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[letter heading] United State Sanitary Commission.

Gen^l. Hospital Camp Jackson

Wilmington N.C.

April 2^d : /65

My darling:

Another long week has slowly dragged itself by, and I have waited in vain for some word from my darling wife. I have never known till now, how very much I have prized your precious letters. The lack of your your loving words, makes me feel, that I am indeed, away from home

Monday, Apr.3.

~~Last~~, I was called away from my writing, and as it was so late, did not go back to it. Perhaps you would have got a [letter] if I had finished when I begun, for I felt more like writing, than at present. It seems as though there had been time enough, since I sent you the letter enclosing (2) one from Julia, to have a reply. reach me here. However I do not doubt but that you write to me regular, and that only makes it seem worse.

To beleive that there are 'lots" of letters from my little darling, waiting for me somewhere, is very povoking, when I want to hear from you so much. But my life, for the last few years, has been a long lesson of patience, and I have learned it pretty well. There is a great deal of sickness, in this place. There has been a large number of exchanged prisinors. sent here, who were in a most terrible condition, the result of the most barbarous, and inhuman treatment, received at the hands of the rebels, It would would be impossible for me to convey, even a faint idea, of what they suffered, and if I could, I should (3) certainly spare your feelings.

I only hope this war will last long enough, for those human devils, to get the punishment, that they deserve, in this world. There, I do not know after all as I wish that ex^catly but they do deserve a terrible punishment. But I was going to say, that those poor fellows. coming here, in such a condition brought a great deal of sickness into the place, and those that were among them a great deal, taking care of them, have nearly all been taken down.

Several Dr's have died, and two Chaplains, and more, are sick. besides most all of the nurses.

They have nearly all been sent North, now, and I hop it will be more healthy soon, We are not stationed right in the city, and (4) besides, my business does not take me among the sick, so you need not be alarmed on my account.

I like here better than I expected at first, but think it will be a very hot place, if we stay here this Summer. I do not go out much or get much to read, but there is considerable work to do; so, it is not so extremely dull as it was at the Point of Rocks. I have been reading one of Dickin's stories, that I think you have never read, and which you would like very much.

If you have not read it, or ife you have, I have been promiseing myself the pleasure of reading it with you some time.

“Little [Darritt*]” is perfection I have never met with a character, in any story, that I admire so much. There is none but (5) Dickens, that could ever produce such a one. I am just going to worship that little woman, and I can do it without breaking any of the commandments for she is not “the likeness of anything that is on the earth, or in the water under the earth,” But you will have no reason to be jealous, my dear little wife, for I shall love you all the better, and you will love her as much as I do. I would like to hand you the bunch of flowers, that is before me now. It would be quite a novelty with you, at this time of the year. There is some splendid roses in it. The flowering almond^s have been in bloom for a month here, How does yours get along?

(6) When I think of home, I can always see that flower garden just as it looked that Fall when I left you, and Oh: my darling, I do long to see it again, though, it is not very likely, that I should stop to examine it very closely till I had looked into the house. But seriously, Emmy, I cannot trust myself, to write, or think, on this subject, for it would make me homesick. Now, don't you wish that I would get just a little bit homesick, just to pay me off, for leaving, and to let me know, how my poor little wife feels? I think you do, some times. But it would not do at all. You know, that it is either everything, or nothing, with me, and if I was to get homesick, it would be “all up” with me (7) unless I could get home.

I really believe, that I should not live a month, if I should be as homesick as I have seen some men. But if I do not let my feelings, get the best of me, I can assure you that I have feelings, and that my precious wife and children, are as dear to me, as you can imagine. But I must close, You cannot find any fault with this being a short, letter, whatever its other faults may be. Now Emmy, do not fail to write often, for your dear, loving words. are the greatest blessings that can reach me here.

My love, and a hundred kisses. is all that I have at present, to send to Annie. and Josie (8) so you must see that they get that, your kisses I am keeping for you.

Ever your loving
Leander