

[written at top of letter sideways]

I believe I never felt more anxious to get a letter from you in my life than I do now but it wont come any sooner if I do. let you know I am anxious I expect a good long interesting letter next time. I am glad Mrs. Sawyer is going back Well “good bye” again, be a good [boy] and take care of my precious husband and I will agree to take good care of your wife.

Hampstead July 26th/63

Darling Husband,

I am afraid you will think hard of me for not writing to you oftener but I have done the best I could, this time at least. I could hardly find time to write when mother was gone; and she hadn't been at home but a day or two before she was taken sick and then I had as much to do as ever, and beside I was sick myself at the same time; and before either of us got well. Ruth was taken sick again and sent for mother and as I had been talking of going down visiting I went in mothers stead. I went away the day after I received your letters (which I rec^d last Tuesday, the one you sent with the print and the one before) and didn't get back till night before last.

I intended to have answered your letters the very day I went away. Much obliged for the print it is very pretty different from anything I ever saw before.

I was glad to hear of your success, ~~in~~ or rather of the success of the army you are in, in taking Morris island. I long to hear they have taken Fort Sumpter

And I long to have a letter from you to hear what part you took in the affair. I wish you would write more particular what you have to do in your new situation. Those that I have spoken to about it says it is a better situation than the other

I have forgotton what I wrote you about Nelson & Lewis but if it was “that they would resist a draft”, I certainly do agree with them. There is scarcely a man about here to which the conscript ^{^law} applies that thinks it is right. Those that are too old or are exempt think it is about right if they have no friends that will stand a draft

William Emerson says it is worse than Jeff Davis's conscript law and ~~that~~ Hamilton [Hoyet*] says there will be another presidential election before long, - in fact there is hardly an abolitionist now amongst those liable to a draft.

I should like to ask you a question and should like an answer and it ^{^need} not lead to any controversy but I should really like to know your opinion

I want to know why such men as the author of this piece enclosed in this letter is allowed to run at large ~~and~~ ^{^while} such men as Vallandigham are arrested by order of the president? I have never read anything like treason that Valandigham has said, and if he ever has said anything it can't be worse than this

I should like to have you read what W. Phillips said about amalgamation on the same day and on the same occasion, ~~yet~~ you know yourself L. that he has always been against the union ever since the war commenced, yet he is allowed to speak when and where he pleases without molestation. Now I wish you would be kind enough to tell me what you think of this.

And then there is Greely who thought a good while ago that we had better let the South go; still there is scarce a republican that does not take his paper

I will send you a paper containing a speech which I endorse, every word of it. And this will tell you whether I am for the union and constitution or not. There will be more than one in the papers I shall send you but I have reference to Seymour's fourth of July speech

The draft has been suspended at present but it is coming nevertheless by and by I believe

Mother had a great notion of writing to you to night. I guess you would have been surprised don't you if she had. She wanted to tell you about your grape vine. It has two bunches of grapes on it

I have forty dollars of your money that I don't know what to do with. Do you think it would be better to pay a debt with it or not.

Clara and Emmie have been here to ~~night~~ day. Josie and I have just got home from the sing. Annie didn't choose to go. She went last Sunday evening and sung almost every piece we did, but she don't care anything about singing.

Julia was there to night as full of fun as ever it if was Sunday night

Ruth and Hattie are wanting to see you ever so much.

I am glad to hear Joseph is so near you Give me love to him and tell him when he can't find any body else to write to, he may write to me.

But dearest I am sleepy and I will write more tomorrow night

Emmie

Monday eve.

Well my darling I must try and finish this to night so that it will go tomorrow. I have just got our babies to bed, they got caught in a bad shower at school to-day

It was very warm when they started this morning and I dressed them in their pink dresses and when it began to rain I expected their clean dresses would have to be washed, sure, but Annie held her umbrella over them and took up the skirt of her dress and kept it almost dry. They have a light umbrella I bought them on purpose to carry to school, and they took it this morning to keep the sun off. I tell you this so that you may know how nicely your little Annie will take care of her little sister. She is one nice little girl in some respects. and I was thinking to night that I should like ever so much to have you see Josie now. She had her hair shingled yesterday [^]quite short and you would almost think it was your Jonnie. She would make a handsome boy.

I havn't got half room enough to write all I want to, but I shall have to put it of a few days and write again

I don't hear much from the Dr of late Father called there the other day but did not see the Dr. He saw his wife and says it is all true about her being in a family way. The Dr. is building him an office and has got an apprentice Lewis thinks his name is Charles Boynton

Can it be the one you used to like so well? He – the Dr, told J Willson that you didn't want to come home, that you wouldn't if you could and seemed to insinuate that you didn't care anything about your family I think. He told father when he first come home that you might have come home and he thought you had better and be with your family Good bye darling this time I will write again very soon Emily