

Beaufort S.C. Jan 2<sup>d</sup>, 1862.

My Dear little wife,

Your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> ult. Arrived yesterday. So you see I got my New Years present as well Christmass. I received one from Mother by the same mail. William has not written for some time, perhaps my last to him did not reach him, if it is so I should like to know it and will try again. for cannot afford to lese his letters which are interesting of any that I receive, excepting yours of course. I received two papers from him this mail.

Yesterday was a holiday in camp, and I played ball so much today I am so lam that I can hardly get around. I suppose you are having cold Winter there now while here it is warm pleasant weather. And my poor little wife is obliged to go to bed alone in the cold. It is too bad I know, but I cant help it though my will is good enough.

You spoke of what Eastman said about me, dont let that fret you at all, though I wish you to let me know of all your hear from him. I wrote him a few lines last night, and should not be surprised if you should hear from him direct after he reads that. If he call on you, you may tell him anything you like. I think what I have told him will have some effect on him. I have heard from him in other ways, besides your letters. If he ever attempts to explain the matter to you I wish you to bear in mind that he will certainly tell you ten lies for every word of truth that he tells. for he will never tell you the truth in regard to the way he has used me. But I will be enough of that for this time. Are you going to send my little darlings pictures? if you do I wish you would hurry up. By the way I want you to tell Julia to send me her likeness the handsomest one she has got. for we have been bragging about sisters, and I know that I can beat the crowd. Now you tell her to be sure and send it and I will write her a letter all for herself! Why dont my little Annie write to me. She must be able to write a good long letter by this time. I suppose she must be a great girl by this time. almost as tall as her mother. Tell her that I want her to take good care of her mother and grandmother while I am gone. I have not caught that little nigger for her yet, but there are plenty of them running around here, as black as mud and twice dirty. I can get her one any time I should like to have them see some of the little imps, or any of the rest of you either. They are the most comical looking, little devils that I ever saw. They dont appear anymore like children to me than so many pigs would, and their resemblance to humanity amuses me just as it does to look at monkees. But the old one are the most disgusting animals that I have ever seen You see I am not a negro worshiper, though just as much of an abolishonist as ever. But I wont write politics I wish I had not taken so large a sheet of peper this time for I am afraid I shall not think of enough nonsense to fill it, and I do not feel able to write anything else. But I suppose you only want to have a letter every week, and to know that I am well and happy, and think of you all the time, and love you better than ever. That is the case, so you must be as patient as you can for we are on the last half of our time of service now. If we have to stay the whole of it and I should continue to love you better and better every day. what an awful hug you will get when I do get hold of you But if I had hold of you now I guess you would think I had taken lessons of the bears in Florida. Jim is writing to his wife and I will got and plague him awhile and perhaps I can think of something to fill up with.

There I have been in the hospital and had a row with Jim and the cripples but I am no better off for ideas than before so you will have to put up with a shirt letter again an when I feel like it I will try and write you a good letter.

Give my love to Clare and all her family to Ruth  
and Hattie Nelson + Lewis and everyone else that I care for.

I remain as ever your loving

Leander