

[letterhead raised imprint: "O & H"]

Beaufort S.C. Mar 26th 1863.

My Dear little Wife,

I received your dear letter of the 14th inst^d yesterday. and have felt very much ashamed of myself ever since. If the last letter that I wrote you would get lost on the way it would be a good thing for us both. But as there is no prospect of that, I will ask you to forgive me this time and promise never to do so again.

I love my good little wife, as much as you would wish, and don't know what could make me write as I did. But when you see this you must forgive me, and forget it.

Please burn the letter. for if you keep it to show me when I come home, I shall know that you have not fully forgiven me. When I wrote you last, we were expecting to leave this place, but at present there is but little prospect of our leaving at all. The fact is, Gen. Saxton, who is in command of the forces, here, likes this reg^t so well that he objects to having the reg^t taken out of his command. We have ~~been~~ received marching orders twice, and Gen Saxton. went to Hilton Head, and used his influence with Gen. Hunter. to have the order changed.

So in case there is an attack. on Charleston & Savannah we shall not be likely to go, unless Gen Saxton has a Brigade in the field. I suppose, that you will be pleased by this arrangement, but it is not very pleasing to us. It is dull work as usual, writing. We are in the same dull place, where we have been for over six months. The reg^t is on picket duty, at Port Royal ferry. Mrs Sawyer has gone out there to-day for a ride. and Jim. has gone to Hilton Head. I am writing this in her tent. I wish you could just look in here and see what a nice little place it is, perhaps as there is nothing to write about I might as well give you a description of her home in the army. The house consists of two tents about nine feet square. Placed. with the ends close together, and opening into each other, making two very good rooms, under the same roof: there is a good floor in each. and the back one, which is her sleeping room, is covered with a straw carpet.

The front end is framed, and a door covered with canvass, is fitted in. Outside there is a chimney, and the stove pipe goes through the side of the tent. So much for the house - now for the furniture The front tent, contains the stove. the table where I am writing, a wood box, three small boxes, and a large chest. The other contains a neat little narrow bed, a rocking chair, and some other chairs, a chest of drawers, her trunks, a very nice looking glass, and a very pretty stand. holding her work box. pin cushion, and a vase, containing a splendid boquet, of roses and lilies. Everything is very neat, and reminds me of your mother's house, when she dont have any children about.

Wouldn't you like to look in and see us all at home. Mrs. S. calls us all her boys. I received a letter from Mother a few days ago. She sent me her miniature. I should hardly known it taken for her if she had not sent it herself. She has grown so very stout. that she does not look much like the pretty little mother that I had when I was a little boy, I have not answered her letter yet, but intend to do it as soon as this is finished I am sorry to hear that little Ettie is dead. She was a very interesting child, and I hoped to see her again. I had heard that she was very sick before I got your letter. You say that Dr E. intimated that I might have come home when he did, but he knew it was a lie. There was a time when he could have got me discharged and he offered to do so several times but I did not

choose to go, and would not if the same offer were made me to day. I should like to come home and see you and the rest, ~~yo~~ very well, and it is possible that I may be able to come this summer, if it is I shall. There are a great many people here, (and people whose opinion is worth some thing,) who beleive the war will end within three months. I do not know. God grant it may.

Jim has been promising to write to you, perhaps he will make out soon His wife says that she is going to go and see you. but you need not be very much alarmed.

Dr Comings has been ordered to the Gen. Hospital at Hilton Head. I am very sorry for that, as I like him better than any other man that I have seen in the army.

I am glad to hear that you are in better health than when I left. Never mind about growing old. We will grow old together, and then we shall not notice, it so much. I shall not love you any less as we grow old

You must not think. that, because I do not write much about Annie and Josey, that I have forgotten them. I think of them every day. and when I get home they shall have some one to play with them any time

Now my darling wife I must stop. If you could get this letter before you get that other one I should be glad, but it will not do any good to fret. And I am so sure of being forgiven that I dond get punished half so bad as I deserve. It has been your misfortune to love me better than I deserve. I am sure of your love as long as you live let me be ever so bad. But I will try. my sweet little wife to deserve. and return it. So now good bye for a short, time I will write oftner if I do not write two lines

Yours truly

Leander

P.S. My health is excelent.

I wish you could have this tonight L