

[raised imprint reads: "CARSON'S"]

Hampstead Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> /62

Dear Husband

I received a letter from you to-day, and am in quite a hurry to answer it, because we have had our minatur's taken to-day. I don't feel at all satisfied with them. I guess you won't want to show them to any one. I tried to get one taken on glass at first but it didn't look so well as these do. I couldn't get them taken all together either, when we had them all taken so, mine looked as old as mother

Maj Smith condemned mine as soon as he looked at it. I knew it was no use to try to have the children sit again. I am not going to send but one at a time, so I will send mine first, and if you don't like it I can go to Haverhill almost any time and have mine taken. I should have sent mine before now if I hadn't expected to have them taken all together. I thought it would be a great pleasure to send them, but it isn't, to send such looking things as these. But I did the best I could and you must take the will for the deed

Oh dear the children are making such a noise that I can't write what I want to. Josie has been reading your letters and such reading you never heard. And Annie has sung more than forty different songs since I begun to write. Josie wants me to tell you that her baby is sick with the heart concern. Perhaps that's what ails some of the soldiers that went from ~~this~~ here. But I am afraid you don't have quite [charily\*] enough for them. I don't want Hall to come home. I am afraid it will make you home-sick. It will me any way. It will make me wish it was you. And if he and Brewster comes home I shan't have anybody to sympathise with me here. Misery likes company you know. When I first <sup>heard</sup> he was coming home I felt glad for his wife. Oh how glad she will be. I am glad you sent me that hair. I should prize it very highly if you are taken sick like the rest of them. I carried your minature up to the saloon to-day to get it copied. It kept crackling off more and more and I was afraid I should lose it entirely. Now Joe has got on your gloves training around and calling herself Moses and it's impossible for me to write. Tell Mr Wood that I am glad he had a letter from his wife too, and hope he will be as good to write to his wife as my husband is to me. Now Jose has got her grandfather's old hat on, and such a looking object you never saw. And Annie is singing "Three little kittens they lost there mittens" with a little variation. I just wish you could hear her that's all

I havn't heard from Nelson for more than a week don't know whether he has got his leg out of the box or not. I havn't seen him but once since he was hurt. I don't see Hattie nor Ruth very often. I havn't seen H. but twice I beleive since you went away. I went down and made her quite a long visit just before he was sick. Lewis always seems very glad to hear from you, and no one appears to like to hear from you and to hear your letters read ~~better~~ more than Simeon does

I don't think much of your not wanting me to come out there. You know I can put up with inconvenience as well as you can, and as to the fleas and lizards why I don't think they would annoy me more than they would you or Annie. Now you must go right to wanting me out there or I shan't like it. I dreamed I and Mrs Brewster were out there a short time ago and I saw you and kissed you and last night, I dreamed you had come home and after you had been at home, a good while I asked you how long you were going to stay and you said six months and you did not know as you should go back at all. I thought we could hear cannon's and martial music and mother asked you if there wasn't

going to be a battle and you answered her indifferently just as you always do about any danger

But you was in first rate spirits and you always are in my dreams. Oh I tell you I would not exchange my dreams for any thing but reality. William and Julia think a great deal of the letters you write to them.

Mr Garland told me he heard two of them read and they were first rate. I have sent you some postage stamps in two letters which you will receive before you do this

I received that certificate. Another reason why I did not have my minature taken on glass is that I was afraid it would get broken. They all told me it would be likely to

And now I must close and will write again the first of next week and send the other minature. Have you received any papers? I have sent them all so far and will continue to do so. And now good bye darling. It seemes almost as though you were here with me because I love you so very much. Oh my precious may you come home soon to your Emmy