and I have certain
symptoms which one feel rather anxious. But
I hope it will turn out all right. Capt Cate
expects to go down the coast next week, and
when he returns, he will go to Pensacola, may
I go with him? he is willing. I have written

a long letter to Mother this morning and
feel somewhat tired, so will lay this aside.
When I returned from the Steamer yesterday
I found a note from Stan saying Mrs
Tracy would be happy to have us dine with
them, but it was then too late to go.

Sunday morning. It has rained hard all
the morning, and there is no prospect of the
weather being brighter, soon I wish you
were here, to cheer me up, for I feel a little
homesick, I intended to have attended church
this morning with Mr Beer, but the rain
prevented. Pa went down to the Steamer
early this morning, and has not yet
returned. Stanley came down last night
to show me his Christmas presents, he fared
well. Mrs Hills presented him with a very
pretty neck-tie, I gave a pair of elastic buttons
from June, a fancy ink-stand and sand
bag from Mrs Tracy, and the handkerchief.
I gave him, he was much pleased with
them, and I was glad for him. His health
is still improving, Mrs Hills says she shall

take him with her, when she goes
housekeeping, if he has to room in the attic.
I am very glad for his sake, that she has
taken such a fancy to him. I do wish I
could hear from you, and I suppose you say
the same thing, but there is one thing to
console me, when the letter does come, I know
it will be a good long one. I should like
much to receive it in the same manner,
I received the last one, from your dear friends
Tuesday morning. The "Port Royal" will leave
tomorrow, and I shall at last ^{at last} have an opportunity
to send to you. Do I did in the Post Office
about a week ago, think there might be a
steamer going by the Lake. I hope you
will receive it. Sunday evening Messrs
Bischoff & Beus, passed the evening here.
Last evening I went to the Theatre with
Mr Peers. The play was "Colum Bann". I
saw it once, at the Museum in Boston. I
went with you I think. When you see
Mr Beus, you must ~~not~~ thank him for
his kindness to me. He told me last one

whenever I wish an want to call on him,
and he would be very glad to go with
me. He is a perfect gentleman. This evening
I think we shall call up to the Hills. I
we have not heard from home for some
time, Alford still expects a try by the
"Cromwell" and in it are letters from William
and Mother. The Steamer is due to day.
I got all they papers you wished and this
and I will try this morning, and get
these they tell me that none of the back
numbers, come in the late Gleams.
It is a month since I was — and I
begin to feel rather uncomfortable, I am
to get tight on give to night. Yesterday
morning when Rose was milking the fire
I remarked to Addie that I did not sleep
well, in fact I have not slept much for
a week. I feel uncomfortable and cannot
sleep, I awake every five minutes) when Rose
looked up and said "Mrs Wallis you are
_____". Please scratch that word out, after
you read it, for it is not a very pretty word.
Oh dear I wish you would come to me, for
I do not feel at all well, and want you
so much. Mayn't I go to your Steamer with
Capt Caterin's a week or two, if you would
come up here? Cannot I stay on your
Steamer a day or two, while Capt goes to
Pensacola? I saw Capt Sizer at the Theatre
last night. Now darling I must close
this and get ready to go out, and hunt for
those papers I shall do them up with the
Millon cases, and Mrs Peers, will call for
them this noon and that take them on the
"Port-Royal". I hope the Port-Royal is going
down to relieve the your Steamer.

U.S. Steamer Odetara
off Mobile Jan. 9th 1864.

My darling Wife;

The steamer Odetara arrived here this afternoon, from New Orleans, bringing the mails. I confidently expected to have one letter from you if from no one else; but vainly did I look for one. There was none for me. How could you allow the mail to bear without sending me a letter? To be sure, you may not have known that a mail was to bear; but then, you should have had me in the post office before she left. I always feel very much disappointed whenever a mail arrives from which I derive no benefit, and I am miserable for a long time after.

The Colorado sailed this evening for the S. W. pass, and has taken our mail with her. So you will soon receive one or more letters from me. I wish you could receive them as you desired, as you did the last one. It would give me as much pleasure as it would you.

Our bad weather has at last passed away, and clear but cold weather has succeeded. As I must get up at twilight I will now retire, my happy dreams attend thy slumbers, and may my kisses visit thee in thy sleep. George.

Jan. 9th. This morning we saw a large steamer ashore close to Fort Mergu. The morning was beautifully clear, but as cold as Greenland, and the steamer loomed up finely. We got under weigh just after breakfast and steamed in to within 3000 yards of the fort, and a little more than that distant from the steamer ashore.

Choosing a good situation, we beat to quarters and opened fire on her. After a few shots had burst in her neighborhood, the crew took to their boats, having evidently seen enough of our antislavery practice to form an estimate of our powers. Then the fort opened fire on us, which brought the rest of our boats up to support us. The fire now went on quite briskly; we firing only at the steamer and the fort returning the compliments for her. Their shots came very close to us, two of her shells bursting close under us, jarring us sensibly. Several of our shells struck the steamer. We continued the fire till nearly two o'clock, when our best gun gave out, and we hauled out, the others following suit. This evening the steamer got off, and steamed up to Rehdem. We fired forty shells at her.

While writing just now, we beat to quarters, on a false alarm, and all our fires had to go out. This is provoking on a cold night, but what's the remedy? I hope they will learn us in peace for the balance of the night, as I am a little sleepy.

If you are in the cigar speculation. You did not buy them for yourself, I presume. I gave no orders for cigars to be brought to the house. You need not buy any more for me.

How fortunate you were in your Christmas presents. We had nothing of the kind down this way. When I return to N.C. you of course will give me all the presents I wish.

You seem to have a half desire to be at home enjoying the skating. If I could see you for a few moments I think I could drive all that away; couldn't I, dearest?

I was up nearly all night, last night, and may have to turn over to-night. At any rate I must come out at four. So, darling, I kiss you a good night kiss.

Sunday. Here we are close under fort Morgan, under a flag of truce. We are in for the Englishman whom we took in a day or two ago. A shot is always fired when a vessel bearing a flag of truce has arrived a class as they will allow. But they are throwing several at us, for what reason I can't tell; probably for our own amusement. Well, let them fire as long as they please, so that they do not hit us. The steamer that we were firing at yesterday is in sight, straining up the bay, making us feel any thing but pleasant. It would have cost more than she was worth to have taken her from under the fire of the fort. Dinner time is approaching, and I will defer till evening;

Here comes the boy with the report of an opportunity
to send letters. So, farewell dinner, till I finish
this, which must be in ten minutes.

I smiled some when I read in your last letter
the plain comments of Racer. The dace's mean
to be mistaken. If things are as she would have
you believe, don't, for Heaven's sake, injure your-
self with preanitions. I wouldn't have you
do so for the world.

The senior officer told our Capt. yesterday
that we should go to M.C. very soon. I expect
we will go before the close of the month.

You may look forward to that with confidence.
Many thanks for the pillow slips and papers.
I sleep on the slips for the first time to night,
and will think whose fingers made them.

Give my love to Stou and Addie, and take
an abundance to yourself with many kisses.
Write soon and often.

Ever your loving husband,
George

U. S. Steamer Octavia
off Mobile, Jan. 14th 1864

My darling Wife:-

I am happy to chronicle a pleasant day. It seems doubly pleasant to us after our horrible weather for the last three weeks. I presume you have fared no better than we have in that respect.

The *Jasmine* left to day, carrying the mails. I sent you a letter which I put in the mail yesterday, and one to Star this morning. As the tug will soon I hope to soon hear from you. We left Pensacola at midnight, last night, and arrived here at daylight this morning. Nothing had occurred during our absence.

The Paymaster told me this evening that he had been ordered to go to N. O. to draw money, and attend to some other business. He said that if he could arrange it with the Captain he would like me to go in his stead.

Though I have no hopes that the Captain will acquiesce in the arrangement, still it gives me pleasure to know that there are some in the ship who like to do me a good turn. Before this mail goes, I shall probably know whether this good fortune will be mine.

We have been at work all day trying to recover our lost anchors. We succeeded in raising one, and will probably get the other to-morrow. But it has been nothing but up anchor and down anchor all day, such being the case, I will "damn anchor," and stay here.

Jan. 16th Last evening a poor little schooner fell into the
ravenous maw of our fleet, the Gestrade took her and
will proceed to New Orleans to-day. The Senior officer
has just made signal that a mail will go by her.
It is not a certain thing that my letter will be ready,
but if it is, you will soon know it.

Good clear weather is now prevailing, and the sea
has got over her tantrums and now sets as peace-
fully as you please. If you were on your way down
this way now, you would need have no fear of that
bane of sea travelling.

Yesterday and to-day we have had half-a-dozen cases
in court-martial. Fortunately I was not present on the
court. It is very seldom that I escape seeing,
though it is decidedly unpleasant to me, who do
not like the system of punishments inflicted.
We have discharged some men who have served a
year on this ship, and been court-martialed two or
three times, who have gone out as poor as when they
entered it. One in particular, discharged about
a month ago, had his last dollar taken from him
the day before he was discharged. The sailors
forward found a way to get over it, and determined
to bump the poor fellow. So several of them came
to me when I had the deck and said they owed
him small sums of money, varying from two
to five dollars, and wished the postmaster to

pay them, and check the amounts to their accounts.
By this means, the poor fellow raised a considerable
sum.

The Port Royal arrived yesterday from Ship Island
whither she had gone to repair.

Now I shall think there is some prospect of our
going to New Orleans. The Kanawha, now at N. O.,
will soon be down here, when our chances of going
will be further increased.

When we were at Pensacola, the boilers leaked so
badly that meal was put in to stop the leak.

We have to condense our drinking water; and the
water made from this meal water is awful.

I tried to raise a row about it, but no one would
join me.

I don't believe we will go to Pensacola again for
repairs. When we have another breakdown, I think
we will be sent to New Orleans. At least, the
senior officer said we should have that opportu-
nity the next time such a thing occurred.

I pray for a breakdown that will enable me to
be with you once more! Such an accident that
will bring me to your arms will be a happy one.

The Occasion is daily expected, and will also take a
mail to the City. I hope a mail will find us here by
the Jasmine. Love to Stan and Ad, and all friends,
and an abundance to you from your loving husband,
George.

P.S. Tell Stan not to forget to visit the "Isa"
office a day or two after the arrival of the
New York mail, and raise a pile of N. Y.
papers to send me. Let him take his bundle
down to the lower, and send to the plug ship
by the boats.

G.

Tell Mills that his
scholar was captured
by the Portuguese
He was bound
in, loaded with an
extorted cargo

from our
wife's to find
Morgan.
The pilot who
was on the
Arkansas
told me he
saw you in
N. O.
Now, darling
I must bid
you good-by -
kissing soon
again to hear
from you or
to see you
don't fail.
Ever
your
loving
husband
G. W. F.
Hally

U.S. Steamer Petrasa
off Mobile bar, Sunday, Jan. 17/64

For a great wonder we have remained
at anchor all day. We usually get up anchor in the
morning and steam down to the Richmond, where we
log all day, returning to our station at dark.

Now that we have fine moonlight nights, but little proba-
bility of blockade runners coming out, our watch is not
required to be so vigilant as usual. On dark nights it
is sadly trying to the eyes, to peer out into the dark-
ness through glasses. We send picket boats in every night
to keep a lookout on the movements of rams, blockade-
busters &c.

To-day we had church, which I did not attend. I attended
our service this morning, the reading of the articles of
war. I got a fine cold in the head by standing in the
cold with my cap off.

There is nothing of interest going on here, but all are waiting
for the arrival of the mail from New Orleans. That will
make its appearance in a day or two. I hope I shall have
reason to thank the mail for what it brings me.

There is a terrible noise and babel of tongues now
going on in the ward room, which renders writing any-
thing but easy. Such being the case, I will bid you
good night, with as many Sunday kisses as you please.

Monday, 18th. A strong N. W. gale has prevailed all day. We ran down to the Richmond this morning, with the picket boat in tow. This afternoon we have been kept in a state of excitement by the report of two steamers, one to the E^o and the other to the W^o. We expected they were the Circassian and Lackawanna, but they proved to be one of our fleet and the Housatonic. As the latter come from the direction of New Orleans, I suppose she has brought a mail. And if the tug arrives to-morrow, she will probably bring another one. I think I can confidently express letters by both. We were all impatient when it was reported that the Lackawanna was in sight; for it is understood that when she or the Onida arrives, there will be a strong probability of our going to the city. We could have gone long ago, had the cap'n so desired. But he wanted to stay here, thinking he might be ordered home in case he was at the city. I hope one of these two vessels will arrive in a day or two, as our condenser has given out, and it will take a week to repair it; and our chances will be all the better to go now than it will be after this repair has been done.

I never saw men so anxious to get away from this place, with this ship. It is no wonder when we consider how worthless she now is. But I have the mid watch, and will wish you good night.

Jan. 20th. Well, darling, I have at last received a letter from you, no. 844, but I can't say that I am as much pleased as I anticipated. Moreover, you failed to answer my letter that I sent by the *Jessamine*, which steamer has returned with the mail. I do not charge you with neglecting to answer, as your letter may have remained in the office. But I may as well review your two letters now.

Your letters are growing very melancholy and blue; so much so that I feel myself affected by the reading thereof. I shall soon believe that you are sorry that you ever left the parrot home to follow the fortunes of a wanderer of the sea. Now, dear, don't you wish you were home again, with us come to perplex you? But your letters may improve in cheerfulness now you no longer have a certain fear over you. I am glad that you are all at rest on that score, as I want you to keep in a happy frame of mind.

What a pity it is that Mrs. Sturtt is (or has gone) going home so soon. It would have been so nice for you to have had such a pleasant companion. My opinion of her is much higher than of her husband. But that is between you and I. What a time you seem to have at your boarding house. You need me back again, I think, to look after you. I am very sorry that affairs are so unpleasant and hope you will soon be able to make a change for the better. Which room do you occupy now?

How unfortunate that the "*Cummeel*" should have been deluged with your things aboard. I hope you have now received the boxes, and have been enabled to "square up."

The "Hartford" arrived two days ago, with Admiral Tanquer. He has just come aboard our ship, and we are now on our way toward Fort Morgan on a reconnaissance. The Admiral is looking finely, and seems to have some object in view. We are now to go to quarters and char ships for action. But I will continue writing till the gong sounds. You will see by my letter written about the same time as your last, that I expressed the same desire to "buy" that you have. I think cold nights are very productive of such desires. I have been expecting to see the Arkansas here in sight any day, with you on board. I presume you will come down in her if she comes. I don't want you to do so unless she will return soon. I hope you will be able to secure a boarding place with the Mills. It will be more pleasant than any other you can find.

People don't seem to be any too honest in N. O. to judge from the rapid disappearance of your coal pile. It is going it rather too strong to use a load in a fortnight.

I am very glad that you did not attend that ball. Those affairs are well enough when you are certain whom you will meet. But in such a place as N. O. it would be injudicious to attend them. Capt. Cate and Mr. Burs have my warmest thanks for their kind attentions. I wish I could relieve them of some responsibility. Give my love to Ad and Stan. I have written twice to Stan, but no papers come to me. I send you \$25. in this, and will send more the next time if you do not receive your remittance. Don't be extravagant. The Hartford will sail for N. O. this afternoon. We have returned

I will
send two
"mule" in
this, they
are dirty
but will
do when
the artist
gone then
to me. No 7

New Orleans Jan 19th 1857

My very dear Husband.

I have sent Bob
down to the "Onida" which sails to day. I will
now commence another to send by the "Arkansas".
Mr. Boes will hand it to you. Capt. De Boes, and
Lieut. Dean, spent last evening with us, and
we passed a very pleasant evening. One thing
troubled me, it was very cool, and there was no
fire, I expect the chimney needs repairing, for
the servant worked most an hour, trying to make
a fire, and then I tried, but ~~not~~ was unsuccessful.
Addie and I are talking about hiring a furnished
room and boarding ourselves. I think it would
be cheaper, and then we could have what we
wished to eat. I do not care to remain here
much longer, for I am perfectly disgusted.
I wish you were here to advise me, I shall
not move until I hear from you.

I have been to the artist who took your
pictures about a dozen times, since you
left, and have got but eight of them, and
the most of these were miserably finished.
Capt Gate went down there and sat for a
picture, had to wait a week for a proof, and
when he got it, it was very poor, so he gave
it up. Went up to Washburn's, had his picture
taken, and saw the proof in half an hour
afterwards, and the next morning had the
dozen. They are excellent pictures. Most of
the officers on the "Arkansas" had their "raits"
taken there and got good pictures, but none
were as good as Capt. May I go there and some
taken, for I have promised a number, he
charges \$7, for a dozen can you afford it?

Saturday evening we had quite a party
here. Capt. Mr. D. Lieut D. and Dr. Callin joined
the evening with us. I am so sorry A. B.
is going away so soon, we are so lonely with-
out him. I don't think there is much prospect

of your coming here again very soon. I coaxed
Pa (ate), to let me go to Mobile with him
but he said I could not go this time. He
will tell you about me. I think you will
be surprised when you see Addie, she is so
large, she looks as if she was in a delicate
situation, and she has been worrying about
it, although she has been sick every month,
we have laughed at her so much, she has
been quiet on that subject for a few days
just, but as she must have something to
worry about, she now is worrying about her
dearling Deedy, she has not heard from him
since the first of last month, and has not
received her money yet. She says she is
afraid he has deserted her. And yesterday
she was so blue. I think she is very foolish to
feel so, for those that know tell her the
gray master has not been down to Gray his rights
and there is no opportunity for him to send
letters often. One thing it does not affect

appetite, for she goes to the table and eats
until she says she is ashamed to eat
longer, and then comes up stairs and
says she is hungry. This is a beautiful clear
day, but cool, and I am going out to walk.
When will you hear from home last? Was
Carie Gilman answered the letter you sent
her. Haven't I been fortunate this winter, for
all the weather has been so damp and
cool, I have not had a cold, and I
think I can account for it, every morning
I take a cold water bath to my wrists.

Capt says there is a report, that the rebels are
going to send some "Rams" out from Mobile.
At any rate, something is going on down
there, for there are four Steamers going down
from here. I hope darling you will be in
no danger, I shall feel so anxious about
you. When you see Mr B - please thank him
for his kindness towards me, for he has
treated me as a sister. Now dearest do take
good care of yourself. Whenever you go
a nice prayer and blessing, shall follow
you.

Stanley sent you a letter with fifty cents
of stamps in it. I will pay him.

Keeping to hear from you very soon I remain
with much love and many kisses, your
aff and devoted miss.

Sheet 25 This
before it goes off
I do not, write
me all about
coming here to
see me. What a
delightful time
we will have
if and he agrees
I and my
father you.
With many
kisses and
much love.
I will bid you
good bye.
Ever your affectionate
and loving wife L

I have just received your letter
dated Jan. 12th, in which you mention
sending me letters by the English man-
of-war "Arago", the Steamer arrived here
a week ago, but I have not received the
letters, and I feel so badly about it, I
hear from you so seldom, that it grieves
me much, to lose a letter. And then I
asked you a number questions in my
first letter, and I suppose you answered
them in these last letters. One was
if I could come down to your Steamer
with Capt. Cate, and remain with you
while he went to Pensacola and ~~back~~ ^{when he}

returned he would stop for me. He said
would do so, now all I want is your
consent, darling, Mr B has just come in
and I must lay this aside and
entertain him. Wednesday Morning

Friday has just come in with another
lot of Southern Papers which I will
send by Mr B. I will send that bag
of cigars, will you accept them as a
New Year's Present from me? I have
also ~~sent~~ ^{given} Mr B six kisses for you
which he will deliver when called for.
You can send me some the same way
he is very obliging and will not
object to doing them. The other Papers and
letter next in The Tennessee. Capt Gate

I think he will get away tomorrow. I wish I could go with him, Yesterday afternoon Mr B, Addie and I took a long walk out in the country, we had a fine time. I think I will follow Addie's example and raise a double chin, so my love, do not cut your whiskers off just yet, if it will please you much, I will give you permission to shave your chin. but do not touch the moustache. Stanley did not read that letter your Mother sent you. I read it and thought it best not to let him see it. He sent you fifty cents worth of stamps, and I have paid him. I will send you some more soon.

Don't forget to send me three books by
the "Herkens" write me a good long
living letter, and send it by Mr B.

I don't mean to go home in the spring
unless you go. Bessie is going to remain
here all summer if Ned does, and I
not going home, and leave you come
here. I will now lay this aside, and
go to work. Wednesday evening. I went
down town with Stanley just before
dinner, and found two letters for
the "Esa" office from you. One dated
Jan 8th the other the 14th. I was delighted
to receive them, but my dear, I wish you
would number your letters, and then
I shall know how many are missing.
You ought to have sent a letter from
me by the "Staver", for I wrote No. 3, for
3rd and put it in the post office. I have
sent you letters every week, and some
weeks two, so you see my darling, it
was not my fault that you received
no letter.

You write you sent me letters by the "Calenda"
Capt Gate met the "Calenda", took her mail
and brought it up here. He arrived here
a week ago last Tuesday, but poor I received
no letter. Don't it look shocking to have
so many letters lost? It is so charming
out doors, I cannot content myself to stay
in this dark gloomy room, so Bessie and
I are going out to walk, don't you wish
you were here to accompany us? I must
certainly do. If I may add another

U.S.S. Astorara

off Mobile, Jan. 21/64

My darling Wife:

Your no's 576 have just come to hand; and as the Bermuda leaves immediately, I can only write briefly. Stan's letter also arrived, with postage stamp and file of papers to Dec. 25th. Let him continue from that date. I have just made an application for detachment. We have quite a good plot of vessels here now.

Be saving of your cash, as you may have use for it if I am returned wounded in your hands. I am glad to hear that you are gaining flesh. Hope your complaint will soon yield to the Doctor's persuasion.

Remember me to him, and give love to Ed and Tom. I will give you a better letter by the next mail. Thank Mills for his papers.

With much love, adieu,
Ever your loving husband
Wm.

U.S. Steamer Petrona
Mississippi Sound, March 2nd 1864.

My darling Wife:

The war is now over here, I believe, for the present, and howling shot and shells no longer rip the quiet air in their passage to and fro. None of us are sorry, as we had become tired of the noise and confusion, broken rest, and meals when you could get them: to say nothing of the risk we run in stopping a heavy mass of iron in its passage through the air. My last letter to you was closed on the evening of the last day of the fight, though I did not then know whether we would resume work again on the next day. Our appearances indicate that nothing more will be done. I suppose the object of this movement has been accomplished in keeping a strong force in Mobile, watching our movements. I hope they are satisfied; we are, at all events. On the last day of the fight, they worked with spirit all the forenoon, and made the shell whistle about our ears more often than we would have asked for. We learned that Buchanan (who had command of the Merrimack in her fight with the Monitor) was in command. That accounts for their extra pluck. They had one very large gun, rpled, ranging a shell 8 in in diameter and 18 in long. One of the shells the Griffiths, and lodged in her mortar bed. I ~~heard~~

Yesterday the whole rebel fleet passed down the bay on this grand trial trip, the Tennessee among the number. The latter is the only one of much account. We thought she had sunk during a squall yesterday, and some even think so now; but I think I saw her again passing up the bay. I hope she has gone down, as it will take away one of their main reliance. I met Capt. Biglow, of the Calhoun, whom we met while in the Arkansas, at Ship Island. He told me that he expected to leave for New Orleans in two or three days, for repairs. He did the kind thing for us, you may remember, when he had dispatches to send to the fleet, off Mobile but concluded not to send the Arkansas. We have had fine weather, to day, cool and pleasant. Last night it was quite cold, at least, I thought it was, between midnight and four this morning. We expect a mail tomorrow, as the Jackson will return here. I trust our orders to leave will soon come along. I shall rejoice - that is if you will be a good little wife to me. I suppose you will be as kind as you know how for a day or two; and then I may expect to be plagued to death. Well, I will willingly put up with a little plaguing if that is the condition on which I always see you. But it is near ten o'clock and I must retire, or I will not feel like turning over when the quarter politely informs me it is four o'clock. So, good night, darling.

March 3rd. I am very busy this morning, taking in
ammunition, and so. There is also a general
court martial in session aboard ship,
taking all our officers, having me to carry
out all the duties of the ship.

The Jackson will leave today, and I
have but a few moments to spare.

Mr. Hight will have in ten. I have
given him a letter of introduction
to you. He has a trunk of mine which
he will send to your address, and
you will please take charge of it.

There is nothing of interest. The Mita-
Comet arrived last evening from N.E.
I thought I might get a letter, but
was disappointed.

But I must close, and attend to my
business. Give my love to Stan and
the girls & to all friends.

Hoping to see you soon, I remain,
as ever,
your loving husband,
George.

tell them if he don't mind what is told him, and spend his
time in the open air, that I will enlist him in a black
regiment or send him to China. Now, darling, good night.
Don't forget to remember me to U. S. Steamer Octovara
Capt. Cat & Frank Biss.

Mississippi Sound, Feb 28th 1864

My darling Wife:— Ever your loving husband, George.

We have remained aground all day, in the
same situation we occupied yesterday. Orders were
given not to fire till the enemy opened on us.
I was called just before six to have ammunition
ready if it was wanted. When I went on deck, it was
so foggy that I could not see the fort. At about
seven, the fog lifted; and, no sooner did the enemy
see us, than they opened on us, throwing their shot
five hundred yards over our ship. We all "pitched
in," and soon made him keep quiet. At eight, we
ceased our fire, and went to breakfast, after which
the mortars kept up a constant fire. We kept
quiet till about eleven, when the enemy, who
had remained quiet all this time—suddenly made
a rally, and fired in quick succession. We all
went in again, and soon made it too hot for
them outside the bomb proof. We made beautiful
shots, nearly every one striking the fort, and
bursting immediately. The mortars kept firing
all day, but few of their shells struck the fort.
We have filled, and expended, our stores of ammu-
nition twice since we commenced the bombardment.
I don't think we will continue our fire longer than
the balance of this week. But enough for to night.

Friday evening, 26th. We have enjoyed peace and quietness all day. The "bummers" have refrained from rousing the air with their howling skull that sounds in their passage, like a train of cars passing over a wooden bridge. Last night we got afloat at high water, and hauled off from under range of the enemy's fire, as did all the others, the weather looking unpropitious. This morning Admiral Donagut left us. I don't remember whether I told you that he joined us last Sunday, in the Calhoun. It has been foggy all day, and we could not see Fort Powell. I don't believe much more will be done here. I think all we have done was merely to divert the enemy from something else that was going on elsewhere. I believe it is the intention to do a little more shelling to-morrow, if the weather is favorable. We can't fire over fifty shots, as we have expended nearly all our ammunition. The talk is strong now of being in New Orleans in a week. I trust nothing will turn up to mar this pleasant picture which I have been salacing myself with for the last two weeks. Every night, when I retire, I count myself one day nearer your. But it is growing late, and I have the agreeable mind wator; so I will take leave of you. Good night.

Sat. evening, 27th We have lain quietly at our anchors
all day and have been as quiet as lambs. The weather
has been foggy, for which I have been thankful,
as we would have done nothing but make a din
all day, throwing shot and shell away to no purpose.
The Admiral will return Monday, when I presume
we will fire away the balance of our ammunition.
No mail has yet reached us and we are completely in
the dark as to what the world is doing. Your last
letter that I received is dated over a week ago. I am
growing quite impatient to hear from you and Stan.
I have just written a long letter to William in an-
swer to his of the 5th.

Sunday evening 28th

Your letters, nos. 13 & 14 reached me to-day, together with a
nice bundle of papers for which all return thanks.

How sorry I am that I could not have met you and torn
off Mobile. I had given up all hope of your coming,
and was much surprised when I learned you were ac-
tually there. It was cruelly unfortunate that duty called
me away just at that time. I would give a good deal
to feel the pressure of your dear lips. But, God
willing, I shall soon clasp you in my arms.

What a pleasant time you must have had at the grand
ball. I wish I could have gone with you. I enjoy
these when they are properly got up. I am afraid,
though, that I might have ruined your rig by not
being able to keep my hands off. But I am glad you

went and had such a good time. I am glad that you met Gilmore at the party. I have a great liking for him, and we have many pleasant associations in common. He used to have pleasant "blackberry parties" at "my cottage" in North Carolina. Give him my best regards, and beg him to remain in the city a few days so I can meet him. I long to hear some of the Gilmore music.

I am much grieved that you appear to be ailing so much. You must be more careful, and not over-exert yourself. I want to find you well and hearty when I go up to the city. Now, darling, take better care of yourself, for my sake. I received your pictures, and will keep the dark one. I think it very good, and thank you for it. I believe there will be an opportunity to send a mail to-morrow, and I will leave this ready, as we will have no time to spare to-morrow. I suppose we will resume operations again to-morrow and throw away more cast iron. I hope this week will wind up the work for awhile, as I am sick of hearing those infernal shells pour the contents sawing the air. One thing consoles me: when we finish, away for New Orleans, where I know a loving pair of arms will need no urging to clasp me, and two loving lips will be ready to meet mine. Don't get anxious and fret yourself, but trust that all will come out right. Give my love to the hills, and my regards to the Dr. (two of them) & ^{the} Ballard's.

Irene and I turned in, we were very sick
all night, I was very sick, but could
not vomit for a long time, and when I
did, I nearly strangled myself to death.
Frank was up with me most all night,
in the morning I was so lame and sore
I could not move, the Dr. rubbed me
with camphor which made me feel
much better, but I am still very
lame. Capt. Thompson came on board
yesterday and invite Irene and I to visit
his ship, but we were not able to go, we
intend to go this afternoon. Peter should I
meet this morning, but your friend Capt
Johnson, he was delighted to see me, and
has kindly offered to take me any where
I wish to go. Capt. Cate cannot spare his
one to go sailing out, for they are busy
making (I think I forgot to tell you
that the "Harkness" was sent down here
to coal.) Capt. Johnson's ship is lying
along side the "Sportsman" discharging
and I shall visit him this afternoon.

The "Jessamine" is lying here, and I was
introduced to Capt Praine this morning.
I wrote you a letter while we were lying
off Ship Island, and sent it on board the
"Hartford" with a large bundle of papers
when you write please let me know whether
you received them. The prospect of my
seeing you, starting before returning to
New Orleans are growing beautifully less.
I was told this morning if you went in
quest for coal you would go to Ship
Island, and Capt Lute will not stop
there on his way to New Orleans he will
stop at the fleet off Mobile about ten
minutes, so I should have no opportunity
to see you, even if you were there. Although
I am very much disappointed at not
seeing you I do not feel sorry that I
came, for I have enjoyed myself very much
and I trust my recollections will do me
good. I feel very anxious to hear from you
as I hear you have been in an engagement
I hope concluding that you are safe and

well, and that I may soon have the
happiness of seeing you I will now lay
this aside as there will be no opportunity
to send it for a day or two. March 2nd and
My dear Horstani, I am true sleep and
disappointed this morning and do not
feel much like writing, but I must
finish this, so as to send it to the Garrison
Leet night I went out to Puanani to a
small party given by Dr. Bigler and wife
and some other Officers. I went with Paletti
Capt Thompson and I saw Mrs Thompson a little
and she was not very well and she did not wish
to come here. We had a splendid time, danced off
the evening, and did not get home until three
o'clock this morning. This evening I hope you
are going to see them back with Gen & Suburban
and Col Baldwin. I was told by a number
last night that the "Octon" would be
here within a week for coal and I have
decided to remain here with Capt Thompson
until she comes. This morning I saw Capt
Morris of the "Port Royal" and he says the
"Octon" will not be here for twenty days
or I shall return with Paletti, but if I
have a good opportunity I shall return in
about a fortnight and meet you here, do
you approve of my plan sailing? I shall ship
with Capt Thompson, as he will be his wife
inside when it. Capt Morris says there is no
prospect of the "Octon" going to M. C. and
because I am so disappointed. I long so
much to see you. I try to enjoy myself
but there is always something missing
and that is your own eyes. Last Monday
afternoon I spent on the "Spartan" and
had a nice time, I like Mrs A - very
much, and Lewis is very cunning. Capt
Johnstone asked me to say to you that

Hartford. I still believe that we will soon go to N.C. I should go to Pensacola, we would not remain there long. I would not wish to wait for Mr. Brown's transportation is so uncertain that, if we should go to N.C., you would perhaps have to wait a week or two before you had an opportunity to rejoin me in the City. Love to Stan and all friends. Believe that I soon shall see you if I remain as long as your loving husband, George. Give my regards to Frank and the children and all friends in Arkansas. Yours G.

6th / 64.

you to-day, to pay you for sending me no letter by the last two mails. The Eugene, Capt. Dyer, came down the lower river yesterday, direct from New Orleans, bringing a mail. I certainly expected to hear from you, and my disappointment was great when I found there was no letter for me. I wanted very much to hear the result of your trip in the Arkansas, as your last letter left you at Ship Island. You may think that there is no need of sending me more letters, thinking I am coming right home. But men of war do not always return on the day expected. You may remember that I was certain of going home last August, but did not go. Over three weeks are up to-day; but we will probably remain until our coal gives out, or are relieved by some other steamer. We have two or three weeks coal on board now, and the Port Royal is daily expected from Pensacola, when she must fetch coal last week. It is not improbable that she will bring us orders. At all events, I devoutly pray that she may do so. We are lying within musket shot of Dauphin Island beach, where game abounds, yet this Captain will not allow us to go ashore.

Earning - I have hardly anything worth writing about. It is as dull here as can possibly be imagined.

We have been blessed with very agreeable weather for the past week, which is a sort of negative happiness. If I could spend it with you, I believe I am mathematician enough to be able to make it positive. A few days ago two soldiers deserted from Fort Guines, on Dauphin Island, and came down the beach opposite us, and were brought aboard. Like most of the deserters and refugees that we pick up, they are as ignorant as darkies; and all effort at learning any news results in discovering that the people in seclusion are not as well supplied with creature comforts as they could wish. But of military news they are profoundly ignorant. We have but little amusement laying here. We can watch the steamers plying their daily vocations in Mobile bay; and, on clear days, can see the spars of the blockading fleet off Mobile. They often communicate with us by sending a boat to the beach, while we do the same on our side, making the narrow strip of sand beach our conference ground. We have been expecting some communications that way for several days; but, as yet, they take notice neither of our guns or signals. It is a very handy method.

I have just inspected my picture gallery, and looked
on the faces of the dear ones at home. I can
hardly realize that I have not seen them for so
long a time. How I would like to fall suddenly
upon them as I did the last time, without
their having any intimation of my coming.
I suppose Ebb has reached home in this, as
Mother wrote me in her last letter that he had
accepted his discharge, and would soon return home.
I reckon it is now nearly five years since I
have seen him, and he must have changed greatly.
I hear nothing at all of our Chelsea friends, nor
do I know what has become of them. I have not
received a letter from George Blake since I
came on this station.

I wish I was sure that I would have the pleasure
of being my own postman, as far as this letter
is concerned. The letter might then have some in-
terest, taken in connection with my arrival.
But you must pardon me if I do not write you
a readable letter. I am on the good side of
expectancy, hoping soon to be able to meet you.
When we go to New Orleans, our present Captain
will leave us, and a new one will take his place.
I should not be surprised if Capt. Siglaw would
be ordered here. But I must now bid you good
night, darling, and commence a letter to Mother.

Monday evening, March 7th. This morning another officer and myself went oystering. We surrounded with boats four half-a-dozen other vessels alongside the Jackson, who took us in tow. We started at seven o'clock, and returned at two with two boats loaded down. All the others did as well. We also had an oyster bake on the island when we were. Nothing could be heard but the cracking of oyster shells all this afternoon.

On my return I found your letter dated the 2^d at Pensacola. It was sent across the island. As the steamer did not wait after we returned, I had no opportunity to reply by her. I am very glad to hear that you enjoyed yourself so much while you were at Pensacola, and also that you had an opportunity to visit Capt. Thompson, and his wife. They are very pleasant people. It is too bad that Anne was so disappointed in not meeting Fred. Your expedition did not prosper so well this time as it did the last. I hope your sea sickness will do you good as you think. It ought to do any amount of good to recompense for so much misery. Do you remember that I asked you to dance with me a short time ago, and you refused, saying you had given it up? Where did you get your riding habit to ride out with? Much good Collins's recommendation has done me. This is the second time he has done it. I am afraid that Morris told you wrong stories. You might have blamed more correctly our movements from the

once handkerchiefs,
in the afternoon I signed
and men a striking
Chattel, Mary and her
son to the same marks
in the common in the
evening, once existed
me to go, but I did not
feel able to go over there
and stand by or there
hours and dearest for
not able to go any
other unless you are
with me, or if you are
you are often enjoying
pleasures are inevitable
to me. Mary - Blake
is at home on a furlough
I shall be and accept
before he returns, I
I expect to go over
to Sarah's this
evening with Jim.
I have promised her
long I would I would
come. I would I would
give a kiss for you.

home last Friday morning at half past seven
I was very tired and felt homesick to get
back to you again. After I saw you aboard the
Steamer, Mr Cooper said we had better go down
to the Steamer and engage my stateroom, we
went down to the Fall River boat, and the clerk
very politely informed us, that all the state
rooms were engaged. I then told Mr C - I
would not go on that boat but would take
the Providence and Stonington route line, I
was fortunate enough to obtain a room on
that boat. After we had finished our business
Mr C - proposed we should take a trip down
to Staten Island in the Steamer (which runs
between the city and Island) as it was very hot
in the city. Mr C - was very kind and attentive
to me, and I should have enjoyed myself

W. H. G. is still very sick

stand
very much. I had ^{not} just parted with
my dear husband. We returned to the Hotel
about half-past three, and after eating my dinner
and packing my trunk, Mr C — accompanied
me down to the Steamer. I was very fortunate
to meet with Mr C — I should have been
so very lonely without him, he was with me
all day and exerted himself to make the time
pass pleasantly, I feel very ^{grateful} ^{to} him for
his kindness. After I got on the boat I was so
completely tired out, that I went to bed at
seven o'clock, and slept until one, when I had
to take the car. When I got home I found Pa
Hollis had been very sick, the rheumatism
commenced in his foot and went all over
his body finally settling in his head, and making
him light-headed, he is improving now although
his head is not right yet. The rest of the family
are all well. William did not return from
Dred Bosbury until last night, he is much
better, he thinks of going to New Hampshire
this week.

5
although he may live for years. We had such
a sudden change last week. Stanley took a
severe cold, and has been miserable for a week
past, he says he feels better this morning. Mother
received a letter from William Thursday, he arrived
safely at Center Harbor, and was enjoying himself.
We heard from Eben last week he was well.

I went over to the city to see my Doctor Wednesday
she said I had been about for two weeks, and
I told her I had been in a state of excitement
and she could not prescribe much change, but
since I was no worse, she said if I visited her
regularly once a week, and attended carefully to
her directions, I might be able to go down east
the last of this month. I hope I shall not
have to visit her many more times, for they are
rather expensive visits, she charges \$3.00 for the
first visit and \$2.00 for the others, and I have
to pay for my medicines besides. I paid her
\$4.50 last week. My appetite is improving, and I
can walk some distance now, without feeling
tired, so I begin to feel quite encouraged about
myself. You have no idea how every thing has
gone up here for a week past, yesterday cotton

was I bought a yard, and tomorrow they say it
will be \$1.10, so my dear you had better make
your flannel shirts, be careful and not let any
one steal the cotton ones. You had twelve cotton
and linen ones with you when you started.

"By the way" be sure you send me some more
flannel for a riding habit, for I am going to
ride when I get home. If you can I wish you
could send me 12 yards of flannel and two
dozen buttons, jackit size. If you cannot
send the flannel you can send me money to
buy the habit, for you promised me one.

Last Thursday I spent the day in Brighton, they
were all well, I missed a car in the evening, and
did not get in the city until half past nine,
then I had to go from the Peace House to Lowell

Building, I was alone and was looked a rather
sharp by a number of the male gender.

I was in Mrs Gilly's lecture evening, and she was
speaking about your desks, saying she wished
you could sell them for she needed the room.
Mary Blake wanted them when she opened her
school and offered Mother \$1.50 a piece for

them but she would not sell them, but it
~~can~~ think it would be better to sell them for
that price and have the money; then keep them
for you will not need them again. Wouldn't I
better sell them if I can? My darling Husband you
don't know how much I miss you, it seems as
if you had been gone ten months instead of ten
days, and I dare not look forward to the many
many months that will pass, before I shall see
your dear face again. I dream of you most every
night and think you are with me, but it is hard
to make and find myself all alone. Have you
applied to be transferred? I do hope you will be successful.
I think it is about time I received a letter from you.
I am anxiously waiting for it. I expect Miss Reed
(the young lady from Anqueton, who is visiting at
Mr. Roswell's) up here this afternoon to pass the night
with me. I cannot write this until I hear from
you, for I do not know how to address it, I
met George Lische in the city the first last week
he starts for New Orleans the first of this week. I
must now close this and write to Mother, as my
dear good bye. In this morning's paper I
learn that Gen Lische has been promoted to Assistant

Ray must've sunk with Major, he has been very fortunate, has he not? In the promontory since within three months? Wednesday July 3rd

I have just received your kind letter, dearest and ~~was~~ am very happy to hear from you, and at the same time unhappy to think you have been so unpleasantly situated. When you went aboard the Steamer Mr Cooper asked me if I wished to remain, but I could only shake my head, for I found my courage was fast leaving me, and I did not care to have a scene on the pier, before so many people. You were very fortunate to fall in with such good friends, and I suppose you enjoyed your journey very much, as you had no troublesome sick trips to wait upon or scold you when you visited the propeller to split, but you know clearest I did it for you good. I am sorry you forgot so many things, and if you will send me a list, I will try and get them for you. send it soon for I am going down east in three or four weeks. I wrote to you Sunday, after you left, but did not send the letter, as I did not know how to address it. I thought it better to wait and send you a long one, than run the risk of having it lost. I have kept myself very busy since you went away to keep the blues off, for if I allowed myself to dwell on my afflictions I should be perfectly miserable. But we will hope clearest that the separation will not be as long as it was before. How did you spend the month, pleasantly I hope. In the morning Charlie took Mary & Kelly, Joe took Carlie over to the Morning Concert on the Common, I staid at home took care of Pinky and washed stockings

My
dear
Mamma
I hope
the
little
girl
and
her
brother
from
home
I remain
with
much
love
&
affection
to
you
all
If you
want
more
blanks
please send
them to me.

My dearest, let me ask you how you enjoyed yourself after leaving me: did you often think of the little troublesome wife you left behind you, and wish she were with you? and when you retired did you not miss me, and wish I was beside you? I longed to be that darling, for it is my place, by you, and I feel so strange and lonely without you. I cannot realize that you have indeed gone from me, and that many many months may pass, before I shall again be clasped in your arms, 'tut it won't do for me to continue in this strain, if I do I shall tinge this letter with blue, and then it will not be very acceptable to you. It has been very hot and dry here, for three or four days past. Yesterday it was so warm, we girls had to strip our clothing off and go in undress uniform, you would have laughed to have seen us. Nell's dress consisted of a pair of drawers (and they set the same as mine do, and you made fun of mine) and a thin waist, Can't not wish to be

out done by Nellie had on her chemise and
a muslin waist, and Mary took all
her clothes off, and put on a night dress.
There was a party went down to the beach
bathing ~~on~~ ^{Friday} night, I got all ready
to go ~~and~~ but did not feel very well, so
at the last moment concluded to remain
at home. This is the childrens Sunday. Nellie
has just returned home from church and
says it ~~was~~ is trimmed beautifully with
flowers. There were a large number christened
Nell, Stan, and Edwin among the number.

Dinner is ready, so with a kiss I will bid you
good bye for a time. L. Tuesday Morning

I have just written a letter to Jennie Bishop and
have now time to write longer this morning. Pa
Kellis is much better. William started for Fern
Hamphire this morning. It is very cool here this
morning. good bye L. Sunday Morning July 3rd

It has been cloudy and rainy for two days, just
and this morning it is dull. I shall not go
out. Last Monday evening Joe Campbell got a
large wagon and took his wife, Carrie, Nell
and Martha down to the beach. I went to night
Joe in Charles's buggy, we started with the
intention of going in bathing, but it was so cool
when we got there, we did not think it prudent
to go in, so we walked on the beach a short
distance, went in the Peanut, and got some
spruce beer, then returned home. Last Sunday

I was down to Uncle C - to tea. Grandmother
and Uncle John came up Tuesday, the day
after we left for New York. Uncle John received
a telegram from Baltimore, that his baby was
very sick, so he hurried home, did not get even spots
in Chelsea. We have since heard that his child
was better. William went home last week Friday
I did not see him, before he left. Pa Kellis
is about the same, his mind wanders most of
the times, I fear he will never be well again.