

[letter has raised imprint reading: "CROTON"]

Near Petersburg Va.

Sept. 1st :/64

My Dear. Emmy.

I received yours of the 25th the day before yesterday. and should have answered it before, but we have been moving, and besides I have lost my knapsack. containing everything that I had. except what I had on. So you see I had nothing to write with

I was afraid of losing it. and that was the reason. that I sent those pictures home. I did not keep any of your letters. while I was in the Co. but since I have been here I thought there was not much danger of losing it, and had kept all you have sent for some time. But never mind. I do not think any one will feel enough, interested to read them My portfolio. and gold pen is gone and I shall miss them very much

I just bought a quire of paper and a bunch of envelopes, for which I paid [7*]5 cts. I do not know what I shall do for clothes. I guess I shall have to get you to send me some. I had a letter from Elmer a few days ago which I must answer at once. I am very glad that he has gone to work at his trade. Tomorrow my little Josie will be six years old. I hope you will think to kiss her six times for me.

I hardly know what to say to your dream. I will not say you was silly to tell me of it. but you was silly to dream any such things about your husband. who loves you better than all the rest of the world. But I have told this so many times that it seems like an old story, and I know that you do not doubt it. though there has been some reasons for you to blame me. But my darling - if I did not love you there is no reason why I should tell you so. and you know it is the truth, so you must never doubt it even in your dreams. but be my same sweet. loving, trusting wife, though I know that I do not deserve it of you. I do not feel like writing letters, though it is likely to be the only way that I can talk to my darling for some time yet. But the flies bite so it is almost impossible to write, so I shall make a short letter again. Hope you will remember how you promised to retaliate. My health is the same as ever. Is mother getting better? I have got another picture of one of the 4th N.H. soldiers. His name is Dana ~~Re~~ Runnels. I mean to get all that I can to keep in an album by themselves. But I will close this now. You do not write but once a week lately I suppose you think I do not deserve any more. Well I will not complain. Write as often as you can.

Leander

Now darling. having used one sheet in trying to do some sort of justice to your merits as as a wife and, feeling. that I have not half expressed what I should like to say, I will leave it to dream over, for the present and try and write of some other things that you will wish to hear of. In the first place, in regard to leaving my place at Brig. Head Quarters, It is quite likely, that in the present case. I have avoided being sent to the Co. by leaving, as they are sending back all the detached men that that can possibly be spared, and it is not likely that I shall be recalled from here if I give satisfaction, and it is a good place, where I can get plenty to eat, and always a good bed to sleep in, which is something that you do not know how to appreciate

And another thing (which I did not tell you when I was there) I was always in as much danger nearly, as in the Co. It is true, that I did not go into a regular battle with the reg^{ts}, but always went to the front two or three times a day, when the Brig. was there, and, there is always more danger in going to and from the trenches, than there is in staying there. Well this is writing a great deal, about nothing, but there has been so much confusion here that I could not tell what I was writing. Haynes is going to start for home tomorrow. He went to the Reg^t this morning. And this reminds me that I never answered your question about directing a letter to him. I always thought of it after my letter had gone, and was afraid you would think that I did not wish to have you write to him

^lI should not know how to be jealous. of my darling wife, if she did not love me best of all, I should not care who she did love ^lYou spoke of sending my clothes, I beleive I have written what I would like to have you send, but you will not be able to do it if you have no money. I wish we could get paid, so that I could send you some, for I am afraid you will need it. I had a letter from Elmer. to-day, and he offers to send me anything that I want., I am sorry that I said anything to you about it, as it will be a good deal of trouble to you to do it. In regard to that money, if father does not want it. I should be perfectly willing to let Nelson have it, if you think best. I am in hopes father will want it after all. But you may want it yourself. before I get back. At any rate I shall as soon as I get back. But you must do as you think best. I want you to send me some stamps as soon as you can, for I write a great many letters, and there is no way to get any here. Send me quite a lot of them. I do not like to get out. We have had some of the pleasantest evenings, this week that I ever saw. How I have wished you and I could take a ride. I think I should hug you closer than I used to when we rode together in the evening.

I suppose I ought to say something for those little darlings of ours. but do not know what to say. I think of them and you most all of the time. If you can think of ~~th~~ anything that would please them to have me say to them, Please to read it off and give me credit for saying it because you know, I would have said it if I have known how.

Well my sweet Emmy, I think I have written you a long letter, this time, if it does not amount to much There is much more that I would like to say to you, but will leave it for another time. And now dearest and best, my own true and loving wife, good night. May God bless you always is the prayer of your affectionate Leander