

[raised imprint reads:] "EXTRA"

Hilton Hed, S.C, May the 2 1863

Dear friend Mrs Harris

I now seat myself to write you a few lines in answer to a kind letter which I received from you I was glad to get it although it came very much unexpected Haris had ben telling me I should get a letter from you but I thought he was only a jokin as he most always is I have thought a number of times I would write to you and got as far as this I got one all written and my courage faild me and I tore it up it was so poor & I feel a shamed to write now for I em not capabable of writing answer to such a good letter as the one I received from you you said you thought it was long but it was not half long enough the longer the better when they ar as good as that was I think you have a bitter apinion of me now then you would if you wer ^{more} a quainted with me you spoke of my being a friend to haris I do not know how any-one could be other wise for I think I never met with a finer man in all of my travels he is always so plesant that he makes evry thing plesant around him and to he thinks so much of you & those two Dear children that is one great thing I like in him I do not like to see a man forget his Dear ons becaus he is out of their reach he speak of his family often when we ar to gether I have often told him I would like to get hold of his babies I am very fond of children more so then I should be if I had them of my own I suppose you seam to think you ar happier with your two children then you would be without them I always thought my wife would be hapier without them but I cant tell as long as we never have ben blessed with them

I em unable to write you much news about the regt^t or yor husband for I have not herd from either haris got detailed in the gen hospital so I got a chance in the ordinance Department near by him and I had not ben detailed but a few days before he left and went back to the regt^t I was very sory for I made up my mind to be near by him I would of rather given twenty five dolers then to of had him left but he did not like I have almost made up my mind to folow him if he is sick. I asure you it will not be long before I shall be with him when he left hear he was in good helth but was feeling very anxious to get a letter from you as he has not had one for a long time you asked my opinion about the war I em unable to give it. it for it is [carid*] in in such a way it is herd to form eny opinion about I think our destiny is three years I em about as wiling to stay a L is & should be quite if my wife was contented at home but she is so lonsome it makes a ^{me} little discontented I wish she was near by you for I think she would be more contented she wants to come out hear I should be glad to have her but I have no plac to put her if I had I should not hesitate one moment you said you would write if you dared but you kneed not be a fraid for she is only a Dear good woman like your self so I asure you if you write you will get answer

now Mrs Haris I will close hoping you will excuse me for writing such a poor letter for as I said f before I em not capable of writing a deasent letter and by that reason I em a shamed to write so far that reason I hope you will excuse me for the poor letter I em about to close you must not worry about your husband for if he is taken sick or is placed any whare whare he kneads any a sistance I shall not hesitate one moment to go to him and will aid and help him in evry way that is in my power and thare is meny others that would do the same I thank you for remembering me in your prayers as I em not a

praying man I shall have to show my kindness in a diferent way as you say I hop we may be better acquainted some time I have always thought or at least since I have got a quainted with L that I should like you very much for I have a good opinion of you for your pictur tell plain enough & haris is well satisfied to do not think what I have written hes ben written to flatter you for I em not one of those kind I always say what I mean wel I guess I have written all you will want to bother your hed about reading do not hesitate to write to my wife eny time you feel so disposed to do so far I know she would be glad to receive a letter at eny time from you and I should be happy to receive another from to I cant say [an*] answer to this for it is not worth calling a letter now I will close for this time pleas to burn after reading pleas to except this with my best wishes from your friend

James E. Haynes
Ordinance Department
Hilton Hed, S.C.