

Hampstead Mar. 16th/62

Dear L.

Though I have received no letter from you, since I write, I am going to write again for I know you must be homesick and with to hear from us no withstanding you write in such good spirits Annie stands by the End table doing a sum to send you so that you may know how well she can do them. She asked me two or three days ago to set her a sum to do, and I didn't think of her learning to do one, but she learned almost without trying. Making the figured seems to be the hardest for her to learn

She has written her name on one end of the paper it is no great, but I know you will think a good deal of it considering the little head and hands that did it. She made the sum up her self and did it all hersef without being told what figures to set down. She can read all the £ numbers on this paper, and indeed any number not above tens of thousands, and I am sure I can't tell you when she learned it, for they first sum she did I asked her what the answer was and she told me. She has had the measles and got well or nearly so though she is badly broken out now. She was quite sick for three or four days a week ago to-day she didn't sit up any at all. We think Josie has begun to have them today. She has been to sleep and wants me to hold her all the time she is awake.

Evening

Josie is quite sick. she lays and sleeps all the time. She appears as ~~though~~ Annie did when she was taken with the measles only worse. I wish you were here with me now dearest, but you must not be worried about our baby we shall take good care of her though I should rather like to have Dr E. here to night

I am writing between sun set and dark and can't see the line. Well I have got a light and now I will try again. I have got two speeches that were sent to you and I am going to send them to you with the "Banner".

I read them both and liked them very much. Hale's especially. You would have been pleased to see father when I brought it from "the Office". He took it and unsealed it and told what he was going to do with it, I told him I thought I should have something to say about that. I told him perhaps that was a good speech, and before he had read a page he confessed that it was. I tried to convince another that you talked in the commencement of the war just as Johnson did in his speech. Nelson didn't like his speech at all. For my part I found out more by it ~~that speech~~ than from any other source, or all others since the war commenced. I have just read your last precious letters for the want of having a newer one to recall, but I will not complain of you, you have been a dear good husband to write to me since you went away, and I regret very much that I didn't every week as usual but I was afraid they would not reach you. The Dr. hasn't written to his folks do you know the reason? William will write you all about the town meeting I presume. Julia was over and made me a visit the other day.

I attended Jacob Beckford's funeral ~~the other day~~ last Sunday. He chose Nelson and Lewis for two of his bearers before he died. They were over here Sunday A.M. Lewis brought N. over for a ride, and so I rode home with them went to the funeral with Lewis and Ruth

I suppose I should have walk home but L. brought me home. I spoke with Mr. Beckford. He didn't know me at first, but when he took a second look he said. "If that isn't our little Hunt girl" and put his arm around me. (Lewis says he is going to let you know it) Benjimin seemed to be very glad to see me, inquired about me and said he

would come and see me. Frank has got to be a real smart looking handsome boy. Ruth and I went into Mrs. Pages to see Emily little girl. She is a poor little pitiful looking thing, I don't believe she will live long. Oh my precious husband when I looked at the poor little fatherless ~~thing~~ child. I thought perhaps it might not be long before my babies would be left in the same condition. And what should I do? I could not part with them. I know I ought not to talk in this way to you, for you cannot help it now. Oh I wish I could head you were back at Hilton Head. Every time I think about you drinking that awful water it seems as though could not live.

But I must close this and take care of my sick baby

Oh you must come home before hot weather. Can't you give me any encouragement about it? I want you to write to L. and N. very much indeed. I would tell you something about Hattie if you wouldn't tell. Well I expect Nelson is pleased about it, so you can guess what it is. Now good bye my precious darling, do not let anything worry you that I have written. Remember your silly little wife is always fretting, but if you will come home to her she will promise to leave off fretting or anything else

That this letter may reach you is the
wish of your loving Emmy

Monday morning

Josie is quite comfortable to-day, laughing and talking, but she is having the measles fast enough. Her eyes grow red and her cough increases. By the way did you know she had got to be quite a little singer. She can sing quite a number of tunes. Oh darling I had you here with me last in my dreams- It was just as real. I laid my head on your shoulder and your cheek was laid on my head and I felt your warm breath just as I used to

And though it was all a dream I am thankful for it and if you never come back, will never ask a greater blessing than such dreams as these. I know you will make ever effort to write your Emmy