

Hampstead Feb 20th/63

Darling Husband,

I have been wanting to answer your blessed letter ever since I received it, last Tuesday morning, and have not had an opportunity till this evening, and now it is nine o'clock

Wednesday I was at Julia's taking care of her baby ~~for~~ while she was gone to Haverhill. She says now she has sent you her picture she shall expect you to fulfill your promise about writing and wants you to write her a good long letter too.

As for my picture and the children's I shall have to refuse your request at present as I have no money, but will get the children's taken for you as soon as I can, and as you have mine I think you will have to make that do, for I am determined not to spend any more money unless it is absolutely necessary. And I will tell you when I made this determination. It was last Tuesday when I was at the store and Maj Smith dunned me for what you owe him. I know it was my sickness that caused you to run in debt and so I feel as though it was my duty to do all in my power to help you pay it up.

You wish to know if I have perfect confidence in you, I certainly never had "anything else". I never once thought you would do as you intimate other [^]married men do, out there. If I had a husband that did I never would write to him again nor speak to him if I loved him ever so much. Our friend Jim is an exception among these men I ~~suppose~~ hope

No, I will not hope, because that implies a doubt, and I know he has been too true a friend to you, ~~to~~ not to be true to his wife

Mother says if you know what Nelson is, you must needs know that a shaking won't astonish his baby any

No sir. That baby knows everything and can do every-thing that a baby was ever known to do. She refused to sell her father her hens eggs a month ago. He says he asked her if she would sell them to him and she shook her head. And at that time she would stand up in the corner all alone and O I can't begin to tell half the wonderful things she could do. It is sufficient to say that she is "The baby" and not a baby

I wish you to give my regards to Mr Sleeper - or I should say Lieut. Co¹ Sleeper and wife. I think you will like her.

Yes she is a very pleasant woman and a very good woman, but you cannot say of her as you did of Dr Cuming's wife

I like to hear of your being in Mrs Sawyers company because I think you enjoy it. I am never jealous of a good woman and I don't think I am jealous at all but ~~was~~ pleased to intimate that I was jealous of Dorathy Page from what I wrote some time ago. I speak of this because I want to have you understand I do not call this jealousy

You may let Mr. Haynes have that picture and Mrs. Haynes will not be disappointed when she sees me for I don't look any worse than that I know. I hope none of your friends will ask you for the original for I don't think you would hesitate to give me away if they should.

You say you do not believe I have as ~~o~~ much respect for those that are not engaged in this war as I have for those that are. I respect those engaged in it, just so far as they think it is their duty. and I respect those who think with me that it is not their duty and stay at home. I don't think war is right any way any more than I. Marshall does and much more such a war as this

I havn't always thought like this...
[fragment letter ends here]