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St. Augustine Fla May 16th/62

My Dear little Wife,,

Your letter dated, Atkinson Apr 26th arrived today, and as the mail leaves again tomorrow, I must answer it at once, as I have several others that I wish to write to go by the same mail I received one from Mother, containing one from George, but none from William. He must have become tired of reading my long winded communications. I sent him one from Jacksonville, which covered 13 pages, if he received that I dont wonder that he quit. There was a short time that we did not have any regular mail so that the letters which I wrote were not forwarded very quickly, and that I think is the reason that you have not received your letters as usual. But they will have turned up by this time I guess. The money was forwarded by express, but the mail went on the same boat so the letters cannot be far behind, I sent one letter about that time, containing five dollars, and requested you to pay Hall, three which I owed him, if you have not received that please pay him out of what you have. I wish that I could know just how you feel when you write to me as you did this time, you seem to feel as though, if I had not had cause to be displeased with you I should not have enlisted. Now if you would reflect, you would know, that you never was so dear to me, as at the time that I inlisted, and continue to love you better the longer I remain away. But it cannot be that you feel, as I am led to suppose from the tone of your last letter, you was probably low spirited at that time. But my own darling, you must keep up your courage for a short time and I shall be with you, and I will bring all your letters, and when I read them to you, with my arm around you, we will laugh at your fears, and you will admit that it was the best thing that I could have done. The health of the Reg^t is remarkably good at present, we have no dangerous cases, and but 7 or 8 in all, which makes it very easy for us. My health is good and with the exception of being away from my dear good wife, and darling babies, I never passed the same length of time more areeably in my life. If Mr Bragdon flatters himself that we were all taken in tell him to "put that in his pipe and smoke it," I inten- to have sent you a leaf of the magnolia in this letter but do not think that I shall have time to get one this time, but will send one next week. The boat was not expected here until the middle of next week, so it found me unprepared for the mail, I intended to have written to Ruth for I think she deserves a better letter than I wrote in answer to he very kind letter, but I was in a great hurry, and had written till I was tired before I came to her's. perhaps I may find time to write by this mail

Brewster was up here and took dinner with me yesterday. (His Co is quartered in the Court House, about 3/4 of a mile from here) He is in good health and appears to enjoy himself as well as possible. He has written to his wife lately I think. The weather is quite warm in the middle of the day, but very comfortable at night. We have a great many splendid thundershowers. There is one coming up now. The thunder is rolling in the distance, the most grand. and thrilling sound in nature I think The roar of the ocean is different, that is ^{truly} grand and sublime but then, we can see the ocean, and feel the wind that drives it into roaring billows, but although we can see the lightning yet there is no connection visible to the senses. It always seems to me that it is really the voice of God. I wish that I could give you a discription of a storm at sea. I never wished that you were with me to witness it in company for I know you would be seasick which would spoil the

effect, but I really think it is worth at least, one year of a person's life to see the sight, I did not regret my wet clothes in the least when we were caught in the gale. But I am getting out of my line of writing when I go into the sublime, and will stop for fear that I shall come down on the other extreme, the ridiculous. I sent you some more money by express ^{by the} last boat which you will receive before this reaches you. You need not ask ⁱⁿ what way you shall dispose of it, for I could trust to your good judgement in a much greater matter, than the disposal of a little money. You are at liberty to use it in any way that you think best and I promise you that I shall be perfectly satisfied. The books that I sent I only hope they may interest you as much as they did me if they do, I shall think that the dollar that it cost to send them well laid out. I have read a great many books since I left, that I wished to send you, but could not get a chance, but this one is the best that I have read for a long time. My precious wife, writing is not a good way to express my love for you. I want to hold you in my arms, and to look in your eyes, and then you can understand what I mean when I tell you that you are dearer to me than all the world besides. Writing will do for business matters or to let you know that I am well, and where I am, but as for expressing the extent of my love for you, it is not much better than no way at all. All the love that you can wish for is yours' this you may be certain of. You may draw on the bank for any amount and your draft shall be honored. The oleanders are in bloom yet and will continue so for a number of weeks to come, how I wish that I could hand you a bouquet, they would please you more because they would be new to you, but then we can beat them in N.H. for flowers, as well as in everything else. The magnolia is a splendid tree, but then, the South never produced anything that could compare with an apple tree in blossom. From what I have seen I have no desire to ever live out of New England, I shall never talk about moving West again. The Dr and his wife are moving today. They have been living in the house here, but are going to live in the best house in town the family have gone, and have let him have it all furnished. You say that Josie want to write to me, if she should make a single mark on a peice of paper and sent it, it would be interesting to me. How I should like to get hold of the letter dear I want you to kiss them both, every day for me, and I will pay with interest when I get home. Now darling you have received a number of letters since you wrote the one that is before me and no doubt feel differently about many things, but you must not get discouraged, hope for everything and if you are disappointed you will at least have the satisfaction of knowing that you have not borrowed any trouble, I wonder if you keep all the letters that I send you. I hope you do for I shall want to read them when I get home. I have all of yours, and take them, and read them all, very often. Well darling I must say good bye. but you will hear from me every week now, So take good care of yourself and continue to love, and pray for

Your loving husband

Leander