

Beaufort S.C. Feb 5" /63

Dear Emy,

Your letter of the 25 Jan. came last night after I had gone to bed, but I got up and read it. I received one from Margaret of the same date. and one from Elmer We are having the hardest rain storm of the season today. So I have no excuse for not answering my letters at once. (except the old one, that I have nothing to write about) But to you it seems as though if I wrote that I am well, it would be worth something M. sent me her picture, and it is a very good one I should like yours, with your hood on, taken in the same way. Cant. you get them, (yours and the babies) and send them to me, it would not cost much. They are taken on a small plate about as large as a cent, and are just the things to send in a letter. If you should go and see M. she would go with you. We have not been paid yet, but when we are I will send you every cent that I can spare, and you must use all you need for yourself and the children, dont save it for me. You know that I did not join the army to make money as Dr E did, and would never do so mean things as I know he did, for money, not if my wife and children were starving, for I should consider highway robbery more respectable. You say you wish that I was at home earning two dollars a day, but as much as I wish to be with you, I should not feel that I was doing a mans duty if I remained at home at this time for notwithstanding all the folly and and treachery of those in power, ^{^I love my country as well as ever} it shall never be said of me, that I enjoyed the benefit of the Government, in the days of prosperity, and did not offer to do. all in my power in the hour of danger And I do not beleive that you have so much respect, for those who are looking on at their ease, at a conflict. which threatens all that an American should hold dear, as you have for those who are trying their best to save and protect it. I consider the Government. as it did exist, as under God, the source of every blessing that we enjoyed: that without that, we could have no security for happiness in our family. But I will not try to express what I feel, on paper. You can understand how I feel as well as I can tell you. I do not feel so hopefull for the future, as I did some time ago, but I am willing to stand by till it is ended. Liut. Co¹ Sleepers wife. came out here a few days ago. I have not spoken with her yet, but Sleeper poked his bead into my tent a few minutes ago and invited me to call and see her. I shall probably go, before this is finished so I can tell you about it. Tell Ruth that I depend upon her to look after you, for it is getting to be the fashion for the "poor soldiers" wives to get a substitute, but I should not break my heart for such a wife.

I am sure that I never had a jealous thought since I loved you, and indeed I could not love where my faith was not perfect. I wonder if your confidence in me is the same? Tell me truly, when you write again. There are but few married men ^{^in this Regt} who deserve it of their wives Tell Hattie to send me a picture of her baby. I want to see her very much. If she is big enough to handle, without falling to peices, when I get home, she will be likely to get a shakeing up that will [written along the left side is "G-- -- --"*] astonish her some. But I will not write any more at present Goodbye for a little while

Feb 8th I have been waiting for some time in hopes to have something to write about, but as the mail goes tomorrow I must finish with what there is. I called on Mrs Sleeper, yesterday. She is a very pleasant woman. She enquired for you. I did not make along call as they were just going out for a walk, shall call again soon. Mrs Comings is a very agreeable woman. She is very intelligent, a great talker, and very sociable. There are quite a number of ladies in camp at present, but Mrs Sawyer is worth all the rest. I am writing this in her tent, it is the most comfortable place in camp, and is a very pleasant place to spend an evening she intends to stay with us. till we go home, and is admired and respected by every one in the reg^t. The weather has been very fine for a few days. I have been out to see the fortifications that are being built in this vicinity. today. We are expecting to leave this place soon, but dont know anything definite about it yet.

Jim has just come in. He wants your miniature to send to his wife. I think I shall let him have one that I have here.

I must get me some smaller paper to write on so that I can fill a sheet. I have not received the papers that you sent, but they do no generally come till the next mail after the letters that start at the same time. Well I will close this now, for I wish to write to Margaret by this mail. Write often and I will do as well as possible.

Yours truly

Leander